



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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Editorial

THE WORTHINESS OF COUNTRY CONVENTIONS

The recent Convention at Geraldton served once again to prove that there is considerable merit in taking the organisation to country members. This is especially true of remote areas such as Geraldton where a reasonable number of members are domiciled and the Convention can bring the Association to quite a few chaps who would otherwise be debarred from our affairs.

The renewal of friendships and bringing together of members can have nothing but a good effect. It was most noticeable that the lads in the Geraldton-Northampton area were most keen to greet the metropolitan visitors and dispense hospitality. This also applied to their wives who really are the people who make such a Convention tick.

The actual business session proved that the boys in the country are just as keen on furthering Association affairs and projects as are their metropolitan counterparts. Many excellent suggestions for future conduct of Association functions emanated from these members and the opportunity given them to air their views makes the Convention worthwhile if for no other reason.

It is realised that members in country areas cannot always get to Association functions held in the city and therefore taking the Association to the country is prob-

ably the most important reason for such a Convention. If friendships hardened in the cauldron of war are to be sustained over many years it is essential that get-togethers of members are most important and this Convention served just this purpose.

The get-together also served the purpose of letting people in Geraldton know of our existence thus adding some prestige to the Association.

One event which went a long way to helping our cause in the country was the R.S.L. Dinner at Northampton where city members were able to appreciate the binding power of R.S.L. Sub-Branches in country areas and Northampton R.S.L. members were able to get some idea of the strength of a good Unit Association. Members were also of course able to continue to foster the idea engendered by our Northampton members that we personally won the war!!

All this get-togetherness has had the effect of cementing the bonds of the Association to an even greater extent than in the past. It has the added effect of making country members feel wanted and not just out of sight out of mind.

These country visits must be stepped up and certainly held at least once a year with the possibility of even twice a year to different centres.

December Meeting—Tuesday —Bucks' Night

West Australian Whisperings

Association Activities

NOVEMBER MEETING

The usual monthly meeting took place at Anzac House Basement on the 5th. The attendance was very satisfactory and a very informal evening was had by all. The opportunity was taken to make final arrangements for the Geraldton Convention. Following this Fred Napier and John Burrige quite informally gave those present some reminiscences of their recent trips abroad. Both agreed that Britain was a most fascinating place to visit but after living so long in W.A. the climate was inclined to get you down.

GERALDTON CONVENTION

A fantastic weekend was spent by a party of metropolitan members at Geraldton from 9th to 14th November. These comprised Arthur and Beryl Smith, Fred and Glad Napier, Joe and Helen Poynton, Bill and Jess Epps, Jack and Norma Hasson, R. "Spriggy" McDonald, Jack Carey, Percy Hancock, Jerry Maley, Col Doig, and "Ping" Anderson. They were met at Geraldton by Eric and "Twy" Smyth, Jack and Joy Denman, Peter and Joan Barden, "Nip" and Mary Cunningham, Eric Weller, when the opportunity to have a welcome drink at Shepherd's Hotel was taken. Peter Barden who organised the Convention, arranged billeting for all concerned and by 6.30 p.m. the visitors plus their Geraldton mates were under way for Northampton to be the guests of the Northampton Sub-Branch R.S.L. at their Annual Dinner.

By some divination the correct pub was immediately found where Bill Drage and "Brus" Fagg were imbibing, joined later by Joe Brand, and advising the world in general just who won the war. The advent of Fred Napier, Joe Poynton, Jack Denman, Eric Smyth and Arthur Smith, who were first through the door, soon convinced the locals that Bill Drage was dead right as one bloke immediately conceded victory to Big Bill.

We then adjourned to the local

R.S.L. Hall (a beauty too) for the dinner, catered for by the Womens Auxilliary and boy, what catering! The palate tickling delicacies just had the tables groaning. This added to by copious quantities of liquids soon had tongues wagging at a rate of knots.

Col Doig was roped in to respond to the toast of the R.S.L. Executive and appeared to handle the situation adequately.

Arthur Smith responded to the toast of the Unit and took the opportunity of stating that this was probably unique at such gatherings for a Unit Association to be toasted.

This evening went on until the small hours and then came the inevitable return to Geraldton.

Sunday morning saw a nice collection of sore heads and Peter Barden arranged the next function to be a wreath laying at the local War Cemetery. This was a most appropriate venue for such a bundle of stiff as an odd open grave would have proved acceptable.

Arthur Smith joined with the local President of the R.S.L., Mr. Bill Cunningham (brother of our "Nip") in laying a wreath on the memorial.

The gang adjourned to the Mercantile Club where "Nip" Cunningham is employed and who arranged honorary membership for a revival and brother, was it required! The Club plus hotel hours are most convenient at Geraldton allowing for the maximum possible hours of drinking.

After the Mercantile Club plus Queens' Hotel had been done over lunch was taken and the time had arrived for the business session at Birdwood House, the local R.S.L. Hall.

This session produced much excellent material and showed the interest taken by country members in Association affairs. Arthur Smith, Bill Epps, Spriggy McDonald and Col Doig outlined various aspects of Association activities, past, present and future, including functions, Kings Park and "Courier". Peter Barden, Jack Denman, Joe Poynton, Bill Drage and Brus Fagg came up with many good ideas which will be incorporated into fu-

ture Association plans. The session was voted the greatest of successes.

After an adjournment for the afternoon session at the Mercantile and Queens a barbecue was arranged at the home of Eric and "Twy" Smyth. This was a terrific success and gave the mob a chance to really get together and let their hair down. Ask Bill Drage and "Ping" Anderson about the taste of flour also Jack Hasson what it feels like to leap off a board, and Col Doig about picking up squashed oranges. This function once again ended nice and late.

Monday saw the departure for home and a farewell drink or two with some of the Geraldton boys.

Three Springs again saw most of the gang get together for what was probably a final minor session with "Rip" McMahan who is a barman at the local.

A truly great Convention and there should be more of them. Our sincere thanks to all those great people at Geraldton and Northampton for all they did for us especially the Bardens, the Denmans, the Smyths, the Cunninghams and the Wellars who provided the billeting and helped so thoroughly to make a great weekend even more enjoyable.

BOWLS NIGHT AT MAIMED AND LIMBLESS ASSOC.

Another marvelous evening was had with our friends the M. & L. on the 15th with a bowls night on their rinks. The fours were all gloriously mixed with our chaps and their wives and the M. & L. and their womenfolk. Nobody knows just who won but it was good fun. As usual we were provided with a nice supper and plenty of refreshments.

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Among those attending were Arthur and Beryl Smith, Bill and Jess Epps, Colin and Olive Hodson, Jack and Norma Hasson, Glad and Fred Napier, Geo. Fletcher, Col Doig, Dick Geere, Gerry Maley, Clarrie Varian and "Curly" Bowden and quite a few more that the writer can't remember at the present juncture for very obvious reasons.

DECEMBER MEETING

This year this will be held on the first Tuesday (3rd) at Anzac House Basement and will take the form of a Bucks' Night and you are permitted to bring a guest. This will be the last of the usual meetings for the year 1963 so take the opportunity to come along and wish all your mates the compliments of the season.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Don't forget this scrumptuous party which will be held at the South Perth Zoo on Dec. 8, commencing at 3 p.m. All these parties have been great in the past and there seems no reason to doubt that this will be even better.

Ladies are requested to bring along a plate of eats to assist with the afternoon tea. This year presents will be restricted to children under 13 years of age but children of all ages from one to 60 are extra welcome to attend.

NO JANUARY MEETING

Please note there will be NO meeting in January.

Committee Comment

The Committee met as usual on the 19th at Anzac House Basement and in common with all meetings this year there was an excellent attendance.

The Treasurer presented a statement of the Cabaret and this revealed a loss of £72 to be proportioned between our Association and the 2/5th Association. This was felt to be quite reasonable in view of the attendance. After all we lost £70 last year on the same function. The Association finances were in good shape.

Mr. Smyth gave a comprehensive resume of what has happened regarding Kings Park. He said that he had had the lettering on the rustic signs painted and this now made them legible for a considerable distance. He also advised of his dealings with the Minister for Lands and the Chairman of the Kings Park Board regarding the kerbing of our area. It was decided that this matter be left to Mr. Smyth to continue negotiations.

It was decided that a "Wash Up" meeting with 2/5th Association be held at Mr. Smyth's office on Nov. 25. It was also decided that the wrapping of Christmas parcels be done on this night as well.

Mr. Smyth and Mr. Varian gave a full report on preparations for the Christmas Party and this indicated that all was in order.

Mr. Carey and Mr. Doig gave an account of the Geraldton Convention which was regarded as a resounding success. The view was expressed that these Conventions should be held more often.

Personalities

Congratulations to Frank Free-stone and his good wife, Chloe, on the marriage of son Bob quite recently. The photo of the wedding in the press was very nice.

Our sympathy to Ken Mackintosh on the loss of his mother whose death occurred during the month.

Jack Penglase has been having a tough time recently and his back ailment kept him from making the trip to Geraldton. We hope ere this that you are O.K. again Jack.

Col Doig has recently been on annual leave and took the opportunity to stay with Don and Vida Turton at Wandering where he had a whale of a time. During the stay Don and Col went to Bolgart and visited Reg and Dot Harrington. Reg showed them all over his nice 4,000 acre holding which was in good heart. Reg's home is a beauty and he even boasts a bowling green on the side of his home. Reg sends his best regards to all the gang and hopes to make the Christmas Party.

Had a long letter from Ron Tren grove but afraid can't publish it

without dire repercussions descending on Ron's neck. His opinion of the C.M.F. is, I am afraid, most unflattering. He did inform me that Angus Evans had sold out his farm to American interests who will be growing cotton thereon. Don't forget to advise your change of address if this should catch your eye Angus.

Eric Smyth is a very keen yachts man and at present he is a senior crew member of a catamaran which won the State title last year and will be representing W.A. in this class at Christmas time. Good luck, Eric, in your quest. His family are also yachting minded and Phillip is a crewman in a V.J. while Jan skippers a Pelican. Erica is also one of the crew in a Pelican. Nice effort for one small family.

Jack Denman appeared to be fit and well and enjoyed himself no end at the Convention. Wife, Joy, looked a ball of dash and his big son even tops Jack in height. He takes his leaving this year.

"Nip" and Mary Cunningham also looked real well. "Nip" has two lovely daughters who have him round their little fingers. "Nip" seems to be most happy employed at the Mercantile Club.

Peter and Joan Barden worked like beavers for our Convention and it was good to see them enjoying themselves so much at the barbecue. Peter saw that the Convention got a ton of publicity in the local papers.

Eric Weller and his good wife were hosts to Jerry Maley and Perc Hancock and looked after them in great style. Eric is doing very well in his building business at Geraldton. His family consists of two girls and a boy.

Bill Drage had a whale of a time at the Convention and despite a ragging about the quality of the meat supplied for the barbecue he managed to box on. Bill has sold his property at Northampton and vacates on March 1 to retire to Geraldton or places north. Good luck to you Bill, hope you have a wonderful time.

"Brus" Fagg is another who looks well. "Brus" is now with Public Works Dept. as pump operator and water tester and is happy in the service.

Joe Brand doesn't appear to have changed much over the years and

has the same eagle eye when a game of swy starts. Joe is also in the throes of selling his property and had a potential buyer looking over the property on the Sunday when the Convention was held. Joe hopes to retire in the city.

ADDRESS BOOK CHANGES

Just so that you can keep your "Address Book" up to date, here is a batch of new addresses that came out of the big influx of mail along with the closing of the sweep.

W.A.:—

HOLDER, H. G.,
Royal Mint,
Hay Street, Perth.

SPROXTON, H.,
Rudloc Road,
Embleton.

WICKS, J.,
Bunning Road,
Mt. Helena.

LongBOTTAM, H. A.,
244 Marine Parade,
South Fremantle.

DHU, R.,
10 Venn Street,
North Perth.

THOMAS, H. E.,
37 John Street,
North Fremantle.

FLETCHER, G.,
29 Kimbarra Street,
Nollamara.

HISLOP, G.,
Dwellingup Hotel,
Dwellingup.

BARNES, J. E.,
307 Gt. Eastern Highway,
Belmont.

SMYTHE, R. N.,
34 King Street,
Perth.

MALEY, G.,
19 Forrest Street,
Trigg Island.

MEYER, H. S.,
68 Terrace Drive,
Perth.

THOMSON, A.,
Forrestry Dept.,
Ludlow.

NICHOLLS, M.,
Yealering.

MILLINGTON, K. R.,
10 Venn Street,
Bunbury.

McMAHON, B. J.,
Commercial Hotel,
Three Springs.

SMILES, J.,
114 Brookton Road,
Roleystone.

CROSSING, N.,
57 Canning Highway,
South Perth.

VICTORIA:—

ROBERTS, J. S.,
75 Nicholson Street,
East Coburg.

SPLATT, R.,
460 Toorak Road,
Toorak.

DAVIDSON, W.,
Lot 24 Carronvale Road,
Mooroolbark.

A.C.T.:—

SNOWDEN, F.,
112 Matina Street,
Canberra.

N.S.W.:—

TIERNEY, T.,
4 Panania Avenue,
Panania.

COLE, R.,
Box 38,
Belmont.

ORR, R.,
15 Vere Street,
South Grafton.

WILLIAMS, C.,
Hilly Avenue,
Fennell Bay.

BEER, K.,
Niemeer Park,
Mallan.

HOLLEY, C.,
21 Ashcroft Street,
Ernington, Sydney.

TASMANIA:—

RICE, J.,
10 Keithleigh Street,
South Launceston.

STANLEY, G. A.,
9 Fairway Crescent,
Riverside, Launceston.

S.A.:—

MacKINTOSH, K. G.,
Belair House,
Winding Way, Belair.

NOAKES, B.,
"Ballater",
P.M.B. 203, Narracoorta.

QUEENSLAND:—

MILLS, C. E.,
27 Ann Street,
Southport.

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

Victorian Vocal Venturings

A Committee meeting was held at Bert Tobin's office on Monday, Oct. 14, at 8 p.m. Present were Bruce McLaren in chair, Jim Wall, Bluey Southwell, Jack Campbell, Johnny Roberts, Bert Tobin and self. Apologies were received from Harry Smith (No. 2 Commando Coy.) and Bill Davidson who has just moved out to a new home at Lot 24 Carronvale Rd., Mooroolbark, Victoria.

Main business on hand was the organising of the general meeting and Cup Sweep draw to take place at the Drill Hall of No. 2 Commando Coy. at Ripponlea on Thursday night, Oct. 31. All tasks were delegated to various members and a good night was assured.

It was decided to make a donation to the Combined Commando Association's appeal for funds for the Cairn to be erected at Tidal River to commemorate the birthplace of Commandos in Australia, as it was felt that this was a very good idea and the Commando Association is to be congratulated on their design and planning of this Cairn and we suggest that our members give this their support.

It was noted that as Bert Tobin's letter in the "Courier" earlier in the year re his suggestion about a rolling re-union for the future had not brought forth any comment that the idea was not thought a good one and the matter has been dropped.

I was also asked to bring to the notice of our members that we have a Provident Fund and we would appreciate any information from any member who may be in need of assistance—and as we are aware that some members would not like to make an approach—others may be aware of their plight and can let us know. All these matters are strictly confidential.

Bruce, Jim and self attended the last committee meeting of the Combined Victorian Association and we have decided that we will have a representative at these meetings each month to represent the 2/2nd Jim has been doing this up till now but as most of these meetings are held south of the river it is a long way for Jim to come so Bruce and

I will help out. At this meeting they acknowledged our interest in their Association and are very pleased that we intend to keep it up.

Jim has been getting some returns for the sweep in already, Harold Newton from Broken Hill, Peter Stafford of St. Kilda, Alan Luby of Grafton N.S.W., Gloria Isenhood Newcastle N.S.W., on behalf of Les who has been having a bad spell of ill health since April and has been off work for nine weeks—4½ of which he spent at Concord. Sorry to hear this Les and we all hope you have a speedy and complete recovery. Kiwi Harrison of Bega N.S.W., Ted Cholerton of Bookra Carcoar N.S.W., Jim Fenwick of Panomia N.S.W., Jim Smith (5 Section) Normanhurst N.S.W., Major Stuart Love, Cliff Paff N.S.W., and Bob Smith of lighthouse fame of Point Perpendicular Lighthouse via Nowra N.S.W., all these people send their regards and wish us success for the sweep and wish to be remembered to all the boys.

Our Christmas Party will be on Saturday, Dec. 7 at the usual place, Bonbeach Life Saving Club—so make this a must and bring the kiddies along.

So until next issue all the best.
—HARRY BOTTERILL

Heard This?

THAT'S FOR SURE!

Lord Bottomley was overjoyed to hear that his wife had given birth to triplets and in his enthusiasm attempted to barge into the delivery room to see her. He was stopped by a nurse who rebuffed him with: "You can't go in there, you're not sterile!"

Lord Bottomley drew himself up and retorted crisply: "That, madame, is obvious!"

* * *

MARATHON

Doctor: "How's the patient in room 407?"

Nurse: "Gasping for breath!"

Doctor: "What's the matter with him?"

Nurse: "He's been chasing me around the room."

Random Harvest

JIM SMAILES, c/- Ipoh Club, Ipoh Perak, Malaya, writes:—

It is about time I sent along a few lines to the "Courier" and let you know that I am still among the living. I have greatly improved in health since a spell in Hollywood last July and was able to come over to Malaya in August for a short consulting job connected with some underground exploration work which is rather unknown in this part of the world. I returned to W.A. in September only to come back here again in October for about a four months stay on a similar undertaking. The pay is good and the work rather easy, but of course the old tropical climate is a bit hard and even walking about is strenuous, especially as some of my work is exploratory in almost new country. In fact I have been in places of Malaya that no other white man has visited and found tin in payable quantities.

The local labour though is terrific, you need about six of them to equal one decent Kalgoorlie miner and even then they just haven't got the will to get stuck into it, and earn a decent day's pay. They are up to all the larks, and ways of dodging the issue, and can talk you blind about what a great people they are, and if they only had some education, etc., they would show us a thing or two.

At the moment, of course, the trouble with Indonesia is uppermost in their minds, but they are not raising a finger, they say Australia will do their fighting for them so it is all cut and dried.

The people here are very politically concerned and place great emphasis on their newly won independence, etc., but they little realise that they are there for the taking if a larger power so decided. I can't see that the political control matters very much at the moment, nor for two generations unless they can raise their standard of living and have something to argue about. They really thought that independence would automatically make them all rich powerful men overnight, never realising of course just how much work, capital and experience was behind the British

administration, and what made it tick.

There is no comparison however between the legacy that Britain has left here, and the mess that was left in Indonesia by the Dutch. Of course Indonesia came into her own right after four years of Japanese occupation and 400 years of Dutch bleeding, whereas here, the British had some 12 years of rehabilitation completed after the war and had the administration almost completely in local hands before handing over. To my way of thinking that is the supple difference between the two nations. They are equally rich in natural resources, but Indonesian production of tin, rubber and even rice is declining, whereas Malaya is rapidly increasing. There is not the poverty here that is so rampant in Indonesia.

I spent a day or two in Indonesia on the way up and there are people starving there while paddy fields are empty and returning to the jungle. Everybody wants a soft job and nobody works, graft is terrific and money worthless.

Malaya is much more prosperous even though it has only 10 million people against their 100 million.

Nearly every day I am reminded of our Timor experiences in this country. Many of the Malay words of course were used in Timor, and the Chinese influence is similar, especially in business and finance. In the interior all eating houses and shops are run by Chinese, just as in Timor, and the food tastes just the same, even the same old types of cooking gear and crockery that we used to see and use. Chicken soup, rice pork, goat, etc., just the same. I find though that 21 years have made a difference to the ability to climb mountains, and carry a pack. I have a "boy" (about 30) to carry the gear and do the washing, etc. No less keen than our old creadoes. Even drives the car normally and can they drive? We do not have traffic in Australia. Singapore is like an ants nest, everybody flat out.

I don't intend to stay here, nor bring my family up. It is only a temporary assignment but I am sure that I could make a future

here as they are keen to keep on any British or Australian technical people if they will stay.

I have bought a house in Roley-s, one since selling my business at Williams, and now have a permanent address, 114 Brookton Road, Roleystone. I intend when I get back to do short consulting jobs here and there rather than a permanent position mnes from nowhere. Must be getting a bit long in the tooth for moving about so much. However it has been a very interesting 15 years since starting this mining and I have seen some wonderful places and things in the course of my travels, and know what makes things tick in many cases.

My two boys have joined the army for six years and are both in N.S.W. They love every minute of it and certainly have it easier than our day. One boy may be on his way up here shortly for some experience in jungle conditions.

By the way I am going to call my house in Roleystone "Villia Marie" as it looks very like that place in Timor.

I have joined the library in Ipoh, and today I saw Bernie Callinan's book "Independent Coy" on the shelves.

Well, enough for now, and I hope this finds you and most of the boys in fair condition and enjoying life to the full. I will try and get a few more lines off to you again when I get a show, and describe one or two aspects of life here and my observations. Just one thing by the way that would appeal to Kay Aitken and Gerry Haire. In order to speed the education programme and while school buildings are so short all over the country the present schools and teachers run two shifts. From 6.30 a.m. to 12 noon and then a complete new batch of kids till 5.50, and six days a week for good measure. But the kids are keen and really get into it. School buses by the hundred bring them in from miles around and there are bicycles by the thousand.

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

According to reports in our most unreliable press, on matters pertaining to what they refer "as Perth's moon maniac murders" it's

raining in the West. Keep it there we, thank heavens, are having a drought. An occasional sudden downpour, but otherwise quite dry in my occupation it is greatly appreciated. The game was tottering after almost seven months of continual wet. I was fortunate insofar as I had conned my boss of the moment into paying me full wages wet or dry. He saw me through the worst of the deluge. Unfortunately it was a Victorian company and they decided to go back to Melbourne. It's apparently drier down there.

By the way the law caught up with our mutation murderer. It's great news as we can relax on Anzac Day's re-union now knowing we won't be found stark and still in the morning smoking an unusual cigar and the strangest eye-shields that ever you saw decorating our optics.

Ron Hilliard had a spell in Concord Repat. He is his old self again. I reckon he increased his poundage whilst in there. No work and six meals a day. The casualty rate was high though in his particular ward they were carting them off regularly, and "Drip" reckons it was typical of most of the wards. Of course it's 45 years since World War I ended and the passing years must be taking a heavy toll of the old brigade and making a decent old dent in what was the younger one also.

I have seen little of the crowd since Anzac Day. I saw Jimmy English a few times. His daughter, and one of my boys were in the children's hospital at the same time. His little girl has improved greatly. She's a real beauty with the biggest eyes imaginable. Jimmy's health is indifferent. You'd never think so from talking to Jimmy. The world is always going fine with him.

Of course there is a den of inequity about four or five miles from here. It's known as Cabra Vale Ex-servicemen's Club. Jack Hartley, Keenahan, Snow Went, Tommy O'Brien, Jimmy Hallinan, Micky Mannix, and Billy Hoy are all members. You can guess what the club is like. I pulled in there one day about 4 p.m. to see Micky Mannix. I saw him all right, but I also saw Irish O'Brien, Snow Went, a couple of others including

a mate of theirs called Eddie. I arrived home at 1 a.m. and if Eddie had had his way I'd have been off the coast somewhere on a fishing trip. It's a trap up there, too much hospitality.

According to the July "Courier" Tom Nisbett was in our fair city or it reads that way. Why the devil doesn't he advertise? After all we did share boiled corn and a diet of peanuts and other delicacies at one time. Besides a few of his old troop are scattered around this area. Hope we know of his next visit.

You are sure trying to get us going on our defence situation. One thing, you can say our defence forces are secret, but I'm doubtful about the weapon. When heading out the western areas of Sydney I sometimes see the infantry on a work out. They look fit, hard and tough. Unfortunately they are very few. I suppose the same applies to the Navy and Air Force. However how can you expect them to be numerous, the population is very small and I reckon the first essential for effective defence of a country of 3,000,000 square miles and 12,000 miles of coastline is a large population and brother most Australians today are "agin" big families. The same cannot be said of our near neighbours to the north. Hungry expanding populations usually migrate, so if history follows its pattern this country is set for a big influx whether we like it or not and we will pay the penalty for wanting a small population and the boast that we probably enjoy the highest standard of living in the world. You are certainly right.

Mr. Menzies says the most exciting place in Australia today is the north-west as usual Mr. Menzies shuns excitement. It's easier to talk in Canberra. As for the rest of us it's easier to live in comfort in the south, shrug the rest off by saying, "What about the kid's education, recreation, etc.?" But we still maintain we are as good as, if not better than, our pioneers. Like hell we are. They did it with bullock wagons. We can't even be induced with modern transport and communications.

I'm off before I become too involved. Enclosed is sweep money, subs and donation to Kings Park

project. Sorry it isn't larger. However the year isn't finished yet. I hope Norman Thornton, Geordie Smith and Joe Poynton are still in the land of the living not having heard from them since Kirby rode the bull I wouldn't be too sure.

Goodbye and good luck and here is to the sweep. We'll at least have bundles of letters over the next few months and so catch up on the doings of many a man we nae ken for many a moon.

BOB "Beaky" SMITH, of Point Perpendicular Lighthouse, via Nowra, N.S.W., writes:—

With my very first letter to the Association in the West goes a big "howdy" to all the lads and yourself. Some kind member saw fit to send you my address and for the last few months I have received the "Courier" direct—previously I had received it for the last two years from Russ Symons in Brisbane.

However your screed with the sweep tickets brought home to me the fact that I should at least get cracking and drop a few lines when returning the sweep butts which I am now doing with a cheque to cover tickets and balance for you to place where it may do most good.

As to writing of anything that may be of interest—well, I ask you what is of interest on a lighthouse? I have served with the Commonwealth Lighthouse Service since I left the army in 1946 (and with army service included) have 22 years' service, which now entitles me to six months' long service leave (six months for every 20 years in the lighthouse branch), and which looks like being taken in the next 10 or 20 years.

Married a Queensland lass—Joyce—and have three children, Jim 13½, Christine 12, and Beryl 9 years. Jim is doing well in second year at high school. Christine in 6th grade and Beryl 3rd grade at primary school.

The nearest town, Nowra, is 28 miles away and each school day the children with another lad next door (there are three families residing on the station) travel firstly by lighthouse Landrover for six miles and there connect with a bus that travels to Nowra. They have to leave at 7.30 each morning and do not arrive home till 5 p.m. How-

ever, they would much prefer this method of obtaining schooling than revert to schooling by correspondence, which they did for 3½ years prior to arriving on this station.

This place is soon to become automatic in operation—that is, no longer will it need a person to be on duty of a night. At present the light is operated by kerosene pressure and of 325,000 candle-power and transmitted via a system of prisms and lens (called the "optic") for a distance of 28 miles. The "optic" is kept revolving by clockwork—a large overgrown grandfather clock system is the best way to describe it, with a weight on a chain falling in a tunnel down through the centre of the tower—his weight is the driving factor and so every half hour during the night this weight is wound by hand to the top of the tower.

Although power is on to all quarters, etc., the main light is still kerosene. Our present power is 110 volts which is generated on the station. This power is soon to be replaced by two automatic change-over generators transferring our power to 240 volts. With this power installed in the lighthouse with certain other automatic appliances, I shall (with the two other chaps) be able to enjoy uninterrupted (I hope) sleep. I do not suppose I shall gravitate straight to bed on darkness though for, for the last six years through the grace of being in charge, I have enjoyed (?) the first watch in the lighthouse each night from 6 p.m. till 10 p.m. The other two chaps alternate their shifts each night.

Although born in the lighthouse life I still very much enjoy my job and though it may sound "stick in the mudish" I wouldn't change with anyone—well—at least mostly anyone.

Well if I'm to get this to you in time I shall have to call a halt for since starting this letter three days have elapsed so here it must end.

I do hope over the next decade I may be able to summon up enough strength to lift this "mightier than the sword" instrument again, but till I do cheers for now and kind regards to all the lads, especially those in the "Saps", Gerry (Gig), Bill Epps, George

Strickland, Alby Martin and the rest of the gang.

I didn't know for over a week after, that "Bluey" Beresford had passed away as the clipping attached relates. I am sorry to say I missed his funeral. I often used to see "Bluey" in Nowra and he had been very ill for some time.

EDITH PENDERGRAST, of Box 93, Collie, W.A., writes:—

Find enclosed cheque to cover sweep tickets. Sorry I didn't send it earlier but have not been the best and father has been kept very busy.

We now have another name to add to your children's list. Yes, we have a daughter, Rayna Edith, born April 26.

Am enclosing a few stories that Gordon bought home. Thought they may be good for a laugh.

Must close now as very soon I will have three starving children coming home from school. Wishing you all the best for the sweep.

RON NUZERLING, of 110 Lewis Rd., Dover Gardens, S.A., writes

Herewith sweep butts and cash with apologies for delay and short note. Time is my greatest worry. Nowadays, since I gave up driving for the Tramways and started a carrying business I never seem to get a spare moment. However one of these days I intend to write a longer letter and give you a bit more news about myself and family. Till then I'll say cheerio and all the best to you and the rest of the boys.

TED MONK, of Latham, writes:—

Enclosed please find sweep butts and cheque for same with remainder please bring my subs to date. If any over put to Kings Park fund.

So far this year have few complaints, but like all the rest have had more than enough rain. We managed to complete all our cropping programme, also have just finished shearing.

Well, here's wishing the Association all success with the sweep.

GEO. STRICKLAND, 15 Dudley St. Rivervale, W.A., writes:—

Please find enclosed butts and cheque to cover sweep tickets. I am breaking all records this year in returning them before you get on my back.

I haven't been to too many meetings lately as I've invested in a new truck and am doing quite a bit of bush work. Still with Ready Mix. Spent five weeks in Bunbury and weeks at Pithara just recently, but didn't see any 2/2nd boys. Ready Mix got the contract to do the concrete work on all the wheat silos that are being built around the country so there will be quite a bit of running around for a few months yet. In all they say that there is five years' work on the silos. Any of you country chaps, if there is a silo going up in your area just look for truck No. 15.

I had a letter from Dick Adams several months ago also one from Tex Richards. Tex was envying us for the beautiful weather we were having, then the day after the letter arrived the rain started and it's barely stopped since. Must settle down and answer them before too long. Incidentally this is the first screed I have written to anyone since the war ended. So while I've a pen in my hand I would like to add my thanks for the wonderful time had by my family and self at all the "dos" during the Games.

In the family list a few months back my latest addition was omitted—a girl, Christine Mae, born Dec. 29, 1961.

Well I won't make too much of an issue of this. Hope the sweep comes up to previous ones (how do you get a horse in it?).

ALFREDO DOS SANTOS, of 19 Goodchap St., Surry Hills, Sydney, N.S.W., writes:—

Hello and how are you? Here is the money for my fees and tickets.

I lead a very quiet life. My leg is fairly good just now (of course I don't do any mountain climbing like we did in Timor).

The only boys I see are Joe Tell, Jim English and Merv (Squirt) Clark, but Anzac Day is my big day. Then I see them all.

I look forward to getting the "Courier" and your Address Book was a very good idea.

MAL NICHOLS, of Yealering, W.A., writes:—

Am returning sweep tickets plus a couple of quid. Will you please note my address is now Yealering where I am now farming.

That's a hell of a lot for me to write. Hope the sweep is a great success.

JOHN J. POYNTON, 63 Thames Prom., Chelsea, Vic., writes:—

I forwarded a cheque for 40/- on July 17 for some sweep tickets. To date they have not arrived. Will you please advise if and where they were sent so that I can make enquiries this end. We have had some postal trouble here.

I note cheque has been acknowledged in July "Courier".

BLOSS LAWRENCE, of Northam, W.A., writes:—

Enjoyed the Re-union even though I could not see the night out. What a pity the numbers weren't in keeping with the night. On a purely £.s.d. basis it would be the cheapest night out in Perth apart from the fact that you only meet them once a year.

All the best.

H. T. BROOKER, of 110 Goodwood Parade, Rivervale, W.A., writes:

Am returning sweep butts and money. Will drop you a line later but am in a hurry to catch mail. Actually I'm a little late sending them in.

EDGAR TIMMS, of 5 Arrowsmith St., Camp Hill, Brisbane, Qs., writes:—

Just a few lines to return sweep butts and postal note.

Have been talking to Neil Hooper at Roma on my trips through his town and he had a surprise a while back as Arthur Birch walked in on him.

Last Easter was in Cloncurry and had a yarn with Cyril Chaplain who had just returned from a trip to Japan and was waiting for the rain to stop before doing a trip around the family's numerous properties.

E. HOFFMAN, of Porphyry, W.A., writes:—

How are you fellow?

Thanks for the reminder as I had forgotten all about the tickets until I received the same at post office where this note is being despatched. Please find cheque for subs., tickets and what have you. Regards to all.

ANGUS MacLACHLAN, of 37 Arrowsmith St., Camp Hill, Brisbane, Qs., writes:—

Please find enclosed cheque for butts and subs., etc. Sorry to be late but have been working out of town as of late and don't seem to have any minutes to spare,

My apology for only a few lines.

L. A. HOLSTEIN, of Harrington, writes:—

Yes, I can almost see the snarl on your face over those dog-on tickets. I won't try to apologise because I just damn well forget them. However I'll keep the butts and enclose you a cheque towards the Association funds hoping that will replace the old smile to your face.

I have noted with interest the activities of the members and am still hoping for the day I can pay a visit to that over-rated capital of the West and have a look at Kings Park. It should be looking up now.

Must hurry and catch the mail with this or I'll probably be struck off the mailing list. Cheerio you old bark chewing critter from Timor.

JACK PEATTIE, of 11 Denne St., W. Tamworth, writes:—

I'm sending butts and cheque. You can put the extra to the fund for kerbing and guttering the Memorial Drive.

The last year has been quiet but also busy so I've been kept out of mischief most of the time. I was lucky enough to get promotion without leaving Tamworth but have had plenty of extra work to make me earn it.

Earlier in the year I had an operation on my nose and during the check up before it the doctor picked up the deafness of my left ear caused by that booby trap grenade at Half Way Inn in New Guinea. At the moment I'm trying to get repat. to accept it as a war caused injury. It was never reported at the time but I believe was noted on my final medical exam. prior to discharge. I've been waiting for word from Repat. for some time now and am hoping that it goes through O.K. It does not worry me at the moment but it could deteriorate with age.

All the best to yourself and the rest of the crew.

ALBIE FRIEND, of 30 Halse Crescent, Melville, W.A., writes:—
Sweep butts and cheque herewith.

I am pleased to be able to tell you that Daryl is well on the way to a good recovery. As far as we know now it is going to be a fairly long process but considering how close it was a few weeks or months doesn't really make that much difference.

Thanks to all who so kindly enquired and encouraged us during this bad period.

ROY WATSON, of 18 Steven St., Fremantle, W.A., writes:—

One of your final headaches signing in. No excuse just plain lazy. Best wishes to all the boys.

R. FINKELSTEIN, of 14 Korda St., Mt. Lawley, W.A., writes:—

I enclose herewith cheque for butts for one book. Unfortunately my second book has been lost, no amount of searching has revealed its whereabouts.

Please accept my most sincere apologies for the delay and inconvenience caused you.

ILMA MARTIN, of Box 40, Miling, writes:—

Enclosed please find butts, also cheque to cover same. Use the remainder on subs and any other useful fund.

Congratulations to you city members for your efforts in Kings Park it is certainly a credit to you all, and a fitting tribute to the fallen.

News is very scarce (unlike the rain) in these parts. We managed to get all but 80 acres of our crop in before the wet set in which was fortunate in some ways. However "cockies" never do have the weather quite as they want it so nough said.

We have two children boarding away from home now. A boy at Guildford in his third and last year (according to him), and a girl in her first year at St. Hilda's. One boy at home aged 10 completes the family.

Last summer we had a house built at Kwinanna which we painted during our "holiday" and which we have spent many days straightening out the yard and planting lawn, etc., with the hopes of a really good holiday this year and for years to come. The address:

35 First Avenue, Kwinanna, and a welcome will be given to any of Tom's friends who care to pop in during the holiday periods. You will hear if we are home as the house is usually a gathering place for our children's teenage friends owing probably to the fact that we have a radiogram.

All for now. I hope the sweep is a success and apologise for only just making it once more, but I was hopeful that Tom would have made the grade with a letter.

TED LOUD, of Forests Dept., Pemberton, W.A., writes:—

Enclosed sweep butts and money to cover.

Have resumed work after three months' bludge and find it very hard to take. Had a wonderful trip to Singapore and was just getting used to the heat when my holiday came to an end. What a life just loafing around in shorts and thongs on board ship but landed in Fremantle rugged up in pull-overs and overshoes, etc. Have had a cold ever since I've been back, otherwise health O.K.

A party of five of us hired a taxi for our stay in Singapore and I think we saw everything that was possible to see including that grim Changi gaol (no doubt a couple of our chaps remember it only too well, I must have a yarn to them about it when we next meet up); and the war cemetery with its rows and rows of crosses each representing some fine young soldier who gave his life for his country, thinking that, by doing so, the world would be a much better place to live in. I'm not ashamed to say that I had a lump in my throat and tears in my eyes. I'll say no more about that as better pens than mine have written volumes about the whole show long before today.

Regards to all.

ROSS SMITH, of Williana St., Clare S.A., writes:—

Very sorry I have forgotten about the tickets for the sweep but will enclose money hoping this will cover same as I have only one book to hand.

I have had a lot of ups and downs in the past few years but am starting to get on my feet at the moment so who knows I might even get over to the West one of

these days as I am getting closer now that I live with the crow eaters.

I lost my mother-in-law 12 months ago and my father two months ago, so it has set me back a little. Also my eldest boy is getting married in Canada this month. I have three other boys going to school here at the moment. The eldest of the three is a convert from Rugby League but is doing extra well at Aerial ping pong. They are leading at the present in Colts and look like taking out the premiership. The "A" grade are running fourth but could easily win the title.

Well before I close would you wish all the boys from 5 Section all the best also all the boys I knew so well.

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

Sorry I am a bit late returning these tickets but my engagements such as golf, ale drinking and travelling around the districts, doesn't leave me much time for writing. Anyway I am a bugger of a writer at any time.

How are things in the big smoke? Up this way it has been wet, very bloody wet. I didn't get much crop in about a quarter of my usual programme. Only got the old woolly backs to stave off starvation.

The old Brand is still going strong, the same with Bruss.

Well will say cheerio for now, hoping this finds you in the pink as it leaves me.

Find enclosed butts and cheque for same plus a few bob for subs. Any over put it in the Unit funds.

G. ROWLEY, of Manjimup, writes:

Much water has flowed under the bridge since I last wrote to you and even now I am still hard pressed for time so this is only a short note with the butts.

I am still going on with the chain saw business and am doing fairly well. Still manage to get three feeds a day and a few beers occasionally.

I don't see many of the old gang down here. Saw Tom Crouch the other day. Hes' still the same old Tom, but like the rest of us is beginning to turn a bit grey and the age is beginning to show. He

has now joined that group of very wise and shrewd farmers who really know the best when they see it. (He has bought a McCulloch Chain Saw, that's how I came to be seeing him.) We were both sorry to miss the Re-union. However, better luck next time.

This is about it for now. My regards to all the gang and I will drop another line in a week or two to make up for this short note and past laxness.

RON GOODACRE, of 170 Charles St., Ryde, N.S.W., writes:—

Sorry for the delay in returning butts and thanks for the reminder as I had misplaced your address.

I also am a little harrassed these days but in a different way to you as I now have a new son three months old, another not quite two years, two girls seven and nine years, and two elder boys 12 and 13. Their names starting from the top are Rolf, Paul, Angela, Lorretta, John and Geoff. So you can see most of my spare time is taken up helping mum and the kids but during the summer I manage to get away Saturday afternoon for my sport, cricket.

Well that's about all for now so cheerio hoping you and the other boys are all well.

O. K. DIGNUM, of 24 Selkirk Ave. Seaton Park, S.A., writes:—

I doubt if I can find enough news to write about. I realise correspondence is the life blood of the "Courier" but no news is no news in any man's language.

Dud Tapper is the only one I see here and he has no complaints or at least real ones.

All the best with the sweep.

I promise to write later just as soon as I can think up some real nasty remark to goad Thornton into hiring the services of a scribe.

F. STEWART, of 85 Regent St., Kogarah, N.S.W., writes:—

Please find enclosed butts and postal note to cover same.

Have nothing to write about as I very seldom go out to see any of the boys.

All the family in good health. I still go for X-rays every 12 months and have not had any trouble for the last 12 years with the chest.

Luck to all.

CHARLIE GORTON, of 138 Marmion St., East Fremantle, W.A., writes:—

Please find enclosed butts and money Sorry you had to go to the trouble of sending out a shake up letter as I have had them all sold for quite a while.

The thing I find hard is making myself sit down and write to you. I'd be one of the worst letter writers in the Unit.

I'm very lucky as all our family live within half a mile at present, that is two married daughters and one has two children, so we see the grandchildren nearly every other day.

I see Les Anderson and Mick Morgan pretty often, in fact Mick was working in the same shed as I was last week.

Hoping this finds you in the best of health and enjoying life to the full.

A. VOEVODIN, 50 Brinawa St., Camp Hill, Brisbane, writes:—

Many thanks for your "Courier" it's great to see many of the old Company doing well.

The building game is just starting to lift its head again. I have two men and myself doing cottage work, have a brick veneer just finished, a spec home. Hope it sells as I have plans for another one.

I read where Reg Harrington enjoys golf. I started two years ago and it has me in, Reg. I managed a hole in one last September and the beer flowed for many hours.

By the way I gave smoking away eight years ago and a fair bit of meat now covers my long frame.

Regards to all the company and the very best to No. 6 Section.

PETER MANTLE, of Box 120, Biloela, Qs., writes:—

Sorry late. Money plus subs plus any good cause plus "Courier".

Pat emigrating from Ireland was approached by an old lady who said "My son's in Australia. When you see him tell him to write home." "Sure an I will, Mrs. Dunne. Where does he live?"

"In a little house at Yass."

And by chance Paddy was on a train and saw the platform sign of Yass, so asked a porter where was the little house, and was directed to the end of the platform. As he

got there a chap was coming out, so he asked: "Are you Dunne?"

"Yes."

"Then why don't you write to your mother"

CORAL COKER, of 11 Kameruka Rd., Northbridge, N.S.W., writes

Enclosed please find money and butts for the sweep. Very sorry for the delay but I couldn't find them.

Bill, as per usual, hasn't time to write. He is very busy at work and when he comes home we don't see him as he is building a boat in the back yard. Needless to say we haven't a very tidy yard and sometimes I feel like putting a match to it.

COLIN CRIDDLE, of 124 Nanson St., Wembley, W.A., writes:—

Please find enclosed ticket butts and montes including my yearly subscription. Hoping for a successful sweep.

Firstly my apologies for not attending the annual Re-union last Saturday night owing to being off work for the whole week clashing with the Re-union weekend. Was under the doctor who ordered a radiograph which proved to be O.K. Much relieved I can tell you.

The wife and myself will be looking forward to the Unit's Ladies' Night and take this opportunity of wishing our new Committee a successful night on this occasion.

Haven't seen any familiar faces down at Rockingham so far, who could become members of the Rockingham Sky Divers. Fees are relatively on the up and up only £2 and now with our own landing strip nearly completed the cost of jumps will be about 30/-. Would like to see a few down our way this coming summer weekends.

We will be doing quite a few country trips from September through the country shows so hope to make contact with our country members.

Trusting these few lines will find everyone in the pink.

JOE TELL, 8 Carrington Ave., Mortdale, N.S.W., writes:—

Just a line to let you know I am back in Repat. Hospital again at Concord. I have been here three weeks in bed with the old

complaint, ulcers and bad nerves. I have been off work five weeks now already. When I came in to Ward 2 I was greeted by Les Isenhood. We had three weeks, together in the same ward. Les went home today. He is still the same old Les. I saw in our last paper Les's wife's name Gloria, sending back butts and money but I am just sending my butts back now. Sorry I am a bit late with them. Hoping I am not too late with the butts.

I saw RON Hilliard and Jim English both are doing well again. I had a visit from Alfredo De Santos and he is keeping very well now.

As I am writing this letter in bed enough for now. Wishing you and all the boys the best of everything. Good luck with the sweep.

JIM CULLEN, of R.M.B. 760, After lee, Kyogle, writes:—

Please find enclosed the ticket butts and cash, also subs for ensuing year.

We on the outside track do appreciate the "Courier" and though the message seldom gets through that its life or interest depends on news from us, its readers, most, I am sure, are grateful to and appreciate your continued efforts as the Editor.

I followed with interest comments some time back regarding the take over in Dutch New Guinea (West Irian). Whether Alan Cardy was right or wrong time will decide, but appearances are that Saekarno is just another saw-dust model of Hitler, and until he meets a similar fate we are going to have a lot of headaches humouring him. Appeasement and peace-at-any-price we have learned from bitter experience are a costly, and futile form of diplomacy.

In adopting this militant attitude I would freely admit that "iron rations" or a "Jappa" patrol not to mention a Timor campaign would go very hard with the constitution after 20 years of "bourgeois" living.

The grazing industry still enjoys reasonable stability and though I have not succeeded in becoming a cattle baron have managed to stay in the industry and seem to be slowly making headway.

The family status remains the same—a girl (Catriona) commen-

ces High School next year. Neil three years younger at the moment has little or no interest in education.

Several months ago my brother while in North Queensland, met up with Jim Fooe, of Proserpine. Still the same Jim by accounts, but nowadays very much the family man.

Otherwise my news of members does not go past occasional meetings and an Anzac re-union with Tom Yates.

Kyogle, in recent months has gone perhaps its nearest to fame. We have an oil rig drilling in the area and to date tests have been very encouraging.

Though we failed to make the West for the Games my wife and self cherish the ambition that one day we will get across that way. By the same token we're hoping that the "Golden Eagle" flies over the Sproxton Menage. We are still looking forward to rolling the carpet out for himself and family.

My best regards to all old mates, especially Jack Carey, "Sproko", Tom Crouch, Jack Wicks, Joe Poynton, Rowan-Robbinson and that villain G. Timms.

WYN THOMSON, of Forestry Dept. Ludlow, writes:—

I don't know what you are going to think of us but we just can't find the book of tickets anywhere. I really think they have been scooped up and burnt by one of us. I remember putting them on the fridge so Alex would see them to take to work but now they can't be seen anywhere. There wasn't any sold. We hadn't even taken ours out. I do feel terrible about this and I'll send the money to cover them as soon as possible.

You will see by our address that we have moved once more. Nearly back to where we shifted from. We could not get a forestry house in Mangimup but have a very nice one over here, although at present the floods are a bit sloppy.

Well I guess I had better off and do a few chores. We have a 10 year old lad with a broken arm and he keeps us on the hop.

All the best for the sweep. One day we may make Perth for a few days. I know Alex thinks of you all, although he never writes.

Clarrie Turner doesn't live far from here.

Remember These . . .

DECEMBER MEETING

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3
ANZAC HOUSE BASEMENT
BUCKS NIGHT — BRING A FRIEND

Childrens Christmas Party

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8
SOUTH PERTH ZOO

No January Meeting