

2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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Editorial

The State of the Nation

Annually the President of U.S.A. gives an accounting to the nation in which he reviews the position of U.S.A. both at home and abroad. This is always a most enlightening speech and sets the pattern for the year to come. Over the past few years your Editor has attempted to review the world situation and the local scene in the first "Courier" of the new year.

Any review of 1965 in relation to the world scene is a gloomy business. Apart from Russian and American successes in the sphere of space travel there is very little to enthuse over. The Vietnam situation has escalated into a full scale limited war with both sides lifting the number of combatants enormously and the overall picture is one of semi deadlock. How long this situation will continue is anybody's guess but even the most optimistic visualise at least a couple of years. With the possible use of Australian National Trainees in this sphere it is going to be a most important event for Australia and will cause many heart burnings before it is ended.

Rhodesia has been added to the trouble scene in a highly explosive area which is the whole African continent. Just what will happen to the white population of Africa and Rhodesia in particular in the near future does not make pretty thinking.

The China, India, Pakistan problem remains constant with some surface indications of improvement as result of recent conferences. China still remains the complete enigma and seems hell bent to stir up trouble anywhere and everywhere, giving encouragement to any form of rebel movement likely to upset the status quo.

Russia appears, at least on the surface, to be moving more towards the western way of thinking and is not quite the over-threat of a few years ago.

The economy of Europe is poised on the brink with the possible collapse of the European Common Market brought about largely by France's attempts to dominate a very ticklish situation.

The economy of Great Britain seems to have recovered to some extent and there only remains the Rhodesian situation to really embarrass the Government.

U.S.A. is in more strife than "Speed" Gordon! Problems of race and economy on the home front and the embarrassment of being world leader on practically every frontier of the world. One feels that a nation which has given so much unstintingly deserves a better fate but as the British Empire proved in the past world leadership has more brickbats than congratulations attached to it.

On the Australian scene we

must admit that the pattern has been one of growth. There have been signs of a minor recession in the Eastern States but the West continues to boom with the advent of iron ore, oil and a bumper agricultural season. Involvement in Vietnam, Malaysia and Borneo continue to be a cross to be borne and this must extend in the years to come.

Relations abroad cannot be said to be good especially with Indonesia. We are not too popular in Africa but our relationship with our major allies Great Britain and U.S.A. continue to prosper.

Whether we are living in a fool's paradise as some people seem to think is a moot point but for a nation of only 11 million living to a great extent in isolation we can only cross the various bridges as they occur and the present policy of wait and see is about all that can be done, although a stepping up of our defence does seem to

be the urgent job of 1966.

What of 1966? The hot spots of the world do not appear to be in a position to simmer down in 12 months so that we can look forward to limited war in many places during this year. World economy will probably stand up to the strains and stresses purely because of the infusion of U.S. dollars and goods to the places mostly requiring aid. This will happen for the good reason that U.S. still has to show the flag to keep world communism at bay.

The Australian scene gives the appearance of no change although the removal of Sir Robert Menzies from his long term leadership could have more far reaching effects than is now apparent.

It is a case of keeping the fingers and toes crossed and hoping for the best. In conclusion let us wish one another all the very best for 1966.

—C. DOIG, Hon. Sec.

West Australian Whisperings

Association Activities

Since last the "Courier" was published the annual end of the year Bucks' Party was held at Anzac House Basement on Dec. 7. This was excellently attended and we had a bundle of fun. Our good friend Syd Dixon operated on the piano and Col Doig dished out a few dits and then the gang proceeded to sit around and kill Japs right, left and centre. An old fashioned meeting night but definitely appreciated by those present.

WORKING BEES KINGS PARK

There have been quite a few working bees in our area in Lovekin Drive. The most important of these were two arranged to lift all the sprinkler heads approximately three inches above lawn level. This has proved to be most successful as the area is now being most adequately covered. Thanks to Joe Burridge the watering is being at-

tended to in a wonderful way and the whole area is probably looking better than it ever did previously. Bill Epps and family continue the good work of mowing and the Hasson family keep the road kerb and surrounds neat and tidy.

Committee Comment

There have been two meetings of the Committee since last the "Courier" went to press and both have been excellently attended.

At the December meeting a full roll was recorded. Being at the end of the year and the start of the next year both meetings were reasonably brief as activities within the Association slacken off considerably over the holiday period. Much of the discussion centred around the requirements of Honour Avenue as this is the time when most work is required in our area. The Treasurer was able to advise that finances remain buoyant and that the Association

could carry on successfully until the next sweep took place.

It was decided that a sub committee be formed to arrange the necessary competition for the Calcutt Memorial Trophy and devise an adequate point system which would give all possible competitors the best possible chance.

It was decided that the February meeting take the form of a rifle shoot. It was also decided that at the March meeting John Burridge be requested to give a talk on his world trip.

Personalities

It is with extreme regret that we have to advise of the passing of Mrs. Geraldine Harrold, eldest daughter to Gerry and Lal Green. Geraldine was the first child born to a member of the Unit and her birth was celebrated while we were at Wayville Showgrounds in 1941. She had been ill for some time but it is still a terrific wrench when a young woman of 24 years of age departs this life. Our most sincere sympathy is extended to Gerry and Lal and also to Geraldine's husband, in their sad loss.

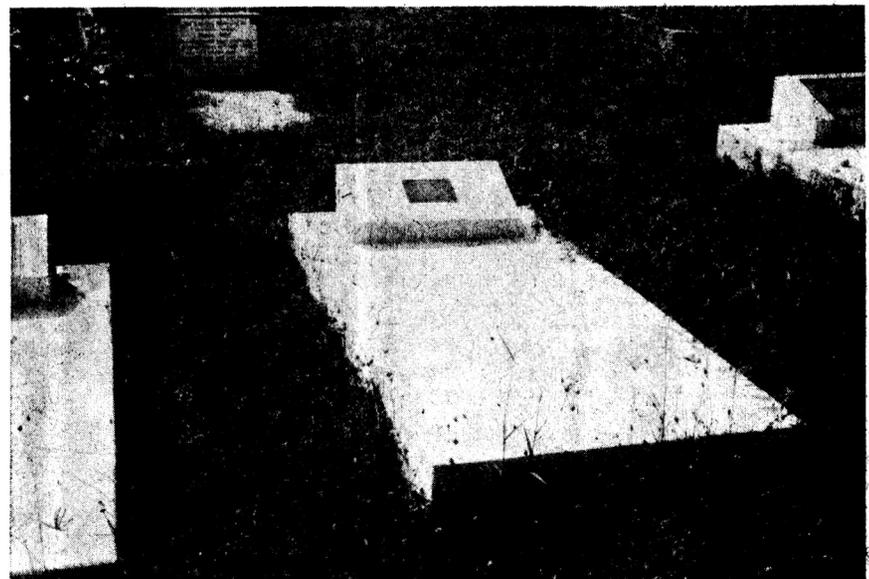
Our good mate Bill Epps has been in hospital for a double hernia operation and was dead unlucky that this should have to take place during the annual leave-close down of the printing works which so efficiently publishes our "Courier". He is well on the mend now and hopes to be 100 per cent in a few weeks.

Col Hodson and family have been holidaying in the Geraldton area over the Christmas-New Year period.

Seen briefly (thank God) in town was Ted Loud down from Pemberton for a day. Had some pleasant ales with Ted along with Joe Brand. Joe still backing winners with great determination, including the winner of the Railway Stakes, Blue Springs.

Over in W.A. for a family reunion was Harold Newton, ex-Sandgroper and Cornstalk by adoption. Harold looks like as though the paddock is good as he has put on quite a bit of weight since last we met. He is now with P.M.G. in Sydney. Came along to our Committee meeting and met quite a few of the gang at Anzac Club.

The Editor would like to thank all those members who so kindly



Doc McInerney's Grave at Wewak

sent Christmas cards to the journal over the festive season. They would be too numerous to mention by name and also it would be terrible to forget some person.

Reg Harrington has been laid low for a short time but latest advice is that he is on the mend and we hope that by now he is fully recovered.

Nice to see Tony Bowers once again. He was sighted with a big mob of the gang at Claremont Hotel recently. He is as big and bright as ever and says he enjoyed an excellent season.

Sighted but briefly, Gordon "Slops" Hislop driving round a corner as I was leaving a hostelry. Just time to shake hands before he was given a blast from the car behind.

Had a noggin or two with Terry Paull over the Christmas - New Year period. He and family were down staying with Rod Dhu. Says the timber mill is starting to prosper at long last.

The Association has to thank one Mick Keenan who was introduced to us by Rod Dhu. Mick was over here from Victoria on a job of work as an expert welder and came along and helped with a couple of working bees at Kings

Park and then at a later date built us a fertiliser spreader for use in our area. It was a really nice gesture from one who had no real affiliation with our Association.

For information of country members in particular your Editor would like to advise that he is no longer a member of the State Executive R.S.L. having found it necessary to resign before he expired from extreme boredom. He will now be able to devote himself and his energies to the Association affairs with special reference to the Great Safari which will take place in 1968.

Joe Poynton, Roy Watson and Tony Bowers reported good to average fishing from Joe's boat off Rottnest. Believe good time had by all especially at Quokka Arms at Rottnest.

Thanks to the good offices of Theo Adams who is with A.N.A. at Geroka we have pleasure in printing a couple of photos he took recently in New Guinea. One is of the grave of the late Doc McInerney at Wewak and the other of a native scene at Geroka. This should bring back memories to quite a few of the boys who were in the Geroka area and a nostalgic thought for the intrepid McInerney.



Some of Theo Adams' neighbours at Geroka
As he says: "They have wealth!"

Random Harvest

"SHORTY" STEVENS, of Yallunda Flat, S.A., writes:—

Here I am at last with an opportunity to catch up on the pen. Have arrived at Lincoln with a load of grain and am in a line up that looks like a three to four hour wait.

It is some time since I wrote and I'll have to scrape the memory a little.

Firstly I must say what a pleasure it was to have Eric Smythe call and see us last March. We had a very pleasant couple of hours. It was good to read in the "Courier" that Eric had a good run back to Geraldton and to know that the chewing gum and nail polish saw the distance out O.K.

We did a trip ourselves this year in September and went through Northern Victoria to Albury, up to Canberra and then to Cooma where we had a week looking over the Snowy Scheme.

A really good trip but it is surprising how few of our gang live in the country areas and how many must like the bright lights. Never saw a sign of anyone I knew all the way. For the benefit of Dignum & Co., we never called at Adelaide, went through the Barossa Valley.

Re the Snowy Scheme, it is a mighty project and I would suggest it be made a point of call on the proposed "Caravanserai".

For those who would like to

Dilli Drome, January, 1942, approximately four weeks before Nippon made their landings. 5 Section, "B" Troop (Col Doig's mob).



We were water carriers for the Troop this particular day (Lord knows what the boongs must have thought of us). We drew the water from a well cased in cement and loaded it into a 44 gallon drum fixed on our man-powered go-cart.

The big fella on the right is our chief slave driver, one Teddy Loud. The well was situated on the corner of the main road to Dilli and the road leading up to the hanger.

From left to right: Alec Thompson, Ray Parry, Don Young, George Merritt and Ted Loud.

make the trip on the "Caravan-seri" and feel they are not equipped to pull a caravan, perhaps some thought can be given to a small tent and camping. That is how we travelled. Marg, two children and myself and found it fairly economical and quite satisfactory, camping mostly in caravan parks, odd times on the roadside.

My main idea behind our camping was to educate a little in readiness for our trek West in the future (before too many years, I hope). Not sure when, but it's definitely on the agenda.

As far as personal news goes things seem fairly constant around here. Suffering the usual fate with crops—too much winter moisture and not enough spring rain—cut out completely this year and crops battled to finish. However we have plenty of paddock feed and are probably better off than a lot of Australia. We'll make the grade O.K.

Wishing yourself and all the lads who keep the "Courier" afloat a Merry Christmas and a prosperous year to all the lads of the Unit.

P.S.—This probably won't make it by Christmas now as I delayed posting it as wanted to mention the Honour Roll at the Canberra Memorial. While looking through the names I did not find Laurie

Maloney's name among the list where our lads were and as I did not know his number and was not sure of his State, Victoria I think, I could not really check up and anyway our time was limited. I mention this and I think he lost his life with one of Jack Denman's patrols on Jan. 10, 1944, and feel it would not hurt to check up on the matter. His name is probably there somewhere. Must away as it is a good reaping day.

TONY ADAMS, of Quay St., Rockhampton, Qlds., writes:—

Have just had four weeks holiday, three at Mermaid Beach South Coast and did little else but sleep, surf and sun bake. Have at last found my true vocation!!

Paul has just finished his first year as Cadet Journalist on Brisbane Telegraph and loves his work. Judy commences nursing at Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane, next April so we will be Darby and Joan.

Will write fully in new year and do justice to your long newsy letter. In meantime season's greetings and best wishes for 1966 to you and all the boys.

We will make the 1968 Safari wherever we are, that's a firm promise.

Victorian Vocal Venturings

We had a very successful barbecue come Christmas party at the You Yangs. The following were present: George Vietch and family, Alf Harper and family, it was good to see Alf again and we hope to see more of him, George Kennedy, Peter Krause and family, George Pancho Humphries and family, Jim Wall and family, Bert Tobin and family, Johnny Roberts and family, Elva Roger Davidson and her three girls, Baldy and Vi Baldwin, Bill Tucker and Yours Truly and family, and all voted it a great day. The weather was ideal and the hardy ones walked up to the top of the mount where there is a splendid view of Geelong and sur-

rounding country.

The children were given a book each plus lollies and drinks and really enjoyed it. This was a break away from our Christmas Party at the beach and I think it is a great idea as it brings the whole family out for an enjoyable day.

A few of us went to the Combined Commando Association's Christmas Party at Cheltenham Park a few weeks later, namely Bert Togin and family, Jim Wall and family, Johnny Roberts and family and self and family, and we took along Frank Press who was down from N.S.W. to see his son pass through the Officers Training School at Portsea, also M.A.M.

Smith who came down to see Frank. I haven't seen Frank since the war, but he hasn't altered much. Looks fit and well, and he thoroughly enjoyed himself and was glad to be able to meet some of the boys. We took Frank along to see Pete Krause who lives quite near and they had a good chin wag.

This Christmas Party was a great success, very well run and a

credit to the organisers, and we all voted it a great day.

Well the year has nearly drawn to its end and as this will not appear until next year in the "Courier" I hope you all have had a wonderful Christmas, and I wish you all the very best of health, wealth and prosperity for the year of 66 and hope that we continue on to bigger, brighter and better doings. Till next time, cheerio.

—HARRY BOTTERILL.

Historically Yours!

FAITA FIBLETS

incorporating

GAROKA GRUMLINGS - MORESBY MUMURINGS - CANUNGRA

Vol. 1. No. 2.

26th December, 1943

Nett Sales: 500,000,000,000,000

Printed and published at the office of the proprietors:
No. 1 "The Mudhole", Flats, Skeeter Avenue, Stinkpot.

A MINUTE IN THE LIFE OF A PATROL OFFICER

The scene is a native village where a patrol officer has stopped during his rounds. Natives are lined up telling him all their troubles and he hands out advice and judgement freely. One boong, a very old and hen-pecked looking individual fronts up to the Patrol Officer and this is the conversation which followed:

Boong: "Kiap! Me one pella got talk."

Kiap: "Talk along what name?"

Boong: "Me got trouble along Mary belong me. Me like 'im rouse 'im."

Kiap: "Rouse 'im 'im belong what name?"

Boong: "E gammon 'im me. Now e shame 'im me."

Kiap: "You talk."

Boong: "One pella Sunday 'im e go pinnish, me go along soda water along kessim sol. Mary belong me e stop work. Now me come back. Me no lookim Mary pind im pind im pind im Mary no got.

Me go along ouse belong me. Me lookim Mary one time udder pella man. Im e makim strong. Im e no praid along me. Now bell belong me e et too muss. Me talk: You pella make im what name? Mary e talk: Maskee you, you look look good this pella man, e line im you. B'bind you can savvy. Me like rouse im.

The boong didn't get his divorce.

THE BUSHRANGER'S LAMENT

By R. Dunbye

'Twas Xmas time at Nokai,
And the boys' morale dropped low,
As Basher came up saying,
"On patrol ya gotta go."

There'll be no Xmas dinner,
No nog or Xmas beer,
You'll all be 'cross the river,
Bashin Japs down on their 'ead.

Now Basher he was happy,
His Bushrangers were sad,
Cause they had got the G.G.,
A feast was to be had.

They packed their gear up glumly,
And cursed and loudly swore,
For two days off at Xmas,
Won't hold up the flamin' war.

For while you blokes are running
And boxing on the mat,
We'll break Olympic records,
A 'undred in nothing flat.

We guess its no use grumbling,
It's a job we gotta do,
You blokes can have our turkey,
We'll have dehydrated stoo.

FAMOUS REMARKS:

Quoth Commando Jim Griffin
(ex 1st A.I.F. 2/40 Bn., etc.):
"Mud. Bah! The Ramu mud
tracks round Usini and Urigina
would be for Staff Officers only in
France!"

STAFF TEASE

By Y. Ripenoff

We are a Sapper Section,
Who daily go and play
At building of an airfield,
Down the Ramu way.

The Divvy said: "Repair it."
The section said: "We will!"
And ever since that moment,
We've worked like ruddy 'ell.

The Bull is mad on wheel tracks
While all the other patter
Comes to us about the bumps
As found by Mr. Latta.

With wheel tracks down at one end
We Sappers in the middle,
And Latta's bumps at other end
The whole show is a riddle.

We've drains and bumps and wheel
tracks,
To work on every day,
So planes can land our eats and
mail,
Not kai bomb miles away.

We work from dawn till after dark
The jeeps all run to time,
And driver Bob is happy
As he churns the strip to slime.

We thought the job near finished,
So toiled on in the sun,
When up comes "Bull" the Major,
And says: "What work's been
done?"

Gig tears out nearly all his hair
And even Smasho cowers,
While Bep was so astonished
He lost his vocal powers (???)

The Colonel came up here today,
By plane he made the trip,
And laid us out with four choice
words:
"Just build another strip."

So that's our little section,
Who want to travel home,
Forgetting bloody airfields,
Especially Faita drome.

**MARCH MEETING
GUEST SPEAKER — JOHN BURRIDGE
ANZAC HOUSE BASEMENT
TUESDAY, MARCH 1**

**BEACH PICNIC
FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN
MULLALOO BEACH
SUNDAY, MARCH 6**

Lots of Fun For All

Soft Drinks will be supplied for Children along with
Ice Creams

Remember with Decimal Currency
the Price of Your "Courier" will be 1 cent