



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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Editorial

THE GREAT SAFARI

The time has arrived to again plug for the great Re-Union planned by the Association for 1968. The object of this Editorial is to keep the matter well in the minds of members in every State. You will remember that a questionnaire was forwarded to all members some months ago and to date quite a good number have replied. However there are still many outstanding and to get the full opinion of everybody you are requested to fill in this form and return it to Box T1646, G.P.O. Perth, as soon as possible if you have not already done so.

Opinion to date appears to favour a period in March-April of 1968 to be the best choice of time for the holding of the mobile convention. The nearest thing to a firm time is for the Safari to be in Sydney for Anzac Day of 1968. This would suit out Eastern States' members admirably and would also assist most of the W.A. members who of course will be the major travellers.

There are still many matters of prime organisation to be thought out and these continue to exercise the attention of the Committee. At the present time the matter of mode of travel is under consideration and a lot of thought is being given to travel by train for those W.A. members who don't like to face up to the long driving combined with the Re-Union activities. Members will be advised in due course of concessional rates available for rail travel and these could prove to be most attractive. There will still be a big number who will prefer to take their vehicles and these will be advised of the proposed time schedule in due course so that their method of travel dovetails with rail travellers.

Your thoughts on the whole matter would be appreciated by your Organiser so write in as soon as you can.

As stated earlier this Editorial is only in the nature of a reminder that the Great Safari is still on and you should keep the matter firmly in your mind and make a firm decision soon regarding your possibility of participation.

West Australian Whisperings

Association Activities

SEPTEMBER MEETING

John Burridge came along with something like 130 slides of his trip to Timor and his talk took the form of an explanation of each of the slides. They were excellent photographs of a very large area of Timor which John visited and brought back nostalgic memories of over 20 years ago.

The place has not changed vitally although with the passing of time there are quite a lot of new buildings at various places. Other areas known to us are of course overgrown and hard to identify.

The talk of course largely followed the excellent article by John in the last edition of the "Courier".

We hope that John will make these slides available at a later date so that members who could not attend last time will have the chance of viewing them as really they are too good to miss.

At this meeting we were favoured by a brief visit by Joe Loveless and his wife who were able to meet members for the first time since the Timor days. Joe could not stay long as he was busy flat hunting for the rest of his two week stay in Perth.

CAR RALLY-PICNIC, SEPT. 18

Afraid old Jupiter Pluvius was in one of his worst moods for this event and this of course marred the roll up. The weather improved remarkably after we got started and the day out proved to be most enjoyable. The pity is that we did not have such a big crowd to enjoy the day.

The car trial was won once again by Helen Poynton who is making a habit of this type of victory. Eric Smyth, who happened to be in the city, took part in the Rally and took off second prize.

Our thanks to Dave Meadowcroft who so kindly loaned us his property to hold the barbecue and picnic. It is a truly lovely little spot in the hills and absolutely ideal for this type of picnic. It is proposed to hold another rally in the near future finishing once again at this delightful venue.

ANNUAL RE-UNION

Anzac House Basement on Oct. 1 was once again the venue for this most successful function. Although these Re-Union Dinners are largely carbon copies of previous functions they never fail to give the boys a chance to get together in a big way and really enjoy themselves. This year was no exception.

The roll-up of country members was really tremendous and more the pity that more city members did not take the opportunity to be present.

The Toast of the Unit was most ably presented by our good friend Harry Holder, and responded to in an excellent way by President Jack Hasson. Jack Carey gave us the toast of Portuguese Friends and Native Helpers and proved once again what an able speaker he is. The duties of Toast Master were carried out once again by Col Doig who added a few dits to help the evening

Down from the north were Bill Drage and Bruss Fagg, both looking extra fit. Ted Monk down from Latham; Charlie Sadler and Jack Fowler from Wongan Hills; Peter Campbell from Esperance; Vince Swann from Salmon Gums; Alf Hillman from Broomehill; Tony Bowers from Kojonup; Ernie Bingham from Wandering; Gordon Barnes from Rocky Gully; Reg Harrington from Wyening; Lew Thompson from Wannamal; Terry Paul from Boyup Brook.

Apologies were received from Robbie Rowan-Robinson, Bernie Langridge, Arthur Marshall, Clarrie Turner, Don Turton and John Burridge

Among the "Townies" were: Fred Griffiths, Fred Sparkman, Doc Wheatley, Geo Strickland, Keith Hayes, Peter Alexander, Dave and Jim Ritchie, Ron Kirkwood, Arthur Smith, Jack Carey, Jack Hasson, Col Doig, Bill Epps, Dick Geere, Col Hodson, Merv Ryan, Ping Anderson, Joe Poynton, Mick Morgan, "Curly" Bowden, Rod Dhu and quite a few more that your Editor can't remember because of a grog fog.

The show went on and on and some players and stayers didn't get home until 4 a.m. on Sunday which seems to indicate that they really enjoyed a good night.

COMMEMORATION SERVICE

The Annual Commemoration Service was held at our area in Kings Park on Sunday, Oct. 2, and we were favoured by good weather and an excellent muster of both members and their wives and families and friends.

Jack Hasson, as President, gave the address which was of excellent content and well received by those present. Mick Morgan mustered the parade.

After the Address members made the march of homage right through the area. This is a truly Unit ceremony and is gaining in stature every year and it behoves a'l who can possibly make it to be in attendance and pay their small mark of homage to our fallen.

Presidential Address:

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Fellow Members,

Once again it is my duty to address you on the occasion of our Annual Commemoration Service. We have again foregathered in this, our particular hallowed piece of this wonderful park, to pay homage to those who have gone before. Theirs was the Sacrifice, ours but to do due homage to their bravery.

Life is a very precious thing, and this, we who remain, have in abundance but they who paid the Supreme Sacrifice on distant shores were cut off in the very flower of their youth, gay cavaliers who met death with a smile on their lips, probably loving life just as strongly as we do. This makes their sacrifice all the greater.

The big question mark is, was this sacrifice in vain?

They fought as we fought, to build a better world. Is this world any the better for their sacrifice? One wonders as one ponders the large query which is the world of today. It does appear that man never seems to learn by the mistakes of yesterday. In our lifetime, two great world wars have been fought to end all wars. The events of today seem to give the lie to this fallacy. The Korean War just stayed short of a full scale world war. The Malayan issue was much more than peanuts, and the present Vietnam war is gaining rapidly as a full scale involvement.

This only takes notice of affairs in which Australia has been involved. Affairs on the African Continent—is

about as glum as could be imagined. America—apart from involvement in wars abroad has problems of race at home which are threatening the very soul of the nation.

One could go on and on recounting the inhumanities of man unto man that have happened, and are happening, since first we took up arms to solve all the ills of a troubled world.

Most decidedly one asks the question, was it all worthwhile?

I am afraid I do not have the answer. Probably only time will tell just what will come out of the welter of events which are now travelling their course. Suffice to say we tried our best to do the right thing and it now behoves the rising generation to accept the challenge of the fight for peace and build this old planet into the paradise it was meant to be.

There is still a lot that we ageing persons can do to make the situation as we find it, a lot better than it is. I'm sure that those who gave their lives would not think much of us if we sat back and said: "We have done our share. Let the other bloke have a go."

Most of us have abilities along one line or another which can be used for the common good of all, and it behoves us to offer these talents to be used in the biggest possible way. The time for public service is with us, and there are many things to be done and we should answer the call and get on with the job. Our Association of closely knit friends can do a tremendous service to the community if only we could gather a common momentum and a common goal and get down to work. If you multiply our Association by the many ex-service organisations available you will readily comprehend just what a colossal force for good would be available.

I would like to draw the attention of all those present to the present condition of our area in King's Park, where we pay our reverence to our war dead. I think you will agree that it is fast becoming a thing of beauty and that it is quite befitting of those departed. To think that common vandals would think to desecrate this area and other areas of this park is beyond comprehension. But desecrate they have by breaking plaques and ruining the lawn by irresponsible car driving. One wonders at the mentality of persons who

would descend to such behaviour. Surely there are enough areas in other parts for youthful high spirits to have their fling without vandalistic behaviour in hallowed spots.

It is sincerely hoped that the message will get to the ears of those concerned and we will, with the passing of the years, see a rightful homage paid to these areas which are set aside in respect of the fallen.

On days such as today, we should pause and think of the bereaved ones left behind. Theirs is the heavy burden to carry. They are the prime losers, but let us also remember that our good mates would not wish them to mourn for ever. They gave what they had to give and gave it willingly. I say to you: "Lift up your hearts and be of good cheer and think only of the great good that your sacrifice was meant to bring to all the world."

Great strides have been made in this area since first the Association decided to make it their particular portion of God's Acre. It is our intention to carry the improvement on and on until it is absolutely the best portion of Kings Park Memorial area. This will only be achieved by hard work and all members are sincerely requested to make every effort to help with the improvements as they are asked by your Committee. This is your chance to get your back into the wheel of progress and keep it moving.

In conclusion I would like to draw your attention to the fact that in the very near future it is our intention to erect some form of memorial in Timor to perpetuate the memory of all those gallant souls who assisted our cause during the most arduous campaign of 1942 in Timor. There is not a person who served in this area who does not owe an intense debt of gratitude to the natives and Portuguese in the way of services supplied, food and loyalty. How many of us were carried miles and miles on improvised stretchers by gallant natives who later were to become war casualties.

Although we have left it a long time to pay in some way our debt, we have now decided to get stuck into the job in hand, and although better late than never, we want to be sure that what we do is to the best of our ability.

Perhaps I can leave you on a day such as today with the great thought of Benjamin Disraeli: "The memory

of a great man and the inheritance of a great example is the legacy of heroes."

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like you to stand while the names of the fallen are read.

They shall grow not old
As we who are left grow old
Age shall not weary them
Nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
And in the morning
We will Remember Them—
We will Remember Them.
LEST WE FORGET.

That now completes my address. The parade will march through the Avenue to pay their respect to our fallen.

NOVEMBER MEETING

This will be held at Anzac House Basement on Nov. 1 (Melbourne Cup night) and is the last in this year's series of the Calcutt Memorial Trophy. This is your last chance to win this wonderful trophy and if you come along and score well you can win it at one go.

The present leaders are Mick Morgan and Bill Epps and they will undoubtedly be trying very hard to take off the trophy for the first time.

Make every endeavour to be present on this the last occasion for this year to win the Sports Championship.

ADDRESS BOOK

Bill Epps is well under way in bringing up to date and republishing this excellent little booklet which is probably unique among Unit Associations in Australia.

Proofs have already been made and will be forwarded to N.S.W. and Victoria for checking, but you, the reader, can assist. If your "Courier" is going to a wrong address let us know immediately as this is our source of supply as far as addresses are concerned. If you know of a member who is not receiving the "Courier" send us his address as soon as possible.

This is a matter of urgency as we wish to get the book off the press as soon as possible. DO IT NOW!!

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

Committee Comment

Since last we published the "Courier" the Committee has met on two occasions. It is pleasing to see the excellent attendance at these meetings.

The main business has been the arrangements for functions such as the Car Rally, Annual Re-Union, and Commemoration Service.

A large portion of each meeting has been taken up with discussion on the proposed memorial in Timor. John Burrige has attended on each occasion and given us the benefit of his experience in Timor on his recent trip. At present the whole idea is in a state of flux until we can decide on the best form of memorial and what this memorial will potentially cost. The present thinking by the Committee is a "House Rest" or "Haven" to be built at some prominent spot which will give a place of rest to persons going to bazaars, etc. A suitable plaque will tell the story of who provided the memorial. Until we know a lot more about costs, etc., it is not proposed to open a fund but this will eventually be opened and members are asked to contribute generously as there would be none among the Timor boys who are not indebted in a big way to help that was given unstintingly by the people of this island.

Personalities

It is with regret that we have to advise once again of the death of one of our members. This time it is Norman Wallace, of the old No. 3 Section. Norm had been very ill for a long time and his death was something of a happy release from intense suffering. Norm worked for many years with the Forestry Dept. at Jarrahwood but was forced to retire some five or six years ago due to ill-health. Our sincere sympathy to his widow and family.

Our sympathy to "Spriggy" McDonald on the recent death of his mother. Also to "Pigeon" Pierce who recently lost his father.

Good to see so many country folk at the Re-Union and all looking so fit and prosperous.

Big Bill Drage and Bruss Fagg made it from Geraldton and North-

ampton especially for the occasion and both looked extra fit.

Peter Campbell and Vince Swann came from Esperance way and both looked on top of the world. Peter said the season at Esperance was terrific.

Charlie Sadler and Jack Fowler are among our real regulars and both said they were going along very well.

Reg Harrington also from the same area and we have to thank Reg for supplying super for our area at Kings Park.

Tony Bowers was there looking as big as a house and really had a great re-union with all his mates from No. 2 Section.

Lew Thompson is another regular who never seems to alter with the passing of the years.

Terry Paull made it from Boyup Brook and Alf Hillman from Broome hill. Alf says he has added a bundle more trophies and sashes to his wool shed since we were there a couple of years ago.

Glad to see Ernie Bingham down from Wandering. Still mad with the energy and running around with the beer for the assembly.

"Barny" Barnes is another who never seems to alter.

Saw Ron Sprigg during the month and he had just been holidaying at Murchison River and had a run-in with Bill Drage and Bruss Fagg. While in Perth Ron also was able to renew acquaintances with Joe Loveless.

Speaking of Joe Loveless he was able to meet a few of his old Sig mates in Gerry Maley, Ron Sprigg, Don Murray and Percy Hancock as Gerry arranged an evening at his place for Joe. Afraid Joe had me tricked as I would never have recognised him again as he is now carrying a bit of meat and wearing glasses and generally changed more than a bit. Hope you enjoyed your holiday in the West, Joe.

Once again the Association is indebted to Jim Fitzsimmons for his assistance with our area in Kings Park. Recently we had quite a large working bee to fertilise the area and spread about 30 yards of sand. Jim came along with his front-end loader and arranged to spread the sand in small heaps making the eventual spreading job so much easier.

Victorian Vocal Venturings

The Annual General Meeting was held in Bert Tobin's office, on Tuesday, Sept. 13.

Present: Bert Tobin (in chair), Bill Tucker, Alan Munro, Jim Wall, Alf Grachan, John Southwell and Harry Botherill. Apologies received from George Robinson.

As you can see it was not a good roll up, in fact we have had more to our committee meetings in the past. It is hard to understand why we have such poor general meetings. Let's hope that the ones not present just plumb forgot about it.

After discussion whether we had enough to go on with the meeting it was decided to go ahead as by previous experience we do not get a great deal more along.

Reports were received from Secretary, Treasurer and President, and all were well done, especially Alan's effort with the treasurer's report which appears below. Alan has done a terrific job as treasurer and I think there must be some Scotch blood somewhere in the family. We are in a good financial position with a balance of \$1,073.09 and we have \$439.38 in the Provident Fund.

Next item was election of office bearers. Bert wished to stand down

Heard This?

MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM

Skip Tracers, the detective agency, reports the visit of a Park Avenue matron who obediently cut down expenses when her husband informed her that his business was floundering. But one day after glancing at the financial pages she began to wonder and asked a few questions. She soon learned that hubby was carrying on a romance on the side, which was being financed by the cut in her allowance.

She came to Skip Tracers and asked if they could obtain the identity of the other girl.

They quoted her the fee.

She was silent for a while and then said: "All right, I'll get the money from my boy friend."

as President owing to pressure of work. He has done a mighty job here, just as he has done in the past with everything he has tackled for the Association. John Southwell was elected President for the next year and we wish him well. Bill Tucker wanted a spell from Secretary as he has done a good job but as there were no takers at the meeting he said he would carry on and if we could interest somebody else to take it on during the year he would then step down, if not he would carry on. Thanks, Bill, that's the spirit that keeps us going. Alan Munro was quite happy to keep on as Treasurer and our thanks to Alan as we know he is a busy man with many other interests.

Vice Presidents elected were Kevin Curran, an honour which we feel should be given to Kevin. We know that he will not be able to get to many meetings as he is so far away, but he has done a lot for our Association and is always interested in our doings. Bernie Callinan and Harry Botterill, the perennials in this position.

Auditor went to Jim Wall again. Committee, Alf Grachan, George Robinson, Jim Robinson, Johnny Roberts, George Veitch, George Kennedy, Mam Smith, Bruce McLaren.

We realise we have dobbed in some boys here but we feel they will be only too willing to do their bit.

We moved on to general business making final arrangements for the Cup Sweep drawing on Thursday, Oct. 28 in our usual haunt at No. 2 Commando Drill Hall. All we want now to make this a success is for everybody to sell their sweep tickets then bring them along in person on this night and have a good night with us.

We decided to have another day out late in November or early in December with a barbecue and Christmas treat for the kiddies. Time and place to be notified later.

We discussed the Safari for 1968 but realise there is not a great deal we can plan at present, except that we are right behind this and looking forward to it eagerly. We have put a large sum of money away especially for this event.

Discussed also the article of John Burridge in the "Courier" re the

Timor Memorial, and all agreed that this is a must and a wonderful idea from John and we will give it our full support. We all felt that the memorial should take some form other than a stone memorial—like an education grant, scholarship, or some form of building which would be useful, perhaps an addition to a hospital. These were some of the opinions of those present but whatever does come out of it we are right behind it.

The meeting ended around 11 p.m.

There is very little news around to tell. I have not seen many of the boys, been pretty busy. Happy Greenhalgh was down for a short visit recently seeing his sister. He's looking as well as ever and sends his regards to all the boys.

I was not at our last Committee meeting. I believe there was a good roll up and the Cup Sweep drawing was organised. We have since had our tickets sent out and I would like to again appeal to all members to hop right in and sell them. This is the life blood of our Association and we really need it.

So until next time, cheerio and all the best. — HARRY BOTTERILL.

TREASURER'S REPORT YEAR 1965-66

I have very much pleasure in presenting the Treasurer's Report for the year 1965-66.

From a financial point of view the past year has been quite a successful one, despite the fact that our method of operation extremely limits our opportunity to build up any great excess of accumulated funds.

The Melbourne Cup Sweep is once again our main source of revenue, and while we are still in the position to conduct this annual affair, we will have a reliable and steady form of income. In the past year the profit resulting from this function yielded to the Victorian Section \$290.91; to the N.S.W. Section \$96.95; and to the No. 2 Coy. Commando \$54.

As you can see this is quite a considerable sum of money, and if we are deprived of this source of income, then our financial structure would sag severely. Due to the possibilities arising that this form of fund raising could lapse in the future, we should give some thought to some alternative methods, if we desire to remain highly solvent.

Our other main source of income is from member subscriptions, and for the year ending June, 1966, this totalled \$60.50. One can see at a glance that this is a definite weakness in our organisation. There are various reasons of course why this is so, but probably the most important being the limited opportunities that our members have of paying an annual fee. \$60.50 represents about 40 financial members which is not a true indication of the interest our members have in our Association. Never, in the two years I have been Treasurer, have I encountered anyone reluctant to pay their dues, it is just a matter of asking or reminding. If we were to consider issuing a statement annually, I am sure that our financial members would increase considerably.

The Association held two major functions during the year, notably the November Re-Union associated with drawing the Cup Sweep, and our Anzac Day Re-Union. The former resulted in a profit of \$25.35 and the latter \$12.25. It is a good thing, and essential that these festivities should at least show a small profit, as we provide a very good entertainment at a reasonable cost. I suggest, to ensure that these functions continue to be successful, both from an entertainment and profitable point of view, that we give a little more thought to the control of the liquor side of these functions. As a case in point, the late purchase of canned beer at the Anzac Day function almost turned a successful night into a loss.

Our Christmas venture of course, is a direct cost to funds, the year just ending cost is \$30.12. This is our only opportunity to provide some return to our many enthusiastic and loyal country members, and I hope that we see fit to continue in this vein for many years.

The total profit for the year considering all our activities and taking into consideration the subscriptions tendered, was \$326.45—a sum that we can be quite proud of under the prevailing circumstances.

We have also a sum of \$13 donated towards the Provident Fund.

Interest earned during the year was \$30.77.

Our bank balance is quite healthy at \$1,073.09.

—ALAN MUNRO.

Historically Yours

FAITA FIBLETS

incorporating

Garoka Grumblings — Moresby Murmurings — Canungra

Vol. 1. No. 6. 23rd January, 1944 Priceless.

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

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LADIES OUT OF UNIFORM.....

Dorwin



GIVE ME A CIVVY SUIT

Let us raise the first point by saying "It took the war to wake us up". I believe that so much is true, but, "Are we awake?" A famous soldier of World War 1 once in a lecture stated: "You young people are heading for a state of unpreparedness, brought about by your own damn ignorance!" Sir Richard Ackland, M.P. (not Provost), says: "Nobody has given us any sort of assurance that all this suffering is going to lead to anything better than we know today."

We are an extremely brave people in the face of physical danger, though no individual can be quite sure how he will behave under fire, or in an air-raid, and though those who feel the bravest today, may lay whimpering with fear tomorrow, even though wounded themselves would very calmly set about caring for those yet more badly damaged. This kind of bravery, when the need arises, is a wonderful thing. But it is a complete mistake to assume that our own pre-war national attitude — "I don't worry, I can take what's coming to me"—is the highest form of human courage.

There is another kind of courage, the mental courage to think and proclaim new thoughts. Have we this kind of courage? You are not entitled to consider this question, only as it effects yourself. Our famous men of religion say: "You must give something before you can expect to get something back." Diggers, one and all, I tax you with this question: "How many hours have you wasted, lying on your back in a grass hut thinking of leave, beer, pretty girls, but mostly the end of the war and a civvy suit? How much have you thought about your future as a civvy? Let us one and all rid ourselves of "unpreparedness". Let us gain that "mental courage". I say you have all given something and are now entitled to get something out of this war, and so you will, if the war has wakened us up.

How many of the critics have said: "The army will stick together after the war!" Let us do something for ourselves then. Let us use the discipline we have learned to achieve something for ourselves. My suggestion is, discipline our spare time and make full use of the A.E.S. to

gain that "mental courage" in our own calling—seek and don't give up until you locate and learn what you are entitled to under the Repatriation Plan and thus, "get something out of it" rather than "take what's coming".

If you don't agree with my suggestion, at least let us hope we will cast aside the "unpreparedness" and thus avoid a repetition of what happened to so many last time.

—C.F.G.McK.

NOKAI KNIGHTS

(By "Bishop")

Mystery surrounds the camp at Nokai. The jungle, dense and dank, casts a deathlike gloom over the entire area, through which the sun's feeble rays fail to penetrate.

The huts, with their murky kerosine lamps, only tend to make the deathlike stillness more terrifying, to the wretched creatures who eke out a miserable existence in this fetid hell of the Bismark Ranges.

Mosquitos sing their incessant song making life, if possible, more unbearable for these pitious, forgotten wretches.

Groups of men are seen huddled together, as though in some mysterious and barbaric ritual. Not a sound breaks the deathly stillness that prevails—SUDDENLY—a cry reaching to the heavens shatters the eerie stillness of the tropical night: "CHECKMATE!"

FLIPS AND FLOPS

The man's a flip I'll tell you why,
He will not Garoka fly,
But stops at Faita to learn to swim,
We can't make out what's come over him.

He used to be a dinkum guy, good at picking fools,
And seizing battery chargers and losing bloody tools.

Who is this flip, this wirelss wonder,
Who's not afraid of Faita's thunder,
And for Garoka cares not a thing,
But would rather stay at Faita for his fling?

WHO?

A BON VOYAGE TO BERT

Swing along the road to Adelaide,
 Away from bully beef and marmalade,
 He's on his way
 And he hasn't long to stay
 We Wish him luck and we hope he's
 not delayed.
 Swinging along the road to Wood-
 side town,
 Three months to slave and work and
 frown.
 So here's to Bertie, the lad from "C"
 Platoon,
 For blokes like him there's always
 tons of room
 We know he's undaunted and not the
 least afraid,
 Swinging along the road to Adelaide.

BRIDGE OF BURDEN

At last the knowledge of the Sapper Section is to be put to the acid test. After several half-hearted attempts (not much energy) they have awaked to find the bridge over Mudflat Creek washed away by mighty, swirling waters. What we ask of them is a bridge built to withstand the heavenly elements, also to take the strain of rigorous and arduous patrols by various members of H.Q. Staff.

Now go to it Sappers. Swing those axes and banjos. Gather the necessary materials under the eagle eye of Sgt. "Smash" Hodgson. We don't expect a Harbour Bridge owing to the lack of iron ore, but give us something durable. **THIS, IS SOMETHING MIGHTIER THAN A STRIP.**

Unless I get my subsidy from Curtin I will not be able to take any maternity cases until next April.

—DocMac.

L I E S

(By Dorothy Cram Kirkwood)

Bushido Groaned:

Last week, to long-suffering, ambush-copping, Kyato Bushido, Japanese retreat-covering, KULAU commander, came fresh worries, tribulations, as native outposts on the turbulent Ramu brought news of HQ spear-headed, swift moving patrols, track burning to Usini, branch-tracked junction. Question was: "Which way would they go—to Kulau or

Uria?" The answer spelled either death and disgrace or reprieve to Bushido. Bushido evacuated Little Blossom to Amele, doubled guards, ordered troops to shoot natives going through from Ramu. For 24 hours, Bushido trembled, then came news that patrol had switched in lightning move to east and struck at Damaru. That night patrol slept victorious in Damaru and even as Admiral Tojo was trying to face save this defeat, came news of the by-passing of Urigena and rapid capitulation of Uria, key bastion on way to Madang.

Diet Called:

Battered on all fronts a worried premier called meeting of harassed Diet. Demanded more munitions, planes, ships, from already tax-weary peasants. Quoth he: "We are winning this war and we shall continue so until the armies of the enemies are destroyed, even to the 2/2nd Cav. Sqn." Outpost commanders listened cynically, tried to still uneasy murmurings in troops as threat of attack grew. After Uria, Madang, Wewak, Truk, Manilla, Tokio. Who would cop it next? Then on Jan. 15 the answer came. In a series of rapid movements, patrol feinted at Beri, threw main thrust to Sana; at midday the plane-battered garrison at Kisa looked to the west, saw green clad commandoes crouch into Suna, taking it without fight. Sabre-wielding officers were trampled aside as to a man Kisa garrison fled. For two hours commandoes held Sana and then, the job completed, withdrew to former Jap outpost near Uria. In the interim, remainder of patrol bush-bashed track to Rain-Bana, Wiyia in bewildering series of moves these towns fell to onrushing commandoes.

Darkness Falls:

On the night of Jan. 15, the patrol moved out of Uria and headed for Urigena. Next morning, this former proud bastion of Japanese might and culture centre of the Ramu Valley resounded to the tromp of marching feet as blitz-developer Lt. Rodd led men through the streets, with Capt. "Hustler" Turton, walk-loving observer, and men in place of honour.

Thence, in record smashing drive, the patrol caused misgivings, fears, to creep anew into breast of Little Blossom petting Bushido; Damaru was

taken in their stride, again without action, thence the road to Kulau was reached; patrol paused, looked hungrily at this rich plum, counted rations left, swung to south and Faita. Said grinning, bearded, Capt. Turton on return: "Never since Attila has a force wrought so much damage to so many in such a short time." Added cynically: "The pawpaws were good anyway."

Bushido breathed, patrol grinned, Little Blossom sighed.

WHO SAID

That Bert Burges is leaving to warn the women and publicans of their impending doom?

That:

Tpr. E. Kalashnikoff, Professor of Broken English, has spent a considerable time in Shanghai; or isn't that news?

MY DAZE

Just when we were congratulating ourselves on the achievement of ridding the area of "C" Troop, early this week, a blasted transport plane drops from the heavens and spews

forth "B" Troops in all their glory. So batten down the hatches men, for the game's on.

Worthy of special mention are "Kiwi" Harrison, and a suspected rapist, and "Brooker" Tooker well known as a gazooka giggler.

Attention Troop Commanders; Nominations may be submitted this week for a suitable pair (preferably of mixed sex) from each Troop to be included in the Sqn. Ark. Owing to the recent prevailing floods it is thought advisable to preserve the 2/2nd Commando type for posterity to gaze upon in wonder. Nominees must be of suitable moral fibre and good stud stypes. The Ark will be built upon a selected site at the west end of Turton Tarmac.

A native report of reliable source states many washers have been found along the track to Nokai in the past few days. Could this be in any way connected with a certain Troops pack carrying capacity?

This week's booby prize goes to the cad that hung a contraceptive of the rubber variety on the uncensored mail peg.

Howitzer boy? Bored!

Bin Gin,

Fanny Ponsonby.

Random Harvest

PETER BARDEN, of 6GN. Geraldton, W.A., writes:

I've noticed in the "Courier" that I have been re-elected Country Vice President for the Northern Area. I would therefore like to express appreciation of the confidence you have displayed in me, and assure you that I will continue to do my best to keep you informed of interesting activities of Double Red Diamond types in this area.

I have seen quite a bit (and of course it's a big "bit") of Bill Drage lately at footie matches, and although his old team, Northampton, was eliminated by the narrow margin of six points in the first semi, he has a special interest in the grand final. His recently acquired son-in-law, Garry Rock (son of Great Northern National Football League President John Rock) was one of the stars who on Sept. 18 helped Rovers Club defeat Mullewa by one point in the

second semi. In fact Garry kicked the winning goal, seconds before the final siren.

My commiserations to Bruss Fagg, that energetic property man of the Northampton footie club. However Bruss is still being kept busy, helping look after the "Seconds" team which will contest the preliminary final.

Formation of the footie league a few years ago has certainly helped to bring people together from various parts of the region. For instance, Don Young and his boss of Mullewa were noticed trying out their vocal cords at a semi at Geraldton. It's odds-on that Youngie will be urging on Mullewa in the preliminary final against Railways.

Saw Nip Cunningham and his wife at the pictures the other night and he appears to be "fighting fit". I had the pleasure today of announcing in my news that their elder daughter

Jan had been chosen as the best dressed lady at the Northampton Show.

As far as "Yours Tru'y" is concerned, the wife and I have had a busy time lately. We again judged the floats in the Sunshine Festival street parade and of course had a busy time at civic and other functions during the nine days of festivities.

Geraldton has something of which to be proud in this regard—places like Bunbury have started similar events but they have faded out, whereas Geraldton has held eight successive festivals and attracted an increasing number of visitors not only from all over Western Australia and from the Eastern States but also from overseas.

Jerry Edwards is back from Hollywood Hospital and would like to express sincere thanks for the attention some of his old mates (including Jerry Green and Bill Epps) gave him while he was on his back. Jerry says he's on his feet again and "battling" along on a 45 per cent pension, because he doesn't want to be a T.P.I. or to undergo surgery on his back. He says he's living off tablets and enjoying a few beers. Jerry has received a nice letter of thanks from a Sister at Hollywood Hospital in appreciation of a generous donation of \$10 he made to the hospital.

Had a brief chat with Joe Brand who was in Geraldton for the funeral of a Northampton relative, Jack Drage (Bill's cousin), who was a crack rifleman and winner of a Queen's Prize. Joe appeared to be in the pink of condition—his job of looking after the Governor's garden obviously agrees with him.

In conclusion, Mr. Editor, allow me not only to heartily congratulate you on your excellent editorial "Vandalism in the Name of Anti-Conscription", but also to express the hope that there will be a good response to your August Editorial: "What About a Bit of Opionion?"

BARBARA PALMER, of Cowaramup, W.A., writes:—

My writing is about on a par with Bob's, so prepare yourself. I'm returning sweep butts, cheque for same enclosed. Hope it is a huge success.

Bob had intended writing to you last Tuesday night but was using the chain saw in the afternoon and a fair

sized 'splinter' flew off and caught him in the eye. It took a good deal of persuasion to get him to the doctor but just as well he went as the eye is cut right across the middle and doctor very smartly popped him in hospital. Provided no infection sets in all should be well and he'll be home soon.

He had thought we'd make Harvey for the cricket match this year but Bob's folk were coming here that day after a while at Nornalup and next day we started moving them into their new home in Busselton where they are now happily established.

The season here is very late and the cows are battling a bit so far.

Am also enclosing the questionnaire re the Great Safari 1968. As you see we hope to go and while on the move hope to travel further afield. Trust you are well.

FRANK PRESS, of "Bobanaro", Carcoar, N.S.W., writes:—

Herewith butts and cheque covering the last sweep. Thank Kathleen for this. As usual I put them aside and competely forgot them, but she resurrected them in time. I hope it is a successful one.

Seeing as you have just published a letter from me, I guess I can be forgiven if this is only a short note. Anyhow there is not much to add to what I said in my last, we are still very much in the grip of the worst drought on record and unfortunately apart from the good it would do to crops, rain now is not going to cause much of a change in the feed situation, it's too late.

Give my regards to all, especially Gerry Green. I was terribly saddened to read of the death of his daughter. Chin up GIG. I hope the day is not too far off when I will see you again. Maybe during the Great Safari.

ERIC THORNANDER, of 10 Robert St., Kalgoorlie, W.A., writes:—

Find enclosed ticket money and butts. As usual am running late, but you know the old saying.

From time to time I bump into most of the locals. All seem to be in pretty good shape. Was talking to Tony Davidson only this morning. He is quite happy with life generally, also Steve Rogers a few days ago. Steve's main enemy, I think, is overwork. He certainly has a big show to hold down. Paddy Doyle I was

talking to on Sunday. Paddy looks a lot better these days. Jack Sheehan is still just the same with perhaps a few grey hairs. Keith Beacham I sight every day or so. He looks as though he should just about own Nestles. Have not seen Ernie Hoffman. Ernie is still making a fortune at Porphyry way. As regards myself I still manage to knock off a few friges and washers, etc., and in so doing keep the old bailiff from breathing down my neck.

This covers the entire field of 2/2nd in this locality. Not many of us left up here now.

My best regards to all the boys.

TEX RICHARDS, of 12 Bradshaw St., Latrobe, Tasmania, writes:—

Sorry I couldn't do any better this time but have been out of circulation for a while. Hope you had a good Anzac Day. Had one this year in Hobart and a few hours with Dern Anning and a few 2/40th boys.

Will write again and tell all. Am writing this note at 6 a.m. Have been made secretary of Latrobe Homing Society. Trying to catch up on the book work. So for now, cheers.

CLIFF PAFF, of Glouster, writes:—

Herewith sweep butts. Sorry I'm late. Cheque for same and membership fees.

Regards to all the lads. Will get around to writing more later.

J. RICE, of 10 Keithleigh St., Kings Meadows, Launceston, Tas., writes:—

I am enclosing raffle tickets. Sorry for being late. If they are too late blame me.

Hope all the boys are well. Still hoping to make the trip over again soon.

Please pass our sincere sympathy on to Gerry Green on the passing of his daughter. I met her while I was over there.

Business is still brisk here, one excuse for not writing sooner.

I am still taking care of the film, hoping to bring it back personally.

I will be going to Hobart to have a look at the Carnival. Should be some good football.

ROD DHU, of 147 Gloster Street, Subiaco, W.A., writes:—

This writing is a very hard thing for me to do, but Doris has set pad and pen out and so it must be.

Enjoyed Anzac Day very much.

Too bad a few more can't make it. They don't know what they're missing. It's very good to have a yarn with a few of the fellows, even if it is only once a year.

Was up at the Nor-west Cape for a while and a very interesting place it is. The Yankee system of towers is really fabulous. Honestly you have to see it to believe it. The only trouble being the heat. I checked the temperature one day and it was 135 deg. F. I wasn't game to check it again. But in its favour bee-yoo-tiful nights. The ocean is on three sides so always a sea breeze.

The purpose of this scribble is the annual sweep. Please find cheque for same. Took them all for the wife and myself. Any extra to go to the funds.

W. O'CONNOR, of Box 97, Busselton, W.A., writes:—

Hope it's not too late. Money for tickets, subs, etc.

ALF HODGE, of Farm 1325, Whil-ton, writes:—

It was a pleasure to hear from the Association and to know that it is still an active and successful Association. I am not a financial member but am anxious to become one.

I am returning the ticket butts plus the tickets for the Association and hope one of them is picked out.

Sorry to be late with them, but hope they arrive in time. I have been harvesting rice and forgot about them.

I have a rice farm 14 miles from Griffith. I often see Roy Martin who lives there. Geoff Laidlaw was in Griffiths for Easter but I missed seeing him.

My best wishes to all the boys. Enclosed dollars for tickets and membership. Please let me know what the fee is for a member. I often receive the "Courier".

SHORTY STEVENS, of Yallunda Flat, writes:—

Tonight is the annual meeting and as it is not practical for me to just drop in I'll spend a few minutes on the pen just to let you know I appreciate the efforts of the "regulars" who carry the burden so well. Certainly the "Courier" appears to be appreciated by many.

Just a thought on the questionnaire. I enclosed mine when returning the butts and no doubt it will be acknowledged in a later issue., but in

case an odd letter should go astray I'd suggest a list be published with the names of all who have returned the Questionnaire and list also those planning to make the "Safari". Then we'd know whose had been received and it may influence his old mate to go along too.

Have been getting our share of cold wet weather lately and at the moment we are seated by a good sized fire—old fashioned in our neck of the woods.

Rain recorded the last five weeks is five inches so we are happy for the moment on that score.

About all for now. Regards to all the chaps.

HAPPY GREENHALGH, of P.O. Maclean, N.S.W., writes:—

Herewith the butts, mate, and coincidentally your memory jogger arrived this morning. Put the few extra bob in to help funds.

As has been the case for some time I am in very good health. Am looking forward to going south on holidays about September all being well. Hope to see some of the boys then.

As you know I have recently had visits from Harry Botterill and Harry Sproxtan and this has been reported in the "Courier". I hope they enjoyed their visit as much as I enjoyed their company.

On Easter Monday Ken Monk dropped in for a cup of tea. He and a neighbour of his had been up Queensland looking at cattle. You'd think they'd want to look at something else after living on farms all their lives. Anyway I'm not sure if they were through the Gold Coast or not. They'd get their minds off the cattle for a while if they did. Probably join the Bird Watchers.

I think the blokes on the land keep a lot fitter than we chair-born types. Ken certainly looks wonderfully fit and well and any of his W.A. cobsers would pick him immediately.

I travelled to South Grafton Services Club on Anzac Day to join Alan Luby, Ron Orr and George Mathieson in what is becoming an annual fixture. We were again successful making two in a row.

Luby and George played very well. I played from memory and Orr played up. Harry Fredericks was again cheer leader and forward scout in many forays to the bar. We had a wonderful day that day but I can't say as much for the next.

I am rather interested in any information that can be gained on making a trip back to Timor. If your information on the price of the fare from Darwin is correct it should not be hard for us to get a Timor Safari together. I think four or five could travel to Darwin by station wagon or car very reasonably and the overall return journey would not be too costly. If several cars were to travel together all the better. No doubt too it would have to be done at the right time of the year. I'm thinking of travel through the Northern Territory which has to be done in the dry, I believe.

Good luck in the sweep and please give my regards to the boys.

FRANK SHARP, of 22 Quinn St., Dubbo, N.S.W., writes:—

Please find enclosed butt of tickets for sweep also money order for tickets and donation to the Association.

I would like to thank you one and all for the copies of the "Courier" which I do enjoy reading, and hear some news about the doings of the old mob.

Would you please make note of my new address as I have been transferred on promotion by the Railway Dept., and have been in Dubbo for the last 12 months. My mail and sweep tickets went to Lithgow and I was late in getting them, also your advice when to return butts.

Kindly give my regards to the boys and am looking forward to paying a visit to the West one of these days. Wishing you all good health and prosperity for the future.

PHYLLIS BRYANT, of 319 Stanley Road, Carina S.E.7, Brisbane, Qld., writes:—

Have been trying to get Fred to attend to the sending of the gift raffle butts for some considerable time, but, now the time has come when they are going to be late for the drawing. I suppose this is the general thing with the Bryant's correspondence, because in our family each one leaves it to the other to attend to, and so it goes on and on.

Fred has had good intentions of writing the "Courier" but has had quite a lot of catering to do, and is not in the very best of health, so likes to catch up on some sleep and rest when he isn't working, which coupled with the odd jobs that are always there to be attended to, he doesn't

get a great deal of time to himself, and with the football season starting again he goes with the boys to watch the games.

We had lots of interest last season for both of our boys were playing, and both were successful in winning a premiership. However, this year Peter is in New Zealand and Raymond is coaching an Under 15 years team, an dso far they haven't been defeated. All this, all goes to make us a little more proud of our boys, because, like all parents, we think they are tops.

Enclosed you will find the raffle butts and money for same. If I include the cover for the "Courier", which, I might add, we both read and enjoy, Fred might forget about writing so I will not include the extra cash, but leave it for him to do.

Thank you for your time in reading this, and best of luck in the raffle, and maybe some of those prizes will come to Queensland one of these days.

ALF HILLMAN, of Broomehill, W.A., writes:—

I have been hanging on to these tickets hoping for a break in the flood of raffles, sweeps, etc., which seems to be never ending down here, and finally finished up not game to produce them so split them amongst the family.

The season here has got away to a good start with early green feed, much of it surviving the dry spell since the rains we had in February. However it is barely enough to make the ground ploughable. Light land is workable and I have about 100 acres worked up but the rest will have to wait another half inch or so.

Lambing almost completed with the best result I have had for years and the least trouble. Stock are in excellent condition and on present indications I expect to cut at least 2 lb. per head on last year which was my worst ever.

JIM CULLEN, of RMB 760, Afterlee, Kyogle, writes:—

Please find enclosed butts and cash for sweep. Trust it will be a success. Best of luck.

It was indeed an epic event to have Sprocko and family over earlier in the year. Time has dealt kindly with the granite visage. During his stay I'm sure that he succeeded in bringing me up-to-date with

most of the Unit news and history. 'Tis amazing how after 20 years we can take up the threads as if the span of time were not between. The ties of comradeship were certainly woven strongly during our years in the old Unit.

Should any members from the West, or elsewhere, be travelling off the beaten path and in this area, there's always room at our house and a welcome. We are counting on seeing some of you Sandgropers if not before, then when you migrate East in 1968.

Best wishes to all.

DUD TAPPER, of 54 Collingwood Ave., Flinders Park, writes:—

Please find raffle butts and money for same. Also questionnaire form.

I am still laying bricks for a living and enjoying the usual sports, boating and drinking. We have had a couple of trips across the gulf since Christmas, rough both times.

I took my family camping over Easter. Went up to Chowilla, opposite where they are making the dam. Had a very enjoyable time.

I met Bert Bache for the first time a couple of weeks ago. He is in the advertising business and looking very fit.

Hope the sweep is a success.

TOM YATES, 224 Kyogle Road, Kyogle, N.S.W., writes:—

I am returning ticket butts and cash for same. Sorry I am late but I set the tickets aside with the idea of returning them early, but you can see what happened.

As far as news is concerned it has been a very quite year. My second eldest boy has left and started working with the Commonwealth Bank so I am hoping that he makes the grade.

Many thanks for the "Courier" as I enjoy reading about how the other boys are doing.

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

Just as well you sent a reminder about the tickets. I had completely forgotten they were in the house.

Well, it seems as though I am in this State to stay. Not a bad place and have made a lot of friends since being here.

Three of my boys are playing football again this year and had a very good win on Saturday by about 24 goals. Not bad for kids under 15.

I am still on the committee and kept very busy.

I am still storeman for the Golden North Milk Ice Cream Firm at Clare. If any of the boys are over this way tell them to call in as we are on the road to Adelaide. Nearly everyone in the town knows where I work.

Not much news of interest around this place. All the family are well at the moment so will close hoping this finds you in the best of health.

A. MACLACHLAN, of 37 Arrow-smith St., Camp Hill, Brisbane, writes:—

I would like to recommend that John Burrige be awarded the Winged Foot and False Crests for his report on Timor. What nostalgic reading it made. Show me a man from the old 2/2nd who was not affected by this reading and I will show you a liar. Thanks John!

Now, perhaps we can do something concrete about showing our gratitude to the people of Timor. I think this shelter lookout would be a good idea as it would serve as a practical aid to many, which is what we want. The only other suggestion I could make would be to buy equipment for a native hospital.

Whatever we decide to do, we should not skimp it. For those who served in Timor I would suggest a minimum donation of \$20. This is a sum of money I can ill afford but we must remember that each and every one of us owes his life to the loyal natives of Portuguese Timor. Also we should give the boys from Koepang an opportunity to donate to this cause. As John says, let's not lose any time about this most important project.

As you will know by the June issue, I was in Sydney for Anzac Day. The hospitality extended to my wife and I and our friends, begs description. Those present have already been named and apart from a few side comments I would like to thank one

and all for an unforgettable Anzac Day.

Thanks to Jack Hartley for playing Mother Carey to us. Jack, I thought you had put on weight—until I caught sight of Drip Hilliard. Sorry to disillusion you as to our second honeymoon. How can four people have a honeymoon in a tent? Thanks to Jack Keenahan for spending our housekeeping money on the one-armed bandits. Also Nola wishes to thank you for the champagne, she had a glorious hangover the next day.

We spent a pleasant evening with Drip and his good wife and between them and Paddy Kenneally and his wife we managed to run Sydney short of tea. Thanks Drip.

A lot of words have been spoken about Alfredo and his good wife, Ruby. May I add my sentiments. Alfredo is a credit to our Company and our country. Believe me it will be worth a trip from the West just to shake Alfredo's hand.

Last, but not least, I would like to mention that illegal immigrant, Paddy Kenneally. Paddy, I cannot deny that what you say about me is true, but I'm glad you put it to paper as I'm not much good at understanding foreign languages. Paddy's speech these days is as broad as Drip's silhouette. To do you justice Paddy, the years appear to have been kind to you also. God bless you, Paddy, it was good seeing you.

I have not filled in the Safari form as I appear to have lost it. However I hope to make Sydney for at least a few days when the Re-Union is being held.

This is all for now except to touch again on the Timor appeal. Whatever the Committee decides upon you can count on my full support.

My regards to all the boys in the West, especially 4 Section. There were six of us in Sydney and you can be assured we drank your health long and deep.

J. PENGLASE, of 18 Queen Street, Bentley, W.A., writes:—

After reading your "Leading Paragraph", "What About a Bit of Opinion" and being one of the guilty ones, I will try to set the ball rolling regarding a suitable memorial in Timor. I think it should be in the form of something useful to the natives and Portuguese alike. Also it would need to be somewhere, or in such a place that the greatest number of the population would see it or hear of it, and therefore I consider that something in the way of a Drinking Fountain where the largest bazaars are held might be appropriate. What about a choice of say three prominent places such as Dili, Aileu and Maubisse?

Now, before I get "Writer's Cramp" I seem to recollect that a long time ago some attempt was made to get the boys to write on "Humorous Hap penings" in their army career. There is no doubt a wealth of anecdotes is to be told if only we can put them on paper before the memory becomes too dim.

Who in "B" Troop remembers the market day in Remexio when a native came running excitedly into the square calling, "Japanese!" and pointing up the Daralau track? How we immediately set up positions behind whatever cover there was and waited. A sudden shot from somewhere, the pounding of hundreds of native feet as they headed for the bush. Who can see the Portuguese Dwarf on his back, kicking and yelling: "Japanese Marti", after having been pulled up smartly by the Senora's clothes line? The firing of the mistery shot being solved, when one Harold Francis Newton returned rather sheepishly from the bush, after discovering the shot that landed close in front of him was fired from his own Tommy Gun and not the Japs.

Bluey Wilkes wakened from his siesta by his Creado after order was restored and creeping down the track in full battle order and fixed bayonet, to find himself the butt of some good humoured wise cracking regarding his spine bashing while we all fought the Nips off.

Surely there are some far better scribes than I who can contribute a touch of humour and interest to our "Courier" occasionally and save our Editor from gnashing his teeth and tearing his hair with frustration.

W. J. CONNELL, 101 Ashley St., Fairfield, Qlds., writes:—

As I promised while up at Moura, I am sending you a poem written by No. 1 Section to the A.W.A.S., and their reply. My wife has the originals of these and what I am sending you are copies. She would not part with them for anything. She also has here a page out of a letter written by Jack Hartley to Edna Taylor. I'm sure Jack's wife won't mind. All this was 22 years ago. I will copy it out and send it as well.

As you can see I'm back from the bush once again. I'm getting too old for this "batching" now. I was 43 last birthday.

Glad to see so many letters in the "Courier" last time. Yes Fred, I still do crosswords but have substituted dried fruits for peanuts. I only took up crosswords (again) about two years ago. I cannot remember ever having done them while in the army. It's funny the things we forget. What has happened to "Snowy" Perkins, "Olie" O'Brien, Eric Chapman and a few other Sydneyites?

Well, as this letter is mainly to send, the poems, I'll sign off.

Best of luck to the "Courier". It is certainly a worthwhile paper.

Wishful Thinking

(With apologies to Shakespeare—
he was good too)

The boys from our section are far from perfection,

As you gunners were quick to perceive.

We were sure you knew better as you told by your letter

So we're not out for you to deceive.

You say your camp buzzes I'm sure that our's doeses

When mail from the Wassies comes through

For weeks we've been waiting your glamour debating,

Have you got it? and what belongs who?

Now speaking of kisses for you little misses,

Our thoughts go further afield, And on tropical nights without any lights

We're hoping all lassies will yield.

You will learn from us sinners, we're not just beginners

Our technique is a thing to behold,

NOVEMBER MEETING

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1st
ANZAC HOUSE BASEMENT**

LAST NIGHT OF THIS YEAR'S CALCUTT TROPHY

Our powers of persuasion just don't
brook evasion

When in our arms your forms we
enfold.

First comes the encircling and then
infiltration,

And counter attacks won't avail,
So waive all convention, remember
the nation

And keep up Commando morale.

So on this note we shall no longer
dote,

With thoughts of women and wine,
But go back to our letter, till we
know you much better

And our arms with yours will en-
twine.

Written by No. 1 Section, mainly
Jack Hartley, Des Lilya and probab-
ly a couple of others. This was
while we were at Fiata.

Censor's note on the back reads:—

This really is an effort to let it
pass censorship, not for security rea-
sons, but I feel it my duty to protect
the sister service from these savages.

To The Commandoes of the 2/2nd.

Commandoes we greet you, we wish
we could meet you.

We hope that your hearts are all
free.

You sent us a letter and though we
know better

You tell us you're handsome to
see.

The camp's like a mad hive when
your letters arrive

The place it quite gets in a stew
We're glad that we gunners are very
fast runners

You sound very fast—you sure do.

Now you sent down some kisses to
us little misses

The very first letter you write.

If you're like that before meeting,
imagine your greeting

All alone on a very dark night.

We've all fallen for Bing, and we
hope he can sing

But Audrey says Freddie is best.
Edna Chaseling will then say what
about Ken

He can easily beat all the rest.

Les goes around crooning and dream-
ing of spooning

With Bing — (she's as mad as a
hat).

While Mac has gone whackie, says
please call me Mackie

Dear Maxie he calleth me that.

Then Texas declares, putting on
many airs,

The Corporal, the stripes, he is
mine.

And sits down for ages, writes pages
and pages

While we cannot think of a line.

Vera Harris's letter it soon made her
better

She left hospital feeling quite well
For her letter from "Holly" said
kisses are folly

On paper—but real ones are swell.

Now Monica's fellow he sure made
us bellow,

Rather fresh that young man
seems to be.

For though we're not wowsers, we
don't talk of trousers

And give sizes to such chaps as he.

Two lassies sadly relate, that up to
this date

No letters from you they've re-
ceived.

They're Edna Taylor, she's beaut,
and young Blanche who is
cute

And both are now feeling quite
grieved.

And one girl wants to state, that
though you're all great

She is sure her Commando is beaut
For though you may skite in the
letters you write,

She has met hers and knows him—
the brute.

Now we're sorry to say, that they've
taken away

The others to whom you did pen
But you'll gather from these, that
your letters did please

And we hope to be hearing again.
—A.W.A.S. from 62nd S/L Bty.

Jack Hartley later wrote to Edna
Taylor sending her "candid com-
ments on his Troop.

A Page of Jack's Letter

Our Section is not working as we
have just arrived back from a week's
patrol and all need a spell. The first
and last days of the patrol we had
to cover 10 mile of knee-deep mud
and water and the other days were
taken up with steep mountains, razor

back ridges, deep gorges and heavy
rain.

Well, Edna, I've got a lot of space
on this page and nothing to write
about so I'm going to say something
about each of the lads. You can
pass it on if you like.

Let's take Ken first. "Gentleman"
Jones we call him. Happy disposi-
tion, well off, good catch. Freddie,
rowdy as hell, sings like a sow.
Des, a heart-breaker and deceiver.
Cpl. Otway, belongs to the "home
wreckers club" in Perth. Bill, argu-
mentive in a quiet way. Jack, noisy
as two skeletons jitterbugging on a
tin roof. Smithy, believes in action
rather than words. Holly, cave man,
fast, passionate. Maxie, a drunken
good fellow with a wonderful mem-
ory. Bing, a real wag, fights like a
thrashing machine. Giles, form your
own opinion, he writes to Monica.
Me, "Happy Jack" Hartley they call
me.

Well, Edna, having done my duty
to the best of my ability, I will close
with best wishes to the A.W.A.S.
from the boys. Yours sincerely,
Jack.

I wonder do you still write back-
hand, Jack? In case you have for-
gotten who's who: Gentleman Jones,
Ken Jones; Freddie, Fred Janvarin;
Des, Des Lilya; Cpl. Otway, Fred Ot-
way; Bill (Me) Bill Connell; Smithy,
Gordie Smith; Holly, Col. Holly;
Maxie, Max Bowden; Bing, Ernie
Bingham.

**BERT BURGESS, of "Burlands",
P.O. Box 24, Katanning, W.A.,
writes:—**

I had made great plans to get to
the September meeting and hear John
Burridge on his recent trip to Timor.

Peter was due to return to school
about that time. However some
friends from Katanning decided to go
up and offered to take Peter for us.

We can never hope to fully repay
the Portuguese and Timorese for ser-
vices rendered to us, but I agree that
we should do what lies in our power
to show our appreciation.

I believe that over the years we
have all come to realise and appre-
ciate more fully that as a Unit we
would have been destroyed but for
the help of the people of Timor and
the grace of God.

Portugal is a very great Christian
nation and they have brought to and
sustained the faith in Timor.

In view of the great interest

aroused throughout the world by the
various churches for Christian unity
I would like to build on Joe's sug-
gestion of any proposed memorial
taking the form of a haven.

Our Commonwealth Government
should certainly be involved and my
following suggestion should not be
ruled out on the cost factor.

Taking the idea of a haven and my
earlier remarks as a basis, I suggest
that the focal point of any memorial
building be a chapel built with the
guidance of the Bishop of Dilli and
keeping in mind the efforts towards
Christian unity. Provision for other
amenities required for the comfort of
travellers could be made in the one
building.

This should start the ball rolling
on this subject and get the opinions
pouring in.

**FRANK CRAIGIE, 70 Penny Creek
St., Rockhampton, Qld., writes:—**

Trust you will receive these butts
in time, nearly forgot them.

Met Stan Kent, ex-2/4th, now
WO1 stationed Rockhampton. Has
just been awarded D.C.M. for efforts
in Vietnam. Will tell you more later.

Would you please let me know
amount due to Association for dues,
etc., and if possible forward me a
copy of the Address Book.

Best of luck in your appeal for
correspondence. Will endeavour to
assist as soon as possible.

**BILL WALSH, of 34 Sea St., Kemp-
sey, N.S.W., writes:—**

Please find enclosed sweep butts
also postal note for cost.

I sincerely hope the result is very
successful and meets with the ap-
proval of all you hard workers who
battle so hard to keep the 2/2nd
Association together.

**R. A. MACKEY, of 18 Folkestone
Rd., South Brighton, S.A., writes:**

I'm a lousy collector. I haven't
sold a ticket so better luck next
time.

I am sending my subscription for
the "Courier" and wish you success
in the sweep.

**ARTHUR MARSHALL, of 7 Peet
Street, Harvey, W.A., writes:—**

On reading Jimmy Ritchie's letter
it struck me that maybe I am one of
the greatest offenders in not keeping
the "Courier" going. I wouldn't be
very proud if somebody came forth
with the exact date of my last letter.

We at Harvey are still enjoying

life and finding plenty to keep our time fully occupied. I have taken a partner in my carrying business, but so we won't get life too easy Audrey and I have purchased a farm on the Old Coast road. We will be running sheep on it.

Bernie Langridge also bought himself a hunk of dirt near us and looks like becoming our neighbour.

We are taking our holidays next week and are going to the Adelaide Show. It won't exactly be a complete rest for me because we are exhibiting our bulk spreading equipment and I will have to be in attendance at Bennett and Fishers Stand most of the time.

Labour being so short in these parts at the Ladies' Night I offered Poynton and Bagley a few weeks work. Or rather they were going (as they put it) to help me out. Joe wanted to lose about 6 inches from around his waist line and Len had holidays coming up. Well, everything was working out fine, wages were O.K., but when I said we didn't stop for the midday meal but worked straight through, you should have seen the act they stacked on. Joe said he'd be a Paddy Knight before he'd go without a meal, and Len, well when I left the evening he was still trying to drown out such a horrible thought. I can only say, you chaps just ain't what you used to be. What do you reckon Bulla Tait, the man that did the last patrol of the war, and I had the pleasure of sending him. Bulla that was to get even for "left hooking" me at Strathpine. You may not remember that, but at times I still feel it.

I ran into Joe Burridge in the Terrace a few weeks back, and he sure seems to have the game right, or if the way he was ambling along with his shiny suit and umbrella counts for anything, he would be our next Lord Mayor. Joe looked so much the part I thought I'd get in on this act of looking like a professional Terrace walker. So to Walsh's I went and purchased me an Anthony Squit and all the trimmings including the little felt with a feather in it. Well to cut the story short, when I stopped at the first cross walk a couple of kids came up and took me by the arm and said: "Can we help you across, Mr.?" I said: "Why? What is wrong?" One of them replied: "We are sorry, but the way you was feeling along the street with that

cane we thought you must have been blind."

I went straight into the Palace, and two hours later they would have been correct.

Well, I had better say cheers for now and just hope you can decipher this scribble.

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

Am enclosing butts and money for tickets plus subs.

Being off the track as far as our boys are concerned I still look forward to each issue of the "Courier" to keep me in contact. I can assure you that more than once it has received very favourable comment from chaps who have belonged to much larger units and have nothing to compare with it.

Things are still going well but quietly here. The kids are in the senior classes at the High School so are kept pretty busy between school work and sport—the best of the big country towns as it keeps them out of mischief—well, most anyway. They are both keen tennis players and although Marj and I can keep pace with them at the moment have had the gap narrowed to nothing and realize what the next step will be.

We are suffering from the worst drought in the history of the area and things are really bad for those on the land. We had hoped for rain before the winter but it has turned cold now without a drop so even heavy rain will promote little growth before the spring. Practically all underground streams have dried and Keepit Dam 40 miles away on the Namoi is only holding 4 per cent of its capacity. Luckily we have had a few storms on the town supply's catchment area and have sufficient water for 12 months without restrictions. We are about the only lucky ones in the area.

I hope to make a trip up Queensland way this Christmas so will be taking my Address Book to see if I can find some familiar faces.

Regards to yourself and the boys.



Write to Your Editor:

**Col Doig,
Box T1646,
G.P.O., PERTH.**