



Vale
Jack Denoman

2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

(Registered at the G.P.O. Perth, for transmission by post as a periodical)
(Address All Association Correspondence to Box T1646, G.P.O., Perth)
Vol. 24. No. 218. OCTOBER, 1969 Price 1c

Editorial

Easily the most difficult task that faces an Editor of a paper such as ours is that of trying to find subject matter for an editorial. Generally speaking we issue ten copies of the journal per year and this means that ten editorials have to be written. Over a period of years these editorials become duplicated over and over again.

Perhaps it may be said why not dispense with this form of article altogether? This would certainly be the easy way out but after all the editorial is the opening phase to our Unit activities and opinion and should be written.

The subject matter for an editorial is heavily restricted in a journal such as ours as we are expressly non-political and non-sectarian and these are the two subjects which give an Editor his widest scope.

In an organisation such as ours, spread far and wide throughout the Commonwealth, there should be plenty of people with the necessary ideas and ability with the pen to write an editorial. This would be a really great thing as it would bring a degree of diversity to the editorial content.

This is an appeal to anyone any

where to get into the breach and help out your Editor. It should not be particularly difficult for anyone to write one such article now and again. It needs but a germ of an idea and then get out the ball point and express the idea for all that it is worth.

If you have an idea and do not feel you have the ability to express it fully on paper, then send that idea along to your Editor who may be able to make something of it on your behalf.

Many years ago your local Committee decided to try a roster system for Committeemen to write an editorial. This worked for a brief time but gradually it fell into the discard due mainly to the fact that the Editor had to meet a deadline for publication and the editorial had not been written and the job fell back on the incumbent of the editorial chair.

Readers are requested to give this matter a lot of thought and if you feel the urge to write something for publication get down to it and forward it to the Editor who will be your friend for life as it will make his task just that little bit easier.

CHRISTMAS PARTY: HIGHWAY HOTEL, CLAREMONT SATURDAY, 29th NOVEMBER

This Should Be a Crackerjack Night so make up your minds to come along with the wife or girl friend

West Australian Whisperings

VALE JACK DENMAN

It was with shock that the Association learned of the death of Jack Denman on Oct. 13th, 1969.

It was only two weeks previously that Jack had attended the Annual Re-Union Dinner and looked in wonderful health and wonderful spirits so you will comprehend the terrific shock it was to read of his sudden death. He died in his sleep from a heart condition.

Jack, was without any shadow of doubt, one of our best soldiers. If we needed no other evidence of this it would be sufficient to say he won an M.C. and M.I.D. in a Unit not recognised too frequently in the awarding of decorations. These two decorations were not the only occasion when Jack led his men with courage and skill.

Jack was an original member of the Unit, hailing at that time from Kalgoorlie where he was a member of the 28th Bn. Militia. He did the Cadre at Wilsons Promontory as a corporal and on the formation of the Unit became a Lance Sergeant and senior N.C.O. for No. 1 Section under Dave Dexter. His courage and skill as a soldier earned him a commission in the field in Timor and he took over command of No. 9 Section late in the Timor campaign. He continued to lead this section until invalidated out of New Guinea in 1944.

It was while he was in command of 9 Section that he won his M.C. in New Guinea. Soldiers present at this action say that this could easily have been a V.C. as Jack returned under intense fire from the Japs on two occasions to rescue wounded comrades. Jack's name will ever be remembered by the boys of the Unit but most particularly by the members of 1 and 9 Sections.

After demobilisation Jack became the Foundation President of the Association and carried on in that office for two years when he was posted to Wyalkatchem by his employers and had to relinquish office. He always took a keen interest in Association affairs and in the Country Conventions at Geraldton was a moving force in arrangements.

Jack Denman was a real man, a

real soldier and a real citizen. Everything he did he did well and was a stickler for detail. He was a great worker for youth activities wherever he was located. The world is distinctly the poorer for the passing at such a youthful age of 53 years of such a person as Jack Denman. There are going to be many blanks in various organisations that are going to be difficult to fill now that the great broad shoulders of Jack Denman are not there to carry the burden.

Jack was an outstanding father and husband and in this let us extend to Joy and the family our most sincere sympathy on their tragic loss.

Let me just reiterate Vale Jack Denman, man, soldier, citizen and husband. We will never see your like again. You were unique in your outstanding qualities.

Association Activities

ANNUAL RE-UNION DINNER

This most important function was held at Anzac House Basement on Sept. 27th. The attendance of 55 of our members plus guests and our especial guest, Nicolau Gonslaves, was one of the best for years. Country folk rolled up from all directions of the compass and all had a wonderful evening.

After the Loyal Toast, proposed by Vice President Len Bagley, was honoured, Jack Fowler proposed the toast of the Unit and Association in a very sincere manner. Bill Epps responded on behalf of the Unit and Association. Jack Carey in his best style proposed the toast of Allied Services and this was responded to by Laurie Baker in a most worthy manner.

Ray Aitken took the floor to propose the toast of Portuguese Friends and Native Helpers and in his inimitable style praised the work of these compatriots with especial reference to Nicolau.

Nicolau Gonslaves responded, speaking in Tetum which Ray Aitken interpreted for those whose knowledge of Tetum had gone rusty. Nicolau said he was most happy to be in Australia and to be able to

once again meet the boys he had served with. He said he would take wonderful memories back to Timor with him.

Gerry Maley proposed the toast of Our Guests and Dr. Noel Colyer, our friend who went on the Timor trip with us, and Len Anderson, of 2/16th Bn., responded.

Finally Bill Rowan-Robinson proposed a toast to the Toastmaster, Col Doig.

After this amount of formality the boys settled down to some steady ear-bashing and refreshments, and this was a great chance for Nicoleau to meet so many of the members who he knew in those far away days of the Timor campaign.

Noticed down from the country for the occasion were: Vince Swann, from Salmon Gums; Barry Barnes, from Rocky Gully; Ted Loud, from Pemberton; Bob Palmer, from Busseton; Gordon Hislop, from Mt. Tom Price; Bill Drage, from Geraldton; Jack Fowler, from Wongan Hills; Robbie Rowan-Robinson, Bridgetown; Don Turton and Ernie Bingham, from Wandering; Stan Payne, from Nakarni; Tony Bowers, from Kojonup; Tom Crouch, from Manjimup; Reg Harrington, from Wyening; Lou Thompson, from Wannamal; Clarrie Turner, from Capel; Syd Jarvis, from Muchea. A very nice gesture from the lads of the country.

Among the city folk there were: Ray Aitken, Len Bagley, Curly Bowden, Geo Boyland, Johnny Burrige, Jack Carey, Col Criddle, Dick Darrington, Jack Denman, Col Doig, Bill Epps, Ralph Kinkelstein, Geo. Fletcher, Dick Geere, Fred Griffiths, Jerry Haire, Percy Hancock, Harry Holder, Mick Holland, Irish Hopkins (from Morawa), Charlie King,

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The dinner this year was really outstanding and the catering was excellent. Some of the gang soldiered on until the wee small hours and looked a trifle seedy next day.

COMMEMORATION SERVICE

The annual Service was held in our area of Lovekin Drive, Kings Park, on Sunday, Sept. 28th, and a nice handy sized roll up of members.

Bill Epps gave an inspiring address which is printed elsewhere in this issue. Bill is to be congratulated on the manner in which he gave his address and called upon members to rededicate themselves to greater service.

Mick Morgan marshalled the parade and conducted the march of honour through the area in his usual competent manner.

It is good to see so many wives, children and friends attending this simple but impressive ceremony.

We had a nice newsreel cover of this ceremony on the A.B.C. Channel 2 news of the evening, and Len Bagley has managed to obtain the full film taken of the area and the ceremony and we hope to show this to members as soon as possible.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my duty and my pride as Association President to address you on this memorable occasion. As you are fully aware we meet at this spot each year to pay our simple but sincere homage to those who have gone before.

Much has happened since I addressed you on this occasion last year. I was about to say a lot of water has passed under the bridge, but in this year of drought in many of our West Australian districts, this would be most incorrect. Let us hope the near future brings relief to those persons blighted by a poor seasonal rainfall.

The year has been a fruitful one for our Association. We have been permitted to take part in a most

momentous ceremony in Portuguese Timor, to hand over a most magnificent memorial to those terrific people who assisted us so fantastically during 1942, at great risk to their lives and their way of life. No words of mine can fully express the grandeur of that occasion, nor do justice to the beauty and surroundings of the memorial.

It was a proud day for me that I was able to speak, as President of the Association, at the opening and handing over of the memorial. I can assure you the occasion overwhelmed me, as it did all members of the party who were privileged to attend. The deeds of the Portuguese and Timorese native people will never be dead while this monument to their everlasting courage stands on that inspiring eminence overlooking Dili.

We are proud to welcome to Western Australia Nicoleau Gonsalves. Nicoleau was one of our outstanding creadoes during the now famous days in Timor and it was his proud duty to speak on behalf of all the creados at the opening of our memorial on that wonderful day—April 13th, 1969. He spoke with fervour and sincerity of his association with the Australian soldiers and brought a tear to many an eye, and completely stole the whole show.

Let me express a hope, Nicoleau, that your stay in W.A. will be most fruitful and that on your return to your native land you will be able to speak long and fervently of your stay among your old friends.

Perhaps you will bear with me at this stage if I digress a moment to review the state of this troubled planet. Despite the wondrous achievement of man's first landing on our satellite planet, the moon, things on Mother Earth are not so wondrous. We most certainly live in troubled times. The war in Vietnam drags on with its casualty lists ever increasing. The Peace Congress in Paris is interminable with results of a lasting nature as yet in the negative. Only an optimist would view the state of affairs in the Middle East with equanimity. Just how soon we will see an open war between the State of Israel and the Arab States is a matter for conjecture. China and Russia are at one another's throats. The youth of the world seems bent

on semi-violent protest against practically any form of law and order.

One could be pardoned for asking the question: "Where is this old world headed?" I am afraid I have not got the answer but I can assure you as a responsible citizen, I am mighty worried, especially when you think that we live in a world of youth. 33 per cent of all the people in the world today are under 25 years of age, and there are more people under 15 years of age in China than there is population in the U.S.S.R. These sort of statistics make oldsters like us apprehensive of youth dominance, especially when it appears that they are without essential direction.

Let me now depart from my gloomy forebodings of this modern world and let me take a look at things to come.

Modern technology has moved at a greater pace than in any time in history and we have at hand the wherewithal to create a world that has never been even dreamt of before. With sensible distribution there is no doubt that the peoples of this universe should be better fed and better clothed than was thought of in the times of our grandfathers. Education must eventually get us to a point where we will not tolerate masses of people not receiving their full share of the goods that we can produce. Let us take heart in the future and strive as we have never striven before to make certain these desirable results take their early place in the ultimate scheme of things.

What I have just said refers to the world that the lads we pay homage to today gave their lives for. Their efforts were the efforts of men with a purpose in life. They joined the army to do their very best to see that a conqueror's heel did not disturb the peaceful existence of the dwellers on this fair island continent. In this they succeeded in a way which, unfortunately, they were never to know. They faced the task with a will that was to be do or die. Australia today is a better place because of the efforts of its servicemen and we were indeed lucky that we did not feel any true force of any enemy invasion. To this we can attribute the supreme efforts of those who gave their all.

We can indeed be proud of those whom this hallowed grove reveres.

They were men who as volunteer soldiers thought that this island paradise was worth defending and no one can give more than his life in such a cause. They fell in the flower of their youth. Just take a long and absorbing look at the plaques that commemorate their names and you will realise the extreme youth of so many of them. Let us say at this moment: "Your duty was nobly done and we are the better citizens for your passing."

Let us hope their memories will never grow dim while we have the energy to keep this sacred grove in the magnificent order you see it today. This little area is the cynosure of all eyes as people travel through this glorious park and we can with some humble pride say we have done a good job.

We must not in any way rest on our laurels. We must not as an Association, let our efforts rest in this place. We have the power to do much in this community for the common good of less fortunate souls. We have now been organised into a tightly knit band of people with skills in many directions and it behoves us to use these skills for the betterment of our fellow man.

Most of us, with our families gradually getting off our hands, are finding more leisure to use and this spare time can be channelled towards the common good of the community and especially the young of the community. We have had a long experience in life and have learned a lot along the way and we should make certain that this valuable commodity of experience is not allowed to lie dormant. My call to you today is to take up the task of community endeavour and throw your shoulder to the wheel of human progress in a way you have never done before. From small acorns

grow great oaks, and you will be surprised just how much you can achieve if you will only try.

Today we extend our continued sympathy to those grand souls who gave sons, brothers, husbands in the call for national existence. Unfortunately every day we find their number being added to as further young men fall in the cause of freedom. We who came out of the turmoil were the lucky ones. We did not leave a sorrowing mother or bride to mourn our passing. Time is a great healer and since our boys went to their particular Valhalla much time has passed and the scars are growing dimmer, but they are still scars, and will be there for all time as a reminder of a loved one who passed away without a farewell on a foreign shore. I say to you on this day of Commemoration: "Be of good cheer, your loved ones would not want you to grieve for ever." We knew them as gay blades in the prime of life and full of fun, and this is how I hope you will remember them.

And now as I come to the concluding portion of my address I call on all those members of the Unit and of the Association gathered here today to use this ceremony as a period of rededication. This is a personal matter for you. You must make all the personal decisions on what you are to do with your future, but I appeal to you, as mature citizens, to seek out ways and means to dedicate yourself to works that will benefit mankind. You all have essential abilities and you all have some time to apply these abilities to the betterment of people less well placed than yourselves. Make this day, the 28th September, 1969, the day you decided to turn your excess time and your skills towards making this a better world to live in.

CHRISTMAS PARTY: HIGHWAY HOTEL, CLAREMONT SATURDAY, 29th NOVEMBER

RAFFLE BUTTS:

Please ensure that your Raffle Butts are returned to Box T1646 Well Prior to November 29th

OCTOBER MEETING

The usual monthly meeting was held at Anzac House Basement on Oct. 7th, and being so soon after the dinner the attendance was not very good. We hoped to be able to show the film of the ceremony but our 16mm projector could not be located. Instead we played carpet bowls and everybody had a wow of a time.

Now that we own our own mat and bowls we can quickly fill in at any meeting.

NOVEMBER MEETING

The last round of the Mick Calcutt Memorial Trophy will be held on November 4th (Melbourne Cup night) and this will provide the last opportunity for members to win this coveted trophy. Remember you have only to put up one really outstanding performance to be the proud holder of this trophy for a year, so come along and try yourself out against the previous winners in Mick Morgan, Bill Epps and Jack Carey.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Once again we will be holding a Christmas Party and this year it will be held at the Highway Hotel, Claremont, on Saturday, Nov. 29th.

This function last year was a resounding success and should be an even greater success this year. So boys, book up the wife as speedily as possible and be ready to have a great night.

ANNUAL SWEEP

By now members in W.A. will have received their tickets in the famous "Backwards Raffle". You are specially requested to sell these tickets as soon as possible and return butts and cash to the organiser, Box T1646, G.P.O., Perth. We would like your comments on the salability of this type of raffle because if it proves to be popular we can use it again to help provide funds for the 1971 Safari to W.A.

This raffle will be drawn at the annual Christmas Party on Nov. 29th, so please ensure that your butts are back well before this date.

Do your best, please, members.

TIMOR MEMORIAL

As a supplement to this issue of the "2/2nd Commando Courier" members who subscribed to the Timor Memorial Appeal will each receive two photographs of this glorious memorial as a token of the Association's esteem for their generous donations. These coloured photographs were taken from slides supplied by Reg Harrington and Dr. Noel Colyer and are of outstanding quality. We hope you will treasure these photos among your more precious possessions.

These photos must not be sold separately as they are a supplement to this issue of the "2/2nd Commando Courier".

Through the good offices of Len Bagley and Ray Parry an enlarged and framed copy of the above photos are now hanging in the basement of Anzac House where we hold our meetings and are most impressive. We also have to thank City of Perth Sub-Branch R.S.L. for allowing us to hang these photos in their premises.

Committee Comment

The monthly Committee meeting was held at Anzac Club on Oct. 21. Bill Epps presided over a good attendance. The main business was a post mortem on the dinner and Commemoration Service and those present were most happy with the organisation of both these functions especially the catering at the dinner.

It was decided to re-invest money at present in Commonwealth Bonds into Perth Building Society as this will earn a better rate of interest.

It was reported that the raffle was going along quite effectively and should rehabilitate the current bank account.

Personalities

Nicolau Gonslaves has had a wonderful time since he arrived here from Timor. He firstly looked over the city and environs and Ray Aitken ensured that he saw our area in Kings Park (incidentally he marched with us at the Commemoration Service), had a look at Ray's commercial nursery, went to Harvey Agricultural School and had a barbecue

at Harvey Dam where he was amazed at Ray and a local kookaburra having a tug-o-war with a sausage.

He spent a week with Norm Thornton at Denmark and Norm showed him around in a big way and here he took in the Denmark Agricultural College. Back in Perth for the Royal Show which he attended on two days, firstly with Col Doig and secondly with Col, Ray Aitken and Don Turton. At the Royal Show his eyes were as big as saucers seeing all the exhibits of machinery and live stock and was especially interested in the sheep dog trials and later the pig display. Here we were able to run down Tommy Martin who was exhibiting his Large White Pigs and was able to explain all about these animals to Nick.

Nick then spent a full week with Don Turton and in the hands of this most able mentor absorbed a lot of knowledge and farming techniques. He hopes to return to Don's property prior to returning to Timor. Nick is currently with Vince Swann.

Jim Smailes has been in R.G.H., Hollywood, where he had a special operation inserting plastic discs in his spine. Jim advises that the operation appears to be a great success and is very hopeful for a good recovery and greater use of his legs.

Have to report Don Hudson has been in the Mount Hospital for an operation on his ulcers. He hopes it will be as successful as a similar operation on Ted Loud who reckons he is a new man as a result of the operation. Don has sold out of his hotel at Boyanup and is currently looking around for another such proposition.

Gordon Hislop also in the city after a brief sojourn at Roebourne Hotel where he said he did not like it a bit. Gordon looks extra well.

Fred Napier once again on the sick list. This time his leg has broken out again. We wish Fred a speedy recovery.

Nice to see Bill Drage at the annual Dinner and although he has lost a lot of weight he looks reasonably well.

Ted Loud made it this year for the Dinner and he looked remarkably fit. Flogging the cat he didn't make the Timor Trip.

Tommy Martin was a most successful exhibitor of pigs at the Royal Show. Tom says his pig breeding started out as a hobby but seems to now take up a goodly portion of his time.

Jack Fowler has purchased a home at City Beach and hopes to retire to this home "after harvest". We will welcome Jack to our ranks in the city and he should prove to be a very valuable member to us.

It was with a great deal of pleasure we were able to meet Syd Jarvis once again at a re-union. Syd takes it pretty steady these days although he is adding steadily to his family. He has a small orchard at Muchea which keeps him on the go.

Lou Thompson is one of our hardy annuals at the Re-union Dinner and seems to be ageless. Lou does not look a day older than when we went to Timor.

Eric and Twy Smyth have just returned from a trip up the north coast in the Kojarra then on to Timor and back via Alice Springs to Adelaide and Perth. Eric was most impressed with Timor and its hospitality and also said that the memorial was a real beauty spot, with which I heartily agree.

The two Gordons, Gordon Holmes and Gordon Barnes, were in Perth for the Dinner and Commemoration Service and both looked top class.

Stan Payne looks well but says he is having a mongrel season up his way and is battling along to save his breeding ewes and has written off the crop prospects completely.

Vince and Pam Swann down for the Dinner and Commemoration Service also the footy. Swanny says the season has treated him kindly to date and he is hopeful of reasonable finishing rains to turn it into a top grade season.

We got Fred Griffiths out of his cocoon to come to the Dinner and Service and we hope to see more of him in the future. What about it, Fred?

Tom Crouch looks to be back to his old self again and reports being O.K., although the season is a bit on the light side.

Jack and Norma Hasson have sold their old home at 6 Swan (½ doz. beer) Street, South Perth, and are now living at Mt. Lawley.

Mal Herbert was a very proud bloke recently as President of W.A. Rifle Association which conducted the Commonwealth Queens Prize meet at Swanbourne. Mal has done a tremendous amount of work for the rifle shooting brigade.

Barry Lawrence has acquired a business at Newdegate. A service station and roadhouse and says business is good. Currently Barry (Bloss to you) is in hospital having a cartledge operation on his knee.

Steve Rogers has settled down in

the big smoke and living at Sorrento. Only had a chance to talk to him briefly at Jack Denman's funeral, but he seems to be happy in the service.

The Unit was most strongly represented at the funeral of the late Jack Denman. We mustered 25 members and provided seven out of the eight pall bearers. Although a sad occasion we were proud to be able to march behind such a distinguished citizen as Jack.

RAFFLE BUTTS:

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Random Harvest

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

Once again let me heartily congratulate everyone associated with yet another successful year, particularly Col Doig for the great job he continues to do as Editor of the "Courier".

I noticed that I have been re-appointed Northern Country Vice President and I sincerely thank you for the honour and assure you that I shall continue to do what I can to help with the excellent work of the 2/2nd Commando Association.

We were all sorry to hear that Bill Drage has been in hospital and we're hoping to see him again soon. His old footie team, Northampton, played brilliantly to win the preliminary final of the Great Northern League and I reckon they will defeat Railways in the grand final.

There is, of course, no need to mention that Bruss Fagg, of Northampton, is also very proud of the way that team is performing.

Well, we had a beautiful reunion of Double-Red-Diamond types last Saturday, on the occasion of the Geraldton R.S.L. Re-Union. Three of us—including Bruss Fagg (Northampton R.S.L. President), and Nip Cunningham—had a good old chin wag—and, of course, a noggin or two (??). No wonder my footie

team, Brigades, got a hiding from Northampton the next day—their best barracker was not his usual self, particularly after being a guest at the C.M.F. Officers' Mess after the Re-union.

We have just conducted another highly successful Sunshine Festival and I must say that my wife and I found judging very difficult because of the extremely high standard of floats.

Eric Smyth is looking as fit as a fiddle and has just been re-elected to the Geraldton Yacht Club Committee, of which he has been a staunch member for many years. The Club is busy making arrangements for the inaugural Fremantle-Geraldton Yacht Race.

Nip Cunningham's two daughters have been in the news again. Mrs. Jan Johnson exhibited the best baby's pram set (knitted while in hospital preparing to present Nip and Mary with their second grandchild), the best decorated sponge cake and the best hen eggs at the Northampton Show. Fran Cunningham, a nurse at Royal Perth, is Geraldton's representative in the "Miss Crowning Glory" competition. She and her R.S.L. Auxiliary Committee are doing a good job raising money for the War Veterans' Home and Legacy.

Had the pleasure recently of meet-

ing Jack Hasson's son, Ken, and his newly acquired wife (Rhonda) and I must say it was a pleasure to acquaint them with some of our tourist attractions. This brings me back to the point I mentioned some time ago—if you're in Geraldton, don't forget to drop in at the A.B.C. (which is conveniently situated opposite the Murchison Inn Hotel, in Eleanor-st., near the Town Hall).

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

JACK HARTLEY, of 19 Elva Street, Cabramatta, N.S.W., writes:—

Apologies for the long silence, but after being relieved of the secretary duties by Ron Trengrove I was foolish enough to become involved in school activities and ended up as treasurer of the Cumberland Combined Parents and Friends Association, which covers an area of about 30 parishes. It is not a particularly onerous job, but for some months past we have been involved in the battle for State Aid for non-State schools and this has meant being out at meetings a couple of nights each week—hence time for letter writing has been as scarce as hen's teeth.

The family are all well at present and the boys are doing fine at school. Andrew is now 2 years and 4 months and our daughter Janine is 15 months and running and climbing as good as any boy. Maria is keeping pretty good health now thank goodness, so the Hartley mob are A.O.K.

We had the great pleasure of seeing our old friends Kevin and Gladys Curran in August as they were returning from an island cruise on the "Oransay" and were in Sydney for four days. We gathered 16 boys and 10 wives together for a dinner and evening at the St. George Leagues Club and we all had a terrific night. To mention a few names there were Kevin and Gladys, Jim and Zana Smith, John and Norm Kenneally, John and Dorothy Went, Bill and June Bennett, Merv and Marj Jones, John and Joan Darge, Jim and Jean English, Keith and Betty Wilson, Jack and Maria Hartley, Tom Martin, Jim Hallinan and Mick and Elva Mannix. Bill Coker was up to his eye balls in work at his factory and unable to make it. Alan Luby was away for

a long week end with his three lovely girls and there were a few others who had hoped to be there, but probably due to the inclement weather they missed out on a very good night. Kevin was looking extremely well for a man who doesn't drink, but poor Gladys got tangled up with some sort of wog in the tropics and was feeling pretty lousy for much of the trip, but like the great scout she is she bore up well under the strain and earned the admiration of all, especially the ladies.

Maria and I took the kids in to the ship the following day and we had lunch with Kev and Gladys up on top of the A.M.P. building at the quay. It was a lovely fine day after all the rain we had and we all had a very enjoyable lunch, especially since Curran was shouting. Before closing this subject I must mention a couple of chaps I rang and found to be on the sick list. Alf Dos Santos was laid up with a very bad cold. Russ Symons has been having rather a bad time with a chronic heart condition which prohibits all social life. I am sure all Russ's friends will be as saddened as I am to hear of this misfortune and will wish him a full recovery. Also on the sick list have been Ron Trengrove and Bill Hoy. Ron was floored by a bad dose of pneumonia. I don't know whether he had been surfing or turfing or just getting too good a view of the southerlies from his cliff top love nest, but anyway he recovered sufficiently to go off on holidays just before our annual meeting, which explains how I happen to be filling in for him.

Bill Hoy has had a pretty rough trot too lately. First of all he had to have an eye operation to have ingrown eyelashes removed and to cap it all off a very suspicious lump developed on his neck and he was put into Concord Repat to have it removed. This was successfully carried out last Friday and I understand it was not a malignant growth as was first feared, and Bill is expected to be discharged in a few days. Bill's wife Betty, has also been troubled by a recurring ear complaint akin to tropical ear and we all know how very painful this can be. Let's hope better days are ahead for both of them.

I haven't been able to find out the full story behind this, but a few

days ago some chap rang my home while I was at work and said he was from the Kensington Rotary Club. He said he had been to Timor and had seen the memorial and his club was sponsoring a Timorese student to attend school here and he wanted a guest speaker from our Association to address one of their meetings and tell them the story of Timor and our campaign there. He told Maria he would ring again when I was available but to date he hasn't done so.

I am enclosing a couple of newspaper clippings. One from the Sydney Telegraph and the other from a Melbourne paper which Kev Curran asked me to pass on to you. They speak for themselves, but it was nice to see a bit of good publicity.

Also sending some photos and negatives taken by Tom Field on the Safari. Will you please take copies of any you want and then return the originals to Tom.

Well I reckon I have rambled on enough so I'll just give a brief report on our last meeting and let it go at that.

Annual General Meeting 1/9/69

Held at Arncliffe R.S.L. Club.

President Alan Luby was in the chair and presented his report for 1969. He also read a letter received from Bill Epps regarding Life Memberships. Both received with acclaim.

The following officers were elected for the next year:—

President: Alan Luby.

Vice Presidents: John Kenneally (Senior), Bill Coker and Jack Hartley
Secretary-Treasurer: Ron Tren-grove.

Auditor: Bill Bennett.

Assistant Secretary: John Darge.

Committee: To be selected from members present at meetings as required.

It was proposed that we should re-introduce the collection of annual subscriptions but after much discussion it was decided that we would rely upon donations and sweeps for our finances. Col Doig has advised that the clause regarding annual subs has been deleted from the Constitution and W.A. Branch would not collect subs in future.

A motion was put by Tom Martin as follows: "For the purpose of

conducting meetings at the regular meeting place, five (5) members of the Association shall form a quorum."

There was no seconder for the motion so it was declared lapsed. Most members were of the opinion that at least one senior member of the executive should be present.

However, after lengthy discussion and consulting a text book on constitutions and in particular on quorums, it was decided that the motion was quite in order, it was therefore re-introduced and this time it was seconded and passed.

The question of choosing a Life Member for 1970 was raised and Bill Coker moved that Jim English be chosen for the honour. In moving his motion Bill said that Jim would be a most deserving recipient because of his devotion to Association affairs and his work in securing for us a home and welcome within the Arncliffe R.S.L. Club. Despite many years of ill-health Jim has rarely missed a meeting or any function we have conducted and the motion was heartily endorsed by all members present and declared carried.

Because of the public holiday the next meeting will be held on the second Monday in October.

All for now. Best wishes to all the boys.

KEY CURRAN, of Fleece Inn Hotel, Bendigo, Vic., writes:—

At long last a few lines with a bit of family news.

Gladys and I returned recently from a trip to the islands. We travelled about on the "Oronsay" from Sydney to Auckland, spent a full day sightseeing at Rotorua the centre of New Zealand's thermal belt which is 150 miles from Auckland and an excellent trip. We also had a look at Ellerslie race course which I would say is on a par with Flemington. Saw the paddocks where Even Stevens fed, both before his great wins out here and after his retirement.

From Auckland we headed up to Sava Sava which small by comparison to Suva but a very interesting place. After a day there we headed to Pago Pago, American Sormoa, which we found a delightful place but very expensive. The American influence is seen everywhere, even

the taxis are large and expensive. Had a brandy and was charged one American dollar, ninety two cents Australian, so you will understand our drinking on the island was very limited.

Our next stop was Tin Can Island where letters are dropped over the side and natives pick up the can to be delivered all over the world at some future date. I believe it will take some six months to reach Australia as the inter-island boats are very few and far between.

From there we travelled to Suva and it was pleasant reaching folk who we had met a year previously. This is where we did most of our shopping as goods are cheap and the Customs fairly good for landing in Australia. We were particularly impressed by the loyalty shown to our Queen. It was quite the correct thing to do at all official functions, in fact I would go so far as to say the Fijians really love Her Majesty.

After Suva we went past Bald Pyramids and Norfolk Islands into Sydney where we spent three days, but this time Gladys had taken ill and did not enjoy the Sydney stay in spite of a lovely dinner organised by the local 2/2nd Coy. They are a great bunch of chaps and their ladies and we will be ever grateful for the kindness the N.S.W. boys always show us on our visits over there. In fact this almost seems one of normal activities of our Association to entertain visitors which is an excellent way to keep the boys together.

Fortunately Gladys has pretty well recovered now as a result of extensive care and a good rest but I had my doubts for many weeks.

Dennis is a big lad and doing well. He has been in Melbourne with my sister but we see him quite often. He is apprenticed to an electrical firm and does one day a week at Swinbourne College.

Business is quite good and should improve now that we are getting a bit of sunshine.

I lead a pretty busy life what with the City Council duties, Legacy and the Labor Party of which I am the current President. There is not much spare time. Geoff Whitlam is greatly confident of being Prime Minister after Oct. 25th, and the polls carried out by Eastern States papers support his confidence.

I come up for election next May and should go very close to taking the State Seat of Bendigo.

Had a very enjoyable night with Bernie Callinan a while back when our City Council employed him on a town planning problem. Had plenty of laughs and quite a few beers and quite a few personalities from the West got a mention.

So much for ourselves. Let's make mention of your excellent effort in Timor and say how delighted I was to read of the successful completion of the Timor project. Full marks and congratulations for a splendid team effort.

I would have loved to have had that Timor boy over here for a while but realise the difficulty and time factor of such a move.

All going well we shall be in the visit to the West in 71 as we have seen enough islands for a while and are now saving for that very trip of which we have so many happy memories as a result of previous trips.

I see Harry Sargeant quite a lot and is a keen member of the Association and always willing to help out at the functions we hold in the area.

Well, that about winds me up, so for now I say cheerio and all the very best wishes to all concerned and we look forward to meeting you all in 71 with a great deal of pleasure. A special message to the King of Wongan Hills, our dear friends Jack and Jean Fowler.

Heard This?

One evening a young matron was returning from a first aid class and she came upon a man sprawled face down on a darkened side street.

"Ah!" thought the girl, "Providence has led me hither to minister to this poor unfortunate."

Parking her car nearby, she rushed over and began artificial respiration. Presently the man stirred, looked up and speaking with difficulty said: "I'm holding a lantern for a guy working down in this manhole. I ain't sure what you're up to lady, but this ain't the time or the place."

(Printed for the publisher by "The Swan Express", 10 Helena Street, Midland, 6056, W.A.)

Historically Yours

CDO. NEW BRITAIN

EDITORIAL

And so, here is the first issue of "CDO", presented after much work by a few people, far too few. It is intended to be essentially a Unit magazine, in that it is concerned with and concerns primarily, the members of this Unit, by presenting the everyday humour of camp life. But it aspires to more than this for, we would make it the vehicle for the presentation of sound literary effort on your part; the means of presenting matter which may, we hope, prove of interest and educational value, especially that which may possibly bring realization that some day you will meet many problems, other than the pleasant prospect of a victory suit. If "CDO" can achieve this in the smallest degree, then it will serve its purpose.

HEADS ARE WRONG

(By Sam Fullbrook)

He stands, the crowd surrounds him,
on his face a nervous grin,
His signal is the ringie's voice, the
cry of "Bring him in".
Not long to wait, quick sees the
bets all covered round the ring,
And every one now turns to see
what luck for them will bring.
The magic words are spoken—and
placed in a row,
Three ancient coins, their bottoms
up, and gives the sign to go;
'Tis one pace to the centre, as he
moves ther's not a sigh.
He eyes the browns and flicks his
wrist and casts them to the sky.
And as those pennies twinkle, gyrat-
ing through the air,
The gamblers' heads turn heaven-
wards like a multitude in prayer.
The verdict lay upon the ground for
everyone to see,
The tails turned up and grinning,
where he wished the heads would
be.
But luck will come another day, and
cherish still that hope;
To head the coins a dozen times, and
once go home not BROKE.

DO YOU KNOW?

Australia is the oldest continent in the world and was the last continent occupied by white men.

Captain Cook claimed Australia as a British possession in 1770 but it has been proved that both Portuguese and Spaniards came to Australia first—but did not stay.

January 26, 1788, is the day Arthur Phillip established a seal settlement at Sydney and it is regarded as Australia's birthday.

Gold was discovered for the first time in 1851 at Bathurst, N.S.W.

Since the formation of the Commonwealth of Australia in 1900, it has had eight Labor Parties.

Canberra was designed by an American architect, W. B. Griffen, of Chicago. (No relation to Jim.)

Australia won the Davis Cup in the last series before World War I and likewise before World War II.

Mt. Kosciusko is the highest mountain in Australia being 7,288 feet.

Australia measures approx. 2,400 miles east to west, and 2,000 miles north to south, containing approximately 3,000,000 sq. miles.

The Dutchmen swept the seas, says history, but they sweep more than the seas these days. Ask "Charcoal" Edwards, he knows.

Somehow, I think we have heard this story before (remember our buddies?), but the piece of femininity in "Ping's" story now "ain't".

BEST OF THE MONTH

Quote Tommo (Combined Ops. to you) watching Geo. Wilson making a cork for a one gallon demijohn:

"What, making some illiterate grog, eh, George?"

THE DOIG

Command: "Fix bayonets."

Quote Doigie: "Dirk on the squirt!"

POKER

Criddle: "I'm out."

Des Isenhood: "60 wax."

O'Connor (translated): "Up 60."

Des: "Full on tens."

Bill (translated): "Have a smell—four kings."