

West Australian 2 1/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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EDITORIAL ANZAC

This edition of the "Courier" coincides with the usual Anzac Day celebrations.

This year this historic day falls on a Sunday and the spirit of Anzac will be kept up on that day. On all sides there are pressures to provide a holiday on the Monday, April 26, in lieu of this day. These pressures should be resisted by all who hold this day to be what it is, namely our real National Day of Remembrance and of re-union.

This is not just another holiday such as Labor Day or Queen's Birthday. It is a day that means something in Australia's formative history. If it is to be degraded into just another day off work, it won't be long before the commercialists start to make it into another money-making wrought like Mother's Day and Father's Day and out will come some symbol like Easter Bunny and Father Christmas to make a fast buck for the clever boys.

Anzac should be treated as it always has been—a day to start off with deep remembrance of all those fine souls who kept Australia free

and decent and kept the conqueror's heel off this continent and then a day of re-union for members of those tightly knit Units of men who fought and lived together in most trying circumstances.

If all old Diggers can keep this spirit burning then Anzac Day will live in its correct form for many years to come.

The background of Anzac has found its way into so many of our walks of life and so many of Australia's most famous citizens in all categories have absorbed so much of the Spirit of Anzac that we should see that the marvel of this spirit is not diluted. Australia has more to thank Anzac for than any other event in our short history. This is one of our great traditions and God knows we have not a great many of these traditions that we can afford to lightly lose what we have got.

The appeal is to all you good people to do all you can in any sphere in which you may have influence to hold tightly to the glorious Spirit of Anzac.

—C. D. DOIG, Hon. Editor.

MAY MEETING: ANZAC HOUSE BASEMENT TUESDAY, MAY 4

This could be a beauty with Travel Time International showing the latest in colour travel films. Book up the wife immediately to ensure that she is free to attend with you.

West Australian Whisperings

Association Activities

APRIL MEETING

A most enjoyable evening was spent in the Basement of Anzac House on Tuesday, April 6, playing carpet bowls. This was to have been a mixed evening but it seems that most people forgot to tell their wives and only two turned up, namely Helen Poynton and Jess Epps.

Helen, partnered by Percy Hancock, took out the pairs' title, defeating husband Joe, and Harry Sproxtton, in the process. Good luck to you Helen.

Except for the Calcutt Trophy nights in June and November all monthly meeting nights will be for men and women from now on, this year.

MAY MEETING

This will be held at Anzac House Basement on Tuesday, May 4.

We are honoured at this time by a film evening supplied by Travel Time International with the absolute latest in coloured travel films.

This could be one of our really entertaining evenings and could have something for everyone. Please do your very best to be there with your wife or girl friend and so do the right thing by our guests who go to so much trouble to provide the evening.

Would the ladies please bring along a small plate so that we may have a light supper.

JUNE MEETING

This will be the first session of the Calcutt Memorial Trophy Games. We hope that this year this event is given the response that is due to such an occasion. In the past two years the attendances have definitely been below par. Please make certain that you do your best on this occasion.

JUBILEE SAFARI

As the time rapidly approaches for the staging of this great event the wheels are rapidly turning.

Elsewhere in this issue is a list of those arriving from the Eastern States and it is a most imposing list of participants.

The Sub-Committee appointed to handle details of the various functions has met and apportioned duties so that these functions will be well and truly organised.

The Mammoth Raffle staged to finance the whole affair has now been fully allotted. Will all holders of application forms who have not yet paid in full please do so at their earliest so that all tickets may be sent out.

Now we want to ensure that W.A. members give this Safari the support that it deserves. This is your opportunity to take some of your holidays and make certain you attend as many functions as possible and so have a really wonderful 10 days.

Committee Comment

The opening meeting of the new Committee was held at Anzac House on Tuesday, March 16. President Len Bagley welcomed everyone to the fold and asked for a special effort in this Jubilee Safari year. Then it was down to business with especial reference to the Jubilee Safari. Special Sub-Committees were formed to deal with the night of the draw of the Mammoth Raffle and also the Jubilee Safari, it being realised that the time had arrived to start to put the details into the various functions being organised.

Col Doig advised that the Mammoth Raffle was rapidly filling and that Anzac Day should see the end of ticket selling with a full house.

Len Bagley advised that the Battalion Hall had been booked for Saturday, July 3, to draw the raffle and that a band, compere, etc., have been also booked.

Len has done a tremendous amount of work in regard to venues for the Safari and remains our main contact for most of the shows.

Treasurer Dick Geere gave a resume of the fund position which currently remains healthy.

It might be noted that the sub-committees appointed have already met and are in a position to give detailed reports to the next meeting of the general Committee.

Personalities

Pleased to see Vince Swann for a brief period during the month. Vince and Pam were down in Perth to take their daughter home for the Easter holidays. He reported a good opening to the season at Esperance and hoped this augured well to be a good season. He also reported quite a good season last year at both Salmon Gums and Esperance. He hoped to make the city for Anzac Day.

Also saw Tom Crouch who was on his way to N.S.W. (Kyogle) to see Jim Cullen. He hoped to be able to see quite a few of the Hereford Studs in the area while on his trip. Tom also reported a good season at Manjimup last year and a good opening to this year.

Saw Jim Smailes at R.G.H. Hollywood during the month where he had had further surgery on his back. He was leaving hospital the next day. Jim hopes to head for a mining engineer's job in Malaysia early in May and be away about six months.

Sir Arthur Amies, Patron of the Rats of Tobruk Association, rang me recently to pass on the good wishes of one Ralf (Bluey) Connolly from Lae, New Guinea. Sir Arthur apparently has followed our Unit history quite thoroughly and has made a trip to Timor. He was most impressed by our Memorial and said Lady Amies thought this quite the nicest little memorial of its kind she had ever seen.

Geo Boyland is now mobile again and is hopeful of being retired from Commonwealth Public Service in the near future.

Bill Howell and wife Elvie, are the latest starters for Timor and have joined up with the others who are leaving Perth on Thursday, May 13.

Jubilee Safari

Enclosed is the list of Safari 71 travellers and barring accidents I would say that there will only be about three cancel out.

We would like to have name badges or bars made, but when I got the quote I find that we have

to pay for the die and stamp, etc. After that of course the bar becomes very cheap.

Seeing as how the West had the Double Diamond badge made they would have the die, etc., over there. I was wondering if I gave you the approximate size and what we had in mind if you could organize 100 to be made and sent over to us before D (Departure) Day.

I hope you can or have given us something concrete on accommodation expenses by the time you get this as more and more are worrying about this angle and time is getting short.

The reason we decided on the badges was that apart from myself there will be people on your side who will feel it easier to be able to walk up and say hello Joe, instead of having to hm and er and ah. I know that except for dealing with particular people I have a great aptitude for forgetting a name and names hence for people like me a name bar is a must.

We intended to have them made and Dymo tape the name on and hand them out on D Day. They would require to have a pin on them as this would make it much easier for the ladies to wear.

I can understand Len Bagley's problems although I don't think I had or have as many problems as Len because the fact we are nearly all going and returning at the one time also the Indian Pacific made it easier and as I couldn't see any advantage to shop around I handed it all over to a friend I met while I was in the C.M.F. and nothing has been a trouble for him.

Reverting back to these name bars. Could you let me know as soon as possible because I have a few ideas that may work if you cannot do the job for us.

—RON TRENGROVE

LIST OF SAFARI TRAVELLERS

Mr. and Mrs. K. Craig, Mr. P. Craig (21), Miss J. Craig (19).

Mr. and Mrs. B. Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. P. Kenneally, Mr. M. Kenneally (15), Mr. S. Kenneally (13), Mr. G. Kenneally (8), Miss H. Kenneally (17).

Mr. and Mrs. A. MacLachlan.

Mr. and Mrs. T. Field.

Mr. and Mrs. M. Devlin.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Peattie.
Mr. J. Hallinan.
Mr. and Mrs. F. Sharp.
Mr. and Mrs. F. Jackson.
Mr. and Mrs. J. Keenahan.
Mr. and Mrs. B. Bennett.
Mr. and Mrs. A. Luby.
Mr. and Mrs. B. Coker, Mr. M. Coker.
Mr. and Mrs. J. Nicholson.
Mr. and Mrs. J. Darge.
Mr. and Mrs. T. Adams, and two children.
Mr. and Mrs. F. Press, Miss F. Press (10).

Mr. and Mrs. G. Greenhalgh.
Mr. and Mrs. F. Rogers.
Mr. and Mrs. R. Martin.
Mr. and Mrs. M. Jones.
Mr. and Mrs. T. Snowdon.
Mr. N. Bray.
Mr. R. Trengrove.
Mr. C. Paff.
Mr. M. Mannix.
Mr. J. Tell.

In Doubt:

Mr. and Mrs. J. Dent
Mr. C. Mills.
Mr. F. Bryant.

MAMMOTH RAFFLE:

HAS NOW BEEN FULL SUBSCRIBED

Will All Members Please Note:— If you have money outstanding please remit it to the Organiser, Col Doig, G.P.O. Box T1646, Perth, at your very earliest so that everything for the draw may be finalised

RANDOM HARVEST

RON TRENGROVE, of 46 Hillcrest Ave., Mona Vale, writes:—

Tom Field's change of address: 15 Carlisle St., Leichardt, N.S.W., 2040.

I had a phone call from a Don Latimer who is the secretary of the Combined Commandos N.S.W. Well amongst a lot of other things he asked if it would be possible to receive our "Courier". I said I would ask W.A. His address is: D. Latimer, 9 Glamorgan Street, Blacktown, N.S.W., 2161.

My thoughts about these requests are that one or two copies would be sufficient to more or less let them get the idea of how sound we are, but unless the people who receive them are interested enough to throw a quid or two in for expenses I cannot see there is much to be gained. After all there are few, if any Units, who have managed to hold the interest of members like we have and if they are not interested by this they will not be influenced by a "Courier" as well got up as ours as these sort of things

don't come over night. What do you think?

I will continue this later as I hope to be able to get to our meeting tonight for the first time for some months.

A fantastic turn up at the meeting—15 altogether. It was the Sydney Cup raffle draw and it was good to see the boys turn up even I managed to get there, much to my surprise and I guess everyone else's.

The "Courier" arrived the same day and I would like to pass on best wishes to the stalwarts who have fronted up again over ther and to those who have retired. It does not seem much when one reads about it and doesn't stop to think, but after having tried my hand (and not a very good one at that) at being a Secretary-Treasurer I now appreciate what it involves and the number of times one wishes it to blaze.

Going back a bit in this letter to my thoughts on giving the "Courier" to those who ask for it who were not in the 2/2nd or had anything to do with it, I would like to

add some more thoughts to this question and they are as follows. The response to the Sydney Cup Sweep only as far and I stress only as far as N.S.W. is concerned, were poor to say the very least. Perhaps if you realized that from the profit such as it is we contribute to the printing, I say contribute, because I feel that is all one could call it. The reason we now run the sweep annually is because we feel that it is the only way we can pay towards the cost of the "Courier" and an occasional donation to those in real need.

However, if this is not successful and it would not be only for the generous and once more I stress generous, support from W.A. consideration will have to be given to some other form of paying our way and if this is not successful the "Courier" may have to be sent only to those who send in the prescribed amount of subs to be decided on.

This may seem drastic but if you look at it realistically and you like to belong and like to get the "Courier" you can't expect it for nothing and unless some other means can be found to support the printing and delivery of the "Courier" well it will be discussed at a future meeting and soon.

Now should this be printed before the end of April and delivered of course all Safaris please take note you are expected to have your monies in to me less your deposit not later than the 1st of May. Why? Because I have to work out my problems, get them down to Mike Schultz and then he has to re-check and that's it.

If we don't front up on the deadline with the monies and names we cannot hold seats or suites any longer. The railways have given Mike a deadline and that's it. Most of all please read your screeds again and make sure you are conversant and completely in the picture with the times arrangements and dates, cancellations, etc., and bloody etc.

For the time being, and things being as they are with the mails I will close.

ALAN LUBY, of Ambulance Station Liverpool, N.S.W., writes:—

Many thanks for your surat and

the enclosed raffle tickets—will dispose of them and send the dough as soon as I can.

The progress with Safari arrangements is quite satisfactory to this stage and we can only hope that nothing serious interferes with the final outcome.

Very few drop-outs at deposit time, but some re-arrangement with the families particularly those where senior exams are pending.

Our old friend Alfredo dos Santos has been an inmate of R.G.H. Concord for the past fortnight with a relapse of pneumonia—first time when he was up at Noel Buckman's in January. Have been in to see him a couple of times and pleased to say he is on the improve.

Jim English is also in the same hospital. They finally diagnosed his trouble as a couple of ulcers in the stomach duodenal tract and operated on him last Wednesday. He was still under drugs when I saw him but reports say he is doing quite well. I reckon he'd be a bugger of a patient for any nurse to have to look after.

Apart from that all are well that I know of, except perhaps John Rose who has been down for a Repat. Board but I've not yet caught up with him.

One remaining thing to catch up on—Jack Darge has been nominated as our Life Member this year. Would you please send me a tie bar to present him on Anzac Day.

Ede and the girls join me in sending on greetings and kindest regards to all.

MRS. JESSIE R. WHITE, of 198 Brookdale St., Floreat Park, W.A. writes:—

I have noted with interest your Editor's appeals for topical articles for the "Courier", and the thought occurred to me that you might like to hear, or at least be reminded of, the "other side" of your famous return from Timor.

At that particular time, December 1942, my husband and I, though both dyed-in-the-wool West Australians, were stationed in Adelaide, and I was a member of the vast Society of Cheer Up Huts (Canteens) there. Adelaide being in the centre of the Continent, we met and enter-

tained Units in transit from East, West and North, and so it was that we were asked to prepare for an influx of boys returning from an "isolated outpost" (understatement of the whole war). Right from the beginning we gathered the impression that you had had it tough, though of course, we did not know that it was the 2/2nd Independent Coy., we were to welcome back, nor had we any idea that you had come from Timor. Though even with war-time secrecy, we had heard some thing of the Timor epic, and now the thought was present, that it just might be this Unit that was returning. No doubt you were in Darwin by this time, very probably you were right there when we were first alerted of your return. Also no doubt, the old "Ghan" (short for Afghan) train, surrendered to circumstances on its long trip down from the North, as was customary for these over-worked trains in war-time. But as the days passed, we waited, and prepared.

The Cheer Up Society used great discrimination when enrolling their staff, and they always endeavoured to have interstate personnel on as many shifts as possible, and had girls from Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, Northern Territory, and even New Zealand and England, plus two that I knew of, from W.A. However, all told, the Cheer Up Society voluntary workers numbered something in the vicinity of 800, so there may have been other Sandgropers that I did not even meet. But there was invariably somebody from each State to welcome the boys when they arrived, to talk of home affairs. Those were the days of interstate travel permits (so hard to come by), and transport difficulties, which because of the distance, affected West Australians most—thence the dearth of Sandgropers—now of course, they are all over the world.

No. 1 and No. 2 Cheer Up Huts were unique, in that everything was provided entirely free of charge to the Services. No. 1 Hut, down by the Adelaide Railway Station, was the old Railway Institute, and was used for the Hostel for the Forces. No. 2 Hut in North Terrace, was the former Adelaide Palaise, and

had a magnificent dance floor. We did shifts of eight hours, from 2 to 10 p.m. at night, preparing, cooking, washing up (with quite often assistance from the Services), then after dinner there was always entertainment of some sort—a dance, or concert, with outstanding artists. I well remember Gladys Moncrief, at one concert, singing Land of Hope and Glory (with audience participation), and the great ovation she received.

However, on this fine December morning we knew as soon as we arrived on shift, that this was the day for things to happen—and happen they certainly did! On arrival, we found the meat all prepared and jointed, ready for the ovens; a great many loaves of bread had been sliced, and packed away again. Army butchers and bakers did a lot of this for us, especially if a big contingent was expected, but seldom as early in the day. It gave us more time to talk with the boys instead of attending to kitchen chores. Vegetables and fruit were laid out in profusion, ready for peeling, slicing and podding. I think in my three years at No. 2 Hut, along with many other helpers, I must have sliced, peeled and podded literally hundreds of pounds of fruit, peas, beans and potatoes—all of which, I would like to call to mind, were donated by generous-minded citizens, and carried free of charge on the South Australian Railways, to the Cheer Up Huts. Throughout the war years, the two Huts were kept completely supplied with meat, vegetables, bread, fruit and flowers, free of charge, thus making possible free meals in both Huts at all times. It was a wonderfully patriotic gesture.

Just before lunch the first stragglers appeared, and we knew you immediately. Tall, bearded, gaunt, homesick; dying for company—the 2/2nd Commandos had reached Adelaide! As you were a predominantly West Australian Unit, you all wanted news of Perth, and as much as you could get. Nothing was trivial, nothing too trite—so we talked far into the night—and I personally, went home with a somewhat over-worked larynx that night. Throughout the day we were besieged by more and more Comman-

dos, still big and tough, despite deprivations and adversity. Normal routine went by the board that day, and we all entered into (or kept up) a non-stop marathon of questions and answers. Fortunately, thanks to the Service Tradesmen, much of our usual work had been done for us so early in the day, and it left us freer to devote our time to you boys. Several big fish were brought in, and our cooks-of-the-day (to which so much praise is due), dashed off to get them ready quickly, to add to the special menu already prepared. I remember it was roast lamb and all the trimmings, fish as entree, followed by apple tart for dessert, this being the most typical Australian meal we could think of.

From then on, the Double Diamond boys were the toast of the town. You were feted, lauded, entertained on all sides. The famous Adelaide hospitality was very much to the fore. There were parties galore, both private and public, and I am sure many of you will recall those at Unley, Glenelg, and Forrestville, and many other places, in your honour. Our own home was always "open house" to Westralians (and others) on Sunday nights, in spite of rationing difficulties—we managed somehow—but while the 2/2nd Commandos were in town, it was one continuous "open house". We met so many of you, some of whom we never saw again, others we have met up with once more, since returning to Perth ourselves. Our very first visit, on our return, was to the Lovekin Drive area, in Kings Park, with its well-kept lawns, and fine memorial tablets, which we consider is a worthy remembrance to all those who did not return.

Of all the boys who passed through the Adelaide Cheer Up Huts, in those war years, I think

perhaps the Double Red Diamonds made the greatest impact, and we will always remember with nostalgia your glorious return from Timor.

KERRY and SHARON PALMER,
of 2 Reynolds-st., Busselton, W.A.,

Thank you for the Christmas presents that the Unit has sent to Sharon and I. Kind regards.

MRS. JOAN STANLEY, of 123 Jubilee-tee., Bardon, Bris., writes to Bill Epps:

I see from the last "Courier" that you, your wife, and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Smith, are planning a trip to Timor. Gordon and I also plan to go this year, but can get no information about the "dry" season, the best accommodation, and if there are any vehicles for hire. Having suffered a "wet" up here from November to March this year we would like to stay dry on our holidays. As you apparently have already been to Timor perhaps you could fill us in on details.

Our three daughters are all grown and spreading their wings. Our eldest is air hostessing, based in Melbourne. The next is in her final year of nurseing. Both plan to escape on overseas trips in the near future. Our youngest daughter is in final year hairdressing with wedding bells sounding in her ears. So these days we are almost Darby and Joan.

Thanks for the "Courier" it gets read from cover to cover every month and I pat the backs of the chaps responsible. We must send off some subs as it seems so long since we paid anything. Any chance of being billed each year? It would jog our memories.

We are enclosing a cheque for \$30, \$10 towards subs and \$20 towards another ticket in the raffle.

JUNE MEETING:

ANZAC HOUSE BASEMENT TUESDAY, JUNE 1

FIRST NIGHT OF CALCUTT MEMORIAL TROPHY
This should be a must for all of you

**ALBIE FRIEND, c/- M. G. Kailes,
Gulf Fisheries, Learmonth, W.A.,**
writes:—

Find enclosed application form for Mammoth Raffle, also cheque if ticket is available to me.

As you can see by the address I'm out of the metropolitan area again for a spell of seven or eight months. It's rather good as I miss all that lousy winter we have in Perth.

We, that is the wife and I, are in a caravan on the beach front at Learmonth and although it's hot at the moment we can look forward to months of good weather, cold at night where you will use a blanket but shirts off again about 10 a.m. till 6 p.m. If it gets too hot we just sit in the sea up to our necks and cool off (no waves here).

I only saw Nip Cunningham in Geraldton on my way up, as it was a quick trip, but have met Ted Monk's sister here at Learmonth.

Best of luck for the raffle and Safari. Sorry I will not be in Perth to participate.

Will you forward to me a tie bar and lapel pin with our colour patch. Ted Monk's sister saw mine and asked me to get a set for her to give to Ted for Christmas or his birthday. Let me know cost also postage and I will send down the cash. Also I want to let you know I got fixed up regards my caravan and Commonwealth vehicle. I had to go to the top for a decision.

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

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