

Association Activities

Annual General Meeting:—

This most important meeting was held at Anzac House Basement on Tuesday, 6th March, 1973 and although not very well attended, it proved to be one of the best meetings we have had for many years, in that those present took a really keen interest in all the matters that were brought up. Because of the importance of this meeting, the full minutes are hereby printed.

The President's Report, Editor's Report and Financial Statement are also printed to bring readers up to date on Association Activities.

Minutes of Annual General Meeting of 2/2 Commando Association, W.A. Branch, held at Anzac House on Tuesday, 7th March, 1973

Present:

Messrs. L. Bagley, in the Chair, A. Wares, G. Fletcher, G. Carey, D. Darrington, C. Varian, H. Sproxton, C. Doig, G. Boyland, F. Napier, R. Kirkwood, R. Dhu, A. Smith, A. Smith and H. Holder.

Apologies:

J. Penglase (shift work) - Excused & Accepted.

Minutes of Annual General Meeting:

Held on Tuesday, 7th March 1973. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and were received on the motion of A. Wares, seconded F. Napier.

Business Arising from Minutes:

Annual Dinner Format was changed to a buffet style and this met with general approval.

Life Membership:

Colin Doig introduced the outgoing Committee nominations for Life Membership, Len Bagley and George Fletcher. He praised extremely highly the performances of both nominees, and expressed on behalf of the Association the appreciation of all members for the efforts of these two gentlemen which have always been above the normal expectations one would expect from persons in their respective positions. Jack Carey was pleased to support the remarks of Colin Doig and amplified on his comments. The motion was carried unanimously, after being put by F. Napier. Both Len Bagley and George Fletcher responded most appreciably.

REPORTS:

President:

Len Bagley presented a comprehensive report on the activities of the Association during the year just concluded.

Treasurer:

Ron Kirkwood presented a financial report covering the monetary position at the end of the last twelve months period. He explained all items in the statement presented and advised that the Finance Committee were looking closely into the best use of our funds.

Auditor's Report

Was read to the meeting confirming the figures presented.

Editor's Report:

Was presented by Mr. C. Doig, made reference to the unfortunate loss of Bill Epps and to the report subsequently carried out on his behalf. He asked for very great sympathy from all members to enable the continuing publication of the Courier. Reports were received on the motion of G. Fletcher, seconded A. Smith.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

George Boyland was elected Returning Officer on the motion of Col. Doig, seconded Fred Napier.

After calling for nominations, the following officers were declared elected:

President: A. Wares (unopposed); Vice President: G. Carey (unopposed); Immediate Vice President: L. A. Bagley; Secretary: P. G. Haley (unopposed); Treasurer: R. Kirkwood (unopposed); Editor: C. Doig (unopposed); Auditor: J. Burridge (unopposed); Warden: G. Fletcher (unopposed); Committee: Nominations for six members required were:— F. Napier, R. Dhu, G. Fletcher, C. Varian, D. Darrington, H. Sproxton, A. Smith, G. Boyland.

Following a ballot, the Returning Officer declared the following names elected:— R. Dhu, G. Fletcher, C. Varian, H. Sproxton, D. Darrington, A. Smith.

Country Vice Presidents:— Goldfields, J. Sheehan, Northern, P. Barden, Midland, R. Harrington, Great Southern, R. Sprigg, South Coastal, R. Palmer, South Western, B. Langridge.

2/2 COMMANDO ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/1/1973

EXPENDITURE		RECEIPTS	
Monthly Meetings:		Balances forward 1/2/1972	
Costs	207.95	Working A/c S 3080 (now 904-535)	451.05
Receipts	130.10	Town & Country A/c 3225	2944.85
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	77.85	Interest received	3395.90
Courier:		Donations	219.76
Costs	227.44	Suspense A/c	163.80
Receipts	125.00	Anzac Day	102.00
	<hr/>	Receipts	194.00
	102.44	Costs	172.05
Kings Park:			<hr/>
(Inc. mower \$335.00)	367.83		21.95
Annual Dinner:		Sale of Commando Glasses (Victorian Association)	
Costs	198.25	Receipts	109.50
Receipts	132.00	Costs	98.82
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	66.25		10.68
Commando Glasses (W.A. Association)		Sale of:	
(not ready for sale)	127.17	Lapel badges	4.50
Proportion of Raffle monies to 2/2 Association in:		Tie Clips	2.80
N.S.W.	500.00		<hr/>
Victoria	500.00		7.30
	<hr/>	Fullbrook painting: result of raffle	10.20
	1000.00	Mammoth Raffle:	
Administrative Costs	159.50	From Raffle a/c	11725.11
Sundries	251.35	Costs and Prizes	8565.00
Balances as at 31/1/73			<hr/>
Account 904-535	79.76		3160.11
T. & C. a/c 3225	4859.55		
Cr.	<hr/>		
	4939.31		
	<hr/>		
	\$7091.70		<hr/>
			\$7091.70

General Business:

Mr. Doig brought up the matter of the Courier, and the fact that the Swan Express was battling. He anticipates difficulties facing us with the publication of the Courier, and also with the publicising of our forthcoming activities. He also feels that we should aim for the greatest possible forward movement with due regard to our current assets and commitments. This must be a big year with a twelve month programme planned and published.

Mr. Napier asked that due care be taken of the Epps finances and was suitably answered by Mr. Bagley.

G. Maley expressed his high regard for the Country Convention and requested that this be high on the priority list. C. Doig spoke on the subject and suggested Kalgoorlie. A. Smith supported Mr. Doig's suggestion. F. Napier also supported the idea with firm views on the use of the Prospector rail service.

Col Doig broached the subject of another Sister Kate Orphans outing. After general discussion, general approval was granted for an outing of this nature.

F. Napier discussed the decline in the functions of the Maimed and Limbless Association and suggestion that we co-ordinate with them on a social evening.

R. Kirkwood brought up the possibility of a River Trip. This suggestion was also favourably received.

Incoming President Scotty Wares mentioned his wife's feelings concerning personal invitations to all wives of members.

Col Doig brought up a projected holiday camp area at Shoalwater Bay in conjunction with the City of Perth R.S.L. Sub Branch. Harry Holder brought us up to date on the position and the venture must await Town planning approval.

The subject of an outing for War Veterans was raised by Fred Napier and it was agreed that be noted.

Len Bagley spoke on the possibilities of a Memorial Stone in the Kings Park area, bearing our Honour Roll. It was decided that Dr. Wycherley be approached for his opinion on this matter.

In closing the Meeting, retiring President, Len Bagley thanked all members both present and absent who have assisted him so much over the past three years, and offered incoming President Scotty Wares his best wishes for his term of office.

The Meeting closed at 11.05 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Gentlemen: Once again I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report covering events of the past twelve months. It is a very successful year for our Association, both financially and socially. For the Association to continue in this way, depends entirely on the support of its members.

Annual General Meeting: This meeting was well attended. Two members received Life Membership, in recognition of their devotion to the welfare of our Association, they were Secretary Gerry Maley and Committeeman Colin Hodson.

Mixed Bowls Evening: At the April meeting Dot Bagley and Percy Hancock won the mixed pairs competition. Our ladies provided an excellent supper to complete a pleasant evening.

Anzac Day: Ray Parry and "Scotty" Wares laid the Association wreath at the State War Memorial, at its Dawn Service. Flags were then flown in our area in Kings Park. On parade were a number of country and city members, who marched to the Esplanade for the Anzac Day Service, then onto the W.A. Rowing Club for an excellent lunch, provided by Jack Carey. The amber flowed and many tales were told, all in all a very good day.

Film Evening: For the May meeting Travel Time International showed us colour movie film of New Zealand and Tasmania. The film of Tasmania was of particular interest to us, considering our future tour of this island in February, 1974. Judging by the number of members and wives present, these evenings are proving popular.

Calvett Memorial Trophy: Once again this competition occupied two meeting nights, June and November. After the first night Gerry Maley was in the lead, but at the conclusion of the second night George Strickland capably organised the sports of these two well attended evenings.

Bowls Competition: July and September were chosen as the months to hold a mixed bowls competition, with a handsome tray as the prize. At the completion of these two evenings, Val and Percy Hancock proved to be the best pair and they will be the holders of this tray until we compete again.

Talk By Ray Aitken: For the August meeting Ray Aitken came along armed with a few dozen Banksia plants and gave us a very interesting talk on the many different species and colours of this beautiful native tree. All ladies present went home with one or two of these trees to plant in their gardens. A nice supper concluded this very popular evening.

Annual Dinner: Held at the Imperial Hotel on Saturday, September 30th, this reunion was well attended by both country and city members. The committee decided to have a change, so we had a buffet meal and a minimum of speeches. The idea being was to give members more time to enjoy one another's company. It was good to see two of our Queensland members present in Neil Hooper and Alan Soper.

Commemoration Service: Many members and their families gathered at 3 p.m. in our Honour Avenue in Lovekin Drive, Kings Park, to take part in the Association's Commemoration Service, which pays tribute to our members who gave their all. After the Service, members present took part in a parade of honour march of the area.

Country Convention: An informal evening took place in December. Syd Calcutt was most happy to come along and present the Calcutt Trophy to Colleen Strickland and her son Noel, who was receiving the trophy on behalf of George, who was unable to be present due to shift work. All present enjoyed a few Xmas drinks plus a very nice supper provided by our ladies.

Bowls Night: The February meeting was another successful bowls night, although numbers were small, all those present had an enjoyable evening.

Mammoth Raffle: This raffle was opened Anzac Day and closed on November 4th and the drawing was conducted at Perry Lakes Stadium

hall on Saturday, November 18th. Over 750 people attended the drawing and I was most surprised and happy to be the recipient of the first prize. This form of raffle has proved to be a very successful way to raise funds for our Association. Mam Smith from Victoria flew over to be present at the draw and I quote: "I didn't come over to win it, just for the free beer."

1974 Safari: Arrangements and details of this journey to Victoria and Tasmania are well in hand. The Victorian Committee suggests that we leave Perth by train, on Friday evening, February 22nd, arriving in Melbourne on Monday, 25th, then fly to Tasmania, where buses will be used for an 8-day conducted tour, then fly back to Melbourne. At this time of the year the Moomba Festival will be one of the many attractions to be seen. Alec Wares has already placed a booking for 100 people, to leave Perth on February 22nd. It is now up to members to organise themselves so that they will be among the party that will be leaving.

Address Book: All members have now been issued with a new and revised Address Book. This is by no means an easy task to compile, and Bill Epps has done a magnificent job to keep us up to date of the whereabouts of some 400 members. Please help to make this task a little easier by notifying any change of address immediately.

Pauline English Appeal: No sooner was this appeal open, than it was closed. Pauline's school the Arncliffe R.S.L., and our Association were quick to respond to make sure Pauline had the necessary funds to enable to go to Germany and take in the Para-Olympics. Not only did she participate, Pauline won three bronze medals—a very good effort on everyone's part.

Courier: Every member is indebted to Col Doig each time he receives a Courier, this periodical is indeed a vital part of our organisation, and so from us all Col, our sincere appreciation of a job well done. Unfortunately Bill Epps is in hospital and the committee didn't realize until now how much work Bill put into making up, setting, printing, wrapping and posting of the Courier,

until they do it themselves. Luckily Jess Epps was there to show us how as well as do her fair share, and many thanks to Jess.

Kings Park: Once again our sincere thanks go to George Fletcher for the time and labour that he puts into our area in Kings Park, so that it always looks well cared for. Thanks also to Park Supervisor Dick Adams, who waters the area. To make George's job a little easier, a new lawn mower has just recently been purchased. George gave us a demo at the last working bee, and all present were satisfied with its capabilities and performance. Already George has made a spreader which can be towed behind the machine and manure the area at the same time. All the name plates on the trees in our area have been repainted, thanks to Mick Holland.

Bereavements: I regret to report that quite a few of our members have passed away during the last twelve months, they are sadly missed by their Association mates. To the bereaved families we extend our sincere sympathies.

Conclusion: I have enjoyed three years as President of this very proud and strong Association, and I thank all members and their wives, for their support and co-operation in making all our events and functions a success. Especially do I thank the Committee for their wisdom and guidance in helping me conduct Association affairs—Thank you.

L. A. Bagley, President

EDITORS REPORT, 1972-73

Mr. President & Gentlemen,

This year I wrote this report with as much sorrow as pleasure. This occasioned by the fact that Bill Epps who has been the father of our journal since its inception has been laid low with a severe stroke and is currently a very sick man although on the improve. In previous reports in extolling the work done by Bill and Jess and have said "God help us if he ever is not with us" and now just that sort of situation has occurred. It now behoves everyone with any ability towards the get up and publishing of a paper to get behind our future efforts to make certain that the paper which has meant so much to the Association continues to be issued and bring the news to all the

members. Let us wish Bill Epps a speedy and full recovery and thank Jess for all she has done and is continuing to do for our little paper.

This year we have maintained our circulation at the usual 480 odd and managed to publish 9 issues. Letters have poured in over the year. I have extolled the value of the paper in keeping up intercommunication between our far flung membership.

The address list has been kept current thanks to the efforts of Bill Epps and Ron Kirkwood and latterly Alec Wares. The publication of the address and its subsequent despatch with the September issue was another triumph for Bill Epps. We were most fortunate that this up to date book occurred before Bill's illness. I have to thank all those persons who contribute Editorials and articles for the Courier for the past year. I can only say that it made my task the easiest for many years and I hope that these people and others will continue to supply the Editor with such material. The regular correspondence on Paddy Kenneally N.S.W., Harry Botterill in Vic. and Peter Barden from Geraldton has once again given superb support to the Courier and is much the richer for their efforts especially those long letters of Paddy Kenneally written in his imitable style.

Now for some special words of thanks to Jess Epps and her friends who have collated the last couple of Couriers and seen to its despatch. To Alec Wares for taking the addressing machine and tending to that side of our efforts and to Len Bagley for setting the December Issue of the Courier in his spare time at the Swan Express when we were in grave difficulties. Jess Epps has experienced a desire to continue with the collating of the Courier and we will accept her kind offer gladly as this is a most important part of the issue of a "Courier".

My thanks to the "Swan Express" and Arthur Clarke its proprietor for all he has done over the years for our paper and especially over the past couple of issues which have been published under great difficulties. In the past I have often expressed a desire to retire at least for a while from the Editorship but I feel this coming year could be one of great problems and those with experience are going to

be required more than ever before. I offer my services once again as Editor hope to get a strong team together to make certain that our Journal continues as good a way as it has in the past. I feel we owe this to Bill Epps who made the paper what it is.

I wish the Association all the very best in the year to come and hope the "Courier" continues to prosper.

C. W. Doig, Hon. Editor

Safari to Melbourne and Tasmania:—

The itinerary presented in the last issue of the Courier has been approved by the State and accepted by Victoria who will be the host State. Although other proposals have been submitted by N.S.W., these already have been investigated from all angles and were ruled out on one or more counts as being impracticable for the purpose of these Safaris which is principally to bring together as many unit members as possible for a holiday in the best possible company and new surroundings of a nature most likely to give appeal fun.

Members are once again requested to advise of their intention to attend all things being equal. Get your nominations in as soon as possible to assist the organisers in their efforts to make this function as unforgettable as those held on past occasions.

Future Activities:

Printed on back page of this issue is a complete list of projected activities for the year to come. Readers are asked to cut this out and pin it on your calendar so that you will be in a position to decide just what functions you can attend. There is definitely something in this for everyone, irrespective of where you reside. It is felt that if you put your mind to it you can attend something and that way, during the year we should see all our members in W.A. at least on one occasion.

Committee Comment

Committee Corner:—

The full minutes of the Committee meeting held at Anzac House on Tuesday, 20th March are printed. It is proposed this year to try and print the full Committee minutes in the various issues of the courier.

Minutes of Committee Meeting held at Anzac House on Tuesday, 20th March, 1973

The President declared the Meeting open at 8.10 p.m., when a recording of a New South Wales was played. This proved of great interest.

Mr. Wares welcomed all Committee Members for the ensuing year.

Present were Messrs. Wares, Doig, Maley, Kirkwood, A. Smith, D. Darrington, R. Dhu, J. Carey, L. Bagley, H. Sproston.

Apologies were received and accepted from G. Fletcher (working), C. Varian.

Minutes of Meeting held on 20th February, 1973, were read and were confirmed on the motion of A. Smith, seconded C. Doig.

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday, 6th March, 1973 were read.

Treasurer's Report: Working A/c now stands at \$96.11. R. Kirkwood detailed receipts and expenditure. Accounts were passed for payment and Report received on the motion of R. Dhu, seconded L. Bagley.

Kings Park: It was agreed that pressure be exerted on Brian Howard re cost of damage to Kings Park Unit sign.

Anzac Day: All arrangements are in hand with J. Carey looking after the providoring. It was agreed to raffle a framed Fullbrook print on this occasion.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Inwards:

H. Botterill, Victorian Branch re Safari with suggested itinerary. P. Kenneally, New South Wales Branch mainly re Safari with suggested changes of venue and date.

Outwards:

W.A. Rowing Club re hire of premises for after March Anzac Day ReUnion.

1974 SAFARI:

In view of correspondence received from the Victorian and New South Wales Branches this matter is causing great concern.

L. Bagley advised that:—

- (a) South Australia could not handle it.
- (b) New Zealand proved too costly.
- (c) Melbourne/Tasmania seemed clearly the most suitable under all circumstances.
- (d) Timor/Bali/Singapore could not cater for more than 40 persons.

persons, which puts it out of the question for most.

- (e) School holidays are a problem, but it is felt that the first few weeks of school would not cause much loss in education, whereas those travelling on the Safari would benefit greatly educationally. Arising from this discussion it was moved by C. Doig, seconded L. Bagley, that the Victorian and New South Wales branches be advised that all these have been thoroughly investigated over the past two years and we are firmly convinced that the proposed Melbourne/Tasmania Safari is the only function suitable to this Branch. We have no objections to New South Wales organising their proposed trip trip to Timor/Bali/Singapore at a later date, but would point out that members would be limited to no more than forty. Our main aim is to generate enthusiasm and meet as many unit mates as possible, regardless of the venue. Carried.

Financing of this Safari was discussed and it was agreed that a raffle be conducted with an attractive trip as a prize. Tickets would be \$10 each, first prize to the value of \$2,000 and 100 consolation prizes of \$10 each, to be run over ten weeks.

Safari Sub-Committee: The following gentlemen were appointed:—

A. Wares, L. Bagley, H. Sproxtton.
Outgoing and Incoming Executive Officers:—

The retiring President was Len Bagley, who has held the office for the past three years. Len has proved to be an outstanding President and Chairman and has brought outstanding organisation ability to bear upon the office. We are most lucky to have had such a President through the difficult period of the last three years. We are also lucky to be retaining his services on the Committee as Immediate Past President. Len received his Life membership at the Annual General Meeting and this was a most deserved honour. Thanks Len for a job well done.

The returning Vice President was Fred Napier who quits because of his health. There is not much fresh to say about Fred because it has all been said in the past. Fred is a life member because of all he has done in the past as Treasurer, Secretary and Committeeman. Thanks once again Fred for all you have contributed to the Association.

The retiring Committeemen were Col Hodson, Bill Epps and Fay Parry. Bill Epps vacates the office of Immediate Past President on the change in President and was not able to offer his services due to his ill health. So much has been in the past about Bill and his efforts for the Association that to say it all again is superfluous. All we can hope to say is that Bill will be back with us in a position in the near future. Thanks you Bill for the herculean effort for the Association you love so much.

Col Hudson decided not to stand this year so as to make room for some new blood. Col is a life member and once again his efforts require no embellishment. Thanks a million Col and we know we can call upon you in an emergency for anything you can do. Ray Parry also decided to call it a day. Ray has been a tower of strength to the Association, especially in regard to the Mammoth Raffle and also with regard to many of our printing difficulties with the Courier. We know Ray will be only too happy to assist us in any way possible in the future.

The Incoming officers are as follows:—

Persident:

Alec (Scotty) Wares. Alec has been on the Committee only a short time and steps into the office with a ton of enthusiasm and a capacity for hard work and is determined to make things tick during his term of office. He has the complete backing of wife, Elsie and we are sure that we are in for fruitful years ahead. Good luck to you "Scotty" and Elsie for the coming year.

Vice President:

Jack Carey. Jack moves over from a Committee spot to the Vice President's job and we know from his past performances in other executive

positions that he will prove to be a most able deputy to "Scotty" Wares. Thanks for stepping into the breach Jack.

Committeemen:

Clarrie Varian, Arthur Smith, Rod Dhu and Dick Dorrington. Clarrie, Arthur and Rod return to the Committee for a further term, in all having served at some time in the past and all have excellent records of service for the Association. Dick is making his initial appearance and we know he will be a most worthy representative as he is a good attender of meetings and not afraid of hard work. Thanks boys, and we can look forward to a good year.

Personalities

It is with a great deal of pleasure that we can report a vast improvement in the condition of Bill Epps. He is now practically mobile and has had the satisfaction of one outing to your Editors home. Bill is expected to be home in a reasonable time and although his recovery will be long it is now felt that he will make a good recovery. Good luck to you mate and keep up that fighting spirit.

Fred Napier is another who is making a good recovery and it gradually becoming his old self.

News on Gary Reley's health is not so good and his war caused disabilities are catching up in a big way. Currently Gerry is not able to work and is pursuing the Repat Department for further acceptance.

Vince and Pam Swann were down from Esperence for a weekend visit and both look very well.

Reports that things are very dry at Salmon Gums but that Esperence is holding on well.

Don Turton and Arch Campbell are contemplating a long trip North by utility and Caravan in the near future and they expect to revisit Timor after arrival at Darwin. Then they expect to complete the circumnavigation of Australia, Queensland and the Southern States. They expect to be away in excess of three months.

We have news that Kevin Curran's wife Glad is in hospital at Bendigo and we wish her a speedy recovery and Kevin all the very best from all the mob.

Joy Loudon (Col Doig's friend) has recently had a holiday in Victoria and Tasmania and while away managed to contact Kev Curran at Bendigo, Peter and Elvira Krause, Bert and Wilma Tobin and Johnny and Kath Roberts in Melbourne and also Ivan Brown and wife in Hobart. She reports all are well and thanks them for the way they looked after her while she was on holiday.

Harry and Thelma Sproston have moved into their new home at Karinyup and report that they are gradually settling down in the new environment.

Jim Snails and his wife have recently returned from an overseas trip and Jim expects to catch up with the Association in the near future.

RANDOM HARVEST

HELEN POYNTON of 169 Ormsby Tee., Mandurah, 6210 writes:—
Dear Col,

So long since we've seen you—and have tried little—that I trust you are both well and happy. Enclosed tape has self explanatory note from Joan Waye. Sorry I've taken so long to forward it onto you—it took ages for us to tee up a machine to listen to it. I have acknowledged receiving it from Joan.

The Turners came up last Sunday and we had a most happy and enjoyable day. Their friends, Glad

and Mac came with them, and with them and with Kath and Cyril Stonehill we cruised across the estuary and up the Murray River to Ravenswood for lunch and a couple of jugs. Rhann enticed Clarrie in for a swim. On return trip, Juliann capably steered the boat so that we were able to chat together while Joe knocked a couple of bottle tops off. He swam in snorkel and flippers and caught them some crabs. Cyril and Kath are down on holidays and had previously, on the Saturday, caught some 8 dozen crabs ready

for the S.W. crab eaters, but Grace and Glad said they wanted a "hotty".

We finished the day with a B.B.Q. Clarrie had killed a sheep—so there were lovely chops galore. All the locals joined us, you know Fitzus Shones etc.—and also Bill and Elvie Powell. It was a real fun day enjoyed by all.

It is only a week or so till Grace and Clarrie head East, where they will meet their daughter from New Guinea and other family members.

We were thrilled to have dear Jess Epps call in on us the other day. On her way to Bunbury for a weeks rest. She is so happy with Bill starting to show some progress.

We have been very busy, Joe particularly with the extensions of the 2nd storey. It rained heavily while the roof was off and down below was like a flood disaster area. It took two days to dry out, the girls slept in sleeping bags in the back of the Station Wagon in the garage and thought it was great idea. The place was such a mess, ceilings still are, that I confess I was completely without a sense of humour.

Still it won't be long now till all is finished and back in order. The lawn is a mess from bricks and all the other building gear and rubble but once cleaned, should pick up again quickly. So then we may be able to have another Unit day visit like last year.

Our best wishes to all you meet that we know. I'd better sign off, or you'll think I'm another budding Paddy Kenneally.

Fond love,

Helen P.

JIM ENGLISH, 11 Richards Ave., Peakhurst, N.S.W.. 2210 writes:—
Dear Col,

Please find enclosed a clipping from the Sydney Sun. The clipping explains what has been going on in regards to Pulin's swimming. You will find a reference to Pauline making a decision later that week in regards to making an attempt on the world 50 metre record for Free-style, Pauline's coach decided that as Pauline had worked so hard for her 3 x 50 medly record that it would asking too much of her to attempt another world record as soon, so we decided to just let her swim in the District Carnival for experience. In her heat she swam

50.3 seconds and in the final 48.2 seconds outside the world record which is 47.8 secs. So I guess it wont be long before that one goes.

We are spending 7 hours a day at the pool, plus Carnivals and Pauline has also been doing a lot of exhibitions in swimming at school Carnivals. I'm hoping that after the hospital Games on 8th April, that Pauline can have a couple of weeks rest. She is swimming 25 miles training per week and thats a lot to swim and a bloody lot to sit and watch.

At the moment young Greg is doing a N.C.O.'s course at Ingleburn for six weeks, so I have the pleasure of driving him back to camp each night. He looks fit and healthy like some other soldiers I used to know a few year ago.

I haven't seen any of the Boys since Xmas but talk to Paddy and Norah, also Pat and Ron Hilliard quite often on the phone.

Well Col, thats about all for now, except that we have just received a letter saying they will be up for a few days at Easter, I wonder if Tom means to include Anzac day in that, at least that thought will give the Sydney Boys something to think about. Please give our best wishes to all.

Yours faithfully,

Jim English and family

DUD TAPPER, S.A. writes:—

Dear Colin,

We are slowly settling down after the Xmas break. Audrey and self departed on a camping, touring trip. Almost made Taraworth before the hot weather caught us so we about turned and went South to Mt. Gambler and returned to Adelaide via Princess Highway. Saw quite a lot of Max and Grace Davis at Horsham, both going and coming, they organised a scenic tour of the Granipians, which was particularly interesting to us. We were away nearly three weeks and had a ball.

My friend Jack Watkins has sailed to Sydney and will not be returning, after an island cruise he intends to stay in Sydney. His ambition is a larger boat and do charter work. He has sold his share of the factory and semi retired.

Keith Dignum rang me the other night, he is well and boasts that he makes the best home brew in

S.A. I have to admit it is good. I haven't seen Bert Backe lately, but know for certain his firm is three times bigger so he must be kept busy. Haven't seen Bob Williamson for ages, I have an idea he has given up water skiing.

The building industry still flourishes with a shortage of Brick layers so I still have a job.

Regards to self and Joy from us all.

Dud Tapper.

TOM SNOWDEN, 112 Makina St., Nandabundah, Canberra, A.C.T., 2604 writes:—

Dear Col and Boys,

Thought it about time that I dropped you another few lines. Firstly my wife and myself would like to take this opportunity of wishing Jack and Delys the very best of everything during their married life, it certainly was very pleasant news for us.

By reading February's "Courier", things appear to be carrying on as usual with the majority of your correspondents. This is the same in our case here at the above address, although we have a bit of a problem with my wife's arthritis. Had a few days visit from the English family last November, then on visiting the Club a couple of days before Xmas met Ron Dook, he was celebrating with a few quiet beers as he had become a Grandfather for the first time, we ended up spending a couple of hours with Ron and his wife as well as the other grandparents.

Had a few weeks holiday in January but we did not venture as far as Adelaide as it was very hot in these parts during that particular time. After leaving Canberra we motored to Griffith and spent a couple of days with Roy and Joyce Martin, they are both over in Tasmania. Whilst in Griffith we ventured out to see Alf Hodge and family, on their property a few miles out of town. They have quite a nice place where they are, but no doubt Alf has done a lot of hard work on the place to make it what it is. On leaving Griffith we made our next stop Bendigo, where we spent two enjoyable days at the

Curran establishment, I might add that Kevin has one of the best places I know for spending a day when it is 106 degrees in the sun. No doubt Kevin and his good wife are well thought of in this area, as for Kevin after 25 years, very little difference except like the rest of us getting a bit older.

Had ten days in Geelong and whilst there eventually found "Baldy" Baldwin who seems to be enjoying good health and is in high spirits. He is at the Belmont High School now, I also called on Alf Harper, he does not live far from where "Baldy" lives.

It is here that I must apologise to the "Boys" in Melbourne for not calling on them but I only had time for one day in Melbourne and that was to visit my brother at Nunawadding, Albury and Gundagai. I must add that all the time we were away (except for the time we were in Geelong) the temperature was over the century mark, most uncomfortable for travelling. Also we never saw one patch of green grass, except for the irrigation area around Griffith. At the moment, however, the countryside is a real picture as over the past three weeks we have had quite a bit of rain which has eased the drought conditions for the time being. Ran into Jim Fenwick at the "Canberra Show" last week-end, he looks in tip-top condition, still out working at the "Tracking station".

Re the Victorian Safari, it seems quite a reasonable itinerary and well within the limits of everyone proposing to make the trip, at the moment we are definite starters and hope to be seeing all the old faces again.

Maybe heading for Sydney for the Easter break, so no doubt will be seeing a few of the boys.

Wellgood folks as I am getting writers cramp, I had better draw this scrawl to a finish. Trusting you can read this scribble and that is finds everyone feeling A1.

from,

Tom Snowden and family.

PETER BARDEN of 6GN Radio Station and ABGW Channel 6 TV Station, Geraldton, writes:—

"Sun City", Geraldton continue to attract attention from the powers-that-be. State Cabinet has met at Geraldton and I was able to obtain quite a number of excellent news items, including a couple that made the National News from Sydney. One of these was from a double-red-diamond type, Mines Minister Don May, concerning the opening of three lead mines in the Murchison River area and the export of lead-concentrates to Japan. The carrying out of this important portfolio is obviously agreeing with our Don because he is looking really well. You may have seen my TV story on the ABC Station in Perth, regarding a unique event—members of the State cabinet had lunch at the Geraldton Regional Prison and enjoyed lobster dishes and other delicacies prepared by the prisoners. This well-preserved and well maintained stone building was built in 1887 as the Victoria District Hospital.

Some of you will also have seen my TV story about the opening of our Maritime Museum, by Premier John Tonkin. This museum features relics from several Dutch ships which went to their doom in the Geraldton area as far back as 1629. It was my delight in 1963 to give to the world the story that the 1629 wreck of the "Batavia" had been found at the Abrolhos Islands.

Tom Foster and his wife have returned to the Geraldton area where they have set up a Branch of their stock-feed manufacturing company. Their other establishment is at Glen Forrest in the metropolitan area. Tom is looking in the pink of condition.

Eric and Margaret Weller are back in the North-West. Eric was associated with the erection of 24 houses at Karatha, four at Roebourne and two at Onslow. He is as fit as ever and sends his kind regards to all the boys. Eric's son, Tony is in his fourth year at University, having won a State Education Scholarship and a Teacher's Training bursarie. As Tony is planning to major in

English, it looks as though the West Australian Education Department is going to have a valuable addition to its staff in the not to distant future.

And now here is some valuable information for the 2/2 Commando Association Address Book. Turn to page 1 and write in Neil Brady's address as C/- Sunshiners Caravan Park, Point Moore, Geraldton, 6530. I have just found out that Neil is now caretaker of this Caravan Park, so don't hesitate to look him up when any of you are visiting "Sun City" He recently had a week or so in the Geraldton Regional Hospital where he was visited by Eric Weller.

Well, I must be away now, as duty calls. Best wishes to you all.

Peter Barden.

TO THE COURIER, 12 Hackett St., Greenmount.

Dear friends of the unit,

This is just a short note to say many, many thanks to every one in general for all your kind deeds, phone calls, visits to Bill in hospital prayers and kind thoughts for Bill.

I've always thought the 2/2 gang were a terrific band of folks, but after the past 4 months they're the tops and I'm mighty proud to be one of them. God bless you all and take this note as an omen to all mail I've had, as there aren't enough hours in the day to answer every one individually.

Bill's recovery is a miracle and he has worked so hard at it, as every one expected he would, given the chance.

He still can't talk but boy, how he gets the message over by gesture. He walks with the aid of a quad stick, feeds, dresses and undresses himself unaided. Thin as a rake, but still my Bill. On his behalf I thank each and every one of you again and wish Sandy Wares and committee all the best for their term of office and especially thank Elsie and Sandy Wares for most successful and happy evening last Saturday. It was terrific and I'm very sorry for the folks who couldn't make it. In closing, you will be pleased to know I can have Bill home for weekends now and he may be home in six to eight months for good.

Yours sincerely,

Jess Epps.

CHARLIE MILLS, of 27 Anne St., Southport, writes:—
Dear Members,

I have been meaning to write for some time, but as we do not see many of the members there is not much news. I am writing this before I go to work; the curse of us drinking class. I slipped over to Surfers a few weeks ago and had a glass or two with Bruce McLaren.

I have nothing much to write about so thought I would tell you a bit about the Associated Minerals Co. where I work, we produce Rutile, Zircon, Ilmenite, Monazite and Garnet. The Southport Ilmenite is chrome coated and unsaleable so except for a small amount used in sand blasting it is dumped, but the Ilmenite from Gladstone and West Australia has a very big market.

Monazite is used as a raw material for the manufacture of polishing powders, lighter flints, mischmetal, carbon arcs, colour T.V. Tubes, glasses, gas-mantels, magnesium-thorium alloys and fuels for nuclear reactors.

The garnet is used for abrasive papers and sand blasting.

Some 10 years ago the Southport Branch of A.M.A. was bought by Consolidated Gold Fields Group and now Stradleroke Island, Cudgen and many other places up and down the coast are owned by Associated Minerals Consolidated.

Mineral Sands and Its Uses

Mineral Sands: Most economic minerals are extracted from hard rock mined from underground or open pits. However, some deposits are found in coastal beaches and in the dunes which constituted the beaches of years ago. The chief minerals in such locations are ilmenite, rutile, zircon, and monazite (though some of these are also extracted from hard deposits) and they are generally called beach and minerals or mineral sands. As a result of their high specific gravity, economic concentrations have been formed by the natural action of waves, tides and winds.

These minerals provide the same materials for many industrial products. For example titanium metal for supersonic aircraft, titanium pigment for paints and mischmetal for lighter flints.

Although known for many years, it was only in the mid 1930, that these

minerals started to be extracted from beach sands on a commercial basis, particularly along the New South Wales and Queensland coasts. Australia now provides about 90 per cent of the free world's metals, some 75 per cent of its zircon, in the region of 22 per cent of it ilmenite and about 40 per cent of its monazite. The principal deposits of rutile and zircon are found on the east coast, while W.A. is a major producer of both ilmenite and monazite. Deposits of these minerals (mainly ilmenite) are also worked in the U.S.A., India, Ceylon, Malaysia and Brazil. But the chief ilmenite sources are from hard rock mining in Norway and North America.

Mineral Sands and the Groups.

The group has a controlling interest in Associated Mineral Consolidated the largest producer of rutile and zircon in the world, some ilmenite and monazite are yielded as by-products. Its operations approximately 500 miles along the Australian East coast from Wyong, just north of Sydney to Maeton Island, north of Brisbane. These results, at the present in the annual recovery of about 100,000 tons each of both rutile and zircon.

Gold Fields strengthened its position as a leading supplier of titanium raw materials by acquiring a majority holding in Western Titanium N.L. in 1969. This Company is Australia's largest ilmenite producer, its operation being carried out in the coastal area some 130 miles south of Perth. Plant capacity is 300,000 tons a year. In addition rutile, zircon, monazite and other mineral sands are also produced in Western Titanium has been prominent in the development of synthetic rutile, which is one of the factors likely to influence this company future products. This is explained in the section of this issue.

Extraction and processing.

A.M.C. exploits mineral deposits some of which contain less than half a ton of heavy minerals in every 100 tons of sand. Suction dredges are generally used for these operations which float in man made ponds. The wet sand is pumped on to a floating concentrator plant where its heavy minerals are separated by gravity from the lighter grains of silica sand by spiral concentrators, sluch cones etc; the waist sand or tailing are returned to the rear of the dredge pond. In

1969 the company adopted a new dry mining technique in one area using a bucket wheel excavator to break up indurated or hard cemented seam of sand. It was the first time such a technique has been used by the Australian mineral sands mining industry. In this case, the sand is mined by the bucket wheel excavator working in dry excavation. It is fed to a mobile transfer unit for screening and mixing with water prior to pumping to the primary concentration unit.

Western Titanium has recently adopted a dry mixing technique using bulldozers and front end loaders to deliver mineral sands to the mobile receiver hoppers where the sand is mixed with water and pumped to the primary concentrator. Here separation of the heavy minerals is effected by gravity in the same way as at A.M.C.

After the primary treatment has been carried out in floating or land-based concentrator plants the concentrate is pumped, or transported by bucket to a permanent dry plant for further processing. First it is subjected to wet high intensity magnetic separation to extract most of the ilmenite, and then it is treated to remove the remaining silica sand which has no commercial value. After filtration and drying, high voltage electrostatic equipment is employed to separate the electrically conducting minerals (zircon and ilmenite from the non-conducting zircon and monazite). The magnetic minerals (ilmenite and monazite) are separated from the non-magnetic (rutile and zircon). Finally each of the products may undergo further concentration before being dispatched either in bulk or bags.

Western Titanium in addition is carrying out its own programme.

Markets:

Rutile: This reddish brown to black mineral is widely employed as a component of the flux coating for welding rod. However, its main application in industry is a source of titanium dioxide which which contributes about 96 per cent of the natural mineral. This is one of the whitest pigments known and is used in paint, paper and textiles due to its opacity and high reflection of light. It is also non-toxic. In addition, titanium metal is made from rutile and its alloys account for their use in air-craft,

deep diving vehicles and desalination and chemical plants. In medicine they are used for orthopaedic implants, for example hip joints.

Other uses of rutile are in the production of titanium carbide for cutting tools and dies, the manufacture of electronic equipment, fibreglass, and such yellow glazes for ceramics.

Rehabilitation:

Rehabilitation of mineral areas is an integral feature of present day mineral sands mining. As mixing operations proceed in an area, restoration work commences. The land is levelled and top soil reinstated where there is not top soil suitable, vegetation is planted. Research on different types of plants, trees, shrubs, planting and irrigation is carried out in nurseries and field tests. Prior to mining, many coastal areas were undergoing severe wind erosion: rehabilitation has converted those into recreational centres (including a golf course) and forests.

In the year ended 30/6/72 A.M.C. reinstated some 950 acres of land and planted 284,000 trees grown in the companies' four nurseries. A new plant nursery and research centre is planned near Wyong, which will result in still more efficient and effectual restoration.

The mineral sand producers in W.A. have recently come together to promote conservation and restoration and have jointly established a plant nursery for this purpose.

Zircon:

Zircon is pale yellow. It is widely used in the foundry trade, substantial savings resulting from the clean, fine finish on zircon faced moulds. It is employed extensively in the refractories industry for making crucibles and fire bricks and in the manufacture of ceramics. Zircon is the raw material for the production of the metal zirconium. This is almost entirely absorbed by the nuclear engineering industry where it is one of the materials in fuel elements and parts for reactors. The metal is also used in some photo-flash bulbs. Additionally, zirconium is employed as an alloying agent and zircon utilised as a rust inhibitor for paints.

Ilmenite:

This black mineral is the major raw material from which the white titanium dioxide pigment is manu-

factured. It contains about 50 per cent titanium dioxide, the remainder being oxides of iron which must be removed by the pigment producer.

The Future:

Demand for titanium raw materials (particularly for the production of titanium metal and titanium pigment) is increasing at a ratio comparable to most non-ferrous metals. The conventional process for making pigment from ilmenite results in considerable pollution problems. For this reason there has been a tendency for pigment producers to base their expansion plans on a more recently developed chloride process that originally needed rutile as a raw material, although ilmenite is used by one producer.

The future of the Australian mineral sands industry is likely to be influenced by three factors. Firstly, the discovery of new and economically recoverable deposits of rutile and ilmenite; secondly, the upgrading of the latter into a product comparable with natural rutile by removing its iron content and lastly how pigment production based on the chloride process develops.

Western Titanium, one of the pioneers in investigating the potentialities of upgrading ilmenite has developed its own process and operates a semi commercial plant with an annual capacity of 13,000 tons. The company is also carrying out research into improving both the process and product. A.M.C. is studying the application of various possible upgrading methods to its new own ilmenite reserves.

Recently, a new deposit of mineral sands has been discovered in W.A., some 160 miles north of Perth. And the Group is conducting extensive exploration programmes to locate further deposits in Australia.

Hoping you find this interesting Will close now. Wishing you all a Happy Xmas.

Charlie Mills and Family

ALLAN STEWART, 39 Longstaff St., Lynham, A.C.T., 2602:

I have received my Mammoth Raffle ticket and hope it is a great success. I will be a definite starter on Safari, but I am not sure whether any others of the family will be able to go. It should be quite a time if former safaris are any guide.

I was very shocked to hear of the passing of Russ Symonds. He and I went to Foster together, and more or less were in the same outfit from then on. It is sad to see the ranks thinning.

Earlier this week I attended a meeting of the A.C.T. and Regional Commando Association in the Queanbeyan R.S.L. We weren't quite as big as Billy McMahon's rally at the Leagues Club a few doors away, but we had more fun. There were about 35 present. Some I hadn't seen since Foster/Canungra. The only other 2£2nd member was Dan Daniels who was with "A" Troop in New Guinea. I am sending you his address as he has not been on the mailing list for years.

It is being suggested that this regional body charter a bus to Melbourne for the rally (Combined Companies) on next Anzac Day week. It clashes with Easter which makes it not so attractive if Mum and the kids have to stay home.

I will be in Sydney next week, and Melbourne the week after on duty, but will probably be hard pressed for time, as nowadays we do not stay overnight with flying time only a little over half an hour.

We have had some useful rain to make the gardens brighter up but could do with more.

The service side of things is starting to "hot up" with the usual rush in the dying stages of the present Parliament. Incidentally, I am doing work on the proposed development of the Jungle Training Centre at Canungra where some \$7 million will be spent in the next couple of years on present planning. A change from when we knew it.

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PROGRAMME FOR YEAR

- March:** 2/2nd Party at Dianella
- April:** Calcutt Trophy
Anzac Parade
- May:** Mixed Bowls
- June:** Mixed Bowls
- July:** Air Rifles
- August:** Mixed Bowls Final
- September:** 16th Sister Kate's outing, venue to
be arranged.
2/2nd Annual Dinner
Guest Speaker
Memorial Service
- October:** Country Convention
(Kalgoorlie) 6th-9th
- November:** Calcutt Trophy
Car Rally, 25th
- December:** Barbecue, arrange date
Calcutt Trophy, Presentation
- February** Mandurah, Picnic
Start Safari
- March** Ex Safari
- April** Annual General

Please cut this out and pin onto your Calender
for future reference.