



2/2 COMMANDO Courier

Registered for transmission by post as a Periodical — Category "A"
Address All Association Correspondence to Box T1646, G.P.O. Perth, 6001
Vol. 31. No. 262 OCTOBER, 1976 Price 1c

COMING EVENTS

**OCTOBER 2nd — ANNUAL DINNER AT THE
IMPERIAL HOTEL AT 6.00 p.m.**

**OCTOBER 3rd — COMMEMORATION SERVICE AT
KINGS PARK AT 3.00 p.m.**

**NOVEMBER 2nd — FINAL OF CALCUTT TROPHY
COMPETITION**

The Association is always very proud of any member who receives some special honour. In this Edition we offer our hearty congratulations to our Comrade Frank Press who in the last Honours List was awarded the M.B.E. We take great pride in publishing the following extract from a Sydney R.S.L. Journal.

Mr. FRANK A. PRESS, M.B.E.

Mr. Frank Press, our Western Councillor, is congratulated on the award of the M.B.E.

He was a member of the 2/2 Australian Commando Squadron and saw service in Portuguese Timor. He was commissioned in the field and Mentioned in Despatches for his distinguished service in Timor. He continued his service with the 2/2 both in Australia and New Guinea.

On his discharge from the Army in 1945 he joined the R.S.L. and has since given continuous support in various appointments within the League. In 1960 he was elected President of the Western District Council of Sub-branches and was re-elected each year until 1965 when he was elected to the position of Western District Councillor.

W.A. MONTHLY MEETINGS

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING, HELD AT ANZAC HOUSE, ON TUESDAY, JULY 20, 1976

The President: Mr. J. Carey declared the Meeting open at 8.15 p.m.

Present: J. Carey, R. McDonald, P. Hancock, R. Dhu, R. Darrington.

Apologies: L. Bagley, A. Wares, G. Fletcher, R. Neuzerling, C. Varian, D. Fullarton.

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday, 15th June, 1976, were read and confirmed on the motion of R. McDonald; seconded by R. Dhu.

Treasurer's Report: Mr. P. Hancock presented the following statement of accounts as at 20th July, 1976:—

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Balance brought forward: | \$632.86. |
| Payments | 165.00 |
| Balance as at 20th July, 1976 | \$467.86 |

Financial report was received and accounts passed for payment on the motion of R. Dhu; seconded R. Darrington.

Correspondence: Inward from Queensland Commando News, Mick Derlin, The 2/4th, Paddy Kenneally, Clarrie Turner, Ross McLean, M.P., Peter Borden. Moved P. Hancock; seconded R. McDonald that inward correspondence be received.

Honour Avenue — Kings Park: R. Dhu reported that five plaques for fallen members in Cheverton, Malley, Marriott, Mitchell and Smeaton, had been replaced. Area was in reasonably good condition. Mr. Dhu said steps were underway to lengthen the pole arm of the commemorative sign board at the western end of the avenue.

July Meeting: Attendance of 14 was encouraging and the Pool Night had proved popular.

August Meeting: This would be in the form of a social get-together at the Anzac Club to farewell those members going on the Safari.

Annual Re-union: This item to be brought up for discussion at the August Meeting.

Courier: Mr. Hancock said that it had cost the Association \$1357 so far this year for publication and

distribution of the Courier. It was obvious that costs would increase as time went by. It was resolved to discuss this matter in full at a later meeting when more members were present.

Safari: It was reported that the members attending from Western Australia had fallen away to 12.

Progressive Dinner: This had been well advertised and an attendance of 25-30 was expected.

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

GENERAL MEETING, 3rd AUGUST

This meeting took the form of a send off to the Safari travellers and about thirty members and their wives assembled to wish them well. A very enjoyable time was had by all and a very nice supper was supplied by the staff at Anzac Club. The monthly general meetings when the ladies are allowed along are becoming more popular and it is really most gratifying to the Committee to see the ladies take an interest. The President gave a toast and wished everyone participating all the best and he had no doubt that N.S.W. would give them a most enjoyable time.

SICK PARADE

A number of our members have been hospitalised lately and owing to the Committee not having known about it, we were unable to have visited them in hospital or it has been too late and when someone has gone to visit, the patient has been discharged. It would be greatly appreciated if any member knows of any member or his wife who are in hospital would they kindly RING 76 4304 and Elsie and I will pay them a visit and thus show them that they are not forgotten—Editor.

Jack Hasson has been discharged and his ankle is still in plaster.

Fred Napier has had another spell in Hollywood and he was discharged on Friday, 6th August.

Pat Campbell has been in St. John of God, Belmont for a fortnight and then transferred to Royal

Perth. Very sorry Pat that I received the information that you were in Sir Charles Gairdner and I tried to locate you but finally caught up with you at RPH.

Wilf Marsh has been in hospital for major surgery and from reports is now discharged and progressing very well.

Gerry Maley has been in Hollywood and underwent an operation and is now home and progressing slowly.

Curly Bowden has had another spell in hospital and underwent surgery for another plastic hip joint and last report is that he is progressing satisfactorily.

Since his return from the Safari Len Bagley has been in hospital for a thorough check-up and a blood transfusion. Len was very sick whilst in Sydney and the doctor at Katoomba Hospital wanted him to remain there and have a check-up. Possibly the trouble is a duodenal ulcer.

Whilst on my way back from the Safari I called at Gibson to see Pat Campbell who had just returned from hospital after undergoing surgery on the spine. Although a bit tired and sore after the journey from Perth she says that she is a lot better.

To those people we wish them all our best wishes for speedy recoveries.

DONATIONS

The President wishes to thank the following for donations towards the publishing of the Courier:—

P. Campbell, D. Stevens.
G. Strickland, J. Hartley.

W.A. NEWS

About That Progressive Dinner

Well Mates, that Progressive Dinner Party was really something. On August 21st forty-four people gathered first at Maisie and Harry Holder's place for drinks, hors d'oeuvres and entrees, and as soon as we loosened up a bit the fun really started. Jess Epps and Maisie Holder provided the delicious food and it was a very gay party that moved to the Wares' places and enjoyed a sit-

down in comfort main meal. Dot Maley later provided a gorgeous array of unusual desserts along with coffee, at their home and the evening closed with everyone replete, happy and contented. To all our hostesses the President, Jack Carey gave a very big "thank you". From what we heard, this outing was so successful that there might be a repeat performance sometime, so keep watching for it — it was really fun!

RIVERVALE

Sorry we haven't been able to make the meetings lately, George works every second week on afternoon shift. We formed the Carlisle-Lathlain Bowling Club 12 months ago, so needless to say our weekends are spent bowling. George played Pennants last season and his team won Gold 4 Section, he is a very keen bowler. Hope this cheque will help funds in some small way and you never know we may see you all before too long. Regards to all.

George & Colleen Strickland

The President and Committee thank you George for the Donation towards the publishing of the Courier and Association Funds.

GERALDTON

It's my pleasure to report a visit to Sun City Geraldton by another Executive member of the Double Red Diamond Association, Vice-President Doug Fullarton of 13 Riverview Road, East Victoria Park. I tried to get a few of the boys together so that we could have a few noggins with Doug at the very conveniently situated Victoria Hotel (only two doors from my A.B.C. office). I left a message at the Separation Point Caravan Park where Doug and his wife were staying but apparently they left Geraldton earlier than expected because he did not turn up at the Hotel. Tom Foster and Eric Smyth were away at the time but Nip Cunningham and Eric Weller and also Bruss Fagg of Northampton turned up and it enabled us to have a bit of a chin wag and a noggin or two (not for Eric, of course, because he's still a teetotaler). They send their kind regards,

Doug, and were sorry to miss seeing you as a group (I think you had a few beers with Nip at the Mercantile Club where he works). Doug also had a few drinks with Bruss Fagg of Northampton on his way to North-West Cape.

Eric Weller is a supervisor for a Geraldton building company, Chester & Son, and is currently associated with the construction of more than 40 State Housing Commission homes in the outer Geraldton areas of Waggrakine and Rangeway. Eric's son Tony and wife Gratz are enjoying a 12 months' holiday in Europe during leave of absence from his job as a schoolteacher at the Hills High School in the Kalamunda area.

Geraldton is currently the mecca for thousands of visitors on the occasion of the 18th Sunshine Festival and it was the pleasure of my better half, Joan, and myself to again judge the floats in the street parade. The best float overall was a masterpiece — a house made from cabbage leaves and other vegies, and which even emitted smoke from the chimney. The Fruit & Vegetable Supply certainly deserved the \$40 prize. We gave the most original

prize to the Surf Life Saving Club for a float resembling the stranded Tiwanese boat "Fu Long Eleven", which has been the subject of an abundance of government red tape. The best decorated float was a Harem entered by Wright's Fashion Salon (in which the Sultan was the envy of us all as he was surrounded by a bevy of veiled beauties).

Bruss Fagg of Northampton and Yours Truly recently had a good chin wag and a couple (?) of noggins of the amber fluid at the R.S.L. Headquarters at Geraldton, Birdwood House, where we had a combined celebration between Geraldton and Northampton Sub-Branched, to mark Geraldton's 13th win in the Collett Cup competition for the outstanding rural Sub-Branch; the Geraldton Auxiliary's 14th win in the Country Cup competition; and Northampton's third consecutive win in the Geraldton Shield competition for the outstanding rural Sub-Branch with fewer than 100 members.

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

Peter Barden

New South Wales News

YAGOONA

I expect by the time this arrives you will have heard the sad news of John Darge's death. He died on the morning of Thursday 15/7/76, and was buried on the 17/7/76 at Botany Cemetery. Our sympathy goes out to his wife Joan, and children Bruce, Robert and Joanne in their sad loss. Jack bore a long, painful illness, with courage, patience and cheerfulness. I knew Jack for over 34 years. He was a man of infinite kindness, always thoughtful of other people's feelings, and in this hurly-burly world of ours, his very gentleness set him apart. MAY HE REST IN PEACE.

UNIT MEMBERS AND THEIR WIVES paying their last respects to Jack were, Ian and Ede Luby, Bill and Coral Coker, Bob and Joyce Smith (down from Newcastle), Mick Devlin, Jack Hartley, Bill Hoy, Ron

Hilliard, Bill Bennett, Merv Jones, Tom Martin, Jack Keenahan, Allan Addison and Paddy Kenneally. Illness prevented Jim English from attending and Mick Mannix was away in Dubbo.

Will not be long now before the Safari and looking forward to seeing our interstate visitors and friends once again. Hope all have an enjoyable, trouble free holiday. Nora sends her best wishes to Helen Poynton and Jean Morgan and is very sorry that they are not making the trip this time.

Presently working at Wollongong, there was supposed to be two weeks work but owing to rain it has turned out to be six weeks already. It means that it has taken me six weeks to earn what I should have had in two. Unfortunately volume of work done, not time spent on job is the renumerating factor. My volume being slowly whittled

away, as the years of the Lord wear me down, pity they don't wear down that impatient and volatile temper of mine. After all the years and buffetings in the university of hard knocks one would think it would mellow, but no, as I wither that bloody temper of mine stays evergreen, getting me into as much strife as ever it did in the days of my youth. Ah, well it is going to stay with me till I die. Here's wishing it many, many more years of life.

Will close now and wish all our members everywhere the best of health and happiness, good night and God Bless.

Paddy Kenneally

KINGSGROVE

I am having great difficulty in finding the right words to put in this letter for there is so much I want to say and I don't know where to begin or how to put them together.

Thank you for the beautiful tribute you paid to John in the Courier,

the children and I will cherish this as it is indeed a true portrait of their Gentle Dad. Thank you all for the beautiful flowers and the warm and sympathetic comforting messages. Believe me I appreciated each one, for each Unit member was a very special friend to John. Now comes the hardest part, how can I adequately thank the group of men who unknowingly gave me strength to walk proudly between them as they formed the Guard of Honour for John. They were truly magnificent — but as I walked between them I had a sudden impulse to say "Well let's have a meeting, there are a lot of us here and we need this extra meeting with the Safari so close". For this is what John would have said as his whole purpose was that the Safari be a success.

The respect, sorrow and compassion of these men I could actually feel and the strength this gave me was immeasurable.

Thank you gentlemen and your wives.

Sincerely — Joan Darge

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NEWS

DARWIN

On my way North to take up my appointment to the Northern Territory, I naturally called in to visit the War Cemetery at Adelaide River. As you will see by the enclosed snaps that the cemetery is situated in a beautiful and well kept spot. You will also note that this cemetery is the resting place of our mates killed on Timor, and no doubt for those of you who have not seen the cemetery you will view these pictures with a certain amount of satisfaction and pride.

Also on a recent visit to Catherine my memories were revived of those arduous days when we set up camp in the area prior to the Japanese entry into the war.

I also had fond memories when I viewed the old railway bridge over the river and remembered how Mick Calcutt and I used to sit under it and knock off a couple of bottles of beer, which Mick had obtained from a little store which sported a kero refrigerator. We had a daily

ration of two bottles from the proprietor of the store as the refrigerator space only accommodated four bottles at a time. Come to think of it, I wonder who used to get the other two.

Best wishes to all.

Ron Dook

YALUNDA FLAT

About time I got around to getting a few lines off to the Courier, I used to try and get one away at least once per annum but have fallen down badly the last 12 months or so.

You may get this in time to wish all the members heading off on the Safari a good time and safe travelling. The organisers are to be congratulated on their effort over the years arranging all the various reunions, helping to maintain the bonds formed years ago.

I see very little of any of the lads, see more of Litch than the others, he is only 450 miles away. Some of

the Timor Veterans may be interested to know that the Editor of our local paper is an ex-Timor man. Phil Wynne. I believe he was in the rearguard party.

Local news centres around the seasonal conditions, which is the same over a wide area this year, shortage of rain, luckily we are much better off than most of South

Australia having received enough to get the crops out of the ground. Am looking for some moisture now as we would like the feed to improve as we have a few mares due to foal in the next few weeks.

Find enclosed a cheque towards the funds and Courier.

Regards to all the lads.

Cheers — Shorty Stevens

RANDOM HARVEST

ACROSS THE CONTINENT — and ELSEWHERE

Once upon a time there was a road that went from Norseman to Ceduna right across the Nullarbor Plain. Now this road was very rough and bumpy and sometimes people got stuck in the road and had to be helped out. This made the road a Big Adventure and people who went in their cars across the bumpy road were very proud of themselves and used to boast about it. Then one day a Fairy Godmother called Federal Government waved a wand and all the bumps smoothed out and people could drive their cars and not get stuck up to their axles in the pot holes. This meant that the Big Adventure was gone and people had nothing to boast about when they crossed the plain — BUT — I tell you what — it's a helluva lot more comfortable.

Scotty and I had dithered about so much about going to the Safari with a will we — won't we attitude, that at the last when our plans were made we did not tell anyone till the very last that we were even going as far as Adelaide. Scotty had been dying to try out the newly sealed road across and we had planned to spend a week in Sydney at the Safari and also take in a Pacific Cruise to Auckland, Fiji and Noumea, so on the day after the Progressive Dinner we set off. Last time we crossed the Nullarbor by car there were 500 miles of rough stuff now all is smooth sailing (or I should say driving). The road on the S.A. side is really marvellous — very wide and straight and the ever changing appearance of the plain is fascinating. The road is re-routed in places and now after passing

Eucla you travel for some miles alongside the Southern Ocean with breathtaking panoramas from the top of steep cliffs. The road now also misses Ivy Tanks but that is one loss that nobody minds as Ivy Tanks used to be the absolute end as far as toilet facilities were concerned.

Mind you there were some things we missed. One was the way people would chummily stop you to warn you of a "really bad bit four miles further on", and the comradely call of "You all right mate?" if you paused anywhere for a drink. Also at Nundroo, S.A. there used to be a funny little stop over place where you could get a cabin (very clean) for the night. Nundroo was a sort of open wild life sanctuary and it was part of the deal to awake in the morning with a friendly camel's head stuck through your window, regarding you curiously. Now, alas! Nundroo sports a modern new Motel and all the animals are gone and with it some of the character of the old road has gone too. However, the new beautiful road will no doubt build up its own character places and certainly tourism has received a mighty jolt in the arm from the sealing of this wonderful Highway.

We stayed at a friend's home in Adelaide for three days and while there Scotty contacted some of the Association members. Some of them met us and took us to the St. Leonards Hotel where we had dinner and a great night out. Those concerned (and their wives) were Dud Tapper, Bob Williamson, Keith Dignum, Bert Bache. We had a marvellous evening and say a Big Thank You to you all for your hospitality. Unfortunately Alan Hollow was not able to join us as he has been having considerable

arthritis problems, so we called to see him the next morning. Alan seemed rather glad to see us and we spent a couple of hours chatting and reminiscing.

That afternoon we flew to Sydney and were delighted to be met by Joan Darge and son Bruce (who knew we were coming) and Edith and Alan Luby (whom we thought didn't). I am not going to write up about the Safari as that is going to be a special feature in the next issue. Suffice it to say that, as always, it was a wonderful rapturous lump-in-the-throat re-union.

At the end of the first week Scotty and I boarded the Arcadia for our Fijian cruise. I have never sailed before and so I thought all the pitching and tossing we experienced on our way to Auckland was the normal way a ship behaved at sea. I did notice that the dining rooms were strangely empty at meal times and then I discovered that we were having the roughest crossing they had had for years and that half the passengers were having treatment for sea sicknesses. (Memo: Have discovered I am a wonderful sailor — not even a flutter in the tummy). It was so rough we could not call in at the Bay of Islands, which was disappointing but we did get extra time in Auckland. As our daughter-in-law Barbara and our granddaughter Cameron are holidaying there at the moment this suited us very well as we spent all our time with them. We went on a bus tour north of Auckland and it certainly is a very wonderful and beautiful country, reminding us very much of parts of Scotland. As we steamed north from Auckland we gradually found ourselves in Pacific waters of incredible tropical blue and with such smoothness that it was easy to see how the sea earned its name. By the time we reached Suva we were in sunrocks (not the men of course) and it was very hot. Suva itself is rather dirty and a bit on the nose but once we moved out of the city into the lush green of the mountains it was truly beautiful. I forgot to mention the Fijian Band that played us into the wharf with really beautiful music. One of the highlights was a visit to a village where we sampled food wrapped in banana leaves and cooked in a native oven in the ground. The

Fijians are a happy, child-like race, who laugh a lot, and tell jokes about themselves — like the chief mentioning that when the first missionaries came to Fiji, they were the contents wrapped in banana leaves in the ovens. This sent them all off into gales of laughter but some of us didn't feel so good. We also received a certificate for drinking the native ceremonial drink kava (or yagona as they call it). We felt we deserved that certificate when you see how it's made. As the strains of music drifted faintly across the water we steamed out of Suva in the twilight and sailed overnight to Lautoka on the opposite side of the island of Viti Savu. Lautoka was smaller and prettier than Suva. We hired a taxi and drove out to Nandi where we did a little (very little shopping) and saw some of the country side. Our driver was an Indian called Ram and he proved to be a very good and informative guide. That evening, eight of us went to the Trade Winds Hotel for dinner and the floor show where we delighted in the Hula dancing and the sword and fire dances of the men.

Two days steaming south west took us to the French owned island of Noumea. We had been told that the population, all French speaking, were remote and unco-operative but we did not find this so. I loved Noumea — it is so clean and absolutely beautiful. (It is also frightfully expensive, so we did no shopping there!). Six of us found a friendly little pub where we spent a happy hour (or two) and later hired a cab to take us sight seeing. Luckily I speak a little French, so the driver Robert (pronounced Rob-aire) and I had lots of fun trying to communicate. He showed us many lovely spots including the De Gauule monument and the beautiful little village of St. Louis, where we visited one of the earliest churches built by the missionaries on the island.

We found ship life absolutely fascinating. The entertainments provided were fantastic, with something provided for every taste and age group all day, (and all night) long. Probably inspired by the hula dancing I watched in Lautoka, I even managed to win the hula dancing competition at the Island Night Ball. Not too bad for an old girl don't you

think! Food and service were wonderful too, on this P. & O. ship and it was with real regret that we found ourselves once more in Sydney. I can thoroughly recommend this line to anyone wanting a fun holiday.

We had a pleasant dinner with Edie and Alan Luby that night and then flew back to Adelaide the next day and started on our journey back West again. Once I am on my way home I like to go quickly but we did stop at Norseman to visit Association Member Jackie Spencer who seemed really delighted that we looked him up. Jack looks well, but he lives alone so anyone visiting there, don't forget to look him up. Jack wishes to be remembered to all his old friends. He also regaled me with a few reminiscences which I am holding in reserve with a view to possible blackmail later on. We also visited Peter and Pat Campbell at their farm at Gibson. Pat had only arrived back home the night before after nearly four months in hospital being treated for back problems. Pat ended by having an

operation and is now on the way to better health. We hope it will be permanent. Peter and Pat were anxious for news of the Safari as they were so disappointed to have missed it.

Well home again now, and in spite of all the fun, new sights and old friends, believe me, people —
"THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE IT."

Elsie Wares

QUOTES TO REMEMBER

One should always live like a duck: calm and unruffled on the surface, but paddle like hell underneath.

Automation is a technological process that does all the work while you just sit there. When you were younger, this was called "MOTHER".

That person proves his worth who can make us want to listen when he is with us and think when he is gone.

P.S. : Please read Courier as soon as it arrives and not two weeks later as again you may miss out on good social events. — EDITOR
