QUIN RESCUE SEQUEL — RESCUERS REWARDED

Further to the events reported in our June Bulletin, the Illawarra Mercury of 4-5-1857 carried a lengthy report of a public meeting called "to allow a public expression of the approval of the conduct of Mr. Benjamin Rixon and his companions in the late search for Charles Quin, and of the many services rendered by Mr. Rixon."

After fully reporting a large number of incredibly long and flowery speeches, the Mercury concluded its report with these words:-

"The meeting was the most spirited and respectable we have had the pleasure to see in the district, and evinced the deep interest which is felt in the movement."

"A subscription list was opened and about £70 was subscribed by those present. Mr. Quin put his name down for £10."

"Lists have been forwarded to the different portions of the district, and placed in the hands of parties for the purpose of canvassing the inhabitants for their subscriptions. From the very creditable beginning we have every reason to hope for an ending which will do honor to the district, and Mr. Rixon and his companions."

A further Illawarra Mercury report on 7th September 1857 closes this episode:-

"Presentation of the Rixon Testimonial"

"The proceedings connected with this movement were brought to a close on Monday last, at the Brighton Hotel, by the presentation of the testimonial to Mr. Rixon and his companions in the successful search for Charles Quin. It had been previously arranged by the Committee that the Warden, W. W. Jenkins, Esq., should preside on this occasion, but the indisposition of that gentleman rendered this impossible. On the motion of Dr. Davison, J.P., seconded by Mr. G. Waring, the chair was taken by C. T. Smith, Esq., C.C.L. Letters were then read from the Warden and D. W. Irving, Esq., J.P., lamenting their inability to attend owing to indisposition in both cases.

"The Chairman having stated briefly the objects of the meeting, expressed the pleasure it gave him to take a part in the proceedings that day, more especially to have the honor of presenting the testimonial to Mr. Rixon. He had known Mr. Rixon for many years and had always found him ready and willing to give his services when required, more especially in tracking either man or beast when lost in the bush. The endurance, the courage, the skill, displayed by Mr. Rixon in the search for Quin were almost unparalleled and beyond all praise he was capable of expressing. The esti-
tion in which the public held that act was unmistakeably evidenced by the subscription that had been raised to recognise it in a tangible form. He then stated that all the subscriptions had not yet been handed in: the good people of Appin, who had contributed about fourteen pounds, preferring to present it to Mr. Rixon themselves. This however would make no difference to him (Rixon) as that sum, added to the amount he would receive to-day and others which would be yet paid in, would make the total up to the sum named on the salver, £100. He then presented Mr. Rixon in the name of the subscribers, a silver salver, and eighty-one sovereigns. The salver bore the following inscription:-

PRESENTED
TO
BENJAMIN RIXON
WITH A PURSE OF
ONE HUNDRED SOVEREIGNS
AT
A PUBLIC MEETING HELD AT WOLLONGONG, ON THE
31ST AUGUST, 1857
IN TESTIMONY OF THE RESPECT IN WHICH
HE IS UNIVERSALLY HELD
BY THE INHABITANTS OF THE ILLAWARRA
AND NEIGHBORING DISTRICTS.
DISINTERESTED, RESOLUTE, AND SAGACIOUS,
HE WAS EVER FOUND READY TO AID
IN THE PRESERVATION OF LIFE AND PROPERTY,
AND IN THE DETECTION OF CRIME.
HIS SEARCH FOR & DISCOVERY OF
CHARLES QUIN
AFTER A PROTRACTED PERIOD OF NINE DAYS IN THE WILDS OF THE
ILLAWARRA MOUNTAIN RANGE
(ACCOMPANIED BY SEVERAL HUMANE INDIVIDUALS)
BY WHICH AN AGED MAN WAS SAVED FROM STARVATION
AND DEATH,
FULLY EVINCING HIS PHILANTROPY.

"Mr. Rixon rose and said he had not words to thank them for their kindness towards him. He might be a good bushman but he was no speaker. He would say, however, that all he had done, in reference to the discovery of Quin, as well as on other occasions, had been done with a simple desire to serve his fellow men. He
would not forget their kindness in presenting this splendid testimonial to him. He could assure them he would carefully preserve it while he lived, and when he was dead and gone it would be retained in his family, not only as a token of the deeds of their father, but in remembrance of the gratitude of the public. From his heart he again thanked them.

"The companions of Mr. Rixon in the search for Quin then received the portions of the subscription allotted to them by the Committee, as follows:—John Brazier and Thomas Sanderson (constable) £10 each; James Rixon, John Swepson, and Thomas Barrett, £5 each. The first two, Brazier and Sanderson, were out with Rixon during the whole period of the search, and the others but a portion of the latter time; hence the difference in the amount awarded to them."

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REFUGEE REMEMBERS WOLLONGONG (Continued)

As promised in the July issue, the newspaper report (from an un-named English provincial paper, December 1940) and the Queen’s personal message to Mr. and Mrs. T. Straker (1943) are published below:

"Delightful Home" for Blyth Baby Seavac in Australia

News from Australia tells of the safe arrival of Rita Patterson, eight years old “baby” member of Blyth’s first party of seavacs, at the home of her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Straker at Woodlawn Avenue, Wollongong, near Sydney.

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Patterson, of Coburg Street, Rita was “claimed” by her Australian relatives as soon as the announcement of the overseas evacuation scheme was made. Mr. and Mrs. Straker went to Australia 13 years ago and have paid one visit home since. That was five years ago.

"Australia Deeply Touched"

They found their little charge at the Newtown School in Sydney on the day the liner arrived.

A description of the scenes at this collecting depot states:

"Little Scotties in kilts danced their folk dances to while away the waiting period, then chatted away so brightly, and as relatives appeared and recognition by foster parent and evacuee took place there were many touching scenes. Few adult eyes were without tears, the great heart of Australia was deeply touched.

"Mr. and Mrs. Straker found their little girl as bright as the rest."

"Very kindly the Rev. Mr. Sutton, who was present and learned that Mr. and Mrs. Straker were from Wollongong, stood by till they