



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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Editorial

AN EDITOR LOOKS BACK

This Editorial should have really been written for the last issue because if you look at the number on the May issue you will see that it is Volume 21, No. 200. This is somewhat of a landmark in the history of the Association. The fact that for 21 years we have been able to consistently issue a newsheet and in that time 200 publications have been made is quite a minor achievement.

Like all associations that commenced after either World War I or World War II we had our moments of trepidation and there was always the overriding threat that we might fold up our tents like the Arabs and quietly fade away. Thanks to a lot of work by a few people this has not proved to be the case and if anything the Association is probably stronger today than ever before.

Your paper started out to be a newsletter duplicated and forwarded initially to W.A. members and the coverage was quickly spread to all States. Owing to increasing postal costs it was decided to get the paper printed and accepted by the P.M.G. as a periodical. Since that time 150 issues have been made.

On looking back it has not always been easy to keep the publication going. News has not flowed in with any great consistency but by one means or another a "Courier" of sorts has been forwarded to members and it can be said that readers have been informed of the doings of their mates and of the Association in quite a reasonable manner.

Many are the projects that have been started and announced through our columns. Some brought to fruition, others to wither on the vine. We have had our successes and our failures. Perhaps initially our fight for subsistence in Timor was our best rallying point. This was one of the real successes. The 1956 Olympic Re-Union in Melbourne was another outstanding success—admittedly most by our Eastern States members. Then the Commonwealth Games Re-Union in Perth was something that all will remember for a long, long time as this was so wonderfully supported from all over Australia and helped to fill the columns of the "Courier" for many months.

One feature which has struggled less fortunately is "Historically Yours!" This started out to be an effort by the Editor to get the Unit History written by everyone who took part in the various campaigns, but unfortunately it got bogged down for lack of assistance and was rapidly becoming a one man story of the whole Unit's campaigns. It is sincerely hoped that some time in the future that this feature will be resurrected and written in the manner of its initial conception.

News from members over the years has been either a feast or a famine. After a sweep letters have been in abundance but from then on it has been a case of drought except for those really loyal correspondents from various areas. Still, probably, we do as well as can be

expected considering the distance which separates us and the needs and necessities of everyday toil.

With 200 issues behind us what of the future?

I think it can be fairly said that if we can weather 21 years successfully there should be no reason for problems in the future. Probably for the good of the journal a change of Editorship would be advantageous and bring more variety to its columns but once again it is difficult to find the right person with the time and persistence to grind out a "Courier" with some regularity.

It is sincerely hoped that our publishers over the years, "The Swan

Express", can continue to carry the task as in this facet we have been most fortunate. It will be a terrible day if Bill Epps ever declares "bar- lies" as he is the true work horse of this paper.

In conclusion let me say it has been 21 years and 200 copies of pleasure and I hope that when the time comes to write of our 300th copy that we can be as optimistic of the future as we are today.

Thanks to everyone who has assisted in keeping the paper rolling.

Good "Couriers" for the future should be our motto.

—C. D. DOIG, Hon. Editor.

West Australian Whisperings

Association Activities

JUNE MEETING

A further stage in the Calcutt Memorial Trophy was conducted on 6th June at Anzac House Basement.

A fair to reasonable roll up took place and events were keenly contested. The evenings are very popular with those who attend.

At present Bill Epps is leading the field with 13 points but is very pressed by quite a few who could, with a good score at the next meet in November, snatch the lead from Bill.

Events conducted resulted as follows:—

Bowls: Epps 4, Smith 3, Geere 2, Varian 1.

Table Tennis: Kirkwood 4, Parry 3, Denman 2, McDonald 1.

Darts: Epps 4, Hancock 3, Darrington 2, Smith 1.

Quoits: Hancock 4, Hasson 3, Bagley 2, Varian 1.

Rifle Shoot: Geere 4, McDonald 3, Parry 2, Dhu 1.

Progress Points: Epps 13, Smith 8, McDonald 8, Hancock 7, Kirkwood 6, Fullarton 6, Geere 6, Bagley 5, Parry 5, Poynton 4, Carey 4, Sproxton 3, Hasson 3, Dhu 2, Varian 2, Denman 2, Darrington 2, Ritchie 1.

LADIES' NIGHT

The Ladies' Night for the year was held on Saturday, 20th May, at Anzac House Basement. This was

shockingly attended. It makes one furiously wonder whether these nights are worthwhile. Certainly those who attend have a marvellous time but there are so few having this good time.

At one stage during the early portion of the evening it appeared that only a few members of the Committee and their respective wives would be there. Thank God an influx of our Fremantle members came and boosted numbers to reasonable proportions.

There was ample refreshments available and the supper provided by the ladies was out of this world. The music supplied by Syd Dixon and partner was all that could be desired and as mentioned earlier those present had a really wonderful bit of fun.

Perhaps members who do not attend these evenings have some idea of the type of entertainment that they and their wives would enjoy. If so your Committee would give their eye teeth to know about it, so write in and let us know before we programme another Ladies' Night.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The main business meeting of the year, the A.G.M., was held at Anzac House Basement on Tuesday, 4th July.

We have come to expect over the years a poor attendance at these meetings, the reason for which nobody seems to be able to put a

finger upon, but this one hit the all time low. Possibly the fact that there had not been a "Courier" issued immediately prior has some effect but this meeting has been held at the same venue on the same night for years and members should be fully aware of the fact that it is to be held.

A miserable attendance of only 14 members attended and there was not an election for any one office, all were filled unopposed.

Perhaps this indicates members are satisfied with the way the Association is conducted and functioning but it is a sorry reflection on members who do not seem to be interested in hearing how things are going.

Reports presented to the meeting are printed elsewhere in this issue so far be it for me to elaborate at this stage.

Ron Kirkwood was accorded the honour of being elected a Life Member and Bill Epps made a most eugolistic speech in making the proposal. He was adequately supported by Col Doig.

The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows: President, Jack Hasson; Vice President, Bill Epps; Secretary, Ron Kirkwood; Treasurer, Arthur Smith; Auditor, Dick Geere; Editor, Col Doig; Committee, Messrs. Len Bagley, Jack Carey, Joe Poynton, Harry Sproxton, Rod Dhu, Geo Fletcher, John Burridge; Warden of Kings Park, Fred Napier.

Country Vice Presidents: Goldfields, Jack Sheahan; Northern, Peter Barden; Midlands, Charlie Sadler; Great Southern, Alf Hillman; South Coastal, Clarrie Turner; South West, Terry Paul.

General business took the form mainly of a discussion on the Timor Memorial and an outline of all that had happened since the project started, was given by Ron Kirkwood and John Burridge. Members seemed to be more than satisfied with what had been accomplished.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Genlemen,

It is again my privilege to present to you my report.

We have had, I feel, a very full and satisfying year, and I wish to thank you all for the support given me, especially to by Committeemen

—without their hard work we would not get very far.

As you all know, a sub-committee was formed this year to plan a memorial for the island of Timor. This sub-committee has done a wonderful job and it is to be hoped that in the near future we will have something definite to tell you.

Another big project in hand is the Safari to be held April 1968. The response to this is most gratifying and it looks like being a grand trip, thanks to our Organiser, Col Doig, who has put a lot of hard work and time into it.

The Calcutt Trophy brought forth great hidden talents from many members. It was very pleasing to see such interest taken and I certainly hope it is the same for many years to come.

Many country members were present at our Annual Dinner. It is good to see these faces at this reunion and also at the Commemoration Service the following day. In this year we had two of these services. The last one was on 19th February, which was the 25th anniversary of the first action of the Unit. This was very well attended and a very pleasant evening was enjoyed by a wonderful crowd at a barbecue that followed, held at Mick and Jean Holland's home. Many thanks to them for making their home available.

The weather this year did not favour us for the car rally and so the attendance was not up to the last one. Those who were present voted it a very good day.

Our Country Convention held at the long weekend in November, was well attended and we were very well looked after by our hosts at Wongan Hills.

"Thank You" to all members who have attended the busy bees held in our Honour Avenue. It is a credit to you all. Special thanks to country members who have donated fertilizer for this project.

We now all have the new Address Book, so should you shift please let us know and keep the book up to date and then you will all be able to receive your "Courier" regularly. Our Vice President, Bill Epps, did an excellent job with the Address Book—without him and our Editor, Col Doig, the Unit would not be constantly kept in touch.

Many members are now wearing

tie clips with the Red Double Diamond on them. Col Hodson is making these and it is to be hoped all members will one day be wearing them.

Thank you all for the support given to the Sweep. This was a great success and as you all know helps to keep us on the right side of the ledger.

The Ladies' Night was not well attended. It is very disappointing to have to report this—perhaps some other form of entertainment would be better. Still those present really enjoyed themselves.

Bowls night with the Maimed and Limbless saw a very good roll up. Unfortunately I was indisposed and so unable to enjoy the wonderful evening had by all present.

Our wreath was laid on the Memorial at the Dawn Service on Anzac Day and the roll up for the parade was excellent. After many years we have had to find a new place for our get-together after the Anzac Day March and all present voted the West Australian Rowing Club a very suitable venue.

A most enjoyable film evening was held in May. Slides from a trip East by Harry Sproton and movie films taken by Joe Poynton's wife Helen. Helen has taken our Commemoration Service and also close-ups of everyone at the barbecue—these are to go East on the Safari, so those who can't make the trip and were present at these events will be with the crowd in spirit.

And so, gentlemen, to close my report, I wish all the incoming office bearers the very best and once again "Thank you all".

—J. HASSON.

EDITOR'S REPORT

Mr. President and Members,

It is once again my pleasing duty to submit the Editor's Report for the year just completed.

Am afraid that the report cannot be very encouraging to members. For one reason or another the number of "Couriers" printed was well below the usual number. It can only be stated that a reasonable amount of news has gone out to members.

During the year only eight "Couriers" were issued. The months of September, December, January and April were omitted. The total cost was \$182.96 and we recovered as

usual \$40 from the Victorian Branch as their share of the cost. Also as usual other Eastern Staters, by their participation in the sweep conducted by the W.A. Branch and also by their generous donations, more than cover the cost of participation in the circulation of the paper.

The present circulation of the "Courier" is of the following order: W.A. 183, N.S.W. 114, Vic. 100, Qld. 28, S.A. 15, Tas. 6, A.C.T. 6, U.K. 3, N.G. 2, N.T. 1. This is as full a coverage as can be expected.

It can be said that the news content of the paper has given members a good coverage of all the events conducted by the Association and has kept them abreast of what is to occur. Letters from members have been reasonably satisfactory but as usual your Editor would like a lot more as this is the very best type of news to bring to members. Once again I would like to impress upon members to try and write more than once per year so that their friends will know just what they are doing.

During the year we completed the printing of all those copies of "Faita Fiblets" supplied by Jim Barnes and this enabled the feature "Historically Yours" to continue.

A start has been made of diaries supplied by Ron Trengrove, of New South Wales, and it is hoped this will bring pleasure to readers.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all my correspondents who have provided so much readable material. This applies most particularly to the regulars who have stood by for so many years. Thanks to Harry Botterill, of Victoria; Jack Hartley, Ron Trengrove and Paddy Kenneally, in N.S.W.; Peter Mantle, in Qld.; and of course that terrifically consistent country correspondent from Geraldton, W.A., Peter Barden. I hope these, and many others, will keep up the good work in the future.

My extra special thanks to Bill and Jess Epps for all the work they put into the wrapping and despatch of the "Courier", and the way Bill has kept that mailing list up to date. The amount of work involved in these tasks has to be seen to be appreciated.

Once again my thanks to our publishers. "The Swan Express", of Midland Year in, year out, they have done a magnificent job in printing our paper and we would be in a

sorry plight without their great efforts.

By now all members will have received their reprint of the Address Book as this was despatched with the May "Courier". This is an absolute personal effort by Bill Epps who compiled the addresses, had the book printed and then attended to the despatch. If ever anyone is entitled to a great big vote of thanks it is Bill Epps as this Address Book is most invaluable and probably unique in Australia.

With the new innovation of Postcode by the P.M.G. Dept. the Association may be faced with the task of renewing all despatch stencils in the following 12 months and this will require a considerable effort by quite a few people. If you have a change of address please get it in immediately as this could save a considerable amount of duplication of stencils.

I am afraid my efforts as Editor over the past few years have deteriorated and possibly the time has arrived to find a more competent person to fill the Editor's chair. This has been brought about by a series of things, some personal, others probably just sheer stagnation of ideas. Should you desire to utilise my services in the future to the best of my limited ability I would be pleased to carry on.

—C. D. DOIG.

REPORT ON GREAT SAFARI

Since the last Annual General Meeting a great deal has been accomplished regarding the inter-State Re-Union to be known as the Great Safari.

A sub-committee comprising J. Hasson, H. Sproton, L. Bagley and C. Doig, was formed and they have met on several occasions. After much work it was decided that an itinerary based on a finish at Sydney on Anzac Day was decided upon and approved by Inter-State Branches in Victoria and New South Wales.

This itinerary was worked out very thoroughly to embrace both travel by rail and road and was despatched in March, 1967, to all members and it also included a Questionnaire to provide members with an easy method of stating their intention to participate.

The response to date by W.A. members has been terrific and the major portion appear to wish to travel by

rail. At the time of this report 18 couples had signed their intention of travelling by train, and five single entities also will go by rail. Only three couples and one single have decided on road. This gives a total of 27 members plus 21 wives who have made a decision to date. There are at least a further eight couples who have not re-advised of their intention and who could be accepted as highly probable starters.

I think you will agree that this is a good result and will make for a terrific Re-union.

Members will continue to be advised of progress.

—C. D. DOIG, Organiser.

Committee Comment

A really good roll up of Committee members attended the June meeting of the Committee. It is good for your Editor to be able to record that something of the Association is well attended. In fact the attendance at Committee meetings this year has been nothing short of marvellous.

The Treasurer was able to give the meeting a preview of the Association balance sheet which showed finances in a better than healthy state since the recent sweep. The overall cash position of the Branch was of the order of \$2,300 and reflected great credit on the manner in which the affairs of the Association had been managed by the Committee and the Treasurer.

A letter was received via Senator Wheeldon for the Minister for Interior, Mr. Anthony, in which he set out a number of reasons (mostly invalid) for not being able to give his support to our Timor Memorial project. It was decided to await the representations of Mr. Paul Hasluck to the Commonwealth Treasurer before doing anything further.

Considerable discussion took place on the matter of the Annual Re-Union. Unfortunately our usual venue at Anzac House Basement was not available this year and it has been left to the President and Secretary to arrange a suitable venue and caterers.

It was decided that the outgoing Committee and their wives have a night out together and this was arranged to take place at the Ocean Beach Hotel on Saturday, 1st July, and was to be at their own expense.

(This night out has now taken

place and as an initial run was really good and it looks like being a certainty for future years.)

There was considerable pleasure in being able to welcome Eric Smyth who was down from Geraldton to this Committee meeting and he was most enthusiastic in the way affairs are run, especially the economy in producing the "Courier".

THE GREAT SAFARI

After much planning and dashing back and forth we are now in a position to say that this is now an absolute certainty. The itinerary as laid down in the circular issued in March 1967, will be adhered to and many members have now indicated their intention of being present. The dead line for those who intend to travel by rail (and they appear to be the vast majority from W.A.) will have to be the 31st July, 1967, to enable forward bookings to be made.

The following have already signified their intention of making the Safari from W.A., all things being equal:

Rail: J. Carey, L. Bagley and wife, C. Doig, W. Drage and wife, J. Hasson and wife, A. Hillman and wife, H. Holder and wife, M. Holland and wife, R. Kirkwood and wife, R. McDonald, Mick Morgan and wife, F. Napier and wife, Terry Paull, Joe Poynton and wife, F. Sparkman and wife, Ron Strigg, Harry Sproton and wife, Clarrie Turner and wife, Tom Crouch, Jack Denman and wife, Jack Fowler and wife, H. James and wife, Tony Bowers and wife, Les Dingle and wife, A. Letts and wife.

Road: Vince Swann and wife, Eric Weller and wife, Eric Smyth and wife, Jim McLaughlin, Gerry Green and wife and daughter.

There will definitely be others but you will see this is a very handsome response and makes the Safari an absolute moral to succeed as we know that our Eastern States hosts will rally round in big numbers.

If you have any intention of joining in please let your Organiser, Col Doig, know immediately, especially if you are travelling by train.

The Safari will get considerable publicity in the following issues of the "Courier" so keep an eye peeled so you will be abreast of all that is to happen.

**Address All Your Correspondence:
Box T1646, G.P.O. Perth**

Personalities

It is with extreme regret that we have to advise of the death of the wife of Joe Brand. This happened very suddenly and was a terrific blow to Joe. They had been very happy and since the sale of the farm at Ogilvie they had lived at a nice new home at Wembley Downs. Our most sincere sympathy Joe, and we only hope time will heal the inevitable breach.

Bill Drage was in Perth to see Joe Brand and he and Jack Denman and "Yours Truly" got together for a most pleasant evening. Bill had also been in trouble and suffered a couple of heart attacks and said he said good-day to St. Peter but was rejected as not yet eligible for heavenly membership. Bill has lost considerable weight and looks the better for it. Off the beer but still allowed a little of other spirits. Bill a definite starter for the Safari.

Nice to contact Eric Smyth again. Always a bundle of good cheer. Seems to really enjoy life. Had a few beers with him and a natter over this, that and the other. Eric is another Safari starter.

Tony Bowers and wife Carol and "Yours Truly" had a great night blowing down one another's ears until 2 a.m. in the morning the other week. After much fast talking have them both on my Safari list. Tony was telling me the Geo Timms have bought a property at Gnowangerup and may be moving from Kojonup to this property in the near future.

Don Turton I see quite frequently just about every time he visits the city. He is at present most interested in trying to obtain a block at Enneaba for son Ian. It is a big lottery as there are 620 applicants for 69 blocks so he is keeping his fingers and toes crossed. He is most wrapped up in the future of this area.

Harry Holder is another of our members who has had a trifle of strife lately and had a minor heart attack. Harry says he is now well and truly fit but taking things quietly.

Saw Bert Burges briefly at a funeral recently. He was down to see Joe Brand in his troubles. Bert looked very fit and says things were nice down his way.

"Yours Truly", Jack and Norma Hasson and son Ken who was home on leave from the Navy, paid a rapid

visit to Clarrie and Grace Turner and enjoyed their hospitality for a few hours. Clarrie is now operating a newly installed Herring Bone Milking Shed and says it is taking quite a bit of the hard graft out of the milking game.

My spies tell me Peter Campbell was in town but I didn't manage to catch up with him.

Jack Denman has been on a holiday to his old home stamping ground of Kalgoorlie doing a bit of fossicking and brought back quite a few specimens which he and his son had collected. Reckons it was a wonderful holiday for both him and his boy. Jack met up with a bundle of old school mates for the first time for donkeys ages.

Understand Bill Hollis has sold his property at Herne Hill and is now domiciled at Swan View. Haven't been in touch with Bill for ages. What about a visit, mate?

Arthur Smith has had a bit of trouble with the old tummy and is at best on the strictest of diets and this does not include a drink of beer. Hope it clears up quickly Arthur.

You should all be in receipt of your Address Books by now. Unfortunately quite a few have been arranged because of crook addresses. If you have not received an Address Book please communicate with us giving your correct address. The following are missing, believed moved, Victoria: W. J. Mountford, P. Stafford, L. Couster,

Historically Yours

"MY EARLY DAYS ON TIMOR"

(By NX42322, R. TRENGROVE, 75 L.A.D., Later 2/2nd Ind. Coy.)

(Continued from Last Issue)

There was also one of the Anti Tank trucks on the drome and another ute and the driver of the truck made for the ute for some reason and dived underneath same. His truck was riddled with bullets and had he stopped in the seat he would have been killed. The Japs must have decided to give the ute the go by. Things now had brightened up. We were evidently going to see a lot more of these raids. Singapore had gone, of course, and we realised that we would have a very poor show as we numbered only about 1,500 strong with the addition in the last week before the Japs visited us in earnest, by an Ac Ac Battery of Tommies from Java, all veterans of Dunkirk and London, Coventry, Liverpool blitzes, and although I had the pleasure of only meeting one of them the 40th boys who later got through, said: "Let us hear anyone say the Tommies haven't got what it takes and God help them if we are around."

The Tommies only had Bofors and when the Japs did come they nearly cried because the Japs would not come low enough—but more about that when I come to it.

I, at this time of the first raid, was having a good time driving the ute between Champalong and Koe-pang and Tenaure and Penfoie, and very seldom saw Baboe except late in the evenings and mornings, either driving Laurie or Capt. Neave about.

We had moved half our outfit up to Champalong, consisting of the trailer and one ute and Cpl. Norm Hullick, Ron Mears, and Col McKenzie. They were stationed up in the scrub about a mile and a half above Champalong. Laurie Ross, Capt. Neave, Harry Leriston and myself at Champalong in the shop and house. Capt. Neave had commandeered for our use as a store room for our tyres and spare parts. We lived on the verandah.

I suppose I was one of the first Privates, if not the first on the island, to have a personal servant. By first I mean Australians to have a batman who used to clean and wash the mud off my boots before I got up and take my clothes down to be washed every day and do my ironing for which he received the colossal sum of one Gulden or Guilder Dutch paper money. He was so good that Capt. Neave wanted him but I said no as

he had no idea how to treat his own batman, but I put forward a scheme whereby we four could have him but at the same time I retained full control and they were to pay him one guilder each pay. I don't remember his name and now as I write I remember that I was not the first to have a personal boy, but mine seemed more likely to stick than the others had done for their other masters. I felt mighty important having someone working for me and giving the orders, but I had to check on all my things now and again. He wouldn't steal but seemed to believe that what was good for me was just as useful to him and he had a habit of always using my comb and soap and towel but after several threats he stopped all that and I took him wherever I could in the ute.

On Feb. 14, Capt. Neave told me that we would probably be going on a salvage expedition with the Air Force up near Atamboea to salvage some eight Kitty Hawks that had overshot the drome in a rainstorm and had force landed near the coast some 26 odd miles from Atamboea.

I will go back a bit here. Raids, after the first, were becoming quite common although no bombers had yet put in an appearance and there had been a huge naval battle in the Macassar Straits or so the wireless said, and the Japs had taken Ambon where the 2/21st Bttn. had put up such a magnificent show against terrific odds. The Dutch forces also made a good show there.

Kitty Hawks and Douglas Dive Bombers also were landing at Penfoei and going on to Java and all ports north as the saying goes, but none were left for us. We only had Lockheed Hudson bombers that were so helpless against a pack of Zeroes, but we lost more by accidents than we did by enemy fire. They needed replacements bad but were unprocurable.

I was driving a lot between Baboe and Champalong and it was one evening not dark yet, when I got a surprise. I had taken Col. down from Champalong to Baboe for the night and was racing back. I always raced on that trip as it was good fun and imagined I was some crack race driver. I was cracked alright, but no track driver. I had a couple of natives acting as look-outs and was tearing along about 45 or 50 when they thumped heavily on

the roof of the cabin and pointed up and yelling. I immediately shot off under the trees and jammed my brakes on and got out to see in the sky some 20 odd planes and thought, "Well, Ron me boy, she's on," but after waiting some 10 minutes concluded they were more Kittys or Yanks in some planes making for ports north and so it was. I continued merrily on my way.

Eric, who was driving the breakdown with Joe Dean as his partner, was being worked night and day as the A.S.C. and trucks belonging to the Bttn. were carting stores and bombs day and night and not a few were having accidents and breakdowns. Things were definitely getting more and more hectic.

I remember one time Capt. Neave and I were just rolling out of Penfoei over the new concrete bridge when some Aussies were running towards us and pointing upwards. I jammed the brake on but did not throw the clutch in as I reckoned this would stall the engine. It did and acted as a brake. Reggie piled out his side and I tumbled out mine and jumped over the side of the low concrete parapet into the mud of the creek. Luckily I jumped where it was hard. Not so our Reggie Neave—mud up over his ankles. He swore. I laughed. Unfortunately there was no cover for the truck and at the time we had had no inclination where or how close the planes were and in any case we didn't stop to think of the truck. I thought of Mrs. Tren-grove's youngest son first.

At this moment up came the Battalion Provost Sgt. who didn't like our ute because we were always exceeding the speed limit, exceedingly so may I add, and he had never been able to catch us red handed. He said: "Who's the driver of this truck?"

I said: "I am."

He said: "Well take it away under cover."

I said: "If you think so much of the so and so truck, you shift it."

He said: "Get it out of here!"

"Not me," I said, although I thought the planes were rather long in appearing.

Anyway after an argument with Capt. Neave our gallant Sgt. Provost succeeded in getting me to shift it, which I did about 50 yards away underneath a solitary tree that was

about as thick as my arm and all its branches on top at about 15 feet.

I came back and laughed but by then we had decided it was a false alarm so I raced back, got the ute and picked Reggie up and we scooted along the road that ran around the edge of the drome at about 70 mile per hour because a truck on that road stood out like a mountain on a mole hill. Reggie was acting spotter, a job which we took in turns.

I could go on telling about such things and lots of other times we had some scares and laughs but that is not my purpose in writing this diary.

To get back to Feb. 14. We packed our gear, Norm, Capt. Neave and I, and in the morning, Sunday, 15th, we set off with the Air Force 30 cwt. truck, the ute belonging to the Fortress Sigs, with a Lt. and two Sigs.

I'm afraid I must go back again to tell about the time Capt. Neave and I went to the Pashen Grande (hotel) in Koepong for lunch and while having lunch which in those place consists of rice and more rice with a large flat dish some two feet in diameter with small dishes which fit inside the large dish like small squares, and in these small dishes there are delicacies of all descriptions. Little fish about the size of sardines very highly flavoured and salty, and other dishes containing things that I know nothing about. Some looked good and some didn't. However I tried most of them including the chicken, goat, and deer meat, then we had coffee such as one never has had before in Australia. Thick, strong and one makes it very sweet.

While there three chaps came to lunch who belonged or were employed by the Qantas or Imperial Airways. They were Co-Pilot, Engineer I think, and one passenger off the flying boat that was shot down off the south coast of Timor by seven Jap Zeroes. It appears that they were flying along at a reasonable altitude when they sighted these seven Japs who were diving or about to dive on the Qantas plane, the pilot of which immediately put the big ship into a dive but of course he was not in the hunt getting her to water level before they got close enough to shoot. Well, the Japs opened up on them wounding and probably killing some of the passengers. The

pilot of the Qantas boat managed to get the big ship onto the water where she fell in halves cut by machine gun bullets. The co-pilot was thrown clean through the glass above him out into the water. One of the passengers who had been hit in the knee was lucky enough to grab a mail bag which kept him afloat for a long time and enabled him to eventually get to shore. He incidentally could not swim. The co-pilot had never swum more than 200 yards in his life and the other passenger who was a manager of a plantation in Borneo had not been much further than a quarter of a mile in his life, and a rough estimate was that they were not more than a mile and a half from land, in shark infested waters. Also when they got closer to land there was a good chance of them meeting up with crocodiles or alligators. Personally the difference between the two latter animals are not worth worrying about. I think they both have a taste for human beings. Well they reached shore by devious means, and now I am not too certain whether four or three men escaped from the ship.

Unfortunately they landed on a strip of land that was divided from the mainland by a river and although the plantation manager who was English, by the way, could speak Malay, he could not entice the natives to come over with food because of the crocs that were in the river, so he had to swim over himself and get it. He sent a note by natives to Koepong and after about two days a launch came round and picked them up. The Dutch doctor who attended the chap with a wound in the knee, said that the immersion in salt water had saved his leg from infection and amputation.

The reason, I guess, why the Japs shot the flying boat down was because they had evidently found out that small arms and other supplies were being flown to Singapore in Imperial Airways ships. Unfortunately the one they attacked had only passengers aboard, all plantation managers from Borneo and a few other British possessions up that way, who had been on a visit to Sydney for a conference.

I forget the name of the flying boat

Now I will try and continue on with the trip to salvage the planes.

We went through Soe some two hours after setting out from Head-

quarters. By the by I had my breakfast that morning in the Officers' Mess—some contrast to our meals and mess—hotel fashion A La De Luxe waited on too. Must be marvellous to be one of the chosen few.

Soe was a beautiful town situated on a high mountain. The scenery we had already viewed was comparable to any I have seen in Australia. The view from Soe was a superb panoramic sight. One could see part of the Mena River which we had crossed at the base of the mountain by means of a long bridge some three quarters of a mile in length and known as the Mena River Bridge. Also we could see some lovely valleys and away out to sea and part of the coast.

We didn't stop long there. This was my second time there. I was to see it twice more but I didn't know about the second time then.

We passed on through various small native villages one not far from Soe the name of it I can't recall was later to become a prison camp for our boys.

After we had gone down the mountain the other side of Soe, if I remember correctly, some 5½ miles of descent, we came to a new concrete bridge over a gorge with sheer rock sides and from one side to the other about 100 feet across. This bridge was also later blown up and stopped the Japs for a month.

We stopped after we had crossed and the Air Force chappies took some snaps of this fine bridge which had only been completed some two months or so.

We moved off again with us taking the lead and racing ahead to arrange for lunch for 11 at Kafemananoe, about 50 mile from Soe. Capt. Neave was at the wheel and when he was at the wheel one needed all one's nerves together and under control to stand the strain. He nearly put us over an embankment. In fact the front wheels had dropped over but that's all. We managed to get her back on the road between the three of us. Norm got into a very bad temper and said some things about some drivers and their habits and where they should be. However, we arrived at Kafemananoe in good time and had lunch ready by the time the others arrived. We had a nice meal and it was here that I had my second glass of stout, or it was like stout. It was called Anker

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDED 2nd JUNE, 1967

RECEIPTS:		EXPENDITURE:	
	\$		\$
Funds as at 31/5/66:—		Re-Union	202.57
Commonwealth Savings Bank	1136.84	Less Receipts	101.00
Reserve Account	31.40		101.57
Bonds	1000.00	"Courier"	182.96
	2168.24	Less Receipts	40.00
			142.96
Sweep	615.00	Meetings	193.25
Less Expenses	166.94	Less Receipts	129.40
	448.06		63.85
Donations	256.30	Ladies' Night	87.00
Subscriptions	47.50	Less Receipts	59.00
Interest from Bank and Bonds, etc.	124.16		28.00
Donation, Mr. Calcutt	50.00	Anzac Day	151.09
Donation, City of Perth R.S.L. Sub-Branch	20.00	Less Receipts	145.00
Sale of Beer	11.00		6.09
		Car Rally	50.64
		Less Receipts	46.00
			4.64
		Wongan Convention	40.00
		Less Receipts	16.00
			24.00
		Children's Christmas Presents	66.95
		Less Receipts	6.50
			60.45
		Barbecue at Hollands	105.90
		Less Receipts	105.00
			90
		Tie Clips	16.00
		Less Sales	12.00
			4.00
		Kings Park	140.18
		Bowling Mat and Bowls	70.11
		Beer Cooling Outfit	29.24
		Address Book and Safari Circulars	88.38
		Cricket Match at Harvey, 1966	28.90
		Wreaths, etc.	46.32
		Administration	36.72
			876.31
		Funds as at 2/6/67:—	
		Commonwealth Savings Bank	1120.18
		Reserve Account	508.31
		Timor Memorial Account	20.46
		Bonds	600.00
			2248.95
	\$3,125.26		\$3,125.26

Donker. I first had some in Koe-pang with a Dutch Captain of an oil tanker who was very soon after blown up by Jap bombers up near Singapore. This Anker Donker was an excellent drink and I liked it.

After lunch we had a walk around the town. It was a pretty town in a valley. The Chinese owned all the shops and there were some very nice Dutch houses there. It was only a small population with a Dutch Administrator in charge, but the town houses and other buildings were spread well out. There were nice gardens on most properties with flowers as one sees in Australia.

We left there and went on our way to Atamboe which we reached about seven that night. We had a clean up at the Dutch Army Barracks and walked back up to the Pasher Grande for dinner which also was another excellent meal.

We met Capt. Van Sweetman and he said that everything was ready for us in the morning.

Norm and I slept together in one of the Dutch Sgts. rooms and we arose early in the morning with another meal at the Pasher Grande we set out with 11 saddle ponies and some pack horses with our tools and other gear aboard them and some 60 odd native porters who seemed to carry almost as much as the horses.

(To Be Continued)

Write to Your Editor:

Col Doig,
Box T1646,
G.P.O., PERTH.

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

When in Town

Make The
DON CLOTHING CO.
Your Rendezvous For Mercy

Meet Dave Ritchie and Say
Good-day

10% Your Way on All Purchases

Remember:
DON CLOTHING CO.
William Street, Perth

Heard This?

Professor: "If you start at a given point on a given figure and go all the way around it, what will you get?"

Freshman: "Slapped, sir."

* * *

An old man walking down the street, saw a small boy sitting on the kerb crying. He stopped and asked: "Little boy, what are you crying about?"

The little boy said: "I'm crying because I can't do what the big boys do."

So the old man sat down alongside him and cried too.

* * *

If a girl knows all the answers then she must have been out with some very questionable gentlemen.

* * *

Heard over the police wave length was the call of a prowler car: "We have a report on a nude female."

There was silence for an instant then quickly the dispatcher said: "Other cars—stay in your own districts, please."

* * *

A little whisk broom asked his ma where he'd come from.

"Well, son," she explained, "it all started when your pa and I swept together."

* * *

Many people feel about modern art as they do about a pigeon; they don't like it when it is over their heads.

* * *

The barber was shaving another customer when he paused to ask: "Well, sir, how do you like this new lather?"

"Fine," spluttered the customer. "You must have lunch with me some day."

* * *

Two Irish charwomen were discussing the H-bomb.

"Oh!" said Mrs. Muldoon, "what a terrible thing it is now, that Haych-bomb! Why it's liable to blow you all the way from here to maternity."

"Begorrah!" answered Mrs. O'Tool "and ye'd niver know who to blame!"

Random Harvest

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

Well, we've just experienced one of the happiest re-unions, as a result of an unexpected visit by Ralph Finkelstein, of Perth. Local Double Red Diamond types in Bill Drage, Eric Smyth, Nip Cunningham, and "Yours Truly" gathered at the Queens Hotel and reminisced with "Finkie" over a drink or two (?). Most of us had not seen Ralph since the war ended, so you can just imagine the great time we had together. He looked in the pink of condition and it was easy to recall that this was the Finkie who put us through the paces as far as P.T. was concerned and also proved his ability with the gloves from time to time.

Ralph has two teenage sons (Peter, 17, and Paul, 13). He smilingly commented: "The next one will be Mark" (You certainly look well Finkie, but we don't think you're that good!) Ralph says Peter is a particularly studious type who can't understand why Dad should want to watch such things as boxing and wrestling on T.V.

During our Geraldton gathering. Nip Cunningham of course was right amongst the discussion on boxing, it being recalled that he also could use himself in the hempen square.

Other names often mentioned during this particular discussion included Joe Poynton, "Plugger" Watson and Don Hudson.

Our friend Finky recalled an experience in New Guinea when an M.P. somehow got in his way when they were headed for a picture show. They saw the show and next day the M.Ps. were looking for the owner of a slouch hat which they said carried the name "Pinky". They had, of course, mistaken the letter "F" for a "P".

Finkie (and, in fact, all those present at the re-union) expressed their appreciation of the sterling efforts of Col Doig, Bill Epps and his wife, and others responsible for the publication of the "Courier".

We were all sorry Ralph could not have spent more time amongst us, and he in turn expressed sorrow at not seeing Irish Hopkins (who is working on the iron-ore deposits at Koolanooka and living in nearby Morawa).

Bill Drage was in good form, after 10 days in hospital, but has been advised to take it easy. If they are looking for someone to have a go at the world speed record I will recommend Drage (a bit over four hours from Perth to Geraldton is no effort for "Our Bill") Drage said he was delighted to have a noggin or two with Col Doig and Jack Denman during his latest visit to the city.

We are all so sorry to hear that Bruss Fagg is in Hollywood Hospital with his old leg trouble. As Bruss is property man for the Northampton Football Club, he'll be pleased to hear that the Green and Golds are now showing some very good form.

Eric Smyth recently had a trip to Roebourne on a prawn trawler and met Rip McMahon, who is dispensing the amber fluid at Onslow. He also met up with Alby Friend, who is with the Department of Primary Industry. Eric is still a keen member of the Geraldton Yacht Club, in which his daughter Erica is performing creditably in the Gwen-12 class.

We were all pleased to receive the new Address Book. I have been told that Bernie Giles, whose address is not in the book, is in the building trade at Port Hedland.

As far as "Yours Truly" is concerned, I now have to keep both eyes open at the footie matches because this year I'm a selector for the Great Northern League. We play the North Midland League. At Geraldton, on July 16, so if any visiting Double Red Diamond types are in town that day, I'll be pleased to meet them at the oval.

Kind regards to all the boys.

J. "Irish" HOPKINS, of 47 Valentine Street, Morawa, W.A., writes:—

Enclosed butts plus cash.
Will see you one day. Regards.

TONY ADAMS, of Quay Street, Rockhampton, writes:—

Raffle tickets to hand and butts returned with cheque to cover tickets and balance to help with "Courier" printing and distribution.

I wonder could you get the records altered? My initials are "T. B." not "T. T. B."

The enclosed cutting appeared in the local issue of "Vigilance". Do you know this chap Peters? I can

remember a Sapper Peters, is this him?

Looking forward to this time next year and the Safari get-together. Our questionnaire is enclosed. It will be great.

Have just had Paul home on holidays. He is doing very well and Judy will be home on April 25. We plan a trip to Cairns with her so hope to see the boys up that way.

Working like blazes to get things cleared up for holidays so must fly now.

Regards to all the boys and your good self.

R. C. FIELD, of "Manderley," 206 Hudson Parade, Taylors Point, writes:—

Enclosed please find butts and cheque. The "excess" can be credited to general funds.

Have been very interested in the progress of the big Safari, and am looking forward to the final details. I hope I shall be in Sydney when you all arrive and that there will be an opportunity for meeting old friends.

Meantime, all the best.

G. ISENHOOD, of 9 Eveleen Street, Cardiff, N.S.W., writes:—

Please find enclosed ticket butts and money order. Hoping your sweep is a great success.

Les still has writer's cramp.

GEO. STRICKLAND, 15 Dudley St., Rivervale, W.A., writes:—

Sorry we'll be unable to take part in the Great Safari but family commitments and my employment will not allow me to be away at this time of the year. Like quite a few others my annual holidays are taken at Christmas and I couldn't afford to have 4-5 weeks off again in April. Also it would mean employing a housekeeper for our four school age children and there again the D's and C's come into it.

Hoping the Safari is a great success and only wish I were participating.

JIM CULLEN, of R.M.B. 760, Aterlee, Kyogle, writes:—

Enclosed please find ticket butts and cash. Must apologise for being late, but have been snowed under with work and other commitments and completely forgot the raffle. If the butts are too late for the draw the cash may be claimed as a penalty

rate. As usual have taken the tickets myself—once removed from the cattle business, salesmanship is not my line.

These last weeks most of my spare time has been spent assisting in the campaign for the creation of a New State, the referendum for which was unfortunately defeated. Some solace comes from the fact that in the local electorate the "yes" vote won by 3 to 1. However, for the time being we remain part of N.S.W. Sections of the press state that the result is the death-knell of such movements, but our attitude is that this setback is the end of the beginning.

After several dry years in our area, the prospects seem bright for a good season coming up at last. If the trend continues may make that R.V. with old Sprocko before the deadline expires.

We're hoping that some of the pilgrims on the Safari eastward next year may find time to travel north from Sydney. Whether it is then or at any time we have room and a welcome for any ex-members or their families. Only half an hour off the Brisbane highway from Kyogle.

Best of success for the sweep and warmest regards to all of the crowd especially 9 Section. A few of which seem to have gone underground—too busy stacking the bank roll maybe.

It is a long time since news of Jack Wicks, Dick Burton, Sid McKinley, "Lick" Chalwell or Danny Cahill.

Regards to all.

RIP McMAHON, of Beadon Hotel, Onslow, W.A., writes:—

Forwarding money and sweep butts also money for subs. Hope the sweep is an outstanding success.

Joe and Helen Poynton dropped in one day and we knocked over a few. Joe looks well and is as big as the town bull and looks just as dangerous. Helen took some snaps while she was here and promised to send some up. So far no snaps.

"Ping" Anderson and his wife also dropped in and he also looks well. Could only have a talk as I was working.

Alby Friend drops in quite regularly as he is on the prawning run and as a Commonwealth Fishing Inspector he covers a fair amount of territory. Also looks well.

Saw Eric Smythe in the bar on Saturday and did not know him for

a while as it must be about 20 years since I sighted him. Had a little chat but as usual was working.

JOE TELL, Ward 7, R.G. Hospital, Concord, N.S.W., writes:—

I have sent my butts and money back to you early in April, I think about the 8th. I was admitted to hospital on the 11th. I have had two visits from Alfredo Dos Santos and his good wife. They are both champion people.

I watched the Anzac March on T.V. I saw all the boys go past, but what I don't understand is why I had a big hang over next day.

We are looking forward to seeing you boys next Anzac Day. Give my best wishes to all the boys.

The weather is a bit cold and wet today and there is nothing worse on the verandah of a hospital.

Well, good luck in the sweep.

R. (Dusty) STUDDY, of Commercial Hotel, Midland, writes:—

I have enclosed money for sweep plus fees.

I will be leaving for Wyndham on the 18th May. I could be away for 16 weeks or longer. It will all depend on what job I can get after the killing season is over.

I came in on Anzac Day after the march was over but could not find you. I had the book of tickets with me. I hope you receive the tickets in time if not put the dough to some other use. Cheerio.

GEO. HAMILTON-SMITH, of Denmark, W.A., writes:—

Please find enclosed cheque to cover cost of the sweep books you sent me. I have lost one book so please yourself how to arrange the draw. The cash over to go towards my fees as I think I'm away behind with subs.

A little news as to what I'm doing these days. Just before Christmas I took my long service from the Baron, Norm Thornton. Yes. 20 years he has had to put up with me and me with him. As a boss I don't think you would find a better bloke to work for anywhere.

For the last 2½ years my wife has taken over her father's grocery store here in Denmark. Her father had it out on lease to a chap who could not make a go of it. Since then she has built up quite a good little business (with my help of course, out the back).

With just the two of us in it, well

I guess I did not go back with Norm, and I can tell you it's harder work with Mum at the helm than working for Norm.

Well, I guess that's about all.

Norm and myself play a bit of golf at weekends and enjoy a beer or two. My two boys, Geordie and Lindsey, 11 and 12, are just about big enough to bounce the old man about a bit now.

Regards to everybody.

NORM THORNTON, of Box 81, Denmark, W.A., writes:—

Enclosed find tickets, cash and sub. All the best to yourself and the boys.

DAPHNE FRIEND, of 30 Halse Crescent, Melville Heights, W.A., writes:—

Please find enclosed butts and a cheque and hope they arrive in time for the draw. With my better half up north in the line of duty for the Dept. during the prawning season I've been left to cope with all these sort of things, but somehow seem to have lost track of how far into the month we are.

Albie has been away since beginning of March, in fact he has only been home six weeks since November. I'm beginning to think he volunteers in an effort to dodge the years catching up on him and the events they bring forth, like two grand daughters, Cheryl Lee to our son Daryl and his wife Margaret now all in Sydney, and Anne Marcia to our daughter Janet and her husband who is in the S.A.S. and soon off to Vietnam for eight to ten months.

By his letters Albie is having a great time in the warm climate and spends his time driving back and forth between Learmonth and Port Hedland calling into all ports where processing plants are and also has a break from driving by being aboard the freezer boats two or three days at a time.

He has met some of the boys from the Unit and enjoyed a drink and a yarn with them. He didn't give me their names so can't pass on who they were.

He gives me such glowing reports on his daily activities I am taking the chance of the school holiday break to fly up with our youngest and last school age daughter Kaye, to catch up on what he is doing and enjoy some of the sun and sight-seeing with him.

He is not due back until the end

of July or mid-August so is hoping he will be home for the Annual Re-Union.

We've had to miss out quite a few of the social events the Unit has held while he has been away and of course the Anzac Parade of which he has only missed three since demob in 1945.

He never had time to fill in the Safari Questionnaire before he left, but said to let you know we would not be able to make it. It is a bit hard trying to get the time off just when he needs it and as he has already had leave during a busy time for our trip to Singapore he thinks he might be pushing his luck to apply again.

Here's wishing the Unit a financial success through the sweep and as we're taken the two books ourselves maybe we will have some luck too.

J. RICE, 10 Keithleigh St., Kings Meadows, Launceston, Tas., writes:

I am enclosing sweep butts. Sorry to be late again. Time slips past very quickly these days.

The 2/40th Re-union is being held on Saturday night. It was postponed on account of the bush fires in Hobart.

My wife and I had a trip to Sydney at Easter time for a few days. I met Jack Sanson the other night. He was with us on Timor. We fought one or two battles as usual over a glass or two.

Hope to see you all in the near future.

W. F. BRYANT, of 319 Stanley Rd., Carina, S.E.7, Brisbane, writes:

Please find butts and money for the sweep. Sorry I can't send other cash for the "Courier" at the moment as in the house we are short at the moment, meaning no change. However when next writing I will send some then.

Hoping you and all over there are well. Regards to all.

E. HOFFMAN, of Pophying, via Kalgoorlie, W.A., writes:

Sorry about missing you all when down in Perth but one has little to say when your jaw has been wired up, let alone laughing or eating.

Please find cheque for the usual fees, etc.

Caught up with Steve Rogers, Jack Shen and Eric Thornander on my way over East. The Rogers has really gone mechanised. He doesn't

touch a loaf of bread nowadays and gets paid for them.

The Shen is not quite so but he doesn't bend his back to pick up the pennies. He gets paid.

The Thornander uses the modern means of advertising, the air, which takes one hour every day "you can always contact Eric Thornander at hotel so-and-so on such-and-such a day". He gets paid for that.

All I can say I am in the wrong bloody game.

The best to you all.

NORMA CROSSING, of 91 Swan St., Guildford, W.A., writes:

Sorry I am late with the tickets, but Dick is away at Wyndham. I hope it is a big success.

We are interested in going on the Safari by train—if we can find a Sergeant Major to mind the children.

TED LOUD, of Forests Dept., Pemberton, W.A., writes:

Sweep butts and money to cover, also a couple of dollars for subs. Hope the sweep to be a great success.

Have been pretty busy lately prior to shifting into my own place. Just waiting for the h.w.s. to be completed then I will be able to move in. Probably a couple of weeks.

It's been quite a while since I've been in the city. Not since I saw you last. However next time I'm down I will look you up.

CHARLIE KING, of Wilfred Road, Canning Vale, W.A., writes:

I trust I am not too late with the sweep tickets and money.

It was nice to see you and all the boys on Anzac Day. Had a jolly good afternoon.. All the best.

A. G. BRADY, Box 99, P.O. Donnybrook, W.A., writes:

Please find enclosed postal note payable on ticket butts enclosed.

Good luck for the Association.

CLARRIE TURNER, of "Killora Stud", Elgin, W.A., writes:

In a hell-of-a-hurry as per usual. Enclosed is butts and cheque for same.

Grace and I are both well, but if some Unit member has more rain than he needs it would be appreciated if they send it on.

Will try and make the Ladies' Night along with Marshall and Audrey if possible. No promises.

ALBERT MARTIN, of Ninth Ave., Inglewood, W.A., writes:

Herewith cheque to cover sweep butts. Difference to general funds. If too late for draw put the lot to funds. Also if I hit the jackpot put that to funds also if you can do it quietly.

EDDIE TIMMS, of 5 Arrowsmith St., Camp Hill, Brisbane, Qlds., writes:

Please find enclosed butts and cash. Sorry to be on the late side but have been in the north of the State. The only person I saw was Bulla Tait in Ayre.

ALF HODGE, of Farm 1325, Whiston, writes:

Enclosed you will find butts and tickets for your sweep, and I hope the Association will be the winner. Use the balance for the Association whatever way you care to.

I met Geoff Laidlaw in Griffith at Easter time and with Roy Martin we enjoyed a few beers at the Club.

I have just finished the rice harvest and had quite a good crop. The rice harvest on the whole this year promises to be a record harvest.

The weather continues hot and dry here, although it is nearly the end of April. We have had 40 points of rain here in the last six months. The dry area men are finding it hard to keep their stock alive. I am one of the more fortunate ones who have an irrigation farm, although if it doesn't rain in the catchment area we could have serious water restrictions.

I am hoping to see you along the route somewhere when the big Safari gets under way, although it is difficult to get away from the farm at that particular time, but I'll be trying.

Should you have a spare Address Book I would appreciate one. Without it I sometimes pass through a town not knowing that some of the chaps are living there.

My kind regards to yourself and all the chaps. Cheerio for now and all the best.

KEITH WILSON, 217 Beaconsfield St., Milperra, Sydney, writes:

As this is my very first letter to our marvellous little "Courier" I would like to send greetings to all fellow members wherever they may be. Also would you please alter the

number of my address to 217 Beaconsfield St.

Please find enclosed cheque and butts for sweep. I did need your reminder as I'm afraid I am also a member of the Procrastinators' Club.

I recently had the pleasure of playing cricket at Arncliffe and also was present at the Anzac Day march—my first for some time—and both days were most enjoyable.

Cheers for now mates and best wishes to all.

I promise it will not be another 20 years before writing again.

A. JAMIESON, Loomer St., Narambura, writes:

So sorry I had completely forgotten all about the tickets till I arrived back from Sydney last night. Had been on holidays for a fortnight. I am sending the tickets and cash and hoping they arrive in time for the drawing. The extra money left over please use for the "Courier".

LEW THOMPSON, of P.O. Warrnambool, W.A., writes:

I have enclosed butts and postal order. Put the rest in the fund.

The Great Safari 1968. I have misplaced the dashed thing. I have the itinerary to hand. If it is possible please put my name down, one rail traveller to boot. I reckon I will be able to do the trip. I'll do my best. Here's to you all.

FRANK SHARP, of 22 Quinn St., Dubbo, N.S.W., writes:

Please find enclosed cheque also butts of tickets for sweep in the Commando Gift.

Many thanks again for sending me the "Courier" each month as I do enjoy reading the activities of the Association also the news of the doings of the boys.

Don't forget if any members ever pass through this way to please contact me.

Please pass my regards and best wishes to all the W.A. boys, particularly any members of "B" Troop.

Hearty good wishes and am hoping to see you again one day in the near future during holidays.

JIM ENGLISH, of 11 Richards Ave., Peakhurst, N.S.W., writes:

Please find butts and money enclosed for raffle. I'm leaving it to the last minute as usual and if the butts reach you too late don't worry as they are all in my name.

Well there is not much to report at this time, but Jack Hartley has called a meeting for tonight regarding the Great Safari and the idea is to kick around ideas for your entertainment during your stay in Sydney. Some of the plans put forward on Anzac Day seem quite good anyhow we will have a better idea after tonight and no doubt Jack will be in touch with you soon.

J. HALLINAN, 72 High St., Cabramatta, N.S.W., writes:—

Just a few lines to say everything is O.K. over this way. Had a small turn up for Anzac Day but a good time had by all.

Enclosed is cheque for tickets and subs. Hoping to see you all next year.

TEX RICHARDS, of 12 Bradshaw St., Latrobe, Tas., writes:—

Here's cheers. Hoping all is well. Will have a really good letter to write in about two weeks, just posting the money for tickets. Trusting you have a really good result.

Just come home from being in Hobart on holidays. My inther isn't very well these days.

I must catch the next post so cheers for now.

H. BROOKER, of 110 Goodwood Pde., Rivervale, W.A., writes:—

Am sending money for sweep. Sorry no butts. Must have been thrown out. I've turned the house upside down. Still I was going to take the book myself so no loss. I wouldn't win anyway. Never won anything in my life. I'm a bit old now to start.

Hope this finds you in the best of health.

GEO. E. WILSON, of 20 Braebridge Road, Wilson, W.A., writes:—

Please find enclosed cash and butts also hope you have success with the sweep.

I am very busy right now painting the house inside and after the outside weather permitting of course.

Sorry was unable to get to the march as I have to be on the job.

Regards to all the boys.

DUD TAPPER, 54 Collingwood Ave Flinders Park, S.A., writes:—

Today is Anzac Day and promises to be fine. We have had a drizzle during the night and the sky is now semi overcast. Should be a good day

for the aging marchers who find the march a bit long.

Had a couple of beers with Bob Williamson. He doesn't seem to age much. Enjoys his boat and skiing and still employed by Kelvinators, I think. Maybe they work for him.

Keith Dignum is still the same. Working in the crash business. An ardent fisherman, the type that gets up in the middle of the night and gives away most of what he catches. He is also a very keen photographer. Joined a camera club. Develops his own prints and is probably Kodaks greatest rival, that's when he isn't fishing.

Industry in S.A. is not good. Cottage building has slowed down to a walk. Affecting everything attached to it. Big building is still booming, limited to the big builders. Money is very tight everywhere. Some blame the Labor Government, others say there are too many land men in parliament.

Enclosed find butts and money for the sweep. Wish you all success.

SYDNEY DUBBER, Block 6, Flat 69, John St., Waterloo, N.S.W., writes:—

Enclosed find money and sweep tickets. Hope they find you in time for the drawing. All the best.

JIM FENWICK, 71 Morgan Cres., Curtin, A.C.T., writes:—

Herewith butts and cheque to cover same. Any left put in kitty.

All going well. I will meet some of the Safari travellers as they pass through Canberra. If you contact me a few weeks or at your convenience we may be able to help out in putting up somebody or other during their stay in Canberra.

Did you every consider some of your Safari may be interested in looking over a Space Tracking Station? As I work at one I figure I could arrange this, if you are at all interested.

Had a wonderful surprise a few months ago. Jim Wall was up in Canberra for a week and he came across with Tom Snowdon, whom I'd not seen for about 20 years. Tom has settled here and has his own business in the building trade. The years have treated him well. Jim hopes to be back up this way this year so am looking forward to seeing him again.

I hope that anybody coming through Canberra will contact me.

I have no phone at home but at work the phone number is 44361, ext 27. I work shifts at times so the people I work with will leave me a message or tell whoever rings where I live.

I have finally settled back to urban life and am enjoying my work.

My regards to all over in the West and the rest of Australia.

If Harold Francis Newton happens to read this, please get off your backside and let me know where you are.

J. B. DENT, Wurringa, N.S.W., writes:—

Please find enclosed butts for the sweep and cheque, plus a couple of dollars for the firm. Also enclosed Safari Questionnaire which I noted on the bottom for your use. The Safari would have to be a great success I'm sure and I (for one) am looking forward to seeing the many would be so and sos.

Best of luck in organising it.

BILL HOLSTEIN, Harrington, via Taree, N.S.W., writes:—

Am returning butts with money and subs. Trusting it reaches you safely. Best wishes to all.

TONY BOWERS, Lagar Downs, R.M.B. S93, Kojonup, W.A., writes:—

Enclosed please find sweep butts and cheque to cover same.

We are very busy here. Find it hard to get anybody to do any work these days so have to take the coat off again.

Ping Anderson was in Kojonup last Saturday but did not see him which was a pity because I was thirsty.

See George and Nancy Timms quite often. He is just the same, not hard to get a laugh out of him.

Hope you are keeping in good health. Give my regards to the boys. Will see you one of these days soon.

F. A. PRESS, "Bobanaro", Carcoar, N.S.W., writes:—

One good thing about the raffle is that it brings us all to the realisation that it is just about time that we dropped you a note; so here is my note together with butts, cheque, etc.

I am also enclosing the questionnaire although the information regarding my part will not be of very much help to you, but as I see it now I will in all probability join you in

Canberra, where I could possibly be of some help in arranging a visit to say Parliament House and the National R.S.L. Headquarters. Anyhow this is all in the future and I will keep a close watch on the itinery and will get in touch with you at a time closer to the trip. I think this Safari could be something out of the box and am certainly looking forward to it and seeing you all again.

Kath and I are nearly back to where we started as regards to our family, and at present we only have our six year old daughter at home with us. John is still in New Guinea, will be there for another couple of years. Paul is in Sydney, Anthony away at college, and of all things Michael has just gone on Western Australia where he and a couple of his mates intend spending 12 months or so. I gave him your address, Col, so maybe he will look you up when he settles down there. Just at present they have a flat in Canning Highway, Applecross.

I notice in the Address Book that Kev Waddington lives in that highway, too.

Things are again very much on the dry side over this way again and everything points to a lousy time for all the cockies in this area this winter. Have had no rain for about three months and it's very droughty looking.

I won't be seeing any of the old gang in Sydney this year, at Anzac. I have to go to one of the Sub-Branches further out, but as I indicated earlier in this letter, all visits will be out for next year and Sydney is a must.

My kindest regards to all the gang and best wishes for another successful year.

W. (Bunny) ANDERSON, of 25 Paton St., Woy Woy, N.S.W., writes:—

Righto, let go of yourself, you are not in the Nats. although you may be close.

Seeing it's the day after Anzac Day it's me alright.

Please find enclosed ticket butts, plus money, plus a little extra, to start paying my back debt of 20 years. And, if my name should come out in the draw please put anything there is back into the Association.

Well, mate, how have the years dealt with you? Fair to good I hope. They haven't treated me too bad although it takes me all night to do

what I used to do all night once. Still that's old age for you.

I see a few of the boys now and then not very often though. I went to the march last year and it took quite a while to get the old faces organised, but a good time was had by all.

Well, I must off to work, but you will hear from me again soon.

BILL BENNETT, of 18 South Creek Road, Dee Why, N.S.W., writes:—

Am enclosing cheque for sweep tickets. Hope to see you next year.

EDDIE MILLS, of 27 Anne Street, Southport, Qlds., writes:—

I've been trying to have a spine bash as I'm on shift work but with the kids racing around I haven't got much chance so I decided to give you

a shock and dash off a few words.

I'm busy saving all the cents at the moment as I'm determined to get to Sydney next Anzac Day for the Re-Union even if I have to walk.

I look forward to receiving the "Courier" and hearing how everyone is going.

Please find cheque enclosed for the tickets and the remainder towards the running expenses of the "Courier"

Hoping to see you at the Re-Union.

JOHN MOORE, of Dwellingup W.A. writes:—

I am enclosing butts and money from the raffle tickets, hoping it is a great success.

Also enclosing the name and age of our little girl: Anne Elizabeth Moore, aged two years.

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Address All Association Correspondence to Box T1646, G.P.O. Perth

## AUGUST MEETING

BASEMENT ANZAC HOUSE

TUESDAY, 1st AUGUST

You can be assured this will be a good night out

## ANNUAL RE-UNION

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30th

SOUTH PERTH R.S.L. HALL

ANGELO STREET, SOUTH PERTH

(Grand Final Night of the Football)

## SAFARI CIRCULARS

Please return your Questionnaires quickly  
and so save your poor old Organiser's ulcers

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