



# 2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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

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Price 1c

## *Editorial*

# *The Great Safari*

Readers will probably get a bit bored in the next few months reading about the Great Safari, but the fact of the matter is that this is going to be one of the really great events that has ever happened to the Association.

Interest in W.A. is at its highest level and a crowd considerably in excess of original estimation will be taking part. This fact is sure to engender great interest in the other States who will be acting as hosts.

At the present time the stage is set for a fantastic Re-union which will enable the greatest number of members to take part.

The switch from a purely road travel affair to a mixture of road and rail seems to have attracted many more from W.A. Tentative bookings by rail for 30 men and 23 women have already been made and it appears certain that this number will be a certainty because as possibly a few may drop off others will take their place.

Road travellers at this stage number only 10. The overall effect is that we will have a really representative muster from W.A.

It will be agreed that the itinerary laid down is a good one with a great diversity of interest in all States visited and this cannot help but make for a wonderful time for those who participate.

For travellers from this State the

trip to the Snowy Mountains Project was an absolute must and this also enables a visit to Canberra to be included and this in itself will be of great interest especially the War Memorial and Museum.

The Victorian Branch is already working on a programme of social events that will be most pleasing and it can be taken for granted that New South Wales will not be outshone in this respect.

We hope to include a tour of the Barossa Valley while in South Australia and this will be of outstanding interest to most of the travellers.

But the real purpose of the trip is to meet once again with those great mates of war years whom we have not seen for so many years and this will be the real highlight of the whole Safari. With any sort of luck the chances are that we should meet up with many scores of members and their wives and families while on tour and this will be the greatest of pleasures after such a long time.

Just keep your eyes peeled for further news of the Great Safari in future copies of the "Courier" between now and the starting date: April 6, 1968.

### **Proposed Programme of Events in Melbourne for the Great Safari**

Saturday, April 13 (Easter Saturday): Morning and afternoon free for

participants to go to the football, races, etc., as their fancy suits them. Evening to be a social either a barbecue at a private home or held in a hall with dancing, etc.

Sunday, April 14: Visit to Tidal River, Wilsons Promontory by buses.

Monday, April 15 (Easter Monday): Free day. Evening to be Annual Re-Union, bucks night. Women will be catered for at a theatre night or some such evening.

Tuesday, April 16: A completely free day as this will be the first occasion on which the Melbourne shops will be open and will allow visitors a chance to see around Melbourne.

Wednesday, April 17: Leave for Canberra and Snowy River.

Bert Tobin has requested me to ask any of our members residing in Melbourne who can provide accommodation for any of the travellers to get in touch with him. Address: H. E. Tobin, 15 Beatrice St., Burwood.

Jack Hartley also would like to hear from Sydney boys who can assist with accommodation. Jack's address: J. Hartley, 19 Elva St., Cabramatta.

#### LIST OF W.A. PARTICIPANTS

##### Rail:

Cary J.  
Bagley L. and wife.

Doig C.  
Drage W. and wife.  
Hasson J. and wife.  
Hillman A. and wife.  
Holder H. and wife.  
Holland M. and wife.  
Kirkwood R. and wife.  
Loud E. and wife.  
McDonald R.  
Morgan H. and wife.  
Napier F. and wife.  
Letts A. and wife.  
Paull T.  
Poynton Joe and wife.  
Sparkman F. and wife.  
Sproston H. and wife.  
Turner C. and wife.  
Dingle L. and wife.  
Crouch T.  
Denman J. and wife.  
Fowler J. and wife.  
James H. and wife.  
Bowers T. and wife.  
Monk T. and wife.  
Thompson L.  
Dhu R. and wife.  
McMahon B.  
Swanne V. and wife.

##### Road:

Weller E. and wife and family.  
Smyth E. and wife.  
McLaughlin J.  
Green J. and wife and daughter.  
Smith A.  
Campbell P. and wife.

### VICTORIAN MEMBERS

(MELBOURNE)

### HAVE YOU. ACCOMMODATION?

IF SO CAN YOU PUT UP  
SOMEONE ON THE  
SAFARI?

Contact:  
H. E. TOBIN  
15 Beatrice Street  
Burwood  
Victoria

URGENTLY

### NEW SOUTH WALES MEMBERS

(SYDNEY)

### HAVE YOU ACCOMMODATION?

IF SO CAN YOU PUT UP  
SOMEONE ON THE  
SAFARI?

Contact:  
J. F. HARTLEY  
19 Elva Street  
Cabramatta  
N.S.W.

URGENTLY

## West Australian Whisperings

### Association Activities

#### AUGUST MEETING

A very pleasant evening was held at Anzac House Basement on Aug. 1 when we had an impromptu bowls night. This took the form of a pairs knock-out and was eventually won by Jack Cary and Col Doig much to the amazement of the assembly. These carpet bowls evenings are proving to be really popular. I don't know whether it is a sign of advancing age but the boys go for this game in a big way.

As we are now the proud owners of our own mat and bowls the organisation of this sport is extremely simple.

#### SEPTEMBER MEETING

This will be held at Anzac House Basement on Tuesday 5th and should be an interesting evening as a few of our members have signified their intention of bringing along tapes of recordings which will be of general interest. Do your best to be there and enjoy a good night.

#### ANNUAL RE-UNION

A change of venue this year as we were unable to book the Anzac House Basement.

This year it will be held at R.S.L. Hall, Angelo-st., South Perth.

Don't forget the date—Sept. 30 (Grand Final Night of Football).

Country members are asked to make up car loads from their respective areas and make this a bumper roll up.

#### CAR RALLY

There will be a car rally conducted in November and you will be advised of the date as soon as possible.

These picnics are a real treat so watch out for the date and make your self and family available.

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

### Committee Comment

The usual monthly Committee meeting was held at Anzac House on Tuesday, July 19. This was the first Committee meeting for the new Committee.

We were pleased to welcome Terry Paull, Country Vice President for Lower South West, to the meeting. Our Secretary, Ron Kirkwood, was an absentee being on a business trip to Sydney.

President Jack Hasson welcomed the new Committee and said he hoped that it would meet with the same success the Committee for the previous year.

Sub committees as follows were re-elected:

Timor Memorial: J. Burrridge, J. Poynton, H. Sproston, C. Doig.

Great Safari: J. Hasson, L. Bagley, H. Sproston, C. Doig.

The Treasurer, Arthur Smith, read his report which showed that the finances were in excellent shape.

The President reported on the booking of the R.S.L. Hall, Angelo-st., South Perth, and also booking of caterers for the Annual Re-Union, and his action was endorsed by the Committee.

The following programme was drawn up for the next few months:

August: Bowls night.  
September: Record night.  
September 30: Annual Re-Union.  
October:  
November: Calcutt Memorial Trophy Games Night.  
November: Car Rally.

A discussion took place on the Country Convention which is to be held in the city and it was decided to hold this in February or March, 1968.

It was also decided to take up once again the matter of visiting members whom we had not seen for some time and a member was selected for this purpose.

#### Write to Your Editor:

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

## Personalities

We regret to advise of the fact that Bob Palmer had the misfortune to lose his father very recently. Quite a few of the boys will remember the late Mr. Palmer who was a Lt.-Col. on General Bennett's H.Q. in W.A. when we returned from Timor and was a most understanding and human person. Our sincere sympathy Bob. Bob also advises that he is a most unlikely starter for the Safari as his lad has been called up for National Service and he will be without labour on the farm. Sorry Bob because I know just how much you were looking forward to the trip.

Rod Dhu has been operating up the north west with his firm Colfix. Advises having met "Rip" McMahon at Onslow and says the lad is on the square and going extra well. "Rip" is a certain starter for the Safari.

Nice to see Geo Timms a week or so ago. He dropped into my office and we had quite a talk. His daughter is to marry the son of C. W. Court, Minister for Industries and North-West on 12-8-1967. Geo. says he is very satisfied with his recent purchase of a farm at Borden which will eventually go to his two boys.

Had a quick glimpse of Eddie Crag hill the other evening and he was looking in the pink.

Col Hodson will be taking his long service leave at the end of this year and beginning of next and will be heading East. He will be returning at about the time the Safari heads off so we may be able to use him as an advance manager.

Understand Alf Hillman was down in the Big Smoke for the R.S.L. Congress but our paths did not cross and missed out on seeing him this time.

Gordon Rowley has also intimated that he will not be able to make the Safari due to his business commitments. I know Gordon will be most sorry because he was another who was looking forward to the tour.

Don Young is another who has had the misfortune to lose his father. Our sincere sympathy Don. What about a letter to let us know what you are doing?

It is with extreme regret that we have to record the death of Mr. J. J. Poynton, father of Jack and Joe. Mr. Poynton Snr. was a great follower of the Association and has been on the mailing list of the "Courier" for many years. He dearly loved to receive our paper and keep in touch with all the boys. He was most generous with his donations to our funds and also he used to send your Editor his copies of the Gallipoli paper to keep him in contact with his old boys. Mr. Poynton was a Gallipoli Anzac and was badly knocked about on that campaign, but still managed to live to the ripe old age of 75. We extend our most sincere sympathy to Jack and Joe in their sad loss.

## Heard This?

Voice from passing car: "Engine trouble?"

Voice from parked car: "Nope."

Voice from passing car: "Tyre down?"

Voice from parked car: "Didn't have to."

\* \* \*

Little boy (at country fair): "Why does that man go around pinching those animals?"

Mother: "He just wants to buy one and he's just seeing that they are in good condition."

Little Boy: "Mommy, I think Daddy wants to buy our maid."

\* \* \*

"I turned out the lights—now let's pretend we're in heaven."

"But, honey, I'm no angel."

"I know—that's why I turned out the lights."

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# Historically Yours

## "MY EARLY DAYS ON TIMOR"

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

(Continued from Last Issue)

Capt. Van Sweetman led the party on a beautiful pure white Timor pony which he had named Pooti. We had two Javanese soldiers with us, one bringing up the rear of us who were riding and the other one who took charge of the bearers. It was raining and we followed the road for a few miles then branched off into the bush. We didn't actually get on to the horses till we reached this point as we were taken to this point by truck where we each selected a horse. Mine proved to be a very spirited blighter. I succeeded in losing my hat going down the first mountain from the road and had the devil's own job turning him round to get it. However I did manage and we eventually all got down to the foot of the mountain and across a creek and then we were going along some boggy and flat country.

I have seen some funny things happen on horse back but I have never seen anything so funny as Capt. Neave. He had a tin hat on and was hunched up on the saddle like some crack jockey, but he didn't ride like one. Tom Thick at some future date gave the exact description. Unfortunately this has to be kept clean.

His horse was very stubborn and I guess objected to the rider. He tried to belt it along with a stick and then with heels which from my position in the rear, one of the Air Force chappies poked the horse in the rump with his rifle and away went the pony. Reggie's arms, head, legs and body went to work. I was absolutely convulsed with laughter. The tin hat bobbed up and down like a cork in rough water. His arms flapped up and down as if he was about to take off and his legs were flying out and back like as if he was trying to go sideways and forwards at the same time. His body was see-sawing like as if he was doing some violent exercise. Altogether a very amusing sight.

Then the horse stopped and refused to go any further except when led by one of the Javanese boys, and an occasional crack on its rear from behind by another Javanese boy.

The country we were now passing through was very jungly and wet now but after riding for some three hours we eventually arrived at a native village for lunch but not before one of the Air Force boys had gone over his horse's head when it went down to its belly in a bog. It was very funny and I wish that I had kept a diary of that trip.

I might add that when we stopped for lunch Ronald Claude was very sore and had the skin worn away from his seat (the latter being me) and some ointment was applied to the sore spot.

We made good time and arrived at Batapoeti before dark where we were to make camp and work from there.

The natives immediately were put to work to make lean-tos for all, themselves included. These rough shelters were composed of sticks in the sand with cross bars and palm boughs laid and tied down and appeared like a gable roof with one side taken away. We were camped some 200 yards from the beach amongst the coconut plantation.

One plane was here on its nose with the tail up in a tree with the cockpit facing the ground. The pilot had made a perfect landing in the bad light on this strip and had only hit or seen the only tree in this strip too late to miss it. He was unhurt other than a gash on the nose.

The other seven planes were some two or three miles further on and a bit inland in a big swamp. I went to them next day on my own.

We had tea out of tins and then had a smoke. We got very little sleep that night as the mosquitoes had no trouble in getting inside the nets we had and swatting, cursing and groaning were heard all night.

We arose early and after breakfast started work on the plane. This was Tuesday by the way.

We were stripping the Kitty pretty fast. We of the L.A.D. were after parts to fit up our Catterpillar Diesel Motor that Col. Mackenzie and I had set up on concrete blocks at Chamalong to supply electricity for the hospital there and electric power for our own use.

The Fortress Sigs. were after the wireless sets in the Kittyhawks and the R.A.A.F. were after spare parts to fix up the Kitty the Japs had shot up and future planes (if any). They needn't have bothered and likewise us and the Sigs but as one can't see into the future ahead we went.

It was while stripping the guns that Capt. Van Sweetman had a narrow escape from being shot and having his head blown completely off. He showed less agitation about it than anyone.

I was sitting under the wing on a piece of engine cowling. A mechanic was standing up with his head and shoulders in the cockpit stripping the instrument panel and the stick with the gun controls on it. Capt. Neave and Flying Officer Cole were sitting on the bottom side of the wing which of course was facing the deep blue sky taking out the hydraulic gadget that worked the guns. Capt. Van Sweetman was standing watching a fitter working on the motor a little in front of the two officers on the upturned wing and in direct line of the three .5 machine guns.

The chappie in the cockpit sung out to the psuedo mechanics on the wing not to touch anything as he was taking the firing mechanism out. Whether our would be mechanics caused the gun to go off I don't know and neither do I, but I do know that they were fiddling about when it went pop. Of course it made a noise much louder than that. Anyway I know that I cleared the ground by at least four feet and was in danger of hitting my head on the wing of the plane which the tallest man in the outfit could walk under without stooping. The mechanic on the engine nearly dived into the engine booster and our two bright lads on the wing looked as if they had been struck by lightning.

The bullet from the gun could not have missed parting Capt. Van Sweetman's hair by more than the thickness of a cigarette paper. He

calmly turned round and made some casual remark about it being close and then smiled. Oh, boy, what nerves. He never even changed colour.

There were a lot of words thought but not spoken. Our two potential engineers both disclaimed responsibility.

It was here that I had my first drink of tuaka, pronounced Too Ark Uh. It's a sap from a sort of a large palm tree and is gathered over night by cutting a limb off the tree and a bamboo bottle being hung underneath to catch the drips of sap. It tastes like strong ginger ale when fresh, but when allowed to ferment, boy, has it some kick, as Arch Macrurie can tell.

Tuesday afternoon I made my way out to the other planes and I come to a shameful part of my career. I salvaged the clocks out of four of the Kittyhawks. I also got a sheath knife out of a parachute. The three other planes were some distance up in the hills from the swamp. I did not bother to go up to them. The planes in the swamp had been landed various ways but none successfully. They were all piled up. Some with under carriage down, some up.

Two pilots had parachuted down. One landed in a tree and had his neck broken. The other one landed O.K. One of these planes that came to earth on its own caught fire. I did not see any of these three planes.

I returned to camp and we had tea and then went to bed, not before I had given Capt. Neave, Norm Hullah and one of the Air Force chappies one each of these clocks.

Next day we all went out to the wrecks at the swamp and it was here that F.O. Cole made the tragic discovery that all the luminous clocks had disappeared. Of course I knew entirely nothing about it and after the officers going into a huddle the matter was left until we returned to camp that evening.

The Sigs officer was walking round one of the planes when he let out a yell and brought his leg out of the mud and slush which by the way was knee deep in most places, to find that his foot was badly cut and streaming blood. It had been opened up by a piece of metal that had sunk down in the mud from the plane. It was then the Sigs last day as they were already overdue back at Klapalima, the fort.

Well, we worked here on the instrument panels and guns and got the ammo and trays holding the ammo out. We didn't get all the guns and it was Capt. Neave's brilliant idea to set these guns up at Penfoei to be used as Ac-Ac. How they were going to be set up was as yet a vague idea in Reggy's mind.

I'm not certain now whether it was Wednesday or Tuesday that we saw a large formation of Jap bombers coming back from Koepang but we sure did see them and we had seen some two or three times on Monday going to and returning from Koepang. We afterwards learnt that they had unsuccessfully bombed some ships between Tenaure and the island of Semoa, and also the guns at Klapalima.

We returned to camp that night and Capt. Neave said to me after tea that some of the clocks had to be returned. He didn't want to part with his and I didn't with mine, and I had no intention of doing so unless he did so the upshot was he handed his over to me, likewise Norm and the Air Force chappie. I returned them all after a lot of deliberation and put them amongst the panels underneath the lean-to hut where we had put everything that we had stripped from the planes.

The Sigs Officer and his two men returned in the small boat that arrived early next morning to Attapopoe, some 15 miles up the coast, and just after they left a note arrived by a Javanese soldier. It contained an order for the Air Force personnel to return immediately and be back not later than midnight Thursday.

Capt. Neave immediately decided he would go and take Norm with him and leave me to pack up the gear. The Air Force chaps had to pack so they and I left some two hours after Capt. Neave arrived. F.O. Cole took the clocks with him.

We arrived back on the road at about 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Again I was left to see that all the gear turned up as there was a large portion of the gear being brought out by the native porters.

Capt. Neave came back in the ute about an hour later and he said that I should have taken no notice of Cole and come up to Atamboea, but now he had decided to go to Attapopoe and pick up some of the Kit-

ty's guns and ammunition that had been sent there in the boat.

We got there about 5 o'clock where I had my first meal since about 6 a.m. that day, some rice and small salted fish with hot chilli sauce and I mean hot and some good hot coffee, but no sugar.

It was here I met Sgt. Slickter, a young Dutch Sergeant who was also later taken prisoner. We left there after getting a phone message from Staff Capt. Arnold to return to Chamalong immediately.

We stopped at Kafemananoe for some coffee and a bite to eat and while sitting in the lounge waiting for it Norm was bitten by a scorpion which didn't improve his temper.

We raced away again to Soe but not before we smacked a buffaloe in the rear. We had to get out and lift and prize the mudguard off the back wheel. It was of course pitch dark and as Capt. Neave was always a speed merchant I had secretly scraped some black paint off the headlamps before we left Attamboea while he was getting something. He said I had better scrape some off when he came back, so Norm and I winked and scraped more off.

We had coffee at Soe and something else to eat and got back to Chamalong at 3 o'clock Friday morning. We, Norm and I, went to bed but were up again at 6.30.

Capt. Neave and I were supposed to go down to Baboe in the ute with spare parts and pick up two fitters and go on to Klapalima or Koepang and operate as an L.A.D. wherever the trucks were or where we were needed, but when Capt. Neave went to see the Brigadier to get permission to go down to Baboe to carry out the afore mentioned plan Brigadier Veal said no. I had to sit in the ute for two hours while Reggie did his best to make the Brigadier see his point of view, but to no avail.

(To be continued)

*Heard This?*

"You can never tell about men," the sophisticated miss advised her younger sister. "Either they're so slow you want to scream, or so fast you have to."



## Random Harvest

**BOB PALMER, of Cowaramup W.A. writes (?)—**

Just a note with the butts. The extra you can credit to subs or what you like. Hope the sweep is a great success.

We haven't answered regarding the trip East as yet for at the moment we don't know ourselves. We had intended to be starters for sure, but John, our elder son, has drawn a marble in N.S. so until we know what happens there we must be considered very doubtful. At any rate if we do go it will be by car.

Have had my father in Hollywood recently. A few of the W.A. members will probably remember him when he was at 3 Corps during the war. Fortunately was able to bring him home yesterday.

Barb and I both enjoyed our time with you all during the 25th Commemoration Service—and of course at Mick Holland's afterwards. Just as well we only stayed the hour (?) because even so Barb drove most of the way home.

Met a chap from Lake Grace the other day and he told me Stan King is far from well. All I can say is snap out of it mate.

### A Later Letter from Bob says:

Enclosed is Safari Questionnaire with the simple answer of "No" unfortunately. We have had to alter our plans because John, our eldest son, has been caught in the net for National Service. He is to have his medical on Tuesday but have little doubt of his passing as A1 as he is very fit. As he will be away Barb and I will be unable to leave the farm at that stage of the year. This is a blow to us as we have been looking forward to the trip ever since it was first mentioned. If anything unforeseen crops up and we can make it we will be going by car so I won't be much of a problem to put us in.

Don't know if you noticed in the "West" that Dad passed away on July 1. He had been failing for quite a while but fortunately did not suffer unduly. Quite a few of the 2/2nd will remember him at Corp. H.Q. when we returned from Timor.

Barb and myself enjoyed the time spent with you all in February very much. Our stay of an hour at Dutch

Holland's was rather extended I'm afraid. Barb drove most of the way home. I don't know why really!

If John happens to be about when the dinner is on I hope to see most of you there.

Met up with Kev Millington a short while ago. He was raising a sweat doing a vehicle round on our road. Hasn't altered a great deal over the years.

Well, I won't try your eyes further. Hope you are fit and well and that I can make it to see you later this year.

**G. B. PIPER, of "Yuvathi," 14 Royal Crescent, Camberwell, E.6., Melbourne, Victoria, writes:—**

Time I let you know my change of address consequent upon being married again.

Do enjoy getting the "Courier" and reading the jottings.

Best wishes.

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

I suppose "yours truly" would be the worlds worst letter writer, but at last am writing a few lines.

Just received the July "Courier", the first for some time. My address is correct, but for some reason the "Courier" has not been arriving as regularly as it used to. Did not receive the new Address Book or the June issue, nor did the March or May copies arrive. Is it possible to obtain these missing copies and book?

Am still working as representative for Yale Locks, but mostly only in the city area, handling the larger accounts.

Family is growing up. Son is in Brisbane as a sales rep. Daughter is in last year at Teachers College, hopes to pass exams and become a school teacher at end of year.

From the report re starters for the Great Safari it seems as if we will really be invaded in force. What a wonderful event next Anzac Day promises to be. Everyone over here is very keen to get things under way and a committee has been formed to discuss and make all necessary arrangements, but no doubt you are well aware of all this.

Best wishes to all in the West and looking forward to seeing you next year.

**GORDON ROWLEY, of Manjimup, W.A., 6258, writes:—**

Eve and I are very sorry to say that we will not be able to go on the Great Safari as much as we would like to.

The problem is that I run a two man business and just can't spare the time and can't afford to take a chance of things being O.K. We had intentions of going and even went to the extent of employing another hand but after having employed him for 12 months it just didn't work out so we had to put him off.

However our best wishes go with you all on this trip and I'm sure that of us that stay at home will be the worse off as I think that it will be a terrific trip. You could call it a trip in a life time.

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

Seems like its time I got myself busy and loaded up the carrier pigeon with my sweep tickets and some dough.

At least they'll be headed in the right direction this time and not cause you the same trouble as my last lot of Melbourne Cup books.

I'm pleased to be able to report ALL WELL at our place and wish the same could apply with all the 2/2nd and their families, but I know this is not the case unfortunately.

We had news last night that "Beaky" Smith and Joe Tell are both inmates at R.G.H., Concord, and hope their stay will be a short one.

Last night was the occasion of my first meeting with the N.S.W. Branch for almost 15 years and it gave me great pleasure. I had seen all present last week at the Anzac Day Re-union so it was really a double treat for me to meet up again with the fellows, some of whom I hadn't seen for so many years. In particular I was delighted to meet up with our old Amigo, Alfredo dos Santos and see that he is wearing so well.

I know Ron Trengrove is going to write up the Anzac Day get together and Jack Hartley will be in touch with you from the meeting so I won't steal their thunder.

Withall, I did miss our annual game of bowls with the boys at Grafton after so many pleasant years in that fair city.

Must tell you that recently our Barrier wife Maree, presented him

with a daughter and us with our first grandchild. This is where we find one of the distinct advantages in having moved our abode. We are handy enough to drive down and see the kids fairly often.

Our girls are doing quite well at school and Peta has annexed a further tennis championship with her partner in the district juniors. She has been selected for the district team so we are hopeful that this will bring more successes.

Work has kept me pretty busy but I still find time for an occasional game of bowls. Have also been giving the caravan the once over in preparation for holidays in a fortnight's time. Will be heading south this time and hope to see the fellows down around Cooma and Canberra. Keep the fridge full, Dex!

Must away now as it's past my bedtime. Kindest regards to yourself and all the boys.

**SHORTY STEVENS, of Yallunda lat, S.A., writes:—**

I apologise for the delay in returning Questionnaire which had been sent in ample time. However I was casual earlier and these last few weeks with sickness in the home I have found my time fully occupied and correspondence and accounts, etc., have all received the same treatment—put aside.

In explanation I wish to say we are hopeful of going but cannot be 100 per cent certain at this stage. However even if we cannot make the whole trip, will endeavour to be at Adelaide and either Sydney or Melbourne. The older children, of school age, we plan to leave home but will have to take the younger with us.

Received the Address Book and "Courier" the other day and wish to comment favourably on the Address Book. It certainly is a great help to anyone planning a trip especially interstate.

Not much news of any note to pass on. We don't seem to be able to get in line with the rain clouds very well this year. Most of S.A. has been the driest on record so far. However we were lucky enough to have a few points two weeks ago and there was a mad rush to cash in on them.

Generally we are pretty right except for a very noticeable slowing

down in action and stiffening up of the joints. Getting old!!

Wishing you a good response for the Safari and looking forward to seeing many of you.

**PETER MANTLE, of P.O. Box 120, Biloela, Queensland, writes:—**

Hope this one hasn't reached you yet.

The celebrated pianist Badkoffski was giving a recital in a provincial centre in Canada, and was delighted with the response and appreciation of his audience. So at interval he said that if there were any performers in the audience who would care to come up and play, he would be glad to give some advice on technique, etc.

Long pause, then a big tough lumberjack came forward, leading by the hand a little creature not more than a foot and a half high, whom he said would like to play.

Well, they raised the piano stool right up, and piled books on top, until at last the little thing could reach the keys.

And it played.

It was magnificent.

"But this is magic," said Badkoffski, "he plays better than I do. Who is he?"

"Well," said the lumberjack, "magic it is. You see, last winter in the forest I found a little faun with a broken leg that was dying. So I carried it home to my hut, and splinted up the leg, and bathed its wounds, and fed it from a bottle, and kept it warm all through the winter. Its leg mended and the faun became stronger, so in the spring I took it out into the woods again and let it go. And the little faun smiled at me in gratitude. And just then a fairy appeared. The fairy said that I'd been so good helping the poor little animal that I was to be rewarded. And she said that I could have one wish, and the wish would be granted. Well . . . the bloody fairy must have been deaf, because why the hell would I want an 18 inch pianist?"

Can't say that the nine year drought is really broken here yet, but we've had June rains far more than is average, and a pretty big area of wheat, and of safflower is going in around our little valley. So the poor struggling farmers may be able to afford that second car after all.

Some years ago I wrote telling you that our town was adding fluoride to the drinking water. It still does.

Lately I've read U.S. and Canadian findings that fluoride helps to retard deterioration of bone in the middle-aged and old: that the bone wastage that often leads to collapsed vertebrae, etc., in old people, easily broken limbs, etc., is less apt to occur where fluoride levels are high enough. And for what one layman's opinion is worth, I think there may be truth in it. For many years my ribs have been inclined to snap at the drop of a pencil—if I leaned over the edge of the table to pick it up. And I think that in the last few years they have got a bit stronger, rather than weaker as could have been expected with advancing age.

**RON KIRKWOOD, of Eric Street, Cottesloe, W.A., writes:—**

I recently had a trip to Sydney, and you may be interested in those of our blokes I saw.

It was a business trip for me, and I didn't have as much time as I would have liked to see people. I was kept fairly busy and it wasn't until towards the end of my stay that I got in touch with Jack Hartley. He organised a few of the blokes at short notice. Bill Coker picked me up, also Alfredo De Santos, and took us to Arncliffe R.S.L. where we found Jim English, Tom Martin, Ron Hilliard and Johnny Darge.

We had a wov, of a night, swapping lies and things, and I was able to explain the plan of the proposed Memorial which I had. Altogether a beaut night, with Bill Coker returning me safely to my pub, after some brandy (I think) at Alfredos.

The next night, Paddy Kenneally, who couldn't make it the previous night, called on me and we had a quiet session of "remember when". Another excellent night.

Also spoke to Neil Bray per phone—so sorry I couldn't see him.

Finally, early on Saturday morning whilst waiting for my plane to go for home, who should come to the terminal but Alan Luby to say good-bye.

All these blokes sent regards to all our members, with each remembering some particular bloke or blokes. The way these chaps went out of their way to say hello to me brings home very forcibly what a fine bunch we had in our Unit, and I would like them to know how I appreciated their efforts. Also, special thanks to Jack and Bill for the organizing.

Finally, those of you who go on

the Safari can be assured of a wonderful welcome from this N.S.W. Branch—they're looking forward to it as much as we are, and are eager to know who's coming.

I also met a fine cove, Don O'Mahony, who, with his brother Max, sent greetings to Merv Cash (where have you been, Merv?). Also Don's wife, Kay, said hello to Tom Foster.

**ROSS SMITH, of Bright Street, Clare S.A., writes:—**

Well it is close on 23 years since we have seen each other but I have not changed much only put on about a stone. Still like my beer and a day at the football, Aussie Rules now, not rugby.

I had the notice of your Safari somewhere but cannot locate same at the moment but when passing through Clare on your way to Adelaide please call in and see us. I work with the Golden North Milk Factory. Anyone in Clare will tell you where to find me. Perhaps if a few of you could stay over night we could arrange something for you in the way of entertainment.

The only one I have seen out of the old Unit since I have been in South Australia was Dud Tapper, plus Lionel Newton in Broken Hill and Curly O'Neill when he rode through here on horseback from Darwin.

I am enclosing butts for sweep plus money also a bit extra towards the "Courier".

**VERNA PIERCE, of 34 Hunt Street, Port Hedland, W.A., writes:—**

This is Verna, wife of Pidgeon Pierce who left me to write in as husband is too busy etc. Usual excuse which only means really that he hates writing letters.

We see a few of the mob occasionally. Dick Crossing when he comes through on his M.L.C. round for which I am very glad for the Old Boy then keeps up his insurance, for with six children it is a good thing to know they will always be safe.

We also see quite often at the local rubbidy Joe Kalinosky Boomer Giles and his wife. Also saw Don Hudson who whiled away a few idle hours reading fairy stories to the kids. Let me out of the job that night anyway. I had to go out for a while and I think he read so long in sheer desperation.

Charlie keeps well. Still at the truck driving for the Manganese which I read in the paper is still the highest paid job in Hedland which only goes to show you should always read the paper otherwise you don't get to know these things. Wish it was so. It is a good thing but they don't mention if the truck is always mobile. No travel no pay.

Well hope this finds you as well as it leaves us. The extra is for funds.

**P.S. From Pidgeon:**

Just got in in time before the Boss sent this note. Please note address and please send bloody "Courier". I miss it and haven't seen one for a couple of years.

All the best to all the gang.

**E. H. CRAGHILL, of 169 Vincent Street, North Perth, writes:—**

Please find enclosed money for the sweep butts.

**A. VOEVODIN, of 50 Brunowa St., Camp Hill, writes:—**

Haven't died yet but am really behind with my letter writing.

The news up here is number five daughter was born eight months ago. I'm trying but the plumbing has gone astray and that was the last chance.

Made headlines fighting the Lord Mayor over land for flats. He handles the truth roughly and won the case. A very costly experience but one I'll remember.

Hope to see all on "The Big Trek". Mum can't make it with school children and two working girls but I'll have a leave pass.

Best of health and good wishes to all troops.

**MRS. R. JOHNSON, of Box 7, P.O., Koorda, writes:—**

So sorry you had to send us a reminder about the tickets. I am forwarding them to you along with the money.

Thank you for the children's Christmas gifts. The children have been going to write to you but seem to be snowed down with home work each night.

We have two girls at Wyalkatchem High School which calls for a 60 mile trip each day by school bus. They don't get home till a quarter to five. They leave here at twenty past seven, so it is quite a long day for them. Our three boys are at school in Koorda.

**A. C. JARVIS, of P.O. Muchea, W.A., writes:—**

Please find enclosed butts and cash. Things are still going the same. Haven't seen anyone lately as I don't get around much. Hope you have a good sweep. Regards to everyone.

**R. YATES, 224 Kyogle Road, Kyogle, writes:—**

Just a hurried note to return these sweep butts and to wish you and the boys all the best.

**FRED SPARKMAN, c/- Railways, Tambellup, W.A., writes:—**

Enclosed please find sweep tickets and the necessary.

Am at present batching due to shifting Her Nibs back to 15 Staines Street. She found it too lonely down here and reckons its the R-sole of the world anyway.

Have found ways and means of getting home weekends and manage to see the last half of the footie and catch up with the old homework.

Was sorry I couldn't make Anzac Day with Ron Sprigg (I think he was sorry too, he tells me) but was able to attend the local march here. Quite a nice little service but a funny thing—although only 12 on the march 16 at the 10 gal. after. I think I upheld the Unit reputation by drinking a third of the keg and finished up at the local till 10 p.m. Although it was running out my ears I was still on my pins (just).

Saw Alf Hillman last night. Has just had a bout in hospital and is on the mend now.

Haven't seen any of the boys down this way other than Alf although I think I caught sight of Alf Blundy whilst passing through Katanning on the train one day.

May go fishing at Denmark one weekend so look out Norm and George, particularly if there's no fish.

The cockies are screaming out for rain (when don't they scream anyway?). Personally I hope to hell it never rains as I know what a winter is like down here.

Tell the boys to put their dough on Perth this year and who knows, there may be a 6ft. 7in. Sparkman there in a year or so. He'll be in the June call-up.

Well that's about all for now so kindest regards to yourself and to all the boys.

**BOB WILLIAMSON, of 2 Goldsworthy Crescent, North Glenelg, S.A., writes:—**

Enclosed please find cheque to cover butts, plus subs.

I am still receiving the "Courier" O.K., and enjoy reading about all the old boys.

I have seen Dud Tapper and Mark Jordan recently but have not seen Howard Marks or Jim Veal for some months. Will rectify this soon.

Clarice and I are keeping well and enjoying life golfing, skiing and working. We have not yet found a way to give up the working part. This is something I must work on. Isn't the English language frightful?

All the best and regards to all my old mates.

**TED CHOLERTON, of "Bookra", Carcoar, N.S.W., writes:—**

Enclosed please find sweep tickets. Things are going pretty smoothly for us, but we could do with a bit of rain—haven't had a decent fall since late January.

Looking forward to seeing you all over here next year.

**JIM RITCHIE, of 106 Renou Street, East Cannington, W.A., writes:—**

Like the rest of us I'll make this a very short letter when returning butts and leave the next letter until we have another sweep or maybe I'll write to the "Courier" manyana.

At present I'm a super-man (they could have fooled me) at Bassendean. Missed tonight's monthly meeting as I was working back till 9 p.m. to produce more super to encourage the cockies to produce more grain to bring more money into the State to pay our wages. Don't worry Stan. This type of work may clog up the pocket with bird-shit, but it doesn't clog up the memory with bull-shit. It seems to me I always finish up in the fertiliser.

The time is now 11.30 and I must get some sleep.

**BOB SMYTHE, of 34 King St., Perth writes:—**

I am enclosing two books and a cheque, including allowance for petty cash.

I regret having been unable to attend the later festivities on Anzac Day but will certainly be fit enough to do so next year.

Kind regards.

**ELVE HOWELL, of Randell Street, Mandurah, W.A., writes:—**

Sorry these are late as usual. Things seem to get ahead of us here. Bill's flat out at the Club and still building at home.

With six smaller members of the family to cater for I find I'm pretty well organised as far as time is concerned.

Best wishes to all members and thank you for gifts each year for our son. Seems I never did get round to listing the others, so here they are: Kim (girl) 7 years; Bryan (boy) 5 years; Ray (boy) 2 years; Vicki (girl) 8 months. Garry is now 14 and Lee is 8.

**BILL HOLLIS, of 40 Weston Drive, Swan View, W.A., writes:—**

Sorry have not been to see you for a long time but will do so in the near future. Remember me to all the boys.

I am enclosing the tickets and money and hope you have a good year.

**G. ROWLEY, of Manjimup, W.A., writes:—**

Just a short note with the sweep tickets and to let you know that we still receive and appreciate the "Courier" although we do not do much towards same. This is most definitely not caused by lack of interest or intention, but just by my pure hatred of letter writing in general. I will not promise to do better in the future but will endeavour to do so just the same.

Just to bring the history of family up to date, our family consists of six children. Terry is the only boy and is now 20 years old and completed his third year in the Navy on April 30. Jean is almost 19 and is married to a chap by the most unusual name of Muir (there are hundreds of them in this district). Judith is going on 17 years and has started training at Bunbury Regional Hospital. Susan 12 years, Glenis 10 years and Karen 7 years are all still at school. So you see it must be a long time since I brought you up to date as I think we have three kids in the history that you have on hand.

As for myself I am still in the Chain Saw business and will be for a few more years yet. I still work from a backyard workshop. This suits my particular requirements as a

lot of our business comes in after normal business hours. Farmers and fallers just don't like to waste daylight hours. By having a backyard workshop the hours do not worry us to any great extent.

My relaxation is still fishing. Most of my spare weekends are spent at "Flinders Bay" just past Augusta and both Ena and I would like any of the gang to drop in down there and look us up if they happen to be down that way. The place I have bought was the old shop known as the Bay Traders. We hope to start building a new place on the same sight this year. It will be a self-help effort and will take us about two years to complete. So if visitors do come please bring working togs. We will supply afternoon tea, etc.

It has come to my ears that we have a new publican in the South West. I will be paying a courtesy call on him one of these days. All the best to you Huddy.

Enough said for now and our special regards to Bill and Coral Coker, Ron Trengrove and wife, Blue Harris and wife and the rest of the old gang wherever they may be in this fair land of ours. If any of you are ever in Manjimup or Flinders Bay ask for the Rowleys and we will always be pleased to see you and imbibe in a few of the best.

**KEV WADDINGTON, of 58 South West Highway, Armadale, W.A., writes:—**

I had to go into Hollywood unexpectedly and I am unable to locate one book of butts. Am enclosing the other book with cheque. Would you please include them in the draw.

**J. BRAND, of 31 Maisie Crescent, Wembley Downs, W.A., writes:—**

Sorry I could not make it on the 25th Commemoration as I was down with a wog and am not the best yet but will shake it off soon I hope.

**REG HARRINGTON, of "Aimaro", Wyening, W.A., writes:—**

Herewith sweep butts along with appropriate cheque. As usual with little time to spare before the draw.

The big rush is near upon us again. Rain would be handy now. We had enough to bring the feed through and get a bit of ploughing done, but need it to keep the grass







**SEPTEMBER MEETING:**

**ANZAC HOUSE on the 5th**

**A Good Time For Certain**

**BUSY BEE:**

**KINGS PARK**

**SUNDAY, 24th SEPTEMBER, at 9 a.m.**

**Come All. Many hands make light work**

**ANNUAL RE-UNION:**

**R.S.L. HALL, Angelo Street, SOUTH PERTH**

**SATURDAY, 30th September**

**(Grand Final Night)**

**Make This a MUST**

**COMMEMORATION SERVICE**

**KINGS PARK**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 3 p.m.**

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