

# 2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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## *Editorial*

### TIMOR MEMORIAL APPEAL

As all readers are probably aware the Association started out in September, 1966, on a project to erect in Timor a memorial to all those marvellous people who assisted our cause to an extent which probably meant a life-saver to all who served in this theatre of war.

John BurrIDGE returned from a trip to Timor with a germ of an idea which in the past 13 months has turned to a reality. He brought us news of the possibility of such a project now that the former closed area of Timor was open to all the world. He also brought concrete news of the immense casualties suffered by the Portuguese and natives of Timor after we left the island.

It was this stirring of our souls that brought forth the necessity for us to commemorate their deeds in some concrete manner.

After much deliberation it was decided to build a suitable rest house in the near vicinity of Dili which would be a great convenience to persons travelling to and from the Dili market. Proposals as to size and shape were submitted to the Portuguese Governor with a request for his permission to erect this building, also seeking the assistance of his Public Works Department in the planning and erection of the structure.

The Governor's acquiescence was eventually forthcoming and an excellent plan incorporating our ideas, was submitted for our approval. This plan was modified to some ex-

tent by your Sub-Committee handling the matter and returned to Timor for estimates of costs and time of erection.

The plan is a beautiful one and may be viewed in Perth, Melbourne or Sydney where the plans are in the keeping of Ron Kirkwood, Bert Tobin and Jack Hartley respectively.

This plan is reproduced on pages 8 and 9 of this issue for your perusal.

Naturally the plan harmonises with the type of architecture normal to the Portuguese structures in the area.

The site of the memorial is the old Dari O/P manned during our tour duty on the island by "C" Platoon, and will be well known to many of you. It has a wonderful outlook to Dili and is near enough in proximity to eventually become a tourist attraction.

The Portuguese authorities have estimated that the cost of the memorial to us will be \$8,000 (Australian). They will do all the planning, site preparation and supervise the construction free of cost to us. This work would cost normally in the vicinity of \$3,500. A magnificent gesture on the part of the Portuguese Government.

To be able to erect such a memorial at the paltry cost of \$8,000 is truly remarkable.

Your Association has been trying to get the assistance of the Federal Government with regard to the memorial asking for a minimum of a dollar for dollar subsidy, also to al-

low any donations to the fund to be accepted as a Tax Deduction. To date we have not had a favourable reply. Representations on our behalf to the Federal Treasurer are being made by Hon. Paul Hasluck, M.P., Minister for External Affairs. Unfortunately Mr. Hasluck seems to be more external of Australia than internal and he is hard to pin down.

We are confident that the Federal Government will come to the party. Basically we think that the sum requested from them, namely \$4,000, is so insignificant that they could not afford the adverse publicity of a refusal and that they could shine in the reflected glory of an acceptance at such a small price.

To carry things a step further the Association is under some pressure to get on with the job as the present Governor's term of office in Timor is rapidly coming to an end. This also applies to the present Director of Works in Timor and both these gentlemen are very keen on the project.

We have received magnificent assistance from the Australian Consul in Dili, Mr. Colquhoun Dewers, and his term could also finish quite soon. To get on with the project while we have such propitious stars seems essential.

The W.A. Branch is at present negotiating to raise a bank loan of \$8,000 by the use of guarantors. A sufficient number of members have already stated they are willing to act in this capacity to cover the loan. There still remains a number of details to be ironed out but we are confident that we will be able to tell the Portuguese authorities to go ahead with the project and that we will be able to meet the payments as required.

Now this is where you come in. To finance this project we must have donations. We must be in a position to cover the cost even if the Federal Government kisses us good bye. We cannot start this project without the assurance that it can be completed. This is a case of give and give in a big way. The paltry dollar will be handy but big money is what we require. If you can't find big cash now would you be willing to pledge yourself to a most useful donation spread over, say three years?

We have roughly 400 members in Australia and to raise even the

\$4,000 which would be required if the Government comes to the party would mean a donation of at least \$10 for each and every member.

This amount would be most difficult for some members, but would be mere peanuts to others. The point is we have to average \$10 for each of our members to break square on \$4,000.

To all those members who served on Timor this is a chance to pay for services rendered by a very gallant band of natives and a very generous community of Portuguese.

There is not the slightest doubt that those members are alive today because of the efforts of these people. Without their assistance we could not have survived and would most probably have been slaughtered within the first three months if they had not been our friends and benefactors.

Those who were carried on stretchers owe an even greater debt to these staunch allies.

All in all we are up to our ears in debt for all that was done for us and this is a very minor chance of repayment.

It was my pride and privilege at the Annual Re-Union Dinner on Sept. 30, 1967, to open this appeal for funds and I now reiterate what I said then: "Give, and give, and give until it hurts". This is probably the most worthwhile project ever undertaken by the Association and I am most proud that it was inaugurated during my term of office as President.

Readers, I commend this appeal to you in the sure knowledge that you will not let your Association down.

—JACK HASSON,  
President W.A. Branch.

### OUR MEMORIAL

In its life of 20 years, your Association has embarked on many, many projects and brought them to success no matter what the effort. We have found the right office bearers to come forward at the right time they are needed and they have never let us down in their planning for the good of the Association. And always, those not holding office, the rank and file, the ordinary members, have responded in such a way that all one's faith in the underlying (and more often hidden) goodness of the average bloke is once again revived.

Every scheme we have attempted has been successful because of the interest of you, the ordinary member, in backing up your Association's plans.

Well, this appeal from the Association for contributions to the Memorial is the **BIG ONE**. This has been said elsewhere, but loses nothing by repetition. It will be the greatest thing we have done as an Association, and could also be the greatest thing, we, as individuals, have done. Let each man be his own conscience. A pledge, which needs no elaboration, is enclosed. The quick return of this pledge with, or without, an individual contribution, is vital. Please think this over for a few minutes and then answer it. Don't put it to one side. If you do, you'll forget about it—and your Association will suffer.

There is not the slightest doubt in my mind that, but for the people of Portuguese Timor, I, and 99% of you reading this, would be dead—that is as certain as the sun setting

tonight and rising tomorrow. And doesn't that apply to everyone who was there, whether in our show, the 2/4th Company, Z Force or whatever?

And now comes the moment to repay just a little for the extra time we've had, and I won't hold back; and I don't think many of us will. We are asked to give as much as we can as soon as we can. Remember this is the **BIG ONE**. We are thanking the inhabitants of Portuguese Timor for our lives and the Memorial will be our concrete gesture for the world to see. And it will still be there long after we are dead, and our children's children will be proud to see that we didn't forget the Portuguese of Timor, black, white and brindled, who saved our lives.

This Appeal is URGENT.  
Do It Now!

—RON KIRKWOOD,  
Secretary, W.A. Branch.

## West Australian Whisperings

### Association Activities

#### ANNUAL RE-UNION

This wonderful function was held this year on Sept. 30 at the R.S.L. Hall, South Perth, and coincided with the football grand final.

The attendance was really first rate, especially as to country members who rallied round in force. Naturally we would have liked a bigger attendance of metropolitan members but probably other commitments kept them away.

The catering was terrific and the liquid refreshments more than adequate.

Toastmaster Mick Morgan did a fantastic job in handling the toast list. Bill Epps honoured the Queen. Col Doig proposed the Unit and the Association and brought up the matter of the Timor Memorial. Jack Hasson, as President, responded and opened the appeal for funds for the Timor Memorial. Alf Hillman handled the toast of Allied Services, and Johnny Morrison, of the 2/4th M.G. responded. John Burrridge proposed Portuguese Friends and Native Helpers and did a truly marvelous job of

bringing back to our minds the terrific job performed by these allies. Dave Ross, our dear old Consul in Dili in our time, responded. Jerry Haire was inveigled by our toastmaster into getting to his feet for once and he made a wonderful job of proposing the toast of our many guests. Wilf Ferrier, Secretary of the City of Perth R.S.L., responded most ably. Bill Epps returned to the fray to honour our toastmaster.

Mick Morgan brought to the attention of all present that we had a guest from Victoria in the person of Jim Wall, and Gerry Maley ably backed up Mick by giving a resume of Jim's work for the Association in Victoria. Jim rose to his feet with a nice response in which he thanked everyone for their hospitality.

The merry making went on until the wee small hours.

Now to recount those present: "Ping" Anderson, Len Bagley, Gordon Barnes from Rocky Gully, Ernie Bingham from Wandering, "Curly" Bowden, Tony Bowers from Kojonup, John Burrridge, Peter Campbell from Esperance, Jack Carey, Merv Cash, Dick Darrington, Jack Denman, Col Doig, Bill Epps, Geo

Fletcher, Jack Fowler and Charlie Sadler from Wongan Hills, Alby Friend, Dick Geere, Jerry Haire, Perc Hancock, Jack Hasson, Alf Hillman from Broomehill, Col Hodson, Harry Holder, Don Hudson from Bailingup, Charlie King, Ron Kirkwood, Bernie Langridge from Donnybrook, Gerry Maley, "Spriggy" McDonald, Syd McKinley, Ted Monk from Latham, Mick Morgan, Ray Parry, Terry Paull from Boyup Brook, Jack Penglase, Joe Poynton, Steve Rodgers, Ernie Hoffman and Eric Thornander all from Kalgoorlie, Dave Ross, "Robbie" Rowan-Robinson from Bridgetown, Merv Ryan, Arthur Smith, "Geordie" Smith from Denmark, "Bluey" Smith, Fred Sparkman, Ron Sprigg from Albany, Harry Sproston, Geoff Swan from Salmon Gums, Lou Thompson from Wanamal, Clarrie Varian, Roy Watson, "Doc" Wheatley, and of course Jim Wall from Victoria.

Guests included Dave Deering, 2/16th; Johnny Morrison, 2/4th M.G.; Wilf Ferrier, City of Perth Sub-Branch R.S.L.; Len Titshall, of Kings Park Staff.

This was definitely one of our better Re-unions and I think only proves how necessary it is to keep them going despite the trouble. When a car load will come from Kalgoorlie especially to be present it shows just what the Unit spirit is.

"Swanny" made it all the way from Esperance the night before. It makes one feel really proud to belong to just such a grand gang.

Thanks to Jim Wall for giving us an interstate flavour. One gets so used to seeing old faces like Jack Fowler, Bing, Charlie Sadler, Bernie Langridge, Robbie and Co., that we are inclined to take them for granted and forget the trouble they have to go to to be present. Thanks a million, chaps. See you next year.

### COMMEMORATION SERVICE

The annual pilgrimage to our area in Lovekin Drive, Kings Park, took place on Sunday, Oct. 1.

The area looked in lovely order thanks to the efforts of Bill Epps, Jack Hasson and Ron Kirkwood.

Jack Hasson delivered the Address which is printed below. Mick Morgan marshalled the parade and 22 took part in the March of Honour through the avenue.

Helen Poynton took the opportunity of taking a lot of film of the service and also of the plaques, and this film will be taken on the Safari next year.

It is a pity that more members were not present but this roll up could be accepted as F.A.Q. We did have a nice roll up of friends and relatives and this helped to make the service a memorable one.

### PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Again it is my pride and privilege to give to you the Commemoration Day Address.

For many years now we have met at this hallowed spot to do homage to our fallen comrades and the years have not dimmed the valour of their passing. Let us be sure that our memories give them their just due right down through the years.

Practically every year we ask the question: "Did they die in vain?" and each year the question poses a problem. The world for which they fought to make a better place does not seem to have learnt a worthwhile lesson. Right through history it has been proved over and over again that war is not the answer to man's troubles. All that it does is to make even further troubles, especially as further horror weapons are used to bring about a result. Just why is it that nations find this necessity to attack one another and squander good lives in the pursuit of power? There must be a reason, but the average man has not yet found it. How do megalomaniacs like Hitler, Mussolini and Tojo get whole nations to follow them in their maniacal plans for world domination? This is the greatest poser of all time.

Today this old world is not one wit better off than it was a hundred years ago. Vietnam is a full scale war that looks like going on for ever. The situation between Israel and the Arab countries, despite the rapid Jewish advance, is a long, long way from being resolved. China is bent on the destruction of Hong Kong. Africa is still in a state of upheaval. The U.S.A. is being rocked by the most violent of racial strife.

Where will it all end?

One could become practically morbid recounting the ills of the world, especially when we think that we

fought a war that was to end all wars and which bred the United Nations, which was to be the forum where all future troubles were to be solved. Then one ponders on the flower of the nation's youth still being squandered in distant fields, and the answer to the question "Did they die in vain?" seems to be in the affirmative.

This would be over simplifying the problem, because at the day and age of their passing they did buy us some time, and we did keep the foot of the conqueror from our fair shores. This was a result that has managed, for Australia at least, to build strongly and go ahead worthily. To this end they achieved their purpose in their passing.

One thing we can say is that we have given them a fitting memorial in this delightful grove where we are now assembled. The living testimonial of these trees means that their memory is enshrined forever. Better than stone, more glorious than any edifice, this is the memorial which will tell forever of their deeds. Let us who have been spared dedicate ourselves to beautifying this spot to even a greater extent than we have up to the present time. Remember it is us who are the fortunate ones, who returned, and we owe an immense debt of gratitude to those who did not return.

Unfortunately this area still becomes the plaything of vandals on more occasions than should happen in a civilised community and it is our fervent hope that these creatures, who would despoil a sacred area, will soon learn the errors of their ways and accept the message which is carved on our signs: "Treat it with respect".

This Association of ours which was hammered out on the anvil of war has proved to be of great solace to us all. It is forever growing stronger with the passing of the years. Let us bend its energies to doing all we can for the peace of the nations. It is remarkable what a small organisation can do if it only tries. Remember it is from small acorns that great oaks grow. Firmness of purpose and an iron will can achieve miracles. We can but try and if we try hard enough we can succeed. So put your shoulders to the wheel and work with all your might for a better world for our children and our children's children.

Today, let us spare a thought for those who were bereaved by the passing of the loved ones whose memories are perpetuated in this area. Theirs was the burden which was heaviest to carry, but time, that immortal healer, has turned their wounds to scars. The scars will always be there but let them remember that if there is a better place in the world beyond the grave, then their loved ones will have a most honoured place in this Garden of Eden. 'Tis good to remember, but remember not in sorrow. Hold up your heads and be proud of the deeds of those who have preceded us to a grave which is the heritage of us all.

I would like to draw the attention of all those present to the fact that your Association is building a memorial in Timor to those gallant people who so assisted our cause while we did battle with the enemy. It was not a war of their making, in fact they tried their best to remain neutral. Their sufferings were of a magnitude that made ours seem puny by comparison. There would not be one of our Unit who does not owe his life to some action or other of those wonderful natives and hospitable Portuguese, and although our gesture in providing a memorial to them seems over-late it is better late than never. At this time the memorial will probably have been started and by Christmas or the New Year could be completed. It is taking the form of a lovely Rest House in the near proximity of Dili and will be a thing of great value to the natives who travel to Dili, and a thing of beauty in the eyes of all who behold it. Naturally such a memorial cannot be built for nothing and an appeal for funds has already been opened and you are all requested to subscribe to this appeal in the most open-hearted manner possible, as I know you really will. Surely your lives were worth a great deal to you and it is this great deal that we are asking you to give.

Let me in conclusion thank all who have toiled so manfully in past years to make this spot such a truly wonderful portion of Kings Park and make a fervent plea that you will all redouble your efforts in the years to come to make it an even more fitting memorial to our honoured dead.

## OCTOBER MEETING

As this meeting took place so soon after the Re-Union and Commemoration Service it took the form of a special Committee meeting to discuss the Timor Memorial Project.

Many things of great interest were debated especially the urgency of getting a person to Timor fairly soon. This was deferred until a reply to a letter to the Australian Consul was received. It is expected that Ray Aitken will be visiting Timor early in November and it is hoped to utilise his services for the Association's mutual benefit.

It was also decided at this meeting that because of the magnitude of the money raising task that henceforth all business arising from the Timor Memorial Project be handled by the full Committee.

## The Great Safari

Interest in the Great Safari Re-Union is reaching fever point in W.A. Speaking to many of the country members at the Annual Re-Union showed a fantastic interest by these people. They are all especially keen for their wives to take part in this tour.

Jim Wall will be able to take back to Melbourne our views and also a

bundle of information regarding arrangements from this end.

If any person in W.A. is still interested in joining the Safari let me know immediately as it appears that a few more bookings can still be made.

## Personalities

In Perth for the last week was Ted Loud and his wife Phyl. I saw exactly too much of the big blonde and required every moment of the long weekend to recuperate. Have practically convinced Ted and Phyl that they have to go on that Safari.

It was a bitter blow to us and to Fred Napier that he had to be in Hollywood during the Re-Union. He has been having a bundle of trouble with his ears but is on the mend now. Fred really enjoys a Re-Union and helps in a big way for other people to enjoy it. A speedy recovery big boy. Get fit for that Safari.

Alf Walsh has also been in R.G.H. having his ulcers pruned and I hear he is now on the improve. Sorry to hear you are going bad, Alf. Better give old Doc Barleycorn a break. He does a world beating job.

Jim Wall headed back East after a fortnight in W.A. I hope he enjoyed his stay as much as I enjoyed his company. He should be able to

put the Victorian boys in the picture regarding the Safari and the Timor Memorial.

Nice to see Ernie Hoffman for the first time since the war. Ernie's sprouting a nice fuzz on the upper lip but otherwise the same old Ernie. Says he is among the home brew specialists and still manages to floss a crust.

Apologies for non-attendance at the Re-Union from Don Turton who got caught up with blow fly strike in his sheep, Clarrie Turner who had staff trouble. Geo. Strickland also apologised but he had just had an operation on each of his hands and was in no position to raise a lager. Geo and CoBlleen called on me one day and we had a big wongi. Apart from the crook hands Geo looked well and said that he appreciated going back to his trade as a Cabinet Maker after a long sojourn driving a cement mixer truck. Says the present job gives him much more time at home.

Mal Herbert is at present competing in the local Queens Prize rifle shooting with conspicuous success. Mal is like Tennyson's Brook, he seems to go on forever pulling the trigger to advantage.

Tommy Martin figured largely at the recent Royal Show. He took numerous prizes with his Stud Large White Pigs including several championships. At the Show sales he created a sales record for a Large White Boar which brought \$1,500. Nice going Tommy. Keep it up.

Syd Jarvis, from Muchea, was seen in Midland recently and is as bright and cheeky as ever. To be quite truthful Syd does not keep in the best of health and has to look after himse'f somewhat and that is the reason why we do not see him at any of our shows. He is always interested to hear of the doings of the old gang and looks forward to reading about them. Let's hope the health improves rapidly so that we can all have the pleasure of seeing and yarn-ing to you again soon.

## Random Harvest

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

We are all pretty busy preparing for Geraldton's ninth Sunshine Festival and already the influx of visitors is under way for what promises to be another highly successful series of events. My wife and I will again judge the floats in the Festival Parade, in addition to which I will be kept busy by handling T.V. and radio coverage for the A.B.C. It looks as though there will be plenty of sunshine for these ten days of festivities and we're hoping to see some of the boys and to have a noggin or two.

Bill Drage has been in the news again. This time the R.S.L. Sub-Branch at Northampton (where he lived before selling his farm and retiring to Geraldton) has recommended that he be presented with a Certificate of Merit. Our Drage was mainly responsible for the achievement by the Northampton Sub-Branch in acquiring a memorial hall and making it free of debt within only six years. This fine building cost about \$16,000 but is worth much more because of such volun-

tary labour. Bill was also Vice-President for a couple of years.

Another Double-Red-Diamond type, Nip Cunningham, and his wife, Mary, were among those at a dinner to celebrate the effort of the Geraldton R.S.L. Women's Auxiliary in winning for the fifth occasion, the Country Cup for the outstanding rural Auxiliary of the year.

I am pretty happy at the moment because the R.S.L. Sub-Branch, of which I have been Publicity Officer for some years, has won the Collett Cup for the seventh occasion, as the outstanding country Sub-Branch of the year. It was my pleasure to prepare the submission for this competition, the winning of which we celebrated at our monthly meeting when Nick Pilatis, of the Shamrock Hotel donated a keg for the occasion.

It has also been my pleasure to be one of the selectors of the Great Northern Football League which won all of its three matches against the North Midland League, at the Geraldton Oval.

Eric Smythe is still a stalwart of the Geraldton Yacht Club and was among those taking a keen interest

### 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

in the annual meeting the other night. It was certainly a year of achievement. Eric's former boatmate, Barry Waller, won the Yvonne catamaran national championship in Perth with "Co-re the 6th", while another local yachtsman, Kevin Marsh, was runner-up with "Suton".

The Geraldton area has again been in the news this time as a result of the production of a set of quads. Mother and babies (a Merino ewe and her four lambs, on Mr. Russell Exten's farm at Yuna) are all doing well. In fact, five of his ewes have 16 lambs between them—one set of quads and four sets of triplets.

If there are any Subiaco football supporters among you be on the lookout for a young Geraldton player Berend Timmerman, of Brigades, who will play for Suby next year. He's over six foot, is nicely built, is a teetotaler and a non-smoker, and is a dashing centre half back. Timmerman, of course, plays for the club which I support.

Well, I must be away now, as duty calls. However allow me to thank you sincerely for my re-election as Northern Country Vice-President, and also to heartily congratulate everyone associated with the highly successful year.

**BERT BURGESS, of "Burlands", P.O. Box 224, Katanning, W.A., 6317, writes:—**

I was delighted to hear of the response from the Portuguese end re the proposed memorial in Timor. It reflects credit on our Committee handling the job too, and I hope that it will encourage them to hammer away at our own Government to do the right thing.

I have pleasure in returning the guarantor form duly signed. A donation towards the fund will follow at a later date.

I am pleased also to see so many entering the stalls for the Great Safari. It will be a wonderful success and I am only sorry that I cannot give you all a treat and be in it.

On the subject of tours. Our boy Peter, is going on the Y.A.L. tour during the Christmas holidays which will take him to Melbourne for a week, then to the Snowy Mountains and Canberra, then by train through Brisbane up to Cairns. From Cairns they will visit Atherton Tablelands and out to Green Island. They will spend a week in Sydney on the way home. It will be a wonderfully entertaining and educational tour for the boys.

Back in June of this year I had a quick trip to Kalgoorlie. Went up to collect some ewes purchased in N.S.W. It was 8 p.m. when we arrived in Kalgoorlie and left again with the sheep by 7.30 next morning. Was fortunate in being able to contact a couple of our fellows. Steve Rogers was just off to bed to get a few hours rest before midnight shift in his bakery. Hope you managed to see out the shift, Steve.

Eric Thornander had made some good sales the previous week and had gone off to his favourite fishing spot for a couple of days so didn't see him.

With Steve's help however, did track down Jack Spencer and was most delightfully entertained for a period of time. It was whilst with Jack that I discovered that I had the key to the hotel room and that my carrier friend was locked out. You must get Jack to tell you about his experience with the circus elephant. It would spoil his story if I were to tell it.

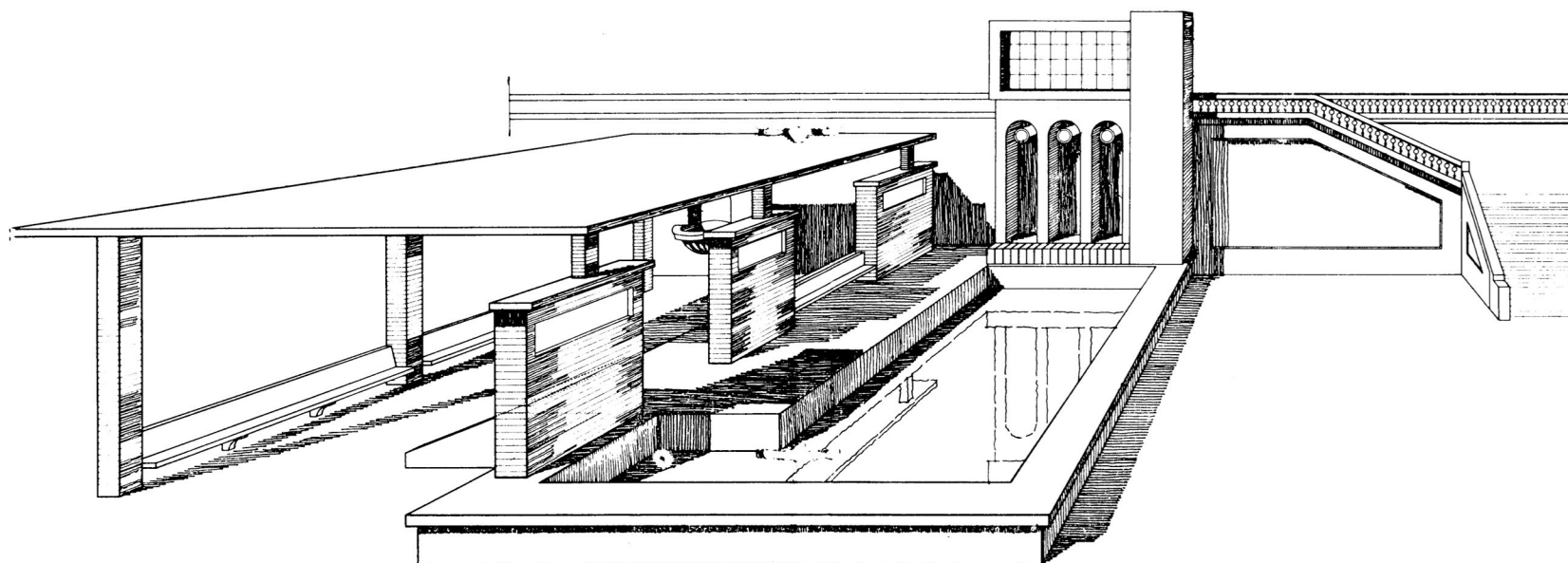
With a friend from Katanning had a few days in South Australia at the end of June. Spent most of our time at a sheep stud property at Kadina and only had an afternoon and night in Adelaide. We spent a

most enjoyable couple of hours with Ken and Betty Mackintosh at their home in Belair. Their home is situated just above "Windy Ridge Lookout" (Ken can correct me if this is not right) and commands a lovely panorama of the city lights at night. Ken has aged a little bit but Betty definitely hasn't. They are very pleased and proud of their two boys. My friend from Katanning is still enthusing about the V.I.P. treatment we received in Adelaide.

The people from Kadina brought us back down to Adelaide and drove us on a tour around the city block. Apart from the fact that the old tram line is not there now and that there seems to be more buildings facing Anzac Highway now old Wayville doesn't appear much different. To go back to the time of our sojourn at Wayville it may be interesting to those who remember the Sgts. Mess there and the caricatures drawn by the steward (was it Ted Potts?). On one of my subsequent drafts through there the camp S.M. showed me that room of those temporary buildings that was being retained because of these caricatures when the rest of the section was pulled down.

Due no doubt to the vagaries of the weather as well as the time of the

## THE PROPOSED TIMOR MEMORIAL



year the green belt didn't look too green. For those who haven't visited Adelaide for some years there is a new drive-in park with restaurant, etc., between Wayville and Victoria Park race course. Quite attractive and inviting.

Marie's uncle, Father McEncroe, after 30 years service in New Guinea is now Parish Priest at Hindmarsh and he joined in the cause of our entertainment driving us on a tour of that area including North Adelaide and the beaches of Henly and Grange. Due to the kindness of all of these people we did see in a few hours quite a bit of the City of Churches and Parks and enjoyed some mighty good company.

A very wet winter has dampened everyone's spirits around here. The ground became waterlogged and boggy early in May and because of constant rain, no sun and no wind, the country has remained that way ever since. Crops are very patchy as a result and pastures on low areas are very retarded for this time of the year. Should finish up a reasonably good year, however, unless we get a sudden change from one extreme to the other.

Regards to all.

**BERNIE LANGRIDGE, of "Craw-  
lea", Donnybrook, W.A., writes:—**

Thank you once again for the wonderful "Courier" particulars.

Ron Trengroves' "Historically Yours" is a beaut.

Re the Great Safari. As you will see by my late reply I will not be a starter. I feel awfully mean and there is nothing I would like more than to be with the gang for the whole six wonderful weeks, but with family responsibilities (three boys in High School) and two girls in Primary, it would not be fair to Babs who I think needs the complete break just as much as I do, to say nothing of expanding farming operations and the general pressure from public as well as private responsibilities which one assumes as he goes along.

I hope that all the boys have the marvellous time they deserve. My pleasure will have to be reading of their escapades and please don't underestimate this. You will all have experienced the thrill of reading (in the "Courier" particularly) of some bit of news of some special friend, or through force of circumstances some

one you shared a hazardous event with or even a pleasurable event.

Good luck and God bless you all on this ingeniously conceived trip primarily to renew old acquaintances—surely there is no more proof needed to demonstrate the strength of the bonds of friendship which ties us all together. I hope this trip comes up to the wildest expectations of each one of you in every respect.

**H. "Slim" JAMES, of 18 Beatrice  
St., Scarborough, W.A., writes:—**

Regret I had to leave it this late to advise about the Safari, but it was unavoidable. However now everything is O.K. for my wife and I to make it, and really looking forward to the trip.

Working at the markets doesn't give anyone much opportunity to see any of the lads, with the exception of Bill Rowan Robbie who I saw about three or four weeks ago. He comes down occasionally to give us a small blast if we sell his apples a bit cheap.

I think it is a great idea that a memorial is to be erected in memory of those who helped us so much in Timor.

I have always vowed and declared to myself that I will return there before I have my final argument with St. Peter as to which department I will be assigned, chief stoker or cloud cleaner.

Afraid there is not much hope of attending the monthly meetings as the early market is next morning. However the very welcome "Courier" keeps me up with all the news, to which I am most grateful.

Regards to all.

**RON SPRIGG, of 60 Hill Street,  
Albany, W.A., writes:—**

Firstly I must apologise for no letter in with the sweep butts but they were sent in just a couple of days after Anzac Day and for those who stayed to the finish will realise it took more than a couple of days for me to recover. What a day! Many thanks to those who helped pour me onto the train. As we all say, never again, but when I look back on it now being my first march I think it was worth it and a credit to the organisers.

I am sending in the Safari questionnaire with the hopes of going. I have plenty of leave and should be able to get it at that time. Would

we railway employees be able to get a privilege travelling with a party like that? I think so, but perhaps you could check with your commercial friend some time.

I see Fred Sparkman most weekends travelling back to Tambellup. He hopes to be going. I will be going alone, if at all.

Regards to all the boys.

**GERRY EDWARDS, of Hollywood  
Hospital, writes:—**

Scrounged a "Courier" off one of our mates, Ern Dinwoodie while he was in with me. Is now an outpatient. Funny thing Alf Longbottom was also here. Had a visit from "Ping" Anderson. Did us good.

Don't know when I'm getting out. Had a spinal fusion so have got a new back.

Good to see old names crop up in the "Courier".

Been here three months. Had the joint. Might run into some of the boys one day. You know me, paddle my own canoe.

Have an idea that I may hitch hike over to that Safari. Who knows.

Regards to all.

**ALLAN CARDY, of 186 Eppinke  
Road, Eastwood, N.S.W., writes:—**

As I have moved around a bit over the last five years, and have failed to give the Association my address I thought it was about time I let you know my whereabouts.

At present I am working at Victoria Barracks, Paddington, N.S.W., but my present private address is 186 Eppinke Rd., Eastwood, N.S.W.

However in January, 1968, I will be moving to 14 Hampshire Avenue, West Pymble, N.S.W., 2073.

Hope you are all well. Regards.

**MRS. H. BROWN, of 30 Beach St.,  
Frankston, Vic., 3199, writes:—**

I am afraid I have a very sorrowful message to pass on to you. I have been asked by my cousin to let you know of the death of her husband, John Frederick Benson. I believe he was a member of your Association.

Having been born in Frankston, he was known and loved by all. He was a popular member of R.S.L., football and cricket clubs, among other town activities, and will be sadly missed. It was indeed a pleas-

ure to have known such a lovely person as John.

His wife Dixie, and daughters Joy and Shirley, are living at 13 Cranbourne-rd., Frankston.

**IAN RONOLD, of 27 Scott's Avenue  
Shortlands, Bromley, Kent, Eng-  
land, writes:—**

As you see by the above my address has recently changed. The "Courier" still arrives regularly, and I greatly appreciate it—also the efforts of those involved in producing it.

Still working hard in my practice, and fortunately keeping very fit.

Enclosed is something towards the expenses of the "Courier".

**KEITH AND BETT CRAIG, of Box  
234, P.O. Young, N.S.W., write:—**

I am returning a cheque and the Commando Gift and subscriptions. I haven't filled in the butts as I am afraid they will be just too late to be in the draw.

We are going away for a few weeks to Gilgadra to see Keith's father and when we return we hope to get down to the business of building a house.

Keith has left the land and is working as a storeman in the Bulk Store at Hammond and Hanlon. At the moment we are living in a small cottage in Melville St., but hope to be able to commence building in about four months or so.

Would you please change the address for the "Courier" to the box number would be the best.

Since we have been in town I have been working and we were lucky to have the box at P.O.

We both hope to be able to meet up with the "Travellers From Other States" next April, probably at Canberra and continue on with you all from there.

We will really try and write again before too long. Best wishes to all and hope the money will help the funds.

**EDDIE ROWE, of Pine Creek, Can-  
ungra, Qld., writes:—**

Received letter and tickets some time ago, but forgot all about the tickets. I am enclosing money for same, also subs for "Courier", which I always look forward to receiving.

We are all well here and hope you and the boys over there are the same.

Our eldest son, Lisle, is in Vietnam

with 2 R.A.R.. He flew over with the advance party. He followed my footsteps and is a foot slogger. He will do 12 months over there.

Our other son, Garry, is helping me on the farm. Couldn't manage without him.

Jan, our daughter, is 16 now and is out working.

If any of the boys' sons ever go through the Canungra camp please give them our address as we would like them to pay us a visit. It is a big camp here now and all go through here on their way to Vietnam and Malaya.

Regards to all the boys.

**I. J. MARTIN, "Harlex", Miling, writes:—**

Enclosed find cheque to cover subs and tickets which I'm sorry is long overdue. We'll put it down to pressure of work.

**CHAS GORTON, of 138 Marmion St., East Fremantle, W.A., writes:**  
Please find money and butts enclosed.

This is being written in a hurry before I get off to work.

Hoping that you and yours are keeping well, also that the sweep is the usual success.

May be able to make it to the Ladies' Night so till then I'll wish you all the best.

**F. N. CUNNINGHAM, of 182 Augustus Street, Geraldton, W.A., writes:—**

I am enclosing a money order which is for the sweep tickets which I trust is a whopping success. The remainder for Association funds.

I marched on both parades on Anzac Day and met Peter Barden on both. I was disappointed not to meet Bill Drage, but learnt that he had a couple of heart attacks and was reclining in hospital.

I will close now with best wishes to all Association members.

**ALFREDO DOS SANTOS, of 19 Goodchap Street, Surry Hills, N.S.W., writes:—**

I am enclosing money for butts and donation.

We had a very nice Anzac Day. We did the usual things finishing the day at Arncliffe R.S.L.. I hope the Perth boys had a good day too.

Joe Tell is in hospital so could not be with us.

**WILF MARCH, of 3 Bricknall Road, Attadale, W.A., writes:—**

Herewith cash for tickets for sweep. Hope that you are well and that the Association is progressing O.K.

I hope to take an interest in Association activities again in the near future and will endeavour to make the next meeting.

**COLIN CRIDDLE, of 124 Nanson Street, Wembley, W.A., writes:—**

Enclosed please find cheque covering sale of tickets, and subs.

Will be relinquishing my duties on the committee of the Aust. Parachute Federation this year ending June 30 so will be free to get along to the Unit's activities.

May I wish the Association the best of luck in its fund raising and my very best to all members.

**F. WILKES, of Brunswick Junction, W.A., writes:—**

Please find sweep butts and cheque, and I hope the sweep is a mighty success, and one day I plan to be at a Re-Union and meet the old gang again but when I won't promise.

News down here is very little so I'll draw this to a close for now with best regards to all.

**O. K. DIGNUM, of 24 Selkirk Ave., Leuton, S.A., 5023, writes:—**

Received the August issue of the "Courier". Pleased to get it and acquaint myself with the doings of the boys and the Association as a whole.

I posted the sweep butts in but in my usual hurry, no note accompanied them so now I think is the time to rectify that.

Firstly the Anzac March. I will admit time has slipped by but news is news, even history. The Unit was well represented considering the few in S.A.

Present were Bert Bache, Allen Hollow, Lofty Timcke, Ron Macky, Bob Williamson and Yours Truly.

The accompanying snap taken by my wife shows myself, Bob Williamson, Bert Bache and Lofty Timcke, reading from left to right, each marked with a dart.

Dud Tapper and wife called in this afternoon and was just in time to lend a hand in tipping my trailer over to paint the underside. For those interested it is not my boat trailer, but a 6ft. x 4ft. steel trailer with a canvas canopy I have recent-



ly fitted to it. It's our covered wagon. We slip away on our fishing trips.

You will no doubt realise Tapper must be keeping O.K. or I would never have been able to talk him into helping to tip the trailer over.

I notice in the Address Book you have no address for Lofty Timcke. It is 5 Pearce Avenue, Felixstone. Bert Bache said he was sending it on, so if he hasn't, here it is.

I am months behind with my correspondence so I have no news from the out lying boys. Will be in trouble if I don't do something about it.

Well I will call it a day now. Give my cheerio to all of 4 Section.

**J. R. LEWIS, of 1831 Albany Highway, Maddington, W.A., writes:**

Enclosed find ticket butts with a cheque to cover same and subs.

Things are much the same here. plenty of work and not enough time to do it.

Will try and make one of the meetings now that we are getting more settled, but I never seem to have time to go anywhere. I have only been to Perth about four times since I have been down here.

My regards to all and I hope the sweep is a success.

**RON A. MACKEY, of 18 Folkestone Road, South Brighton, S.A., writes:**

Just a note of apology for being long winded in answering your letter. It was with some shock that I received your letter as I did not receive any sweep books this year. They must have gone astray in the post.

However, I did get the "Courier" and Address Book, so thanks a lot. I agree with you the Address Book would sure take some compiling.

Oh, by the way when you send the "Courier" could you put the initials R. A. Mackey on the address as I have a 17 year old son named Allan who thinks it's a hell of a joke to get my "Courier" and I get second go at it.

I won't be able to partake of the Grand Safari as I'm absolutely broke, but I'm looking forward to seeing you W.A.s as you pass through.

I decided to go to the Anzac March in Adelaide this year to see if any of the boys were around still I met Keith Dignam, Sgt. Bache, several old timers from Timor days

and a host of lads with the Green Double Diamond and we all grouped together and marched as a combined group. I thoroughly enjoyed the march and seeing the boys again and will turn up again next year for sure.

Well, I'll close now and say keep the "Courier" going.

**BOB SNOWDON, c/- Lone Pine P.O., via Wodonga, Victoria, writes**

My sincere apologies for not writing sooner and returning the enclosed questionnaire on the Great Safari. I can only plead that being a seven days a week dairy farmer, about the only writing I find time for nowadays is the cheques for the monthly acc.

Being tied down to a dairy farm is my reason for sending in a negative return on the Safari. We milk all the year here, to supply the whole milk trade, with spray irrigation to keep up the supply in the summer and autumn so we are still pretty busy in April. However I hope to be able to find someone to take over for a couple of days so that I can go to Melbourne to join in some of the Re-Union functions arranged there. If so I will arrange my own accommodation.

With four boys in the family my future prospects for labour seem fairly sound, but the oldest is only 13 so they are a little young to take over yet. We also have one girl. She is the oldest—aged 15.

Please note a change of address. This is a postal address change only. We are still on the same dairy farm I was brought up on. Situated at Bonegilla, about three miles from the old Bonegilla military camp and about six or seven miles from Bandiana camp.

We milk about 90 cows in the spring, dropping down to around 45 in our slackest period—May and early June. It provides a good living in this district, but is certainly constant and keeps one out of mischief.

Being isolated from other members I look forward to the "Courier". My congratulations to yourself and others who have done such a grand job on this paper over the years. Can't tell you how much it means to country members. My last meeting with any of the boys was at the Bendigo Re-Union a couple of years ago.

I think that's about all the words I can put together at the moment so will say cheerio with kindest regards to all members:

# Historically Yours

## "MY EARLY DAYS ON TIMOR"

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

(Continued from Last Issue)

On Monday word came through that Col. Leggett had surrendered to the enemy as he could hold out no longer. The men were tired having practically no sleep for three days, and before that nights on guard and false alarms, then fighting against such terrific odds with no meals except tins of bully beef and a packet of dog biscuits, and bayonet charges and bombs, shelling, strafing. Just a general hell without hope of reinforcements who had been turned back eight hours from landing. The 2/4th Pioneers and 600 Yankee Artillery men and various other reinforcements numbering somewhere near 2,000 men.

What wouldn't we have given to have seen them two weeks ago, and the promised fighter squadron that secret runways had been built for, that never arrived. It was useless to fight, but they did and Don Company paid the account for the trick that was played on them by wiping out most of the paratroops on their return to Baboe. They threw grenades in the huts and set fire to them when the Japs refused to come out. They riddle the huts with tommy gun slugs and rifle and machine gun fire. It was sweet revenge.

The disabled carrier the L.A.D. left behind that wouldn't go into any gear but first, the Japs got that on the road and was causing us casualties when Leo came along in the only other good carrier out of the ten (something else attributed to two officers and a W.O.) that was in working order. The Japs stopped in the middle of the road and jumped behind it to shoot at Leo and his crew, one of whom jumped out and fired his tommy gun at the legs he could see behind the Jap controlled carrier, then jumped back into the carrier and Leo let her go flat out past the Japs and as they sailed past one of the crew dropped a grenade into the Japs carrier which must have went and made an awful mess as our grenades have a habit of doing when released for duty.

Just after this Leo was winged in the ear by a Jap sniper. Unfortunately for that worthy fellow he was spotted up in his tree and because they could not get enough elevation on the Lewis mounted in the back of the carrier Leo backed her over the edge of the road and the gunner poured 240 rounds into the tree before the Jap fell out. He had been tied to the tree. A habit they had.

Then they came on to Champalong later to come on to Soe and thence Atamboea.

Leo told a good story about the English ack-ack crowd who were the cause of him and his carrier crew being at Atamboea to tell the tale. But as the details are not fresh enough in my memory I cannot set it out clear enough, but suffice to say that Tommies are tops with Leo and his crowd. He told us about how the Tommies couldn't get the Japs to come within range of the Bofors guns which have a ceiling of some 3,000 feet. So while a couple of Tommies stood out in the road and waved towels and anything else to make the enemy dive at them, the others would stand by at the guns and when the zeroes or dive bombers came low enough to spray lead at the men in the road, the gunners would sight them up and in this fashion got nine Jap planes the first day and at least seven the next day which wasn't a bad piece of work. They wished that they had had their 3.7 that they knew so well in Dunkirk, London, Birmingham, Liverpool, and from a host of other towns in England and France. Veterans of air raids every one of them.

Every man of them who was not killed was taken prisoner with our boys because after they were within two miles of Champalong their Major stopped one of the 40th Don Rs to be told that the Battalion was surrounded. Upon hearing this the Tommy Major turned around and went and gave assistance. We believe he broke through the Japs but could not break out again. I guess

they were in much the same condition as our boys. When they hadn't been on the guns they were doing infantry work where and when they were needed. Whilst doing the latter they had made it possible for Leo with his carrier and crew to get out.

Some of the Japs in Baboe had found our canteen stores and made the mistake of drinking our beer and getting slightly pickled. Leo and

his gang, all Tassies by the way, peeped in the door and then let a tommy gun peep and for good measure a grenade. Exit from this world Japs.

(To be continued)

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

## **CAR RALLY PICNIC**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5**

STARTING POINT: CAUSEWAY CAR PARK at 10.30 a.m.

This is not a Trial but a Car Rally through the hills eventually finishing up at the same property in Gidgegannup that we used before. For anyone who wishes to travel direct proceed up the Toodyay Road over Red Hill till you reach the 23 mile peg. Turn right along Stoneville Road which is 100 yards further on. Then watch out for the sign where to turn in at the gate which is approx. one mile. Follow the track till it reaches the keg. There will be plenty of barbecues available for those who liked their meat burnt.

## **NOVEMBER MEETING**

**FINAL ROUND CALCUTT MEMORIAL TROPHY**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7**

**ANZAC HOUSE BASEMENT**

This is your last chance this year to have this gorgeous trophy repose on your mantelpiece

## **DECEMBER MEETING**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5**

**ANZAC HOUSE BASEMENT**

You will be further advised regarding this fixture