



# 2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

(Registered at the G.P.O. Perth, for transmission by post as a periodical)  
(Address All Association Correspondence to Box T1646, G.P.O., Perth)

Vol. 23. No. 210.

SEPTEMBER, 1968

Price 1 cent.

## *Editorial*

### THIS SICK OLD WORLD

To read the daily press is a most sickening business at the moment. War, infringement of human rights, riots, protests, mayhem of every nature is the daily headlines.

Just what is wrong with humanity? Why can't differences be handled in a humane way? Surely the advance in education over the last hundred years should have taught us the lessons that nothing is gained by war and brutality. But somehow it seems the opposite is the case.

The recent Russian occupation of Czechoslovakia is a real case in point of the big bully and the small boy. Threats to Rumania from the same source is indicative that Russia will not tolerate any liberal advances in their particular brand of Communism. I think the world was really jolted by what happened to the Czechs especially as by some devious means Russia had gained assistance from Poland, Hungary and East Germany.

Since the Cuban incident Russia had given the impression of mellowing in her dealings with her own people and her satellite countries and also the West. We must all have grave doubts at present and the cold war will step up even more than in the past and the old distrust will be on again.

Events in Vietnam do not give any hope of an early settlement and the Paris talks appear to have achieved exactly nothing. This looks like

remaining a long and dirty war with the end result as full of doubt as ever.

Racial riots in U.S.A. give little hope that that bastion of democracy is going to remain just that. Black power could turn U.S.A. into another South Africa with all its apathetic and segregation.

The Nigerian-Biafra affair is probably the worst civil war since the Congo incident and the setback in this area will take a hundred years to get over.

Where, oh where do we go?

Man's inhumanity to man seems to be getting worse. The United Nations as a forum is worse than useless and appears to be only a place where Russia and Co. can sound off then apply the veto. As an exercise in World Government you couldn't have worse which makes one furiously think that it will always be impossible to get nations to really co-operate.

What is the answer? I for one don't know but it still behoves all right thinking people to do all they can to see that human control and discipline is exercised in as many spheres as possible.

Do politics all over the world attract the wrong type of person? This seems to be a fact when the inhuman things we see continue to be tolerated and even perpetuated. Perhaps here lies the answer—better types in all forms of government.

—C. D. DOIG, Editor.

# West Australian Whisperings

## Association Activities

### AUGUST MEETING

A most enjoyable carpet bowls night took place at Anzac House Basement on Aug. 6. This was an impromptu pairs night and was won by Jack Hasson and Arthur Smith.

These nights have always proved to be popular and of course are quite easy to arrange.

### SEPTEMBER MEETING

A great effort was made to try and improve attendances and this meeting was selected to be a test run. The attendance was very good indeed and included the ladies who came along to see the slides taken by members on the Safari trip East.

With Len Bagley as master of ceremonies this went off with a bang and a very comprehensive set of slides they were.

Thanks to Harry and Maisie Holder, Len and Dot Bagley, Harry and Thelma Sproxton, Alf and Elsie Hillman, who brought along these slides for exhibition.

Alf and Elsie Hillman came all the way from Broomehill especially for the evening despite really bad weather.

Thanks to the ladies there was a very nice light supper and this really set off the evening. There should be more of them judging by the attendance and interest shown in this venture.

### ANNUAL RE-UNION DINNER

This will be held at Anzac House Basement on Saturday, Sept. 28 (Grand Final of the Footy). Here is an opportunity for country folk to see the footy and also attend the Re-union afterwards.

### COMMEMORATION SERVICE

As usual this is to be held the day following the Re-union, Sunday, Sept. 29, at our own area in Lovekin Drive Kings Park, at 2.30 p.m.

This is one show where we hope to see you even if you have been unable to attend any other turnout during the whole year.

## Committee Comment

The usual monthly Committee meeting was held at Anzac Club on Tuesday, Aug. 20.

Col Doig acted as Secretary in the absence of Ron Kirkwood and was able to advise that the position regarding the Timor Memorial Fund was now in a healthy position. The State Government had contributed \$500 and the fund stood at over \$4,000 with the Federal Government contribution of an equal amount to come. It was decided to leave the fund open in the meantime as added unforeseen expenditure may have to be met.

It was also decided to thank all persons who agreed to act as guarantors for the fund and to advise them that these were no longer required and had been destroyed.

The Treasurer, Arthur Smith, was able to advise that the general purpose funds were bearing up under the strain and would see the Association through for some time yet.

Detailed discussion took place on arrangements for the Annual Re-Union Dinner to be held on Saturday, Sept. 28, and this was planned as far as it was possible. This also applied to the Commemoration Service the following day, Sunday, Sept. 29.

A working bee to clean up the Kings Park area was planned for Sunday, Sept. 22, at 9.30 a.m.

The sub-committee formed to handle the fund raising for the Timor Memorial reported that 300 letters had been despatched and the return to date was only just satisfactory. Bill Epps advised that a "Courier" had just been despatched and that he intended to despatch a letter to selected persons with a view to increasing the attendances at monthly meetings.

It was decided to look into the matter of a combined Ladies' Night and Bucks show to take place early in December.

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

## TIMOR MEMORIAL APPEAL

Advice has been received from the Australian Consul in Dilli that satisfactory progress is being made with the erection of the Dare Resting Place although work had been held up somewhat by the lengthy wet season. He still expected the building to be completed close to schedule at the end of September or early October.

Having regard to this finishing date it would appear that any hand over would have to be delayed until the wet season of 1968-69 was over and that April-May, 1969, would probably be the time of this official hand-over.

Funds have rolled in very well for this appeal but we still require a little more to cover all possible contingencies so if you have not already contributed please forward your donation as soon as possible to enable the appeal to be closed.

While on the subject of finance I would like to bring to the notice of all members the most generous action of Ray Aitken towards the Association. When we were in absolute extremis regarding funds and the Portuguese authorities were anxious to get on with the building Ray stepped in and provided \$5,500 so that we were able to get on with the whole business. At that time we had raised approx. \$3,000 and it did not appear likely that the Commonwealth Government were going to assist us so we were also having more than a bit of trouble getting bank finance. You will readily see how this free of interest loan from Ray got us off a very nasty hook especially as it seemed that it would be a long time before he would be repaid. This is the sort of generous gesture which makes the running of an Association so very much worthwhile. Thanks a million Ray.

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO MEMORIAL ACCOUNT

Previously acknowledged	\$3,098.38
1968 Bank Interest	\$21.25
Ray Parry	20
Roy Letts	20
Sundries	1
Dave Ritchie (2nd)	5
Gerry Green	40
Fred Napier	25
Tom Bateman	5
Peter Krause	10
Bill Drage	30
Scotty Wares	10
<b>TOTAL to 5/9/68</b>	<b>\$4,776.23</b>

**GUARANTORS:**

The Association wishes to thank all those good people who kindly signed Guarantee Forms in connection with the Timor Memorial Appeal. Thanks to circumstances these guarantees were not required then or will not be required in the future. The Secretary has taken the necessary steps to destroy these forms and you have no further worries regarding them.

**Thank You All Once Again.**

**Personalities**

It was good to see Alf and Elsie Hillman come down from Broomehill for the slide showing. Both assure me that they had a wonderful time on the Safari and want to know when we are going to organise another one.

Sorry Harry Holder couldn't make it for the September meeting but sent along Maisie in his stead. Harry was in the cot with the present brand of flu that is clouting everyone.

Fred Napier has not been able to return to work yet and his hands are giving him a good deal of trouble. We hope it clears up soon, Fred, and you will be able to get back to work.

Maurie Smith at present in W.A. on a holiday from Victoria, currently at Boulder with his brother who has the Shamrock Hotel. Maurie rang me and I promptly ordered him out of town but he refused to go and of course the inevitable result I got into trouble. He is a complete menace and my health deteriorates every time he hits Perth.

Don Turton has just returned from a trip East with his brother. They went by car and took in Adelaide, Sydney and Canberra, and all places in between. Don reports seeing Bob Williamson and Dud Tapper in Adelaide, Bill Coker in Sydney, and David Dexter and Ron Dook in Canberra. Don says Bob Williamson is due to have a business trip to W.A. some time in November and he will be most welcome.

Kevin and Glad Curran have been on a cruise of the islands. Had a nice letter from Glad while they were berthed in Sydney and she was most hopeful of a good time. Hope it all worked out fine, Kev and Glad.

It is with regret that we have to announce the death of one of our hosts on the Safari in South Australia, one John Arthur (Butch) Wilson, who passed away on Sept. 5, 1968. Those on Safari will remember the wonderful Good Friday spent on his property in the Adelaide hills. At that time you would have taken out a million in assurance on him just on his healthy looks. He was a wonderful and generous host and went to a terrific amount of bother to look after us in a big way. The following is an extract from a S.A. paper regarding his passing and tells his history better than I can.

**Ex-Commando Dies:**

A former S.A. Commando and Military Medal winner, Mr. John Arthur Wilson, of Cragmore Park, in the Adelaide Hills, died on Tuesday. He was 50.

Mr. Wilson was president of the Commando Association of S.A. for eight years until 1966 and at his death was Vice President of the Prospect Branch of the R.S.L.

During World War II he served in the Middle East with the 2/33rd Bn. and then joined the 2/6th Australian Independent Company and served with this unit until its disbandment at the end of the war.

While serving with the Commandos he was awarded the Military Medal and was twice Mentioned in Dispatches.

He went to England in 1947 as a member of the Australian Victory Contingent.

Mr. Wilson was a keen hockey player and was a member of the Olympic Council for Hockey.

Mr. Wilson, who is survived by his widow and two sons and two daughters, will be cremated at the Centennial Park Cemetery after a service at St. Clement's Church, Blair Athol, at 1 p.m. today.

**Historically Yours****RAY AITKEN'S 1968 RETURN TO TIMOR**

(Continued from last issue)

**JULIO MADIERA**

There died in Dili on Nov. 10, 1967, Julio Madiera, an unusually adventurous farmer of the island of Timor.

Julio was of mixed parentage having Portuguese, Chinese, Filipino and even some English blood. The Timorese called him Juli, a feminine name but there was nothing effeminate about Juli.

He had many enemies and many friends. In his whole life he never forgave an enemy or forgot a friend. He lived to the age of 58 and died of pneumonia brought on by an ill-advised deer hunt and his own obstinacy in not seeking medical assistance until too late.

Julio was like those navigators of Portugal, half buccaneer, half hero, who carried Prince Henry's red and green banner and discovered half the world.

For us Julie's life started on the Glano where he farmed successfully and bred a great flock of geese. When the Japanese convoy on its way to Eremera, was delayed at the Glano bridge because its abutments had been tampered with, two Japs began shooting geese for the pot. Juli stood in his doorway and gave them a piece of his mind in fluent Malay. A Jap snapped a shot at him and Juli stripped his auto loading .22 from the wall and shot both Japs through the head. He then opened rapid and effective fire on the convoy claiming to have disposed of three more. This tactic enabled his household to escape to the long grass. Juli, a particularly boastful character, made only one loud claim about this episode. "I never lost a life," he said.

He came to the Australians for a Lee Enfield but was told that to accept a rifle meant accepting orders. He considered this proposition for two long sulky hours and then gave his word. It is significant that when the 2/2nd left the island Juli "shot through" with the rifle and as much

ammunition as he could carry. His agreement was not with the new men.

We should remember that he served with us for better than six months without complaint and that he was one of 15 men who took part in the night raid on Dili.

Those who knew him well will find "without complaint" a little steep. Juli was a continuous critic of Portuguese, either administrative or military, of the Australians and of the Timorese. However, as certain revolutionary pro-Jap citizens can testify, if you scratched any of the three you made an enemy of Juli, and when that happened the only answer was to dodge the bullet.

Antonio Casiniro met Juli in the hills one day.

"Where are the Australians?" asked Juli.

"They've gone to Australia," answered Antonio. "Did you want to rejoin them?"

"No," said Juli, "I just wanted more ammunition."

Juli loved deer shooting almost as much as Jap shooting. On one occasion the writer was moving through the hills with him when we came on signs of deer. Juli suggested a hunt.

"What about the job?" I asked.

"The Japs will still be there tomorrow," said Juli.

We got our deer.

When the Porto Adminstration was finally destroyed on the island either by evacuation or internment at Liquica the net failed to enclose a most wanted man. Juli remained in the Glano and divided his attentions between Japs and native revolutionary leaders. The revolutionary natives came to Eremera to destroy the coffee plantation of that fearless friend Antonio Alves Carvelhiera. Juli sent a runner to the chief to tell him that the man who cut the first tree would be the first man shot.

Such was the prestige of this man that no one dared to cut a tree and the wild men withdrew to the high mountains for fear of a single long rifle.

The natives of Eremera worship the memory of Juli Madiera. To the Timorese he is an island hero. I firmly believe this to be a true assessment of him.

When times became too hot for him in the valley he took to the hills and when he slept his wife, Aline, held the rifle. Her skill with it was second only to that of her husband.

The picture of this man with 10,000 hands against him and only his skill with weapons and his field-craft to support him is something to wonder at. His was truly a triumph of the human spirit against all odds.

When the surrender at last came the Japanese Commander expressed a desire to meet this living legend. A car came to Eremera and took Juli to Dili.

"You are Juli Madiera?" said the Jap.

"I am," said Juli.

"You shot many Japs."

Said Juli with unwanted modesty: "Ituan dit (only a few)."

Knowing Juli he must have been tempted to say: "Not enough!"

The other day I suggested to a group of Timorese at Eremera that when Juli got to the Pearly Gates he would say to St. Peter: "Bibi rusa iha ca la? (Are there deer here or not?)" and if St. Peter replied in the negative Juli would say: "Lai quo. Hau ba-on (I don't like it. I'll go elsewhere)."

All agreed that this would undoubtedly be what Julio would say.

Julio's wife, Aline, now sick and old and near the end of the road lives on in Dili. She must have many regrets that Juli's treatment by authority was not always in keeping with what his actions had deserved.

It is perhaps because of Aline that I pen these notes in the hope that at some future date some Portuguese or Timorese historian may do justice to the image of a modern Robin Hood. It is time indeed that a man who was as much Portuguese

as the Portuguese themselves and as much Timorese as the Timorese, should have his image re-instated.

Julio was an extrovert. He was sometimes hard to live with, but his depth of friendship and his courage in adversity never flagged.

"Rai Timor" was Juli's first love and his duty.

He was worthy of his island.

This was a man.

#### DONNA BERTA MARTINS

Donna Berta Martins died in Dili on Nov. 13, 1967.

Her story has been told many times but will always bear retelling.

On the morning of Feb. 20, 1942, a number of Australians looked upon Dili and saw transports in the harbour. To them it meant that the Portuguese had come and they requested permission to go down and see them. They probably thought they would be wined and dined by the newcomers and they boarded our solitary ration truck in high spirits.

When they came upon a battalion of soldiers marching towards Dili they tooted the horn at them and drove past at least some. They were halted and realised they were among the Japanese.

The Japs swiftly bound their wrists behind them and as a Dutch machine gun was still firing they lined them facing a ditch and shot them through the back of the neck. Later that day the Japs returned and bayoneted the bodies also through the back of the neck. By a miracle one soldier, Keith Hayes, survived this double ordeal. He was even cut free as the Japs wanted his wrist watch.

Keith was unconscious for most of the night and in the morning he came to his senses only to find Japanese marching along the road above his head. Dazed from loss of blood he leapt from the ditch and ran through a patch of maize. A native working in the maize tripped

## ANNUAL RE-UNION SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

## COMMEMORATION SERVICE SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

him up and half carried him to the hut of one Berta Martins.

Berta Martins did her best to staunch the flow of blood and to cleanse the wounds. She then hid her wounded soldier. The Japanese searched without avail. Berta resisted a vicious interrogation and beating up.

When circumstances permitted and the nights were dark enough she despatched Keith on a pony and with guides to rejoin the Australians in the mountains. The only message she sent with him was that she would have liked to keep him forever as a son but that our medicine was better than hers.

Berta Martins was a brave Timorese, a great lady, and it is understandab'e that Keith Hayes feels her passing as he would a member of his own family.

**(This is the last in an excellent series of articles supplied by Ray Aitken after his trip to Timor at the end of 1967. You will all agree that Ray is an outstanding diarist and these articles have given us all a great deal of pleasure and brought back a flood of memories. Thanks, Ray, for such a great write up.)**

### THE GREAT SAFARI SOME FURTHER REFLECTIONS

After the main safari was completed your Editor and Jack Carey stayed on in Sydney for a week and were inundated with hospitality as usual. Bill Coker drove us and Les Dingle down to Wollongong to meet an old mate of Dingle's and mine. This proved to be a wonderful day and the view from the Panorama Hotel just the most marvellous I have ever seen. It appeared just like picture postcards of the Riviera. We were feted at the Wollongong R.S.L. Club with lunch and drinks on the house.

Bill also took us to see the Kurrajong Chase lookout and this again was a terrific trip.

Ron Trengrove took over and took us out to tea and then back to the North Sydney Anzac Club. Ron's own home is a dream. Could be a nightmare if you came home tanked and walked over the edge into the bay. The lookout from his house is just too terrific.

The North Sydney Anzac Club is

another of the palatial clubs and prob'ly the biggest of the R.S.L. Clubs in Sydney.

Had a get-together with Jim English, Ron Trengrove, Bill Coker, Jack Hartly, Alan Luby and Paddy Kenneally back at the Arncliffe R.S.L. and this was another free night, the management refusing to sight our silver.

Saturday saw Jack Carey go to the races and win an odd quid while Tom Crouch and self went to the Rugby League game at S.C.G. to see St. George play Manly. We were ignorant enough to depart ten minutes before full time with the scores St. George 15, Manly 13.

Crouch walked, yes walked, me back to the Metropole Hotel about 500 mile I reckon especially in my delicate state of health. When we got back Carey had got back from his trip to Rosehill and we enquired from somebody in the bar how the rugby game finished. We were informed that it was the game of the century and had finished up 15 all. When we told this mob that we went with ten minutes to go they thought we must have been queer or something.

Sunday night saw our departure for Melbourne and we were seen off by a big gang of the boys. And seen off it was. I'm sure if either of us had tried to miss that train we would have been shanghied aboard most smartly.

A great trip to Sydney was over. The memory will linger on forever. What a great gang of blokes and there till the bitter end.

Snowy Weir came up with his particular brand of travelling tablets—a half bottle of overproof Beenleigh Rum!

(More next issue—I hope)

### ANZAC DAY MARCH IN SYDNEY

The photo produced on the middle page spread of this issue of the march on Anzac Day in Sydney was kindly supplied by Ron Trengrove. Try and pick yourself among this gang.

### Write to Your Editor:

**Box T1646,  
G.P.O., PERTH.**



## Random Harvest

concre  
It will  
Dilli at?

### WE APOLOGISE

must apologise to three blokes (that was all) to whom we sent wrong letter when appealing for funds—the one which stated "although you were not on Timor". We were corrected very gently by two of them, but the third blasted us. Well, it was an error on our part caused by the rush of trying to sort and post some 300 letters. We very much regret that these three letters got mixed into the wrong pile. Please forgive us, you men.

**MISTER BARDEN, of Radio Station 6GN, Geraldton, W.A., writes:**

First of all allow me to congratulate everyone associated with yet another highly successful year, particularly the "Courier" Editor, Col Doig, for his marvellous job. Also allow me to say thank you for the confidence displayed in my re-election as Country Vice President for the Geraldton area.

One of the proudest Double-Red-Diamond types at present is Bruss Fagg, of Northampton, who as R.S.L. President in that town had the pleasure of presiding at a cabaret dinner to celebrate the Sub-Branch's golden jubilee. Although small numerically, the Sub-Branch is big as far as achievements are concerned and has its own Memorial Hall which is used for various community functions. Bruss became President this year after being Secretary for five years some time ago.

I see quite a lot of Nip Cunningham who is justly proud of the Mercantile Club where he works, and which is reputed to be one of the finest clubs in Western Australia. My wife Joan, and I often have a noggin or two with Nip and his wife, Mary. He's enjoying fairly good health these days but says being a landlord (he owns several houses) often means big maintenance outlays—and sometimes prevents him from taking part in one of his favourite pastimes—a flutter on the gee-gees.

We have seen quite a lot of Tom Foster (ex-Gippsland, Victoria) this year. He is running a farm at Wicka near Geraldton, for a big English syndicate which now has big farming interests in various parts of W.A.

We had a good yarn on Anzac Day when Tom was on parade.

Nip Cunningham said he ran into Alby Friend who was at Geraldton for some time in connection with crayfish inspections for the Department of Primary Industry, with the result that they yarnted about those far-away days, over a glass or two.

A group of Doub'e-Red-Diamond types, including Bill Drage, Nip Cunningham, Eric Smyth and Yours Truly, recently had a delightful re-union with Merv Ryan who was up from Fremantle doing stevedoring work on a Norwegian vessel, which, incidentally, provided some anxious moments when it broke its moorings in winds of over 80 m.p.h. and got precariously close to the huge rocks of the breakwater.

At this re-union we heard plenty about the Great Safari, from Drage and Smythe, and what a beauty it must have been. They reckoned the hospitality was absolutely fantastic, even though most of the sandgropers helped the Caulfield bookies when Kev Curran's good-thing just missed out from winning. However, Mick Morgan backed it each way and was quite happy.

We have been having a busy time with the 9-day Sunshine Festival which has attracted thousands of visitors to Geraldton. My wife and I again had the pleasure of judging the floats. They were an outstanding lot, with the main prize going to the Geraldton Prisons Department's float which portrayed the old and the new in prisons—the old with the prisoners behind bars and leg chains displayed—the new with sports, studies and trades being taught.

The Geraldton Sub-Branch of the R.S.L. has won the huge Collet Cup for the year. It was our eighth win and naturally I am elated because once again it was my pleasure to compile the submission for the competition.

Well, I must be away now, as duty calls. Cheerio for now and kind regards to all.

**RON TRENGROVE, of 46 Hillcrest Ave., Mona Vale, N.S.W., writes:**

I received your reminder today about the Timor Memorial Fund to which I have as yet not contributed

not because I have forgotten and not because I don't know how much I am indebted to the creados to whom I owe my life I believe.

I am enclosing \$12. This will not be my last contribution but I can't promise how much I will be able to give but I will be contributing more.

I hope and trust that you yourself, Bill, are now well recovered and will soon be getting around in your usual manner giving due regard of course to any restraint that the sawbones may have to serve on you.

You will no doubt by the time you have this letter in your hand have read my letter for the "Courier". If we all contribute a letter or two like the one in the "Courier" just received, a complete picture from almost every one's point of view of the Safari will make good reading for some time to come.

I have given my "Courier" to three or four friends to read and they all say they wish they had started out with you all to come here, and one in particular said this was one of the things that being in the R.A.A.F. during the war he missed out on after as one never stayed long enough with any group or section to have got together a show like ours after the war.

Well in closing my regards to Jess and may you carry on your good work for us as long as you will because we need you to keep us like we are—a great mob to be with.

See you on Safari—I hope.  
Best to Col from me.

**W. M. BAXTER, Treasurer 2/4th Commando, Ass., of Melbourne, writes:**

I am enclosing a cheque for the amount of \$25.40. The \$25 are donations from the following boys of the 2/4th: H. Ensides, \$5; S. Kent, \$5; B. McDonald, \$5; R. Lipman, \$10. We all hope over here that your Timor Memorial Fund is a great success. No doubt the \$25 will help to swell your funds.

The 40c is a refund on the Betana Beach Rose. The distributor charged 70c and not 80c.

**JOHN M. WHEELDON, Senator for W.A., writes:**

Thank you for your letter of the 24th July.

I am very pleased that your efforts to have the Memorial erected in

Portuguese Timor have been successful.

I enclose my cheque for \$10 as a small donation to your funds.

**CAMPBELL RODD, of 15 Hyde Park Road, Traralgon, Vic., writes:**

I was quite surprised to find your President had run me down to earth with his letter of July 30 appealing for assistance for your Timor Memorial Project Appeal.

Please find enclosed a cheque for \$50 as I feel this is a well worthwhile venture and we certainly still owe those people a great deal.

I was disappointed I could not drive from Tranalgan over the mountains to the Promontory to see all you Westralian travellers when on Safari but was away in New Zealand on business at the time.

It have been in southern Tasmania for about six years involved in starting up a new paper pulp mill and as a result am pretty much out of touch with your many activities, but I do occasionally get some information through Bert Tobin.

Your old Timor members will be interested to learn I had the opportunity of a quick trip back to Timor in May on the tail end of a part pleasure part business trip to Darwin after looking around the Territory's forest areas.

Darwin to Baucau via TAA Foker Friendship is remarkably cheap and quick and the accommodation at Baucau and Dilli remarkably comfortable and cheap.

The buffalo is obviously better bred. The steak is tender and the Portuguese wine laid on, so what more could one wish for. While in Dilli I met a Mr. and Mrs. A. B. de Almeida. He works for the bank and shipping agent and claims to have supplied Bernard Callinan with small change (trucha) just before the Japs landed. I remember some of the handout. His wife works for the Tourist Department and they are obviously trying to raise some tourist revenue with TAA's help and the island is becoming quite a favourite with Darwin people.

During my stay in Dilli with my wife, I hired a Landrover and went up the Remexio road to Remexio to try and find one creado—M'Bouti. Passed the site of the Memorial Rest House about 2,500 feet (vertical) above the hospital at Lautora. The

concrete foundations were poured. It will have a magnificent view over Dilli and the harbour and will serve quite a useful purpose as the Timorese from Alieu-Remexio area were carrying great loads into the Dilli market to open the following morning and it appeared the only shelter they would have that night would be huddled up under their palm leaf (umbrellas)—forget the right name.

Road transport in Timor is still very rough, a day in a Landrover was sheer hell—would much rather walk.

I managed to get up to Eremera. The Chinese are well re-established there and turned on a magnificent meal. Then drove around to AiFu plantation. Seems to be about three times the area now under coffee. The plantation has been rebuilt and new homestead by Jamie Carvelho. The old boy appeared to be quite excited to see an Australian back from the war and he made quite a fuss.

Generally I found the Portuguese and Timorese did not bear us any animosity notwithstanding all the trouble we had caused and the damage resulting from our stay. This is always a risk when one undertakes one of these sentimental journeys.

One of my objectives was to get up into the higher slopes of Hatubulico where there was a magnificent stand of eucalyps which we now suspect was the seed source and origin of the huge eucalyp forest of Brazil which is now one of the world's leading eucalyp pulp producers. Unfortunately time ran out and I did not have time to get up onto the ridge between Hatubulico and Atsabe so this will give me an excuse to return.

You will be pleased to hear that the last Governor managed to get quite a deal of money to improve standards of living and education considerably. At the time we were there all the kids looked well fed. All up to the age of about 14 appeared to be attending school. Inspected quite a few of these—usually run by Catholic priests or nuns up in the mountains.

In towns like Dilli and Baucau the Chinese community were running their own high schools which was quite a surprise. As in the past they are still very sharp traders. Couldn't resist playing them at their own game but found the Timorese

kids still very appealing, probably caused a bit of inflation in their case.

Managed to recall a fair bit of my Tetum vocabulary probably back to about 1,000 words after a week's stay and this made it very interesting when able to communicate with some of the older people.

Was a bit shocked to find Timorese up in the mountains aged 40-45 who looked old enough to be 60-70.

Was told Julie Madeira died about five years ago. He appeared to be quite a legend with tales of his one man war.

The Portuguese army is very ardent wherever you go. About 3,500 national service troops driving round the mountain tracks in personnel carriers dressed in camouflaged greens. Never appear to walk anywhere, just like the b— Yanks. Apparently they had quite a few worries with the Indonesians during the latter days of President Soekarno.

The only other feature of note was the number of young Australians long hair "flower children". Looked much worse than George Merritt ever did. They appear to be worrying the Portuguese authorities as they bludge on the Timorese who are still very hospitable and then move over into Indonesia and Bali. I think they now have to show they have reasonable funds when they arrive at the airport and so won't become a charge on the local community—a good thing too.

Sorry for the long rambling letter. Became carried away after I started to write a brief formal note with the cheque.

Kind regards to Bill Epps, Jack Denman when you see them, and all the rest of you wild Westralians.

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

Firstly let me apologise that I have delayed so long in forwarding my contribution to the Timor Memorial Appeal that you had to go to this length to extract something from the Luby coffers. This is one of those things I've had in mind that procrastination has prevailed and I finally got around to drawing a cheque last Monday—two days before your letter arrived, but as yet unposted.

Anyway this does also give me a reason for writing you a note to say

how pleased I am to see your apparent recovery from the bout you encountered whilst over here. I was only talking to someone a couple of weeks ago, think it may have been John Hartley, and we were wondering how you were going, but were both amazed to realise that a full three months had elapsed since that wonderful re-union week.

Our activities since have been somewhat of an anticlimax but the advent of warmer nights should produce better meetings. We hope to be able to organise a trip on the Krait for the local folk sometime in September which should also produce a good roll up. Apart from phone contacts with some of the fellows, I was up in Grafton on a flying visit a fortnight ago and enjoyed the hospitality of the Mathiesons and Greenhalghs.

In the job we have been extremely busy and this has left little time for relaxation or personal correspondence—even my bowls has been well down the list on many weekends.

Over the May holidays I took Ede and the girls down to Wollongong to be near Barrie and Marie and Michelle for a few days. They were caught up in a cyclone and sat up all one night, terrified, as the annex on the van was torn to ribbons and one of the poles came through a window.

A couple of weeks ago our chairman of Liverpool Legacy Committee suffered a mild coronary and has been in hospital since. On Tuesday last I was elected to fill the position until his return to active duty. Will probably thus be in some position to meet and greet some of the Perth Legatees when they are over this way.

Sincerely trust that I am right in assuming that you are O.K. again and that Jess can relax now—there's nothing like that loving care and attention is there?

Edith and the girls join me in sending our kindest regards and best wishes to you both and to all our friends from the West.

We're looking forward to a visit from Harry and Olive Botterill and family at the end of the month.

#### **KEN MONK, of Poowong East, Vic., writes:**

Please find enclosed cheque being for the Timor Fund. Sorry it is not

much larger and that it has not been sent long before this. I have often thought about it but always seem to have some large bill thrust before me, then bang goes my good thoughts and deed till a later date and so the wheel turns.

The drought hit us pretty hard as we were by far overstocked as we had been stocking up hoping to get more land but as yet things have not turned out as we thought.

Am writing this in the car whilst I mind the yearling heifers on the road. There is quite a bit of tucker out here.

Since January our butterfat price dropped by 5c and I believe that it will drop another 7c this month so the dairying industry does not look too good at the present.

Thanks for listening to this page of whines and moans. Don't let the hard working city worker read this or he'll go out on strike in sympathy then we'll really be buggered.

This page will be on a better note. I'm still able to slip and slide around the place, still control my half the electric blanket and maintain the middle age spread.

Well, it was a great four or five days we had over Easter. Most facts were still recognisable but one or two had gone astray and funny to say they were the ones that I should have known best of all.

I was sorry I could not go on to Sydney with you but first page of this scrawl shows you one of the reasons.

It was a great surprise the Sunday after to come home from a short trip to find Tony Bowers, his wife, and Jack Renehan, sitting in the kitchen. I must apologise to Tony again for overlooking him—the little squirt—when I walked in. I saw Renehan on the other side of the room gloating over a bucket of mushrooms and just thought the other two were city friends out for mushrooms so didn't pay much attention to them. Tell Tony the country is looking much better than when he was here but the hill has not got any smaller. I think I'll have to install a chair lift for sprightly young things like him and Renehan.

The family are in pretty good health at present. The wife has just come back from Drouin to put the elder daughter on the train to go

back to Melbourne to work. She has just finished her three years' training as a nurse at the Warragut Hospital and is now down at the St. Andrews Hospital in Melbourne. The second daughter is in her second year at Teachers Training College at Geelong. Enjoying it very much but it is a fair way from home. She only comes home occasionally but could get home each week with some of the others who have cars. The two boys go to the Warragut Tech. School. Colin, the elder, in fifth form and leaving next year to come home and help the old man. Robert who is 13 and in third form still has a few years of schooling. Don't know what he wants to be yet but I think we'll try to get him to Dookie College. He's not as keen on the cows, that is milking. They both play in the Poowong Third Football team, Colin being captain. It is their last home and home game on Saturday. They are in the four, can't go out but have to play the first semi. I have my doubts about their winning but who knows, a game is never over till it's finished and many sure things have lost. I still keep an interest as I am chief flag waver for them. I still haven't won a match for them.

Went to a land auction the other day. Was interested in a 35 acre turnout paddock. The home place of 130 acres went for \$462. Thought the block would make 300 but it went for 415 so I'm still looking.

Well, it's time I went to the cow shed. We are doing 31 with another in today. They have all been calving late this year, about 10 days over their time.

Well all the best. Hope I can add more to the cheque later

**JOHN ROBERTS, of 75 Nicholson-st., East Coburg, Vic., writes:**

Thanks for the reminder note. Have been intending for some time to post you a cheque but just have not got around to doing so up to the present time.

Hope the enclosed is accompanied by a good bag from other laggards like myself and appeal is successful.

Pleased to hear from Ron Kirkwood that most of you had recovered and hope that ere this will find you the same.

Sincere good wishes from both Cath and myself to one and all.

**DAVID and BETTY McNAIR, of 230 Selby St., Floreat Park, write:**

It is with great pleasure we are forwarding this cheque towards your Timor Fund.

Thank you and all the 2/2nd Commandoes for a wonderful trip and holiday.

**BOB (Beaky) SMITH, of 13 Barnard Crescent Toukley, N.S.W., writes:**

Well, how can I begin? First things first, I suppose!

I am almost ashamed to admit that the Timor Memorial Fund had escaped from my memory and therefore I am pleased to receive your reminder and I am only sorry it could not be for more, but now being on a pension—"nuff said". I do hope the appeal is completed in a very sound manner, for I consider it (even considering my late donation) a very worthy appeal indeed and a "must" for every member of our Unit.

How did the lads recover from the "Safari"? It must be very pleasing for the persons in every State who organised the functions that took place, that everything went off so well—and also pleasing for all members of the "Safari" that the functions were so well organised. Although I was not able to attend all the various entertainments I was able to get to at least one—and had a very nice time, too.

Since I met you I have faced up to a couple of specialists in Sydney who confirmed the earlier finding that I am medically unfit for further service with the lighthouses. Subsequently, as from July 1, I was retired on a pension-superannuation. I have already been advised by Repat. that my pension from them has been raised to the Intermediate Rate as from February this year.

I have been able to obtain a house in Toukley and would like you to fix up my change of address in the Address Book. Would you also delete my two previous addresses. (I advised Bill Epps in Sydney but the latest "Courier" went to my Shortland address.)

Although I have been ruled as unfit for full time work I am looking around for something to do on a part-time basis. Probably be a bit of part-time work available when the warmer weather starts, as things

SEPTEMBER, 1968

2/2 Commando Courier

Page Fifteen

are in the doldrums as regards that kind of work around here just at present.

Forgive my tardiness in regards to the appeal and in closing again I hope everything goes well in this—as you call it—"debt of honour".

**LYLE LITCHFIELD, of Mundowd-na Stn., Maree, S.A., writes:**

Enclosed cheque. Please deduct any subs due and balance for the Timor Memorial Project.

Regret that I was unable to get down to Adelaide to see the boys when they passed through on the Safari. Was very pleased to get the news in the "Courier". The Safari was apparently a great success. Received an account of the Adelaide part of it from Shorty Stevens.

You boys over in the West certainly do a great job in keeping the Association active and so much alive.

Regards to all the boys and success to your Timor Project.

**J. RICE, of 10 Heithleigh St., South Launceston, Tas., writes:**

Received your letter dated 30th July and would be pleased to give a donation to the Timor Appeal.

As I am leaving Tasmania tomorrow for W.A. by car we should arrive in Perth on the 13th August. Hoping to see as many of the boys as I did last time I was over. Will be staying at the Narrows Motel.

Tell Col Doig to have one on the counter.

**JIM BRODIE, of Unit 8A, 36 Albyn St., Bexley, N.S.W., writes:**

Thanks for your reminder re the Memorial Project in Timor.

At the Re-union I promised to assist in this worthy cause and would have done so sooner except that I have been away on business most of the time since.

I enclose cheque which I hope will be of some help towards the expenses involved.

I realise the form you sent me was stereotyped but wish to point out that I did serve in Timor with the 2/4th Ind. Coy. as R.A.P. Sergeant.

Hope to contact you when I am next in Perth.

(So sorry about the mix up in letters but we sent out two differently worded ones at the same time. In the rush and bustle of sorting, signing addressing and mailing some 300

letters it seems that we did mix up two. Thank goodness you were good enough to realise it was an error on our part and took it as such. We here know of your service on Timor as some of the boys remember you personally. Hope to see you in Perth soon.—President.)

**R. H. BURTON, c/- P.O. Mundubbera, Qld., writes:**

I must say I am terribly sorry at not having written long ago, but to tell you the truth I have been in so much bloody strife these past few months its not funny.

I got the "Commando Courier" dated June and after reading it right through, especially the bit on the Great Safari, that I am prompted to write to someone. That someone was my great mate during the war, Jack Carey. I don't know why but I was feeling very low when I wrote it and of course being as I am I told him of my sorrows. I will not go into them here, but you might ask Jack for a slew at the letter I wrote him.

Anyway will enclose cheque and do hope it will help. I am sorry it could not be more.

It's a wonder anyone wrote to me at all. I have not written to anyone for years and I am quite ashamed to say it, but if you would read the letter I wrote Jack you might understand why.

Well, I must close now as I have more letters to write. Give my kindest regards to all the boys.

**ALLAN CARDY, of 14 Hampshire Ave., West Pymble, N.S.W., writes:**

Reference your letter dated 30th July. I am enclosing a cheque for \$20 as a donation to the Timor Memorial Project.

I am sorry I have not sent this previously but as you probably know I am still in the regular Army and never seem to get much time to write to people, and in fact still get very little time at home.

As I am with an Infantry Battalion I spend a lot of time in camps and courses and on weekend bivouacs.

You will be sorry to hear that Jack Laffy's wife died about two weeks ago. Jack is still in the Army. He is at Headquarters, Eastern Command, Victoria Barracks, Sydney.

Well, I must close now. Please give my regards to all members of the Association.

**ANNUAL RE-UNION DINNER:****SATURDAY, 28th SEPTEMBER**

(Grand Final of Footy That Day)

**ANZAC HOUSE BASEMENT**

Drinks at 6.45 p.m.

Make This a Must

**COMMEMORATION SERVICE:****HONOUR AVENUE, KINGS PARK****SUNDAY, 29th SEPTEMBER**

To Start at 2.30 p.m. Will See You There

**OCTOBER MEETING:****TUESDAY, 1st OCTOBER****ANZAC HOUSE BASEMENT**

This will be only a small meeting as it falls very soon after the Re-union

**CAR RALLY:****SUNDAY, 13th OCTOBER, at 10 a.m.****Starting at Car Park at Western End of Causeway**

This Rally will start from the Car Park at the western end of the Causeway and will finish at J. Lillie's property in Parkerville Road, Gidgegannup. This road connects right through from the Toodyay Road to the Great Eastern Highway, and will be marked at both ends with our usual Double Diamond notices. As we have not previously been to this property you are advised to try and be at the start point by 10 a.m. As usual the day will be a picnic for the family with a barbecue lunch. All liquid refreshments will be provided but you are asked to make your own arrangements to satisfy the inner man (or men).

**NOVEMBER MEETING:****TUESDAY, 5th NOVEMBER****ANZAC HOUSE BASEMENT**

The last chance this year to win the Calcutt Memorial Trophy. Remember this year there has been only one contest to date so a good score at the November meeting could win it for you.