



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. 209.

JULY, 1968

Price 1 cent.

Editorial

THE GOOD NEWS

The Association's Timor Memorial Liaison Secretary, John Burrige, received a telegram from Hon. Paul Hasluck, Minister for External Affairs, who has been representing our case to the Prime Minister for assistance with the Memorial project, advising that the Prime Minister had agreed to subsidise the project to the extent of \$4,000 provided our Association raised a similar amount.

This is indeed good news and assures the fact that the Dare Resting Place will be handed over to the Portuguese Authorities free of any encumbrances.

This acceptance by the Commonwealth Government of a dollar for dollar subsidy is a victory of great magnitude as far as the Association is concerned and shows that by sheer persistence an end can be achieved. Although we had received a direct knockback only a short time ago (in late March) we have been able, by logical argument at the right places, to reverse this decision.

Great credit must resolve upon Mr. Burrige for the excellence of his correspondence in dealing with this matter and the forcefulness of his arguments have assisted largely with the eventual victory. Some credit also must go to the deputation who were received by the Prime Minister in Canberra during the Great Safari, in bringing the case to his personal notice and this could have been the final weight in the scales as far as

getting the Prime Minister's approval. This only goes to show that persistence properly handled will eventually pay off.

On many occasions our current State President, Bill Epps, has said that getting money was never one of the Association's problems when the cause was right. How prophetic can you be? Even Bill in his wildest dreams didn't think it would work out like this.

However good as the news that the Commonwealth Government has decided to come to the party is, we are still faced with the task of raising our share of the funds and we cannot relax until this is achieved. With something like \$3,000 in hand we must still raise in excess of \$1,000 as there will be expenses in preparing a suitable plaque and possibly other incidentals not accounted for in the agreement with the Portuguese Authorities to erect the Memorial for \$8,000.

Those members who have not already contributed are asked to weigh in with a donation as soon as possible as the actual building of the Resting Place is fast reaching a conclusion and the matter of handing the Memorial over to the Portuguese Authorities will have to be considered very shortly.

All we can say in conclusion is thanks very much to the Commonwealth Government and the Prime Minister for their magnificent gesture.

West Australian Whisperings

Association Activities

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This was held at Anzac House Basement on Tuesday, July 2, 1968. Despite bad weather and a series of events which precluded the "Courier" being despatched, a quite handsome attendance was the order of the evening.

After Secretary Ron Kirkwood read the minutes of the previous A.G. reports were presented by the President, Treasurer, Auditor, Editor and also the Organiser of the Safari. Copies of these reports are printed elsewhere in this issue.

Mr. Bob Smyth was elected a Life Member of the Association on the motion of Bill Epps who made most laudatory remarks on the work Bob had performed for the Association.

Election of Officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows: President, Bill Epps; Vice President, Len Bagley; Secretary, Ron Kirkwood; Treasurer, Arthur Smith; Auditor, Dick Geere; Editor, Col Doig; Committee, Messrs. Jack Carey, Joe Poynton, John Burrridge, Harry Sproxtion, Colin Hodson, and "Spriggy" McDonald; Immediate Past President, Jack Hasson; Warden of Kings Park, Geo. Fletcher. Country Vice Presidents: Geraldton Area, Peter Barden; Midlands Area, Jack Fowler; Kalgoorlie Area, Eric Thornander; Great Southern, Tony Bowers; Southern Coastal, Clarrie Turner; South Western, Tom Crouch.

The main business of the evening was in regard to the raising of funds for the payment of the Timor Memorial (at this stage the Association was not aware that the Commonwealth Government had decided to co-operate). Ways and means were discussed at length and eventually the Committee were instructed to make this year an all out drive for the necessary funds.

It was decided to invite the Portuguese Consul General in Sydney to our Annual Dinner, also the Portuguese Consul in Darwin and the Chief of Police in Timor to this function.

It was also decided to make an all-out drive in this year for better attendances at monthly meetings and

to this end the Committee were instructed to select one month for a drive to obtain increased attendance with the hope that this would be continued at later meetings.

PRESIDENTIAL REPORT

Gentlemen:

It is my pleasure to present my report to you on this most memorable year. I say memorable because of the two big events that have taken place during this third term of my Presidency.

Firstly the Timor Memorial. This is truly a great step—perhaps a little late as it is 26 years since we were on the island, but the Timorese did so much for us and to you all who have given so generously to the appeal I say: "Thank You": To those who have not yet seen their way clear to give, I hope they will be able to do so in the near future. To the Committee who have worked so hard to get the project under way, to Mr. Burrridge and Mr. Aitken who have personally been to Timor, it is "Thank You" again. Next year should see the completion of this most wonderful memorial.

Secondly is the Great Safari. It did indeed end up being this, and for the boys who met their mates after so many years I know it will live in their minds forever. Mr. Doig, who organised the Safari, must indeed feel great pleasure now that it is over and thanks go to him and his wonderful band of helpers, both here and in the other States. To those of us who didn't make it, I personally know we missed a grand re-union.

Anzac Day in Perth was trumps. Mr. Dhu laid the wreath at the Dawn Service and a grand bunch of fellows turned up for the march. As usual, after the march we all adjourned to the W.A. Rowing Club and lived the war over again. Owing to the absence of Mr. Carey at the Safari our table was not in the usual style. My personal thanks to Messrs. Dhu, Maley and King for the help they gave me that day.

The Annual Dinner this year brought forth a wonderful roll up of Country Members. Do keep it up boys, for us in office, it is a great

boost to our morale when you make such an effort.

Our Commemoration Service the following day was well attended. Our thanks to Mrs. Poynton, who photographed both these gatherings to show while on Safari.

Busy Bees in our Honour Avenue have been well attended and we can feel justly proud of our effort.

We did not have a Ladies' Night this term but feel sure this will be taken care of by the incoming officers. However, the Car Rally proved very enjoyable and it was great to see so many families enjoying themselves. Also the Film Night was well attended and I feel sure our Eastern States members would enjoy them as much as we did.

The Calcutt Trophy is bringing out all our sporting champs. Who will be the lucky winner this season?

The Maimed and Limbless were again our hosts to a very enjoyable bowls night. The roll up was good. Whether one can play or not does not matter on this night—our hosts are wonderful teachers.

Mr. Ritchie and Mr. Hodgson have done wonderful jobs with our Unit Ties and Tie Pins. I am very pleased to see so many members wearing them.

It was with regret we learnt that our Vice President, Mr. Epps, had a heart attack while on Safari. We all wish him a good recovery. Bill assures us it will in no way affect the "Courier", so boys, you will still be able to read all about it. Our Editor does a wonderful job.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I wish to thank all my Committee men who have given me such great help and support during my terms of office and to all members who have rallied to help whenever needed. To all the incoming Office Bearers, my very best wishes.

Thank you.
J. HASSEN, President.

EDITOR'S REPORT

Mr. President:

Once again it is my duty to present the Editor's Report with regard to the "2/2nd Commando Courier".

Once again we have managed to keep contact with our members in what can be described as a good year. The circulation has remained constant at around the 480 mark,

with no variation from last year with regard to the various States.

The inevitable cost rise is greeting us with the passing of the years and this year we expended \$274.55 on the production of the paper. To date the usual refund of \$40 has not been claimed from the Victorian Branch. During the year postage costs rose considerably with the new legislation on bulk postage. Now on top of the usual cost for weight of papers we pay a fee of 1/2 cent per article. This trebled postage costs for the year.

Due to the fact that we did not conduct a sweep this year correspondence was not a very productive item as far as news was concerned. However due to the Timor Memorial Fund and the Great Safari there was no real dearth of news and it can be said that each issue was full of interest.

During the trip East on the Great Safari it was most forcibly brought to my notice the great interest of Eastern States' members in our paper. This is the great contact medium and there is no doubt of the genuine desire on the part of all members to receive the "Courier" as all are agog for news of their mates. If for no other reason the "Courier" must be kept going and turned out on the maximum number of occasions to try and sate this desire for news by far away members.

This year the large task of post coding all the stencils was accomplished by Ron Kirkwood and Bill Epps and our address stencils are now in great order. The thanks of all are due to Ron and Bill for their tremendous effort in this regard.

Too much praise cannot be given to Bill Epps and his wife for their efforts in getting the "Courier" to all readers. It is only in recent weeks when Bill has been unavailable that we really realise just how important he is in the scheme of things. We would find ourselves in a hopeless position if his services in this sphere ceased to be available.

Allow me once again to extend my thanks to all correspondents who have assisted with "Courier" material with special reference to Peter Barden, Ron Trengrove and Harry Botterill. These stalwarts have continued their good work for the full year.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDED JUNE 1, 1968

RECEIPTS	\$	\$	EXPENDITURE	\$	\$
Funds as at 2/6/1967:					
Commonwealth Savings Bank	1120.18		Monthly Meetings	176.58	
Reserve Account	508.31		Less Receipts	141.00	
Timor Memorial Account	20.46		Re-Union	205.23	35.58
Bonds	600.00		Less Receipts	110.00	
			Anzac Day	73.30	95.23
Interest on Savings Bank		2248.95	Less Receipts	67.30	
Interest on Reserve Account		29.45	Miscellaneous	192.95	6.00
Interest on Bonds		17.78	Less Receipts	148.20	
Subscriptions		30.00	"Courier"		44.75
Donations		62.00	Kings Park		274.55
Sweep, 1967		50.47	Administration		36.34
Car Rally		6.00	Children's Christmas Toys		36.38
		2.30	Timor Memorial Fund		53.36
					20.46
					602.65
			Commonwealth Savings Bank	718.21	
			Reserve Account	526.09	
			Bonds	600.00	
					1844.30
					602.65

\$2,446.95\$2,446.95

Special reference must again be made to our publishers, "Swan Express", of Midland, who have met our desires in their usual efficient and unobtrusive manner.

To conclude let me wish the Association and the "Courier" another successful year. Should my services as Editor be again required I am prepared to act in this capacity for another year.

C. D. DOIG, Hon, Editor.

NEW OFFICE BEARERS**Life Member—BOB SMYTH:**

Bob has been an outstanding worker for the Association over a very long period. Of recent years his other activities have precluded him from taking the active part he took from 1952-1964.

Bob took a most active interest in our area in Kings Park and was personally responsible for the watering of this area for a considerable time. He personally was responsible for the magnificent signs which grace the area and the cost for these was fully borne by him. Nobody did more than Bob to see that the grass was given every chance to improve. It was through the efforts of Bob that we obtained permission to kerb the area and it was largely through his work and knowledge that the Main Roads Board did this job free of charge.

Over many years he has placed the facilities of his business at the disposal of the Association for the purchase of Christmas presents for the children. He always took a deep interest in the Christmas parties for children that the Association ran for so long. His efforts along these lines have saved the Association hundreds of dollars.

Surely nobody is more deserving of the honour of Life Member than Bob Smyth.

We only hope that we can use his good offices for many years to come.

President—BILL EPPS:

Just how do you write about Bill Epps? He has been on the scene so long that he is part of the furniture. To describe his efforts for the Association is to run out of superlatives. Three words spring to mind—energy, staunchness and loyalty. He has attacked every task with a fierceness of energy that one was not surprised it caught up with him.

He is probably the staunchest supporter of the Association that we have ever had. He is also probably the most loyal member of the Association that could be imagined.

Bill is, of course, a Life Member of the Association. I do not remember him ever being out of office. He has been Vice President for so many years he looked like being a permanent fixture. He has been the curator of our area in Kings Park for donkey's ages to the extent of wearing out one mower and well on the way to wearing out another. His efforts with the "Courier" have been told to you so often that it is becoming boring. What can one man do more?

Add to all of this he has involved his family in Association affairs to practically the same extent as himself.

His leadership of the recent Great Safari was outstanding. Did anyone ever merit the high honour of President more than Bill? I say no, but he was ever reticent to accept the position and I can only say that I am doubly pleased that he was eventually prevailed upon to take the job and I am sure he will attack it with the same verve that has characterised his every other effort on behalf of the Association.

Good luck to you Bill in your new role.

Vice President—LEN BAGLEY:

Len has been an ardent supporter of the Association ever since its inception and has always been a most steady worker for our interests. He has been a Committee man now for many years and has always brought a bright opinion to bear upon our councils.

He rose to great heights in his organisation of the booking side of the recent Great Safari and I think everyone felt that he had smoothed their way to a degree that the trip was a piece of cake.

Len has never failed to take upon his shoulders any task which he thought he could do for us and is never backward in volunteering to assist.

His interest in the Association is undoubted and he is sure to prove to be an able deputy to his new president.

Committeeman—COLIN HODSON:
Col returns to the Committee for

the umpteenth time. He was one of the early Committeemen when the Association was in the formative stages and played a very big part in our early beginnings and helped to lay the foundation on which our successful Association has been built.

Family and other interests associated with same have stolen him away from us for a few years but he has always arisen to take over any task his special skills have required.

It was Colin who did the beautiful mountings on the Calcutt Trophy and who designed and executed our Unit Tie Clip. These facets alone make his presence on the Committee highly desirable.

Hope you have a long stay this time, Colin.

Committeeman—"SPRIGGY"

McDONALD:

"Sprig" returns to us after an absence of a couple of years. Once again there is little I can write that is not already well known to you all.

He is a Life Member of the Association and shares with John Burrridge and Jack Hasson the unique record of being President for three successive years. "Sprig" piloted the successful Commonwealth Games Re-Union in 1962.

He has always brought energy and liveliness to the Association affairs and is still youthful and zestful enough to give many years of most enterprising assistance to the Association.

RETIRING OFFICERS

The Association would be most remiss if we did not record a sterling vote of thanks to all the outgoing officers. This is with special reference to the retiring President, Jack Hasson. Although he remains on the Executive by virtue of his office as Immediate Past President. Many are the memorials within the Association to Jack's long reign of three years as President.

The Great Safari came and went under his guidance. The Timor Memorial was conceived and was largely completed while he held the reins. The Association went from strength to strength on the social side while he and his good wife, Norma, compelled us to enjoy ourselves together. The car rallies, which have proved to be so popular came with his regime. Country Conventions

were never better than during his term of office.

These are but a few of the great things that have occurred in the last three years and Kings Park has grown to greatness since he assumed the mantle of President.

Truly we have had a wonderful period of prosperity since he took over the helm and we say a heartfelt thank you for your efforts Jack and Norma.

Geo Fletcher leaves the Committee this year after a nice long spell in which his services have been most valuable, especially with regard to his special skills. Geo it was who designed and with Col Hodson's final assistance, executed the beautiful Calcutt Memorial Trophy.

He has performed many other special things for the Association and his loss will definitely be felt on the Committee. We hope to retain some portion of his assistance as Warden of Kings Park and he is at present mowing the area for us.

Thanks a lot Geo for your excellent efforts.

Rod Dhu is the other who left the Committee this year. Rod by nature of his job with Colfix is away from the metropolitan area for a great part of the year. However he has always given of his best while available and one thing in particular stands out is his efforts on Anzac Day last year to assist Jack Hasson to make this such a success.

Committee Comment

The first meeting of the newly elected Committee took place on Tuesday, July 16, at Anzac Club. Apart from John Burrridge, who was leaving for overseas there was a full attendance under the chairmanship of our new President, Bill Epps. Bill welcomed new members in "Spriggy" McDonald and Colin Hodson and hoped for a successful year.

It was with great jubilation that the Secretary was able to announce that the Prime Minister had consented to the Commonwealth Government subsidising the Timor Memorial project on a dollar for dollar basis. It was felt that this would end most of our financial worries in this regard. However a sub-committee comprising Bill Epps, Jack Carey, Ron Kirkwood, Col Doig and John

Burrridge was elected to go into the matter of the final fund raising for this project.

It was decided to make the month of September the subject of a drive for greater attendance at monthly meetings and it was also decided that a letter under the signature of the President be forwarded to potential members who could attend.

Details for the annual Re-Union Dinner were attended to and the final list of guests was compiled.

The following programme for the year to December was arranged:—

August: Carpet bowl night.

September: Film night of films and slides taken on the Safari. This to be for ladies also.

Saturday, Sept. 28: Annual Re-Union Dinner.

Sunday, Sept. 29: Commemoration Service in Kings Park.

October: Free Evening.

October (one Sunday to be fixed): Car rally and barbecue.

November: Final night for the Calcutt Memorial Trophy.

December: Annual Bucks Night. Venue to be arranged.

Personalities

Bernard Callinan and his wife, Naomi, have been on a trip to Timor lasting some two weeks. Apparently the roads have not improved a terrible lot as the trip from Ai Fu to Bobonaro was described as fearful. As Bernie said better to travel B.O.A.C. (Better On A Cuda). He reports that the Memorial foundation is well and truly completed and that the Australian Consul expects the whole thing to be completed on time which is about the end of September.

Word to hand that Tony Adams has been promoted in his work as Manager of A.N.Z. Bank to Manager Brisbane. This is the big time. Congratulations Tony. Tony was really rapt up in the Safari. He reckons it was one of the greatest things that has ever occurred to him and is looking forward to a repetition. Don Turton is about to have a trip East with his brother Glyde, and hopes to be able to look up a few of the boys in Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney.

John Burrridge is at present on a 10 weeks' business trip to places all over the world. We will miss his

services on the Timor Memorial Project which is so much his baby.

Ted Loud currently in the Mount Hospital for an operation on his ulcers. Is making satisfactory progress but it has been slow and painful.

Bill Epps back in harness again after a prolonged spell with his crook ticker. Glad to see your wonderful recovery, Bill.

Fred Napier is still most slowly recovering from his particular malady. His dermo still giving him a degree of trouble. A speedy recovery, Fred.

Tom Crouch seen in town the other day. Was in Perth for a Local Government Conference. Still talking about the Safari and reckons it was the greatest.

Saw in the paper where Mal Herbert was shooting extra well in the U.K. Hope you can bring back a big honour Mal.

Mick Holland has been doing a stint of work up in the Murchison and says he is pleased to be home again with all the crook weather that they have had up there.

Saw Jim Smailes the other day and he looks very well. Currently doing a stint of surveying for the Main Road Dept.

THE GREAT SAFARI

It is with regret that your Editor cannot print more opinions or otherwise on the Great Safari because nothing has come to hand either locally or interstate. Come on ladies and gents, there must be something that you can write to help your Editor to keep the pot boiling. Surely one lengthy article does not dispense with such an earth shattering experience.

Stop Press: Ron Trengrove's article has just arrived. What a beauty!

When in Town
Make The
DON CLOTHING CO.
Your Rendezvous For Mercery
Meet Dave Ritchie and Say
Good-day

10% Your Way on All Purchases

Remember:
DON CLOTHING CO.
William Street, Perth

New South Wales News

"THE WEEK THAT WAS"

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

This photo is for you to do with as you wish. (He supplied a very good photo of the Unit on march on Anzac Day. We intend to try and have this printed in the "Courier" as soon as possible—Ed.)

I have had this letter written for some time but guess it will not be stale when you get the "Courier" under way again.

I hope and trust that Bill Epps will be well on the road to recovery now and would you give them my personal regards and good wishes.

Angus Evans has had two valves replaced in his heart and is recovering extremely well.

Am sending a Timor contribution this week.

THE WEEK THAT WAS

How does one start to even describe the events of "The Week That Was"?

Perhaps one could say to one and all: "If you have friends, as I have friends, then you have friends indeed."

To those who came from so far and to those who came from so near, let me personally give you my thanks for making this a week of my life so outstanding for sheer pleasure and delight words can't describe my feelings. Emotionally it stirred me as only I guess tragedy or an experience as opposite to tragedy, can.

To the wives—Whatever word or deed you have done to encourage, help, coerce, nag or whatever means you used to get them here to meet us one and all, I say: "Thanks a million for we remember you."

To my own wife I can only say thanks for the weeks before "The Week That Was" and for everything.

To the wives from the West who came—gee, you're great.

To the wives from the other States thanks for being here.

To the wives of the N.S.W. gang we can't say less than what I have said to the others.

To the wives of the Committee who did so much to make all of us what we were—the most unusual, happiest, greatest get-together crowd in N.S.W. for that week, I personally

love you all, and we all personally thank you, thank you, thank you.

To have kept a day to day or better still a ball to ball description of events required a tremendous amount of work and rather than try to do this I decided that I would try and play it by ear. Had I the secretarial ability of my wife and ability of recall this would be a much better chronicle than it is.

I think and feel without fear of contradiction, that while we all wanted to see as many who could come we all feel that to have once again (and to me for the first time in 23 years) had "The Doig" among us and time to talk to him and ask a few questions was a present in itself. This I know is how the West regard him and despite all the work that was put into it over there to get the show on the road not one who came over felt that without him it would have been as complete as it was.

Thank goodness I did not have to choose who we were going to billet as I am afraid we couldn't have got you all in. When the Smythe's arrived on Sunday I had been walking around all day like a cat on hot bricks doing odd jobs and wondering how things would turn out for the next week. Well Dorothy and I say thanks to them for making it so easy and even though Twy didn't have to fall down on her bottom at the Cabravale dinner to prove she was known as "Happy B", we all enjoyed her company and felt we had known her as well as you people who knew her so well when you only knew her as Gladys.

We endeavoured on our side of the harbour, that is Bill Coker, etc., tried our level best to show as many as we could around where we lived as Mick Devlin showed Sprocky, and Jimmy English did with "Chook" Fowler, and although free days were listed it would seem that everyone of us in our own way on these days, no matter where we lived, if we had the time, we made it our business at least to see more of our visitors. Why even one Sydenyite lost his voice by Anzac Day afternoon and although seen everywhere hasn't been heard from since, that is to say at the

time of writing. Sorry Ron, but if you haven't found it by the time we meet again I think we might run a sweep on your behalf and call it the "Hilliard Voice Return Sweep". Peace at last, eh, Pat?

The marvellous thing about all the bashes we had was the amount of shellac consumed and yet not even on Anzac Day was anyone incapable as far as I know, of looking after himself. Of course Herd disgraced himself when he was taking Babe Teague, John Rose, Eric Smythe and me home. We finished up back at Arncliffe R.S.L. four times before he found a way out of the place to drop Babe off at Croydon. We didn't have much trouble from then on.

On Wednesday night Max Davies and Grace couldn't come to a gathering at The Trengrove's owing to Grace not being so well all the time she was here. We hope and trust that since her return home she has recovered. To have Max back among us after a few years was great to say the least and Eric Herd and myself were greatly pleased. Max, no doubt, when he left heard a sigh of relief and said: "Well, those pair of bastards were quiet for once." As Col said: "What's wrong with you bastards? You're agreeing with me for once. Are you sick or something?" Well you know how it is, fellers, when you're on your best behaviour and of course we do see things in a different light now.

As I was saying, we had a health get-together at the Trengrove's. John Rose and Nance, Eric Herd and Heather, Eric Smythe and Twy, or should I say H.B.? (Excuse me folks, I just opened a bottle of shellac.) Bill Epps and Jess, Arthur Smith, Bill Coker, Bill Bennett and June. Well I don't know about you above-named folks, but I enjoyed every minute of your company. Unfortunately I couldn't remember all the things I intended to mention and now so much has intervened it's hard to recall if I said anything all right. All right I know that would be a bloody miracle if Trengrove never said anything for more than five minutes, but it was a health night.

What a night we had at Cabra Vale Club, what a dinner, what a crowd, what a time, what a talk.

One would say hello Mick, how's things? Just a second I want to talk to Paddy. How are things,

Paddy? Crikey there's Sprocky. Hold on a sec. Ah there Sprocky. Gee there's Angus. Where's Lois? I thought you said her name was Nola? I'll come back, there's Tom. Hello Tony. Nice to see you Huddy. And for me that's how it went all night. Boy, what a party!

I don't know how many were there but it was nice to see em all. A surprise for me was Gerry McKenzie and Don Hudson. Jack Carey seemed to have retained nearly all his youthful appearance. Makes a few of us feel real old, but pleasantly mature.

I tell you now if you were not at one function or another you have missed something that would have given a shot to your system that nothing else could give. Just to see Col without his fangs was a kick which he will probably give me when I get to the West for mentioning his choppers.

Which reminds me if after reading this and all the other letters about this Safari, prepare to hear in the near future about another one from here. So don't wait, start preparing now. That is open a Safari account now. In fact see Basher Adams on your next holiday in Queensland. In fact don't go, save the cash till you hear from your, I repeat your, Committee.

Just heard from Coker, Bill Epps is improved but wants a sharp knife.

How great it was to meet Basher and hear him say you might as well leave it at Barker it doesn't look like as if it will ever be any different, and I am sure he doesn't want it any other way.

I could still see Tom Crouch walking along in front of me with his Tommy Gun and head slightly on one side, and slowly saying: "Well Ron, etc., etc." What a bloke. All the ladies tell me some woman is missing out on a great bloke. Tom had looked after their welfare all the way. Nice work, Tom.

Tonight I go in to see some of the boys off on their way back home.

Tomorrow I go back to work. It sure is going to be hard to settle down.

Running out of paper. Guess I'll have to put this away for a time.

After an absence from writing this letter for two weeks this is Able Seaman Crate speaking to you. What a day we had on the Krait? That was one of the most beautiful days

ever as a day and as an experience, because when one reads the story of those blokes who went to Singapore and back and then to have had the chance to actually travel on it and as for myself to actually be at the wheel for over an hour to bring you all back under the expert guidance of Harold Knobbs, was more than I can write in words.

I have never listened to a speech from anyone where there was so much attention given to Harold at Cottage Point. Not a cough. Not a blown nose or a murmur from over 70 people. I don't know of anyone who listened to Harold was not virtually spellbound by the story he told and certainly (we as a Unit with the experiences we all had) understood what those men who went to Singapore on the Krait must have gone through. I hope to meet Harold again and I hope that he will use me sometime to crew the old ship whenever he is short handed.

Thanks to Bill Coker who made that day possible. An occasion to be remembered in "The Week That Was".

While I am on the subject of bouquets and thanks I wonder how many of you who read this "Courier" of ours realise the effort that goes into this monthly paper for you to read? Who does all the work, printing, setting, cutting, pages together, wrapping, checking, addressing, cleaning up the lounge room, posting next day. Who, when it all boils down, is the reason the Safari was such a great success because without all this above work that has gone on in and with the "Courier" we wouldn't have had the cheapest and widest means of letting everyone know what was what, and when.

You are asking who? Bill Epps first and foremost, and then that very lovable wife of his, Jess. Now then I am not after a silver tray folks, I am just stating facts (and not too well) as they were given to me. When you consider the work that has to go into getting a composition of this size out every month (don't forget you who do write don't write Chinese copper-plate like me) and every letter has to be read and typed. Then he has to do all things that have to be done to get it so as he can wrap it up, deposit it on the lounge floor where Bill and Jess sought it all out

for you and me to sit here and read it so easily.

Now let me mention another person who has put so much effort into making the safari a success and that is Len Bagley. Len has has so much to do with travel agencies in the last 12 months or so that he is thinking of going into the business and doing a package deal for a return Safari from the East.

By the way, as Louis Armstrong once said in that smooth velvety voice of his: "You meet the nicest people on safari." Well, anyway, it goes something like that.

You know after listening to Paddy Kenneally I wish he would write more and more because if he was to concentrate he could write a wonderful Historically Yours. He can even quote certain blokes "X" numbers and he tells a tale so well that you can see it happening—I think it is what they call word pictures. He's bloody marvellous to listen to, especially when he speaks English.

You know what a terrific pull some few blokes have? Do you blokes in N.S.W. know of any other club that would have done for us and given us a 25 per cent discount? That's what Cabravale Club did. I'll bet you don't! That section up there could sell sand to the Arabs. How do you thank a club for making so much effort and making an evening so pleasant by giving us every facility to talk, eat, drink, and be completely self-contained?

Are you getting tired of reading? Because I am getting tired of writing but this isn't the end of this letter.

I thought Jim Hallinan's remark to Merv Jones a classic when we saw the latter turn up at Warragamba. Jim said: "Hello there. We have seen more of the West Aussies than we have of you."

But really, do we have to have a Safari to see you more than once a year or three or four years? Do you realize that as far as we know no other Unit has done what we have done? There is something that makes us want to do it and to those who were not there Anzac Day you would have been proud to say as I was proud to see 112 2/2nd Commandos march down Martin Place. For a Unit so widely scattered and so few in numbers (compared to a battalion) to have such a roll up there would not have been another

Unit there with comparable numbers for its size. "There goes my Unit."

Thanks to Arncliffe R.S.L. Anzac Day was again the rendezvous for those who missed the march and despite the chef giving notice and trying to do his worst by the Club it didn't dampen anyone's enthusiasm.

I guess it's time for bed. I suppose Dorothy Dix and Dear Dell sleep. They wouldn't if they had some of the blokes around I met in "The Week That Was".

Any luck Helen? You could call him, or her, "Safari". If your luck is out try Geraldton again—not Gerald. That is if Joe is still in good form.

We have already had a meeting about a return to the West so you

can expect to hear from N.S.W. in the not too distant future.

Well I am going to finish this on this page but before I do here's the latest news.

Bill Bennett has moved into a very nice colonial style home just near me and this evening I had a phone call from Angus Evans to tell me he was having a major operation on Thursday, June 20, to have synthetic aorta placed in his chest to take over from a faulty one. I will let you know more when I see him.

Cheers and beers.

Had a very nice letter from Twy Smythe. I read a letter from Jess Epps to the Cokers. As I said before what a lovable person. Best of everything Bill.

Random Harvest

BERNIE CALLINAN, writes from Bobonaro, Timor:—

I thought a surat with the post mark might strike some chords of memories for you.

Naomi and I came by jeep from Aifu to here yesterday, and we were quite late due to some trouble with the jeep at Afsabe. The road from Dili to Aifu is classed as good, and would rate a very bad in Australia, due to a long wet season this year. They class the road from Aifu to Afsabe as poor and the road from Afsabe to Bobanaro as very bad, so you can get some idea of the experience that was—it would be "BOAC"—"better-on-a-cuda!!"

There is nothing of Sousa Santos buildings and passion for neatness to be seen now, although the town has been rebuilt and is larger than when we knew it.

A squadron of Portuguese cavalry with evergreen officers is based on Bobonaro, but it is no longer the Administration centre and it is only a posto. The Administration now lies in Maliana.

The Sunday market is just as large as it ever was, but is now held along the main street and not in front of the residence. The cock fights go on as before with the same wild excitement.

Johnny Burrige and Ray Aitken have left excellent memories behind

them—particularly of their fluent tetem.

The Memorial is under construction and most of the foundations are in. As these had to follow the levelling of the site it means that a lot has been done. The site is an excellent one overlooking Dili. I have not been able to get any firm estimate as to when it will be finished.

I think that is "confidential" information at present, that the Australian Consul will be leaving about October, having completed his term. He is trying to have all the affairs of the Memorial straight before he leaves, but it may be wise to try and straighten out as much as you can with him before he leaves.

I understand from Colquhoun Denvers that the financial arrangements for the Memorial are well under control and therefore I sent the second telegram to you. I am sorry if my first telegram from Darwin caused any confusion—it arose from Pat da Luz's comment that the Memorial was going slowly because of lack of finance. I thought I had better send a telegram to you before I left Australia, but now I know that he misinformed me.

Tomorrow we start back after our pilgrimage and I think that this will be enough of jeep trips on Portuguese Timor roads for a long time. I

think Naomi is entitled to a special award for the trip—few people here ever go so far horizontally and vertically so long in a jeep.

Many memories have come back to me here. I don't think I would have ever lost them, but they have been strengthened.

A later letter from Bernie reads:—

Thank you for your note of June 19, which I received on my return from Timor.

The visit was extremely interesting and I was fortunate to be able to arrange a trip through Ermera, Lete Foho, Atsabe to Bobonaro and this led to quite a few meetings and I will write you a longer note as soon as I can clear the accumulated paper work.

The foundations for the Memorial are well on their way, but I have no clear idea as to when it may be finished although John Denvers, who is in a much better position to judge, still says it will be ready about August or September.

As far as an opening is concerned, it should be in the "dry season" so it should therefore either be in September or about May, 1969.

TONY ADAMS, of A.N.Z. Bank, Quay St., Rockhampton, writes:—

How delighted I was to receive your letter which could quite easily have crossed with mine because for days I've been saying to Iris I must write to Col because marvellous and all as the Re-union was I hardly saw him. So you see your letter voiced my thoughts and I was as mad as a hatter that circumstances seemed to prevent us from really getting together.

Oh, boy, wasn't the Re-union a wonderful show? Nothing could have surpassed the thrill of seeing old mates and faces again. If for no other reason the long trip to Sydney was worth just the dinner function at Cabravale and the Anzac Day march and re-union. Through you I would like to pay special tribute to the organisers who did a really marvellous job. Nothing was left to chance—everything was just so right. I don't think I have ever enjoyed anything quite so much.

We returned via New England Tablelands, had several days in Brisbane and commenced work again on May 8. Ever since I've been telling one and all that care to listen

about our Unit—the roll up—the functions and in short what a hell of a fine lot of coves we are!!

Of course Joe Palm is green with envy. He would dearly have loved to have been present.

We have just had Judy home on holidays. She has skipped off now to finish the remaining two weeks with friends.

I received news of my transfer to Brisbane a couple of weeks ago and am due to report there on July 8 to take over the chief Brisbane office, at the corner of Queen and Creed Streets. Our manager there retires on July 15. The move suits us wonderfully as we will be able to make a home with Dave and Judy again, be near my mother, who is now 78, and near Iris's sisters. Bank-wise, of course, I'm astounded as never in my wildest dreams did I think I would be considered for this job.

It will be sad to leave Rockhampton and all the fine friends we have made here but going to Brisbane will mean we will see them from time to time. We are very lucky.

Would you please record change of address to: T. B. Adams, A.N.Z. Bank, Box 1126P, G.P.O., Brisbane.

We are in the midst of sorting, packing and farewells at present. Will have to store gear, furniture, etc. until we can buy a home—none provided in the city.

Must away. Regards to one and all. It was beaut seeing you all again. Let's hope it is not another 23 years.

That was a great shame you couldn't ring me on the Friday night as I had planned we could have got together on the Saturday. However as you say the best laid plans of mice and men!

Perhaps it might be wise not to print the first part of this letter and the P.S. as it might give someone the idea I'm disappointed with the show but like you I was disappointed we couldn't just make it.

ALAN LUBY, of Ambulance Station, Liverpool, 2170, writes:—

The period since that wonderful week or so of Re-union, has been somewhat of an anti-climax. After the rather intense weeks of organising, we have only had one real meeting, and that poorly attended, but as the weather warms we will

hope that it brings more of the fellows out.

Occasionally some of us have been in touch by phone but have not had much personal contact. Last week I had a flying visit to my old home area at Grafton when I took a patient up to Maclean. Gave me time to call in to see George and Rene Greenhalgh, and then in turn I stayed over night with George and Mel Mathieson. I was most pleased to see the latter looking so well after the bout of illness he suffered earlier in the year, coupled with the loss of his mother, and Mel's father, in recent months. George gave me recent news of Harry Fredericks and Ron Orr, both of whom are reported as being fit.

I know that some of the Perth Legatees would have been over for the State Conference last week but I was unable to get in for any of the functions—as a matter of fact our own local Group President was a victim of our service on Friday afternoon when he had a mild coronary.

My three women continue to keep me busy, apart from the job being very pressing lately, and that granddaughter of ours is just reaching an age when she is becoming really cute, so our visits to Wollongong will need to become more frequent from here on.

FRED OTWAY, of 98 Wecker Road, Mt. Gravatt, writes:—

I am looking forward to seeing the boys again. Some I have not seen since '44. Of course money stops most from making the trip. I will be travelling by train and will stay at a mate's place in Sydney, and I will make my own way to Cabra Vale for the informal night. I have informed Jack Hartley of such. I know my way around, as I spent ten years there. Angus McLachlan and wife will be going by car.

As I write this I have not seen anyone else. However Col Hodgson should be passing through any day now and I am waiting for a phone call from Eddie Timmins, then I will round a few of the boys up and we will have a get-together.

A friend of mine has just been to Timor on a holiday, and she took some movie shots which she will be showing at a private party. I am most interested as she will give me

the complete dope on cost, travel, and places visited, etc. I will report to the "Courier" in due course.

I thought a list of the boys coming over was printed but I can't find it anywhere. Stop. Yes, I went looking again and found it. I am glad of course to see old "A" Troopers listed, Roddy Dhu, Terry Paull, Joe Poynton, J. Hasson, Jack Fowler, etc., but of course not forgetting all the rest on the list. I am sorry Blossom, Col Criddle, Don Hudson, Tony Davidson, Percy McPhee and gee I could go on and write the whole membership down.

Of course all the Sydney boys will be there. It would be a good idea to bring along some old photographs. I have a few.

Since I got a whack on the skull I have had one thought in my mind, and that was to get fit and well again. After a lot of disappointments, I am at last really on the mend, so much so that I am going to play football this year. I walk at present about 25 miles a week plus a bit of running, isometric exercises morning and night, footy training once a week. I might trot along behind the buses or cars Jack Hartley and Co. have arranged for the Sydney trip.

My boy is married and the kids are growing up. I am still with the Public Works as a painter. I just had my holidays and unfortunately picked the time for record floods. There were floods everywhere. Roads were cut in numerous places, so I never left the city until a couple of days before I went back to work.

I am enclosing \$10 for the fund. See you all over here.

JOE PALM, of Aldis Park, Grace-mere, 4702, writes:—

Sorry not being able to make the trip. It would have been great to see all you guys again. However I've got a good representative in Tony and I'm giving him \$20 so you fellows will be able to have a drink on me. Remember me to all.

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

Enclosing \$10 for my fee and anything over please put towards the Memorial Fund.

Have not been feeling the best with these damn ulcers I have but think the treatment is now working a little otherwise an op. will have to be the answer.

CAMPBELL RODD, of 15 Hyde Park Road, Tranalgon, writes:—

Was very interested to read of the plans for the West Australian Safari. I had hoped to make the trip over the mountains and see everyone at their sentimental journey back to Tidal River. However my plans have changed to rush holiday cum business trip to north Australia, bludging a ride with my son who has accepted an appointment with a firm of consulting engineers at Darwin. Callinan's mob. I hope Bernie can get a bit of blood out of this stone.

If I have time am toying with the idea of a quick trip to Timor. Understand the plane fare is quite reasonable and this is a suitable short tourist trip from Darwin.

Was very pleased that you had run me to earth now that I am back from pioneering down in the deep south of Tasmania. Hope to get along to one of your gatherings some day soon.

My apologies to all the Westralians for missing their visit after travelling so far, particularly Col Doig and Jerry Green.

W. HISLOP, of Mt. Tom Price Motor Hotel, Tom Price, W.A., writes:

Please find enclosed cheque for \$110, being for sweep tickets and membership, plus \$100 for Timor Memorial Fund.

I had already made out the cheque and was looking for the address when I suddenly woke up that the tickets were not ours, but N.S.W.

If you wouldn't mind sending the \$4 and tickets on and banking the rest in our own interests I would appreciate it very much.

Give my regards to all the lads and tell them I hope to make the Timor trip with them.

Regards and good wishes to all.

A. BROWN, of 26 Scaddan Street, Wembley, W.A., writes:—

Please find enclosed check for \$20 for Timor Memorial Fund, and congratulations to the organisation of such a worthy cause.

Best of luck to all able to go on this great Safari. Reading the "Courier" itinerary a great time is going to be had by all.

All is well here with us. I am still on night shift W.A. Newspapers, so don't have a chance to attend many of the functions.

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

Sorry to say that I will not be able to make the Safari. I was really looking forward to it but things have been cropping up and I cannot get away until May which of course, is much too late. Just my b—luck.

"Boomer" Giles dropped in suddenly one day and we had a couple of quiet ones. He was on his way to a job over Marble Bar way. Looks a bit leaner but pretty fit and wishes to be remembered to the boys.

Gordon Hislop and his wife passed through just before Christmas to take over the Mt. Tom Price Motel. I was working but we had a couple of quiet ones. The old "Slops" should do pretty well there as he has a pretty good off-sider in his wife.

Jack Denman turned up the other day and the old fellow is looking really fit. He is still with the oil firm and will do a run about every three months up this way from Carnarvon. Still likes a drop of the nut brown. Could only have a couple with him as I was serving it out.

Sending \$20 with this letter for the Timor Memorial Fund. It is a real slap up idea and the Unit should have no trouble in getting the dough. I hope we will be able to get a photo of it when completed.

All the best for the Safari and have a ball.

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

It is only because I just picked up a sweep ticket off the floor and read the date of its drawing I realized that as usual we were running late sending our butts and cash back.

Very sorry because I know all the Committee would be busy preparing for the Saturday's trip. The trouble is, it is that time of the year when all the male members of this household have all gone their various ways again and packing and organising for them is like getting kids started on their first day at school.

The head (?) of the house has been sent to Geraldton this year until the end of August or until the prawning season is finished and he is hoping to meet some of the boys from around the district when he gets things running smoothly. If anyone should care to contact him first his postal

address is Box 117, Geraldton, or phone 21 2530.

Our younger son, Robert, is up at Sharks Bay with the prawning fleet for his second year towards getting his skippers and navigators ticket., while Daryl has been drafted to the H.M.A.S. Sydney and now up around Vietnam where our son-in-law is serving with the S.A.S. until early next year. He, incidentally, sends his apologies to Jack Hasson and Ping Anderson for not doing anything about donations for the Timor Appeal among the boys at Swanbourne as he hoped, seeing as they can choose Timor for their R and R leave from Vietnam. His ideas fell at a bad time when one unit was about to return and the others busy on special courses before they left in February.

However, you will find the amount of \$30 from us with the cash for the sweep butts and though late hope will help.

Before I close I must say I wish and hope that all the members taking off on the Great Safari have a wonderful time and I think they should by the interesting programme lined up

All the best to the Unit and the members.

V. P. "Paddy" WILBY, at present at "Insel", 314 Hannan St., Kalgoorlie, W.A., writes:—

Please find enclosed \$4. Sorry that it has taken all this time to pay you back for helping me out. On a couple of occasions I made an effort to contact you but you were away in the East and on another occasion I saw you in a pub but didn't stop to talk to you as I was in a hell of a hurry to catch a train going to Geraldton, and I had already been delayed by a chap. Don't think that I was dodging you, as time was the enemy. If circumstances had been a bit different I would have stopped and had a yarn and paid you.

Now to let you know where I've been over the last few months. When I left your place I went down and saw Bernie and he got me a job in a sawmill on a docking saw. Only lasted two weeks. Got crook, took a day off and the foreman insisted that I turn up for work as they were short handed. I told him why should I work like a nigger when half the gang sat around watching me. As I was tail-end Charlie on a produc-

tion line no respite for me. So one word led to another, also telling him that the work and living conditions belonged to the dark ages and that I was used to a better deal than that where I came from. With that I bid him good-day, rolled my swag and left on the spot. Then hitch hiked up to Perth, then thumbed my way out to Goomalling and got a job on the pipe line from Grass Valley to Goomalling. It hooks onto the Kalgoorlie line. Eventually this 18 inch line will extend to Wongan Hills.

It wasn't a bad sort of a job there finishing off the overheads, but I did not intend to stay long as I was only filling in time waiting on an appointment with Mr. Fletcher, from the Development Department. When the six weeks waiting time was up I did the right thing this time as the conditions were good, and I gave the foreman a week's notice, explaining why I was leaving and he told me if things didn't turn out right for me in Perth to come back to the line and he would re-employ me. The next day the District Supervisor pulled up and asked me why I was leaving. I explained and he said: "Bugger yer." An hour later he came back and said: "Look, if you don't succeed with your inventions when you go down there by all means come back as I'm taking over another line as well, and I can always find a place for cement finishers like you who can keep up with the field." I was also tail-end on this job too, but no hard feelings as I found the P.W.D. a good mob to work for.

Back to the big smoke with a few bob in my pocket and hung around to see Mr. Fletcher. He was very courteous and told me he knew a few of the boys and then he told me that through various investigations W.A. was climatically unsuited for my ideas. However, he gave me a few addresses of people in the East, mainly Queenslanders, who could be very interested in my idea of mechanical harvesting. I thanked him as he at least made an effort to help me. So for the present I'll let that business take it slowly and let interested people come to me after I've written to them, as it has cost me a packet chasing prospects all over the country. That is mainly what has kept me poor.

Now I have a yen for making money and saving it. I've started

towards that goal. Up till a week ago I'd forgotten what the inside of a bank looked like. I hope to pay it many constant visits in the future just to deposit money, as it's such a nice feeling.

(Continued on the 25th July as I ran out of time.)

Another visit to the bank today to stack a bit more away.

Whilst in Perth I went up to Lovekin Drive and had a look at our plot in Honour Avenue. Very impressive. Noticed that motor cyclists seem to make the immediate roadway a testing ground.

From Perth I took a train to Morowa and hitched across to Geraldton and then up to Carnarvon as I wanted to have a look at the area where they grow a few tropical fruit. Put in a few days picking beans and winter tomatoes, bananas, etc. The Slav bloke I was working for offered me a half interest in the season's crop if I would only stay and teach him the Aussie way of going about things. He could hardly speak the Aussie lingo and he had to try and negotiate through an interpreter whom he was reluctant to trust. The proposition sounded all right but it meant that I would have to work from 6 in the morning till 6 at night and then work till midnight or so packing, etc. He was certainly making the dough but I wasn't that interested in sweating my guts out just to make a dollar, so I declined his offer and went into Carnarvon to see the local Repat. doctor. He suggested that I go down to Hollywood and have myself admitted for dio-thermy. So I hitched down to Perth in a day, went out to Hollywood. My entitlement paper was O.K. as far as the doctors there were concerned and they were willing to put me in and treat me, so they sent me back to records and that's where I got strangled by a few clerks who have stacks of red-tape for the poor suffering patients to struggle through. Apparently I didn't have a travelling white card and these Poms thought that was a crime. Unforgivable. So they took the bandages and ointment from me that the doctor had given me and told me no treatment for you until you can produce the white card that a travelling patient is supposed to have and furthermore I had to send to Queensland Repat. Dept. for my medical history.

It might sound strange but all I

could do was give a bit of a grin, even though I was in pain. So I told them we've all got to live but you blokes make sure you get your share before the rightful people get theirs. So I then said I would fix up my own foot without their help. They screamed: "You can't do that!" I said don't you bet on it. I then bade them bood-bye. I hobbled up to the park, pulled out my pen-knife and had a go at the foot myself. It bled a bit. I ripped a piece off my singlet and bandaged it up. It stung a bit, but at least I was out of the nagging pain.

Now for a sedentary job. Tractor driving looked to be the answer to that one so I set off down the South West, hitching again, but wherever I went it was raining like hell, water everywhere, and no cockies were game enough to continue their seeding, so I just kept hobbling along, sleeping wherever I could find a place out of the cold and rain, doing a bit of a starve too, but I kept thinking to myself I was up in the world once I get back again, somehow, somewhere, as long as I keep moving I'm sure to run into something good (and I have, too).

So I set off for Esperance and the weather looked better towards the East but as I moved eastwards, I noticed the clouds getting blacker. That really dampened my hopes. Also met a few stiffies who were in the same predicament as myself so I thought too many unfortunates around here for me, it will make my chances a lot slimmer, so Kalgoorlie looked a likely spot as I heard that there was a bit of development going on around there. So it was Kal for me and I haven't regretted the decision. When I got to Kal. I went and saw Steve Rogers. He gave me a bit of G.G. about the place and drove me around town for awhile pointing out places that could interest me in my search for a job. He then took me up town to see Eric Thornander who was most helpful with info. Eric suggested trying one of the nickel companies. I battled around a few firms and within 1 hour 20 minutes I reported back to Eric that I had a job with International Nickel Southern Exploration Limited (i.e. that is "Insel") as a courier. Eric wasn't greatly surprised at that as he believed there was plenty of jobs around Kal., and I had only substantiated his opinion.

When I first arrived in Kal. on the previous night I gave the place a quick once-over and decided that if I couldn't land some sort of a job in eight hours solid battling that physical and mental decay was starting to set in for me. You see, that to me the joint was vibrant and my prospects never looked brighter, yet every day now I give hitches a lift and they tell me "No work in Kal." I doubt if some of them really try to find work. I get employers asking me do I know of anywhere that they can get some labour. I travel around town a bit these days and meet many people in business when I'm doing the rounds for the company.

On this job I get \$50 a week and everything found except tobacco and razor blades. Such things as blankets, four sheets, soaps, soap powder, room heaters, canned drink extra good meals are all free. It's basically a Canadian firm who believe in keeping the men happy. They don't have a very big turnover of labour and that's always a good sign of a decent firm to work for.

I travel 70 miles from Widgemooltha up to Kal. every day with the samples and inter office info doing a bit of inter offices running around whilst up in Kal., shop around town for camp tucker, mechanical gear, a few errands for the boys, and drive home again. I can do this job standing on my head, so to speak, but in most jobs there's a snag and this one has one, and it's this: when I first started on this job they bought me a brand new V4 Ford van. The rear oil seal went crook on the first day and I've had it back to the dealer's garage eight times to get it fixed. Last Saturday they finally fixed the oil seal on that left hand rear wheel. Now tomorrow I have to take it back to get the the right hand rear wheel oil seal fixed up as it's starting to weep. My own opinion is that the breather is inadequate and pressure builds up. The chiefs here don't blame me for all that trouble, they blame the makers and are really boring it into the dealers. Otherwise the van is a good little performer. I haven't lost faith in it yet. I clocked up 4,500 miles in a month. The miles soon tick up when a bloke does 70 miles each way every day plus all the running around I do when I'm in town. Some days I do two trips a day when urgent messages are being passed

from field sites to offices. No telephones here. Too much chance of eavesdroppers tuning in. You see being an overseas company Insel are not bound by Aussie law to disclose its mining business to the public, but next year they might have to, as they will have been in Aussie three years. (Well that's the way Dame Rumour sees it up here, and she's wrong most times.)

See Jack Sheehan some days. He treated me O.K. when I was up against it and thought nothing of it. Good old Jack. It's just his way and he would like to keep it quiet.

Hope to get up to date with Association Affairs now that I really intend to stay in one place for some time and the way things are going that should be easy.

Also saw Gerry Green and Stricky when I was down in Perth. They haven't altered surprisingly much in looks and nature just the same as ever. Good blokes to be with.

Met Doug Fullarton in Kal. yesterday. He's connected with some timber business that operates around these parts. Gave him Fred Otway's address.

Tonight I was told to move out of one of the caravans I was sleeping in and to move over to a real mod camping room in the admin. block. It's just like a motel room. Things are improving for me all the time. Oh, well, if you don't win em all you can't lose the lot if you really don't want to. My life is going along exceedingly well, in fact surprisingly well. I might yet make something worthwhile out of life after all.

I still owe a few small debts in the East and soon I'll get them paid off and will be able to take an interest in Association affairs and pay my share and my way towards things.

As that is the lot for the present I'll sign off.

P.S. Please send me a book of Kalgoorlie Cup sweep tickets if you still issue them. If I work my rounds properly I might be able to afford an hour or so and drop in and see the Kal. Cup being run.

Here's the latest about the "drums" in Kal. An old bloke got a job from the police cleaning up and painting the front of the "knockers". Being a bit of a puritan he thought he'd be out of public view just cleaning up the backyards. However after a day or two they put him out in the front painting the grill windows, etc. The

louts were driving up Hay-st. calling out: "Early on the job this morning, pop. Bet you're getting a few free ones. etc. etc." Well this old wower couldn't take it and snatched the job. If the old goat hadn't been so swaddled in infancy he could have had the time of his life slinging jibes back at the louts. Since then there's been a lot of applications for that

job. I feel like applying for it myself.

Regards to Eppy. Might get around to seeing him one day when the nickle runs out (if ever).

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

Historically Yours

RAY AITKEN'S 1968 RETURN TO TIMOR

(Continued from last issue)

30/11. I am at only half pace. Am not eating and am living on sulfa. Despite this I've had a very rewarding day. I went up to Bazaar Tete. Three of the local business party and Joelino Simoes went up with me. I discovered that there has been a confusion of Mau Lares and my poor old boy died some years ago. Rufino was away on roadwork so I do not know whether I will see him.

However, there as large as life was Nicalau Gon Salves, from Irrametta. Now 42 he is the same delightful intelligent native Timorese he always was. When he discovered that one of my party spoke no Tetam he switched into perfectly usable English. He remembered every member of Four Section and was sorry to hear that Stan Ludlow and The Duck had passed on. Nic still farms Irrametta and grows anonas and fiuc ropa for the Dili market. He has set out a coffee plantation but says that it will be 10 years before he reaps a real reward. He has five children. Three at school in Dili and as this venture in education costs him 450 escudos per month he is rather hard held. He has only one real gripe and that is that he did not get to see Australia. He says that many Timorese who had given no service to the Australians were taken over while he, who served in all 10 solid months, first with us and then with Dan O'Connor, of the 2/4th, was left behind to be taken prisoner by the Japs and to spend two years in this way. He did eight months hard labour on

roads near Alas. He even met a good Jap, a fellow named Andu. It appears that Nick was prejudiced in his favour when the Nip told him that he was in the scrap on March 3, 1942, and that he had found this the most lethal and hottest action he had seen in a number of years of soldiering. Further, he confirmed our view that with the subsequent "A" Platoon ambush only about half of this force got back to Dili.

Luis Gon Zaga took Nic up the track and showed him where the Jap commander fell and Nic was sorry that Andu couldn't be with us to see Bazaar Tete again. Since 32 of his unit were killed there I found it a bit difficult to believe that he would have wanted to make the visit.

Nic says he will walk down to Dili if it doesn't rain at Irrametta before Saturday. However farming comes first.

I was depressed to see rain sweeping the hills as I descended. It was a pretty emotional leave taking on both our parts and I promised on Norm Thornton's part that he would get off a letter addressed to Nicalau Gon Salves, Irrametta, Bazaar Tete, Timor, Dili, at an early date.

Luis Gon Zaga, too, was much moved when we left. I assured them both that some one would come again and this seemed to re-assure them both.

1/12. A wonderful day. We, certain Australian business men, Deolindo, his brother-in-law whom I remember, and an Australian female tourist, went to Hera in a vehicle

supplied by the Acting Governor. We went out fishing without success in an outrigger which was supplied by Deo. Had a good meal cooked on the spot, fish, mutton, wine, both red and white, and bananas. As it was my first meal for two days I appreciated it and though I would have preferred to be in the mountains I enjoyed the day and the few cold beers which followed in Dili.

2/12. Early this morning I saw the Director of Public Works and formalised the wording of a letter of undertaking from us. They appear to be ready to accept my signature on behalf of the Association and this can help to simplify proceedings.

Since C.D. has received permission to operate on our account I passed on our account to him. I passed him a rough outline of the proposed letter and he reworded it and was good enough to type it out. He also wrote a letter to the bank enclosing his specimen signature and I signed both letters preparatory to having both ready for Monday morning's presentation to the Acting Governor.

I am not sure whether I will eventually get a letter of undertaking or whether I get a copy of my own with official seal. Either I think will do but would prefer the latter.

Had lunch with C.D. and Mrs. C.D. and Dr. Ian Glover, an archaeologist.

3/12. Sunday. A trip to the market. Nic didn't come in. Obviously it rained at Irrametta. A bigger market than the last one I saw but not very exciting.

Went up in the afternoon to see a number of cock fights—some to the death lalais. The victory dance is still performed and the Timorese still exhibit about the same amount of enthusiasm as seen at an European soccer match. A number of Australian tourists were around the place with clicking cameras. One Canadian woman pulled out after two or three fights, obviously affected by the blood and feathers. All betting appears to be behind the scenes and so lacks the fascination of seeing the computer brains of the Timorese in betting matters.

My business group friends went to dinner with the Acting Governor. I had mine with a B.O.A.C. rep., and the pilot of the Dove. Before this I received a call from Juli Madiera's

nephew. Daniel is very like Juli. He misses by lacking a mole and the three plaited hairs on the chin. He has five years service up and has spent three of these in Angola at war. He now proposes to leave the army after two years in Timor. His Tetam and his English are both very good and he has promised to call for me at four tomorrow to take me to see Juli's wife. She is now old and sick but I feel I should see her.

Tomorrow, my last day in Dili, will be very busy indeed. At nine I must see the Acting Governor and later I hope to see C.D., the Commander in Chief, Major Birne, and Tony Semfelt. Daniel tells me that Materes Madiera, Juli's son, still runs the Glano farm and that he is the best shot in Timor. Zecha, his other son, is in Dili. This one is obviously named for Zecha Rabella, one of Juli's few idols.

4/12. Some final success. An interview with the Director of Public Works in the early morning. Governor's endorsement of our Letter of Undertaking. The work should be under way about Wednesday or Thursday. Plans somewhat messed up by three holidays in one week. No troubles anticipated. Transferred signatures on the account so that John Denvers may operate same. Met Maria Eremalinda Carrascarious in the street and she invited me to dinner. It was excellent and the Timorese-Portuguese girls are quite beautiful. Any one of them would get a job in Hollywood. Maria Eremalinda is anxious to get to an entirely English speaking area for several months to further her language studies. I think she should have no difficulties in find adoption.

5/12. Took off at 7.30 for Bacau. John Denvers, Tony Semfelt and Jocelino out at strip to see me off. John D. has copied, i.e. photo copied, the agreement. Arrived Bacau and waited for my businessmen friends on the second flight. We then proceeded to Bacau together and inspected the hotel. The new wing promises to be magnificent. Altogether Bacau should become a top class tourist resort. Took off in the Fokker about 11.30 and though I leave Timor with some regrets it is only the "rai maleri" of the mountains which I will miss and the multitude of pleasant people, both Portuguese and Timorese, who treated

me as a friend and some cases like a returning member of their families. If I live long enough I will see the mountains again. Timor is "raidiac" as always.

We were met at the strip by one and only Pat Luz. He took me to the Koala, where the air conditioning works and after very slight refreshment I slept.

6/12. Haven't been eating much but Pat Luz took me home to dinner together with the two Aussie citizens who are interested in tourist development on Timor. It was an excellent dinner, steak, and loads of salad, red wine and brandy. Messrs. Norton, France and da Luz then saw me off for Perth. I invited these three citizens to our next dinner and included Deolinda Emcarceara in the invitation.

Col will think I am always extending the mailing list but I do think that half a dozen copies of the

"Courier" should find their way to Timor. The Tourist Information Service would welcome one and so would the army. Whether it is decided to do this as a regular thing or not the number in which these notes are published should certainly go to the Australian Consul to whom we should be eternally grateful, to the Acting Governor, and to the Military Commander.

The Portuguese are still our friends now in peace as they were in war and anything that makes for closer ties with an island and the people who were so good to us should not be beyond us.

I am sorry this report is scrappy but I was sure that if I did not keep it as a diary it would never be completed. If the final statement is "mission accomplished" you can give the credit to John Denvers and the Portuguese authorities both civil and military.

(To be continued)

SEPTEMBER MEETING: ANZAC HOUSE BASEMENT TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

Film Night for movies and slides of the Great Safari
Ladies please attend and bring a plate. This should be a beauty

ANNUAL RE-UNION DINNER ANZAC HOUSE BASEMENT SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 GRAND FINAL NIGHT AFTER THE FOOTY

Remember — ANZAC HOUSE BASEMENT
NOT Monash House as stated in our last issue

COMMEMORATION SERVICE LOVEKIN DRIVE, KINGS PARK SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2.30 p.m.