



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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Editorial

The Great Safari

This subject is becoming highly repetitive but of course the great event is well and truly upon us and we wish to keep our readers as well informed as possible on all that will occur in this month-long jaunt.

As organiser of this event from the W.A. end I would like to take this opportunity of thanking personally all those people who have co-operated so magnificently to plan this Safari and make it a possibility. Working forwards there are all those members of the sub-committee in W.A. who have worked tirelessly for over two years to initially plan for the travelling re-union. These include Jack Hasson, Harry Sproston and especially Len Bagley who has been a tower of strength to me on the booking end. Then at Kalgoorlie Steve Rogers has done a terrific job. In Adelaide Dud Tapper has provided, with the assistance of Bert Bache, a wonderful programme and also arranged accommodation. In Melbourne Bert Tobin with his com-

mittee, have really gone to town to make us welcome, comfortable and well entertained. Ron Dook in Canberra has gone out of his way to arrange details of our visit to the National Capital. Finally we have Jack Hartley and his committee in Sydney who have really let their heads go to provide for us in every way.

This is the sort of co-operation that an organisation hopes for but seldom receives. With assistance of this nature the venture just has to succeed.

Our thanks also to the W.A.G.R. and W.A. Tourist Bureau for their great assistance and helpful advice in ironing out problems and pointing out pitfalls which could have made our path a thorny one.

Enough now for us to say that all that remains is for those participating to enjoy themselves.

Here's luck to the Great Safari 1968, and may there be many more of them.

—C. D. DOIG.

TIMOR MEMORIAL APPEAL

You are requested to give this most worthy project your most sincere attention. Funds are required urgently, so please do your level best to help the Association meet its commitments.

West Australian Whisperings

Association Activities

MARCH MEETING

This was held at Anzac House Basement on Tuesday, March 5, and took the form of a film night with the ladies present.

Helen Poynton showed a series of films which she will be taking on the Safari with her to show to members in the various States. These are terrific. The first depicts a series of Unit Association activities especially our service in Kings Park on the last three occasions. There are some terrific shots of our area and will give the people in the East a great idea of this wonderful area. There are shots of a vast number of the members at these functions and these too will be of great interest to our Eastern friends to see what their old mates look like now.

The second film shows considerable shots of Perth and its environs and will serve to whet the appetite of any of our friends over East who might be thinking of a holiday in our fair city.

The third film is of a trip Helen and Joe took up north and gives a colossal picture of our northern country. We are most appreciative of the efforts of Helen and Joe on our behalf. I am sure all present who had a preview of these films voted them a must as an adjunct to the Safari.

ANZAC DAY

Because most of the chaps who have, in the past, been associated with the organisation of Anzac Day will be in Sydney when this takes place in Perth, it was decided that on this occasion that things to a large extent take their own course.

Jack Hasson will be organising what will be done. You who are remaining in W.A. are particularly requested to make every effort to attend. The fall-in spot will be as usual close to Pier-st., and you will then be advised of what will take place after the march and Service is over.

This is your opportunity to show your loyalty to the Unit and keep our numbers up and the flag flying.

APRIL MEETING

A meeting will be held as usual at Anzac House Basement on April 2 and will take the form of a farewell party to those departing on the Safari. Please come along and wish them all God Speed.

Committee Comment

A Committee meeting was held at Anzac Club on Feb. 20. Naturally the main business of the evening centred around the Safari, the Timor Memorial Fund and arrangements regarding future functions while the gang are away on Safari.

Col Doig and Len Bagley were able to give the meeting an assurance that arrangements were practically complete.

Ron Kirkwood advised the meeting that funds for the Timor Memorial were still arriving but the rate was slower than desirable. Many suggestions were made regarding methods of stimulating the flow and certain decisions made as to our future plans.

It was decided that an approach direct to the Prime Minister while the Safari party are in Canberra would be of great assistance if it could be arranged through Mr. Hasluck.

It was decided that as so many of the regulars would be in the East this Anzac Day that arrangements be curtailed and that a convenient hotel would be the best place to hold any function.

Jack Hasson and John Burrige were empowered to carry on the affairs of the Association while the Safari party are in the East.

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

Personalities

Who should walk, and I mean walk in on me the other Sunday but Paddy Wilby. Paddy had just hitchhiked from Whyalla in S.A. and in his own words "was as broke as 40 cats". He is the same Paddy, full of inventive ideas and always on the move. He had hitched down to Tasmania and worked there since September 1967 both in the timber game and mining at Queenstown on the west coast. Reckoned Tassie was too cold and wet for his northern bones. He was heading off for a try for work in the Apple Country of our south west. He sends his regards to all the old gang.

Terry Paul has now left Boyup Brook and is living at East Fremantle. His various accidents had made it impossible for Terry to continue in the timber game and he had to give it away. He says he has a good job lined up in the very near future up north.

Have seen little of the gang since last issue so there is little in the way of news.

The Great Safari

SAFARI ITINERARY

Saturday, April 6: Depart Perth station at 6.20 p.m. Participants to check in their baggage by 5 p.m. and also get their tickets issued to them and distinctive labels for their entire luggage to make for easy identification.

Sunday, April 7: Arrive Kalgoorlie a.m. Those travelling "stag" will be accommodated at Hannans Hotel. Five married couples at York Hotel in Hannan-st., and 10 married couples at Oriental Hotel also in Hannan-st. A tour of the Goldfields area is being arranged by Steve Rogers.

Monday, April 8: Depart Kalgoorlie a.m. for Adelaide.

Tuesday, April 9: Arrive Adelaide. The whole of the Safari has been booked into the Shandon Hotel at Seaton Park.

Wednesday, April 10: Tour of the Dodge Chrysler factory.

Thursday, April 11: Tour of Barossa Valley and a look over Sepplesfield Winery.

There will also be a Re-union which at present is being arranged by Dud Tapper. Arrangements are also in hand for four members of the party to appear on T.V. to tell the story of the Safari and the background of the Timor Memorial.

Friday, April 12: Depart Adelaide for Melbourne.

Saturday, April 13: Arrive Melbourne a.m. Those participating will be advised of their various billets or their hotels and will be met on arrival and transported to these places.

Saturday, April 13: Social evening (incorporating the evening meal) at Artillery Headquarters, Batmen-ave., Melbourne. Men, women and children expected.

Sunday, April 14: Trip by parlour cars to Tidal River, Wilsons Prom., leaving 95 Bourke-st., at 9 a.m. with barbecue lunch provided. Men, women and children expected.

Monday, April 15: Annual Re-union at the 2 Commando Coy. C.M.F. Drill Hall, McWhae-ave., Ripponlea, commencing at 5.30 p.m. for males only.

Theatre night at Her Majesty's Theatre, Exhibition-st., at 8 p.m. for women and children only. "Fiddler on the Roof" will be the show which is "live".

Tuesday, April 16: Free day.

Wednesday, April 17: Depart for Canberra a.m. Arrive p.m.

Thursday, April 18: Free day in Canberra to see the sights.

Friday, April 19: Depart Canberra a.m. for three day trip of Snowy Project.

Sunday, April 21: Return to Canberra p.m. from Snowy trip.

Monday, April 22: Free day in Canberra. Depart for Sydney p.m. and arrive Sydney late in the evening. Party will be met on arrival and taken to the various accommodations.

Tuesday, April 23: An informal dinner and evening will be arranged at the Cabravale Diggers Club.

Wednesday, April 24: A "do as you please" day for resting, cleaning up, shopping, etc.

Thursday, April 25: Usual arrangements for Anzac Day followed by a day of entertainment at Arncliffe R.S.L.

Friday, April 26: Open for visits to the city buildings, art gallery, museum, zoo, etc.

Saturday, April 27: Picnic at Waragamba Dam followed by a visit to General MacArthur-Onslow's Rotolac Dairy at Camden.

Sunday, April 28: Yatching picnic on Sydney Harbour.

Those participating are advised that the banks will not be open at any time during our stay in Melbourne.

NEWS, NOTES AND HINTS

(By Len Bagley)

At the present moment 26 males and 16 females are booked to leave Perth Railway Station at 6.20 p.m.

For those who requested return bookings these have been booked. If you wish to obtain sleeping berth accommodation between Sydney and Adelaide you will have to transfer to 1st Class at a cost of \$12.45 each person. This can be done by the individual at Sydney.

When you cloak your cases, the ones you wish to go in the luggage van, make sure you obtain the correct stickers, so that your cases will be off loaded at stations where you will be breaking your journey, e.g. Kalgoorlie, Adelaide, Melbourne, etc., otherwise they will get carried on to Sydney.

112 lb. of free baggage allowable per person.

Men—don't forget your Medals, Unit Tie and Clip, also your R.S.L. Badge and driver's licence.

If you wish to insure your luggage for the trip this can be done by your insurance company at a reasonable cost.

No banks will be open while we are in Melbourne because of the Easter holiday period. Make sure you have enough to tide you over this break.

Following is a list of the return bookings ex Sydney:

Monday, April 29, at 8.10 p.m.:

Fowler, J. and J. (2).

Holder, H. and M. (2).

James H. (1).

Monk, E. and J. (2).

Napier, F. (1).

Letts, A. (1).

McNair, D. and B. (2).

Turner, C. and G. (2) at 7.45 a.m.

Wednesday, May 1, at 8.10 p.m.

Epps, W. and J. (2).

Morgan, H. and J. (2).

Poynton, J. and H. (2).

All, except Turners, will leave Sydney at 8.10 p.m., arriving Melbourne 9.55 a.m. Depart Melbourne 8.40 p.m. Arrive Adelaide 9 a.m. Depart Adelaide 12.30 p.m.

Turners will depart Sydney 7.45 a.m., arrive Albury at 4.40 p.m. Depart Melbourne May 9, 8.40 p.m.

We hope to obtain Double Diamond stickers for your cases which will make for easy identification of our luggage.

I (Len Bagley) will be at the Perth station to give you your tickets. Please have them collected by 5 p.m.

Your luggage must be checked in by 5.30 p.m. to go in the van. Don't forget to label your bags "PERTH TO KALGOORLIE" Not Perth to Sydney.

Heard This?

The Scotsman's experience was very embarrassing—he would have sworn the sign on the door read: "Laddies".

* * *

Irate Traffic Cop: "Come on! What's ailing you?"

Transport Truck Driver: "I'm well, thanks, but my engine is dead."

* * *

Politician: "Why try to fool all of the people all of the time when a majority is all that's necessary?"

* * *

Miss Green: "I know him, he's rich, but isn't he too old to be considered eligible?"

Miss Brown: "My dear, he's too eligible to be considered old."

* * *

College Student: "I hear you have a propensity for necking?"

Second Student: "It's a lie, all I have is an old fashioned davenport."

Random Harvest

BILL HOLSTEIN, of Beach Street, Harrington, via Taree, writes:—

An enclosing \$20 donation towards Timor Memorial. I'm sorry it's so small but as you said in your Editorial to some of us \$10 is a lot of money. However I'll send you some more in the near future and I feel sure that we'll make it between the lot of us. I think the plan of the proposed Memorial is a very good one and must have taken quite a bit of working out. Thanks to those people who did it.

Will close now, wishing you all a happy Christmas.

COLIN and OLIVE HODSON, on tour, writes from Townsville:—

Just a few lines to let you know our progress. Have been stuck in Townsville for three days by the floods, but look like leaving in the next day or two. So far have been in contact with Jack Renehan, Ken Monk, Stan Whitford, Happy Greenhalgh, Edgar Timmins, Angus MacLachlan, Wally Congdon and am now stopping at Alan Sopers.

We by-passed Sydney but intend to spend some time there on the way back.

Good trip so far, roads very good including Nullabor.

The last three nights here we've had 6in., 3in. and 3in. of rain, but Soapy's family have really made us feel at home.

Cairns next stop and then homebound again.

My youngest son Clive, is playing on "Showcase 68" in a group called "The Young Brass" on Feb. 26.

Townsville is growing, but I would not like to live up here, even though I like the beer. They have bottled draught beer, in clear bottles, and I have acquired a taste for it which wouldn't be hard.

Jack Renehan looking well. Plenty of condition. Collingwood barracker all the way. Still single.

Ken Monk also looking well. Beautiful property. Lovely wife and family. Had a wonderful day with them.

Stan Whitford hasn't altered much. Lovely wife and family, one boy in Vietnam, just home with wounds.

Stan has a big sports store in Wonthaggi where we spent a few enjoy-

able hours at his golf club and home.

Happy Greenhalgh still the same old (?) Happy. Caught him slaving away at the G.P.O. so only saw him for about 30 minutes.

Edgar Timmins a little weighty but still the same old Timmo. Had a few beers together.

We stopped at Timmo's mother's place for a week and she and her daughter Alice wish to be remembered to all the boys they met during the war.

Angus MacLachlan couldn't remember what he looked like, but soon as he walked in it all came back. Angus is a Customs Officer in Brisbane and lives near Timmo.

Wally Congdon still living in Redcliffe. A little greyer but aren't we all? Apart from that the same old Wally from way back.

Alan Soper and wife Jewell our hosts for the last five days, have really made us feel at home and look forward to seeing anybody passing through Townsville. Alan is a foreman with the Electricity Commission. Has a lovely family, four daughters, two sons. Alan's address in the book is incorrect, right one 21 Petunia-st., Hermit Park, Townsville (postal address) but if you look for his home it is in Aitkinvale.

Missed George Shields and Bulla Tait on way up but will try and contact on homeward trip.

Hope I haven't bored you with this letter but I get a bit carried away at times.

Soper a starter for Sydney.

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

The Christmas New Year rush is over. Hope you had a pleasant time with old coppers and few jugs.

We were fortunate in having Judy and Paul home for a couple of days at Christmas. It was good seeing them again, there is always so much to catch up with a couple of days never seem to be enough.

We had New Year on our own, nice and quiet and caught up on some sleep and reading.

I had a great burn off of old papers letters, etc., and somehow or other must have thrown out the "Courier" with the Safari timetable in it and also the new Address Book. Still

have the old one so can only assume I burned the new one in error. What a mug I am.

Is there any chance of getting a replacement book. Am enclosing some akkers to cover cost of postage. Would be greatly obliged if you would forward me a timetable of Safari events as I have to provide H.Q. with a holiday leave schedule and want to plan mine to fit in with the Safari.

I can hardly believe it will be only three months before we will be excitedly looking forward to seeing you again. Twenty two and a half years is a long time and it is that since I saw you, you old b—. Boy, it will be great to meet everybody again.

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

Enclosed pledge for Timor Memorial. All particulars are on the form. I thought I'd better get cracking before it is too late. I'd hate to think the target had been reached and I hadn't put in to such a worthy cause. However there is still a long way to go but I'm sure the amount required will be reached even if we have to put in more than we have pledged ourselves to.

M. CURRAN, Fleece Inn Hotel, Bendigo, Victoria, writes:—

At long last a few lines from your old "China Plate" firstly to say how much Gladys and I are looking forward to your visit to the East on Safari. Although your arrival in Melbourne will coincide with our Easter Fair we will certainly spend some time with you including the day trip to the Prom.

Will include a cutting from local press re new Sig Barracks in Sydney. Tried very hard to get Joe Loveless there but I don't think he made it. I feel while George Parker assembled the crew the actual construction was carried out by Joe.

Have included \$30 towards Timor Memorial and you may look forward to further donations for it was a very great thought for those responsible.

I see quite a few of the lads from time to time and often have a talk on the phone to the Bull.

I have to arrange a guest speaker for Legacy for mid year so I have quite a range on call in such as Ber-

nie, Dexter, Geof, Tom Nesbit and of course old Baldy from Geelong.

We have had a very severe summer, in fact all records have been broken in rainfall and heat. We are all right here but Melbourne's position is grim, not a blade of grass in the parks, in fact they are flat out keeping the trees alive.

Cutting Sent in by Kev Curran: Calling "Sparrow Force" Veterans

The commanding officer of the Army's Signal Regiment based at Dundas, Sydney, is anxious that former signallers who served with the famed "Sparrow Force" on Timor during the early part of 1942 should contact him immediately.

The C.O., Lieut.-Col. F. N. Parmer, wants to invite any surviving signallers of Sparrow Force to the naming of the Signals Barracks on Feb. 17.

The barracks are to be named "Timor Barracks" in recognition of the achievements of signallers with Sparrow Force.

The force was sent to Timor in December 1941, when Japan entered the war. After fighting a series of rearguard actions when the Japanese landed on Timor in February 1942, the force broke up and the remnants about 400 strong, formed a guerrilla band. Because communications with Australia were broken, the force was considered lost. However, the signallers with the guerrilla band worked under Capt. G. E. Parker, and by scraping together what equipment they had, and obtaining other items by raiding the Japanese, built a transmitter which established communications with Darwin.

The force was eventually rescued from Timor and the primitive transmitter, named "Winnie the War Winner", has been in the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, ever since.

Lieut.-Col. Parker now lives in Sydney. He and "Winnie" will be at the naming of the barracks and Col. Parmer hopes that other signallers will get in touch with him so that they, too, can be invited.

D. MacLACHLAN, of 37 Arrow-smith St., Camp Hill, 4152, Brisbane, writes:—

Apologies for delay in returning Timor Fund pledge. The usual excuse—writer's cramp.

My household is just returning to normal after 12 months of ins and

outs. This time last year my two daughters and I were pacing the floor and wondering whether we would have a wife and mother to come home to us. My wife entered hospital for an operation for an internal goitre, complications set in and for a week it was touch and go if she would pull through. Three months and three operations later we could all sit back and breathe easy. Glad to say that Lois is now looking, and feeling, better than she has done for many a long year.

June of last year I had the pleasure of flying to Townsville and boarding the H.M.A.S. Sydney for a trip back to Brisbane. The Sydney was bringing back the 6th R.A.R. from Vietnam and we had to process them through customs and quarantine while travelling down the Queensland coast. Pleased to say that the navy treated us royally and also we did the right thing by the troops, in a big way. The trip took me back many years and it brought tears to my eyes as we sailed up the Brisbane river with the troops lining the flight deck, bands playing and sirens blowing. They are a fine bunch of lads.

Met on board a Major Harry Smith who was a member of No. 2 Commandos in Victoria before going to Vietnam. Some of our fellows in Victoria may know him.

We have just finished celebrating my eldest daughter's 21st birthday. Aren't we getting old? Most people round here are not sure whose birthday it was—mine or my daughters. I had me a ball. Here we are now happy, much poorer but very proud of Janette. In just over four years we have it to go through again for Ann. Oh, boy!

A small par for Ron Trengrove. Some time ago he wrote some very unkind words about myself and my plonk. I didn't mind that but when he addressed my wife as Nola I had to start running and fast. Nola is the wife of a 6ft. 2in. policeman and he lives just over the road. I'm lucky to be back in circulation. Ron the name is Lois. I'm afraid your filing system let you down.

Little news of others. Had a visit from Fred Otway a couple of nights ago. Looking well. Also see Eddie Timmins when he is home.

My regards to the boys in the West. See you in Sydney Anzac week.

"SHORTY" STEVENS, of Yallunda Flat, 5607, S.A., writes:—

About time I made the effort and gave you and your gang a bit more than moral support. I have been thinking of it now and then but truth to tell these last few months I have found my hands full.

My wife took ill last October and I ended up having to take her to Adelaide for treatment and whilst she is improved she is a long way from well and I find my time fully occupied. With hay and harvest and the kids organised onto the school bus by 7.30 I have had my days full.

The outcome is that I'm pretty sure that at this stage we will not be on the Safari in April to the Eastern States but I'll be pretty sure to meet up with you for a day or so in Adelaide while you are there.

Must congratulate the committee organising the Timor Memorial as a gesture of appreciation for the help given in the past. Whilst I was not one who experienced anything to do with Timor I can and would like to give a little support so am enclosing a cheque to help a little and to wish the move every success.

Was agreeably surprised to have George Timms and his son call on us last October being here for a night and most of a day. Certainly was good to go back 20 odd years and stir the memory a bit. A pity we cannot meet up more often and I am sure this Safari will help a lot to stimulate chaps to make the effort and get together a bit more.

I should report I guess that even though South Australia had a drought we here were fortunate enough to get by with quite a good year. Our grain harvest was up to standard and if only we could get the wool price up to standard we'd be right.

The old Litch shared in some of the rain up in the pastoral area last month after years of drought but I doubt if he got enough to call it good. Have been trying to find out if he plans to make Adelaide in April, but he is allergic to pen and paper. Still I'll keep trying.

As far as I go I seem to remain much the same physically except for a slowing down that I've been aware of for a while.

Wishing you all the best and a slap-up Safari. Cheers.

Victorian Vocal Venturings

We had a very successful meeting at Bert Tobin's office on Wednesday, Feb. 28, to get our organisation for the Safari trip visit under way.

Present were John Southwell (in chair), Gerry McKenzie, Johnny Roberts, Gerry O'Toole, George Robinson, Jim Wall, Harry Botterill, Alan Munro, Alex Boast, George Kennedy, Bert Tobin and Bruce McLaren, with apologies from Jim Robinson and Tom Nesbit.

The entire evening was devoted to the Safari visit—the detailing of billeting and organisation for the various functions and judging by the enthusiasm it will be a wonderful four days for us in Melbourne.

The meeting finally closed at 11.40 p.m. and we certainly covered a lot of ground.

I had a ring from Fred Martin, who is secretary of the H.M.A.S. Castlemaine Association. He was

asking for the address of any member of ours in Adelaide, as they were organising a big re-union in Adelaide which was going to get a lot of publicity and wanted to invite our members to come along. I hope some of them were able to make it as it scounded as though it would be a good night.

Was talking with Bruce McLaren and he tells me that he has had a quick over-sea's business trip which took in England and had a very good time with Curly O'Neil over there. Perhaps Bruce will write himself about this visit in more detail.

That's about all the news I have for now so until next time all the best and looking forward to seeing all on the Safari

—HARRY BOTTERILL.

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

APRIL MEETING:

ANZAC HOUSE BASEMENT, TUESDAY, APRIL 2

Farewell to Safari Travellers

SATURDAY, APRIL 6:

DEPARTURE OF GREAT SAFARI

Be at the Perth Railway Station early to wish them a great trip

ANZAC DAY:

Don't forget to roll up and keep the flag flying on this most important day

TIMOR MEMORIAL APPEAL:

Your Donations are URGENTLY Required to enable the Association to meet its commitments

RAY AITKEN'S 1968 RETURN TO TIMOR

Starting with this issue of the "Courier" we are printing Ray Aitken's diary of his recent trip to Timor and this will bring back many memories as he managed to visit so many of the old spots. He has also written a memorandum to the late Julie Madera and Berta Martens.

Here's to good reading and thanks a lot Ray.

13/11. Darwin. Wrote home and to C. D. Doig. Had lunch with Pat Luz and Linda. Wandered round botanic gardens.

14/11. Found my ticket to Timor made out to A. J. Wright. Error by T.A.A., Perth. Fortunately rectified in Darwin. The Portos would have thought "Espion la diac" for certain. Got a good view of Bathurst a few minutes ago so Timor looms ahead in the next hour.

Landed at Bacau. 4,000 Timorese on parade, dancing girls and drummers. All there to farewell His Excellency. While all this was going on our Dove to Dilli was delayed.

I took one of our Memorial pictures and wrote in my delightful sprawling hand on the back: "To His Excellency as a final souvenir of Timor with many thanks from Ray Aitken for 2/2nd Commando Association". I gave this to an immigration type with the request that he give it to the Governor when he got on the plane. Being a Portuguese he rushed it out there and then H.E. sent back a request that I join the review party. This was one way of joining the act. H.E. was most gracious. He said that he would treasure our picture as his very last souvenir from Timor of a very worth while project. He assured me that all authority had been completed and that Calhoun Denvers was in full possession of facts.

Arriving Dili, a quiet gentleman, who had been on board the Dove, introduced himself as Frank Nolan, Asst. Consul, and said he would tell C.D. of our arrival. Pat Luz's letter of introduction obtained me an air-conditioned room in the new Hotel Rezende and a waiter from its restaurant as my room boy. Thank God for a Tetam speaking Mombai. He's fascinated at my now broken Tetam and I understand his.

Had a shower and acquired a taxi

to the Casa of Manulo Cariscurlans—ulic O/C Granza Boibau—and a deportado comunista, now Capitalista. Owns the Granza and is President of Chamber of Commerce. Has an English speaking daughter which helped as Manulo is now deaf. His son who is manager of Granza offered me transport all over the island but I left it in abeyance until I hear from the army as I have enough letters from Deo and Pat to sink a ship.

Arriving back at Rezende found a note from Frank Nolan. C.D. flat-out today but will send a car at 9 a.m. tomorrow for me.

Saddened to hear from the Commandant Bacau that Juli Madera died four days ago. Knew I should have come back earlier.

Later spent part of afternoon practising my Tetam on Timorese. It is beginning to function again "Timorese matan halo bort" (i.e. "their eyes are made large") in a way that is best described in an old army phrase, not for publication, but beginning: "sticking out like —"

I had dinner and after dark walked down that street which Nissie and I prospected one night in 1942 and in which a few minutes later G.G.L. shot a Jap who accosted him there. It was far less forbidding from this end.

Later I went down to the wharf and discovered that Alessandro Tilman who served with S.R.D. and was later Bosun of Nova Dili is in port. He's a good Mombai and I'll round him up tomorrow. All the tourists say Dili water kills. For this reason I've rigged ½ bottle of Vinho Verde in front of the blast of air condition unit. Had a beer with lunch and another with dinner and the other half of the Vinho for supper. If I come off Timor an alcoholic I'll sue the Association for damages. If I want water will have to get into the mountains.

Hope the malaria pills work as to date I've been bitten by half a hundred anopheles, despite Scram. The hot water and toilet sistern work occasionally and the shower some of the time.

Now, as an earlier diarist had it: "And so to bed".

15/11. It is now 2.50 a.m. and am still awake. Don't feel ill or

particularly tired but cannot get to sleep. Imagine this is effect of my malaria suppressions. Vinho usually has the opposite result.

Morning proper and no sleep at all. Still feel O.K. and generally pretty rested. Hope it's not a steady thing. Tried counting bloody sheep. Got to "rehin ida artus walo recin emanulu" and gave it away.

C.D. sent car for me. Most things generally clear. C.D. very factual and to point. A pity his term soon finishes. Appointment with Acting Governor for 9 a.m. tomorrow.

During afternoon police came to hotel to check nature of my passport. Handed it in last night. These should surely be checked at the airport.

16/11. Acting Governor very agreeable to all arrangements. The letter of undertaking will be forthcoming. Not thought necessary to make contract other than another letter of undertaking on our part.

Made a visit to the site with the engineer and new young architect. He raised immediate objection to the plaque on memorial. Says it will spoil lines and simplicity and respectfully but very firmly suggested a cairn or obelisk thing to carry the plaque. C.D. and I agreed with him. This young man is likely to be very useful to us.

Taken in late afternoon by C.D. to see Commander of the Military. Socially charming like all Portuguese and quickly got down to cases. He arranged for me to have the freedom of the island, one jeep and Alferes Sempelt, an English speaking sublieut., and arranged appointment with his second in command for tomorrow to fix itinerary.

17/11. Visit to Military H.Q. All details arranged. Major Birne and his officers very helpful. Dinner with C.D., his charming wife and Director Public Works Marcos da Costa, Engineer Simoes and wives, and Commander Periera.

I will at some future date record my appreciation of John Denver's help in all matters affecting my visit to Timor. He brings to this sort of thing an analytical mind, an awareness of protocol but a contempt for useless red tape. In all this he is assisted, or perhaps I should say aided and abetted by his wife. I imagine he was a very effective artillery officer. He is certainly an effective Consul. We should be

continuously grateful to him. For my own part I must say that not only has he made the Memorial planning easy but he has given an equal amount of time to my holiday arrangements and planning my plant collecting.

18/11. I've got more guts than brains. At 52 I've really no business climbing even the ridges. After breakfast proceeded down to the beach and up the moto kiki to Cummer iha lettan, retracing the path down which we came for the raid on Dili. Found our rendezvous with a pig fence around it. On the way I met Mauberi, a spotless healthy Timorese of the old school. He was carrying a load of ai bort on his shoulder and to the greeting "diacala" he answered: "Nung good, Tuan. We too bloody hot." Had words together for about 20 minutes. Suddenly he tested his English again: "Tuan, you cabo por Section. Ecos Sargenta" Hou creado B Platoon Five Section. Nan creado Tuan Les Halse."

I gave Mauberi a couple of dollars which I'll take out of Halse's hide if ever I see him.

Not all the news was good since Mauberi was from Malil Ho and tells me that my own boy, Mau Lare, who of all people I wanted to see most, died last year. However Rufino, Tom Nisbet's excellent kid, and Nicolau, creado to Geordie Smith's "poor bloody pommie mate", are still on deck. I hope you'll all recognise Norman Douglas Thornton. He came to these shores at the age of four but Smithy always regarded this as a strike against him. I look forward to a re-union with Rufino and Nicolau on Monday.

Just as C.D. has made my way easier here so I have been able to ease the lot of a young German-cum-Fair Dinkum Aussie who hopes to do business here. No details possible in a diary. Suffice to say that it may be both cheaper and easier for us all to spend a holiday in Timor in the foreseeable future.

Spent some time with Allesandro Tilmian who served for several years in S.R.D.. Allesandro is now the port pilot and reasonably happy in his job. He is now 46 but looks fit enough for another quarter of a century.

Have an important engagement tonight with C.D. and some Portuguese citizens by way of colour slide even-

ing. Just a little more of C.D.'s getting me into the plans. He's tireless. He likes the place and the Portuguese and I am sure they like him.

19/11. Went to bazaar. Little else.

20/11. To Bazaar Tete, Liquica and Maubara.

Bazaar Tete is still the same delightful place. I was greeted like an old friend by Luis who all Four Section will remember as the Chef Posto's right hand man and the foreman in the construction of our camp.

Norman Thornton and I have a special reason for being grateful to him because at a later date he organised carriers for us in difficult times.

I climbed up to Noon Turi. Trees have overgrown the whole ridge.

The graves of Paddy and Mitch are simply depressions in the ground. I don't want to knock the War Graves Commission too much but it might have left the head stones.

Yesterday being Sunday I went to the bazaar and afterwards met a Sine who was one of Chenault's Flying Tigers. The resultant celebration did me little good with a result that the climb up the wall of death to Nun Turi Pu was very trying. However I made it, and after some Vinho Verde at the army post below I felt a little better.

Have arranged with Chef Posto Bazaar Tete for Rulino Nicalou and Mauhare (who despite other stories is still alive) to be at the Posto on Nov. 30 when I return from the mountains. I understand that Rufino is now toothless so I think Nisbet's up for a pair of false teeth. Am not yet in a position to say what Thornton is up for.

If ever I buy a block on Timor it will be at Bazaar Tete but if at Nun Turi Pu I hope to have a road built to it.

Saw the site of Porto concentration camp at Liquica and where Four Section ambushed a Jap truck, March 2, 1942. Had a beer at Ritchie's town, Maubara, and so home. Leave tomorrow at 7 a.m.

21/11. Dili to Remexio. Passed Lou Lisse where we mated the Singapore Tiger many years ago. Remexio still the same beautiful place. Air clean and fresh. We followed the road, i.e. the old road to Eremera passed Liletei and Tocolulu. Had lunch with the army at Nunu Tali

close to Eremera and then went down to Hatalia. The same old Chinese and his wife run the best of the shops. He was about to turn it on when we had to leave.

We looked in at a Chinese pensione at Eremera and Tony and self were taking a walk when we were claimed by the one and only Antonio Alves Carvalhiera, the man who never changed expression when feeding 76 Australians and tending their wounded. "B" Platoon owes much to him and undoubtedly the survival of our wounded depended on his help. We were smartly "booked out" of the Pensione and conducted to Ai Foo to be the guests of Antonio and his charming Tetam speaking wife.

Have just had a wide choice of drinks and an excellent dinner and am ready to sleep preparatory to an early take-off tomorrow.

Antonio remains the excellent host he was in much more dangerous times. He has always been "amigo diac loo" on my list and justly earned the tribute Bernie C. paid him in "Independent Company".

22/11. Late start from Ai Foo largely as a result of conducted tour over plantation. It is quite wonderful. Cavalhira says that when dissident natives tried to destroy the plantation Julio Madera sent a message to them that the first man to cut a coffee tree would be the first man shot. The plantation was preserved.

We had a good run from Eremera to Letfoho and a chat with a Chinese with a long memory at the latter. Had lunch with the Commander of the Post at Atsabe and wandered round the Posto. Made Bobanaro in early afternoon and proceeded with the Colonel in charge down to the hot springs at Morobo. Wonderful country. Dinner in the Officers' Mess. Gave them Julio's history and met Dave Dexter's creado, Tomas. He is in good hands. He is a valued servant of the company and a sort of protege of the Officers' Mess. He is a very dramatic old boy and it was rewarding to hear him reliving life in those days. He is fit, well and happy but would like to hear from Dave.

The hot springs must give promise of a future tourist spa. The Timorese believe in them and are quick to show this belief. It's interesting to see them wash in the sulphur smell-

ing, near boiling water and then dash into the neighbouring cool water swimming pool. One wonders how many heads were taken to a place such as this in the forgotten past.

Dinner last night in the Officers' Mess, was very good but I got a bit of a conversational draining. I gave them Julio Madera from the Glano to his death.

Bernie C. in naming me in his book as responsible for the death of "el tigre da Singapura" has done me a great service. Geordie will be pleased to know that I gave them my version of it last night. No doubt he'll get a chance at some future date.

I was up at 5 a.m. and into the Colonel's Bathroom to do my washing. It's all drip dry and I hesitate to let a Timorese "ba bacu iha fatuc".

Lucio Encarnacao is no longer at Atsabe having removed to Balibo but will be seeing him to pass greetings from John Burridge.

In passing I realise that we cannot forever extend our mailing list or our Associate Members but I do think we should consider getting several "Couriers" on to the island and also adopting those Portuguese who still remain who were so good to us. For example Antonio Carvalhiera recently spent two days in Perth and did not know how to contact us. This is la diac and we should do something about it.

The school at Bobanaro for native girls is a proud possession of the local authorities. They teach sewing, dress making, use of a modern bathroom, etc., and baby craft. At present it is run by a very beautiful Timorese girl. As my good friend, guide and confidante, 2nd Lieut. Semifeld remarked: it would surely be possible to learn such things from such a teacher.

The Commander is as proud of this school as he is of his army post and district, as well he may be for both exude efficiency, drive and an intense awareness of the character of the country and its people. It would certainly have pleased you all to see the respect and liking his young officers have for ex-creado Tomas.

23/11. This morning given a conducted tour of the Post by the Colonel and then departed for Balibo. Delighted to find the Chef Post Lucio Encarnacao and his wife (Julio's niece), both Tetam speaking.

I could see the roof of a large building at Atamboeia across the Lois. Lucio reported that John Burridge's plants were dead so I promised to send him up a couple of hardy Australian plants.

My collection trip is not a success as there is little in flower.

We had a long chat about old times and old friends at Balibo.

After a stiff shower we started off for Maliana. Believe it or not there are tractors on the Maliana plains.

Spent an excellent night at the Administration Centre. This I hope is to become the outstanding centre in Timor. With the great plains before the plough Maliana has no limit and the Administrator Victor Duarte Sarta appears to be the man for the job.

I spent some time talking to Signora Santos, a very agreeable lady whose tetam is diac loo. My good friend Tony was more interested in the young Mombai school teacher, Miss P. Barreto dos Santos, who is very beautiful. I think he is rather resentful of the fact that since she comes from Bazaa Tete I could speak with her of rai ita nian (our land) which I think he would prefer to be his prerogative.

(To be Continued)

TIMOR MEMORIAL FUND:

Please return those Pledges as soon as possible and send along your Donations. These are **URGENTLY REQUIRED** so that we can meet our commitments as they arise