



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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

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Editorial

1968!!

The year 1968 has just come to a close. What a year for the Association? Could we possibly think that so much could happen in a brief 12 months.

The Great Safari was such a resounding success and has been written about so much there is no need to reiterate here except to say that it was one of the most binding events that the Association has ever experienced.

The Timor Memorial has all but come to fruition and to think that it has been built and paid for in the year 1968 is something to be justly proud. The money raising efforts of the Association met with such a resounding success that I think everyone was terrifically surprised and elated. This Memorial

will stand as something of which Australia will be justly proud for many a long day and we as an Association can take the fullest credit.

In other directions too we continued to prosper and it can truly be said we have gone from strength to strength as an organisation. If we ever had any doubts as to our lasting capacity as an Association then the year 1968 dispelled them all.

Enough to say do not let us rest on our laurels but go onwards to greater heights and use 1968 as the base pattern of the years ahead.

Let us now wish 1968 a fond farewell and look forward with eagerness to 1969.

May the "Courier" wish all its readers a most prosperous new year.

**ARE YOU GOING TO TIMOR
FOR THE HANDING OVER CEREMONY?**

**If So Read, Fill Out and Return the Enclosed
Questionnaire Promptly. This Is Urgent!**

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

West Australian Whisperings

Association Activities

CALCUTT MEMORIAL TROPHY GAMES NIGHT

The final performance for 1968 was held on Tuesday, Nov. 5, at Anzac House Basement.

The muster was a bit below expectations but a very good evening of sports ensued.

Place getters in the events held during the evening were:— Darts: Ron Kirkwood, Joe Poynton, Jack Carey and Len Bagley; Table Tennis: Harry Sproxton, Jack Carey, Arthur Smith and Joe Poynton; Bowls: Ron Kirkwood, Bill Epps, "Sprigg" McDonald and Dick Geere; Quoits: Jack Carey, Joe Poynton, Len Bagley and Bill Epps; Rifle Shoot: Ray Parry, "Sprig" McDonald, Gerry Green and Dick Geere.

Final points after the two performances this year were: Jack Carey 15, Len Bagley 10, Clarrie Varian 9, Ron Kirkwood and "Sprig" McDonald 8, Jack Hasson and Joe Poynton 7, Arthur Smith 6, Harry Sproxton, Ray Parry and Bill Epps 4, Dick Geere and Gerry Greene 2, and Col Doig 1.

Our congratulations to Jack Carey on winning the competition this year and hold the Calcutt Memorial Trophy for a year. Commiserations to Len Bagley who led on the first night but could not improve and so finished as runner up. Thanks to all who participated and helped to make this competition so enlivening.

It is good to see the trophy going around among members as it has been competed for on three occasions with three different winners, namely Mick Morgan, Bill Epps and now Jack Carey.

Victorian Vocal Venturings

The great silence has been shattered and I must humbly apologise for not writing notes sooner—but we have had a lapse of functions since the great and unforgettable Safari and news of doings of various fellows has been scarce. I purposely refrained from writing right after the Safari as I thought that there would

TIMOR MEMORIAL APPEAL

As announced in the previous issue of the "Courier" this appeal has now officially closed but some donations are still trickling in. The latest ones are:

Theo Adams	10
Clarrie Turner (2nd)	15
Scotty Taylor (England)	32.14
Ron Mackey	4
Ted Cholerton	5
Smash Hodgson	15
Paddy Kenneally (2nd)	40
David Dexter	30
Peter Piper	10
Bluey Southwell	5
M. A. M. Smith	300
Don Turton (2nd)	50

Personalities

It is with regret that we have to advise of the death of Angus Evans in N.S.W. Angus had had major operations for heart trouble including plastic valves. Apparently something went wrong and he died on Nov. 8. Angus was a great soldier and a great bloke. He was probably the prince of scroungers and could acquire anything from anywhere. I personally am pleased to have been able to meet him and his family on the recent Safari and must say that at that time he looked so well. We pass on to his widow and children our most sincere sympathy and hope that time, that great healer, will help to obliterate their sorrow.

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be a lot written about it and much of the news would be repeated.

Col Doig covered our side of it very well and I must say that we Victorians were happy and proud to play hosts and see the boys and their wives and friends as they came through, and our pleasure is that they enjoyed themselves.

I really must pay tribute to Bert Tobin who made this suggestion of a Safari and who did a tremendous lot of work and organisation to really make it tick and the great success it was. Bert is a very busy man workwise but he still finds the time to help out whenever asked to. A good job very well done, Bert.

As so often happens after a great event we had a time lapse before our next organised function which was the annual meeting and drawing of our Cup Sweep, Oct. 21, at the Officers Mess, Royal Australian Artillery (this was where we had our Easter Saturday night function.)

Our annual venue of the No. 2 Commando Drill Hall at Ripponlea is now history as they have moved out to Williamstown which is a good move for them as they are by the water. They would like us to still use the facilities they have, but we feel it is not central enough.

We did not have a good roll up. Present were Alan Munro, George Kennedy, George Robinson, Jim Robinson, Johnny Southwell, George Veitch, Bert Tobin, Bruce McLaren, Alan Boast, Gerry McKenzie, Gerry O'Toole, Sep Wilson, Peter Piper, Wally Wordy, Kevin Curran, Harry Botterell, Smash Hodgson and some guests including Daryl Friend (son of Alby), who is on the H.M.A.S. Sydney and was in Melbourne for the Cup week.

Members elected were: President, A. Munro; Secretary, George Kennedy; Treasurer, B. Tobin; with assistant Johnny Roberts if he accepts; Auditor, Bruce McLaren; Vice Presidents, K. Curran, B. Callinan, K. Botterell; Committee, Sep Wilson, Gerry O'Toole, Alec Boast, George Robinson, Jim Robinson, George Veitch, so that nearly everybody present was elected in some capacity.

Both Kev Curran and Gerry O'Toole were anxious to get some information re the Timor Memorial opening ceremony as they have leave coming up and would like to make the trip if possible. Have noticed that some information was in the last "Courier" but when final details are available these people would like to know as soon as possible.

After the meeting we drew the Cup Sweep and had a drink and a few eats to round off a good night.

It was very pleasing to have

Kev Curran down from Bendigo. He is really keen on our shows and makes every effort to be there.

Good also to see Sep Wilson again and hope he keeps coming as we can certainly do with new blood.

Had quite a few notes from many of the boys along with their sweep returns—Bob Snowdon from Wodonga, Alf Harper from Geelong, Jack Peattie, W. Tamwork, N.S.W., Bill Holstein, Taree N.S.W., Bluey Bone, Kardella, did very well too in the draw and got three horses; Dick Adams, Yarraglen; Max Davies, Stawell; Tex Richards, Latrobe, Tas.; Tom Yates, Kyogle, N.S.W.; Bob Smith, Tourney, N.S.W.; Jim Dent, Werringa, N.S.W.; Mick Devlin, Epping, N.S.W.; Alan Luby, Liverpool, N.S.W.; Alfredo Dos Santos, Surrey Hills, N.S.W.; Jim English, Peakhurst, N.S.W.; Gloria Isenhood, Cardiff, N.S.W.; Harold Newton, East Sydney; Ken Monk, Poowong East; Eric Herd, Gjebe, Sydney; Alan Mitchell, Gaythorne, Q.; Ted Cholerton, Carcoar, N.S.W.; all these boys send their best wishes.

I was over in Tasmania last July and had a night with Vic Pacey and Max Loveless showing them the slides I took in Sydney. Made them very envious and they wished they had been able to make the trip.

During September holidays with the family went on the Snowy River scheme and had a few days in Canberra. Spent an evening with David Dexter and family, and Jim and Joan Fenwick and family and really enjoyed Canberra as it was the first time we had seen it. Also went up to Newcastle for a family wedding and called in and saw Alan and Edith Luby and family on the way back to Canberra.

This finishes on a very sad note. Boy Coates passed away on Sunday, Nov. 24. He had had a heart complaint for some time but it came as a great shock. I went to his funeral today (Tuesday 26th) and along with a very good number of the boys from the Unit we paid our last respects to Boy, and in this period of great grief to his wife, Nora and family of seven children. We will be thinking of them and consoling ourselves in the knowledge that Boy was a grand soldier and father and that he will find peace in the Great Beyond.

—HARRY BOTTERILL.

HANDING OVER AND DEDICATION OF TIMOR MEMORIAL

After a long discussion with the various persons involved and after meeting the returning Australian Consul in Dilli, Major Colquhoun-Denvers, it has been decided that the Memorial at Dare be handed over and dedicated in the period April 11 to April 18, 1969. It is hoped that the Prime Minister, Mr. Gorton, can be prevailed upon to perform this task. The actual date in the period mentioned will be dependant on when Mr. Gorton or his nominee is available.

From a W.A. point of view tentative arrangements are being made with T.A.A. for a party of approximately 40 to leave Perth on Friday, April 11, returning to Perth by Sunday, April 20, 1969. It is expected that the party will fly to Darwin by the usual M.M.A. route and return on a Special Flight from Darwin via Alice Springs and Adelaide to Perth on either April 19 or 20, 1969.

Those going to Timor will be ferried from Darwin to Baucau and onward to Dilli on Saturday, April 12 by the courier plane operated by T.A.A.

Fares for this return journey, Perth to Timor and return, will be approximately \$300 per person.

It is understood that accommodation at the hotels and motels available is in the vicinity of \$8 per day per person.

Alternative methods of travel by land (coach) and sea have been investigated and proved to be either as costly or too time consuming and have thus been ruled out as impractical.

The itinerary described above will give ample opportunity for participants to see a good deal of the island from Saturday to Friday.

To be able to organise this trip it is essential to know the intention of those intending to participate as soon as possible and certainly before February 7, 1969. It is also essential from an accommodation point of view that any of our Eastern States travellers let us know of their intention by February 7, 1969.

Enclosed with this issue is a Slip Sheet Questionnaire which you are requested to complete and return as

soon as possible if you intend to make the trip. **Firm intentions are essential.**

Also printed hereunder are the essential requirements in regard to passports, visas, health, etc., which intending participants must do personally before making the trip. You should start right away to have these essentials in order in plenty of time prior to departure on April 11, 1969.

I have taken the liberty also of publishing extracts from a report on Timor by the Australian Consul, Mr. Denvers, which will be instructive for those who intend to make the trip.

Please read all this carefully then make up your mind as soon as possible and return the slip sheet to Secretary, 2/2nd Commando Assoc., Box. T1646, G.P.O., Perth, 6001.

PASSPORTS:

It is necessary to fill in an application form for a passport. This has to be certified by a prominent citizen who has known the applicant for at least 13 months. Applications to be made to Immigration Dept. or a special form obtainable from Immigration Dept. Cost \$4. Delay approx. two weeks.

Two passport photos required. These are a proper passport photo, not the candid camera type. One photo must be certified on the back thereof by a prominent citizen who has known applicant for at least 12 months. (Boans Ltd. quote \$2 for photos.) Birth Certificate or Birth Extract and Marriage Certificate or Marriage Extract is required by the Immigration Dept. Permission of wife is required if you are travelling alone.

VISAS:

The Portuguese Consul in Perth, Mr. C. G. Dudley, advises that he can issue the necessary visa for entry into Timor. Cost \$3.40 for each visa.

HEALTH:

Vaccination against smallpox and cholera is compulsory and typhoid injections are recommended. These are done by the Dept. of Commonwealth Health at a cost of \$1 for each vaccination or injection. These

can also be done by your local doctor but of course the cost will be greater. Dept. of Health can give the cholera and typhoid as a combination. It will be necessary to make an appointment for these injections giving a fortnight's notice. Smallpox lasts approx. three years and the others six months.

All the above are absolutely necessary. Total cost \$12.40 per person.

For persons leaving from the Eastern States the same procedure applies using the same facilities of Dept. of Immigration and Commonwealth Health. It will be necessary for them to apply to the Portuguese Consul in their particular State for the necessary visa to visit Timor.

For W.A. personnel it is expected that a supply of passport application forms can be obtained from the Immigration Department and forwarded to the applicants.

NOTES FROM MAJOR DENVERS REPORT

Health:

Vaccination against smallpox is compulsory, while inoculation against typhoid and cholera are advisable. Timor is not a particularly healthy place and T.B., typhoid, filaria, hook worm, etc., are common.

Malaria is hyperendemic and visitors should commence to take suppressive drugs the day before entering Timor and continue for a month after departure; Chloriquin is recommended. Where available, mosquito nets should be used at night.

Water from the tap should not be drunk without boiling as dysentery and other stomach disorders are not uncommon. Drinking water served in hotels is normally boiled.

Passports and Visas:

A valid passport and a visa for Portuguese Timor are necessary. As applications for visas are almost invariably referred to Timor for approval, it is advisable to make application well in advance. Travelers, going on to Indonesia from Timor, should where possible obtain a visa for Indonesia before leaving Australia.

Currency:

Foreign currency (preferably Australian or U.S.) is welcome, but

must be changed into Escudos with the bank representative at Baucau Airport or Hotel, or in Dili at the BNU or "Casa de Timor".

Official rates of exchange are:
\$A1 = 32 Escudos.
\$US1 = 28.75 Escudos.
£1 Stg. = 68.75 Escudos.

Currency dealings on the "black market" are a punishable offence.

Hotels:

There are three small hotels in Dili, one in Baucau (Government controlled) and small Pousadas can be found in several inland centres; most can provide private bathrooms and, in Dili, one hotel has some air-conditioned rooms. A fourth hotel is being built in Dili and should be open before the end of 1968.

Road and Air Travel Within Timor:

Taxi-cars are available in Dili as are Taxi-Jeep/Landrovers for inland trips; rates are reasonable. Also regular, inexpensive but rough, truck-bus services link Dili with all main inland centres. A regular air service links Dili with certain of the main inland centres, including Oe-Cusse and Suai. In addition, Auster light aircraft can usually be chartered at reasonable rates. Travellers to Indonesia, through Timor, should bear in mind that there is no regular road or air link between Oe-Cusse and Kupang.

Dress:

Business and social dress for men is long sleeved shirt and tie with light weight suit, although a coat is only worn for calls on senior officials and at semi formal functions.

Ladies' dress is similar to that worn during the summer in Australia. Hats and gloves are seldom worn. Shorts are only worn on the beach and two piece bathing costumes, or mini skirts, are somewhat frowned upon.

There are no dry cleaning facilities in Timor.

Generally, the Portuguese are very conservative in their dress and manners are still quite formal. The best maxim is: "If in doubt, shake hands".

Write to Your Editor:
Address All Your Correspondence:
Box T1646, G.P.O. Perth

11-40

4

2

3.40

3

(400)

300

70

Random Harvest

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

Safari! Safari! It's the talk of the town. I met a man who danced with his wife on Safari.

That beginning isn't exactly the words of the song "Chicago" but you can sing them to the tune of it and although we aren't, we are certainly talking it. It crops up in nearly every conversation that one has when we meet those who were there or who were unlucky enough for many reasons to miss it.

Having had our Annual General Meeting here in N.S.W. we now have new officers as follows: President, A. Luby; Sec.-Treas., R. Trengrove; Sen. Vice President, L. Coker; Junior Vice Presidents, P. Kenneally and J. Hartley.

It was with regret that Bill Coker and Jack Hartley's request to step down from the positions they have held was accepted and while I know that Allan Luby will do an excellent job as he has undoubted ability in executive positions such as this, I will have a hell of a job as I have never done anything of this kind before. However with assistance from my wife who has tremendous ability in this regard as in most things of an orderly nature that I will not go very far wrong before I am pulled into gear.

I will be getting a box at the local P.O. but will let you know in my next letter more about it.

Before I go any further let me give you two new addresses: Bill Bennett, 186 Warriewood Road, Warriewood; and Stan Dowman, 60 Smiths Avenue, Hurstville. The last name should be of great interest to you Col, and to many more but I will not steal any of Stan's thunder except to say he was in Timor six months before we got there and left when we left. But Stan has promised me he will write a serial for us (such as Historically Yours!). It should be of tremendous interest as his talks with me so far have interested me.

Bill Bennett by the way is No. 1 to return his Perth Safari 1971 nomination form. Congratulations Bill and although I will see you a lot between now and then I'll have my

first drink on the train as we pull out from Sydney with you.

You notice how one doesn't get far from the word Safari. Well that's how we want you to think from now on.

By the way Len I tried to get the negative but Leica sell negatives to nobody but nobody, not even when I explained that it would be very unlikely they would sell any more anyway, and also we were prepared to pay well for it. I felt like chucking a grenade in the joint but I don't like the noise they make.

Incidentally Bill Coker has become a fleet owner having acquired another boat so if you have any desires to be a sailor maybe Capt. Coker might give you a job polishing his brass. I did say brass.

Now I would like to thank those fellows who rallied around just recently in response to some phoning I did. I won't mention names but I believe you all did a power of good and once again thank you.

Angus Evans, as you all know, has had a major operation this year. Well for a while all went well after he returned home but a complication arose which brought him back to Prince Alfred and has been down some six or seven weeks of writing but it is hoped that they will diagnose the trouble and right it before long. Eric and I have managed to see him once a week and will do so while he is down here.

Well I close for tonight.

Nov. 14. I continue this letter but not with the interest I did have because today we all have cause to be saddened as many but not all will know before you read this "Courier" that one of us has passed on.

Angus Evans died this day undergoing a second operation in the hope that it would right the trouble that had occurred after his major op. some five months ago when two mechanical valves were placed in his heart.

Eric Herd and myself had been weekly visitors to Angus ever since he came back to Prince Alfred Hospital and although we were there on Monday night as usual we decided we would also see him on Wednesday night. It was to be the last

as we were to find out, but we left him so sure by his appearance and manner that we would be back the following weeks until he went home again.

When Jean Evans rang me at 1.15 p.m. today I was stunned to say the least to think that the very thing had happened that Eric and I was sure would not.

I called to see Jean where she was staying with Angus's mother in the city and she told me why Angus never made it. The valves were functioning perfectly but his arteries were so blocked up that the blood could not get through.

If things go as I plan I will be going to Murrurundi for the funeral on Saturday, Nov. 16.

I can't continue although I have more to say.

Once again I would like to thank the Arncliffe R.S.L. staff who so swiftly got my message to Ron Hilliard about Angus. We can show our appreciation for what they do for the 2/2nd by turning up in larger numbers when they open their doors as they will and have in the past.

May I have the courage to face up to what I am sure now that Angus knew he was facing.

When the doctor told him on Monday that there was no alternative but to operate and that the chances were not very much on his side, his answer was: "What are we waiting for?"

I had so many quiet talks with him I know this: He was a man amongst men.

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

A recent visitor to Geraldton was a well known Double Red Diamond type, Jack Fowler, of Wongan Hills. Although I had the misfortune, through pressure of duties, to miss out on meeting up with this welcome visitor, I hear that he, Eric Smythe and Nip Cunningham knocked off a noggin or two while reminiscing. I learnt about Jack's visit from his brother-in-law, Ted Lynch, who, incidentally, is doing a wonderful job as O.I.C. of the Geraldton Technical Training Centre.

Getting back to Double Red Diamondites resident in Geraldton, don't be surprised if you hear about "the race of the year". I refer to Eric

Smythe's ability as a motor-scooter rider, Nip Cunningham's ability as a push-cyclist and the walking ability of Yours Truly (why drive when you have a chauffer when need be, particularly an efficient one like my better half?).

And now for a little news about Bruss Fagg, of Northampton. He's a pretty happy man because the R.S.L. Sub-Branch, of which he is President, has just conducted a highly successful annual re-union. They tell me the pennies were being tossed freely until the wee hours of the morning. (Some of you Perthites will remember with delight, the way the pennies fell when we attended the Northampton R.S.L. dinner during our re-union at Geraldton a few years ago.)

There's no doubt about the people of Northampton—they're a crackerjack mob. Following the R.S.L. re-union, they made available a beautiful collection of flowers. It was the pleasure of Yours Truly and other Geraldton R.S.L. members to place these and other flowers on graves in the Geraldton War Cemetery the next day during their annual pilgrimage on the nearest Sunday to Remembrance Day.

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

J. P. KENNEALLY, of 28 Wilkins St., Yagoona, N.S.W., writes:—

Your letter advising me that our quota for the Timor Memorial had been reached arrived some time ago. I am enclosing the cheque for the second portion of my pledge. It may not be needed for its original purpose but I am sure the Association can put the money to some useful project.

We had our annual meeting a month ago, not a very big roll up—Jim Hallinan, Jack Keenahan, Snowy Went, Jack Hartley, Alan Luby, Jim English, Ron Trengrove, Eric Herd, Don Woodhouse, Harold Newton, Alfredo de Santos. There may have been a few more. These are from memory. If any names are missed my apologies.

Jack Hartley tendered his resignation as secretary and refused re-nomination, pressure of work, and he maintained he could not devote the time to the job at present. He has served the Association for many

years, devoted his time, energy, and many times I suspect his money, to the affairs of our Association. The fact that we are still active is due in no small measure to Jack and Bill Coker, as officials, and a small number of stalwarts who turn up to do their share of work.

Bill Coker stood down as President. He feels like a spell. He's earned it. Much of his time has also been expended in the Association's cause, particularly in the Safari arrangements. He still holds office as a Vice President.

Ron Trengrove is our new Treasurer-Secretary, or should it be vice versa? We feel sure Ron will do his job well and keep us loafers in the swim.

Alan Luby returns once more to the Presidency. So we are mobile once more and planning for the trip West in 1971.

We still natter on about the roll up from all States to the Anzac Re-union here. As far as I'm concerned we'll never see it again. 120 odd on parade. Some turn up for a Unit of our size.

The outing that stands out to me was the trip to Cottage Point on the Krait. The families that missed that were unfortunate. I had a wongi with Joe Poynton and Mick Morgan and the keg only an arm's length away, and Australia's premier barman in attendance God bless him.

Saw Jim English the other night. He hasn't been too well lately. Says he's feeling better now. Don't know whether to believe him or not. He always reckons he's feeling better when he can barely keep going. He gets his share of bad luck and a lot of other people's too.

Plenty of work over the last few months. It will ease off now though Christmas is on the way. The worst run I had for many a year was after the Safari. Nothing seemed to be going. Two jobs I was supposed to do immediately at the time didn't even have a level peg in let alone a bulldozer.

The family are well. Helen sits for her fourth year exam next week. Michael will be on his way into third year. Sean will be up for his primary final and no one expects him to pass but we've been expecting Sean to miss every year but he still moves on. Last year he didn't come last in the class but with a wicked

grin on his freckled gob he informed us he was last amongst those who passed. The five or six behind Sean stayed where they were for another year and I reckon our bloke was just lucky not to be with them. Gerald reluctantly trots off to school every morning and cheerfully yells: "Mum, I'm home" from the bottom of the garden when he returns. He'll survive.

Well all the best to you and your family in the coming festivities and may all the members and their families have a Merry Christmas and a bright and prosperous new year.

P.S.: Correction—Eric Herd is, I believe, our new Treasurer or it could be auditor. Next time I'll take notes. Senile decay playing havoc with the memory.

SMASH HODGSON, of 14 Everard Road, Ringwood East, Vic., writes:

Hi, Doigie, you unchangeable scoundrel.

Expiation, by the substance, toward an emotional promise I made (or may have made) one time. If made, it was the threat that it would be ten! Being as good at the glib or specious as any challenger, I now reserve the right to be vague as to the quality or amount of that ten! If I promised ten quid I am a proven liar (yes, again), but due to a dispensation by the patron saint of fortunato this day of Saturday, 9th November, I am palliating a conscience which may have been un-hoppled and therefore disagreeably inexorable, and also I am beating the norm if my mouth may have spoken my usual canny self, and spoken of ten in dollars.

How I'm able to extend at all, is one of the minor financial miracles, so, canning the preamble, I enclose \$15. Not a bit unhappy about being too late for Timor Memorial. Would feel much happier to see it go to consol. revenue. Also feel that something further should be done. This of course only to prove that I also can walk the path of human frailty, i.e., that of being judicial to and about my fellow man. Feel that we should find Ebony Epps guilty of an energy output beyond the bounds of ordinary yoemen in stalwart service, and that being so, remand him to the custody of one, Jessie Epps!

Having gazed upon this "chile", I

judge she to be an admirable choice as a custodian or guardian of one who is a delinquent only by reason of overwork. A further reason for that choice must come out as egotistical vanity. You see, she said nice things about what I know to be my crudely unpolished literary efforts, and I always like best the people who say nice things about me or my work. Come to think of it, that curved and rounded compliment to the 2/2nd braves, are all equally tremendous people!

I have to draft out another letter now to the executives of Victorian Branch re a little matter of some years arrears of pelf. Thank the Lord it is there now to pay nearly everybody! Good old George Moore and Cyron! Think I'll open another bottle and toast myself and that man, most mellifluously. (I like that word nearly as greatly as is my uncertainty as to what it really means.) And all the prophets, pundits, and piddly punks were selling it that George just couldn't cope on Victorian courses. Of course I was right in there with 'em, equally guilty, but I bet up big on the blind and desperate, and I'm still so scared about it, there is a most urgent need for that other bottle.

Hardly feel like "bar toba" tonight just in case a nightmare may come a-visiting, and the elephants or beetles in it may manifest themselves as Cyron being beaten on a protest, or maybe just being beaten. A contretemps which would have me awake, shrieking unmelodiously and most unmelly whatever it was I said before. Ah, me, what a day!

Must get that other missive under way so I just have to enclose the money when I collect on Monday.

KATIE and LES DINGLE, of 55 Sasse Ave., Mt. Hawthorn, W.A., write:—

It is now six months since we returned from the "Great Safari" and Katie and I cannot let any further time pass by without extending our sincere thanks to the Double Red Diamond Association.

We thank you firstly for allowing us to accompany such a wonderful team on a fantastic tour. Secondly for the introduction to your Unit mates and their wives.

Our congratulations go to the

organisers in Adelaide, Melbourne Canberra and Sydney.

The functions and trips arranged were beyond our wildest dreams. The trip gave us an opportunity to visit places not contemplated by us in the future. It also gave me the chance to proudly march with my Battalion (2/16th) on Anzac Day.

No praise is ample for the work done by you, Col Doig, Len Bagley and the Committee in making such a successful tour.

ANGUS MacLACHLAN, of 37 Arrowsmith St., Camp Hill, Bris., writes:—

Overjoyed at your announcement from the Prime Minister. I'm sure it is a big surprise to all members to hear of the open handed generosity of the Government. This has promoted me into sending in my second installment of my pledge. Please find cheque enclosed.

In the space of a few short words I would like to thank those good hospitable New South Welshmen who took us into their hearts and homes. Also to thank the lads from the West and from the South who came to make it, as Ron Trengrove so aptly put it: "The Week That Was". Let's hope though that it was not the week to end all weeks. The future looks rosy and may we have many more gatherings of equal the one just gone.

Regards to all in the West.

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

Well, the Safari has come and gone.

It was great to see my old mates again, after almost a quarter of a century. We are all older of course, but our spirit is just as young. Looking back on the Anzac Day Re-union I find myself thinking, was he there? Yes, I think he was, and so on. This is so because there were so many at the Re-union that to talk to everyone for five minutes would be about 11 hours talking.

I took a lot of old photos down, but no one had time to look at photos. I took a camera down to take photos of my old mates, but I could never get my old mates to stop talking and group themselves up. Finally at the last day, for me, which was the Krait trip, I took some very unsatisfactory pictures in

desperation and am now left with only happy memories.

When we were all serving together we were single, but now meeting again years after the Unit has increased to wives, sons and daughters and grandchildren, and so the stream of life goes on, as it has for centuries.

Since the Safari, I suppose we have all gone back to our normal lives. I have seen Eddie Timmins, who will be going to W.A.; Happy Greenhalgh, and rang Angus Mac-lachlan on the phone. Angus and Lois will have a wedding of their eldest daughter about April. I am a grandfather, as I suppose most of us will be eventually.

Now for the trip to Timor. I would like to get in direct touch with whoever is handling the trip. Happy and I are definitely going. Would anyone in Qld. or northern N.S.W. who intends going contact me? Wanted someone with a reliable car perhaps.

Now for some facts. We must have a definite date when to go.

(1) Application for a passport. Write to the Immigration Dept. Back comes a form to fill in, mainly birth certificate, two photographs (\$4 fee) for a passport, wife's consent if married, photograph to be endorsed by some reputable person (meaning that the photo is authentic, etc.). Get a smallpox injection at Health Dept. cost \$1. I've had mine. Anti-malarial tablets three weeks before going and brown pills for dysentery from local doctor.

(2) Write to Portuguese Embassy in Canberra for a visa, probably state why. The address is 22 Bouganville St., Manuka, 2603.

(3) Travel from Brisbane to Darwin. Redline coaches leave Brisbane Monday and Friday at 10 a.m. (Monday 10 a.m. arrive 4 p.m. Thursday. Leave 10 a.m. Friday arrive 4 p.m. Monday. Both four days trip. Buy your own meals on the way up.) \$97.20 return.

Leave Darwin for Brisbane. I have not the return time table as yet.

(4) Stop over night in Darwin \$8. Fly T.A.A. economy flight \$204.40 return Monday and Wednesday. Leave 10.30 a.m., arrive 2.35 p.m. This is from Brisbane.

Timor trippers can leave their cars at my place.

No return time table yet.

Different ways of travelling will affect us in different ways. For some it will be better to get up there quick and get back to work. I will fall in with anyone who wants to go by car.

T.A.A. runs the plane to Bacau and then you pay \$4 or \$6 to Dilli. I don't know whether that is our dollars or Portuguese. My figures are \$43 return to Timor by a woman who went there, but I am not sure if this is accurate.

Depending on how many are going we may have to order a special plane. The plane to Bacau leaves Darwin Tuesday 11 a.m. and returns the same day at 12.30 p.m. It is once a week trip.

Those going by car from Brisbane would lose a fortnight's wages by road and whatever time spent in Timor. I would like to see some of the old stamping grounds and perhaps horses might be better after reading Roddy's account of jeep travel.

This letter is to start the ball rolling.

TED MONK, of Latham, writes:—

What about a heart starter or a drop of wallop?

These words will always bring to mind the excellent time we had on the Great Safari and recall the wonderful companionship that existed between all who took part in the trip.

Both Peg and myself would particularly like to thank all those who planned, organised and did so much work in making the Great Safari such an outstanding success in every way.

We found our stay in Kalgoorlie very enjoyable, particularly our sight-seeing tour of the mines, for which we warmly thank Mr. and Mrs. Tony Davidson for making this possible.

Adelaide more than came up to expectations with first class accommodation and excellent tours. Nice to meet up with Shorty Stevens again—and what a wonderful night the South Aussies turned on at the Shandon for us.

On to Melbourne and what a welcome? It was great to see so many of the old gang but hard to remember some of the names. Had a wonderful night at the Re-union and afterwards at Johnny Roberts. Thank you John for taking me home, and

thank Kath for ordering that taxi at 5 a.m. Woke up a few hours later and thought my watch had done a big end—was it thumping!

The trip to Wilsons Prom. brought back memories although it has greatly changed over the years. The monument is a fine tribute to the Commando Associations and one to be justly proud.

Canberra and the Snowy Tour sported scenery that had to be seen to be believed. Regret we could not fit more time in at the War Museum as one could spend many, many hours viewing all it contains.

One of the highlights of the Canberra visit was meeting up again with Ron Dook and having a couple of ales at the Burns Club.

Sydney, our last port of call, and a week that will long be remembered. We were met on arrival by our eldest daughter, Judith, who has been in Sydney for the past two years and works as a typist for the Department of the Army. Next day Judith took us on a visit to Victoria Barracks where we met Allan Cardy who is also in the same Section as Judith.

What a wonderful time was had by all at the dinner and evening put on at the Cabravale Services Club.

Anzac Day and what a mighty roll up for the march. How the years rolled away as the day wore on. Afterwards out at Arncliffe R.S.L. meeting up with mates after 23 years. Wouldn't have missed it for the world.

There are a lot of tours and events not mentioned here but were nevertheless most enjoyable and find by listing them all I am only repeating what you have already covered in the "Courier".

Would like to thank one and all for the warm hospitality that was extended to us throughout the entire Safari.

Several months have now elapsed since returning from our trip, during which time we have completed seeding, except for 60 acres of wheat due to the fact the ground was too wet and boggy to get the machines on. However, we were lucky not to have any seed washed out and the crops to late show great promise of a good harvest.

My shearing has just been completed, was very pleased with clip and more than pleased with the

excellent lambing season. All in all a top rate season for farming here, up to writing. Unfortunately prices for wheat, wool and sheep are at an all time low.

If all goes well hope to be down to attend the Annual Re-Union and dinner.

Well the pad has run out owing to the fact this is the longest letter I have written in years. Regards.

ALF HILLMAN, of Broomehill, W.A., writes:—

To let you know that Elsie and I will be up for the show on Dec. 7. At the time it was first suggested we were not sure of being able to make it but that weekend is free so we can do so.

Summer seems to be setting in at last here after we had just about given up hope of warm weather.

Shearing went off well for 50 per cent more wool than I have ever had before and was sold yesterday in Albany for the best price I have had for several years. The only trouble is de ducks eat up all the proceeds. Also the value of surplus sheep sold is only about half normal.

However will still manage three feeds a day and an odd beer or two.

Did fairly well again this year at the local shows with the sheep—11 ribbons, 12 trophies and \$105 in prize money.

This form of entertainment now seems to be giving out as rising costs are sending all the Agricultural Societies into bankruptcy and another couple of years will see the end of most of them.

Hay cutting and carting is over and harvesting only a week or so away.

Harvesting is one worry I do not have these days as I have turned over all cropping to one of the boys and all the crop I have is 25 acres for hay and sheep feed.

MAURIE SMITH, of Albion Hotel, 2 Charles St., Northcote, Vic., writes:—

This is a somewhat belated letter but nevertheless I hope the contents will be welcome. It should be some help towards the Timor Memorial.

I would like to go over to Timor for the opening of the Memorial, so

if you can make any arrangements for such a trip I will definitely be a starter and will fit in with whatever arrangements you make.

I'm still loafing nicely with the Board of Works. I'm in the Planning and Highways Section so if any Victorians have any complaints about the mess that things are in, they'll know the reason why. We've all read about Pope Paul's Eucyclical regarding the pill. This is now known as Paul's Letter to the Fall-opians.

I'm still managing to enjoy life. A game or two of bowls, a beer or two (sometimes four or five if I can find a congenial mate).

If I don't go over to the West beforehand at least I'll see some of the crowd when the Timor trip is on. In the meantime all the best to everyone. If I do go over before then I'll let Col know so that he can go away somewhere and dodge me. He reckons I punish him too much when we meet.

CLARRIE TURNER, of "Kilgora Stud", Elgin, W.A., writes:—

Many thanks for your note. Very pleased to know that the Timor Appeal has been successful. However I am enclosing a further cheque. Please credit my dues, etc., and use the remainder towards Timor Memorial expenses or any other cause necessary.

I haven't time to write much at the moment as we are right into hay, etc., now and it is keeping me busy. Have had a pretty good year down here and is finishing up pretty good. Haven't seen any of the gang for ages.

Cheers for now and regards to all.

From The National Bank of Australia:—

We enclose our marked cheque for the sum of A\$32.14 being proceeds of a mail transfer for English £15 by order of William Taylor, per Lloyds Bank Limited, Overseas Branch, England.

The transfer represents donation to 2/2nd Commando Association.

DON YOUNG, of Cadoux, 6466, writes:—

Well, don't fall dead when you receive this. I am in bed at home at present with a bad leg. By joves I have had a bad run. I am work-

ing on a farm as a married couple, out from Wongan Hills. I see the Sadler boys and Jack Fowler. In Koodara I often see Ron Johnstone. He is doing well. I ran into Reg Harrington not long ago at our local football match. First time I have seen him since discharge by joves. He looks well.

I would like to come down for the Re-union but my old leg has a say. I will see you soon I hope.

Could you send me an Address Book? I will send you a cheque down next week. I have run out of cheque leaves. Our mail has to go to Perth and then back to us, regards to get back to our bank.

I haven't got any family yet. Been married three years next month. Not for trying.

Have you seen Ray Parry, and what is he doing? Jimmy MacLachan was here where I am working but I was out in the paddock. I was sorry I missed him.

Cheers for now. Regards to all the boys.

ALEC BOAST, of Flat 2, 26 Pearson Street, North Brighton, Vic., writes:—

I am enclosing a cheque. Not much but I hope it will help in some small way to make this memorial a success.

Give my regards to all. It was great meeting old mates, their wives and families and I hope one day that we might be able to do something from this end. Who knows?

Good luck and bye for now. Regards to all.

JOHN SOUTHWELL, of 2 Terry St. Balwyn, Victoria, writes:—

My congratulations to you and the other "workers" on the success of the Timor Memorial Project.

The enclosed cheque is a small and late contribution, I know, but may help towards completion or it could go towards expenses of any of you going to Timor for the handing over.

It was great to see so many of you over here for the Safari last Easter. We often think about it.

T. ADAMS, of Box 1, Goroka, New Guinea, writes:—

Enclosure hope will assist. Regards to all. Still enjoy living in this place of eternal spring time. Pity some of the boys couldn't see it now.