



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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EDITORIAL

THE JUBILEE SAFARI — 1971

This Editorial is mainly directed towards members in W.A. By the time you read this article the Jubilee Safari will only be a matter of six weeks away. You will readily see that time is rapidly slipping away, especially when you think that the Safari has been in the planning stages for over two years.

We appeal to all W.A. members to get right behind us now and support the Safari to the fullest extent. This applies more to the metropolitan members than our country members. We realise that things in the rural districts are far from good and it is going to be difficult for our farming friends to apply themselves as much as we would like. This does not apply to city folk where things have remained fairly reasonable so it is upon these people that we build our hope of a really big show.

Only recently the "Rats of Tobruk" Association held a big convention in Perth and they were most disappointed in the turn up of local members. It does not speak too highly of W.A. hospitality if the visitors exceed the local contingent by quite a few.

To cater for the needs of W.A. members a "package deal" ticket is available at \$20 per couple to cover

all functions. This is exceedingly reasonable because if one attended all functions it would cost in excess of \$50 for a couple.

The idea behind this is to encourage the locals to go to as many functions as possible. When you come to think of what is available for \$20 for a full ten days it practically cuts your cost of living in half for this period.

The atmosphere will be there just as it was for the 1956 Olympics, the 1962 Commonwealth Games and the 1968 Great Safari. The build-up of emotion and comradeship will be tremendous and thus the enjoyment will be something to be felt to be appreciated.

Your Committee has worked long and arduously to make this Jubilee Safari a success. The degree of planning is of the highest standard. We have attracted a big contingent of Eastern States members so now it is up to the general members in W.A. to assure the success of the Safari by throwing their weight into the ring.

It is realised that when the chips are down you never fail us so please order your way of life in such a way that you have plenty of time to be in the good things of the Jubilee Safari from Sept. 2 to 11.

Safari Itinerary on Page 3 — Arrange your dates

West Australian Whisperings

Association Activities

DRAW OF MAMMOTH RAFFLE

This was without a doubt the largest function ever conducted by the Association. The crowd in attendance at the Drill Hall, Bazaar Tce., was in excess of 420.

Thanks to the wonderful organisation of the sub-committee comprising Len Bagley, Jack Carey, Dick Geere and Col Hodson, the whole cabaret went off with clockwork precision.

The work put in during the afternoon of July 3 by a willing band of over 20 helpers had the hall in excellent order. The clean-up the next day was also attended by 12 members and went through without a hitch.

As one of our members commented on the Sunday: "For a bundle of amateurs we did a highly professional job in this cabaret."

The music was first rate, the supper good quality and the liquid refreshments excellently handled. The raffle draw was conducted expeditiously and with the highest integrity. The comments on all sides were nothing but high praise for a show well done and it is certain we made a lot of friends and no enemies from our conduct of the Mammoth Raffle and its concluding draw and cabaret.

The effort speaks volumes for the organisational skill of Len Bagley and his committee.

The Association would like to extend its thanks to all who participated in any way in this Mammoth Raffle.

RESULT:

- 1st Prize — \$5,000 — 354 — R. J. Kagi, Wembley, W.A.
 Consolation Prizes — 2 Double Trips to Rottnest:
 353—Frank and John, c/- R. Parry, W.A.
 355—Bill Cruikshank, Como, W.A.
 50 Prizes of \$20 (Money Back):
 23—J. Irving, Bolgart, W.A.
 38—D. Keast and G. Jones, W.A.
 40—Rita Hersfall, W.A.
 52—D. I. Cathie, Qld.
 65—Warren and Noble, W.A.

- 71—Jack Sheehan & C. Doig, W.A.
 91—Dave Tanner, W.A.
 98—Norm Thornton, W.A.
 101—Elvina Krause, Vic.
 107—C. Vellacott, W.A.
 112—M. A. M. Smith and J. Mc-Laughton, Vic.
 114—J. F. Daniel, W.A.
 131—C. & R. Phillips, W.A.
 132—F. R. Steel, W.A.
 143—John Hogan, W.A.
 146—E. G. & M. Hartree, S.A.
 151—W. E. Parry, W.A.
 156—R. S. Kirkwood, W.A.
 161—V. & K. Hayes, W.A.
 179—W. F. Krause, Vic.
 206—J. P. Marlow, W.A.
 217—Reece and Lacey, W.A.
 220—Bill, Allan, Des & Jim, W.A.
 232—L.C.M.P. Pt. Dennoison, W.A.
 241—E. Hoffman, W.A.
 245—J. W. Tomkins, N.S.W.
 263—Des J. Coakling, W.A.
 266—R. M. Gordon, W.A.
 267—Frank Press, N.S.W.
 278—T. P. Snowdon, A.C.T.
 288—J. L. Jacobs, W.A.
 290—M. E. G. Michelly, W.A.
 297—A. T. Hillman, W.A.
 316—Doug Hampson, W.A.
 322—B. O'Connor, Manning, W.A.
 328—O. Cornish, W.A.
 340—Harley Taylor, W.A.
 355—Bill Cruikshank, W.A.
 367—L. & S. Winfield, W.A.
 384—J. P. Smailes, W.A.
 399—D. Hopkins, W.A.
 410—J. Kalinowski, W.A.
 426—P. J. Reed, Vic.
 429—R. L. Gurr, S.A.
 453—J. Rose, Wembley, W.A.
 462—Jack Sheehan, W.A.
 466—M. C. Thompson, W.A.
 482—E. Hoffman, W.A.
 488—Stephen Hodson, W.A.
 498—Jack Peattie, N.S.W.
 Special Prize: Sam Fullbrook framed Print:
 478—B. C. Langridge, W.A.

JULY MEETING

Due to the fact that this meeting took place soon after the draw for the Mammoth Raffle the attendance was naturally heavily affected. However a very pleasant carpet bowls evening was enjoyed by those present.

Trophy winners for the night were first Gerry Maley, runner up Percy

Hancock. Two lovely trophies were arranged by a friend of Gerry Maley who was present to participate and enjoy the evening.

Unfortunately only one of our ladies was present but I can assure you she enjoyed her lessons in bowls by Percy Hancock.

AUGUST MEETING

This meeting will be held at Anzac House Basement on Tuesday, August 3, and merits your attention. Bill Epps and Arthur Smith

will show films of their recent trip to Timor. I understand these are excellent and Bill assures me that the film of the Memorial is really first class.

This evening is, as usual, open to our ladies and if you have any friends whom you think would be interested then bring them along.

SEPTEMBER

This is the great occasion as this is when we conduct the Jubilee Safari from 2nd to the 11th. Here is the programme once again.

Jubilee Safari

Thursday, Sept. 2:

A bus to meet arrivals at 7 a.m. and transport them to the Government Office Buildings, opposite Kings Park gates for breakfast. Bus will take the visitors to Hotel Imperial at 9.45 a.m. Civic Reception at Council House at 12 noon. Welcome to visitors at 7.30 p.m. in dining room of Imperial Hotel.

Friday, Sept. 3:

Annual Dinner at Imperial Hotel from 6 p.m. Dinner at 7.30 p.m. Ladies to attend Town House Cinema, dine at 6 p.m. theatre afterwards.

Saturday, Sept. 4:

Afternoon, races or football. Evening trots. Complimentary passes provided.

Sunday, Sept. 5:

Afternoon Commemoration Service Kings Park. A bus leaves Imperial Hotel at 2.45 p.m. Service to be at 3.30 p.m. Afterwards at Imperial Hotel dining room at 5 p.m. for eats and refreshments.

Monday, Sept. 6:

Bus tour of dams. Buses leave Imperial Hotel at 9 a.m. sharp. A barbecue lunch at Murray Arms Hotel, Jarrahdale.

Tuesday, Sept. 7:

Evening at the Fremantle Club. A bus will leave from Imperial Hotel at 7.15 p.m. and will leave for the return from Fremantle Club at 12.30 a.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 8:

Bus trip to Wanneroo Wildflower Nursery, then on to Yanchep Inn for lunch. Buses leave Imperial Hotel at 9 a.m., then they will leave at 12 noon from the nursery for Yanchep Inn, arriving at 1 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 9:

River trip. The ferry "Duchess" leaves from Barrack Street Jetty at 10 a.m. and returns at 4.30 p.m. A smorgasborg lunch on board.

Friday, Sept. 10:

Evening at Perry Lakes Stadium Hall—GRAND FINALE. Bus will leave from Imperial Hotel at 7 p.m. and return from Perry Lakes 1 a.m.

Saturday, Sept. 11:

Visitors must vacate hotel rooms by 10 a.m. Baggage transport provided to station cloak room. Day left vacant for individual entertainment. Train departs 9.30 p.m.

Committee Comment

The usual monthly committee meeting was held at Anzac Club on Tuesday, June 15. Naturally the main business of the evening was attending to detailed planning of the Cabaret Night to draw the Mammoth Raffle and handle further details regarding the Jubilee Safari.

Col Doig advised that the raffle was filled to overflowing and that the necessary funds had been placed at the disposal of the Treasurer for payment of prizes and cost of the cabaret.

Len Bagley gave a very detailed job summary of what was required of everyone to handle the cabaret efficiently. Jobs were allocated to members to make certain all went according to plan.

Len Bagley then proceeded to give another most detailed analysis of all the planning for the Jubilee Safari. With sufficient funds now in hand it was considered that if sales of the "Package Deal" tickets were as adequate as expected that subsidising of accommodation for our visitors should prove to be quite adequate.

Dick Geere gave the financial statement which showed that finances were still very buoyant.

Personalities

Among those present at the Cabaret from remote areas were: Vince and Pam Swann from Esperance, Don and Vida Turton from Wandering, Ernie and Verna Bingham from the same area, Clarie and Grace Turner from Capel, Dick Fitzgerald with a large party from Dongara, Reg and Dot Harrington from Wyening, Mal Herbert from Nungarin, Peter and Pam Campbell, from Gibson.

It sure was nice to see so many down for the big occasion.

Your Editor was a bit on the busy side that night and could not get around much to get impressions from our visitors but they all looked as though they were enjoying themselves.

Had quite a long conversation the previous day with Vince Swann and Don Turton. Swanny said the season at Esperance was excellent and

also at his larger property at Salmon Gums. Don was also happy with the season but of course prices for rural commodities are a real headache.

Fred Sparkman's wife, Rose, has been in hospital for a very delicate operation and Fred assures me that she is progressing favourably.

It was really marvelous to see Peter Krause over here from Victoria for the draw of the Mammoth Raffle. It was also a record that both he and Elvina got their money back. Peter had an unhappy experience on arrival as a couple of "hotel barbers" went through his case within seconds of him going to the hotel. Len Bagley who met Peter and took him to the hotel, said it was like an episode out of "Homicide". We all had a good get-together with Peter and made him as welcome as we possibly could. Thanks a million Peter for combining business with pleasure and being at our big party.

It is with extreme regret that we have to record the passing of yet another of our members in Cyril John (Slim) Holly. "Slim" was an original member of 2 Section "A" Platoon and served with us on Timor. After the war he was a very staunch worker for the Association for many years and in our early years did a lot of very good work for us. In later years he was plagued by bad health and we saw very little of him. He was the original Warden of our area in Kings Park. We offer our sincere condolences to his wife and family.

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We had a very pleasant day at Baldy's stamping grounds, Geelong Grammar School, on Sunday June 6.

This was a twofold purpose, as an outing for our members and family and a farewell to Baldy and Vi as Baldy is retiring from teaching at Grammar at the end of the year and will be moving into Geelong to live.

The weather was a bit of a cock-tail, cold and showery with a bit of sun now and again—but the location was terrific, a glassed in crescent shape pavilion with a lovely open fireplace and open barbecue fires behind the pavilion.

Baldy gave us a conducted tour of the school in the afternoon and it is a lovely school and everybody enjoyed a good day.

We had a very good roll up. Present were Bert and Wilma Tobin and family, Gerry and May McKenzie and family, George Robinson and family, John and Shirley Southwell, Johnny and Kath Roberts, George and Pat Kennedy, Alf Harper, wife and family, George Vietch and wife and family, Alex and Beryl Boast and family, the Botterills and family, Bill Taylor and wife were a very welcome sight. Bill has retired from work now and he has been and still is a very good worker for the Com-cando Association.

Baldy and Vi were wonderful

hosts and our thanks to them for a pleasant day.

There is no doubt we are all getting on in years—over the last couple of months we are seeing our family growing up. Jim Wall's eldest daughter became engaged. Bert Tobin's son Warwick, became engaged and was married on June 9. My son David became engaged on April 7 and will be married January 8 next year.

Ken Monk's second daughter Elva has become engaged and will be married at the end of the year.

Ken and Margaret Monk will be going over to the West and like us will be having three weeks in Perth arriving on the Sunday, August 22, and leaving on Sunday, September 12. They will be flying both ways and will be staying with relations of Margaret at Wembley.

Gordon Stanley rang me from Brisbane this morning to tell me he is going to Timor on July 3 with his wife Joan and her mother, and in doing this trip will have to miss the Safari one. Asked me to thank Bill Epps for all the information he has made available to Gordon and Joan on Timor and sends his regards to all the boys.

Only two months before we will be in the West and it can't come quickly enough for our family. So until we see you then, all the best.

—HARRY BOTTERILL

RANDOM HARVEST

SHORTY STEVENS, of Yallunda Flats, S.A., writes:—

I have been suffering with a guilty conscience for so long it has become a part of me. Seems hard to realise it is nine months since we were over in the West and I've been intending to write to you and say how much we enjoyed our trip. We know we attempted to cover too much ground in too short a time, but it just had to be. We had to be back for Helen to sit for her music exam and I am happy to be able to report she passed. As for the West, it is a big place and we intend coming back

again one day to have a more leisurely cruise around and spend more time saying good-ay to folk we know. To me it was noticeable how readily one was accepted. "One of his army mates" by wives of the lads I had never met.

It was a real pleasure to meet the like of Betty Hopkins and your good wife. I spoke to others on the phone and was unable to meet them, but the altered tone of their voice when I told them I was one of the 2/2nd gave one a feeling of being an accepted friend. This I think is a compliment to those of you who

have laboured for so long to keep the Association going. Congratulations to all those committee men who over the years have kept their shoulder to the wheel. Your work is appreciated by many who do not get around to writing to say so.

I would have liked to say good-bay to Arthur Marshall. He was out on the job when we passed through. I know he has been within two miles of us a couple of times during the last few years and did not do more than make enquiries as to if we were around. He'd better do better than that next time or I'll tell the locals his broadcaster is no B— good. Next time you are in Cummins Marsh don't forget to look us up, we have a spare bedroom available.

I am sure it will be a memorable trip for those folk who journey over in September. It would be nice to be going but I'm afraid it is impossible. However I'll be thinking of you and wish you all a good time and safe trip.

Took time off last month and made a quick dash up to Mundowdna and stayed with the Litchfields for a few days. Always a trip looked forward to with pleasure by members of this household. Litch had some rain earlier in the year but missed out on the real drought breaking falls and would like to see another good rain before too long. Litch and Lois are both keeping fairly well and like so many of our members, are up to their eye-balls in the community affairs of their area. Were very busy with the arrangements of the Marree Gymkhana when we were there. Heard on the radio the other day they raised over \$3,000 for the Flying Doctor Service. A good effort I thought. They were expecting 26 people to be at Mundowdna over the gymkhana weekend. A typical example of northern hospitality. As usual Litch asked me to pass on his regards to all the lads.

Had a letter from Rev. Arthur Bottrell the other day asking if I could help with some names, etc., of our officers. He is hopeful of writing a book on his experiences with the Companies but apparently has not had much co-operation from his contacts. This is a pity, I think, because if anything is going to be printed it may as well be accurate

and who else can supply the right record but the members concerned? The proceeds from the book are all going to Legacy, a worthy cause, and I wish him success. I'm sure he'd be interested in receiving the "Courier". I'd suggest he be sent one at Rev. A. E. Bottrell, 6 Grantley Ave., Daw Park, S.A., 5041.

Well I had better get out of your hair. We are enjoying a very promising season so far and hope it continues. With the price failure of wool a seasonal failure would be hard to take.

Wishing you a good night on July 3 (would not mind winning) and a happy and successful time in September. Remember me to all the lads.

"Cameos of Commandoes"

(As enclosed by Shorty Stevens)

A book of experiences with eight Commando Squadrons in New Guinea and Queensland by Padre Arthur Bottrell.

The Foreword has been written by Lt-Gen. The Hon. Sir Edmund Francis Herring, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., M.I.D., E.D., M.A., D.C.L., Q.C., Lt-Governor of Victoria.

The Introduction was promised by the late Major Harry G. Harcourt, D.S.O. and Bar, O.B.E., M.C., M.I.D., Silver Star, etc., but his untimely death has robbed us all of that eulogy to Commandoes.

The manuscript of the book has been "vetted" by Sir Edmund Herring, Majors (the late) Harry G. Harcourt and Fred Lomas, M.C., M.I.D., E.D.

Squadrons and areas covered in the book:—

2/4th: Lae, Bunga River, Finschhaven, Easy Street, Kulungtufu, Gusika, Barge Bombing, Kunda Bridge, Timor.

2/6th: Ramu Valley, Kesawai, Esariba, Ketoba, Cav. Hill, "5.500", Kaiapit.

2/2nd: Ramu Valley, Faita, Nokai, Bena Bena, Goroka, Timor.

2/7th Regt. (2/3, 2/5, 2/6 Sqns.): Atherton Tablelands (2/3, 2/5 Ind. Coys. Bobdubi, Salamaua, etc.).

26 Regt. (2/7, 2/9, 2/10 Sqns.): Aitape, Wewak, 2/7 Aramap, House Coppa, Aitape, Karawop, Kwangen, (Sauri Villages), 2/9, 2/10 "Farida Force", Dove Bay landing, Brandi, Mandi Plantations, etc.

2/1st: Due recognition of the original Independent Company.

"Z" Special Unit, Sapper Dennis on Muschu Island.

The book is a large one of 340 pages, with 50 photos and maps (about \$9 if retailed in shops).

Printing costs for 500 copies—\$3.40 per copy. Selling price is \$5 per copy. This charge includes postage and \$1 donation to Legacy. (No profits to the author.) Legacy will get even more as we sell over 500.

The memoirs are dedicated to "Our comrades who shall grow not old and their worthy next of kin".

The Padre has not the funds to meet printing costs. These charges must be met by pre-paid orders and/or donations from Commando cobbers (and others) for whom the book has been largely written. One 2/5th has already donated \$100 (or 20 copies).

The bank account will be at the C.B.A., Grenfell St., Adelaide, S.A. John P. Redwood (2/3), ex-President of Legacy, S.A., is co-signature with the Padre on bank account.

To save much cash in stamps, envelopes for receipts, money from ex-Commandoes will be acknowledged in each State Cdo. Association news sheet (unless required otherwise).

Please make cheque, money and postal orders payable to "Comeos of Commandos" account and marked "Not Negotiable". (Dollar notes will not be rejected!)

Send to Rev. A. E. Bottrell, 6 Grantley Ave., Daw Park, S.A., 5041, stating name and address.

The Padre guarantees return of money if the unexpected happens and no book is printed.

BETTY CRAIG, of P.O. Box 234, Young, N.S.W., 2594, writes to Ron Trengrove:—

I am forwarding you a cheque for \$180 to pay for Keith and myself for our trip to Perth. We are sorry to say that Janette and Phillip will not be able to make the trip. Phillip has decided that he would like to join the Police Force and he will be going to Sydney one day in May for an examination and then if he passes he will be in the August call. He will be finishing his apprenticeship approx. the middle of July and it will just work in

wonderfully for him if he passes and is able to join. Janette is doing a couple of Tech. courses and she hopes that she will be able to stay on at the library here and if she does she will not be able to get the time off to go to W.A. However, they both have decided that although they are disappointed at not going they will be able to go at some future date. We are sorry too that they won't be with us, but we are both looking forward to the trip very much.

Phillip has passed his army exam. and if he is not eligible for the Police Force will join the Permanent Army. He doesn't mind which it is really, but has decided that he thinks the Police Force might be the best of the two. Possibly because he has some good friends in the force, and he likes a bit of discipline.

Janette has had difficulty in obtaining a permanent position here, and has been doing a bit of relieving work, which is very good experience for her, and she hopes that she has now found her niche as she is very keen on the library work. At the moment she is on the relieving staff, and it looks as if it could continue, and she could become permanent, and this is why she has decided not to be away in case the vacancy comes up during her vacation.

Keith is still finding plenty to do around the house, but the days are really drawing in a lot now, and there is not much time after work. We had a good clean-up over Easter weekend in the garage and under the house, and really cleared out things we had been keeping to use for cement work, etc. It was lovely to have it all cleared up and things in their proper places. Keith put up a few sets of shelves and I sorted nails, screws, etc., into different sizes and things are really looking good. At least you can find things in a hurry. I only hope that it will stay that way.

On April 3 we had a party at home for Phillip for his 21st. It was a lovely evening, and the weather was very good to us. My sister and her husband came from Sydney for the weekend, and also my sister from Goulburn, and Phillip's friends from all over the place. It was a lot of work, but worth it

all when you see how they enjoyed it all. I made him a cake (two really) one round and one square and had it decorated in the shape of a key. It was really lovely.

Janette will be 18 on April 26, so both Keith and I are beginning to feel old, we say. Both Janette and Phillip are taller than we are, Phillip being 6ft. 3in. and Janette 6ft. 1in. She should make a good model she is tall and slim.

Keith, Janette and myself are going to Gilgandra over the Anzac weekend, as it will be an opportunity to see Keith's father and Keith will see some of his friends from around at the march.

We do hope you all have a good time together on Anzac Day, and that you have a good roll up. Will be thinking of you all.

Also noticed you are going to the National Fitness Camp. Don't overdo the fitness part of it, or you will all be feeling rather stiff. It should be a lovely trip and we would like to be able to join you but at that time will find it very inconvenient.

I do hope I can manage to go to Sydney with Phillip in May when he goes for his exams, and if so will call on Allan and Edith Luby as we go through to my sister at Cabramatta.

Best wishes to you all from us here, and hope this short note finds you all well, as it leaves us all very well here.

If we don't see you before we hope to see you at the end of August.

ALAN HOLLOW, of 11 Matheson Rd., Findon, S.A., writes:—

Everything is set for the Safari trip for my wife and myself and it's a case of keep the fingers crossed. We still have five of the youngsters at home. My sister is looking after things while we are away so everything should be O.K.

As you can see there are two of us. We are travelling by train, leaving Adelaide on Sunday, August 29. I believe we arrive in Perth on Friday, September 3. We require accommodation at the hotel until Monday, September 13. I have some family visiting to do, a sister in Kalgoorlie is easy to fit in, but two brothers, one in Kulin and one in Albany pose a problem. Anyway

the above will cover the re-union, the rest is in the lap of the gods.

It will be great to meet the old mates again. It is nearly 30 years since I have seen most of the West Aussies, once in a lifetime party, what a hang over.

At the moment things are a bit unsettled for me. I'm having a Repeat. medical examination, the donor areas where they took bone and flesh for rebuilding the jaw are playing up. I don't think my nerves are the best. Still after 30 years I can't growl. I can still bend the elbow O.K.

I hope you are keeping well. My regards and best wishes to everyone. See you in September.

P.S.: After writing we decided to spend a couple of days in Kalgoorlie on the way over. Will arrive on September 3.

TOM SNOWDON, of 112 Matina St., Narrabindah, Canberra, writes to Ron Trengrove:

Please find enclosed cheque for \$117.10 being balance owing on my two tickets to the West. If this is incorrect let me know as I have mislaid the circular that you sent me.

GEO. GREENHALGH, of P.O. Maclean, 2463, writes to Ron Trengrove:

Am enclosing a cheque for the balance of the fares for my wife and myself. As you will probably notice it's a bank cheque and the teller has I think misspelt your name. I don't think this will worry you unduly.

JIM DENT, of Wirrinya, writes to Ron Trengrove:

Things have taken a turn for the worse here and you will have to count us out of the trip. We were depending on one of the girls and oldest boy to manage while we were away, however Robyn's gone teaching and Robert's gone into the banking game. It left Pop and Mom out. We will try and get to Parkes to see you all going through.

Sorry if we have caused any inconvenience, but we can't foresee these happenings.

Apart from having too much work all is well in this quarter of the place. Hoping the same for the city side.

ANOTHER TOUR OF TIMOR — 1971

Here we are back in Perth after 14 days spent on what Col Doig calls "OUR" island.

Our party of seven consisted of Arthur and Beryl Smith, Beryl's sister Miss "Queenie" Phillips, Bill and Elvie Howell, and Bill and Jess Epps.

The party left Perth by T.A.A. at 1.55 a.m. on May 13 for Adelaide, arriving at 6.15 a.m. Arthur and his "girls" were met by relatives and whisked off for breakfast. As we were only to be in Adelaide a couple of hours no other arrangements had been made but the two Bills thought it would be a good opportunity to at least talk to Bob Williamson, so they rang him about 7 a.m. They kept on ringing at intervals until plane departure at 9.55 a.m. but the phone although ringing remained unanswered. Come on Dum Dum where were you?

After a quick touch down at Alice Springs, Darwin was reached at 2 p.m. Everyone was dead tired so after a quick look at the town it was in to bed ready for an early start on Friday to board the plane at 8 a.m.

Friday 14th:

Once again we had the thrill of watching the island appear out of the clouds and the girls going into raptures over the scenery as we approached Baucau.

After a quick trip through Customs and Health regulations, a word in the right direction from Senior Mezendes (the Mayor of Dilli) who was also a passenger from Darwin, got us all, with himself, on the first flight in the Dove for Dilli.

Our arrival at the Hotel Resende (unexpected) was a tumultuous turnout. We were met by Mr. Coelho (Mr. Rabbit) and Jose who remembered Arthur, Jess and Bill Epps from the 1969 trip and so turned on the red carpet treatment—much back patting, tears of joy, etc.

As there were a couple of hours to spare before lunch and the weather looked ominously like rain for the afternoon, a quick trip up to the Memorial at Dare was arranged.

On again seeing the Memorial after two years, both Arthur and Bill E. were more than surprised at its appearance. To quote Arthur: "It is in better condition now than when it was dedicated and handed over in 1969."

This simple statement sums it up correctly. The building itself does not show a crack or a blemish. All that "instant" lawn has taken and is growing beautifully. All those "instant" plants and shrubs have also struck and are making a picturesque display. There are quite a number of vines and creepers climbing up and over the loose stone walls and also some very beautiful and very large ferns are near the plaque. The whole building and surroundings are very tidy and clean. We were later informed by the Australian Consul that every day someone goes up there to sweep and clean the area.

The pool itself had a little mud on the bottom but this was only to be expected as a lot of rain had fallen in the past fortnight. There was no sign of mildew, slime, fungus or foreign growth in or around the pool which would be expected if it were neglected.

While we were inspecting the area it started to rain—a real heavy shower—but no leaks or cracks were visible, and believe you me the boys went over it with a fine tooth comb.

The whole party was more than pleased with the condition of the place—both pleased and proud.

At the hotel we met Mrs. Waddington, wife of Ken, who had been on the island for a fortnight and by all accounts was having a real ball.

After lunch we all paid a visit to Jose's home that he is in the process of having built, steadily, as funds permit. It is a concrete building with C.I. roof. We met his family which consists of two nieces and two nephews who Jose is bringing up and educating. The eldest girl (17) is a very talented cook and needle worker. She presented each of our girls with a small sample of her crochet work which was very well done.

Saturday 15th:

Started with a swim at White Sands where we met a Mr. Cedric Patterson who was also a resident of the Resende and is the President of the Darwin Historical Society. He was very eager to obtain facts about the history of the Unit while on Timor during the war and finally conned the three boys into a round table talk which he had taped. This lasted some two hours what with short breaks for refreshments.

The afternoon was spent lazing around or doing a bit of close-handly sight seeing.

Sunday 16th:

The morning was spent at the Dilli market.

As we intended to go travelling the next day Jose insisted we again visit his home where he served us afternoon tea in grand style. Our girls were most impressed with the small cakes and cookies made and served by Jose's eldest niece.

After dinner Mr. Coelho took us on a conducted sight-seeing tour of Dilli finishing up at a coffe shop for drinks before retiring.

Monday 17th:

We left Dilli for Ermera stopping and inspecting Three Spurs camp on the way. We found old tent sites, the cook house site, gun pits and the site of the large explosives hut of the Sappers. Had drinks and a snack at the Railaco shop.

As Beryl is a school teacher, and Queenie is a retired school teacher they were more than interested in all the schooling on the island so we inspected the small schoolhouse just beyond Railaco which even though it is small and primitive as far as the buildings are concerned still gives a very high standard of education. Our two teachers were most impressed.

On through the Glano valley where the two Bills saw the bridge that has replaced the one their old Sapper section blew up.

Ermera was reached about 3 p.m. and we were welcomed by Johnny Lay who is the English speaking son of the owner, Lay Tchung Tseu, who remembered Arthur and Bill E.

from 1969. The father was about nine years of age in 1942 and had much fun reminiscing on incidents that we all knew about and remembered.

The Ermera Hotel consists of three rooms capable of accommodating eight people—very primitive but clean. One communal bathroom with toilet combined. Electric light comes on at 5.30 p.m. and goes off at 10 p.m. Hot water is on at 5 p.m. and the fires are allowed to go out at 10 p.m. then the hot water gradually fades away. The dining room is absolutely first class with a mixture of Chinese and Australian cooking—probably the best meals we had on the whole trip.

Tuesday 18th:

An early start and off at 8.30 a.m.

After numerous stops of interest and necessity we arrived at Letfoho and were greeted by Arinaldo Des Santos, Bernie Callinan's creado, who still speaks pretty good English and was sporting shirt and trousers sent to him by Bernie. He sends his best regards to all, especially to Bernie.

On to Atsabe where we met Quilherme Masia Goncalves who remembered us, also Don Turton and Gerry Green (Lieut. Sedoak Tusock).

He also remembered the village Luckiama, where the Sappers spent so much time in the early days of 1942. It was situated on the road about half way between Atsabe and Hatolia. He reports that the Japs with a band of Dutch natives wiped out the whole village. A poor reward for such marvellous people who did so much for us when we were really down and out.

On the return journey darkness fell when we were only half way between Letfoho and Ermera. The car lights were turned on by hooking up a couple of loose wires on the dash. Later while climbing up that winding road into Ermera about four mile out the car lights went out and the motor died. A nasty moment—a thousand foot drop from the roadside and the night as black as the inside of a cat with its tail down. A truck belonging to the Portuguese army came along and with their aid and their torches,

the short circuit was quickly located and repaired so we arrived at the hotel about 7.15 p.m., just in time for another great feed of steak and chipped potatoes.

Wednesday 19th:

While strolling around before breakfast at about 6.30 a.m., Bill H. met Antony Casinero, the owner of the Hifoo coffee plantation, and his manager Frank (who speaks English). They were living in a house very close to the hotel. Bill H. quickly grabbed Bill E. as both had spent many a night at Hifoo with Antony who remembered them. Quite a session was put in over early morning coffee reminiscing.

Villa Marie has just recently been purchased by Lay Tchung Tseu, the Hotel Ermera owner, so after breakfast he and his son John took us all around there. The old Villa Marie house as we knew it has gone and now the house is on the opposite side of the road about 100 yards into the coffee. Like the old house it is surrounded by many fruit trees. We were presented with a large bag of oranges which were put in the back of our Land Rover and came in very handy and tasty over the days that followed. In fact they were only finished on the day we arrived at Baucau.

Tony and Frank had insisted that the two Bills bring the whole party to see Hifoo so that was our next port of call. Basically it is the same Hifoo so many of the boys will remember but it has been greatly upgraded and renovated since the Japs did so much damage there. The house has been beautifully decorated and furnished. The gardens are a real picture place. The coffee has been regrown to a much greater extent and the plant extended accordingly. A few rubber trees are being planted.

As of old we finished up in the lounge for drinks. The girls had coffee but the boys (again as of old) drank whiskey—but nectar from heaven—it was served over ice blocks and this time it was not rice whiskey but the true Scotch.

Fatu Besse was visited after lunch and is another very large and beautiful coffee plantation where we

again met three or four people who were there during our first occupation. The picturesque church standing above its 92 steps was opened for our inspection and drew forth many admiring comments.— More coffee served in delightful surroundings and then home for dinner.

In the evening a picture show was put on in the dining room of the hotel. Frank from Hifoo showed a film of the plantation as it was quite a few years ago before the big reclamation. He then followed this up with another taken quite recently showing all the improvements. This also showed the different stages of the growth and treatment of the coffee and proved very interesting.

To round off the show we saw a cowboy and indian picture starring John Wayne as a very young lad. Next came the Three Stooges, to be followed by a very, very young Charlie Chaplin.

Thursday 20th:

Off again travelling. Down through the Glano Valley and then turn off along the Tocalulie Ridge heading for Aileu. This was a very rough stony track but the scenery was terrific. After drinks and coffee in a Chinese shop in Aileu we visited the memorial built to commemorate the massacre in 1942 of 12 officials by the Japs in retaliation for the aid they were giving our chaps.

On over the Maubisse saddle for the first view of this very remarkably situated place. A stop was called here so that Arthur could re-orientate himself and pick out spots well remembered from the old days.

We booked into the hotel which is government controlled and is the old Posto which has been very beautifully renovated and was all done by Timorese labour. This was hard to believe as it is so beautifully done but goes to prove that these people can be taught to be good tradesmen. It has something like nine or ten double rooms, very nice, modern, clean with private shower and toilet. Once again electricity comes on about 5 p.m. and off about 11.

The girls were in raptures over the window drapes and bed spreads, all matching, each room having its own design. Parquetry floors were

another feature but in larger wooden blocks than used here.

As Arthur was endeavouring to get news of his own creado word was sent out by the Chef de Post for all creados that were handy come in to see us.

So far we had been very lucky in regard to health as no one had had any troubles whatsoever but our luck had to change sometime. Queenie had developed a slight head cold and didn't feel the best. This was an ideal spot for her to do something about it so spent two days in bed under the almost permanent care and attention of at least two house boys and the manageress who could not do enough to make everyone's stay enjoyable.

As our arrangements for travel had been kept very elastic for just such an emergency as this the remainder of the party carried on sight seeing around Maubisse while Queenie rested.

Friday 21st:

The day was spent in short trips around the Maubisse basin allowing Arthur to locate spots and tracks he knew and used before. Also the opportunity was taken to catch up on a little rest time.

During the afternoon a couple of creados made themselves known to us. They were Likaberry who said his boss was Geo. Boyland, and Likamo who claims he was with Alec Thompson.

Saturday 22nd:

With Queenie still off colour (or perhaps she was just revelling in all the special attention) we left her resting and did a quick trip to Same and back.

On reaching the Same saddle we were treated to a sight not often witnessed and that was a clear view of both Mt. Ramelau and Cablaci without any cloud interference. You who were in this area will remember this is a rare thing as there was nearly always some cloud on either or both of these mountains.

It was noticed that on viewing Cablaci again from such a close range both the Bills went very quiet. Both claimed their legs were aching

just looking at it. Of course the old tale was told of how Bill Howell got his short leg through so much walking around this mountain so that the leg highest up the mountain wore out.

Same hasn't changed very much. The old posto is now being used as a hospital and a new school and a hotel, again government controlled, have been built nearby. We did not stay at this hotel but merely had coffee with the proprietress. It is a very nice, clean and modern establishment.

The two Bills prowled around and finally located where they claimed the Japs must have set up their ambush on that never-to-be-forgotten morning in December 1942. You lads of the old "Don" Platoon just don't know how lucky you really were. It was a perfect set-up and if we had had the Japs in the reverse position goodness knows what could have happened but for sure we would have done considerably more damage than they did. The line of old houses along the street where we slept that night are still there although they are slowly being replaced by concrete structures.

On retracing our steps up through the saddle we could no longer see either mountain top as the inevitable clouds had settled down. Within the matter of a couple of hours our party had seen both views of these two remarkable mountains.

At Maubisse we were again met by a large party of creados, among them being: Mauberry, who named Allan Harrison; we think this may be Kiwi Harrison; Sluorm who named Griffin; Mautain, said either Doig or Dower (2/4th); Peranda, who named Silver (probably of the 4th Company); Malola, named Nip Cunningham; Beau named Syd Jarvis; and Likiberry named one of the Crossings.

Then there was one whose name was Bill and said he was Tuan Smith's boy but did not recognise Arthur who was wearing his usual horn rimmed glasses acquired since his war days. The instant Arthur removed his glasses the boy said: "Tuan Smith". Arthur says this lad was not his personal creado (Mo) but was probably one of half a

dozen boys Arthur used to carry supplies out from Maubisse to his different sections.

We were able to get a very good piece of movie film of all these lads.

Sunday 23rd:

Although we intended to leave for Dilli on this day we decided to visit the market first and then leave after an early lunch. This market turned out to be a real old original style one. Most markets in the other large towns are held in buildings but in Maubisse it is in the open with all the sellers being lined up by a marshall and then at 11 a.m. a gong is sounded and the game is on. Pandemonium breaks loose. As the girls described it, it is like a nest of ants after someone's great big No. 10 boots have stirred them up. Everyone of the party had a lot of fun haggling for tais, baskets, fruit, etc.

In true Timorese fashion our early lunch did not eventuate but after a very touching and tearful farewell from all the staff, we eventually got under way sometime after 2 p.m. The weather up over the saddle towards Alieu didn't look too good and in fact rain began to fall just after we left Maubisse. Knowing the road ahead into Alieu was very muddy and boggy the boys were more than concerned about our late start as they had visions of being slowed down and making a very late descent through Dare and so down into Dilli in the wet and dark.

Once again lady luck who had smiled on us throughout our trip, did not desert us and the rain eased off as we came down the mountain and we drove into Alieu in the dry.

Again we climbed into the clouds which blanketed the views but at least we did not encounter any more rain and on descending past the Memorial at Dare we once more broke out of the clouds for another beautiful look at Dilli and so on to the Hotel Resende.

Monday 24th:

We returned to the Memorial for our final view and farewell and then on to the Seminary to meet Tito Dos Santos Baptiste the protege of Reg and Dot Harrington who are

sponsoring his education with the hope that he will eventually enter the church and so pass on his education to many others.

The afternoon was spent doing final shopping for nick nacks to bring home. These by the way are very hard to come by. That is to say true Timorese made stuff. One can buy plenty of articles in the Chinese shops that come from Hong Kong or Singapore, but for true Timorese made articles you must really hunt and be a little lucky.

Tuesday 25th:

Once again we said goodbye to the crowd at the Resende but this time it was a little harder as we all knew it would probably be for the last time.

We left around 11 a.m. and set off along the coast road for Baucau. When about three or four miles out while climbing another of those eternal hills the car developed a bad miss and splutter and lost a lot of power. As we had over 100 miles to go the driver wisely turned back to Dilli for a check-up. His garage was located behind the Hotel Turismo so while the vehicle was being attended to our party took the opportunity to have a further good-bye drink.

We again hit the trail around noon with the car firing much better.

As none of us had ever been in this area before the whole trip was new to us and very interesting. The road follows the coast line for most of the journey. Even though we had seen an odd goat or three around the island we had no idea just how many we would see on this trip. There were literally thousands. They were in herds of 100 or so and we passed them every mile or so.

We stopped at Manatutu for lunch at the hotel. Very primitive but clean. Three double rooms. A Chinese proprietor.

And so on to Baucau where we booked into the Hotel Baucau—well remembered by the 1969 party. It is a very lavish place built to cater for the tourists. Very comfortable, very clean, very picturesque, with good food and yet very cheap.

Wednesday 26th:

After having had over a week of living in a Land Rover over some of the roughest track in the world you would think any sane person would have had enough of travelling—but not this crowd. What do they do but hire another vehicle from the hotel for a trip to Venilale. On the way we called in on the agricultural college. Something really worth seeing, especially that ablution block all done out in tiles, and just remember those basins at the end—exactly right for washing your hair! Then on to the tunnelled mountain and Venilale. We arrived back at the hotel for lunch.

Once again the afternoon was spent each in our individual ways strolling around having a last look at the place or in and out of shops.

After dinner everyone sat around having a quiet drink seeming as if they did not want to retire for the night knowing it was the end of a pretty good trip.

Thursday 27th:

With an early start and breakfast it was up to the airport to again pass through "all" the customs arrangements. The duty free shop was the next port of call for a chance to pick up some cheap necessities that each and everyone wanted to take home.

It was then aboard the plane and off for Darwin where we were met by Cedric Patterson who knew we had two or three hours to fill before our plane left so gave us a real conducted tour of the town. Being President of the Historical Society he really knows his Darwin and showed us all the spots of interest. He delivered us to the R.A.A.F. base at 5 p.m. where we met Fl-Officer Gordon Hughes (hope I have that rank right) who had dropped supplies to our Unit during 1942 and also dropped a few eggs on the Japs there also. He and our three boys surely chewed the rag and we had our first drink of Swan for over a fortnight.

Cedric rounded us all up and loaded us aboard his mini bus to deliver us to the airport with about five minutes to spare to plane take-off time.

With short stops at Kununurra, Derby and Pt. Hedland it seemed no time before we were unloaded at the Perth Airport and the trip was all over.

Now for a few general ideas and facts.

During the trip everywhere we went our girls had large bags of paper wrapped lollies that they pass-out or threw out at every native, young or old who we passed on the road. At times they gave sweets twice and three times to the same native who would quickly cut across a hill or gully to show up on the next stretch of road after the car had done several miles around. Marbles, balloons and old tennis balls were also passed out and accepted with great glee.

Accommodation was expected to be primitive but we were agreeably surprised in two or three places such as Maubisse, Same, Baucau. Costs of board including bed, three meals and a couple of snacks, with all washing and ironing done, was at Dilli \$14 for a room with a fan, or \$20 for a room with air-condition and a frig. At all other hotels on the island board is \$10 a day all found.

Drinks: A second rate beer is available. also a red wine (not so good) and a white, something like a sauterne, fanta, coke, lemonade and another orange drink all at prices about the same as at home, give or take a cent or two.

Transport is by four wheel drive vehicles mostly Land Rovers. These are different prices from different companies. Our first vehicle cost us \$28 a day. Our next was \$16 a day. From Dilli to Baucau costs \$43. Our trip from Baucau to Vilalane and return cost \$10. These prices include a driver, and some speak English.

That was our trip. A good 15 days but now it is over. If anyone is considering going over he or she has only to get in touch with any one of this party for information, facts, figures, costs, clothes, etc., and it will be given in detail gladly. In fact for a small remuneration I will go with you as manager come organiser.

HEARD THESE?

The old man noticed the young fellow with a bottle in one hand and his arm around a pretty girl.

"The dern whippersnapper is wastin' a lot of time, he mused. "He can drink when he gets old."

* * *

A girl who slaps her boy-friend may not want to hurt his feelings as much as she wants to stop them.

* * *

A wife made to order can't compare with a ready maid.

* * *

Advice to husbands: Live so that when your time comes it'll take more than a hot water bottle to replace you.

* * *

Just as Rastus was fishing a pail of drinking water out of the creek, an alligator reared its ugly head and Rastus made a dash for higher land.

He reported the circumstances to his boss, who promptly sent him back down with another bucket.

"Rastus," he told the darkey, "that alligator is just as scared as you are."

"Boss," replied Rastus, "if dat gator is as scared as I am, dat water ain't fit to rink."

* * *

MEN:

Men are what women marry. They have two hands, two feet and sometimes two wives, but never more than two dollars in their pockets or one idea at a time. Like Turkish cigarettes, they are all made of the same material, the only difference being that some are better disguised than others.

Generally speaking, they may be divided into three classes—husbands, bachelors and widowers. A bachelor is an eligible mass of obstinacy entirely surrounded by suspicion. Husbands are three different types: prizes, surprises and consolation prizes. Making a husband out of a man is one of the biggest forms of neophastric art known to civilization; it requires science, common sense, truth and charity—mostly charity.

It is a psychological marvel that

a small, tender, violet-scented thing like a woman should enjoy kissing a big, awkward, stubbly-chinned, tobacco and whisky-scented conglomeration of humanity like a man.

If you flatter a man you frighten him to death. If you do not, you bore him to death. If you let him make love to you he gets tired of you in the end. If you do not, he gets tired of you in the beginning. If you believe him in everything he says, he thinks you are vacuous; if you disbelieve everything he says, he thinks you are a cynic. If you wear gay clothes, rouge and a startling hat he hesitates to take you out. But if you wear a little brown beret and a tailormade suit, he takes you out and all evening stares at the woman in gay colours, rouge and a startling hat.

Man is just a worm in the dust. He comes along, wriggles around for a while and finally some chicken gets him.

* * *

In the midst of a busy morning, the district agricultural agent got a call from a woman who said she was starting a chicken farm and wanted to know how long she should leave the rooster with the hens.

"Just a minute," said the agent, who was busy talking on another phone.

"Thank you very much," said the woman, and hung up.

* * *

A secretary in our office, about to spend her vacation in the Virgin Islands, offered to bring back any souvenirs we wanted.

"How about you, Col?" she asked the Doig. "Isn't there something you'd like to have from the Virgin Islands?"

"Well, yes there is," replied Col, "and I guess an alligator belt would be my second choice."

* * *

After a dance at the university one student came back to his quarters with tie askew, hair dishevelled, shirt torn and face scratched. Asked what had happened he drew himself up and said: "Sir, I have been fighting over the honour of a lady."

"Which side were you on?"

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