



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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EDITORIAL

ANZAC

With the rapid approach of Anzac Day the time has come to relook at the once famous Spirit of Anzac. This was the traditional background of Australia's history. We are a young nation as far as time goes. We have not had a great deal of time to build depth into our tradition. Not like Britain with centuries of history behind them nor the U.S.A., only a few hundred years older but who have successfully built on a flag waving nationalism which makes "Old Glory" really mean something. We have to rely on our small modicum of tradition handed down to us by our pioneers and the heroes of Anzac.

The Spirit of Anzac carried us forward between wars and was the flame that kindled us into even greater achievements in World War II. It was this spirit that enabled us to go forward in leaps and bounds after the war and we were definitely achieving a high status of nationhood. We were nearly there. The formation of United Nations saw Australia in the forefront of achievement, we were recognised as an up

and coming nation who could make its mark in the world of tomorrow.

The Korean conflict improved our status. We were regarded as one of the saviours of the oppressed.

The unpopularity of the Vietnam conflict has changed things considerably. The protesters and no-hopers have got into the saddle. They with their own brand of anti-nationalism have managed to tarnish the reputation of Australia practically in every sphere. It is a case of minority rule because they are the few providing the news for the many. Seeing these types in action one soon realises how "Communists" dominate certain trade unions with minority rule.

It is not only this that is so appalling, but the fall in all sorts of moral standards and the deep disregard for what is law. The imported phrase from the Black Power Movement in America where all policemen are designated as "Pigs" is one of the most abhorrent things to happen in this fair country.

Youth seems to think in terms of "license" rather than "law and ord-

ANZAC DAY:

Always one of our great get-togethers and you are requested to do your best to make this one a rip snorter

REMEMBER — ARRANGEMENTS AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

er". The ultimate of all time in the deligation of our law enforcement services came only the other night when a high ranking cleric of the Church of England in W.A. while speaking on drug addiction and the use of marihuana referred to police officers as "Babboons". If this is to be accepted as the official attitude of the established church "God help us".

It is our duty as mature citizens with a background of national service to do our best to try and arrest the current trend in national go-

backs. The trend towards a denial of law and order and general laik of moral fibre has settled upon this land like a depressing cancer and the time is ripe for some surgery.

Let us look to our glorious Spirit of Anzac as the beacon and light to guide us back to a path of national decency and national discipline.

A nation without decency and discipline can only fall into a trough of despond and uselessness as witnessed by the fall of the Roman Empire. —C. D. Doig, Editor.

West Australian Whisperings

Association Activities

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This was held at Anzac House Basement on Tuesday, March 7, and for once in a long time the roll up was excellent which befits the importance of this meeting.

Reports were presented by President Len Bagley, Treasurer Ron Kirkwood, and Editor Col Doig, on the year's activities. These are printed elsewhere in this issue.

Life Membership was conferred on Secretary Gerry Maley and Committeeman Colin Hodson after an eulogising speech by Jack Carey, seconded by Col Doig. Jack referred to Gerry Maley's efforts in three States of which he has been secretary, namely N.S.W., Vic and now W.A. Jack extolled the work that Colin Hodson had put in in many capacities for the Association especially in the provision of many plaques, etc., including the main plaque for the Timor Memorial.

Gerry and Colin responded and thanked the Association for the honour conferred and said how happy they were to join the band of Life Members.

At this juncture Bill Epps made a presentation to Editor Col Doig in recognition of his services over the past 25 years and on the occasion of his 60th birthday. Bill extolled the work that Col had done over the years to keep the Association afloat.

Col responded and thanked the Association for their splendid gesture.

John Burrige as Auditor, paid tribute to the Committee on their

excellent effort in conducting the Jubilee Safari at a profit and also on the conduct of the Mammoth Raffle. He said this was a prodigious effort and showed just how conscientious the Committee were in their efforts to run the Association efficiently.

The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows:—
President: Len Bagley (unopposed).
Immediate Past President: Bill Epps.
Vice President: Fred Napier (unopposed).

Secretary: Gerry Maley (unopposed).
Treasurer: Ron Kirkwood (unopposed).

Editor: Col Doig (unopposed).
Auditor: John Burrige (unopposed).

After an extensive ballot the following were elected to the Committee: Messrs. Harry Sproxtton, Jack Carey, Geo Fletcher, Col Hodson, Ray Parry and "Scotty" Wares.

Geo Fletcher was re-elected as Warden of Kings Park, an office he has now held for many years.

Country Vice Presidents were elected as under:—
Geraldton: Peter Barden, for the umpteenth time.

Midlands: Reg Harrington.

Goldfields: Eric Thornander.

Great Southern: Alf Hillman.

Lower South West: W. Rowan-Robinson.

South Coastal: Clarrie Turner.

We have to thank "Robbie" Rowan-Robinson for acting as Returning Officer for the above elections.

After the election of officers much spirited discussion took place under the heading of General Business.

Fred Napier suggested that as we had shown a small profit on monthly meetings that fees for these functions be reduced from \$1 to 75 cents. This did not meet with the approval of the meeting and the current fee of \$1 remains.

It was agreed in principle to conduct a Mammoth Raffle again as soon as possible. The funds to be allocated between States on a pro rata basis.

President Len Bagley outlined what had been done to date regarding a Safari in 1974. On figures given it appeared that New Zealand had become too pricy. It was agreed that a trip to Tasmania with a stop off in Melbourne could fill the bill and it was decided that the incoming Committee look into this matter. If necessary a Mammoth Raffle be run to finance the Victorian Branch in conducting their end of this Safari.

Considerable discussion took place on the format of future Annual Re-Unions. Col Doig was of the opinion these were becoming too stereotyped and that the whole concept should be changed.

Fred Napier was against and other speakers also suggested the present form be continued.

It was finally resolved that the incoming Committee look at the whole matter prior to the next Re-Union.

It was suggested that Country Conventions be revived and that Busselton be the venue of the next such gathering.

The President, Len Bagley, thanked everyone for attending and said he never knew of a more successful Annual Meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Once again it is my pleasant duty to present to you my Annual Report. The past 12 months will be long remembered as one of our most successful years, both socially and financially. A very busy year for your Committee, but the results were more than rewarding. A year in which we celebrated our 25th one together as an Association. It was a year for every W.A. member to be especially proud of his Branch.

Annual General Meeting:

Changing the month of the Annual General Meeting to March seems to have had little or no effect

on members, attendance was very low. At this meeting three members were honoured with Life Membership. They were: Ray Aitken, Clarrie Varian and Peter Barden. These three members are to be commended for their contribution to the welfare of the Association.

Bowls Evening:

The April meeting was a mixed bowls night, the champion pair for the evening being Helen Poynton and Percy Hancock.

Anzac Day:

There was a good representation of members at the Dawn Service in Kings Park, after which the Association flags were flown in our Honour Avenue. After the march and service we moved from the Esplanade straight to the W.A. Rowing Club where the advance party had everything on tap and fit for human consumption. Jack Carey provided a very ample lunch and Joe Poynton attended to the liquid situation. The big attendance of members, both city and country, made this a day to remember.

Film Night:

For the May meeting "Travel Time International" showed us some excellent colour travel movies. A large gathering of members and their wives had a most enjoyable evening, supper being provided by our ladies.

Calcutt Memorial Trophy:

June and November were the two months in which members competed for the Calcutt Memorial Trophy. Both evenings were well attended and scoring was always close, and competition very keen. Joe Poynton came out the winner with Gerry Maley runner-up. Gerry is to be congratulated for the manner in which he conducted all the events.

Mammoth Raffle and Drawing:

Mammoth is indeed the word to use to describe this evening, held on Saturday, July 3, at the University Drill Hall, Bazaar Terrace, with a crowd of over 400 present. The proceeds from this evening enabled us to make the Jubilee Safari as successful as we had planned it. The organisation of the tickets and the drawing night was a huge undertaking for the Committee, but the ultimate success of both proves that we can do anything if we try hard enough.

Bowls Evening:

Another popular bowls night was held in July. Winners for the evening were Gerry Maley and Percy Hancock, who were presented with some handsome prizes, which were most generously donated by Cliff McCormack.

Timor Film Night:

Thanks to Bill Epps and Arthur Smith members and their wives were able to enjoy a colour movie of Timor at the August meeting. Bill Epps, Arthur Smith and Bill Howell, accompanied by their wives, had not long been back from a trip to this country. The movie gave an excellent coverage of the island and especially of the memorial, and was most ably narrated by Bill Epps. Once again the ladies provided the eats for a very interesting evening.

Jubilee Safari:

If it is possible to cram 25 years into nine days and nights, we did just that in celebrating our Jubilee. Members, their wives and families, came from all over Australia and New Guinea, to be here in W.A. from September 2nd to 11th to show respect and remembrance of this most important occasion. During this period many records were set: It was the greatest number of members ever to come to W.A. at the one time. The Annual Dinner was the best and biggest that we have ever held. Attendance at the Commemoration Service was undoubtedly our very best, both by members and their families. A most successful delegates' meeting was held and attended by members from every State in Australia and New Guinea. It was certainly a proud time for us all and a milestone in our Association's history.

Safari Film Evening:

The October meeting attracted a sizeable audience to see colour movies of the Jubilee Safari events, also past Commemoration Services. These have been made into one priceless film by Helen Poynton and are a delight to see. Also Gavin Bagley showed many colour slides of the various Jubilee outings. Together with a tasty supper supplied by our ladies, this evening was an outstanding success.

Bowls Evening:

An exciting bowls evening, with our ladies included, was held in December. Bowling by the mixed pairs

was skilful and many close results were witnessed. Eventual winners were Dot and Gerry Maley and Jess Epps and Spriggy McDonald. They all received excellent prizes due to the kindness of Cliff McCormack. Also present at this evening was Syd Calcutt who took the opportunity to present to Joe Poynton the Calcutt Memorial Trophy for his proud win in this popular contest.

February Meeting:

Joy Lowden and Percy Hancock were the winners of the mixed pairs bowling competition at the February evening, and each received a prize for their skill. Another enjoyable evening.

Mandurah Outing:

Held on Sunday, Feb. 20, this wonderful day was made possible through the overwhelming generosity of Joe and Helen Poynton. Twelve members and their families were present and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Joe and some of his friends supplied 21 dozen crabs to make sure that nobody went hungry. Then later a barbecue tea rounded off a perfect day. Many thanks to Joe and Helen. Bill Howell also did a wonderful job of organising all the liquid refreshment.

Kings Park:

Thanks to the untiring efforts of George Fletcher, our area in Lovekin Drive always looks a picture, and only because he mows it regularly. Thanks also to Park Supervisor Dick Adams, who sees to it that ample water is applied. The new sprinkler heads have proved their worth in that it is easier to mow the area, also to water it, and they require very little maintenance. Periodical working bees are held to keep the area up to standard and it never looked better than it did in September for our Jubilee Commemoration Service.

"Courier":

Without any doubt this periodical is the most important thing we have. A good example of this is the recent Jubilee Safari, to organise is one thing, but to tell members what, where and how is a totally different story, and the man behind its success is Col Doig. His ability to report on all subjects is a rare gift, and makes very interesting reading. To make sure you get your copy our appreciation must certainly go to Bill and Jess Epps who between them print,

wrap and post this life-line of our Association.

Trip For 1974:

Already considerable discussion has taken place on possible venues, prices and dates for this proposed trip. An early start is essential, both for the Committee and also members wishing to participate.

Amenities and Additions:

Cold Plate: The purchasing of a Miracle Cold Plate was a worthwhile investment, as it has ended our beer cooling worries of the past.

Bowls Mat: Another bowls mat and underfelt have been acquired, thanks to the efforts of Bob Smyth. We now have two mats to cater for the popularity of this game. Also Fred Napier has donated a measuring tape to eliminate any doubt among our bowlers.

Store Cupboard: Once again George Fletcher has come to our aid and built a much needed, spacious cupboard, in which to store all our belongings. Also storage space has been made available for our bowls mats.

Address Book: Bill Epps has made a start towards the eventual re-printing of the Address Book. So many members have changed their addresses that it became a necessity.

Honour Roll: At the Delegates' Meeting in September, both Victoria and N.S.W. members expressed a desire to have a replica of our Honour Roll. Two such copies have been cast thanks to Mr. Jack Ward, of the Apprenticeship Advisory Council, and Mr. Reg Lugg and his moulding staff of the Wembley Technical School. The castings are now in the capable hands of Col. Hodson for the final touches of polishing and painting.

Bereavements:

Unfortunately some of our members have passed away during the previous 12 months. They are sadly missed by their loved ones and Association mates. The Association extends sympathy to the bereaved families in their loss.

Conclusion:

My sincere thanks go to all members for the support they have shown me during my term of office. The past 12 months have been very full and enjoyable ones. Their success was due to a most capable and co-operative Committee, who have advised and assisted me to success-

fully conduct Association affairs. It has been a pleasure and honour for me to serve such a proud and strong Association.

—L. A. BAGLEY, President.

EDITOR'S REPORT

Mr. President:

I once again offer my Editorial Report for the approval of this Annual General Meeting with regard to the "2/2nd Commando Courier".

Circulation has of course remained static at a figure around 450. Contact has been kept with a very high percentage of our members both in Australia and overseas.

Costs have again risen, not in the printing sphere but our mailing charges have doubled with the recent increase in the last Federal Budget. This seems to be an inevitable sign of the times and we can unfortunately look forward to further increases in the future.

During the past year 10 issues of the paper were posted and proved to be most helpful in publicising the Jubilee Safari which was held in September 1971. It is on occasions such as this that the full value of the "Courier" is gleaned by members as a means of communication.

Correspondence has been most satisfactory during the year and I especially thank all those kind people who contributed Editorials. These were well received by readers and were of a high standard. Editorial material is at all times the bug bear of the Editor.

Permanent correspondents Ron Trengrove and Paddy Kenneally in N.S.W., Harry Botterill and Bert Tobin in Victoria, and Peter Barden in Geraldton, have continued their good work of past years and have proved of inestimable value to me. My thanks, and that of the Association, goes out to these stalwarts.

Bill Epps has already started on the mammoth task of collating the new Address Book and it is hoped that this will be ready for issue in the coming year. This is a labour of love with Bill but nevertheless a task of great magnitude and he deserves our greatest praise for his efforts.

Bill Epps and Ron Kirkwood have managed between them to keep our address list current and believe me

this is no mean feat with the changes of address that occur.

With monotonous regularity I have to again extend my thanks to Bill and Jess Epps for their part in wrapping and despatching the "Courier". Without their immense efforts I do not know where we would be.

The especial thanks of the Editor is extended to our publishers, "The Swan Express" of Midland, who, over a very lengthy period now have served us in a most cordial and courteous manner and have enabled us to produce a paper at a price that we can afford.

At this stage I must bring to your mind the very kind remarks made of the "Courier" at the Conference held in conjunction with the Jubilee Safari when delegates heaped praise upon our journal and hoped for its future continuance at all costs.

In conclusion let me wish the "Courier" a most successful year for 1972-73 and I once again will offer my services as Editor although I really do think a change in this position could bring only good to the Association newspaper.

—C. D. DOIG, Hon. Editor.

POYNTON BARBECUE AT MANDURAH

A most wonderful day was held at Joe and Helen's on Sunday, Feb. 20. The hospitality dispensed was truly magnificent. The attendance was extra good and there was no shortage of anything. Joe and his mates had gone to town and caught crabs by the score and I am informed that something like 20 dozen were consumed by those present.

The kids had the time of their lives in the water and Joe and Bill Howell saw to it that the amber and other fluids flowed freely.

Most of those who went stayed in the area and returned early on Monday so making certain that the "Breath in the Bag" boys didn't also have a harvest.

Thanks Helen and Joe for being such magnificent hosts and looking after the gang so well.

APRIL MEETING

Another most successful Mixed Bowls Evening was held at Anzac House Basement on Tuesday, April 4. We were able to welcome Mr.

and Mrs. Kilpatrick, friends of Percy Hancock, who are going to Timor on Anzac Day. We also had our second bowls mat in operation and this meant that practically everyone was playing bowls at the same time.

The winners of the evening's Mixed Pairs were Dot Bagley and Percy Hancock. It appears that if you want to win one of these events get Perc for a partner as he and Joy Lowden won the previous event in February.

These nights are real good fun and everyone enjoys themselves.

Thanks to the ladies we also enjoyed a nice supper.

WORKING BEE KINGS PARK

This has been arranged for Sunday, April 22, to get the area in good shape for Anzac Day. Please do your best to come along with shovels and rakes to knock the area into shape.

ANZAC DAY

Please do your best to be with your mates on Anzac Day. This year it will be Tuesday, April 25, and arrangements will be as for previous years.

A wreath will be laid at the Dawn Service and then the usual fall in at St. George's Terrace near Cathedral Avenue at about 9.30.

The Re-Union afterwards will be held at W.A. Rowing Club on the river. I don't have to tell you this will be a terrific day so do your best to be there.

MAY MEETING

On Tuesday, May 2nd, Travel Time International will be putting on a film evening in the Basement at Anzac House and having regard to the quality of the last such evening you can be assured of a great time and get the travel bug with a vengeance.

Heard This?

Mother: "Daddy and I won't be home this evening, Bobby. Do you want to sleep alone or with the nurse?"

Bobby (after some deliberation): "What would you do Daddy?"

Committee Comment

The first Committee meeting of the new Committee was held at Anzac Club on Tuesday, March 21.

Len Bagley, your President, welcomed the Committee back to harness and especially the new members Ray Parry and "Scotty" Wares and of course the new Vice President Fred Napier.

Treasurer Ron Kirkwood sent his apology as he and wife were leaving on a cruise the following day.

It was a case of down to business as points from previous meetings plus business arising from the Annual General were discussed.

Treasurer's report indicated that finances were currently adequate.

It was decided to get the Mammoth Raffle under way as soon as Bill Epps returned to work and if possible close this early in November with a late November draw.

Much discussion took place regarding the 1974 Safari and correspondence was received from both N.S.W. and Victoria on this subject. It was decided that the President try and obtain further details regarding the possibility of a trip to Tasmania with a stop in Melbourne. It was thought that this was a project in which all Australia could join to advantage and well within the budget of most members.

Arrangements for Anzac Day were discussed and most details were completed.

Len Bagley advised that two Honour Roll replicas had been supplied by Wembley Trades School and we saw one of these which was a great job. These, when polished and mounted, will be sent to Victoria and N.S.W. for their use.

Len also advised that the new bowls mat had been purchased and should be available for the April meeting which was arranged as a bowls evening for ladies and gents.

RETIRING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

JACK FOWLER has, after one year as a Committee member and one year as Vice President, retired as farming commitments during the rural crisis gives him less time to devote to Committee affairs. We have to thank you Jack for all you

have done during these last couple of years especially in regard to the Jubilee Safari in which you did so much detailed work. We hope to be able to welcome you back to the Committee in the near future.

JOE POYNTON also was not a starter on the Committee this year. Joe and Helen are now domiciled at Mandurah and this largely precludes Joe from attendance at meetings. Joe has been an untiring member of the Committee now for the past six years. Joe's first big job on the Committee was to assist Harry Sproxton in the development of the plan for the Timor Memorial. It was the technical skill of these two who made certain that this plan provided us with what we wanted at the right price. Then in all other projects and with special mention of the Mammoth Raffle of which he was probably the author, he worked like a beaver to make a success of each and everything he attacked. Thanks to help from wife Helen, we had a wonderful six years of effort from Joe and Helen's pictorial record of many of our shows is something we will have for all time. We have to thank you Joe and Helen for a job well done and as Editor thanks in a big way. We hope that it will not be over long before we see you back with the Committee once again.

NEW MEMBERS

Vice President FRED NAPIER: There is nothing new about Fred except the position he now is holding. Committeeman, Secretary, Treasurer and now Vice President. Fred's record of service to the Association is outstanding and positionwise only bettered by Arthur Smith who has held them all except Editor. Fred was co-opted onto the Committee last year to assist with Jubilee Safari planning and did a sterling job. We know Fred will do just such another sterling job as Vice President.

RAY PARRY returns to the Committee after a fairly lengthy absence. Ray was one of the real prime workers for the Mammoth Raffle and sold a prodigious number of tickets and it was largely by his efforts that the success of this project was assured. Ray in his own way has done a lot for the Association and we are sure he will prove

to be a most competent Committee man.

"SCOTTY" ALEC WARES was voted on for the first time and with his depth of experience in all forms of administration will be of great assistance to the Committee in their deliberations.

THANKS

Mr. President,

I would like to thank the Association for their most generous gift of the cuff links and tie bar. These are truly magnificent and will be treasured by me for all time. They will form the first of the Doig jewellery collection and along with my Life Membership Badge will have a permanent place in my heirlooms. I feel the Association has overdone their generosity as all I have ever done has been a labour of love for the grandest collection of blokes that you could ever wish to meet. I can assure you that my efforts will continue while I have the health and strength to work for the best Association in the world.

Yours most sincerely, COL DOIG.

Personalities

It is once again my sad duty to report the death of one of our members in Les Glasson after a long illness. These deaths unfortunately are becoming a trifle regular. Les was an original member of 9 Section in Timor and saw that campaign out until the bitter end. After that he left us. After the war

he was in a joinery business at Kalgoorlie and later was a maintenance carpenter at Wyndham Meat Works for many years and latterly was back working in joinery at Kalgoorlie when he took ill. Les was a quiet chap but a very staunch friend. We did not see a great deal of him over the years but on any of his trips to Perth he usually managed to look me up and put me right on his doings. Our sincere sympathy to his wife and family. Vale to a good mate and good husband and father.

On a much better note I have to report on Pauline English that charming daughter of member Jim English, of N.S.W. After spending a wonderful holiday over in the West on the Jubilee Safari Pauline took up swimming as a hobby with the Paraplegic Club. So well did she improve that in no time flat she was burning up the pool. She eventually qualified to represent N.S.W. in the National Titles and broke four records and received four gold medals. She has been selected to represent Australia at the Para Olympics at Heidelberg, Germany, in August. What an achievement for this courageous girl, especially in such a short time. Father Jim and Mother Jean are just so proud that it doesn't matter and with such good reason. Our best good wishes for a very successful games tour go with you Pauline and bring back a bag full of gold medals.

Col Doig and Les Dingle celebrated their 60th birthdays on Friday, March 3, at Col Doig's home.

WORKING BEE KINGS PARK:

SUNDAY, 23rd APRIL, at 9 a.m.

The more hands — the lighter the work

MAY MEETING:

ANZAC BASEMENT, TUESDAY, 2nd MAY
FILM EVENING by Travel Time International

This is a Mixed Night and the Films should be excellent
Ladies bring a small plate

The joyous party of some 150 people wished them happy birthday. It was good to see so many of the Unit people present especially those from the country. These included Vince and Pam Swann from Esperance, Clarrie and Grace Turner from Capel, John and Jean Fowler ex Wongan Hills, Reg and Dot Harrington from Wyening, Tony and Carol Bowers from Kojonup, Don and Vida Turton from Wandering, not forgetting Ron and Nan Dook from Canberra. It was voted a good party by all present and the weather was delightfully kind.

Most pleasant to run in with Ron and Nan Dook who were in W.A. for a holiday. They spent quite a lot of it at Mandurah and the rest at Cottesloe. Both looked in the pink and reported having a great time.

Bill Epps has been in hospital for a further operation but now is back at work and sparking on all cylinders. Good to see you back in the fold again, Bill.

By the time you receive this issue Joe Poynton will have celebrated his 50th birthday with a party at his

home in Mandurah on April 8. This year and next is going to see a big number of the gang reach their 50th birthdays and it might be a good idea to hold a big swing bang party early next year to cover all these chaps who cheated a bit with their ages to join the army.

Nice to see Clarrie Varian at the Doig-Dingle party with his son who was also celebrating his birthday on the same day. Clarrie looked pretty well and hope his health holds up like this for a long time.

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Meet Dave Ritchie and Say
Good-day

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New South Wales News

We held our usual monthly meeting at Arncliffe R.S.L. on Feb. 7. Present: Alan Luby, Ron Hilliard, Mick Devlin, Alan Addison, Tommy Fields, Tom Martin, John Darge, Jack Hartley, Bill Coker Paddy Kenneally. Apologies received from Bill Bennett.

This was a much improved attendance for our monthly meetings. We hope the trend continues. To achieve this end Alan Luby suggested that each member present tonight attempts to influence a member to attend the next meeting. I hope this means bigger and better meetings and it should if we carry out the suggestion.

I reckon if the Cabramatta area gets cracking we could have one of the strongest Branches in the Association. What about you blokes along that Liverpool line?

It is with sorrow I report the death of John Rose, at Hillston Hospital, on Jan. 25, 1972. The

sympathy of the Association goes out to his wife Nance, sons John Jr., Anthony, and daughter Denise, in the loss of a loving husband and father. John Rose had his share of troubles over the last few years, and yet he greeted all with a smile and a joke. When he lived in Sydney he never missed marching with the Unit and spending Anzac Day with the crowd. Apart from Frank Press he was the only officer to do so. I know of at least three more in the Sydney area who haven't been sighted since the year dot. Good-bye John and may God grant you peace. You deserve it.

The thanks of the Association go to Alf Hodge, Roy and Joyce Martin, who travelled from Griffith to Hillston to represent the Unit at the funeral and present the wreath.

We members also wish to be remembered to Ruby Dos Santos. We remember with pleasure the interlude and celebrations at her home

on Anzac Day when Ruby would put on a massive pipe opener to the day's re-union and get us into the right mood to carry on at the official re-union later. Whilst on the subject of Ruby she would like it if it is at all possible to receive two copies of the November "Courier". This was the issue that gave a brief resume of Alfredo's life written by Curly O'Neill and Ray Aitken. See what you boys in the West can do about it please.

Our best wishes go to Pauline English in her determined efforts to represent Australia at the Paraplegic Olympics at Heidelberg in 1972. She's knocking seconds off her times and has broken the records in her particular class for freestyle and breaststroke. She's getting Jim into condition too. He has to get Pauline to the training sessions twice daily and to school as well. He's kept busy these days, but it's all in a good cause.

The boys at the meeting struck the jack pot. Tom Martin won a cool \$24,000 in a N.S.W. lottery and played host for the meeting. The drinks were on Tom. The New Guineans may have renamed him "No Grass" but we New South Welshmen reckon he has "cabbage" galore. As usual I was out in my timing and had practically taken the pledge. However, Tom, I'll rectify the matter on Anzac Day.

A letter from Betty Craig, plus a cheque for \$5 from Keith towards Branch funds. Thank you Keith. Hope the disease is contagious and the rest of N.S.W. catches on. I am enclosing Betty's letter as it has a lot of family doings and plans which will be of interest to their Unit friends. It will also, Dear Editor, give you the good oil on why no letter came from the Craig Clan after the Safari. Said news made its way to an older, more historic Perth, and all the way home again to Young.

A barbecue picnic has been set down for April 16. The venue Cottage Point Motor Boat Club. That glorious spot upon Coal and Candle Creek. Bill Coker attending to details at Cottage Point so roll up in numbers. A good day to be had in one of the most scenic spots in Broken Bay and that makes it one of the best in the world, rugged terrain and magnificent water views.

Pleased to get some news from our old friend Jim Smith enjoying life at Kieta in Bougainville, making all the fishermen jealous with the reports of the size and numbers of his catches. Sorry Jim you can't get "away from it all". I will agree that you can be fortunate like you and take a step that will take you where the pressures aren't as great. Very interested in the figures you give, Jim. I reckon at the present price of copper and gold that little old company won't be exactly on the bread line. Their investment seems to be well and truly covered. I'm interested in where the water from the slurry will be driven too, and whether the fishing in those waters will be as good in ten years time. Just a thought.

Odd bits of news picked up here and there about Don Murray, all reporting himself and better half being kept busy and doing well in their new venture. Good luck to you both from all the boys.

If I've forgotten or overlooked any further news I'm sorry. However it will keep for next time. Who knows, news may be scare by then and it will fill the void.

Good night and God bless all. P.S. Forgot to mention Alan Luby has taken up his new position at Randwick. Says it's much more congenial. The residence being separate from the station, added to which Alan gets a couple of nights off a week. Congratulations to Maria, she passed the Higher School Certificate and is now about to set the world on fire. She's keen on interior decorating.

* * *

Our monthly meeting was held at Arncliffe R.S.L. Club, Monday evening, March 6. Present: Alan Luby in the chair, Cliff Paff, Jack Darge, Alan Addison, Paddy Kenneally. Apologies from Bill Coker, Mick Devlin, Bill Bennett, Ron Hilliard.

We barely mustered a quorum. This was not surprising as the weather was appalling, gale force winds and rain. A good night for settling down with a bottle of cheer and an interesting book.

Cliff Paff, our Country Liason Officer, came to light with a report based on a meeting he had with the donor of the stereogram. Ken Metcalf is the name of the gentle-

man concerned. He apparently first made contact with the Unit when it was stationed at Katherine in the Territory. A patrol to the Victoria River Downs country had it seems, slaughtered a young beef. Ken Metcalf was sent out by Army H.Q. to assist in investigating the said slaughter, and if possible, pacify the irate owner. This aroused his interest in the Unit, an interest he seems to have kept to this day. He served with Army Intelligence attached to the General Staff, part of his job was dealing with reports sent from Timor by our Unit. According to Cliff he knows more about our Unit and their doings in Timor than most of the members themselves. This interest he maintained right through the war, following our campaign in New Guinea and our stay in New Britain (one could hardly call that a campaign).

Since the war he himself has spent most of his time in New Guinea, and surrounding islands, working for Rio Tinto, and other mining interests. He purchased the stereogram in N.G., brought it back to Newcastle with him and as he said himself didn't know what to do with it. A personal friend of his who happened to be an engineer, mentioned to him that Bernie Callinan was attending an engineers' conference in Newcastle. Bernie was attending a dinner the night Ken Metcalf contacted him. Under the circumstances it was a very hurried affair. He decided the stereogram may be of some use to the Association, hence the gift.

Cliff mentioned to him the "Courier" and the function it performs in the Association. He would like to be put on the mailing list. I think he deserves it. A man who has followed the fortunes of a Unit for over 30 years, displays more interest and concern in its affairs than many of our members. All of us could take a lesson from this man. His address: Mr. Ken Metcalf, 9 Fairfield Ave., New Lambton, 2305.

Cliff also ran into Ken Monk all the way up from Victoria. He had a bull entered in the Maitland show. Don't know how it fared. For Ken's sake I hope it scooped the pool. Ken himself was having a bit of ulcer trouble. A quick recovery to you, Ken.

Alan Luby gave us the latest on

Rolph Baldwin. Baldy has bid goodbye to Geelong Grammar, changed his address. His new one I don't know. However I am sure he will notify you of it in due course. He is currently kept busy at the local high school and carpentry work in his new abode.

The last time I saw Rolph was in New Britain. He was then, I believe, with Div. H.Q. He visited our camp on the coast outside Rabaul. They tell me it was a pretty lively party with consequent loss of half a head of hair and half a moustache. I do know this, that was a very wild Christmas and new year in Rabaul, I myself finished up with a body full of sore and bruised ribs, a black eye, and a face full of bumps and bruises. There were enough incidents during that Christmas and New Year to fill a book, particularly a Provost Marshall's book. The peace keepers fortunately left us well alone.

A mention was made of the new Address Book. This is understandably a long and tedious job so members please make the job as easy as possible for the people compiling the book and come good with the required information. Jack Darge suggests that would it be at all possible to include telephone numbers in the Address Book. We in N.S.W. think this is a good idea. It makes the job of contacting anyone so much easier, particularly these days as it is almost impossible to find a telephone book in a phone box, in this part of the world anyway.

Ruby dos Santos informs me that Alfredo's remains have now been cremated, and the ashes have been placed in the Garden of Remembrance in Rookwood Cemetery. Alfredo rests in peace a long way from Lisboa and the Tagus.

Jim English's son Gregory returns from Vietnam at the end of this week (I think). Jim rang last night and I had a visitor chasing a bit of information and didn't have a chance of speaking to him. Pauline takes part in the swimming championships next Monday. Nora is going so I should have an eye witness report on that event.

Roy Martin's son was in the amateur boxing elimination bouts at Canterbury Rugby League Club last Sunday night. I couldn't make it so don't know the result.

Len Bagley's report on the costs of the New Zealand trip has put a great big question mark on the venture. The West Australians are up for a lot of money. We Eastern Staters fare much better. I contacted one agency they quoted me \$460 Sydney-Sydney, a 15 day tour of New Zealand by coach, all accommodation and meals. The coaches leave every second day in March 1973, so I reckon it would not be much different in 1974. The coaches are restricted to 26 passengers. After this weekend I should have more time to myself on Saturdays. I'll see what further information I can gather on the matter. However I cannot see your figures being bettered.

At our meeting on Monday night it was the opinion of all those present that the amount of \$2,000 would be too much and deter most members contemplating making the trip. As a comparison last March it was possible to take a 35 day cruise to Japan, which included stop overs for three days in Tokio, Nagasaki, Hong Kong, Manila, and a few other ports. The fare was in the vicinity of \$550. So \$2,000 would give a couple a sea voyage tropical nights on a silvery sea, hustling, bustling smog shrouded Tokio, Hong Kong, duty free goods, a trip up to the border of Red China, any of you ping pong players may even get a game with one of the Red Guards and set off another chain of diplomacy, might even result in us selling our surplus wheat and unsaleable wool to chairman Mao and his 700 million.

Back to business. Our Branch meeting suggested Adelaide as the venue on the grounds that it is much more central, the city of Adelaide not too big and bustling, tours and outings could be more easily organised. Furthermore Melbourne has already had one re-union. Sydney had theirs. Perth has had two (and if it was left to me it would have another. I've loved that place from the day I first set foot in it almost 25 years ago). Adelaide has so far

missed out. Yet when the Unit spent those six weeks there before going to the Northern Territory, Adelaide showered them with hospitality and friendship. I feel sure that if we went ahead with the Mammoth Lottery as previously proposed, Alan Hollow, Dud Tapper, Bert Bache, Keith Dignum and Bob Williamson would soon form a working committee to handle all arrangements from that end.

Melbourne with a trip to Tasmania on the side, was one of the ideas submitted by the W.A. Branch should the New Zealand trip be abandoned. Frankly I think Tasmania merits more than a trip on the side. My own conviction is that Tasmania as a venue would be much more fascinating than Melbourne. It isn't that big that it could not be covered in say a two weeks' stay. Its licensing laws are liberal, superb scenery, and they can keep their mutton birds.

Harping back to New Zealand I think it could be done on less than \$2,000. On that figure, taking \$586 as the base fare for West Aussies, that leaves \$800 odd dollars to cover stop overs in Sydney and Melbourne. It is still a big chunk of spending money for 14 days in the land of the long white cloud. There it is as Cliff Paff remarked he does not mind where it is held as long as he is with the men he knew in the Unit. He also added that he being single, he has only himself to please. There's a lot of wise understanding in the Paff.

—PADDY KENNEALLY.

Heard This?

Then there's the report that Sherlock Holmes once confronted Dr. Watson with the statement: "Ah, my dear Doctor, I see you have donned your long winter underwear."

"Amazing," Watson is supposed to have replied. "How did you deduce that?"

"Elementary," explained the peerless Holmes. "You have forgotten to put on your pants."

1974 SAFARI:

Please continue to send in your suggestions for the 1974 Safari so we can sift through them and give them the credit they deserve

RANDOM HARVEST

PETER BARDEN, of 6GN Radio Station and ABGW Channel 6 TV Station, Geraldton, writes:—

First of all let me point out that Bruss Fagg, of Northampton, is certainly setting a splendid example of what I consider an ideal motto for the 2/2nd Commando Association, "Service in Peacetime as in Wartime". Bruss has been elected President of the Northampton Sub-Branch of the R.S.L. after having previously occupied most of the Executive positions in the Sub-Branch. The Geraldton Sub-Branch, of which Yours Truly is Publicity Officer, has always had a close association with the neighboring Sub-Branch and I'm sure this will be more than maintained with Bruss at the helm.

The Cunningham family has also been in the headlines. Nip and Mary's youngest daughter, Fran, having been guest of honour at a hotel party prior to her departure for England on a working holiday as a nurse. Meanwhile Nip is pedalling as good as ever, and has no trouble in passing Yours Truly as the latter steps it out in support of the "Keep Fit" campaign.

The vocational part of nursing obviously appeals to a number of 2/2nd families. Eric and Twy Smyth's elder daughter, Jan, has just finished her midwifery at the Crown St. Hospital in Sydney and is now a double-certificated Sister. Twy Smyth is Deputy Matron at the Geraldton Regional Hospital and for the past three weeks has been Acting Matron. However, in spite of this busy life she still finds time to take an active role in the life of the Presbyterian Church. The Smyth's youngest daughter, Erica, is on a vacation in Tasmania prior to doing her third and final year in Geology at the W.A. University. While she was home on holidays Erica sailed a Moth class yacht and showed she had lost none of her ability in this regard. Father Eric also continues to derive a great deal of pleasure from yatching sailing a Diamond class yacht with accountancy partner Graham Leever.

Yours Truly and wife Joan find bowling a very pleasant pastime and have already won a number of trophies this season. Having played

most types of sport I unhesitatingly say that bowls is the greatest type of sport as far as relaxation is concerned. You forget all your cares once you get on the green and start concentrating on the game.

Geraldton is to have another "first" this time the first Country Branch of the Perth Museum, in the form of a Maritime Museum. It will be of international interest because it will feature relics from the 1629 wreck of the Dutch trading ship "Batavia". These relics including cannons, coins, pottery and navigation instruments, were recovered during expeditions to the Abrolhos Islands about 50 miles from Geraldton, following the discovery of the wreck by Geraldton skin diver Max Cramer in 1963, aided by fisherman Dave Johnson.

And to end this letter, let me say once again, don't hesitate to drop in and see us when you're at Geraldton.

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

Nora came out of hospital three weeks ago. She finally had that operation on her leg. She's still hopping about like a one legged kangaroo. Lost a lot of weight (she didn't have much to start with). It's five weeks since the operation, another month and she should be right. The leg is still wrapped up like a mummy, but most of the pain has ceased. She must be getting better, she's ready to fight one or all again.

Helen goes back to college tomorrow. She has been working with a finance company during the holidays. She has decided hire purchase is out, and she doubts the sanity of anyone indulging in its blessings. She reckons it's real beaut for the finance company and salesmen, but as they form a very minute part of the community the majority are out in the cold.

Michael back at school. He didn't back up for work after Christmas, reckoned he had acquired enough muscles and money in the three weeks prior to Christmas to carry him along for awhile. Enough for the day is sufficient thereof for Michael. He's talking about taking a trip to the West at years end when he will have sat and I hope, passed

the Higher School Certificate. What my budding traveller will use for money I know not. I expect he'll make it. I managed to get from England to New Zealand with 2/-. I sweated my way in the engine room for my fare and a nominal shilling a month. I sure had a hectic time. In Williamstadt, Dutch West Indies I had a good walk. Same in Christabral on the Atlantic side of Panama Canal. We didn't stop in Panama so I missed the walk. However I made up for it in Sura. We were there for ten days. I still had my 2/-. It was getting close to Ann Poynton's (Joe's sister) 21st birthday and I thought I'll get the little lady a birthday card. First off I didn't have enough for it, and secondly the 2/- would have barely covered the air mail. Fiji was a bloody expensive country in those days, pre duty free. So I thought I'll have a beer. When I saw the thimbleful I'd have got for a shilling I kept the pledge. For once I made the right decision. Landed in Lyteleton, South Island, New Zealand. Sent the card and six pence left for a beer. Ran into a couple of Geordies and a Welshman in the pub. Insisted on me joining the party, money being no object. At closing time the party was much bigger and each member had a dozen of beer including myself. It was a League of Nations party aboard the ship. Lasted till about 3 a.m. New Zealand was a great country in those days. I've never been anywhere prior to or since that night where sixpence acquired such purchasing power.

Michael could be lucky and work his way across on a desert ship. I do hope however, that at that early age he hasn't acquired the prodigious thirst I developed during that six weeks in the engine room.

Sean also back at school. Exam year for him also. School Certificate, I think his class is the last one for it. After this year I believe it ceases to be a public exam. Not that it cuts much ice now. It is widely considered a political show piece with a pass mark so low that a dumb billy goat could handle it reasonably well. A show piece to make a very poor educational system and standard look good. Sean has solved his pigeon maintenance problem. He landed a part time job on Saturday. He is supposed to

work Tuesday and Thursday night plus Saturday morning at a food store. 14 hours, 14 dollars. Sean has already come up with a plan to spend \$15. The two nights a week seems a bit much to me. The Brothers Schools hand out plenty of homework. Sean will have to satisfy me he can handle it and a job as well. I'd prefer he shared the wealth and allowed someone else the night work.

Gerald at the De La Salle Brothers School at Bankstown now. Reckons it's beaut and still has the family helping him with home work. He doesn't like school, but he handles it, so that it inconveniences him as little as possible. He was going to pack up and leave home tonight, reckoned we were all treating him unfriendly. Said he'd take his money and give it to the Yanks. A Yankee restaurant opened in Yagoona with the usual Yank fanfare of ballyhoo. Gerald is partial to their hamburgers. I told him the Yanks had enough of Australia without him adding to their wealth by giving them his money as well. Hence the reference "I'll give my money to the Yanks". Peace reigns supreme once more. He has forgiven us all, and presented each of us with a bit of chocolate someone gave him.

I now possess a typewriter. Helen conned me into going halves with her in purchasing one. About all I'll share will be the expenses. Many, many years ago I learnt typing. I was a youngster at St. Patrick's School in the Rocks area of Sydney. The depression was on and Brother Anelena (God rest him) worked like a trojan so that we could acquire as many skills as possible to fit us for the battle for jobs which faded during the depression years. By now my skill I possessed in that department has been well and truly lost. So, Colin, my boy, you will just have to put up with this scribble.

When last I wrote I mentioned how dead and dry the countryside was. I'm glad to report Jupiter Pluvius agreed with me and decided to do something about it. Shortly after the countryside, and city-side, were drenched, and has continued to be ever since. He's damned near put me on the dole. Mud, water and washed out concrete. After a storm the other night the form work went off with the tide. I got it back out

of the scrub after hours of humping. It looks like more rain. However, I've finished the low section. I'm back on the heights and although rain will make it miserable it won't stop things.

I was going to retire from sub-divisions, however a couple of weeks ago I had to go into the city on business. It cured me. Air heavily laced with carbon monoxide, at every intersection flashing "Don't Walk" signs, girlish looking boys, and boyish looking girls, and great monoliths of concrete and glass turning the streets into fetid canyons in summer and freezing ones in winter. Changed my mind. Bought more farm work and decided to stay in the open. The years are climbing up on me now. What's left may as well be spent where breathing isn't an offence to the nostrils, and as you blokes remember I've got a lot of nostril. Working at a place called Berowra at present, almost at the Hawkesbury River. Can see Berowra waters from the hill top. It's beautiful in the morning as it's breaking daylight (I have to leave early as it's a long trip). It's wild, rugged country out that way but it's beautiful. The job is hard but it has its compensations.

Good night, and good luck. My regards to all. I'll bet that picnic to Mandurah was a beaut. All my memories of Mandurah are pleasant ones thanks to Poyntons, Morgans, Sullivans, Fitzimmonds and Stonehills.

A Later Letter from Paddy:

I have at last decided to give you a spell from the almost impossible task of deciphering my particular scribble. I'll type this letter. I hope you appreciate the enormous effort at self control and patience I am making on your behalf, plus the fact that it will take half the day to accomplish very little in the way of output.

We are still in the throes of unsettled weather here. I go to work every day but do little that produces a dollar. That however does not mean no work, just no monetary gain. There is labour galore cleaning up the awful mess after each storm.

I have no transport at present. The truck and the car decided to have a spell at once. I have been travelling by train and shank's pony.

Up at 4 a.m., catch a train at five, change trains three times to reach my destination, then per foot for another couple of miles to arrive at the job at about 6.40 a.m. I'll never knock our train services again. I'm travelling about 30 miles each way or 300 miles a week for \$5 in fares. That is only a fraction of what it costs per truck, and I can get there almost as quickly, and no effort on my part, except of course dashing from platform to platform to change trains.

This particular sub-division is in very thick scrub country, the atmosphere very much like the jungle in New Guinea particularly after the rain. The sun comes out, hot and humid and the odour of rotting vegetation, you could close your eyes and think you were back in the jungle again. The roar of a bulldozer soon dispels that idea and reminds a man that he has to earn his own Kai Kai now, not have it handed to him on an aluminium dixie by an efficient and cheerful (?) cook, and donated by a government ever mindful of our welfare. We didn't know when we were well off.

Nora is still hopping. It's taking longer than we thought for that leg of hers to get back to normal. All the scars are healing well. It's the efficiency of the leg itself that's slow in coming back to normal. She had a birthday recently. Sean bought her a birthday cake. Nora was doing the honours cutting it that night, when Gerald pipes up: "How old are you, Mum?" I said "32". "You are not. I heard Dad say in the hospital that you were —," said our youngest, hitting the age right on the head. Michael raced into the rescue and said, believe it or not: "That was Mum's bust measurements Dad was talking about, not her age." Talk about an uproar. He brought the house down. Luckily for us all Kelly has a sense of humour and doesn't take herself very seriously. Her laughter was the heartiest and most prolonged. Seriously though, at present she hardly casts a shadow. She has lost a lot of weight and she didn't have much to spare at any time.

The children have all settled down to school studies again, that is if you can call the two oldest, and the third for that matter, children. Helen will soon be 19. A lot of

girls she did her final year at school with are married. Michael is 17. He will more than likely finish school this year when he sits for the Higher School Certificate. He still hasn't an idea of what he is going to do.

Thank heavens Sean's job is only one night per week. He does not arrive home until about 10.30 p.m. on that night. A long day for a youngster who sets out for school a little after seven in the morning.

Gerald is more fortunate he attends the De La Salle Brothers high school at North Bankstown. That's only about a mile away. I think he would have rebelled had I sent him to the Christian Brothers at Burwood, as the other two had. It would have taken up too much of his leisure time in travelling, with a consequent reduction in playing time. That in Gerald's eye is akin to cruelty.

Talking about all that rain I referred to, it has just come over the radio that Bankstown hit the top with 550 points of rain in 24 hours. Five and a half inches should keep the feed green for a while. I wonder what Berowra got. I didn't bother going to work today not after the downpour we received. Couldn't get a concrete truck anywhere near the job any way. I have set up all the form work I've got on the job. It would be time wasting just to go out and see what requires little effort to imagine. You will receive a letter much earlier as a result.

We have an Association meeting tonight. I will hold this letter until later. I will then be able to include the N.S.W. Newsletter when it is posted.

Good bye and good luck for the present.

Later:

The big wet is still with us. It isn't raining at present. A good wind blowing if it only keeps up it will dry out that subdivision I'm working on and I could possibly pour a load of concrete tomorrow.

The night of the meeting was a wild one. A storm hit Sydney. Houses unroofed, torrential rain and floods. I travelled over with Alan Addison. Driving was an ordeal, visibility almost nil at times. Glad it was Alan driving. I just sat back and let him get me there.

Pigeon racing commences on Sat-

urday. It will be a hard house to live in whilst the racing season is on. I may take up working on Saturdays. It could be more peaceful.

So to the Newsletter before I use up all the news. If you Westerners are having a drought let me know I may be able to export you some moisture.

God bless and good luck to all of you everywhere.

JIM ENGLISH, of 11 Richards Ave. Peakhurst, N.S.W., 2210, writes:

As you already know Pauline has been selected to represent Australia in the Paralympics in Germany this August. As far as I know the team leaves Melbourne on or about July 26. I'm rather hoping they will go via Adelaide and Perth so that Pauline can renew old friendships.

I have enclosed a clipping which will explain everything except the real magic of the moment when three ladies named Nora K., Jean and Ma English went grey with excitement. Yours Truly wasn't too bad, having watched Pauline train every day for three months I had a little inside info. and was more or less prepared for what happened.

Pauline swam extremely well and with another three months to train should make things very warm in Germany. Pauline's coach was very pleased with her performance., so pleased in fact that she allowed Pauline to have the next day free of training, but Pauline has been at it ever since, although she is only swimming a mile each morning this week I suspect that this will jump sharply to about three miles per morning next week.

Well, not much more news except that Greg is home from Vietnam and has seven weeks leave. I'm trying to talk him into going to my cousins at Balga, W.A., but he is still making up his mind.

So long for now. Incidentally I have written to the Australian Cricket Selectors suggesting that they include two extra members for the tour of England. They are namely Doig and Dingle. I figure two blokes who can reach 60 each not out in their first and only innings, should contain the English bowling.

Please give our regards to everyone.

Record Breaker Pauline For Games Swim Girl's Quick Reward

(Extract from "Sunday Mirror")

Pauline English who has been swimming competitively only since last December, was last night picked in the Australian team for the Paraplegic and Quadraplegic Games at Heidelberg in August.

At Merrylands last week Pauline set four Australian records in the seventh Australian games.

She won the 50 metres freestyle in 1 min. 0.1 sec. to take 8.4 sec. off her Australian record; the 50 metres breaststroke in 1.19.5 to break her national record by 7.5 sec.; the 50 metres backstroke in 1.03.6 to lower the previous national record by 5.4 sec, and won the 150 metres individual medley, a new games event in 3.49.6.

Her father, Jim English, said yesterday Pauline, 15, was paralysed from the waist down by transverse-myelitis when three years old.

"She took up swimming because she was bored of sitting at home watching TV and playing records the previous Christmas," he said.

At first Pauline, who lives at Peakhurst, could only swim across the pool, but she has worked fairly hard training two hours each morning, three nights a week and in races on Saturday mornings with the Hurstville Amateur Swimming Club.

Pauline swims in heats graded on times at the Hurstville A.S.C. meets and has several wins over girls without any physical handicaps.

Jan Murphy, the 1964 Tokyo Olympics and 1966 Jamaican Commonwealth Games swimming representative, who coaches Pauline, said she would be a swimmer of world class by the start of the Paraplegic and Quadripelgic Games at Heidelberg in August.

RON KIRKWOOD, of 118 Eric St., Cottesloe, W.A., writes:—

Had a ring from Peter Waller, of Darwin, who was visiting W.A. for the first time and wanted to meet someone from the old Sparrow Force to whom we were attached in Timor.

I remembered his name (he was an early contributor to the Timor Memorial Appeal) and we arranged to have a meeting one afternoon. Peter was a Dutchman (I say "was" as he became a naturalised Australian some years ago) in the Royal

Netherlands Army detachment which was in Timor with us, and which took such a hammering when the Japs landed in Dili. He was sent off with some walking wounded along the coast and got to Atamboea where he joined up with some Australian and Dutch soldiers and delivered the wounded to a mission near there. He was then sent off to try and find the Col. Van Stratten, but without success and, becoming incapable of walking because of tropical ulcers, he was captured by the Japanese.

Peter mentions two Australians who were in his party when it left Dili one of whom had a bad wound in the side. He has wondered what happened to them after he delivered them at the mission. I do not know of any of our crowd who were in Dili then.

After his capture he was taken to Koepang, then Java, Malaya, Burma (including an escape from a bombed ship), and finally liberation and return to Java. Some years later he came to Australia and started a fight to become a naturalised Australian. This he eventually did almost solely through the efforts of Alan Spence and Bernie Callinan, of whom he speaks very highly.

He is an agronomist and has served in most parts of Australia and is now working with the Government in Darwin. He has visited all States on holidays and on this, his first visit to Western Australia, he was most impressed and is thinking if Perth for his retirement.

When we parted (he had another appointment and returned to Darwin a few days later) he offered his services to the Association as a representative in Darwin for which we are most grateful.

So, if any of you blokes remember him and wish to get in touch, his address is 2 Hibiscus St., Nightcliff, Darwin. He will also let us have a list of some Dutch officers who served in Timor and with whom some of our members may wish to correspond.

It was good to meet you, Peter, and next time get in touch with us earlier and meet more of us.

Later Peter wrote to Ron:

In haste. Just a note to let you know that I learned today of Bernard Callinan's arrival in Darwin on March 2. He will proceed to Kununurra, Friday, March 3, and via

Pt. Hedland arrive in Perth Sunday, March 5.

I understand that his visits to all places will be of a short nature. He will be addressing the Institute of Engineer members and of course contact his representatives of this Gutteridge, Haskins & Davey Engineering Coy.

I am preparing a letter to you regarding my muster of ex-2/2nd members. Ever heard of Keith Knight, Ted Mulcahy, Don Wilson, or ? Foster?

A Later Letter from Peter:

I was delighted that I was able to meet you last month. After so many years, at last we were able to exchange our views of Timor and talk our experiences there. There is so much I would have liked to know of what had happened after the Japs caught up with me. It was really a pity that I was not able to attend one of your monthly meetings and catch up with some of the ex-Timor mountaineers. I promise you that with my next visit to Perth I will not miss this opportunity again.

Back in Darwin, rain and thunder storms are heralding the end of another trying wet monsoon.

I discovered that the 19th February was not only for Darwin but also for us a memorable day. Since it was our 30th anniversary I decided to place a small advert in the paper asking for ex-2/2nd boys to give me a phone call. Out of this I bagged Ted Mulcahy, who I understood was not in Timor but with the same force in New Guinea, etc. Also a Mrs. Foster rang me on behalf of her husband who had been in the 2/2nd Sparrow Force and is now in Perth. Most likely he will call you there. A couple of enquiries were made regarding connections between ex-Independent groups in Queensland (Townsville) and the W.A. group. I was not able to answer these questions.

I experienced a rather embarrassing moment when the local newspaper approached me for a story and a photo. Fortunately I had B. Callinan's book handy and exhibited this prominently for the camera. The story printed next day was somewhat twisted but I understand it was well received by the readers.

People here are very interested in neighbouring Portuguese Timor and many have made short visits to this

part of the island. I received a number of requests for copies of B.C.'s book, which I hope is still in print. I am sure that this book will be in demand here by both locals and tourists. Ironically one phone caller misunderstood obviously my ad. as he enquired about how to join this force, probably as a mercenary.

A few years ago a Keith Knight was here who claimed that he had been in the Sparrow Force in Timor. Unfortunately the poor fellow was drowned on the Queensland coast. His wife and daughter are still here and both are apparently well looked after.

Ted Mulcahy and myself sent a telegram to your Mandurah re-union to express our feeling of solidarity but unfortunately the tele. did not reach the meeting and I had to send it to your address the following Monday. I trust that it had been a successful re-union for old and young.

Mrs. Knight gave me two names of ex-Commandoes which I will check out. They are Sid Herb and a M. Martin and what about Tom Maloney?

Good news was the message I got about the arrival of Bernard Callinan in Darwin on March 2. He will be here for 24 hours and then proceed to Perth where he should arrive on Sunday, March 5. Ted and myself will try to tackle him for a short hour, as he must be very busy

Many thanks for the last issue of the "Courier" which gave me a new supply of "fuel" to keep our flame here in Darwin burning.

Please tell the boys that they should not hesitate to contact us here for information or a personal meeting and Timor is only two hours flying from here, as you all well know.

Again Ron, it was nice meeting you. Best wishes to you and the boys and their families. Cheers for now.

**FRANK SHARP, of 22 Quinn St.,
Dubbo, N.S.W., 2830, writes:—
Suggestion Only Regarding 1974
Re-Union:**

Frank Press and I had a good talk about our next re-union and we were wondering if a 14 or 21 day cruise could be arranged preferably during the January holidays should there be

any children also the summer weather would be ideal for all of us.

We all know fully what the evenings are like in the tropics during the summer, and I feel with swimming, deck games and dancing at night or our own parties on board would be wonderful. No work would be needed by any of our members. Everyone could relax and the work done by the ship's company. All we want to do is get together like we did in Perth and have a damn good time together.

I feel that once the main organisation has been done with the assistance of two raffles we could arrange something worthwhile without a lot of expense having to be met by any of our members.

If the cruise started from Sydney or Melbourne I feel it would only be fair that our W.A. members be subsidised for travelling expenses in some way for the extra distance of travel the same as you fellows assisted us with our accommodation expenses when we came over for the Safari.

You could well see that it could be a very relaxing holiday once we were on board. All we would have to do is shower and get dressed, not get up early to catch buses or trains like you people had to do when we were over. Also all the arranging of food and so on for our days out and evenings, and if one did not feel the best (with a big head) the next morning we could sleep it off for a few hours.

I would suggest a decent P. & O. liner or something similar where every amenity would be available to us and probably a lot cheaper than a trip by air and we could all be together for the three weeks or fortnight whichever is decided upon.

With approx. two years grace to spare our organisers could obtain plenty of good information of various cruises and reasonable prices for a block booking and something that would suit us all.

BERNIE CALLINAN, of 111 Sackville St., Kew, Vic., Writes:—

Did you know that Johnny Rose died, I think, just before Christmas. Geoff Laidlaw rang me and I gathered that his address was still 8 Byron St., Hillston, N.S.W.

I have also had a telephone call from the War Graves Commission

to say that they have erected a plaque on Wall 39, Row K in the N.S.W. Garden of Remembrance in Rokewood, a suburb of Sydney, for Alfredo Santos.

I am not too sure whether I raised this matter with you before, but I had a telephone call from the Commission asking whether the Commandos would object or agree to the plaque being erected for him and I assured him that I would be very happy if they would do so. I hope that you and the others agree.

Have you heard what happened to the tape recorder and stereo equipment that was "donated" to me when I was in Newcastle and was eventually taken up by Smith, of the N.S.W. Branch.

I will be passing through Perth fleetingly on March 6, but it is unlikely that I will have a chance to contact you.

BERT BURGESS, of "Burlands", P.O. Box 224, Katanning, writes:

Just for the record and the new Address Book, my address is as above. My name is spelt BURGESS and I was christened Herbert Arthur.

The enclosed press photo I cut out of a S.A. paper several months ago with the intention of posting it to you. Looks as though our friend on the right has kept himself fit and youthful.

Your suggestion of a Safari to New Zealand is most appealing. If things go right we expect to have our two youngest settled in at boarding school by the suggested date and provided it didn't clash with Easter Marie and I will be definite starters.

Our Peter was unexpectedly home for two weeks at Christmas time. He is domiciled at Hunters Hill (1 Mary St.) and obviously is happy and contented in his chosen career.

Getting back to the proposed New Zealand Safari. If it eventuates would it be possible to contact some of the New Zealand lads who were down at Wilsons Promontory when we were there?

The summer was late in arriving but has been making up for lost time with a vengeance. Can't remember such a long period of excessive heat in one stretch since I have been here. Not too good for aging folk who have work to do.

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

WORKING BEE KINGS PARK:

SUNDAY, 23rd APRIL, at 9 a.m.

The more hands — the lighter the work

ANZAC DAY:

**Always one of our great get-togethers and you are requested
to do your best to make this one a rip snorter**

REMEMBER — ARRANGEMENTS AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

MAY MEETING:

**ANZAC BASEMENT, TUESDAY, 2nd MAY
FILM EVENING by Travel Time International**

**This is a Mixed Night and the Films should be excellent
Ladies bring a small plate**

JUNE MEETING:

**ANZAC BASEMENT, TUESDAY, 6th JUNE
1st of the Calcutt Memorial Shield Games**

This is your opportunity to take off this great trophy for 1972

1974 SAFARI:

**Please continue to send in your suggestions for the 1974 Safari
so we can sift through them and give them the credit they deserve**
