



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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MAY, 1972

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EDITORIAL

Once again the subject matter for Editorials has become vexatious. Having tried to edit this journal for 26 years off and on, the Editorial always becomes a bug-bear. The tried and true subjects have been used time and time again and the field is strictly limited as it has always been our policy to be non-political, non-sectarian and thereby the narrowness of the area in which we can operate makes for much repetition of the hardy annuals.

Over the previous two years, thanks to people like Max Davies, Ron Dook, Ron Trengrove and others, your resident Editor has been saved a deal of trouble. These persons have been able to explore a field often not envisaged by your Editor and of great interest to readers.

There must be many more among our 400 members and friends who

can put their thoughts on paper and give editorial guidance to our organisation. Nothing succeeds like a new approach and this is what we always strive to achieve.

To persist with the old ideas and clichés is to bring stagnation to the Association. New ideas will keep this stagnation at bay.

Associations such as ours which persist on a purely social basis, always have difficulties of survival. We as an Association have probably been the most truly active of all such associations in Australia and this is because we have always striven for a fairly high quality in our ideas and ideals.

This is an appeal for help by your Editor for more assistance in the way of Editorial matter so that we can continue our high quality as a journal.
—C. D. Doig, Editor.

JULY MEETING — TUESDAY 4th

(Glorious 4th)

First of MIXED PAIRS BOWLS for the Special Trophy

**SATURDAY, 30th SEPTEMBER
ANNUAL DINNER**

Please Return those MAMMOTH RAFFLE APPLICATIONS
as soon as possible

West Australian Whisperings

Association Activities

ANZAC DAY

The glorious 25th broke fair and warm in W.A. and the Dawn Service was held in truly balmy conditions. Each year a surprising number of our members tear themselves from bed at an ungodly hour to pay the truest possible homage to our dead. This year Ray Parry and "Scotty" Wares had the honour to lay our wreath on the State War Memorial.

Len Bagley with helpers, saw that our flags were flying in our area at Kings Park which had been put into magnificent order by a working bee on the previous Sunday.

The march at 10 a.m. through Perth was again well attended and the crowds watching were probably the greatest for many years, probably due to good weather and the threats of disruptionists to interfere with this march.

Despite the fact that Yours Truly was late with our flag thus doing a power of no good to Len Bagley's ulcers, we did manage to be in time for the usual hop, skip and jump down St. George's Terrace to the off-beat of a Salvation Army Band. I do really think it is time one of two things occurred. Either we acquire a personal drummer to give us a good beat or the Salvation Army Bands be thanked for past services and told they are no longer required.

The address by the President of the R.S.L. was a bit of a dog's breakfast and was inclined as it went on to be a bit of the Billy Graham evangelistic nature and a bit out of keeping for such an address on such a day.

The re-union at W.A. Rowing Club which followed was as usual excellent. We have probably the best venue in Australia for such a re-union on this type of day. We march straight to the premises and within minutes of leaving the Esplanade we are slaking our thirsts while other less fortunate Units are still marching off. How long this dear old building will last or be available I don't know but it will certainly be a sorry day for use when we can't continue to use it. The ravages of time and the terredos are rapidly catching up but we can

only keep our fingers crossed against the future.

Thanks again to Len Bagley the liquid refreshments were in position and being dispensed by Gerry Maley and Fred Napier who found the rigours of the march too much for their legs. Jack Carey saw to it that we had a gorgeous lunch in the typical Carey Anzac Day manner. These lunches are becoming to be the accepted thing and we cannot thank Jack enough for his efforts in this regard. Mick Morgan was again Master of Ceremonies with entertainment and was noted to be breaking in an apprentice in Jim McLaughlan to be in a position to take over in future years.

Among those present were: Vince Swann (From Esperance), Bob Palmer (from Busselton), Stan Payne (from Nukarni), Mick Morgan (banner bearer), Len Bagley (march leader), Bob Smyth, John Burrige (bad attack of lumbago), Harry Sproxtton, Col Hodson, Clarrie Varian, Bill Epps, Gerry Edwards, Jim Ritchie, "Curly" Bowden, "Ping" Anderson, Fred Sparkman, Joe Poynton, Roy Watson, Jack Carey, Dick Darrington, Rod Dhu, Col Doig, Ralph Finkelstein, Geo. Fletcher, Jack Fowler, Doug Fullarton, Fred Griffiths, Jerry Haire, Percy Hancock, Harry Holder, Bill Howell, John Lillie, Gerry Maley, Jim McLaughlin, "Rip" McMahon, Fred Napier, Ray Parry, Jack Penglase, Arthur Smith, "Scotty" Wares.

There were also a good attendance from members of our Squadrons, who also join us on Anzac Day.

All in all a really good day.

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MAY MEETING

Thanks to Travel Time International we had an evening of most excellent travel films presented professionally by this travel agency. The films on New Zealand and Tasmania were most acceptable in view of the planning for the proposed 1974 Safari. Those on the near north, Japan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, Bali, etc., were also of great value to those of us contemplating tours in these directions in the near future.

I think all those present enjoyed the films by the way they requested further films.

As usual the supper supplied by our ladies topped off a good evening.

Our thanks to Travel Time International for putting on this particular evening.

WORKING BEE KINGS PARK

This was carried out on Sunday, April 23, and was excellently attended. The whole area looks in wonderful condition especially as we have had such a long dry summer. There is no doubt about it many hands make light work and we flew through the tasks in double quick time.

Vince Swann who was down in Perth was able to attend and see just what we do on these occasions.

Thanks to all who attended.

APPEAL FOR**PAULINE ENGLISH**

As readers have been made aware in previous issues this remarkable girl in the briefest possible time, has by her own unaided efforts forced herself into the Australian Paralympic Team for the Para Games to be held at Heidelberg in August of this year. In the Australian finals she won four gold medals and broke four records in swimming and going on the efforts of previous Australians in this field in previous games she seems set to take out quite a few medals at Heidelberg.

These trips, of course, cost a deal of money and the N.S.W. Branch in conjunction with Arncliffe R.S.L. Club, are already on the way to collecting a goodly sum. The total amount to be collected by Pauline's sponsors is of the order of \$1,700.

The W.A. Branch has a great desire to assist and will be making a

donation in the near future. However it was thought that there would be many members who would like to personally contribute towards this most worthy cause for a very brave girl.

If you are so minded and desire to assist please forward your donations to Box T1646 G.P.O., Perth, 6001, as soon as possible as August is not very far away.

We thank you in anticipation.

MAMMOTH RAFFLE

Another Mammoth Raffle is under way and by this time you will have received your Application Forms.

This was a great success last year and the proceeds on this occasion will be used to recoup the strained finances of all Branches, heavily depleted due to the Jubilee Safari.

If you have not received Application Forms and desire some, please write to Box T1646 G.P.O., Perth, 6001, and you will be forwarded the required number.

Please ensure that the Application Forms are returned promptly as the first 500 received will be allocated the tickets. The money can be forwarded at a later date as the idea is to allow applicants to pay off the ticket over a reasonable period.

The raffle closes on Nov. 4, 1972, and will be drawn at Perry Lakes Stadium Hall on Saturday, Nov. 18.

The prizes are the same as last year, namely A World Trip For Two value \$3,600, plus Spending Money, value \$1,400, Total Value \$5,000, OR THE CASH. Also 50 consolation prizes of \$20 (your money back). This is terrific value.

PROPOSED SAFARI 1974

Much work and thought has already been put into the proposed Safari for 1974. Currently the original idea of a trip to New Zealand has been ruled out as it has proved to be too costly. The current thinking is along the lines of a convention in Melbourne and a tour of Tasmania probably embracing our members in the Apple Isle and our friends of the old 2/40th Bn.

The proposed month is Feb.-March 1974. No details have been worked out and of course it would be contingent upon the Victorian Branch being able to cope with such a Con-

vention. The advantages of this style of convention is that all members in Australia would have some chance of joining in and having a wonderful time.

Alternative travel arrangements are being investigated for W.A. members with the possibility of sea, rail and air still very much to the fore. A sea trip one way would be most desirable but these days the chance of such a booking so far ahead appears to be remote. Rail is definitely the cheapest and most bookable although air travel is a great time saver for those with limited time.

We hope in the next issue of the "Courier" to be able to be more specific on the proposals in the meantime put on your thinking caps and start saving your dollars towards what could be another crackerjack Safari.

Committee Comment

The Management Committee met on May 16 at Anzac Club and a great deal of business was conducted.

As our Treasurer, Ron Kirkwood, was on a trip to Japan and foreign parts, we were not able to present a financial statement.

The Committee reviewed Anzac Day and the May Meeting and expressed delight at the quality of both the functions.

Col Doig advised that the Mammoth Raffle was under way but that a general distribution of application forms had not yet been made. Sales to date had been satisfactory and probably in excess of a similar period in the previous raffle.

Secretary Gerry Maley read considerable correspondence from the Eastern States regarding their approach to proposals put forward at the Convention held in conjunction with the Jubilee Safari.

It was decided to open an appeal for funds on behalf of Pauline English who has been selected to represent Australia at the ParaOlympics at Heidelberg, Germany, in August.

Len Bagley gave a mass of detail that he had collected with regard to the proposed Safari in 1974. The current bias of this Convention seems to be towards a dual stop off in Victoria and Tasmania with the main feature a tour of Tasmania. It was decided to form a sub-committee comprising Len Bagley, "Scot-

ty" Wares and Col Doig to go into the matter and collate the detail and report to the next Committee meeting.

Other matters regarding the welfare of certain members was also discussed at length.

Personalities

Mrs. Glasson has asked me to express to all those members who contacted her, her real thanks for all they did at the time of Les' passing.

Vince and Pam Swann were in Perth over the Anzac weekend as guests of Col Doig and Joy Lowden. They had a wonderful time with the gang while here.

Nice to see Bob and Barbara Palmer down for Anzac Day. Bob has been kind enough to say he and Barbara will arrange a Country Convention at Busselton for the Queen's Birthday weekend in October. Busselton should be a beaut venue at that time of the year and is in good proximity of most of our South West members.

Stan Payne looked real well when I saw him at both the Dawn Service and Anzac Day march. At that time he was not dreadfully worried about the season but of course that could be different now with no rain of any consequence since Anzac Day.

Had a pleasant hour with "Robbie" Rowan-Robinson the other day. He is still caught up in civic affairs at Bridgetown especially the local Agricultural Society. "Robbie" reports that Bridgetown had had some reasonable rains but crying out for more. The apple season has been fair to average and his wool and lambs had sold reasonably well.

Jack Fowler reports a terrible opening to the season at Wongan Hills and has to date lost a swag of lambs due to the ewes having no milk despite hand feeding.

Don Turton was telling me the other day that they had had some rain at Wandering and were able to get on with some seeding.

(This is getting to read like the Agricultural Column.)

See quite a large amount of Fred Sparkman of recent months. Fred's wife, Rose, is in Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and has not been at all well. She expects to undergo a pretty serious operation very soon. Good luck Rose and Fred.

Victorian Vocal Venturings

We recently held a committee meeting at Bert Tobin's office.

Present were: Alan Munro (in the chair), George Kennedy, George Robinson, Alec Boast, George Veitch, Jim Robinson, Bert Tobin, Johnny Roberts, Bill Sharpe, Sep Wilson, Bruce McLaren, Harry Botterill.

Under discussion were matters of importance that the West have been waiting for us to discuss. These were dealt with and the necessary information has been sent to them.

We also discussed Anzac Day, and decided to again join the Combined Commandos in their re-union after the march on Anzac Day.

We made our final arrangements re the Sunday trip to Bendigo on March 26. It was a very successful meeting and well attended.

Sunday, March 26, was a beautiful day and we set off from Melbourne with a bus load of members and their families to spend a terrific day with Kevin Curran and Bluey Sargeant who had arranged a very good day for us on the shores of Lake Epalock.

When we arrived Kev and his many good friends and wonderful supporters of our Association, had set up a shelter (to keep off the sun) and had some refreshments waiting for us to lay the dust. A good start to what was a wonderful day. Boats were available to take us on the Lake and a good time was had by all. Quite a few went up by their own transport and helped swell the numbers to bring a smile to Kev and Harry's faces and make them feel it was well worth while.

Ken and Margaret Monk and Ken's brother Ron and his wife, Reg, made the trip from Poowong, and believe me that's quite a distance, but they always make our shows.

Our thanks to Kevin and Harry and all their friends for a terrific day. We all thoroughly enjoyed it.

Bruce McLaren is at present, enjoying a well earned long service leave and has journeyed up to the Gold Coast area where he and Loraine hope to spend a few weeks

enjoying the sunshine. Bruce and Loraine had hoped to make the trip to Bendigo but had made their arrangements to go north and left a few days before.

Johny and Kath Roberts did a wonderful job with all the arrangements for the Bendigo trip and our sincere thanks go to them. Johny and Kath have been great advocates of this travelling together in a bus instead of going in our own cars and everybody who has travelled on these trips agrees with them.

Just made a business trip to Tassie and spent a very enjoyable evening with Vic and Esse Pacey. Vic was on leave and really enjoying it. Also saw Mark Conway for a few moments in Launceston. He has hopes of making a trip to Perth for the football carnival later this year and renewing old acquaintances.

Been racking the old grey matter to see if I have forgotten anything. I can see I will just have to make a note of things as they happen. Anyway this is all the news I can remember so until next time all the best.

—HARRY BOTTERILL.

Heard This?

Getting married is a good deal like going into a restaurant with friends. You order what you want, then when you see what the other fellow has, you wish you had taken that.

* * *

A girl we know has met the rising cost of living by simply selling an extra key to her apartment.

* * *

The difference between the average man and a playboy is that the average man likes to give a girl a present while the playboy would rather give her a past.

* * *

Susie says she's always wondered how the bride is to know who was the best man at the wedding when only the husband goes on the honeymoon.

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as soon as possible

New South Wales News

It has been an extremely busy month for the N.S.W. Branch.

Our usual monthly meeting at Arncliffe R.S.L. Present: A. Luby (President), Alan Addison, Bill Coker, Mick Devlin, Ron Hilliard, Bill Bennett, Jack Keenahan, John Darge, Paddy Kenneally. Apologies were received from Ron Trengrove, Jim English, Cliff Paff.

Also present at the meeting were several members of the Arncliffe R.S.L. Sports Club Committee. They were there to examine ways and means of raising funds to help finance Pauline English's trip to Germany, as one of the Australian swimming team in the Paraolympics.

Billy Gleeson, of Arncliffe R.S.L., came up with a gem we were only too willing to accept. This is the gist of it. Arncliffe R.S.L. Soccer Club annually runs what is known here as a 200 Club. For a period of 15 weeks with a weekly prize of \$20 or \$30 divided between the first four prize winners. The method of determining the winners is based on the first four prize winners in the first ordinary lottery drawn that week in the N.S.W. State Lottery. The R.S.L. Sports Committee proposes to run the 200 Club for an extra five weeks, increase the weekly prize total to \$50, that is a first of \$20 and the next three of \$10 each. The entry fee for the Club to be \$20 which gives each participant the chance of winning any of the prizes in any or every week for 19 weeks, and in the 20th week the chance of winning a first prize of \$1,000, second prize \$500, third prize \$250, fourth prize \$125. The profits of the first five weeks which will be \$750 to go to the Pauline English Paraolympics Fund. The 2/2nd Commando Association, N.S.W. Branch, to get 50 contributors as their quota of the 200 Club. A quota which we are fast filling at this juncture.

Pauline has to raise between \$1,740 and \$1,850 as her share of the expenses.

Helen Kenneally organised a car rally amongst the students and school Alumni group which netted about \$140 to the fund for Pauline.

Various other groups as well as

Pauline's uncles and aunts are also busy raising money for her share of the expenses.

The Barbecue Picnic to the Motor Yacht Club at Cottage Point was a beauty. The weather for the occasion was glorious. The water views and the surrounding rugged hills were at their best. Bill Coker became number one for all those present. He took all and sundry for trips in his cruiser to the entrance of Broken Bay. Graham Coker acted as captain so Bill did not have to interrupt the serious business of ear bashing and a drink or two. Pauline English assisted the skipper as coxswain and a glamorous coxswain she was too. Bill produced a few bottles of home brew. Must have been all right as the boys kept backing up for more. I was still teetotal as I was still in strict training for Anzac Day.

The roll call for the picnic was: Alan and Ede Luby; Bill, Coral, Kim, Graham and Mark Coker; Jim, Jean and Pauline English; Ron, Pat and Glenn Hilliard; Harold, Bonnie, Denise, Warren and Glenn Newton, plus Warren's fiance and Glenn's girl friend (I can't remember all the names); also there were four Newton grandchildren as you can see the family was well represented; John Donovan and daughter Linda; Jack, Maria, Janine, Andrew, Phillip, David, Hartley; Ron, Marge, Geoff, John and Loretta Goodacre; Bill and June Bennett; Nora, Michael, Sean, Gerald and Paddy Kenneally; Mick and Betty Devlin.

We had a Westralian visitor in Don Sadler. He is doing his national service over here. He is out Penrith way towards the mountains. He will find it nice and cold come winter. He is a ringer for Charlie and Stan in appearance and the way he carries himself as he walks. I always thought that Charlie and Stan were twins until Don informed me otherwise.

It was a great outing with a grand roll up Anzac Day. Those present: Snow Weir, Don Woodhouse, Snow Went, Ron Goodacre, Col Holly, Tommy Fields, Bill Hoy, Mick Devlin, Merv Jones, Harry Handicott,

Alan Addison, Jack Hartley, Jim English, Ron Hilliard, Harold Newton, Mick Mannix, Ron Trengrove, Bill Coker, Bill Bennett, John Darge, Cliff Paff, Pat Costello, Alan Luby, Jack Keenahan, Paddy Kenneally, Ray Bollinger.

Visitors: Ken Glover, Ray Whiteley, and Bob Darge.

The weather was glorious bright sunshine, Sydney autumn weather at its best. A good march and a big crowd. The bagpipes out in front trying their best to keep us in step, and the Yagoona Boys Brass Band at the rear keeping us out of step, however doing a good job in keeping the following unit in step.

After the march we went down to Wright Ford in William-st, for our usual pipe opener. Some of us called up to see Ruby dos Santos, however she was out. Off to Arncliffe R.S.L. and the re-union. Plenty to eat and drink, good company, what more could a man want.

Our apologies to Ray Bollinger. We had not seen him for years, and few of us could place him until Bill Bennett came to light. Bill both knew and remembered him. Unfortunately we lost him after the march in the crowd. We hope to see more of him in the future.

Jack Keenahan missed the march. His father is gravely ill in St. George District Hospital. Jack spent all the morning at the hospital with him. His father rallied so Jack was able to join us at the Club for the re-union.

Below is a list of names of members who have answered our appeal for funds for the N.S.W. Branch of the Association: Cliff Paff, Jack Hartley, Tom Martin, Bill Bennett, Bill Coker, Tom Fields, Ron Trengrove, Alan Luby, John Darge, J. M. Lett, J. W. Iles, Bill Cowie, Andy Beveridge, Les Collins, Ron Hilliard, Keith Craig, Harry Handicott, Frank Jackson, Paddy Kenneally, Mick Devlin, Jack Keenahan, Coll Holly, W. L. Roberts, George Greenhalgh, Harold Newton, Ron Trengrove, C. Beavis, Slim Webster, Frank Sharp, Snow Weir, Ron Goodacre, Jim English, Mick Mannix, Pat Costello, Bill Hoy, Merv Jones, Ken Glover, Ray Whiteley. Total to date \$137.

Congratulations, boys, good work, keep it coming in. Receipts will be sent out in due course. We knew that as soon as you chaps realized

the dire straight we were in for funds you would come good. Thank you.

I have one more appeal to make, this is on your time. Would you all please drop a line to our long suffering Editor in the West, giving him some news of yourself and your families. There are fellows you were close mates with during your army days who would love to hear of you once again. What better way of doing it than through the letter column of the "Courier"? It's made to order for you to let a bundle of blokes know of your doings in one letter.

You chaps who remember Neil Bray—our "I" man cum conscripted cook at Dumpu—will be interested to hear that he has forsaken the field of advertising and the hectic life of the northern beaches, not to mention the scenery on and off the beach, for a life of rugged endeavour in the erstwhile gold town of Hillend. He has become host of the Royal Hotel, Hillend, founded in 1872 across the road from Neil and the Royal is Brays Dispensary founded in 1870. The original Mr. Bray must have anticipated Neil's eventual arrival, made provision accordingly. Good luck in your new venture, Neil. Rest assured any of the old gang passing you way will call and renew old times over a noggin—you to shout.

Sorry to report that Rene Greenhalgh has not been enjoying the best of health since returning from the West. A couple of trips to hospital for treatment and an operation. Happy reports an improvement now. We all wish you a speedy recovery, Rene. Happy is himself in the pink. Stay that way George my boyo.

Coll Holly would like news of his old mate Laurie Perkins. Snow seems to have disappeared. I have a photo of him, Ron Hilliard and myself taken on Anzac Day 1947, and as that was the last Anzac Day I spent in Sydney until 1952 or 3 I don't think I have seen him since. Should anyone sight him give him Col's address, please. Also news of Slim Webster. After years of silence Slim dropped me a line with his donation requesting the date of our meeting night, also the appalling news that he is just starting back at work after being off for ten months through a most severe heart attack.

A quick recovery to you, Slim, and look after yourself. I well remember the night in Timor when you were moving ammo in Indian Joe's old car and it was giving you a bundle of trouble, something to do with the fuel supply. I was moving ammo at the same time with half a dozen horses. You also had a bad leg at the time and you asked me to find Babe Teague for you. I did and nearly got shot by a couple of Dutchmen he was with. I struck them on the road. It was pitch black. I challenged them. One of the Dutchies raised a sub machine gun to take aim. I wasn't there any more I was in the ditch taking aim at them. I challenged again and a voice said in English: "Austrian and Dutch". It was Babe Teague and a couple of Javanese. I brought them back to where you were, Slim, and I didn't stop shaking until I got to Villa Maria where our H.Q. was at the time. Hope to see you soon.

Now for Col and Bill Epps, a few changes of addresses:-

Pat Costello,
"Sunset Hill",
Hansens Road,
Minto, N.S.W., 2522.
Phone 605 1146.

and

Cliff Paff,
Box 6 Tuncurry P.O.,
Bent Street,
Tuncurry.

and

Merv Jones,
11 Rowan Street,
Mona Vale, N.S.W., 2103,
Phone 997 6074.

These two are not Unit members. They have made donations to the Association's funds and would be interested in receiving the "Courier". I'll give you the addresses and you decide for or against. It's O.K. by me. My opinion, unless under exceptional circumstances, "Courier" should be for Unit members only. Here are the chaps' names and addresses:

Ken Glover, 4 Arrabanoo Street,
Seaforth, N.S.W., 2092.

Ray Whiteley, 16 Birdwood Ave.,
Cabramatta, N.S.W., 2166.

That is all for now. We in New South Wales send our best wishes to all our members everywhere.

P.S. Forgot to mention Doc Gallard who found time to slip over to

Arncliffe on Anzac Day to spend some time with the boys. Doc is bar manager at Campsie R.S.L. and has to be on deck with his own Club on Anzac Day. He looks well and prosperous. Wishes to be remembered to all his old friends in No. 4 Section.

Another I overlooked was Bill Hoy's father. 80 years of age, ram rod straight, looking no where near his four score years. Mr. Hoy senior was a very good friend to us in the early post war years. We attended many a party at his place in Bondi. I well remember Mick Devlin, Pat Costello, Ron Hilliard, Doug Dixon and myself having many a good night there. Thanks to you Mr. and Mrs. Hoy. You must have had the patience of Job to put up with us all. Good luck.

Heard This?

Two six-year-olds were having a discussion. Its content was so startling that the mother of one of them stayed to eavesdrop.

"You know," said Cynthia, "you have to have a man to have a baby."

"You do," exclaimed Amanda. "Why?"

"Well," Cynthia reasoned, "somebody has to pay for everything."

* * *

A social worker wasn't having too much luck with Clara Diddle, mother of nine. Finally, after listening to a long talk from the social worker, a zealous spinster, Clara replied: "Yes, ma'am, birth control is all right for you. But me, I'm married and don't need it."

* * *

The moon shone silver on the water of the lake and the waves beating on the shore were hardly equal in intensity to the waves of passion nearby. One ardent couple pulled apart long enough for the young man to whisper: "Darling, am I the first man to make love to you?"

Her tone, when she answered, was irritable. "Of course you are," she said. "I don't know why you men always ask the same ridiculous question."

RANDOM HARVEST

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

First of all allow me to thank everyone associated with my re-election as Country Vice-President for the Geraldton area. Also allow me to heartily congratulate everyone connected with another highly successful year of activities by the 2/2nd Association, with particular mention of the great job being done by the "Courier" Editor, Col Doig. Congratulations, Col, on the presentation you received, and congratulations also on your excellent Anzac Editorial—it was a real beauty. They say all great minds think alike—the sentiments you expressed were similar to those contained in our R.S.L. Anzac Day Address at Geraldton and also in a resolution I submitted at the end of our R.S.L. Re-union three days before Anzac Day. There was a terrific response to the thoughts expressed by us—so much so that thousands of people, both young and old—flocked to our Anzac Day commemoration.

Nip Cunningham and Yours Truly marched together at both the Dawn Parade and the main parade and we had a good chin-wag over a few (?) rum-coffees at the traditional gunfire breakfast. Nip, who wishes to be remembered to all the boys, said he was pleased to have stevedore Merv Ryan call on him at the Mercantile Club the other day.

Bill Drage was at our Anzac Day Service at Birdwood House, where he laid a wreath on behalf of some friends whose son paid the supreme sacrifice in Vietnam. In a very touching ceremony 38 wreaths were laid by representatives of various organisations, including youth groups.

It was our pleasure to have a T.V. coverage of the Anac Day parade in Perth, and it was a special pleasure to see the good show put on by the 2/2nd boys and their Commando colleagues.

I had a few (?) sheries and beers with Bruss Fagg at the R.S.L. Re-union at Geraldton, at which Bruss was among the speechmakers, in his capacity as President of the R.S.L. at Northampton. Bruss is still hoping to catch up with Geraldton's new Harbourmaster, Capt. Allan Bennett,

previously of Esperance, who was Master of the boat that brought Bruss and others back to Australia from Timor. Bruss gave a very thought provoking Anzac Day address at Northampton, he having told me at our Re-union that he wholeheartedly supported the sentiments expressed by our Happy Editor, in his editorial.

I had a letter from Bert Burgess, of Katanning, concerning a family friend who has come to Geraldton. It was my pleasure to make some contacts on his behalf. Bert occasionally meets Alf Hillman who now lives at Katanning but still has an interest in the Broomehill farm. Alf and Elsie are planning a trip to Melbourne in May.

It's certainly a small world. I was having a couple of noggins the other night when I got into a conversation with a young Bendigo chap from the Slim Dusty Show. He said he knew Kev Curran, mainly through football and politics, and would pass on our kind regards when he returned to Bendigo.

Bowls continues to be my favourite pastime—that is, when I am not barracking for Brigades and West Perth Football Clubs—and I have competed with success in several championship events, in which I have been a teammate of country champion Tooley Starr, who, incidentally, was my skipper in the "A" Division pennants this season. Geraldton also has the champion country woman bowler, Mrs. Sybil Grigsby, of the Wonthella Club, and she and Starr are to be honoured at a civic function.

Well, I must be off now, as duty calls. However, before I go let me say, be on the look-out for a T.V. newsreel story about the rock lobster industry at the Abrolhos Islands because we have just had a T.V. crew over there.

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

I must be getting old. I have not felt much like writing since my last letter to the "Courier", but here goes for a try.

I have not been able to get to the last two monthly meetings as work seems to take up a lot of my

time and I don't feel like another 60 miles there and back, at the end of a day, and at night, but I will make those I can.

Since Christmas I have had the pleasure of being able to call in on the Derbins and having a cup of coffee before I returned to work and Bet was able to show me the Safari 71 album she was putting together, and I only hope if anyone else does the same they won't have taken so many pics of a certain bloke I know rather well as it makes him very embarrassed. It isn't that I am self-conscious but it makes it appear that wherever there was a camera the Mona Vale traveller was there. Ah, well, my public.

When I opened my "Courier" I immediately read the notice about the do at Helen and Joe's place and I guess I felt like many more did. Had I the wherewithall to rush away and book a plane I would be there with bells on.

My mind then went into retro and to use some lines to my own advantage from the poem by the poet "Have a Chat" or "Stalky" alias Longfellow or was it Wordsworth, and I quote:

"I wandered lonely as a cloud o'er hill and dale,

When all at once I saw a crowd"
around Mine Host at the Imperial bar.

Once again I was reliving Safari 71. I hope that one day in the not so distant future, I will be back in the middle of that "crowd of daffodils" in the bar and I will once again be asked to come out for the day or evening to your place again, and especially to those who asked and I could not accept. Manjimup would be a high priority, Geraldton, then to the south to see Vince Swann Tom Crouch and after glancing through the Sept. 71 "Courier" I guess all the names on Page Six would just about fill in my itinerary that I would like to lay down for a trip West. To come out for the day, the evening, or the meet at the bar, just to be in your company, and of the people who mean so much to a part of my life that you are more like a family than distant friends.

When anyone over here talks about holidays or trips I get lyrical about W.A., the people, and the clean, magnificent air, the wonder-

ful trip with 57 friends, how to see your own country, with the exception that no one person could hope to get as much out of it as I did because I had, I repeat, 57 friends on the way and it seems a couple of hundred more to meet me when I got there.

And what about Dorothy K. waking Jack Keenahan up to try and stop his stomach swishing and swashing about above her in his bunk, only to find out it was the water tank built into the carriage above him. Now where would anyone get the idea that Jack ever has that much to drink, I ask you?

Then, of course, there's the bloke who fixed his bunk so that at the moment he laid down it would knock his wife out. I mean Marj might say a few words now and again but if a health diet won't keep her quiet try a gag Merv. Personally I don't think it warrants anything as serious as knocking the girl unconscious. In any case she got even and look how you suffered in Perth. You don't really think that was accidental, do you? By the way did I ever thank you for that night trip around Perth with Lefty Craig, and probably the nicest taxi driver in the business. So nice that he kept your change when I pressed him to do so. I know you wanted somebody to be happy so why not let him be in it.

Before I let this pen run any wilder and being on the subject of Safaris may I say a few words on the subject (who says he hasn't?). While a trip to N.Z. would be wonderful I could not see that it would be as great as a get together here in one of our own States and it would preclude so many who could make any State but not an overseas' jaunt however close. I for one could not make it as our budget is so restricted now that our eldest son, Shane, is a student at the Advanced College of Education in Canberra, and we hope to do the same for Garth in three years time. But please remember I am only speaking for myself.

But while mentioning Canberra my wife and son Shane and Yours Truly were fixing up things for Shane to enter the College we called out to see the Snowdons. I had the pleasure of meeting the rest of the family and renewing the friendship

with Bonnie and Tom, the latter forcing me to go to his football club and while we only went there for Tom to fix up some footy details for the coming season we had time for a few drops of the old doins, and we slightly overstayed the time we were allowed. We arrived home upright and comfortable in case you are wondering. Yes? Have a chat Snowdon came home from school and managed to get a few words in here and there as if she wouldn't.

Tom and Bonnie have opened their hearts and house to Shane as if they have known him all his life and it made Dorothy and I feel very good to know that he has a place to go if he is in need of anything at any time.

I fully expected to see the "Courier" so full of Safari letters that one would have been able to compile a minute by minute history of perhaps the greatest or one of the moments of my life. However I guess all the good intentions are gang a glae or is my Scotch that bad I should say gone astray.

As you all now know my friend and yours and comrade in arms, has left us. I wrote to Nance Rose and I feel that anything I may add here would not be enough or describe our loss.

Once again going back to the subject of Safaris. Frank Press suggested a year or so ago that we congregate at "Bobanaro" for a weekend. Well nothing has been done about organising this so if Frank is still agreeable why not let us kick the idea around for the N.S.W. mob and make a Mini Safari, and if other Staters happened to have holidays they could make "Bobanaro" their calling point or turning point or their aim for a future trip providing sufficient notice was given and all things being equal it could be a great rendezvous as it is reasonably central for all N.S.W., Bathurst being well connected with good roads from every direction, and Carcoar being a hop, step and you're through the gate at the Press gang's place. How about that, Frank?

No doubt those who have caravans could use them. Those who have or go camping would not have any problems. Those who haven't there would be a woolshed or sheds around and if there are some who

are without personal transport it could be easily made by train if no one had room in their cars.

Not wishing to repeat myself but how about that?

Once he starts to write you can't stop him can you—on and on and on . . .

Did you hear about the starviing Indian tribe who sent a scout out to find food? Three days later he returned and said he had good news and bad news. He hadn't found anything to eat except buffalo dung. So what's the good news, said the Chief. There's plenty of it, said the scout.

So to continue our chat as another week has passed since my last full stop.

I was out at the Royal Show last night (working of course) and having just stepped out of a Tooheys Milk Bar I almost fell over our friendly R.A.P. man, Cliff Paff, and a couple of his friends. As I had had my quota of milk for the evening I could not join them in some more refreshment but Cliff said he will see us Anzac Day, also made some mention of a picnic at Cottage Point for those who have a recollection that they may have heard that name before you will recall that in the "Year That Was" we had that ripper of a day on the Krait, and the barbecue at the above place, and if it is still a bit hazy well Bill Coker can be found there most Saturdays and Sundays.

Well, as the actress said to the Bishop: See you when I've got nothing on.

J. P. KENNEALLY, of 28 Wilkins Street, Yagoona, 2199, writes:—

Alan Luby was telling me you rang him requesting some information regarding raising money for Pauline English.

As you already know she has been selected in the Australian team contesting the Paralympics in Heidelberg Germany, in August this year. The team leaves Sydney on July 24 for Melbourne. Leaves Melbourne July 26 for Hong Kong, thence to Europe.

We are having a meeting (usual monthly) on April 10. By the time we have that and then contact you, it would not leave you much time to set any plans you may have in motion. I'm therefore taking it on my own bat to give you the details.

We will be meeting a couple of reps. of Arncliffe R.S.L. at our meeting in April, to work out a combined joint action by Arncliffe R.S.L. and N.S.W. Branch of our Association in a fund raising venture here.

The Principal of Pauline's school has already opened a bank account to receive all funds. The Principal, and Assistant Principal, are the Trustees of this fund, and their signatures only can work it.

This is most important. All postal notes, cheques, money orders, or cash must be made expressly to this account, otherwise the Crippled Children's Association could, and would, claim any monies sent to to the address I will be giving you. It is extremely important therefore, that the money be forwarded in the name of this account. Any money you raise send directly to the address and to the person I give you, and here's the details:

Name of fund to which all money is to be donated: Pauline English Paralympic Fund.

Addressed to: Mr. K. Bond, Principal, Broderick House, 291 Haldon Street, Lakemba, N.S.W., 2195.

The above information will get the money to the right place, for the cause it was raised for.

Pauline holds the 50 metres breaststroke and freestyle records. She won four gold medals at the Australian Championships held here earlier in the month, and broke all records in her class in the 50 metres freestyle, breaststroke and backstroke, and set a new record in the 50 metre medley. So she actually rewrote the record book. Backstroke 1.03.6 secs.; Breaststroke 1.19.50 secs.; Free style 60.01 secs.; Medley 3.49.6. Good going for a girl who only took up swimming last Christmas holidays.

She was on one of the sports shows on T.V. today and she looked absolutely gorgeous.

Luckily for me and the information, Nora has kept a scrap book of paper cuttings on Pauline for years. The first one goes back about 11 years—actually 10 years to the day.

Good night and good luck. I'm hitting the cot, 4.30 a.m. comes round very quickly.

A Later Letter From Paddy:

This note will be brief. I have had a busy time on the Newsletter.

Most of the news is contained in that, any way.

Firstly, Norman Thornton is broad casting the news that I owe him a letter. His usual form of attack when he is behind news wise. I will, however, admit to owing Keith Dignum, Ron Gurr, and Dud Tapper letters. Fear not when our present busy period in N.S.W. has ended I'll get on to the job of your correspondence. If Norman behaves himself I will remember him as well.

All my family are keeping well. Nora is just about back to her old form now. Still has a stack of weight to put on. Everyone flat out studying. Exam year for Michael and Sean. Helen will, of course, have her end of year exams at Teachers College.

The pigeon racing season has been a mixed bag so far. A second, a fifth, and a third in the main series. The casualty rate amongst the birds is enormous. Sean and Michael have four birds left out of the 30 odd racers they started the season with. They will commence breeding again next June. Keeps them busy in an interesting hobby and out of trouble.

Helen flew up to Brisbane last Thursday afternoon to attend the wedding of Ann MacLachlan, our old friend Angus's daughter. Ann is an absolutely beautiful girl in every way. Mac and Lois can be justifiably proud of her. I'll bet she looked gorgeous yesterday as she walked down the aisle. Helen will be back on Monday evening so we will have a first hand account of the doings.

I am still plugging away at the concrete. Getting slower and less enthusiastic each year. Unfortunately for me I possess little talent outside of a supposed ability to work hard, in the manual sense. The weather knocked hell out of us. Serves me right. I kept harping on the plight of the country through lack of rain. That was certainly rectified. We had one of the wettest summers on record.

Wouldn't bet on this, but I reckon the sack cloth and ashes would have been donned in the Jones' home last night. Eastern Suburbs slaughtered Manly yesterday in the football. I reckon if Manly could only keep Sid Barnes quiet they could have a show but only just. They are first class in and outers. I reckon Mick

and Betty Devlin will rule the roost once again. Souths will take a power of beating.

Good night and good luck to all. You have all the news from this end of the world in the newsletter.

Terry Paull was a surprise visitor to our place. He had me beaten. It wasn't until he mentioned who he was that I recognised him. Of course he would not have known me either had he not been in our place. I came in from work covered in sump oil, concrete and mud. I reckon Terry didn't know who the devil I was until I had a bath and changed into something decent. We went down to the local and had a couple before tea, and a few more after tea. He looks well. Put on a bit of weight since I last saw him, but as he tells me he is not working as hard now either. I wouldn't mind enjoying his working conditions or rate of pay.

T. PAULL, of 63 Samson Street, White Gum Valley, W.A., writes:

A few lines to all seeing as how I saw a few of the boys on my last trip away. First of all I finally got onto Patrick Kenneally's phone number by ringing Jack Hartley's address. I made my way out to Paddy's place per taxi and train. Sydney takes a lot of getting around. Well I finally met up with Paddy at about 5.30. He had just got home from work. He was cement all over. Well we had a couple down at the local and I came back and had tea with Paddy and his charming family. We talked about old times till 10.30 p.m. and would you believe it, it still took me till 1 a.m. to get back to the ship. Give me good old Perth.

I was lucky enough for the ship I was on to get behind its schedule and that landed me in Melbourne for Anzac Day. I was a little unlucky in one respect as we anchored out over night so never had the gangway down till 10 a.m. and by the time I got a taxi I had to make for the Shrine to make sure of meeting the boys. Of course all were duly met and we all went on to the hall the Commandos had in St. Kilda.

Here is a list of the chaps I met there: Baldy Baldwin, still as keen as ever, has all his hair; Alec Boast, was doing a job on the Committee; Harry Botterell, still as active as

ever; Bernie Callinan, also looks well, hasn't changed much; George Kennedy, still going well; Gerry McKenzie, still appears to be a ball of fire, he kept carrying a carton of Diet ale under his arm, must be short over there; Bruce McLaren, he drove us up from the Shrine to the hall, he is going to Surfers to run a motel so he will get a lot more sun there; Ken Monk, still the same great chap, I do not think he has ever missed an Anzac Day; Johnny Roberts, enough said, he got mostly everyone to call down to the ship after we left the hall and of course we finished up out at his place; John Southwell, still the same quiet chap; Ray Splatt, hasn't changed either, has of course got bigger; Bert Tobin, still the same with a ton of humour still; George Veitch, still laughs, talks and drinks as much as ever, he really enjoys everyone.

A few of us went up to the hospital and saw Tom Coyle, who was in there. He has been in and out quite a bit, I think.

Also Gordon Holmes was there. Over on a holiday, I think.

CHARLIE MILLS, of 27 Anne St., Southport, Qld., writes:—

I suppose you must be thinking the Safari had killed me off as I have been so long in writing and expressing my warmest thanks for the marvellous and unforgettable time you gave us on the Safari.

The trip back with the boys was an experience never to be forgotten and 100 per cent up on the trip over on my own.

I had a 10 hour stop over in Melbourne coming home but luckily the pubs were open and not like on the trip over when I hit there on a Sunday and everything was as dead as a door nail. While waiting for my change of trains in Sydney I tried to ring Snowy Went for a couple of hours but kept getting the engaged signal so gave up and went and had a few beers.

I arrived in Brisbane with only three minutes to catch my bus to Southport.

Imagine my surprise on reaching home expecting to find the yard full of long grass and weeds to find that my young sons, Brett and Jason, aged 11 and nine, had mowed and cleaned it up for me as a surprise.

I went over to see Eddie Rowe, at

Canungra, a couple of weeks ago and took all the brochures over to show him and his wife and they were sorry they had not gone on the Safari. Not having my own transport I could not spend as much time as I would have liked there.

I went over to the Isle of Capri a few weeks ago to see Col Doig's mate, but I can't remember his name. He is a T.P.I. and not a very well man. I have an idea he was in the 2/40th Battalion.

The dozen cans of Swan Lager I brought home were much appreciated but everyone thought it tasted very similar to our own Fourex Beer.

My wife Pam, thinks the tea towels are lovely and says to thank you very much for your thoughtfulness.

I am off work for a week at present with what is called a tennis elbow and it is very painful. I had never heard of it before and I have been having injections for the last six days.

I am enclosing a cutting from the "Courier Mail" of some of the Combined Commando Association on a field day at Canungra.

I went to the Dawn Service on Anzac Day in Southport and there was a terrific roll up. I did not go to the midday march as I had to go to work at 4 p.m.

Congratulations to Jim English and his wife on their daughter Pauline's great success in swimming.

I posted the money down to Ron Trengrove some time back for half a dozen Association glasses, but have heard nothing so far so hope he got the money O.K.

I'll sign off for now and try not to let it be so long between letters next time.

I think Col's mate on the Isle of Capri is Syd Jones from Tasmania.

FRED OTWAY, of 47 Carrara St., Mt. Gravatt, Q., 4122, writes:—

I am not much of a letter writer, but as the cyclone has kept me indoors now is a good time to write a letter.

I could not make the trip to Perth because I had to supervise the construction of my house. I had all the trouble in the world with bodgie work, and I had many months of constant supervision and bickering. I let a lot of shoddy work go to get rid of the wood butchers. I am

now in the house and would not have the butchers around the place even on maintenance.

I hope to get to Perth later on in the year. I have been down to see Happ Greenhalgh. His wife has been sick since she went to the Safari. She has had to have one kidney removed.

Angus and Lois MacLachland are getting ready for another wedding.

I went to Eddie Timmin's place but he was out. They both live in the same street. We have had our share of cyclones and rain this season. There is another one on the go now. Reports are coming in of roads cut, the usual thing.

Bill Connell and his wife Irma, have gone to Malaya to see their son Dennis, who is in the army. Bill has given up the building trade and runs a post office, or Irma does. Bill helps.

Brisbane is gradually being fitted out with brand new roads and bridges to relieve traffic congestion. They will cost a few million too. The skyline of Brisbane is changing. They are getting up high, 26 stories, I think.

Aussie Rules is growing in Brisbane reasonably well. The trend over the last few years is to get your own ground, and finance it by a liquor licence. Mt. Gravatt opened a new clubhouse today. I won't be visiting the clubhouse until I fix my own place up. I was manager of the Club for two years.

Well I hope to see some of the city boys in Perth later on in the year.

BILL BENNETT, of 186 Warriewood Road, Warriewood, N.S.W., 2102, writes:—

So sorry to have taken so long to write and thank all of you West Australians for everything you did to make the Safari such an outstanding success and memorable occasion. As far as June and myself are concerned it will be an event which will always be evergreen in our minds.

From the time we left Sydney until our return home we enjoyed every minute. It was not a reunion, it was a succession of reunions, because at every event there were a few new faces from many years ago, and it seems as if not too many of the faces have changed.

Time has certainly treated the 2/2nd Commandos very gently in most cases.

The tremendous amount of detail that was attended to by your W.A. Committee is almost unbelievable, from the arrival of our train in Perth, until its departure 10 days later, nothing was overlooked, and by reading the "Courier" it is quite obvious that all the visitors from the other States were just as impressed as myself and June.

Quite apart from the organised events the hospitality extended privately by W.A. members was so warm hearted and generous, such as Jess and Bill Epps taking the Bennetts and Smiths down to see the Howells at Mandurah; Slim and Kate James taking us to the football and for a drive along the coast; George and Colleen Strickland for having us home for a very pleasant and quiet day away from the hustle and bustle.

To all of these wonderful people our thanks for making the Safari a never to be forgotten event.

NANCY ROSE, of Box 165, P.O. Hillston, writes to R. Trengrove:

Many thanks for your comforting letter and sincere thoughts on John's passing. I really did appreciate it so very much.

It's heart-breaking to see someone you love suffer the way John did the last few months, so his death was a happy release I feel sure. However, I thank God every day for being blessed with three wonderful children, and sincere friends such as you and Dorothy, who do much to help fill the gap.

Ron I don't know who the President is of the 2/2nd Commando Association (shame on me!) so would you mind addressing this letter to whom it may concern.

Hoping you, Dorothy and the boys are 100 per cent.

Hoping to go on holidays end of April so may contact you if in Sydney.

Cheers for now and God bless.

BOB SMITH, of 6 King St., Shortland, N.S.W., 2307, writes:—

You may remember you wrote to Ron Trengrove regarding a stereogram being given to Bernie Callinan by a Mr. Metcalfe. As I informed you I tracked the stereo down and duly delivered it to Johnny Darge in

Sydney. Unfortunately I did not keep Mr. Metcalfe's address and subsequent efforts to obtain his address failed. I did look up the Metcalfes in the phone book but none of the addresses rang a bell.

However last week Cliff Paff called on me and asked would I like to accompany him to an address Alan Luby had supplied him with. We called at this address together and sure enough we struck oil, and the following is some information about the man who donated the stereo-gram to our Unit Association.

His name is Ken Metcalfe and is at present living with his sister at 9 Fairfield Ave., New Lambton, Newcastle. He did not serve with the 2/2nd but with Army Intelligence General Staff. At the time our Unit was at Katherine in N.T. he was there and had occasion to investigate the shooting of some cattle by members of our Unit (??). Later when we were in Timor he was a member of his Unit to decode our messages from Timor. Later on when we were in West New Guinea he was in Dutch New Guinea. He told Cliff and I that he had followed our Unit's activities with interest right through.

It also turns out he attended Newcastle Technical High School at the same time as Snowy Went and myself, although he only remembers Snowy.

Since the war he has spent most of his time in the islands and was last associated with Conzinc Rio Tinto.

He appears to be very ill and suffers from diabetes and eye trouble and is at present awaiting a Repat. Tribunal in May. He told Cliff and I that because of his close association with us during our early campaign it gave him great pleasure to donate the stereo to our Association. Cliff and I extended thanks on behalf of the Association and we thought because of his kind gesture and obvious interest it would be a kind gesture in return if he could be placed on the mailing list of the "Courier". However this is entirely up to you.

I read the last two "Couriers" with great interest in regard to the proposed Safari to New Zealand and I am afraid that should the high costs as associated with your last advice prevail then I must have

second thoughts (although I realize you only gave figures for W.A. participants) about the trip.

Cliff Paff has called on me twice over the last few months and we have discussed this matter prior to your last costs advice and we had agreed that a Safari held in one of the capitals—Sydney, Melbourne, or Adelaide, would be more in order rather than New Zealand where contacts and ties have not been maintained since the war.

Based on the figures you supplied it would be hard enough for a husband and wife to raise that kind of money let alone parents who wished to include their families in a trip. So I am afraid I am more in favour of an alternative suggestion for our next Safari in 1974. I will be looking forward to the next issue of the "Courier" to find out how others may have reacted to your advice, and to also find out if any alternative suggestions have been made.

As I have already said, I have seen Cliff Paff a couple of times lately when he has called at our place and I can say that Joyce and I have enjoyed his visits very greatly. On his last visit (I should say prior to last week) we grabbed a heap of ale and headed out to Noel Buckman's place at Valentine and spent a very enjoyable afternoon with Noel and Marie. We have also had a visit from them since and I must say, it is always a pleasure to see them.

On reading Betty Craig's letter I wondered how anyone could be more mixed up. First two left slippers and then her letter ending up in Perth, Scotland. I do feel sorry for Keith!! I must agree with Betty, our get-togethers on the first floor of the hotel were wonderful and (apart from the rest of our terrific turn outs) something we can remember with great pleasure.

Sorry I have rambled on so long, so shall bring your suffering to an end by wishing all in the West, the best—I am a poet and don't know it.

**FRANK SHARP, of 22 Quinn St.,
Dubbo, N.S.W., 2830, writes:—**

Do hope that you W.A. boys are all fighting fit and have fully recovered since those terrible fellows from the Eastern States have left your fair city.

We will never forget it or your

hospitality. It is still the talk of the day over this way when any of the boys get together. It was truly one of the finest ten days that Phyllis and I have had since being married. I would have no difficulty in getting her to migrate across to your lovely city or suburbs. She was really fascinated with you good people and Perth itself.

Yesterday was a great surprise for me. I received a phone call about 10.30 a.m. Phyllis answered it and informed me that a woman was at the end of the phone and wished to speak to me. Being taken by surprise I said, what woman would want me on the phone. Shakingly I answered with a meek voice and received a reply, Mr. Frank Press's secretary speaking and was advised that Mr. Press wished to speak to me. The old gentleman took the receiver and his first words were: How are you Sharpie? Are you dry and would you like to meet me at the Railway Bowling Club as I have a fire to put out from last night. (The fair woman was his niece). Frank has tried to contact me before on three occasions in Dubbo since we arrived back from the Safari but I have been out of town on each occasion.

He was again on one of his R.S.L. Council visits, he being one of the Western Divisional Councillors of the R.S.L. in this State and the previous evening he had to attend a big function at the Wellington R.S.L. Club and then journeyed the extra 30 miles to Dubbo and have the weekend here with his brother-in-law another ex-digger and member of our bowling club.

We had a wonderful two hours together and many a story was related about our trip to W.A. and what a wonderful success it was and well worth while making the trip.

Frank looks well and sends all his best wishes to all you villians over there and we are both looking forward to our next re-union.

We were very thrilled to read the news regarding the Queens New Year Honours to two of our former boys and I wish them both my fullest congratulations for work well done and a reward well earned by both of them. Congratulations Harry and Fred. Keep up the good work.

I am hoping to make the trip to Sydney for Anzac Day this year to

have a day with the boys in the March and also at Arncliffe R.S.L. Club afterwards.

I have not seen any of the boys since coming back but did have a visit from Keith and Betty Craig as they passed through Dubbo after visiting Keith's father at Gilganara. They had some very nice slides to show us.

We do hope that your barbecue at Joe Poynton's was a very happy function with two such lovely hosts how could it be any other way. Give them both our very good wishes and regards.

We are passing through a wonderful season over here in the western part of the State. Lovely rain everywhere and the countryside looking beautiful. I was thinking seriously of sending for George Fletcher and Gerry Maley to come over with the lawn mower from Kings Park as I am flat out each week keeping the lawns down.

Please convey our regards and best wishes to all the good folks and if at any time they should be passing through Dubbo don't forget to contact me. We are easy to find and am on the phone.

Will say cheerio for now. Best wishes to yourself and good lady and do hope to see you all again in the near future.

BETTY AND KEITH CRAIG, of P.O. Box 234, 43 Edward Street, Young, writes to Paddy:—

I have just read your letter in the "Courier" and am sending you \$5 on behalf of Keith and self towards funds. Hope it will be a help.

We have been very busy since returning from Perth, and hope now that we might be in for an easier time over the next few months.

I am still working and have been over the fruit season. My boss has a surveying business. He has taken on an orchard and strawberry growing, which is a great deal of office work for me.

I notice you say you'd like about 6 in. rain. Well over the last month or so you have certainly had just that, and if you like you could have a bit of ours here.

Phillip was still waiting to go into the army when we returned from Safari. He finally went into camp at Kapooka in November and next Saturday is his passing out parade

and on the Monday he leaves for Melbourne. Phillip received his classification and posting before he entered camp. He thinks the army is just super and was well worth waiting for. We were lucky to have him home for Christmas and New Year and we have been over a couple of times for a day. Next weekend we will stay for the weekend to see as much as we can while he is fairly close to home.

Janette still at the library and likes it very much. Mrs. Tess Rowe the librarian in charge, comes from Hillston and told me that John Rose had passed away. Only about a fortnight or so ago.

Keith is due for holidays soon, about end of April we think and we will make tracks south we think, going Wagga, Albury, Melbourne, for a week or so. The rest of the time I guess he will spend in the garden and cementing the garage.

Heard from the McRoberts, Gould bourne Ambulance, that Allan Luby had gone to Randwick. Good luck and congratulations to him.

Have many happy chats over the days on Safari and this will give you all a good laugh. As you know I never do things by halves. Seeing as how I buy two left footed slippers. I wrote a long screed to "Doig" on the trip, and what happened to the screed? I received it back the other day. It had been to Perth in Scotland. Seeing Ron Trengrove covered all the ground it isn't much good mine going in now. I can just hear the laughter when this gets around. You really would not think it was possible, now would you?

All the best to Nora, Helen and the boys. Hope this finds you all well and best wishes to all the 2/2nd in Sydney and their wives and families.

THEO ADAMS, of Box 1, Goroka, New Guinea, writes:—

January issue of the "Courier" arrived today. The pen jumped into the hand, so here we go.

Today is a big day for the family. Ato passed her driving test and now can drive her "lik lik" Toyota 1000. It's like a pram with a motor in it. She is as pleased as the cow with six tits. A baby seat for Billy, our baby boy now eight months old. Suppose she will never be home now.

Paul and Dulcie are back at school and still talking of the Safari. The brochures on the West are looked at nearly every day, then put back in the plastic envelope.

Often one of them will remark: "Remember What's his name?"

Being in a rented house we don't want to plant our wild flower seeds as yet as some other so-and-so will perhaps get the benefit of the display if they bloomed. For Ray: At the bottom of our yard is the best kunai grass in the valley, must be 5 to 6 ft. tall and needs no attention. Keeps the neighbours at bay anyway. Will gladly send a few cuttings of it on a C.O.D. basis.

Safari 1974 to New Zealand appeals very much and you can include us to join the N.S.W. contingent. Not sure if Paul and Dulcie will be starters as it might interfere with school, but then the education gained may be more than worth it. Our youngest will be going, should be just over 2½ by then. Looks a bit like a Maori so should be at home with the Kiwis.

Sorry we missed the trip to Joe and Helen's Mandurah estate. There wasn't a weekend concession on at the time.

Still have not paid for our Safari holiday yet. The banker is an understanding or stupid fellow. Nevertheless it was so great to have at last visited that beautiful city Perth. None of you buggers had changed. The reception at the station was a tear jerker for me. Thanks again to you all for the great pleasure you gave me and the family. Can't mention any individual names because that's a lengthy job, but you are all remembered.

On leaving Perth on the Saturday by air, we stayed in Adelaide until Monday, then picked up our hire car and leisurely drove to Melbourne via Mildura, where I learnt that Norm Tillett is now at Rosanna in Melbourne. He flogged his monumental mason business. Then to various other places. Called on Max Davies at Horsham. He came round to my cousin's place. We had a brief chat. You would know what about. Then we made it to Bendigo and stayed at Kevin Curran's hotel. Kev was preparing to go to the V.F.L. grand finals. His old team, Hawthorn, pulled off the flag.

No doubt he had a time after the game.

Called into Melbourne, but the stay was very brief. Saw my ailing father who has since died. Flew to Brisbane and stayed with Angus and Lois McLaughlan. What a time Angus showed us. The only time the car stopped was for us to see something new.

Haven't stopped since our return. The picture theatre takes up every night. Have just completed 60 nights straight, my partner being on leave.

Ato has started a little shop of her own selling good second hand clothing. It's going O.K. although being the off season for coffee (the natives' cash crop) the cash register isn't working overtime.

We are now waiting for the next "Courier". Regards to all.

BOB WILLIAMSON, of 2 Goldsworthy Crescent, Glenelg North, S.A., writes:—

I have at last got around to writing, partly because of conscience, and partly because Clarice keeps reminding me.

Firstly, I am enclosing a cheque which will no doubt be of some assistance in the scheme of things.

I have just returned from a holiday trip around Victoria, during which I called at Bendigo and spent a day with Kev Curran. We drank a few beers and yarned a while. He is still a large bloke and a good mate.

We also called in at Loxton on the way home and spent some hours with Howard and Dawn Marks. Once again refreshments were taken.

I am now due to start work again tomorrow.

Some months ago Bill Epps wrote that I was missing from home when he rang early one Saturday morning and demanded an explanation. In fact I took 10 weeks of my long service leave and Clarice and I went for a long trip.

We set out from home by car and travelled to Sydney via Canberra where we stayed a couple of days. Left the car in Sydney and boarded the "Iberia" and cruised to New Zealand, Savu Savu, Suva, Tonga and back to Sydney. Very nice trip except that the beer was not cold. Only cool. When we returned to Sydney we picked up the car and

drove north to Townsville via the Gold Coast, Brisbane, Caloundra, Mackay, etc.

From Townsville we went west to Mt. Isa and then through Camooweal, Barry Caves, Frewghena, Three Ways, Katherine, etc. to Darwin.

We intended to park the car in Darwin and have another trip to Timor, but unfortunately could not get on a plane, and would have had to wait for two weeks. We had already received booster injections, visas, etc., so these were wasted.

We then decided to drive home via Alice Springs. We had a good look at the Katherine Gorge on the way home and it is certainly picturesque.

Went through Tennant Creek, Wanchope, Alice Springs, Kulgera, Coober Pedy, Kingoonya, Pt. Augusta and back to Adelaide.

We had a wonderful trip, with no problems with the car, in fact it performed magnificently under some rather poor conditions.

We stayed each night at a motel and in general they were very good, except for a couple between Darwin and Alice Springs.

The roads were quite good in general until we got to Alice Springs. From Alice Springs to Pt. Augusta is very poor and the section from Alice Springs to Kulgera is shocking.

However, we both enjoyed the trip and Clarice is looking forward to doing a similar trip again later.

We are both keeping reasonably well, although Clarice has to take things easy because of blood pressure and other problems.

I have given away the water skiing and sold the boat. I think I was getting too old for it.

However, I still find it necessary to work as I have expensive tastes.

That's all for now. Best wishes to all.

REV. A. E. E. BOTTRELL, of 6 Grantley Ave., Daw Park, S.A., writes—

For the sake of Legacy you will be pleased to know that we have disposed of the first 500 copies of "Cameos Of Commandos". I have in faith, ordered another batch of the book. This issue may not be available from the book binder until late in April. When they are to hand your kindly order will be filled at once.

Legacy will collect an even much

bigger "swag" from sales of this issue. Please become an "urgr" to sell more copies which are selling at \$5 each and are obtainable by sending an order to the above address.

SYD JONES, of "Chevlee Camp", 40 Shanhill Drive, Chevron Island, Surfers Paradise, Q., writes:—

Received your 30/11/71. Would have answered sooner only had an attack of Christmas card cramp around that time. Every year I swear I won't send Christmas cards but what can you do?

After making enquiries regarding the package you sent I find they're at Perth, Tasmania, and I will pick them up from there as I have to go to Tassie soon anyway. But thanks old boy, for the trouble you've gone to for me, and I'm looking forward to delving into that package.

I never realised the complications involved in returning to Timor. At that time I just felt I'd like to go back there, never intending to interfere with the Portos "know how", but now I think I'll settle for where I am, Chevron Island. Surfers, although I would like to see the place again and find my boy, Fernando. You would remember him. He stuck with me all the way through the Porto end.

Well, mate, there's a cyclone headed this way. I haven't seen one yet, but have seen where they have been, that's plenty. It's raining like hell right now but no wind as yet, but very humid and dead calm. It feels like something's got to give soon.

That's one thing in Tassie's favour you may get your feet bogged in snow but you'd never get your head blown off.

You appear to have some good old "get togethers" in the West. It would be a novelty to meet one of the boys here. I don't know any on the Gold Coast.

Hell, I've seen everything now. A bloke just passed with a bloody overcoat on, even though it's raining.

Hope you had a good Christmas break, mate. I expected a very quiet time but it turned out quite a lively affair. My sisters and families were one of the first to build on the island only six or seven years ago, but now there are very few vacant blocks and they are all sold. An ordinary building block here is worth

\$17,000 now, if you could get one.

The above address is where my sister lives, but I have all my correspondence addressed there, but I have a flat of my own quite close to her. I would rather be on my own than staying with anyone. I feel more independent. I have a new, very modern flat. My own garden, swimming pool, etc., shared of course with other guests who have flats here. It's the pick of the whole

block. I was the first to move in after they were built.

Give my kind regards to the boys and thanks again for everything. Will perhaps have more news next time. Always looking for a letter from you, they sort of cheer me up.

All the best for you and yours for the new year.

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

JULY MEETING — TUESDAY 4th

(Glorious 4th)

First of MIXED PAIRS BOWLS for the Special Trophy

AUGUST MEETING — TUESDAY 1st

It is hoped to have Ray Aitken to give another of his now famous talks on gardening with a bias to W.A. bred plants

SEPTEMBER MEETING — Tuesday 5th

Second of Mixed Pairs Bowls for Trophy

SATURDAY, 30th SEPTEMBER ANNUAL DINNER

WEEKEND 7th — 9th OCTOBER COUNTRY CONVENTION AT BUSSELTON

NOVEMBER MEETING — TUESDAY 7th

Second of Calcutt Memorial Trophy Evenings

Please Return those MAMMOTH RAFFLE APPLICATIONS
as soon as possible
