



# 2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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## EDITORIAL

May I endorse the July Editorial of our long suffering and tireless Editor, Col Doig, in his appeal for matter of interest to our members in their various walks of life. This field of thought opens up a huge area for discussions and comments, and would not only be very informative, but, could help in further strengthening our bonds of mateship and understanding.

I say again that I have always enjoyed the long letters and articles written by those who have revisited Timor, and those who have described their family life and activities. To name a few Twy Smyth, Paddy Kenneally, Bernie Langridge, Ray Aitken, Ron Dook and many others. We are all more or less in the same age group, and see life as it effects our own age and problems. Most have families in their teens, and quite a few are now grandparents, giving another new dimension to the passing years.

Some of the occupations and experiences of many of our own members could make some wonderful reading if it could only be put to paper. While not writing it in scientific form or any particular literary style it could always be of interest to others who have not seen or taken part in some of the complex

facets of modern life. In fact it always amazes me to find how little one knows about the job or hobbies of somebody else unless you are closely associated with it yourself. Yet it is always equally amazing how interested people are in other people once some contact is made. And what better medium have we than our own "Courier".

May I put myself in this position with a few suggestions. I have spent most of my post war years in mining, but have never yet seen a sheep shorn. I have driven tunnels through solid rock but have never driven a tractor or locomotive. I can use surveying instruments but cannot play one note on a musical instrument. I handle figures all day engineering wise, but know nothing about accountancy. I can tell you more about stars than I can about our native flora and fauna and so on. I feel no shame that I do not know more about these other subjects, but have a zest for reading about them and particularly when one knows somebody who is involved in one of the subjects. You may think that your occupation or neck of the woods is a bywater, not so for others. Let's hear from a few who have been around. I am sure many will be interested to hear from you.

—JIM SMAILES.

**ANNUAL RE-UNION:**  
**IMPERIAL HOTEL, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30**

# West Australian Whisperings

## Association Activities

### AUGUST MEETING

We had a wonderful night on August 1 at Anzac House Basement listening to Ray Aitken discourse on his favourite topic—W.A. Flora. This particular time Ray spoke wholly on Bankshias and one did not realise there was so much to just one facet of Australian Flora.

After quite a lengthy talk Ray most generously distributed vast quantities of plants of bankshias to those assembled. There must have been all of 20 different varieties of bankshia distributed during the evening.

Our thanks once again to Ray for giving us such an enjoyable night and also thanks to the ladies for once again providing supper.

We will take due note of your request Ray that such a night does not occur in the bitter weather of August in future.

### WORKING BEE KINGS PARK

A most successful morning's work took place on Sunday, July 29, when we were able to do a good job on the plaques on the trees.

Thanks to Geo. Fletcher, who provided the machinery, etc., and most of the know how, the plaques have been refastened and then thanks to Mick Holland they have been repainted. Bill Epps put in a couple of new sprinklers and the rest of us did a clean up job. The work was finished in double quick time in quite good weather. But we must be getting soft in the head in our old years as we stood in the rain having an ale or two and a wongie until the braver spirits decided to decant.

The area in Kings Park is in first class order and we sincerely hope we can keep it so.

### ANNUAL RE-UNION

This year our Re-union will be held at the Imperial Hotel, Wellington St., Perth, on Saturday, Sept. 30 (Grand Final night).

The format of the evening has been changed considerably this year with the emphasis on informality. You who attend will be asked to give your comments at a later date on this change.

Please do your level best to attend and have a most enjoyable night with your mates.

### COUNTRY CONVENTION

The venue this year is Busselton and the dates, Saturday Oct. 7 to Monday, Oct. 9.

Clarrie Turner and Bob Palmer are in charge of the organisation and this will be the event of the year. An excellent itinerary has been arranged and those attending will be booked into the Vasse Hotel. Please let the Editor or Secretary know as soon as possible if you will be attending so that the necessary bookings can be arranged.

Because of the Re-union and the Country Convention there will be no meeting held on the first Tuesday of October.

### NOVEMBER MEETING

Tuesday, Nov. 7, will be the second night of the Calcutt Trophy and the last for this year. The current leader in the competition is Jerry Maley but he is not that far in front that he cannot be beaten, so this is your great chance to take out the trophy.

## Committee Comment

Management Committee met at Anzac House on Tuesday, Aug. 15.

President Len Bagley advised the Committee of the recent deaths of Campbell Rodd and Tommy Coyle, in Victoria, also the death of Bill Tucker's wife, Bruss Fagg's wife and Colin Hodson's father. Not a very good note to start a meeting but this appears to be a sign of the times.

Ron Kirkwood gave the financial statement which indicated sufficient fluid funds until the Mammoth Raffle is completed.

Bill Epps advised that the new Address Book was completed and he expected to be able to mail this with the next "Courier".

The itinerary for the Country Convention was discussed and approved. A show of hands among the Committee and people whom they knew would be attending showed that at least 14 couples would be making the trip.

The format of the Annual Dinner was discussed at length and it was

decided that the emphasis be largely on informality with a buffet meal and speeches confined to "The Queen", "Unit and Association" and "Visitors". The charge for the evening was fixed at \$3 per head.

A letter was received from the Victorian Branch giving their seal of approval to proposed plans for the 1974 Safari. Their suggestions gained the approval of our Committee.

Col Doig, as Editor, advised that he was going to try and start a new segment in the "Courier" in which persons were going to be asked to write on their trades, professions or businesses for the edification of readers who probably do not know just how the other half ticks. It will also serve the purpose of telling readers what their mates are doing.

### PROPOSED 1974 SAFARI TO VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

We are now in a position to expound proposed plans for our next Safari to be held in 1974.

Initially it was hoped that a trip to New Zealand may be possible but after much research this was cast out on a cost basis as being beyond the pockets of most likely participants.

The latest proposals which have the approval of the Victorian Branch and of the W.A. Committee will be for a convention to be held in Victoria with a tour of Tasmania which will enable us to meet our members in the Apple Isle and also those of the 2/40th Batt. whom we knew so well in Timor.

The tentative travelling dates for W.A. members will be as under and of course other members from New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia will be able to form their timetables from these dates.

Leave Perth by train: Friday, Feb. 22, 1974.

Arrive Melbourne: Monday, Feb. 25.

Depart by air for Tasmania: Tuesday, Feb. 26.

Seven or eight day tour of Tasmania with a Re-union in either Launceston or Hobart as can be arranged, on Saturday, March 2.

Return to Melbourne on either Monday, March 4, or Tuesday, March 5.

Jollification of various types in Melbourne, and depart Monday,

March 11, arriving in Perth Thursday, March 14.

The period in Melbourne will cover the Moomba Festival for 1974 and will make for excellent entertainment.

Interstate travellers should have no trouble joining in Melbourne for Tassie trip and then staying on for the "Melbourne Season".

Currently the return 1st class rail fare Perth-Melbourne is \$147 per person. Eight day inclusive tour of Tasmania (this includes air transport both ways) is \$158 per person. Seven days in Melbourne at say \$10 per person bed and breakfast is \$70 per person—a total of \$375 per person from W.A.

Concession rail fares from Brisbane to Melbourne is \$76.90 reduced by 20 per cent for a group of over six persons, and from Sydney \$42.90 with a similar reduction for a group of over six.

From the above it will be seen that this will be quite an economical tour, and fit snugly into a period of three weeks this being the usual annual leave available to most persons.

Please give this tour some thought and then advise if you will be able to make it and give any suggestions for improvement.

### ADDRESS BOOK

With this "Courier" you will be receiving your new edition of the Address Book which is as up-to-date as is humanly possible with such a wide spread organisation as is ours. This is the third Address Book since 1962 which shows just how itinerant a mob we are.

The whole-hearted thanks of all members should go to Bill Epps who is the sole author of this book and it reflects great credit upon him for his diligence in registering changes of address as they occur and then compiling the book in its current form.

It is hoped you will care for this book in the best possible manner as it will prove of inestimable value to all members.

We know there are mistakes in this edition, for which we make no excuses as we are only human, but we do ask for your co-operation. If you know of any address or name that has been omitted or is not correct please let us know.

## Personalities

Firstly some good news. We congratulate Pauline English on her success at the Heidelberg Paraplegic Games. She achieved three Bronze Medals and was within two seconds of a world record in 50 metres Freestyle swimming. There is a letter from father Jim in this edition, also a write-up by Paddy Kenneally so I will confine myself to offering our sincere congratulations to Pauline.

Ron Dook has been in W.A. on a brief holiday and it was a pleasure to be able to have a good natter with him while he was here.

Now for a heap of bad news.

We record the death by car accident, of Campbell Rodd, in Melbourne. More of this accident is printed in the Victorian Notes. Tommy Coyle has died of illness after a long spell. Russ Symmonds died of a heart attack while on a business trip from Sydney to Melbourne.

Vale Campbell Rodd, great soldier and leader. Completely without fear and with leadership qualities in excess of most people he was an inspiration to all who served with him and knew him. An excellent administrator he proved to be probably our best Adjutant Q.M. by his amazing acquisitive ways. He was well and truly known to all the 2/2nd from Timor to New Britain. Cam Rodd was an industrial chemist with A.P.M. when war broke out and was also an officer in the Militia. He, with a few other research chemists, provided Australia with a substitute timber to Swedish Pine which was then unprocureable for the making of cordite strands for bullets and shells. It would have been a near miracle that he was able to join our show and avoid manpowering to his profession. At the time of his death he had a very elevated position with A.P.M. and had served that Coy. well in South Africa, Victoria and Tasmania. Everybody who knew him will miss Campbell Rodd, great soldier and leader and top class husband and citizen. We extend our sympathy to his widow.

Vale Tommy Coyle, one of nature's true gentlemen and good soldier. As a member of 9 Section he served in Timor and New Guinea. Quiet and reserved he was well beloved of his mates. A staunch worker for the Association in Victoria his passing leaves a gap in our ranks in Victoria and of course all over Australia. We extend our sympathy to his loved ones.

Vale Russ Symmonds. Another of the quiet ones with the most pleasing of personalities. Russ joined our show at Moresby in New Guinea and was with 6 Section for most of his army career. Always amiable he carried out his soldering tasks with true pleasure. His friends were a legion. Russ worked in a big way for the Branch in N.S.W. and it was one of your present writer's greatest pleasures to meet him on the Great Safari in 1968 in Sydney. Once again we extend our sincere condolences to his wife and family.

It is with regret we have to record that Bruss Fagg's wife, Joyce, died during the month. Joyce was also Bill Drage's sister. I understand she had been ill for some time. Our sincere sympathy to Bruss and Bill.

We also extend our sincere sympathy to Bill Tucker in the loss of his wife.

Our sincere sympathy to Colin Hodson in the loss of his father. Mr. Hodson had been ill for some time. I well remember him as a good seller of our sweep tickets in the old days when he was employed at Boans.

### When in Town

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## COUNTRY CONVENTION:

BUSSELTON, OCTOBER 7 to 9



# Victorian Vocal Venturings

This is a really sad time for us here in Victoria with the passing of two of our members and the wife of another.

Bill Tucker's wife Joan died in June from the results of an accident, and we extend our deepest sympathies to Bill, Ross and Jill in their time of grief.

Tommy Coyle passed away on Wednesday, July 5, after an illness and we had a good roll up of members at his funeral to pay our last respects to a great bloke, husband and father and we again extend our deepest sympathies to his family. Kev Curran and Bluey Sargent came down from Bendigo and Ken and Margaret Monk came from Poo-wong.

We have just heard than Campbell Rodd has been killed in a shocking accident at the weekend. A car driven by a 26 year old man slammed into the back of the car driven by Campbell, whose wife was a passenger. The impact split the petrol tank of Campbell's car and shot it 116 feet along the roadway before it came to rest on its roof against a fence. The car burst into flames and a young soldier managed to get Campbell's wife from the car and went back to try and rescue Campbell but the heat was too intense and as Campbell was trapped in his seat belt he had to give up.

At the time of writing Mrs. Rodd was suffering from shock and not known if there are any other injuries. A terrible accident and a great shock to us all, and our deepest sympathies to Campbell's family.

We held a Committee meeting on July 11 at Bert Tobin's Office. Present were Bluey Southwell (in chair), G. Kennedy, B. Tobin, J. Robinson, G. Robinson, G. O'Toole, G. Veitch, B. McLaren and H. Botterill. Apologies from S. Munro (abroad on business), J. Roberts, A. Boast.

Cup Sweep was discussed and it was decided to hold it again.

Bruce McLaren who has been our Treasurer, is leaving Victoria after selling his dog food business and has acquired a motel at Surfers Paradise and is leaving with his family at the end of July.

It was decided to have a farewell night at Bert Tobin's place on Saturday, July 15, to bid him and Loraine farewell.

With the going of Bruce and the fact that George Kennedy has not been in the best of health lately, he has been our Secretary for the last couple of years, we had to find others to take on these positions, and the two volunteers were Harry Botterell as Secretary and Bert Tobin as Treasurer.

A vote of thanks to Bruce McLaren for all the work he has done for the Association was given by Bluey Southwell and Harry Botterell, and I must again say we are losing a wonderful worker, and one who has always had the affairs of our Association in his heart.

The proposed Safari to Melbourne and Tasmania was discussed along with the proposals sent by the West Australian Committee and I will be writing to them about this. We are all in favour of it here. Our biggest hurdle will be trying to get accommodation in one place.

The farewell to Bruce and Lorraine on Saturday, July 15, was a wonderful night. Present were: Bert and Wiln and Gillian; Harry and Olive Botterill; George and Dot Robinson; Gerry O'Toole and sister Kath; Leith and Jenny Cooper; Sep and Monnie Wilson; Alec and Beryl Boast; Johnny and Kath Roberts; Bert and Joyce Dowsett; Ken and Margaret Monk; George Veitch and Johnny Southwell with apologies from Gerry and May McKenzie and Bill Taylor of the Commando Association (who incidentally was at Tommy Coyle's funeral) and of course our special guests Bruce and Lorraine.

During the night we presented Bruce and Lorraine with a desk set in marble with a big Double Red Diamond colour patch in the centre, to remind them both of the wonderful friends they have in Victoria.

Our thanks to Bert and Wilma for making their home available for this splendid evening and we had a wonderful evening.

So until next issue all the best.

—HARRY BOTTERILL.

# New South Wales News

Once more you will have to labour in decoding this news budget. It would take me far too long to type it. News a little on the scarce side.

In June we finally wound up our efforts in conjunction with Arncliffe R.S.L. Sports Committee in the fund raising venture for Pauline English's trip to the Para-Olympic Games, and quite a successful effort it was. Pauline must have had some of the most dedicated groups ever to tackle a fund raising venture. The money rolled in from as far south as Tasmania and northward to New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, back to South Australia. The various clubs on the south coast of N.S.W. came up with a staggering total. The greatest effort of the lot were the crippled students from her school who put on a Wheelathon. One youngster raised an unbelievable 333 odd dollars in sponsors. Several were over the \$100 mark. Regardless of whether it was dollars or cents those children raised over \$1,500 in that Wheelathon. To me, their effort was superb. Senior Citizens, Women's Bowling Clubs, and individuals, the money just poured in. Gross \$4,065.84. Expenses were a meagre \$16.09. Surely a lesson in dedication and economy. The nett amount raised was \$4,049 and 75c—enough to cover the expenses of 2½ participants. That will give you some idea of the interest Pauline has aroused in all sections over here. The individual donations sent in are too numerous to mention. Needless to say they added up to quite a sizable total. Good luck Pauline, and not only our good wishes but those of thousands of people all over Australia and the Islands north, go with you.

On the evening of June 25 we had a get-together with the Arncliffe R.S.L. when a presentation was made to Pauline on behalf of the R.S.L. Sporting Bodies and the 2/2nd Commando Association.

The July meeting was well attended considering the combination of 'flu and fuel strike. Present: A. Luby in the chair, Alan Addison, Jack Darge, Mick Devlin, Tom Martin, and Paddy Kenneally. Apologies

from Cliff Paff, Bill Coker. Bill Bennett and Jim English.

The meeting expressed its sorrow to the widow of Joe Tell in her sad loss. Tom Martin paid a moving tribute to Joe Tell and outlined his work in youth movements and hospital visitation work for the R.S.L. In fact Joe spent most of his latter years working for the welfare of the sick and more unfortunate people in our community. May God rest you, Joe.

The August meeting took a radical change for us. Instead of sitting around a few tables and conducting four or five meetings at once, we played Arncliffe R.S.L. carpet bowls. I don't know how the challenge arose, but the result was great for us.

Present: Alan Luby, Don Woodhouse, Ron Hilliard, Frank Press, Mick Devlin, Alan Addison, John Darge. Bill Bennett, Paddy Kenneally, with apologies from Bill Coker, Jim English.

Our team: Alan Luby, Don Woodhouse, Ron Hilliard, Alan Addison, Mick Devlin, Paddy Kenneally. The only reason Kenneally made the team Frank Press was a little tired and weary after a heavy day of Convention (I think). Bill Bennett and John Darge had a previous engagement with the one-armed bandits. This particular war has been going on over a period of years. The bandits can't beat Bill or John into submission. They go close at times but then John sets them up and Bill administers the coup-de-grace, and then all you hear is rattle, rattle, rattle, tinkle, tinkle, and the war chest refilled to carry on the battle.

We were most fortunate Don Woodhouse is single carpet bowls champion of Arncliffe R.S.L. Alan Addison, Mick Devlin and Alan Luby are also bowlers of ability and were in good form that night. Hilliard, of course, well you all know Drip, unpredictable, and brilliant. He was both that night and at a very crucial point of the game the brilliance came bursting through. He's the only man I've ever seen hit the Jack, make it spin back towards the delivery end (instead of being belted off

the mat), and made us three up on that particular end. Of course, no one but Hilliard could do it. Not even champ. Woodhouse.

Don Woodhouse is, as he always has been, if he takes on a sport, he plays it well. Remember him playing softball in the army. Also cricket. He excelled at tennis as well. A good man to have in your team.

Alan Luby, Alan Addison and Mick Devlin bowled exceedingly well. They must have, the 2/2nd won 31-6 and humped Kenneally on their backs as a penalty. However it will be a different story next time. Arncliffe will be right on their mettle and the opposition will be stiffer.

Pauline English arrived back from Germany yesterday, tired and triumphant. Three Bronze Medals. A Bronze Medal in each of the following: 3 x 25 metre medley, relay race and 50 metre freestyle. Jan Murphy, her coach, said lack of experience cost her a gold medal. Quite understandable. Pauline only took up swimming eight months ago. Plus the fact she was the youngest competitor in the team. Five tenths of a second was the difference in time between first and third in the 50 metre freestyle. Talk about the skin of one's teeth. However Pauline congratulations. We are proud of you, and on T.V. that night on the news you looked absolutely gorgeous. Keep that smile. It makes all the world feel like smiling. You are a girl in a million.

I have to give you the bad news of Russ Symons death, quite suddenly, in Melbourne whilst on a business trip. This happened on June 19. I first heard of it from Bob Smith, and a week later from his wife who wrote me on July 31. To his wife, Pat, and family we extend our deepest sympathy in their sad loss. I am

sure Russ's mates in the Unit, and particularly No. 6 Section, join in mourning the loss of a fine man and friend.

Sam Fulbrook has had a bit of bad luck also. His house in Brisbane was completely gutted by fire. Sam lost many valuable paintings. They were mostly ones he would not put up for auction or sale, as he wanted them for himself. Some were ones he had bought back, because he fancied them so much. Lost in the fire was antique furniture including a Chippendale desk, irreplaceable as far as Sam is concerned. The house and furniture was insured, but unfortunately the paintings were not. On the other hand if you purchase something because you like and desire it, money is a poor substitute. Sam was left with a suit and a pair of pyjamas, so that fire really cleaned him out, but if I know Fulbrook and I reckon I do, seeing I had so many "blues" with him, Sam will bounce right back up and be as good as ever. A couple of years from now I'd like to be around when Sam narates the story.

Thanks Jack Peattie and Bob Smith for donation, also Bernie Weir \$20 for Arncliffe R.S.L. Soccer 200 Club. Thanks for cutting re Sam's misfortune.

All for now. Good night and God bless all.

—PADDY KENNEALLY.

### *Heard This?*

Two fighting Irishmen were brought before a judge, who said:

"Why don't you two settle this case out of court?"

"Sure, that's what we were doin'," one of them answered, "and the police came and interferred."

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## MAMMOTH RAFFLE:

A very few tickets left. Get your applications in promptly and forward your money for all prior applications as soon as possible

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## 1974 SAFARI:

Let's hear from you as soon as possible on this long range project

# RANDOM HARVEST

**BERNIE LANGRIDGE, of P.O. Box 41, Donnybrook, W.A., writes:—**

Please find enclosed some of our impressions of Timor. This is the first instalment. For the next "Courier" we will give a detailed description of each one of our daily tours and supply the names of some of the Portuguese and Timorese and Chinese we met and who they wished to be remembered to.

I am enclosing the cover of a notebook I had with me and got some of the people we met to write their own names in. I don't know whether you remember the chap on the bottom half of the page. He was a chap about 60, fairly grey, of medium height and lightly built. I understood him to say he was living in Singapore now.

Please find application for two tickets. If more need selling I could manage it I think. Good with it anyway and thanks for a beautiful "Courier" last week.

## **The Langridges In Timor**

Having just returned from a most enjoyable and in some respects a quite exciting trip to Timor I feel I would like to help others to the same. An added interest of whole trip was the fact that most of our travelling was done on the East end and north side of the island, an area we did not see much of when we were there during the war.

Firstly, our sincere thanks to Col Doig and Bill and Jess Epps who provided us with a lot of travelling details, contacts on the island and treated us to a lovely movie of their travels done a couple of years previously.

Two couples went from Donnybrook, Betty and George Fry and Babs and myself (both farming families).

We booked with M.M.A. who have a regular daily service from Perth to Darwin and return. We then went T.A.A. to Baucau in Timor. This, I think, is a twice weekly service, Baucau being the only International airport in Timor.

The whole trip can be booked and paid for at the M.M.A. office in Perth or at country agents. The cost was roughly \$600 per person. I say "was" because like most other things it will soon cost more.

Booking on a tour has many advantages over travelling freelance. All bookings are arranged at good hotels and other travel arrangements are of a high standard. The tourists expect and usually get the best. There is also a tour leader—in this case an employee of M.M.A.—who assists with interpretation problems and who helps the touring party visit places of particular interest.

Hotel accommodation was arranged one night at Darwin on the way up, three nights at Baucau, one night at Tutuala and four nights at Dili and one night at Darwin on return. From Perth the trip takes 12 days and it can be extended either on the way up or on the return from Timor.

Some of the disadvantages of going on a tour are that you have to go where the transport is organised for. I would have given anything to have had some of No. 3 Section with me when we went through the Ermera area. I scanned the country keenly for some recognisable landmark. I saw no sign of cactus or "Cactus Flats" and I looked for the place where the fresh water spring was down near the sea. I think I recognised the bay of the mangrove swamp but without someone to help put the jig saw together it seemed unimportant.

The views of the members of the tour was that the advantages outweighed the disadvantages. We all went to get away from responsibilities from planning the day's work for ourselves, and others too, and the organised tour does enable this.

My impressions of the island are that it is much steeper and more rugged than it was when we were there. It is also much more beautiful, particularly the south coast area around Viqueque and the east end at Tutuala where the tip of the island juts out to sea, which is a thousand feet below and the whole area is covered in a deep green, tropical growth. There is a peacefulness in the whole area almost impossible to imagine, even to comprehend in today's mad world.

The values have come from an almost entirely bartering concept of trading to one of buying and selling as we know it in the Western World. The old Patarka we used when there



is no more. The currency in use is one only suitable for island dealings and is the Escudos and cents. There are 32 escudos to the Australian dollar which means they are worth about three cents Australian for one escudos. There are 100 Timorese cents per one escudos.

The health of the natives has improved tremendously. We saw no "rice tummies", elephantitis or tropical ulcers anywhere. But the old beetle nut chewing is still very much in evidence with the older people, the younger ones seem to be resisting the habit to some degree.

It is now compulsory for all native children to attend primary school and the Portuguese tongue is taught in all schools instead of tetum. This is because there are so many Timorese dialects which differ so much that in some areas in the south east the natives cannot understand their own countrymen from the north and west. I noticed this particularly because I remembered a few basic words like "Diak" good; "la-diak" no good; "diak loo" very good, "dork" a long way; "earha" have some; "la earha" have none. The natives on the east end did not seem to comprehend whereas the older ones on the north side did and in many cases showed their great delight at having someone who could toss in an odd word here and there.

Dili has been completely rebuilt since the war, perhaps I should say

still is being rebuilt. There is tremendous building activity going all around the capital. Factories, shops and offices, and to a lesser extent houses and schools. The Chinese have the commerce almost completely tied up. They seem to have a particular liking for shops and are living up to their reputation of being the "Jews of the Orient". The odd exceptions to their control of the business on the island is hotels and coffee plantations which are in the hands of Portuguese. There is one Australian woman married to an Italian who owns a hotel and part owns a plantation. Her name is Mrs. Farraro. She would be a good contact for anyone going over there. (To be continued)

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

It has been my pleasure since last writing to you to be visited by Tom Crouch, of Manjimup. We had not seen each other for years but we recognised each other, so apparently we have not changed much (despite a bit of weight in the case of Yours Truly). Unfortunately Tom had very little spare time because he was attending a Decentralisation Seminar organised by the Geraldton Town Council, in his capacity as a member of the Manjimup Shire Council.

Apparently beef farming agrees with Tom Crouch because he looked

## MAMMOTH RAFFLE

The raffle is practically filled and is now an absolute certainty to be completed.

We still require approximately 30 applications and with over two months to go this will be no trouble. If you desire a ticket please apply early to avoid disappointment.

All those persons who have sent in applications and their money, will be receiving their tickets in the very near future.

Those who have forwarded application forms without money are now requested to forward their money as soon as possible when tickets will be sent to them.

The draw will take place at Perry Lakes Stadium on Saturday, November 18, 1972.

very well. It was his first visit to Geraldton for 22 years and he was very impressed by the great development that has taken place in "Sun City".

Nip Cunningham and I had the pleasure of having a few drinks with Syd McKinley when he was on relief work with the Shell Oil Company at Geraldton. He is stationed at Dampier and says the money is good at this north-west mining centre. He certainly looks well, so the life up there must agree with him. Syd said he spends most of his spare time fishing around islands in the Dampier area and often lands a dozen or so averaging about 5 lb. each.

Nip Cunningham has been on holidays but he found plenty to do because he carries out maintenance on the houses that he owns and rents out. He had sore ribs the last time I was speaking to him, as a result of a mishap when attending to a tree at one of his houses. However, he was able to have a bit of a break at the Northampton farm of his married daughter, Jan Johnson.

My wife and I recently had the pleasure of having Scotty Wares, from Perth, at our home for lunch and fortunately we had a few rock lobster tails on hand as a result of the generosity of a friend. Scotty was at Geraldton for the day as an Inspector with the Railway Road Services. When he arrived I was busy judging entries in essay and poem competitions conducted by the Geraldton Branch of the Australian Fellowship of Writers, but it was pleasing to be able to have a yarn with a hard working 2/2nd Committee member. Scotty, who receives a 60 per cent war service pension, will enter retirement soon so you can bet your bottom dollar that the Association will benefit even further from his efforts. "Service" is obviously a word which is foremost in the minds of the Wares, because Scotty's wife, Elsie, went to Hampton Park Senior High School 24 years ago "to help out for 12 months"—and has been there ever since as Senior Mistress in Home Science.

As Publicity Officer for the R.S.L. at Geraldton I am pretty happy because we have just won the huge Colonel Collett Cup for the 12th time in the past 15 years and for the fifth year in succession, as the outstanding country Sub-Branch in

W.A. We will be filling the cup with amber fluid at our next meeting during joint celebrations with our Women's Auxiliary which won the Country Cup for the 11th time and for the seventh year in succession, as the best Country Auxiliary in the State.

I haven't seen much of Bill Drage lately but his wife Glad, has been in the news. She was in the bowls team that won the farewell fours Championship at the open carnival conducted by the Geraldton Bowling Associates, and they had their photo on the front page of the "Geraldton Guardian". She received several trophies at the annual dinner, including a trophy for being in the team that won the Club Championship Fours Plate.

You'll be seeing quite a number of T.V. news items from this area because I now have a regular cameraman to whom I give assignments.

Well, I must be off now, as duty calls. I am looking forward to seeing some of you when we hold our Sunshine Festival from Aug. 26 to Sept. 10.

**J. P. KENNEALLY, of P.O. Box 148, Yagoona, N.S.W., writes:—**

This on the side. Enclosed are the nomination forms for the Mammoth. I'll forward a cheque later.

We are flat to the boards here. Our C.O. Kitchen has gone on leave and taken her batman with her. They landed at Cork Airport about 9 p.m. Sunday, July 2. She was met by her father, sister, a brother, and our common first cousin who said: "We'd better find a lounge." Nora said it looked as if they had found a few lounges before she arrived. Anyway she went along. She's practically a teetotaler, but when they asked Gerald what he'd have, he said: "I'll have a beer." Nora said, there he was sitting on a high stool, Paddy Kelly's (his grandfather) peaked cap on his head, and half a mug of beer. He took a swig and said: "I think I'll like this beer."

At closing time (10 p.m. on Sundays in Ireland) our cousin said to the barman: "My cousin has just arrived from Australia, and we haven't seen her for 20 years, what about staying open a bit longer?"

"Right you are," he says, and then announced: "We've a lady from Australia and her son. We'll drink a bit

longer," and apparently everyone agreed. People who didn't know her from Eve, kept on wishing her luck, and a happy stay. The only one not drinking was Nora. She reckons there's a limit to the amount of lemon squashes a person can consume. It was 1.30 a.m. by the time she got home, about 30 miles from Cork city, and a quarter to four Monday morning by the time she got to bed, by the time they had drunk gallons of tea, and tried to do 20 years of talking in a few hours it was almost getup time. She had not been to bed before 2 a.m. since she got there. Of course they are like that over there. They'll go out for a walk about 10 or 11 (there's too much daylight to stay indoors), then sit up drinking tea and talking till any old hour.

Her trip so far has been great. She sends her regards to all she met in the West, particularly Helen and Joe Poynton and family, Jean and Mick Morgan, Jim and Alma Fitzsimmons, Cyril and Kath Stonehill, plus Blue Sullivan.

We are managing fine here. I have three cooks instead of one. I'm living the life of Riley, that is when Riley was in the chain gang. A run of hard jobs lately keeps my head down and rear end up, dawn to dark. It's been cold as be damned this last fortnight and strangely only one slight frost. Reckon it's old age making me feel cold and weary. However I won't excuse work all together. I sometimes think I'll do something else for a living but on giving the matter some thought I get the idea about the only person left who'd employ me is myself, and unfortunately it's no good telling myself to go to hell because I'm still stuck with myself and can't avoid purgatory.

This is the third scribble tonight so I'll call a halt. Good night and good luck.

By the way I'll enclose that cheque now. It's got to be paid sooner or later, better sooner, in case its non-existent later.

#### **A Later Letter From Paddy:**

I'm dashing this off in haste, but that's not unusual. I'm always in haste.

We are getting along well here. I'm very lucky, Helen, Michael and Sean are great house keepers. I've

hardly had to do a thing in the house. Tea cooked when I get in at the end of the day. Michael and Sean attend to that. Helen looks after the weekend meals, washing and ironing, although the boys do a lot of their own ironing. I can't complain.

I've done no concreting for a week. Finished a small subdivision over a week ago. This bloke had nothing ready so he paid me \$25 a day helping him lay the next job out, look after the bulldozer and grader work. Damn' all that. Money for nothing in fact. However the offered it and I suppose he knows his own business. I could do with something easy for a while anyway. I'm pretty tired these days.

Nora and Gerald still in Ireland. I think they will go to England at the end of the month for a couple of weeks. We have relatives there and they want Nora to stay with them and get all the news of the Australian section of the clan. They are having a glorious time in Ireland. Good weather and we have so many relatives both sides that they cover pretty well all occupations.

Gerald has been driving trains, riding on the fire truck, out in the bay and Atlantic with the fishermen (and if I remember rightly he'd be the only swimmer with the fishermen), into the pubs with the men, perched on a high stool with his little glass of beer or Guinness, walking miles and miles with Nora, through the woods and along the bay, on black water river on a fine summer's evening. Five or six mile walks are nothing to them over there. He's been all over the south and south west of Ireland, mountains, lakes and wild Atlantic sea coast, with not even a fence between you and a 900 foot drop to the Atlantic. He's done damn all study, and I don't blame him. The school books were extra luggage. Ten years of age and first, second and third cousins breaking their neck to give their Australian cousin a good time. Nora reckons you would think he'd lived there all his life. He knows that many people. It's drawing to a close for him now though. He will be given a good time in England but it's much more conservative there. Besides he'd be on the outskirts of London although when I was there

20 years ago or so, it was a beautiful country side. Kent and Sussex are lonely. He'll miss the free and easy ways of Ireland, plus the fact that work is taken much more seriously in England.

I think Nora will stay in America on her way home. She has cousins in Boston. I've got distant relatives there but wouldn't know them from Adam. My great grandfather went to America after his wife died. He remarried and raised a family of Yanks. My grandmother was only 12 so he left her with my great grandmother until he could make arrangements for her to join him. She wouldn't leave Ireland so she had step brothers and sisters she never even met.

Nora wasn't keen on stopping off in the States. She's been invited. Her cousin was home in Ireland at the same time as herself. She's coming back that way so I reckon she'd be silly not to have a look at some of the country anyway. She may never get another chance. Were it me I would have no hesitation. The closest I ever got to America was Panama or some of the Dutch West Indies. Frankly I wouldn't go out of my way to see it but if I were passing that way I most certainly would.

Helen is off to Melbourne on Sunday. Some student convention, meeting or whatever else they have

Sean is going on a five day hike with the school the following week, so Michael and I will be holding the fort alone. He will spend most of his time studying. He's up for the higher school certificate in October, then it looks like work for Michael. Can't see him making a Uni Scholarship or Uni for that matter.

Sean will be doing School Certificate in November and finish for him. He has no wish to continue school. Wants to take up a trade.

Of course the Aussie rover, he looks like having to repeat fifth class. I can't see that boy missing nearly four months study and passing his yearly exam. If talk would get him there he'd be right. I don't know if I told you but Nora allowed him to kiss the Blarney Stone. That could lose her a lot of friends.

The pen is nearly empty, good bye.

#### **ALAN LUBY, of Ambulance Station Barker St., Randwick, 2031, writes:**

Will make a start on a "suat" which I will probably finish after our meeting of tomorrow night. Doubt whether there will be much from that though as it is in the nature of an indoor bowls challenge to Arncliffe R.S.L. I've just spoken to Paddy on the phone and he tells me the notices are out so we hope for a good roll up.

Pauline English has gone on her big competitive adventure trip and we know she will give it her best. The news hounds are not presenting anything in the way of results to date so Lord knows when we will know how she fares.

Number one is probably the 500 Club and whilst the local 200 Club has used up some of my clients I'm still pretty sure of at least five for the big one. Will send what I have with this, but will get you to send me some more application forms.

The response to the appeal for Pauline was a fantastic success. As well as the committee set up by her school principal and the local kids, we had the co-operation of our old friends from Arncliffe R.S.L. Club who by the support of their "Within Club" sporting group raised more than enough for immediate needs and will ensure a continuation of training facilities for some time.

Since the end of June when our Chief retired there have been some advances and departmental changes, one of which put me in the position of Supt. Transport and Control Operations. I suppose one could say one of the big three. To date it has been an extremely busy settling in, between the recruiting of new staff and the current fuel crisis, but I'm hoping that once this is over business will be back to "normally haywire".

It also puts me in the position that I'm based in at Headquarters in Quay Street, so I'm nice and handy if anyone wants to call in and see me any time. Our control room can always be a point of interest for those whose thoughts are directed towards big communications and transport movements.

On our part too, we look around other control areas to see if we can improve our systems, techniques, etc.

The bowls challenge at Arncliffe was a great night and believe it or



not we beat them 32 to 8! Paddy, Mick Devlin and Alan Addison made one team with Drip Hilliard, myself and Don Woodhouse at the other end. Bill Bennett and Jack Darge barracked from a distance, with Frank Press an unexpected but welcome visitor. He's down for the R.S.L. Congress. Tells me things are very dry up his way. Neighbour Ted Cholerton is well.

Cliff Paff called in with his younger brother Leo, last Tuesday en route to Tasmania on the "Australian Trader" for a two week holiday. He was hoping to catch up with some of the fellows from the Apple Isle and possibly do some recce work for the Safari.

We feel there is still some merit in the suggestion of a ten day or two week cruise on a real liner and will hope that this is, or has been considered by your committee.

Paddy told me last night that he'd heard from Beaky Smith to the effect that Russ Symmonds passed away back in June whilst on a business trip to Melbourne. Will call out to his home at the first opportunity to see his wife and daughter.

You have heard of the passing of Joe Tell. An unusual character who would do anything to help anyone else, but in many ways could not help himself. He spent hours and hours visiting his mates, as well as those he didn't know, while they were in hospital and for this we respect him.

I was unable to attend his funeral as I was attending a "live in" school.

The school was part of the indoctrination process of an absorption into the Regionalization of Health services in the early part of next year and this is also one of the things that is helping to keep me busy. We have a lot of planning to do for the future as well as trying to keep up currently. We are adding to our staff and our vehicle fleet as rapidly as possible—my part generally consists of elementary interviews, arrange driving tests, assess suitability, arranging schooling group for our training school, and in the meantime generally supervise day to day operations.

I could go on for much more but time is beating me so will call a stop.

Ede and the girls join me in sending best wishes to you as well as all our friends over there.

**JIM ENGLISH, of 11 Richards Ave., Peakhurst, 2210, writes:—**

I know this letter is long overdue but the truth is that Pauline wanted to write this letter herself but unfortunately this last three months have been so hectic that Pauline just didn't have a chance, so for the time being I'm the letter writer. I'm quite sure Pauline will write on her return from Heidelberg.

The only information we have as to Pauline's swimming events in Heidelberg is pretty vague. The programme simply states that swimming will be held on 2/8/72 (which is today) plus 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th, so as from 6 p.m. tonight we will be waiting for the phone to ring.

Pauline's preparation for Heidelberg hasn't been an easy one. Apart from the many miles of swimming each day we have had a constant battle against ear infection, throat infection and of course the many cold and flu wogs that float around at this time of year. This is not a cop out. I'm just putting you readers in the full picture. Coaches Don Talbot and Jan Murphy say that despite these interruptions to Pauline's training she should do very well.

As a matter of interest I will list the national records before Pauline started to swim and then I will list Pauline's times in the State trials, national trials and her official Amateur Swimming Association trials just before she left Australia.

Free Style: National record 71 sec.; Pauline State Trials 68.5; National Trials 60.1.

Backstroke: National record 69.6 sec. Pauline's State Trials 76.6; National Trials 63.6.

Breaststroke: National record 93 sec. Pauline's State Trials 87; National Trials 79.5.

A new event in the Nationals: 150 metres Medley, Pauline swam 3 min. 49.6 sec.

Official A.S.A. Trials: Pauline swam: Freestyle 54 sec., Backstroke 59 sec., Breaststroke 69.3 sec., 150 metres Medley 3 min. 26.2 sec.

I don't know how much more we can expect Pauline's times to improve but Don Talbot says that Pauline's times should drop sharply when she tapers off from heavy training to light sprints as she was starting to do before she left Australia.



As far as Jean, Greg and I are concerned we are very pleased to see her swimming at all as I can clearly remember a specialist telling us that Pauline would spend the rest of her life confined to bed, but of course that was nearly 13 years ago and medicine has advanced quite a lot since then and naturally we are hoping that it will go ahead a lot more in the near future.

Pauline has asked if you would please thank all 2/2nd types for their wonderful cards and telegrams as they were so many that it would be impossible for her to answer them personally, and she especially asked me to thank you for the many nice things you have had to say about her in the "Courier".

So far the amount of \$4,500 has been paid to the Paraplegic Association on Pauline's behalf. I don't want anyone to get the impression that Pauline gets this full amount. Pauline receives only her fare and accommodation out of this which is \$1,500, the rest goes to any other team member who may not have their full fare or failing this it will be used to buy sporting equipment, and I'm sure everyone will agree this is a worthy cause.

As a further point of interest to readers the Para Olympic team consists of four athletes from W.A., six from Queensland, four from South Australia, four from Victoria, and 12 from New South Wales. Having seen them all in action I know they are all very fine athletes and they will probably bring home a record number of medals.

Could you please thank all 2/2nd members and also members of the Arncliffe R.S.L. for their wonderful donations to the Pauline English Appeal. We are still numbed by its outstanding success and I feel I must repeat that all who took part in the Safari 1971 to W.A. must take a lot of the credit for what Pauline has achieved since then and will, I am sure achieve in the future. What Pauline needed was to mix with able-bodied people apart from her family and friends here who knew and understood the problem. It must have given Pauline a wonderful feeling inside to be fully accepted by able-bodied people, most of whom she had never met before. I know it has given her a greater confidence to start thinking of leav-

ing school and go off to work, but we would like her to stay at school for a while yet but I guess she will make her own mind up about that.

There is no point in my giving Pauline's address overseas as she will probably be on her way home before this is printed, but I would like to write one word of the address and please bear in mind it is one complete word. Cop this:

Benusforbenungswerk (oh brother).

Best wishes to all.

**BOB BOLLINGER, of 42 Elvina Ave., Avalon, 2107, writes to Paddy Kenneally:—**

In reply to your letter and to begin with, thanks a million for getting in touch with me. It was indeed unfortunate that I missed you on Anzac Day. I had to duck back to meet my brother Bill. As it was I missed out on him too. So I returned out to Palm Beach R.S.L. Club and spent the day there. I could not remember where our Reunion was being held but now you can be sure I have the place—Arncliffe R.S.L.

I was most shocked to hear of my old mate Joe Tell passing on. I had lost contact with Joe over the past few years as I go away up north to the Barrier Reef quite often and am sometimes away for three or four months at a time.

Having lost contact with the Unit for some years now you can imagine how inquisitive I am to know about many of my old buddies, Sep Wilson, Norm Parks, Alf Couplan, Tommy Towers, Ernie Penglase, Perc McPhee, to name but a few. I did have a 2/2nd Address Book years ago but moving about from place to place have lost it. I would appreciate this book if it is possible.

I receive the 2/2nd newsletter from W.A. regularly so I am not completely in the dark as to happenings though as you can imagine me being away from home so much my news sometimes is months old.

By the way Bill Bennett has my name mixed up with my son Ray I am Bob Bollinger so just put that right as I know Norm Parkes will say the B's can't spell.

A big hullo to Norm Parkes through the "Courier".

Norm and I had quite an experience together trying to catch up with the Unit in New Guinea. We

were both down with the measles, but practically over them by the time our 2/2nd mob had moved out.

That same night we jumped a coal train down to Townsville. There we jumped a ship to New Guinea, but instead of going to Port Moresby we found ourselves down at Milne Bay. To cut a long story short we eventually arrived at Moresby just in time to go up to Nadzab in the Markham Valley. So you see I haven't forgotten you Norm.

And a big hullo to Sep Wilson. Remember the day down in Brigadier Hammers wine cellar, Sep?

There is so much to write about, fellers, I guess it was always a mystery how I joined up with you all, so to save any doubts here it is in a nut shell.

I served with the Coast Watchers and on arriving back in Australia was held up by red tape at this B. staging camp. Me, I've always been a real independent non regimental type, so I just fancied this particular 2/2nd Independent Coy. I was out for adventure and I guess I was a lucky B. in many ways, although I broke all military protocol I got away with murder.

When I returned to Australia I was made chief swimming instructor to the 7th and 9th Divs, and trained fellows for the landings in Tarakan and Balikpapan for the beach demolitions. I served both in Tarakan and Balikpapan but even there had trouble with the big brass, doing the war my way. So that's me in a nut shell. I still lead an adventurous life and don't think I'll ever change. I am in good health and just hoping to meet up with some of my old mates next Anzac Day.

If you could have these few lines of mine put in the next "Courier" I would be most grateful. If time permits I will try very hard to get over to Arncliffe R.S.L. for Sept. monthly meeting though it's a long way from Avalon Beach where I live.

Hope you are keeping well old top. Gee how time flies. It will be quite difficult for me to remember many faces.

Please convey my best wishes to any of the lads who served with me up in the Markham and Ramu Valleys.

Any time you are out Avalon way call in on me, love to have you.

**HELEN POYNTON, of 169 Ormsby Tce., Mandurah, 6210, writes:—**

Now I really feel out of the city limits when I must pen a few lines like these way into the country areas.

We trust you are both well and happy as we are. Joe still busy building Cyril Stonehill's house down here but we take time off to fish. Had a great catch this weekend, a real fisherman's basket of King George and sand whiting, tailor, skip py, herring, gardies. Had plenty to feed the weekenders plus put some in deep freeze. Few prawns still going out with the tide, that coincides with evening dusk, but crabs scarce now. We can't complain as we've had more than our share as well as someone elses.

Enclosed is raffle cash, also cash for souvenir glasses. We can get them some time later.

We're looking forward to the Country Convention weekend, so could you count us in the booking numbers please. Also Julie Ann and Rhann will be with us, so that's four in all, or should I phone Clarrie to arrange bookings? If I don't hear from you will presume it's arranged from your end.

I think the Morgans are also going to go, but guess they will verify this with you.

I hope Len and Dot enjoy their Singapore trip and holiday. Give our best wishes to them and any other friends that you meet up with but keep a few for yourselves. We look forward to seeing you soon.

**BERT BURGESS, of "Burlands", P.O. Box 224, Katanning, 6317, writes:—**

It is starting to look as though the worst is over as far as the season goes. It has been a very hard one for both man and beast. Have only had about six inches of rain since last November. However over the last week there is a notable improvement in pastures and stock are starting to look less jaded.

Just here we were fortunate in having nearly two inches of rain in smart time about end of May which topped up most of our dams but unfortunately many in close proximity did not receive it and consequently are worried about the water situation. Crops are backward for this time of the year because of late

opening rains, but look healthy and promising.

We have just completed our main shearing and though the staple is a bit thinner than normally it baled up much more attractively than I had anticipated and so, hope that the buyers will be suitably impressed.

Our second boy Michael is to board at Keany College Poindoon next year and is anxious to get acquainted with the establishment and so I have made tentative arrangements to take him up during the second week of the August-September holidays. At this stage am toying with the idea of going to Geraldton to see my folk and countrymen up there.

Our elder son Peter will be making his first profession in Sydney at Christmas time. That will be harvest time for us but we are hoping that Maurie and Margaret will be able to get over to share in his joy.

Was interested to hear that Alf Blundy is currently at the Midland Abattoirs. Wondered where he had run off to. The Katanning works are due to open shortly so maybe he will transfer back here then.

Kindest regards. Keep up the good work.

**JERRY HAIRE, of 59 Monk Street, South Perth, 6151, writes:—**

The enclosed three pages (306-308) are xerox copies from the book "The Australians in Nine Wars—Waikato to Longtan" by Peter Firkins, published late 1971.

The author is a Perth man, possibly known to you. He is Director of the Perth Chamber of Commerce and President of the 460 Squadron Association. He has a distinguished war record and since the war has been prominent in public affairs.

I do not know him personally. In fact, when, after reading a review of "The Australians" I asked that it be obtained for the Library Service (South Perth), I did not even know he was a West Australian. But I have found the book good reading and I thought that these three pages concerning the 2/2nd would prove of interest to members of the Unit. It's a pleasing memory jogger to read an historian's view of events, now remote in time over 30 years.

I've been on the look-out for some time now for a Japanese account of the Timor campaign, but so far have not come across one. Even if the honourable Japanese scribes subscribe to the belief that the pen is

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## **ANNUAL RE-UNION:**

**IMPERIAL HOTEL, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30**

**This should be a beauty. Be in it to win it.**

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## **COMMEMORATION SERVICE:**

**HONOUR AVENUE, KINGS PARK  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, at 3 p.m.**

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## **COUNTRY CONVENTION:**

**BUSSELTON, OCTOBER 7 to 9**

**These Conventions are always good fun  
Please let us know your intentions as early as possible**

mightier than the sword it would need a mighty pen wielder indeed to glorify the passing of that reverend son of Nippon, the Singapore Tiger—to mention just one incident.

The concluding paragraph of the chapter from which these three pages are taken reads:—

"In almost exactly three months, the Japanese had achieved enormous success. Except for the Australians in Timor and the Americans holding out in Corregidor, the Japanese were undisputed victors along a line from Rangoon in Burma to Rabaul in New Britain."

This is submitted for you to use just as you see fit. The book should be circulating throughout the State Library Service. It is published by Rigby Ltd.

#### **"Australians In Nine Wars":**

Their next objective was Koepang in Dutch Timor, defended by the 2/40th Battalion which had landed on 12 December, 1941. It was supported by about 500 Dutch troops and the 2/2nd Australian Independent Company, which after a brief period at Koepang was sent on to Dili, the capital of Portuguese Timor. The Australian-Dutch force was known as "Sparrow Force", and was under the initial command of Lieutenant-Colonel W. Leggatt, a lawyer and citizen soldier who had had a distinguished war record in 1914-18.

Brigadier W. C. D. Veale was subsequently despatched by the Australian Government to take command of Sparrow Force. He arrived in Timor on 12 February and established his headquarters at Champlong, but communications between his own and Leggatt's headquarters broke down very soon after the Japanese landings. In essence, Leggatt remained operational commander for the duration of the fighting.

Early on 20 February, the Japanese made simultaneous landings against the Australian positions at Dili, and in Dutch Timor on the south-east coast at the mouth of the River Paha, which was undefended.

About 1,000 Japanese paratroopers landed at Babau, between Leggatt's force and the base which they had established at Champlong. Cut off on one side, the Australians also were threatened with envelopment by the seaborne units, now making a two-pronged thrust up from the River

Paha and striking towards Penfui airfield and Koepang itself.

The Australian response was immediate and vigorous. They attacked the Japanese wherever they could find them, and were attacked in turn. For four days, the opponents mauled each other in actions which ranged from patrol skirmishes to full-scale attacks, with Australians and Japanese coming face to face while Japanese aircraft ranged overhead and seized every opportunity to strike.

At last the Australians realised that they could neither break out nor hold off the Japanese assaults any longer. With eighty-four killed, and 132 wounded who could not receive proper attention, Leggatt called an officers' conference. He had hoped to break into the interior and carry on guerilla warfare, but with his men exhausted after ninety-six hours of continuous fighting, and food, water, and ammunition gone, this plan had become impossible.

They decided to give in to the Japanese demands for surrender, and went into the brutalities of enemy captivity. The Japanese, however, had paid heavily for their victory. They admitted the loss of all but seventy-eight of their paratroopers, with comparable losses in their infantry. Fourteen enemy aircraft were claimed by the British 79th Light A.A. Battery, which had been attached to Leggatt's force.

The headquarters force under Brigadier Veale, about 250 men, was able to make good their withdrawal into the hinterland. Veale set up new headquarters at Mape, just inside the border of Portuguese Timor, while Major Spence and his 2/2nd Independent Company began a guerilla campaign based on Dili. Brigadier Veale was withdrawn to Australia in May 1942, and Spence succeeded him in command of Sparrow Force.

Major B. J. Callinan, previously second-in-command, took over the Independent Company, and led it with a courage, brilliance, and tireless energy which not only kept it a jump ahead of the Japanese for twelve months but tied up as many as 30,000 men of their 5th and 48th Divisions, and killed 1,500 of them for the loss of only forty men of his command.

The 2/2nd Independent Company had been raised early in 1941, and



consisted very largely of West Australian countrymen. Tough, self-reliant, expert marksmen, and accustomed to the harsh inland climates of the West, they were ideal material for the commando-type training which they received and for the task which lay before them.

Their first test came at Dili, where the Japanese landed 6,000 troops. The 300 men of the Independent Company, backed up by a handful of Dutch troops, hit them hard as soon as they reached the airfield, slaughtered about 200, and made a smart withdrawal before they could be overwhelmed by the vastly superior enemy.

This action set the pattern for the next twelve months. The Australians had all the ingredients for successful guerilla warfare; a rugged hinterland into which they could disappear at will, a civilian population prepared to help them and occasionally to fight with them, and a calculating courage backed by expert bushcraft. With these essentials, they hit the enemy almost as and when they pleased, ambushed them at will, raided their airfields and bases, and slipped through the net of two major offensives designed to wipe them out.

At a time when the Japanese held the initiative, this tiny force threw a spanner in their works. While they were meeting their first major reverses from the Australians in New Guinea and at the hands of the Americans on sea and land, in the Solomons, they were still obliged to use thousands of men to guard their flank against this harassment, which could have become a major menace if it was reinforced.

At first, it was assumed in Australia that the Independent Company had also been overwhelmed in the Japanese invasion of Timor, but after months of trial and error a group of signallers managed to improvise a transmitting set which contacted Darwin. Their signals were received almost suspiciously at first, but when their identity was established beyond doubt they began to receive much needed supplies from the air and from daring sorties by small craft of the R.A.N.

In August 1942 they were reinforced by the 2/4th Independent Company under Major Walker, while Blamey and MacArthur gave serious

consideration to the idea of attempting a landing in brigade or divisional strength to open a large-scale campaign against the Japanese on Timor. The idea was dropped because of the strain on available naval and air resources and the heavy commitments of the A.I.F. in New Guinea.

The Japanese made several demands for the force to surrender, and used the British Consul at Dili, Mr. David Ross, to carry them to Callinan. When they sent him yet again, in July 1942, he decided to stay with the commandos, and remained with them until they were evacuated to the mainland. He was able to give first-hand advice to the Advisory War Council on the situation in Timor.

Though technically neutral, the Portuguese authorities gave active help and co-operation, and quietly provided the Australians with many facilities and supplies. The Timorese natives played an important part in the early Australian successes, but, as time passed and the Japanese began to revenge themselves upon the villagers, they began to turn against the Australians. The operation ended in February 1943, when the last of the Australians were evacuated aboard the U.S. submarine "Gud-geon".

**REG HARRINGTON, of "Ainaro",  
Wyening, 6500, writes:—**

It is many moons past since I received your letter re my election as Country Vice President. Thanks for writing and thanks to the Unit for the honour, ill-deserved as it may be.

I have never been one for letter writing and I am afraid the passage of time has only accentuated the weakness. Nevertheless the necessity has arisen. Enclosed find a cheque for \$120 for six tickets in the big draw. I hope they haven't been sold out. That five grand would be useful to most people I guess.

We have put the wheels in motion to get an air trip to Singapore early next year. Terry, one of our boys, is up there in the army so it will be an opportune time for a trip. He has a car so we would be able to see the sights on the cheap. I only hope the cheap tickets haven't been all sold. Qantas have a special deal for December and January.

I am hoping to see the Geraldton clan in the near future. We take off for Calbar next week. We are hoping we can get a fortnight off before shearing and have hired an 18 ft. caravan. We'll be taking Barbara and Mark, our youngest two.

One sometimes delves into ones storehouse of memories and comes up with some great memories. I hark back to a letter by Ron Trengrove's wife, I can't recall her name, but one of the questions she asked was, who was responsible for the bag of stone he arrived home with, and a suggestion what he should do with them. The suggestion that sprung quickly to mind (having in mind the inability of aspirin, disprin or any other type of patent medicine to relieve a headache) that they should have been dumped in the deepest part of the Swan River, with Trengrove firmly attached.

To see so many of the boys for the first time in 27 years and realise that there are so many yet to see makes me determined to take a fairly extended holiday in the East. Probably hire a caravan and get around to tidying up that detail before Father Time takes too much toll.

We started to get keen about the idea of the Convention at Busselton but then found that our school sports are on that weekend.

Must away now. Thanks again for your letter. I feel most inadequate.

**ILMA MARTIN, of P.O. Box 40, Milling, W.A., writes:—**

Enclosed please find cheque for \$20 to cover cost of one raffle ticket.

Sorry we can't contribute any news to the newsletter as we never see any 2/2nd types in our area.

By the sound of things the reunion last year was a great success. Tom and I were crossing the Nullabor in the opposite direction at the time, as Tom was asked to judge pigs at the Adelaide Royal Show.

Wishing you luck with the raffle.

**F. M. DEVLIN, 181 Pennant Parade, Epping, 2121, writes:—**

So sorry for the delay in forwarding my application re Mammoth Raffle. I mislaid your letter and it was only due to a reminder from Paddy K that I am submitting

same. I sincerely hope I have not left my run too late. My cheque plus letter will be forwarded at a later date.

Regards to all in W.A.

## Heard This?

The boys were discussing the rapidly rising cost of living and its effect on their leisure life. Several were especially bitter, inviting sympathy.

"Yeah," nodded A. Romeo Wolfe, the poor working girl's Rock Hudson, "take nylon stockings, now. I can remember when they were within any man's reach."

Three young urchins are playing in a gutter in London's slums. A Rolls Royce stops and a beautiful expensively dressed blonde steps out, crosses over to the boys, picks up the youngest, hugs him and leaves a box of candies, toys and fills his hands with money. Waving good-bye, she gets into the car and departs. The other two boys are goggle-eyed.

Then one says: "Gor blimey, Tom, was that yer fairy godmother?"

The beneficiary looks at him with scorn: "Naw, that woz my sister wot woz ruined."

For want of a nail the shoe was lost.

For want of a shoe the horse was lost.

For want of a horse the soldier was lost.

For want of a soldier the battle was lost.

And for want of a working wind-shield wiper the driver was damn near killed.

Harry: "I'm going to see the doctor about my wife. I don't like the way she looks."

Jerry: "Well, I'm not so crazy about my wife's looks either, but I never thought a doctor could do anything about it!"

When it comes to stupid answers, Dumb Dora does nothing by halves, She even swears that cowslips, Are the reason cows have calves.

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**ANNUAL RE-UNION:**  
**IMPERIAL HOTEL, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30**

This should be a beauty. Be in it to win it.

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**COMMEMORATION SERVICE:**  
**HONOUR AVENUE, KINGS PARK**  
**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, at 3 p.m.**

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**COUNTRY CONVENTION:**  
**BUSSELTON, OCTOBER 7 to 9**

These Conventions are always good fun  
Please let us know your intentions as early as possible

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**NOVEMBER MEETING:**  
**ANZAC HOUSE BASEMENT, TUESDAY, NOV. 7**  
**MICK CALCUTT TROPHY NIGHT**  
Your last chance this year to win this Trophy

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**MAMMOTH RAFFLE:**  
A very few tickets left. Get your applications in promptly and  
forward your money for all prior applications as soon as possible

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**1974 SAFARI:**  
Let's hear from you as soon as possible on this long range project

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