

1973 (Scotty Ware)



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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EDITORIAL

This is to be an Editorial on Editorials. As your journal has now been in existence for 26 years the subject matter for all forms of Editorials has been brought to a state of exhaustion. We are most limited in the subjects that we can write upon being a non-political and non-sectarian organisation so the few matters of real interest to readers has been hashed and re-hashed time and time again.

Thanks to quite a few good people we have over the past few years had some excellent Editorials and have been able to inform our readers on a number of subjects. However, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find persons who are prepared to write a brief article which

will be both topical and will inform members as well.

Your long suffering editor has many moons ago run out of ideas so that it appears that if our journal is to continue to print an Editorial then it will have to come from some other source.

Among our wide flung membership there must be many who could contribute a worth-while article and the appeal is now to those people to write something for readers consumption. With the passing of the years there must have come into your minds something which you think should exercise the minds of your friends and readers so this is now your chance to air your views.

C. Doig, Editor.

West Australian Whisperings

Minutes of Committee Meeting held at Anzac Club on Tuesday, 21st August, 1973.

The Chairman A Wares declared the meeting open at 8.10 p.m.

Present were R. Dhu, L. Bagley, C. Doig, A. Smith, J. Carey, H. Sproxton, D. Dorrington, R. Kirkwood, A. Wares, G. Maley.

Apologies were received from G. Fletcher, whose wife is in hospital.

The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 17th July, 1973 were read and were confirmed on the motion of C. Doig, seconded by L. Bagley.

R. Kirkwood, Treasurer, reported on Unit finances and advised that the current Working Account Balances was \$688.18. Accounts were passed for payment and report received on the motion of C. Doig, seconded H. Sproxton.

Correspondence:

Inwards: M.W.S.S. & D. Board re work in King's Park, Bank of New South re S.E. Asia Travel, P. Kenneally, N.S.W. Branch, re Safari arrangements, Minister for Housing, re Defence Forces Housing.

Outwards: nil.

R. Dhu moved that inwards correspondence be received, seconded by H. Sproxton.

King's Park:

It has been arranged for Harry Sproxton to mark a position in area for a granite block to be placed.

Kalgoorlie Convention:

A letter was tabled from the W.A.G.R. advising group travel concession is available, approximately \$19.40 return including meals per person. Times of service seem ideally suited to our requirements. The President has written to Jack Sheehan on this matter.

1974 Safari:

The Sub-Committee met on 14th August and was reported by Len Bagley. It would appear that the Tasmanian section of the Safari which is limited to 100 person is fully taken up and no further starters can be accommodated. The Committee appreciated the position the Sub-Committee had reached with the arrangements.

Safari Raffle:

All tickets have been issued and returns are good.

Mandurah Picnic:

Len Bagley advised that the Poyntons had advised that they would like this to be made an annual event to be held at their home on Sunday, 27th January, 1974, (Australia Day Week-end). It was suggested that a private bus be hired to obviate the use of personal transport.

Courier:

All copy is in the Printer's hands and we are awaiting the printing of same. The Printers are being pressed for action.

August Meeting:

The competition was won by Len Bagley and Elsie Wares.

September Meeting:

It was suggested that Don Turton be approached to present a discourse on his recent trip with Arch Campbell.

Unit Film:

Len Bagley also advised that Helen Poynton had placed this in his care, and it was available if any member required it.

Reunion and Dinner:

Invitations to be extended to President and Secretary, City of Perth R.S.L., Mr. Roy Lugg — Principal Wembley Tech., Mr. Dave Ross, Mr. Fred. Wilkins (Ozone Pde., Cottesloe).

Speech List to be as follows:

The Queen — Vice President.

The Unit and Association, President

The Visitors — A. Smith.

Len Bagley was appointed Master of Ceremonies. The charge for the function was fixed at \$3.00 per head.

Commemoration Service:

This service will be held on Sunday, 23rd September at 3.00 p.m. at King's Park. Alex Wares will arrange for hiring 36 chairs from Coolbev. Members will meet at the Imperial Hotel after the Service.

The meeting closed at 9.55 p.m.

Minutes of Committee Meeting held at Anzac Club on Tuesday, 18th September, 1973

The Chairman A. Wares, opened the Meeting at 8.15 p.m., and extended a sincere welcome to Country Vice President B. Langridge and Queenslander G. Stanley.

Presente were R. Dhu, A. Wares, R. Kirkwood, J. Carey, G. Stanley, (Q'land), H. Sproxtion, D. Darrington, G. Fletcher, C. Varian, L. Bag- President), C. Doig and G. Maley. ley, B. Langridge (Country Vice Apology: A. Smith (working) accepted.

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday, 21st August, 1973 were read and were confirmed on the motion of R. Dhu, seconded C. Varian.

Treasurer's Report: R. Korkwood reported a balance in Working Account of \$418.28. It was moved by C. Doig that accounts be passed for payment and Treasurer's Report be adopted. Seconded G. Fletcher. Carried.

Courier:

Mr. Doig reported that it appeared that our postage costs should not increase in the next twelve months, but from there on there will be much more financial burden in this sphere. Courier printing has now doubled and the position must be watched very closely.

Correspondence:

Inwards: M.W.S.S. & D. Board, R. Lugg, F. G. Wilkins, City of Perth R.S.L.

Outwards to City of Perth R.S.L., Roy Lugg Wembley Tech., Dave, Fred Wilkins.

Correspondence inwards was received and outwards confirmed on the motion of R. Dhu, seconded C. Varian.

King's Park:

G. Fletcher reported on the condition of the area and the busy bee held last Sunday. All is in fine order.

Kalgoorlie Convention:

Len Bagley reported on his arrangements with R. Smyth which had fallen through. Further efforts have been made re accommodation without success and there is no alternative other than to cancel the Convention.

It was moved that the Committee handle all arrangements for a Convention in 1974. Moved C. Doig, seconded G. Fletcher.

1974 Safari:

Len Bagley reported on Sub Committee activities and gave his impression that all was under control. N.S.W. numbers are down but this gives more opportunity for local numbers.

Safari Raffle:

All are sold and some thought is being given to a venue for the draw. C. Doig suggested a Sub Committee to arrange the Draw, nominations—A. Wares, L. Bagley, G. Fletcher, C. Doig, G. Maley, H. Sproxtion.

The Sub Committee was directed that no Social event be conducted. A Meeting of the Sub Committee was arranged for Tuesday, 25th September 8 p.m., Anzac House.

Mandurah Picnic:

The Secretary was directed to communicate with Joe and Helen Poynton thanking most sincerely for their generous offer of the use of their home for the Annual Social gatherings.

September Meeting:

The Secretary was directed to write a letter of appreciation to Don Turton for his sterling report.

Annual Reunion Dinner:

All arrangements are in hand. As A. Smith will be absent the toast to the Visitors will be presented by G. Maley.

Commemoration Service:

Here again all arrangements are in hand. G. Maley will borrow A. Wares' trailer and pick up chairs for service.

General Business:

C. Doig presented a letter sponsoring by the Association a scheme of bringing youthful Timorese to W.A. for training in Agricultural and Animal Husbandry matters. This letter had been circularised to various country members asking for their attendance at a meeting on the Sunday morning following the Annual Reunion.

B. Langridge presented his opinion on the possible participation and assistance of Rotary in this matter.

It was agreed that this matter be brought up again after the meeting which has been made.

L. Bagley requested G. Fletcher to have words with Mr. R. Lugg at our Annual Dinner with regard to the plaque and stone in Lovekin Drive.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.05 p.m.

Meeting held regarding assistance to Timorese Lads:

At the behest of Don Turton, who had recently been in Timor and had the germ of an idea that certain lads from Timor could be brought to Australia for rural training, a meeting was called on Sunday morning, 23rd September of interested parties. Those who attended were Don Turton, Vince Swann, Harold Rowan-Robinson, Bernie Langridge, Charlie Sadler, Jack Dowler, Col Doig, and Dick Darrington.

Much discussion took place after Don Turton had given an outline of his plan. The question of taking these lads out of their environment was most strongly emphasised but it was agreed that this idea or some substitute school was well worthy of consideration. It was finally resolved by those present that the idea be adopted in principle but that an on the spot evaluation by experts be done before proceeding further with the matter. Ron Turton agreed to get in touch with Dr. Laurie Snook as he had considerable experience with such projects all over the world, for U.N.O. and find out if he would be available to make such an evaluation for those interested.

A later meeting between Don Turton, Col Doig and Dr. Snook was held and Dr. Snook would be only too pleased to do such an on the spot evaluation and it was decided to try and enlist the assistance of Ray Aitken to help with this assessment.

October Meeting:

The usual monthly meeting was held at Anzac House, Basement on Tuesday, 2nd October. This took the form of an open discussion on the Draw of the Mammoth Raffle. Discussion at times became a little acrimonious but by the end of the meeting things had been properly worked out. Perhaps the least said about this meeting the sooner mended.

The draw for the Mammoth Raffle will be made by the Committee at the Imperial Hotel on Saturday, 10th November.

Association Activities

Annual Reunion Dinner:

This bright function was held at the Imperial Hotel on Saturday, 22nd September, 1973. The Committee decided to try a change of date this year and the dinner was held on Football Preliminary Final night instead of Grand Final Night. There was some reduction in members but nothing very significant. The country was well represented, but some could not make it as they had commitments in their own areas.

Len Bagley was a most efficient Toast Master and kept the show going with a will. The catering arrangements by the Staff of the Imperial could not be faulted. It appears that the change to Buffet style is well accepted by members who can get together better than the more formal sit down type Dinner.

President "Scotty" Wares made an excellent speech in responding to the toast of the "Unit and Association". Gerry Maley was in good form in welcoming our Visitors and all in all the night went off with a will.

Seen among those present were Ray Aitken, Len Bagley, Ernie Bingham (From Wandering), Ken Bowden, Geo Boyland, Dick Dorrington, Rod Dhu, Col Doig, Geo Fletcher, Jack Fowler, Doug Fullarton, Fred Griffiths, Percy Hancock, Mal Herbert (from Nungarin), Alf Hillman (Katanning), Col Hodson, Harry Holder, Mick Holland, Ron Kirkwood, Gerry Maley, Bob McDonald, Rip McMahon, Mick Morgan, Fred Napier, Bob Palmer, Joe Poynton, Dave Ritchie, Jim Ritchie, Fred Sparkman, Harry Sproxtton, Geo Strickland, Vince Swann, (Esperance), Bernie Langridge (Donnybrook), Harold Rowan-Robinson (Bridgetown), Charlie Sadler (Wongan Hills), Don Turton (Wandering), Clarrie Varian, "Scotty" Wares, Roy Watson, Fred Wilkins and Joe Kaliowski.

I think you will agree a very good roll up of W.A. bred's, however it was a pleasure to welcome Gordon (Blue) Stanley from Queensland, who was in W.A. on holidays and he really had a chance to renew old acquaintances with his old mates.

COMMEMORATION SERVICE

The usual Service was held in our area in Lovekin Drive, King Park, on Sunday, 23rd September. The weather was most unkind, probably the dirtiest we have ever encountered for this Service and we were lucky to get the Service completed without getting drenched. The roll up, considering the horrible weather was really excellent. President 'Scotty' Wares delivered a terrific address, probably the best of its kind ever in our history of such services. This is printed elsewhere in this issue. The thanks of the association goes out to all member, wives, friends and relatives who braved the elements to attend.

President's Message,

Ladies and Gentlement, fellow association members, it is my pleasure and honour to welcome you here this afternoon to this, our annual commemoration service. It is a quiet ceremony that we hold here each year in honour of those members of the 2nd/2nd Commando Squadron who did not return with the rest of us. A simple ceremony held among the trees that bear the names of the fallen, but one which will nevertheless be a sign of our lasting gratitude and remembrance.

In December, 1942, a comparatively small group of specially trained soldiers, were put ashore on Timor. On that date began the saga of comradeship, hardship, deeds of heroism, and sadly—death,—that is the history of our Association. We all know that story—it is just one of many that emerged from the dark years of World War 2, but to us who are assembled here today, the story is just as real, just as wonderful as when it was created. Some of our memories may have faded a little. Some incidents have been forgotten, but the comradeship is strong and living still. We show that by our presence here today, and our remembrance of those of our friends who died in far off places is as fresh and fragrant as ever. Through us these men live on in memory—never forgotten, never to be forgotten ever when the day comes when the Association is no more. Even then these beautiful trees will be living on, and the names they

bear on their sturdy trunks will be a lasting reminder to all those who walk beneath their shade. This year something new has been added. Before you, you see a memorial stone of granite which will eventually carry a plaque bearing the honoured names of our dead. Just as granite is everlasting, so will be the memory of those whose names will be engraved on its surface.

Was the sacrifice these men made really worth while? We must all at some time or other have asked ourselves this question, living as we do in a troubled, uneasy world. At the end of that struggle when the menace that had threatened the world was finally crushed and obliterated, we were all sure that such a war could never more occur, and although men had suffered and died maybe it was worth it, so that lasting peace could be ours, and our children, and our children's children, and yet how soon we began to realise, as crisis after crisis arose, that once again war might raise its ugly head. How often have we felt in despair—this is it—how often felt the relief when the crisis has been passed

I remember an incident many years ago that impressed itself upon me, and if you will bear with me I would like to tell you about it.

My two sons, teenagers at the time, returned home one Saturday after a picnic to Yanchep, filled with news about a young Japanese they had met out there. This young man was a trainee engineer from a university in Japan getting practical experience by working aboard a Japanese ship. Quite casually, my elder son mentioned that he had invited him home for tea on the following Sunday. I was not too happy about this, the thought of a Japanese receiving hospitality in my home certainly did not fill me with pleasure, and I said so forcibly. However, my wife pointed out that the young man was no more responsible for the war than my own two sons, and I realised the sense in this, although still with misgiving.

Well, the following afternoon, the young man arrived, pleasant, respectful, most anxious to please, and

scarcely speaking a word of English. However with the aid of a dictionary, which he frequently consulted, he managed to tell us quite a lot about his home and his family, and he asked many questions about our home life. All in all he was a most pleasant, disarming person and the time passed without incident. Later my wife and I drove the young man back to his ship in Fremantle harbour. Before returning to the ship we drove to the top of Monument Hill so that he could see the beautiful view. He looked at the memorial and asked us about it. Briefly I told him it was to honour those servicemen who had died in two World Wars. He did not say anything for a long time but stood looking at the monument. At last he turned to us and said in his difficult and stumbling English "It must be—no more wars". I will admit I was deeply moved and I realised that the ordinary men and women of any country, be they friend or foe, want war no more than we do.

Of these young men whose names you will presently hear—some went to war radiantly in the spirit of high adventure, some in a white flame of patriotism, and some in cool business like manner to do a disagreeable job that had to be done. No matter what their feeling, they went because they felt they were doing the right thing. If they could be with us today they too would say with us and with the people of all races "there must be no more war".

Let us then remember these things and in the standards we set ourselves, and our children and our grandchildren, let us try to make this old world a better place in which to live so that one day—truly—lasting peace will become a reality. Only then in this way can the sacrifice made by our friends and comrades be truly worthwhile.

And now ladies and gentlemen, I will ask you to stand for a moment while I read the Honour Roll. Think of them not sadly, but gently and with love, lest we disturb their quiet sleep.

They went with songs to the battle—
they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady
and aglow,

They were staunch to the end against
odds uncounted,
They fell with faces to the foe.
As the stars that shall be bright when
we are dust,
Moving in, marches upon the Heavenly
plain,
As the stars that are starry in the
time of our darkness
To the end, to the end, they remain.

Please be seated ladies.

Personalities

It is with regret we to advise of the death of Gerry Edwards. Gerry apparently died in his sleep and had not previously been ill. Gerry always enlivened our Anzac Days and was a character in his own right. Our sincere sympathy goes out to his widow and family.

Gordon Stanley was over in the West for couple of weeks from Qld. and had the time of his life renewing old friendships. He managed to meet a fairly big number of the gang at the Annual Dinner. Your Editor saw quite a bit of "Blue" at his favourite water holes. "Blue" wishes to pass on his best regards to any of the mob he did not manage to meet.

Ted Monk and his good wife were down for the Grand Final and managed some time to look up your Editor and have a few words. Ted looks well and reports an excellent season at Latham.

Maurie Smith made a flying visit to W.A. but the occasion is a bit on the sad side as he came over as a result of the death of his brother in Kalgoorlie. Our sympathy Maurie.

Eric Thomander was down from Kalgoorlie on a business-cum pleasure trip and managed to have a couple with Col Doig. Eric has specially asked me to pass on his best regards to all the mob.

Bill Epps continues to make progress in recovering from his stroke but this is necessarily slow. He looks well, but communication is still the big problem.

Your Editor and Joy Londen together with Jack and Jean Dowler have just returned from a trip around the country, thanks to Jack and Jean and their new Datsun. The four-some spent 4 days in Kalgoorlie and there were hosted by Tony and Agnes Davidson, Eric and Molly Thormander, Jack Sheehan and Ernie Hoffman, who came in from Yarri to be in the fun. We really had a wonderful time in Kalgoorlie and can only say thanks in a big way to all who looked after us in the wonderful hospitality for which Kalgoorlie is noted.

We then proceeded to Esperence via Norseman where we looked up Jackie Spencer who is now residing there. Jack looked full of beans and is very happy at Norseman where he says all are very good to him.

Thence on to Esperence where Col. and Joy stayed with Vince and Pam Swann and Jack and Jean stayed with Peter and Pat Campbell at Gibson. The week in this area was somewhat of a tour-de-force of the area bounded by Salmon gums to Orleans farm in the east and all places seeable to the west. Esperence is a real eye-opener and the season everywhere has been terrific. The properties of

both the Swann's and the Campbells are marvellous and their crops and stock in terrific condition. We were wined, dined, barbecued, billy tea-d and every single thing you can think by the the Swanns and Campbells and we can only try an express our thanks by saying a great big thank-you. From Esperence we proceed home via Gnowangerup and stayed the night with Tony and Carol Bowers at Kojonup and here again we were shown around in a big way over the Kojonup District where the Bowers have lovely holdings. We went to see Geo Timms, but unfortunately he was not at home. Once again the country areas in terrific heart and the stock in the primest condition

We travelled approximately 2,000 miles in all and can only say say that this must be one of the best seasons on record in W.A. Everywhere there was abundance of feed and crops terrific, the only small spot where things did not reach this standard was a small spot east of Ravensthorpe which has since had good rains. My thanks to Jack and Jean Dowler for making this really good tour possible.

RANDOM HARVEST

Paddy Kenneally: N.S.W. News.

The heading is rather misleading; little activity in this State lately. We held no meeting in July—a power strike caught us about the July meeting time. We had the power alright! The power workers put a darge on power production, this however guaranteed us slightly more power than the maximum used at that particular time, during the coldest spell we had this winter. However our Premier played politics and put a total ban on all power for industrial purposes. There was such an outcry from all sections of industry from management down to the roustabout that he eased them somewhat. We then had the ridiculous position of the afternoon shift commencing work at 3 p.m., ceasing work at 5 p.m. and recommencing at 8 p.m. Auxilliary power plants were being installed at a great rate and found wanting at a much greater rate. Unlike our

enterprising boys in Rabaul, most places were not being blessed with an abundance of men of the calibre of Sailor Ward. Mick Devlin could tell a story or two about power shortages.

The August meeting went according to Hoyle. Present were Alan Luby, Allan Addison, John Darge, Mick Devlin. Apologies from Bill Bennett.

Also present were Snow Weir and Paddy Kenneally (nearly missed you that time Snow). Most of the business dealt with was the 1974 Safari to Tasmania and Melbourne. I am enclosing the circular I am sending off today to all our Queensland and N.S.W. members. I take this opportunity to again remind all those members going on the Safari to let us know as soon as possible what their arrangements entail. It is imperative that the Victorian branch be given adequate time to make all

arrangements for accommodation, outings and what ever gatherings they have in mind; it is essential they have a reasonably accurate tally of the people attending.

Two much-travelled members of the Unit blew into Sydney recently — I refer to Don Turton and Arch Campbell. Unfortunately, I did not know, or find out, where the assembly point was until 5.15 p.m., too late to be in at the christening so I missed the party. However, Snow Wier, Alan Luby, Bill Coker and Merv Jones held the fort for N.S.W. and a good talk-talk was enjoyed by all. Don Turton, entranced by the North Coast to such an extent, that he staked claim; reckon he showed good judgement too. This East Coast of our is really blessed. miles of beaches separated by big bold headlands, mountains in the background, from which fine broad rivers flow to the coast. I reckon one day all that water will be controlled, and much of it diverted back inland. By now I'd reckon Don and Arch are back in the West—sorry I missed them.

A whisper that Bill Bennett will be off on a business trip shortly to some interesting parts of the World. Drop a line to the COURIER, Bill and let us all enjoy the trip by reading about it.

All tickets allotted to N.S.W. in the Mammoth Raffle have been despatched and all have been advised to return money and butts directly to G.P.O., Box T 1646, Perth; saves double handling and double expenses.

I am sure the sympathy of all members is extended to June and Bill Bennett in their recent bereavement—June's mother passed away, a sad loss.

Our annual general meeting next month; all have been advised of the date, venue, and agenda. Lets hope we have a good roll up. A few new faces round the table could add a bit of life and controversy to the proceedings—meetings become rather humdrum when its the same five or six bods who turn up from first to last meeting in the year. For the present, good luck and God bless all.

News flash: June Bennett will be on the trip with Bill, date of depart ure September 30th. Lucky couple, Autumn at its best in Europe is some-

thing to behold. Good luck, a pleasant time and safe return Bill and June.

Alf Hodge, New South Wales

Enclosed is the raffle butt, and I hope it will be a big success. I will be unable to participate in the Safari, as it is a busy time for me, as it is around sowing time and with the wet winter work is behind schedule.

I have not seen any of the unit members for quite a while, but am well informed per media of the Courier.

My best regards to all members and I wish you all well, and a successful raffle.

Regards.

Terry Epps of Double Island Point, Queensland.

Just a few lines of appreciation that I would like for to hand onto the men of the 2/2 for the terrific job they did in building the special bathroom that my father, Bill Epps, required after his recent illness.

I have already written to those whose address I have and through you, I would like to thank the following: Messrs. Col Doig, Roddy Dhu, Bob McDonald, Len Bagley, Jack Carey, Dick Dorrington, John Fowler, and Percy Hancock for all the time and effort they put into the job. I apologise in general for all they have done.

Tom Snowdon of Canberra:

Please find enclosed ticket butts and money re Mammoth Raffle. Could you kindly send me a copy of the result of the final drawing as it is good for future relations. How are things going over that way? Hope that all are well and enjoying the health that you all surely deserve. The Family here is A1, except for my wife's (Bonnie's) arthritis; we are looking forward to seeing you all next Feb-March if everything goes as anticipated at the moment.

Bye for now, very best wishes and regards to all.

Roy Watson of Coolbellup:

Enclosed \$30 for tickets. Sorry but we will be unable to make the Safari trip—maybe next time. Regards to all.

Mick Morgan of Fremantle:

Money enclosed for the raffle Col.

Cliff Paff of Tuncurry:

Please find \$10 for ticket in sweep. Am in Sydney at present and saw Alan Luby last night; will see him

again this morning. All well. Give my regards to all the gang. Hope to be going to Tasmania.

Joan Stanley of Brisbane:

Please find enclosed cheque for \$20 for tickets in the raffle. I'm sorry I wasn't able to make the trip to Perth with Gordon. Regards and success for your raffle.

Ken Mackintosh of Mitcham:

...A brief not to advise you of my change of address. I am enclosing \$10 for a ticket in the Mammoth Raffle and would appreciate you taking it on my behalf. With kind regards.

Bill Bennett of N.S.W.

Find enclosed butt and \$10 for raffle ticket. Sorry to be so brief but they ressure is on at present. Kind regards to all in W.A.

Betty and Keith Craig of N.S.W.

Sending cheque and ticket for the Asian Tour forwarded by Paddy. We are very sorry we won't be on the Tassie trip but we find it will be impossible. We have all been very busy this last year, and we seem to be heading for another year of rush. Keith, Janette and myself went to Canberra last weekend to the wedding of a friend, so Phillip took the opportunity of us being there and flew from Melbourne to see us. It was lovely to see him for a couple of days. Young show is just over and we had very wet weather. I always help my friend, as she is Show Secretary so it is always a busy time for us all—we saw Frank and Phyl Sharp in Dubbo a couple of months ago and they are well. Hope all are well as we are here and we hope to write again soon. All the best.

Frank Sharp of N.S.W.

How the devil are you old fellow. Do hope that you are fighting it and will be joining us for the Safari in 1974. Please find enclosed cheque for \$10 for purchase of Raffle ticket No. 47. Phyllis and I will both be again joining the mob in February. Our head office has arranged my annual leave for 1974 to coincide the Safari arrangements so I have again been very fortunate. That chap Allan Norman that I gave your Phone number to and asked him to contact you whilst in Perth is our Chief Clerk and he arranges our holidays. He was so happy with his visit to the

West and the pleasant time that he had, he phoned me to tell me that he had arranged his holidays for me and also about his own trip—thinks Perth is beautiful. We are both well and dropping a few dollars in kitty each week for the trip to Tassie with the crowd which I feel will be another wonderful success. Please give our best wishes to all the boys and their families; we will be looking forward to meeting everyone again in February. Thanks again for all the copies of the Courier. We have had a wonderful winter, good rains mild weather and the countryside is a picture and good prospects for ab umper wheat crop in the N.W. and Western part of the state. Have seen Frank Press and Keith Craig again recently. Frank has disposed of his property and leading a gentlemen's life now; he is still Western Divisional Councillor of the R.S.L. and is a very energetic worker and councillor for ex-servicemen in this area. Give Tom Bate-man my regards and tell him not to let those Liberals undermine his party cause in W.A.. Will say cherio now, Col, with best wishes to all.

Reg Harrington of W.A.:

Just a note to say that we have many regrets, but we are unable to make the trip East. We did give it a lot of thought but having had the trip to Singaport to see Terry, and brought a caravan as well, we feel it necessary to dip out. Terry will be stationed in Queensland when he returns around Xmas and we are planning a long way ahead hoping to do caravan tour of all the States armed with the address book and look up as many as possible of the lads before they die off, or I do just that myself. The season has turned out pretty good so far. It would be to advantage if the weather would fine up for a fortnight and get the feed away. We were unlucky enough to strike a wool sale that dropped 45 per cent, a neat little loss on 80 bales. However, one can't complain when you compare the present prices with a short while back.

Please accept \$10 cheque for a ticket in the raffle. I will keep the other couple for the time being; I feel sure I'll sell them and if I don't I'll take them myself. Cherio for now and regards to all.

Frank Press of N.S.W.

Herewith my cheque for the lottery ticket. Paddy forwarded it on to me when writing about the safari, which incidently looks as if it is off to a good start. Arrangements appearing well in hand, and Kath and I are looking forward to going along. As you can see by the addresses at the top, I have changed my place of residence and am now living in Orange, having moved here a few weeks ago agter selling "Bobanaro". It was a bit of a wrench leaving the farm after twenty odd years, but the price was right and I was fortunate that stock prices were at a peak when selling mine off. In fact, I never thought I would live to see lamb and beef prices as high as they are at present. Quite pleasant for the sellers even though it means such a high price for the meat consumer to pay for his roast, etc. With thte exception of Ted Cholerton, I have not set eyes on any 2/2nd types for quite a while, thought that I would be able to get to Sydney for the Annual meeting but when the time came could not manage it. Tom Martin was a prominent figure at the RSL State Congress and we managed to knock over a few during that week but apart from that, I have heard very little of anyone. This years Legacy guest of honour in Orange was one Commodore Merson, who was an officer on the 'Voyager' on that fateful morning in Timor. We had a quite interesting chat about it all with him remembering some things very vividly. He is quite a big shot in Eastern Area Command now, but reckoned his sea-going days were that morning on Timor. He is a very nice person. Well Col this is all for now, am looking forward to seeing you all in February, so until then, cheers to all.

Jack Keenahan of N.S.W.:

Please find enclosed cheque for \$10 to cover ticket. Due to domestic circumstances Norma and I will not be able to make the Safari. Naturally we are very disappointed. But one never knows—a change of luck could see us with you al; I'll be trying believe me. I have not seen much of our N.S.W. mates particularly the Arncliffe area. The DUI has me frightened enjoying a night out and the the thought of driving back home kinda dampens the spirit. I go to our Cabra Club every evening, meet up

sometimes with Tom O'Brien, Snow Went, Bill Hoy, Jack Hartley, who are all in very good health. Haven't seen Jim Hallimnan for some time; Paddy Kenneally is still trying to keep us together over here. What a mighty job here is doing—one feels a bit of a louse at times doing very little in efforts to kick Paddy along. But lets hope we come in the future. Regards to one and all.

Carmel M. Edwards (widow of Gerry of Geraldton:

On behalf of my children and myself, I would like to thank you and the members of the 2/2nd Commando Association who attended the funeral of our husband and father. It was heart-warming and comforting to see his former Army mates acting as Guard-of-Honour and pall-bearers. It was much appreciated by all of his family. Kindest regards to you and all members of the 2/2 Association.

Ted Monk of W.A.:

Enclosing \$10 for ticket in Mammoth Raffle. If all tickets not sold, we will take another ticket. Have just completed shearing. Good wool clip. Crops looking healthy and, to date, it looks like going a reasonable season (depending on the 'Budget'). Hope to make the Annual Dinner and also watch Subiaco play in the Grand Final—the unpaid typiste has her money on West Perth. If all goes to plan, and nothing unforeseen crops up, we are looking forward to making the trip in February. Having thoroughly enjoyed the last Safari to the Tast, we are certainly hoping to make this one to Tasmania a must. Regards to all.

Ron Trengrove of Mona Vale:

The return of ticket butts prompts me to write a note. I am sorry that I haven't been a correspondent for so long but my pen fails me and what with one thing and another, I just don't have the patience or news to write about.

Although I haven't written I give you all a lot of thought and if anyone wants to talk about the West I am all ears; if thinking could help Bills, he would be 100 per cent fit and Jess would have no worries at; but if is helpless one feels when you think of him and I only hope that he is much recovered and able to mix with all who think so much of him and Jess.

When I saw the adverts in our papers about land at Yanchep I went so far as to write but not post a letter to Harry Sproton about it and for advice but I couldn't see my family moving yet awhile.

My eldest boy is at the Advanced College of Education, Canberra, and maybe in '75 we, as a family, will do a round Australia trip to finish his conservation studies off. Well, Col, I guess this will be all for this time; wishing you and all the crowd my best—my very best.

Charlie Sadler of Wongan Hills:

Firstly, I must apologise for not answering your circular re the Melbourne-Tasmania Safari. Owing to unexpected problems, Mavis and I will not be able to take part in the Safari. I received ticket for Mammoth Raffle for which I enclose cheque, plus some more funds. Mavis and I have invested in a caravan and intend to tour Australia, but have not fixed a time.

The season looks fairly good as far as farming goes, but do not expect the crops to be as good as last year. However, sheep and wool are bringing very high prices which I feel is not in our best interests. I would rather a lower price spread over a long period. Might be able to make the Annual Re-union this year, so will see you all there.

Barbara Palmer, Busselton:

At last a chance to put pen to paper and let you know that we are all well in this little corner.

Well it was a beaut last Saturday night, when Clarrie rang to tell us that Elsie and Scotty and Gordon Standley were with them. We joined them for an hour which ran into four hours.

Bob is out at the Golf Club doing the draw for a major competition here on Sunday, and over a hundred entries. This captains job is pretty time-consuming, and we don't see him at all on the weekends. They have had problems with the course this year as it has been practically under water and they have had two pumps going day and night.

As to the job that brings in the cash, he's been in Bunbury Motors in Busselton for a year now and very happy, selling Toyota cars.

We are looking forward to the trip to Tasmania.

Busselton town itself is growing rapidly with new houses and shops going up every where. I am told it is the fastest growing town for its size in the State.

Must close now, with kindest regards from all to all.

Stan Sadler of Wongan Hills:

Enclosed is a cheque for raffle tickets, you sent me. Could you please send another one for me.

Have not run into any of the 2/2 for some time. We've thinned out up this way—John Fowler, Jack Hasson and Fred Growns have all shifted to the city over the past number of years. I think Reg Harrington is our nearest now; I haven't seen or heard of Don Young for some time he was over Cadoux way.

The season is OK here now after some anxious weeks. We had a good July, plenty of rain. Unfortunately, lambing percentages are poor again this year. Sheep are worth money now and we could do with some of married—I think I may have told you that before. Peter, our boy, has got himself engaged and is being married in January. We are very happy with his choice, a very nice girl, a trainee schoolteacher. They are going to live in our old home for several years. Chas's boy, Donald is being married at the end of this month, also to a trainee schoolteacher. The girls are close friends. I think Chas and Mavis will be shifting to Wongan Town within a year or so.

We will not be starters for the Safari Col, perhaps you would let Scotty know. That's all for now; regards to you and all the boys.

Peter Campbell of Gibson:

Enclosed the butts of tickets—hope I have a small win, if so will spend in Tassie an dtry to hold the liquor a bit better than when I last was in your company.

Will be looking forward to seeing all at Kalgoorlie and I hope quite a few will make the round trip and come our way. Jack and Jean Fowler and yourselves have already given us the green light. Could easily be done, a sand-plain welcome for who-ever comes. Best regards.
and would be a pleasure to arrange

Ron Sprigg of Albany:

Just a note to ask you if you would have another ticket in the \$10 sweep as my young bloke, Stan, would like one; if you have one to spare send it and I will enclose a cheque for the two.

It is a shocking day here—have not even ventured outside; was to go fishing, but no luck. There are a few fish about if you have a boat. I sent our deposit on the Tassie trip to Scottie and am looking forward to it also to seeing the list of starters. Segards.

Jerry Haire of South Perth:

Thanks once again for remembering me. I am enclosing a cheque for \$10 with best wishes to you as organiser for a very successful raffle. Kinds regards to all.

Lew Thompson of Wannamal:

Have enclosed cheque for \$10 for "Your Asian Tour". A bit late, but as they say "Better late, than never" Will be seeing you at the Dinner. Don't forget my address when my ticket rolls out first. Bee seeing you

Doug Fullarton of Perth:

Thanks for forwarding the ticket. Herewith cheque for \$10. At the moment I seem to be wrapped up in work and time seems to be slipping away. Must be age creeping on. All the best Col, from myself and Edna. Hope to catch up with you in the near future.

Tony Bowers of Kojonup:

Enclosed please find cheque for \$25. for tickets two and rest for subs. Hope you and Joy are in the best of health and you are still able to have a drop of the good things in life. Things are very good here, the season is the best we have had for years and prices for everything very good. Still not able to work mill as cannot get anybody these days to do this sort of work, still never mind, Mr. Whitlam would take it all, and give it to some useless bastards for doing nothing. Can't seem to understand the Government trends to turn on our old friends of the past. I am still in the best

health, bit of back trouble now and then (not what you think). Carol is having a bit of blood pressure trouble too much golf I think. Will my boy is home with me on the farm and ag reat help but upsets me sometimes by saying that I am too slow and next time he is in Perth he is going to put me in the Home of Peace—still one has to give way to youth. He plays for Kojonup at football and giving quite a good account for himself. Joe Poynton took a friend and I out crabbing one day a few weeks ago, had a very good day. Your very sincerely.

Bert Burgess of W. A.:

I enclose cheque for \$10 together with raffle ticket butt. Best wishes for a successful raffle. To hand your circular re Don and Arch's agricultural training scheme. Unfortunately I shall not be able to make either the Annual Reunion or Commemoration Service. Our local school sports are scheduled for Saturday, 22nd at which it will be Margaret's last appearance, as she goes to Boarding School next year. She is faction Captain and also hopes to take off one of the major trophies. On Sunday 23rd Keaney Colloge, Bindoon is holding Open Day which will include drawing of Raffle and Official opening of the swimming pool. As you know, our Michael is attending school there and so that is where we will be on Sunday. I'm sure that Don is confident that we can provide some assistance and training here that will be useful to the boys and I would certainly like to hear his views on the matter and I will certainly contribute to a scheme finally decided upon.

However, unless there has been some terrific development and mechanisation up there in recent years, I feel that the lads would only be frustrated on their return to Timor. Would it not be better to do something for them in their own country? A nucleus herd of suitable sheep and cattle could be donated and someone sent up to assist with control and management. Anyway I will be keen to hear what has been going on up there and how Don and Arch think that we can help. Kindest regards.

KEN MONK, of Poowong East, writes:—

Here is a line or two to go in with application form. The weather here at present is lousy, have been wet through this morn and frozen stiff driving the tractor in it. Have changed and thawed out in front of the fire and nagged into writing this. Sure is overdue but I love letter writing—like hell.

Wednesday saw a number of the boys at Campbell Rodd's funeral. Present were Harry Bottrill, Bert Tobin, George Veitch, George Humphries, Leith Cooper, Jack Fox, John Southwell, Bill Tucker, John Roberts Smash Hodson and self. A very large crowd attended, just managed to squeeze into the hall of the Parlor.

It was a very bad business as some clown smashed into the back of Cam's car knocking it for 100 feet or so and turning it over. The petrol tank smashed and the car got on fire. A young soldier got Cam's wife out but could not get him. A bastard of a way to die.

Seem to be spending most of my time these days going to funerals. About six in the last month or so.

Was expecting Rowan Robinson over earlier in the month but these bludging petrol strikers or should we call them Hawk's Puppets, may have messed up their plans.

It's great to see any of the boys when they are over here. Got quite a number of vacant beds these days as there is only Margaret, Colin and self at home. Robert, our youngest, is now settled in at Dookie Agricultural College which is up near Shepparton, central Victoria, about 150 miles from us. It is not a bad drive to go up and see him for a weekend and we are lucky Elva lives only about 30 odd miles from him so we have a place to stay.

Rob got himself a scholarship worth \$500 so it saves the pocket quite a bit. Colin is home here and is waiting for the next roll of the marbles. I think he will be disappointed if he misses out.

Had a card from Bernie Langridge while he was over on Timor. It was of the Glano Valley with the

bridge in it. Showed it to the boys at the send off to Bruce McLaren and Sep Wilson picked out spots he could remember.

Colin plays football for the Poowong Seconds. They have only got tomorrow's home and home match then the start of the finals. We have both the Firsts and Seconds on top of the ladder so they won't be playing in the first semi. I go along and wave the flags for the Seconds. Don't say it. I get just as much abuse from our own boys as any.

I'm glad it's nearly over as the weather is getting worse. They have been pretty lucky only a couple of wet days.

Margaret has just cut out the write-up about Cam Rodd from the paper so will enclose it in with this scrawl. Afraid the more I write the worse the scrawl is. After I finish this I have to finish my Income Tax so you can guess what a mess it will be.

One of those bludgers that do very little towards the "Courier" but do love getting it to read and keep up with all the boys.

B. J. CALLINAN, of 380 Lonsdale St., Melbourne, 3000, writes:—

I am enclosing a cheque in the sum of \$20 as a contribution to the Mammoth Raffle.

I have just been up in West Malaysia and I must go back and do a little renewed reading of what happened during that 39-45 of which you hear something occasionally.

As we were driving back from the east coast over to the west, I found myself subconsciously thinking of ambush positions and then we came to one that I thought was really the perfect answer. Shortly afterwards the driver said that that was where the British High Commissioner at that time was ambushed and killed during the "insurgency".

When I came back and heard of the death of Campbell Rodd I was greatly shocked. From time to time I used to see Campbell and he never seemed to lack the enthusiasm that he had in Timor. An enthusiasm that brought back to me some of the signals Don Turton sent to me from Atsabe.

I hope all goes well with you.

November:

**16th: Calcutt Trophy.
Car Rally, 25th**

December:

**Barbecue, arrange date
4th: Calcutt Trophy Presentation.**

February:

**Mandurah Picnic, date to be arranged.
22nd: Start Safari**

March:

Ex Safari

April:

Annual General.

**Please cut this out and pin onto your calendar
for future reference**