



# 2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

(Registered for transmission by post as a Periodical — Category "A")

(Address All Association Correspondence to Box T1646, G.P.O. Perth, 6001)

Vol. 28. No. 252.

October, 1974

Price 1c

## EDITORIAL

For this edition of the "Courier" our editor, Col. Doig, is having a much deserved rest, so it is my lot to compile this edition. I can think of no better topic than the future of our Association. Recently there have been tentative hints from members — active hard-working members — that perhaps it is time for the Association to be folded up and put away in lavender. The only reasons for these opinions can be the often disheartening lack of support from general members, that make the efforts of the working group—the committee — seem hardly worthwhile. Mates we know that you personally, would not like to see the Association fold up. You have proved this by your good response to the request for funds for this publication, but we need more from you. We need you—your presence at the General Meeting one Tuesday per month, your interest in social activities, and your opinions on all matters pertaining to the Unit.

Last week we held our Annual Re-Union dinner and the turn up for this was gratifying — forty-two members being present. Yet, the following afternoon in our Honour Drive in King's Park when we held our Commemoration Service for our fallen pals, only eighteen members were there. Why chaps? Surely this little ceremony, taking up one hour

of your time in a year should receive better support than this. Recently the Convention to Kalgoorlie fell through because of the failure of several members to reply to a personal letter sent to them by the Secretary. A lot of these people later admitted that they wanted to go but had "forgotten" to reply to the letter. It is because of this apparent apathy that some of the Committee members lose heart. On a general meeting night the first Tuesday in the month, when carpet bowls are played very few outside committee members attend. We know you all have commitments, family ties, and the burden of added years, but could you not, just one night per month make the effort to attend. You would enjoy yourself thoroughly. Each year lately the Last Post has sounded for more and more of our comrades but many of us are still hale and hearty, and able to attend meetings. Let us not leave it too late so that we regret the times we might have spent together and did not.

I most earnestly appeal to you to try to give greater support to your committee—they cannot exist without you. Refer to the back page of the Courier for coming events and let us see new life injected into the Association by your presence at these events.

SCOTTY WARES

## W.A. MONTHLY MEETINGS

**Minutes of Committee Meeting, held at Anzac Club, on Tuesday, August 20, 1974.**

**The President:** Mr. Wares declared the meeting open at 8 p.m.

**Present:** A Wares, J. Carey, C. Doig, R. Kirkwood, R. Dhu, C. Varian, H. Sproxtton, D. Darrington, B. MacDonald, P. Hancock, G. Fletcher and L. Bagley.

**The President** asked the Vice-President, Mr. J. Carey, to take the chair while the Secretary read out his letter of resignation. The President listed three main points as his reason for resigning the Presidency, but if the meeting wished, he would remain on the committee. Mr. B. MacDonald spoke of the merits of Mr. A. Wares efforts in Association matters, which were supported by Mr. H. Sproxtton. Mr. R. Dhu said that there was nothing personal meant by his remarks. Mr. C. Doig spoke at length about the good job that Mr. A. Wares had done, and urged him to remain in office till his term expired. Mr. R. Kirkwood endorsed previous speakers remarks, so also did Mr. L. Bagley. Mr. R. Kirkwood then moved that we accept Mr. A. Wares resignation with great reluctance and regret, seconded by Mr. C. Doig. Mr. A. Wares was asked if he would remain on the Committee, and he readily accepted. The Committee were unanimous in wishing both Elsie and Alec its sincere gratitude for a fantastic job well done. Mr. J. Carey remained in the chair, and is now President.

**Minutes of meeting** held on Tuesday, July 16, were taken as read, as circulated, and confirmed on the motion of C. Doig, seconded by C. Varian.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mr. R. Kirkwood reported on the present financial position of the Working Account, which showed a balance of \$94.46. The Secretary asked for a cheque for \$16 to finalise refund payments, resulting from the Tasmanian Safari. Report was received and Accounts passed for payment on the motion of C. Doig, seconded by G. Fletcher.

**Kings Park:** Mr. G. Fletcher reported that the sign board is nearly completed and will soon be re-erected. The area

generally is quite dormant. A working bee was arranged for Sunday, September 15, at 8.30 a.m.

**Kalgoorlie Convention:** Only seventeen people indicated that they would go by bus. The meeting felt this would make the trip too expensive for the few people that wanted to participate. Unfortunately the Convention will have to be cancelled and monies refunded to all those who have paid a deposit. The Secretary will write to the publican in Kalgoorlie advising him of the situation.

**Correspondence:** Inwards from Mr. A. Wares, Torchbearers for Legacy, Department of Housing, Double Diamond Commando Association of Victoria, Delys and baby John Carey.

Outwards to: Mr. Don Latimer, N.S.W. Commando Assoc., Kalgoorlie Convention circular to members.

It was moved by C. Varian, seconded by R. Dhu, that correspondence both inwards and outwards be received and confirmed.

**Annual Dinner:** To be held in the Dining Room of the Imperial Hotel, on September 21, function to commence at 6.30 p.m., buffet meal at 8 p.m. Cost of buffet is \$2.50 per head for fifty persons. Admission charge of \$3 per head to be charged. Unit flag to be used and displayed at this function.

Speeches: The Queen, Mr. R. Kirkwood. The Unit, President Mr. J. Carey.

Visitors, Mr. B. MacDonald.

Chairman, Mr. C. Doig.

Visitors: President and Secretary of the City of Perth R.S.L.: Mr. Dave Ross, Mr. Ian Miller, Mr. Les Dingle, Mr. Fred Wilkins, Mr. Bert Coleman, Mr. Mike Hall.

**Commemoration Service:** Sunday September 22, in our area in Kings Park. Service to commence at 3.15 p.m. Arrangements for three flags and poles, two dozen chairs from Coolbeev, to be secured by G. Fletcher. After the service, people will meet at the Imperial Hotel at approximately 4.15 p.m.

**Monthly Meetings:** September, Bowls night. October, Bowls night. November, Calcutt Trophy Games. December, Presentation of Calcutt Trophy.

**General Business:** It was felt that a letter should be sent to the Swan Brewery, concerning the disappearance of the ever-popular five gallon keg. Being a small Association, a five gallon keg served our needs adequately, and for which purpose a cold plate, gas bottle and all the necessary equipment was purchased. The present situation is causing us grave concern and considerable inconvenience. The meeting closed at 10 p.m.

**Minutes of Committee Meeting, held at Anzac Club, on Tuesday, September 17, 1974.**

**The President:** Mr. J. Carey declared the meeting open at 8.05 p.m.

**Present:** J. Carey, A. Wares, C. Varian, H. Sproxtion, R. Dhu, G. Fletcher, P. Hancock, R. Kirkwood, C. Doig, B. McDonald, D. Darrington and L. Bagley.

**Minutes of meeting** held on Tuesday, August 20, were taken as read as circulated and confirmed on the motion of C. Doig, seconded by C. Varian.

**Treasurer's Report:** R. Kirkwood presented the following statement of accounts as at 17/9/1974:

Balance forward ..... \$94.46

#### RECEIPTS

	\$	\$
From September 3		
meeting .....	9.00	
From Courier Call		
(donations) .....	6.00	
Transferred from Reserve		
A/c. ....	200.00	
		215.00
		<u>\$309.46</u>

#### PAYMENTS

	\$	\$
Booking fees on can-		
cellations for Kennally		
and Bray—Safari		
1974 .....	16.00	
Postages for Secretary...	10.00	
Water Rates Kings Park	15.00	
Postage on Sept. Courier	11.00	
Beer for Aug. Meeting	10.00	
		62.00
Cr. Balance as at 17/9/74 ....	\$247.46	

Accounts for payment were passed on the motion of A. Wares, seconded by R. Dhu.

**Kings Park:** G. Fletcher was praised for his efforts in making the new board, which has been erected at the southern end of the area. A vote of thanks to George was moved by C. Doig, and seconded by A. Wares. Area is in tip top condition and ready for the Commemoration Day Service. 3 damaged name plaques are to be renewed.

**Correspondence:** Inwards from: N.S.W. Newsletter, Alf Hillman, Fred Wilkins, Jerry Haire, Ian Miller, Ted Timcke, Dod Tapper, Dave Ross.

Outwards to: Commercial Hotel, Kalgoorlie; Manager of Swan Brewery; State Secretary R.S.L. of W.A.

Moved C. Doig, seconded P. Hancock, that correspondence both inwards and outwards be received and accepted.

**Monthly Meetings:** C. Doig suggested that the first Tuesday of the month meeting nights are losing their value, through lack of attendance. He thought working bees in Kings Park on Sunday mornings could be followed by a meeting, or alternatively in someone's backyard. J. Carey suggested we meet once a month, and combine the Committee meeting with the General Meeting, on the first Tuesday of each month. B. McDonald thought Sunday mornings would be alright initially, but would soon fade out. H. Sproxtion favoured combining the two monthly meetings, so also did P. Hancock. Most had mixed feelings concerning what should be done. The matter will be discussed further, early in 1975.

**Busy Bee:** A message of thanks was received from Dot Boyland, to all those who went to her home and helped clean up the back yard.

**Unit Glasses:** L. Bagley thought this project should be finalised as soon as possible. If Ray Shaw cannot handle the job successfully, he return the glasses to us and other arrangements be made to have them done. P. Hancock is to make enquiries concerning this matter.

**Film Night:** It was suggested by L. Bagley that a Film Night and pre-Xmas get together be combined, and held at the Imperial Hotel, on Saturday, November 23. Moved C. Doig, seconded by C. Varian, that this function take place.

The meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.

## ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

The September General Meeting was one of the worst attendance wise, but the nine members and the one visitor from Melbourne, certainly enjoyed the bowling competition. We certainly got away from orthodox carpet bowls, and I have never seen such keen bowlers. All in all although the attendance was poor it was a most enjoyable evening. It is a great pity that the metropolitan members can not make one night per month to meet up with their old mates.

Film night: 23rd November, 1974, Imperial Hotel, 7.30 p.m.

### GIRLS' NIGHT OUT

On the evening of the 21st September when our husbands were off to the reunion dinner and seeing we couldn't join them, we decided to beat them and have

our own night out. We got ourselves into our best finery and assembled first at Elsie Wares home for a drink (or two) to make us feel really wicked and then off we went to the "Island Trader", a theatre restaurant in Inglewood.

Unfortunately our numbers were small but the nine of us who did go had a tremendous "fun" evening. I feel we—the women of the unit—should have these little get togethers more often and maybe next time we will be able to persuade more of the girls to join us. Those who were kissed and draped with a lei by a handsome young man as we arrived at the "Island Trader" were, Jess Epps, Colleen Strickland, Dorothy Boyland, Grace Turner, Dorothy Bagley, Jean Morgan, Dot Maley, Thelma Spruxton, and yours truly, Elsie Wares.

## ANNUAL DINNER

The Annual Dinner was again held at the Imperial Hotel and was fairly well attended, but I am sure that many more metropolitan members could have made the effort and renewed friendships that were made during 1939-1945.

The Chairman for the evening was Col Doig, and he proposed the toast to the Queen, in a most capable manner. He then called upon the President, Jack Carey, to propose the Unit Toast, which was very stirring and also appealing for the members to attend the monthly general meetings and support the committee and also air their views. The toast

to the visitors was capably performed by Bob (Spriggy) MacDonald. The responses on behalf of visitors were given by Ian Miller, from Ansett-Pioneer, who drew up the itinerary for the Tassie Tour. Les Dingle and Bert Coleman also replied.

The dinner buffet style was very well set out and was enjoyed by all. Special thanks to Mrs. Smith, the proprietress who seems to go to great lengths to make sure that everyone was satisfied.

There were 32 metropolitan and 8 country members and 4 visitors present.

## COMMEMORATION SERVICE

The Annual Commemoration Service was held on Sunday, 22nd September, in Kings Park. The service was attended by only 18 members and their wives and families.

The President, Mr. Jack Carey, gave a very stirring address and it was very keenly listened to by all present. He spoke at length on those who paid the supreme sacrifice and also on those who have gone to the Great Beyond in later years. The President's address will be in the next Courier.

The parade of honour was once again in the capable hands of Mick Morgan.

The grassed area was in perfect condition and is a credit to our two members George Fletcher, and Rod Dhu, who are carrying on with the great work of our later member Bill Epps. The thanks of the Association goes out to you both.

The President thanked all those present for attending and paying homage to our departed members.



## 'Personalities'

On the 9/9/74 Joe Brand passed away suddenly, at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. Joe was one of the original members of the Unit, and served in "B" platoon. The Association's sympathy goes out to the members of his family. Members of the Association acted as pall bearers and Buss Fagg repeated the words of "Lest We Forget."

A visitor to the West, has been Max Davies from Victoria, but unfortunately he was only able to contact three or four members of the Association. He has been touring by caravan and leaves

again for the return trip on Thursday, 12th September. We all wish him a safe and pleasant trip back to Melbourne.

Don Young was a visitor to the city for the last few weeks and was returning to Wyalkatchem on Sunday, 29th September. He had been to Perth for treatment, having had the misfortune to break an ankle. Ray Parry had been in touch with him and I visited him at Claremont. My apologies, Don, that I did not know that you were in town and could have been able to attend the annual dinner had arrangements been made re transport.

## Sick Parade

During the winter months sickness has taken its usual toll of members and their wives. Those I know of are being on sick parade are: Gerry Maley, now recovering at home after a spell in R.G.H. Also Fred Napier who is in R.G.H. undergoing surgery. To you both all the best for a quick recovery.

The ladies, too, have had their share of troubles. Soon after returning from Tasmania Dorothy Bagley had a fall, and broke a rib. This was painful and prolonged but understand Len did a marvellous job as head cook and bottle washer. Dot is "all better" now again. Joy Loudon has had some surgery on

her feet and has had a painful convalescence. I understand she is to undergo more surgery soon. Our best wishes, Joy, for a speedy recovery. Jean Fowler too has recently undergone an operation and is now making her way back slowly to good health. Nice to see you Jean at the Commemoration Service. Elsie Wares also has had her share of doctors this year and ended up in hospital for abdominal surgery but I am glad to say she is now on deck again. Gwenda Kirkwood has had her troubles also, recurring arthritis, a most painful complaint. Flu has had a few victims, and those we know of are Grace Turner, Beryl Smith, Doris Dhu.

## NEW SOUTH WALES NEWS

Little Association activity, since I last reported. A circular was sent to all members appealing for funds, and requesting ideas for Safari 1976 from all N.S.W. and Queensland members. The appeal for funds met with some success, the appeal for ideas concerning the Safari was 100% negative. When the Safari is over and done with, I hope the criticism is equally non-existent. Everybody now has the opportunity to come up with ideas, if they chose to ignore the chance all well and good, but we don't want any hindsight ideas past 1976 Safari, thank you.

This will be my last Newsletter, we hope to have a new Secretary-Treasurer, as from 2/9/74 when we hold our Annual Meeting. The Committee and I wish to thank the following members

who so generously contributed to our appeal for funds: Jim English, Alf Hodge "bulls Tait", George Mathieson, Jim Lett, Fred Otway, W. Connell, Angus MacLachlan, Jim Dent, Jack Peattie, Tom Wilson, Cliff Paff, Jack Keenahan, Ken Hyland, Jack Hartley, Alan Luby, Tom Martin, Alan Addison, Tony Adams, "Happy" Greenhalgh, Lionel Newton, Bunny Anderson, Les Isenhood, Frank Press, Alan Cardy, Tom Yates, Mick Mannix, Mick Devlin, Paddy Kenneally. To those members our sincere thanks, without your financial support, we would not be able to help defray the expenses incurred in publishing the "Courier". For years W.A. carried this burden on their own, now we are in the position to help with some financial assistance, and have adopted the idea of a donation each

year. Less than one-quarter of N.S.W. and Queensland members contributed to the appeal, over seventy-five per cent., of those in the address book ignored it. Two dollars a year or less than four cents a week. Things must be tough for a lot of our old mates.

On the bright side, Pauline English came home from London, with a bronze medal for one of the swimming events in the Paraplegic World Championships. Congratulations, Pauline. I can see Granddad making a new display case, you must be running out of space in the present one.

Our sympathy to Mrs. Boyland and family on the said loss of husband and father. I enjoyed George's company in Melbourne during the Safari. He was quite well and cheerful then.

The Combined Commando Association are having a reunion in Sydney next year. Our old friend from 4th Coy. Gordon Harte will have all the information, when we will know more about it, we will pass on the information to the "Courier". I am sure many of our mem-

bers will be interested, and all of them wish the Combined Association every success.

As for our own Safari 76, the Committee gave the matter a good deal of discussion at our last meeting. Alan Luby came up with an excellent programme. We are collecting further information, for transport and accommodation purposes, I feel sure we can organise a really good and successful Safari for 1976. We are getting on to the matter early which is essential.

For the present, good luck and good health to all our members.

At the Annual General Meeting the following are the Office Bearers for the 74/75 year: President, Alan Luby; Senior Vice, P. Kenneally; Vice-Presidents, A. Addison, J. Darge; Secretary, M. Devlin; Country Officers, C. Paff, F. Press; Auditor, W. Bennett; Returning Officer, T. Martin.

A vote of thanks was extended to retiring Sec./Treas., Paddy Kenneally, by all present, for a job well done.

## RANDOM HARVEST

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

I quite agree—the "Courier" must keep running. So I hasten to submit my contribution plus a donation and a suggestion.

Perhaps we could call it a Courier Blood Bank for in a sense the little paper is the life blood of the Association. This of course is no reflection on the various committees, and personnel like yourself who do so much hard work. What I mean is that the "Courier" circulates and provides much of the life force of the 2/2nd. So perhaps into this Blood Bank could flow a few small donations—say if a hundred members subscribed a little the amount would be quite considerable.

Kind regards and best wishes.

**DUD TAPPER, Flinders Park, South Australia, writes:—**

In reply to your editorial, please find enclosed \$2.00 for the Courier. Had a couple of sherberts with Keith Dignum and Alan Hollow last week, both are looking well. I think Dig is still sulking he lost a debate with Paddy Kenneally over the fifth division. Alan Hollow is

now semi-retired, he does a bit of gardening in the way of hanging baskets at home. He still loves to follow the horses and to get an interview on a Saturday is very hard. We only see Ted Timke when we sent out an SOS last sighting he was as big as ever.

Audrey and self are again planning our Christmas holidays heading East. Will be away from 21st December to 21st January. May even get to Canberra and try and locate the Snowden's.

Regards.

**PADDY KENNEALLY, Yagoona, N.S.W., writes:—**

Your correspondence column may be short of a letter or two, so here is a quick one from me. In common with the rest of the population, we are running strikes, inflation, mullarkey from politicians, of all shades, and the so-called free Press.

Went journeying through the Hunter Valley a couple of weeks ago, cold, howling winds and sleet. A couple of good days, cooking in the open. I was dizzy chasing the flames to boil the billy. Came home looking like a starved Greyhound, and Kelly managing to put a

bit of beef on me again.

Brought my fuel supply on the back of the truck, and only managed to buy four dollars worth of petrol in nearly three hundred miles.

Helen and two of her girl friends have gone to Adelaide via Melbourne for the school holidays break. School teaching has its advantages, she took one of my address books, reckon she won't have time to use it though.

Sean got his driving license, and has aquired a vintage VW. He has been busy cleaning it up. Gerald brought home a pup, and on its form to date, I can see a sleepless night for all. Michael has gone off to play soccer for the Treasury Department. He has never played soccer in his life, heaven help the Treasury, come to think of it heaven must have been helping it for years, seeing Bob Askin runs it.

Nora's keeping well except for the screws. Still keeping the clan under control. Next week we start the semi finals. Mick Devlin's happy that Souths managed the first five. I hope Wests make it today, otherwise Norlths will be in. Easts minor premiers and look lie taking it out. Manly not playing as well as they are capable of. Actually not a patch on what they were last season, and will have to brighten up to be in it. Our district, Canterbury-Bankstown, also in the first five, would be a surprising result if they took it out. As for Aussie rules poor old Carlton, Bert Tobin and Harry Botterill can put their flags away till next season. Up the Tigers.

I'm off, so good luck and God bless.

**HARRY HANDICOTT, Smoky Cape Lighthouse, N.S.W. 2441, writes:—**

Well it is some years since I dropped a line to the West. I manage to keep in touch with Paddy Kenneally—but only if I could write like Paddy.

With the new Post Office regulations I think I have missed out on some Couriers. Please note my change of address. I hope it stays as it is until I retire in about 8 years time. I am stationed out from Kempsey, so I see Bill Walsh often. Bob and Joyce Smith spent a night with us, a few weeks ago. Had a note from Ron Archer telling me that Eric Timmins had passed away, also a note from Paddy telling me about Bill Epps passing.

My wife and self spent two weeks in Hobart last year, our daughter and husband live there, he is a doctor. We were walking around the Cat & Fiddle Arcade and I met Ivor Brown, unfortunately he was in a hurry and we were leaving the next morning.

I did not get to the main marches in April (usually Sydney or Brisbane) so marched in Kempsey but it is beaut to see the boys again.

Well I have accomplished what I meant to do for a long time, drop a line to the West, so I will close wishing you all the best regards.

**JOHN POYNTON, Mount Pleasant, writes:—**

Just a note to say that I am happy to support the "Courier" and enclose a cheque.

Time is passing quickly and we are all heading for the retirement list.

It is obvious one needs to plan for retirement to achieve contentment and mental satisfaction, physical is passing rapidly.

**LOFTY TIMCKE, 5 Pearce Avenue, Felixton, 5070, writes:—**

Well I guess wonders will never cease, as far as I can recall I think this is the first note I have ever sent.

I received the Courier yesterday putting the nips in for a couple of bucks, which I consider would be cheap at twice the price. I figured that I had better send a few bob whilst in the mood otherwise I would probably forget.

My ever-loving has an Army reunion in the West and yours truly has been invited to tag along just to carry the suitcases if the truth were known. However I am really looking forward to returning to Gol's country after all these years.

We will be leaving Adelaide by train on October 26, detraining at Kalgoorlie for a couple of days there, then flying to Leonora and Windarra for a look see. I was working on a station near Leonora before I went into the Army, so am looking forward to seeing the great changes that have taken place.

Expect to arrive Perth on 31st October for about 7 days. I realise that I will be fairly well committed with the

functions put on by the ex V.A.D.'s, however I shall ring and at the first opportunity have a few noggins.

Not much happening over here as regards the unit. I always see Keith Dignum, Bert Bache, and Ron Mackay, on Anzac Day and that's about it.

Hoping to see some of the gang later in the year, regards.

**PETE KRAUSE, 48 Bourke Street, Mentone, 3194, writes:—**

Please find enclosed cheque as a donation for the Courier.

The Courier is a must and must be kept going as it is the link between all members Australia wide. Regards.

**MAC and GLAD REID, Elgin, writes:—**

On behalf of Glad and myself would like to convey thanks to the members of your Association our sincere thanks for allowing us to accompany you all on your recent trip, and re-union to Tasmania and Melbourne. We had a marvellous time and were pleased to meet the other members we had not met before.

I would also like to add a special thanks to our very good friends Clarrie and Grace Turner, for suggesting and asking us to accompany them on the trip and obtaining permission for us to join you.

We were overwhelmed with the hospitality you all extended to us and felt almost as though we were one of your Association.

Would you also thank the Melbourne branch for including us in their trips and reunion dinners. Here again we were treat as one of you and it is hard indeed to express one's thanks and feelings in writing but once again thanks to you all for a wonderful time. We are yours sincerely.

**JOE BURRIDGE, Claremont, writes:—**

Herewith donation towards the Courier costs. If the Courier dies so does the Association. Regards.

**BETTY BackINTOSH, Mitcham, S.A. 5062, writes:—**

Can quite understand you must be having many cost worries with the "Courier". We would hate to loose our link

with the unit, and although Ken has been in hospital since 1st May he has asked me to send a cheque to help with the funds, and keep the wheels turning.

Good luck to you all for the wonderful work you do.

**RAY COLE, Newcastle, 2288, writes:—**

Herewith cheque towards publishing the "Courier".

I was saddened to learn that dear old George had passed on, in the light of the last information that I had that he was in pretty good shape — relatively speaking.

Please pass on to Dot and the girls my deepest sympathy. Another link with those stirring days of the early forties broken. Kindest regards.

**KEITH and BETTY CRAIG, 43 Edward Street (P.O. Box 234), Young, N.S.W. 2594, writes:—**

It certainly must be black Friday, when I really make the effort to sit down and type you a letter. This last year has been one hectic rush from beginning to now, and it looks as if it will keep on being so for some time to come. I haven't quite decided whether or not I am getting old and getting slower all the time, or things happen so quickly that I can't keep up.

Keith, Jan and myself went to Victoria for about 3 weeks at the end of April, and we all went to Melbourne for Anzac Day. Keith was able to meet up with quite a few of the boys, and went to dinner with them, and Phillip and I went out to Harry and Olive Botterill's, where Margaret Monk was too. Harry, Ken and Keith joined us later in the day, and we all had a wonderful time with them. On the Saturday after Anzac Day, which was also Janette's 21st birthday, Keith, Phillip and I went with Bert and Wilma Tobin for a lovely trip around Melbourne. We called on Mrs. Rogers-Davidson and the girls, and then went up to the 'Skyhigh' restaurant where we had a wonderful meal with them, and we were hoping that the fog which had been heavy all day would lift and we could have seen the view, but we were not lucky enough, and it stayed down all day. It was a miserable day, weather wise, but a wonderful day for company, and we really enjoyed hav-

ing a day with Bert and Wilma. We had made arrangements to go out with Janette and her boyfriend for dinner that night, and Jan and myself had even had new frocks made for the 21st birthday, and do you know we finished up not going out to dinner at all. Of all things we went Ten Pin Bowling, and that was Janette's wish too. Keith and I had never been, and once we got the hang of it, we had a lot of fun, and it turned out we didn't do too badly at all. One day I will certainly have another go at bowling that ball down the centre of that alley, and knocking them all down.

On the Sunday before we left Melbourne we had a day out with Olive and Harry Botteril and Lynette who took up all to Poowong to spend the day with Margaret and Ken Monk. We had a wonderful day here with them, and of course being country folk at heart, really enjoyed seeing some of the countryside in Victoria. Margaret and Ken's family grew that day with nine extra for meals. Keith and I also raided Margaret and Ken's garden and came home with many cuttings, which have so far grown quite well. Margaret had really gone to a great deal of trouble to have us all there, and Janette was really able to celebrate her 21st birthday there. Of course we had forgotten the cake, but were able to send them some when we arrived home.

We came back from Poowong to Botteril's again for supper and were sorry that our wonderful time with them all could not have been longer. It was really wonderful to see them all and to hear so much about the Safari from them, that we felt we had not missed out on quite so much, hearing about it first hand like that.

Next month, October, we are going to Belgardra and when we go through we hope that we will have time to call and see Frank and Phyllis Sharpe in Dubbo, and hear some more of the Safari doings from them.

We haven't been to Canberra as much this year, and we haven't been able to see the Fenwick family. However, we hope that it won't be too long before we will be over for a few days, and then we will certainly call and see them.

I am enclosing a cheque for the "Courier", and we will be very pleased to pay for this service. I do wish that it was possible for me to help with the

addressing and postage, etc., but being so far away makes it very awkward. I would be only too pleased to help do some of the addressing, etc., if it was possible. I think that the "Courier" is wonderful and we all enjoy it. It is great to hear news of so many, and I am sorry that this year I have not written as often as I should have done. Better luck in the months to come, when hopefully I might have more time.

Keith and I send our very best wishes to you all, and to all readers of the Courier, and hope that it won't be long before we are able to meet up with some of the folk again. Bye for now.

**TEX RICHARDS, Latrobe, Tasmania, writes:—**

Have been going to do this deed for a long time, our members are getting a little thin over the last couple of years. I rust Jess Epps is bearing up after her's and the 2/2nd's great loss in my old section mate Bill. Also in the loss of George Boyland, had the pleasure of meeting and his wife whilst on the Tassie tour.

My wife Anne and myself had a great evening with all on the Safari, there were a few that I had not seen since 1944.

A little about the Richards family which is, mum, dad, girl, boy, girl, enough we cried. Boy No. 1, Charles, foreman builder with a firm in Devonport, married to Helen, a grand lass, and have two children. No. 1 girl, Denise, married to an ex naval chap, and they have one child and live in Williamstown, Melbourne. Boy No. 2, Warren, letterpress machinist, "Advocate", Devonport, single but could go off next year. Girl No. 2, Patrice, secretary to a law firm in Devonport, and I think will be with us for a while yet. Anne is doing fine, had an operation myself on my right foot and it will be in plaster for another two weeks.

Anne and I get our long service leave again, November-December, 1975, so we are heading over to the West for about two months. She hasn't been there before and after meeting you lovely ladies and gents she says the West is for her.

Well pals I think this is enough and am enclosing cheque to help the "Courier". Regards to all.



**KEITH DIGNUM, Seaton, S.A. 5023, writes:—**

Please find enclosed money for the "Courier", I think it is money well spent.

Allan Hollow, Dud Tapper and myself had a quiet session in the local a couple of weeks ago. I think I might have mentioned this before. Allan was in good form trying to sell Dud and myself on a trip to the West, but he did not succeed.

I called on Ron Gurr, "The Old Gent", last Wednesday and both Ron and Jean are well. I had a bit of trouble getting a cup of tea from Jean, but the persistent type that I am I managed it.

I had flown down to Mt. Gambier that morning, all went well with the flight, and I was really enjoying myself. Suddenly a voice came over the loud speaker. This is the captain speaking, I thought this will be good, I always listen to those blokes, they generally have something to say. They are the chaps who say, "when you jump don't forget to pull the cord". He said, "I want you all to bear with us for a while, we are going to practice instrument landing runs. I

saw the airport slip by on the lift, "He's missed it", then I saw it flash by on the right, "Done it again", he will never make it, all the time we are getting lower and lower. I was sitting next to the window, just under the wing, and it struck me the clot has not put his wheels down. I did not know if it would be good form to race up and tap him on the shoulder and tell him. I didn't want the rest of the passengers to think I was worried, and be too obvious. After a few minutes the wheels were down, and in no time we were on the ground.

On reflecting I have come to the conclusion that they strap you in the seat, not because you might fall out, but to stop you running around and trying to help.

Will close now, regards.

**EDIE and GORDON PENDERGRAST, Goldsworthy, writes:—**

Enclosed please find cheque which will help with the cost of the "Courier". Everything going well up here, weather is absolutely marvellous being in the 30 degrees. Regards.

## In debt to our Timor neighbours

Sir, the reports of discussions in Indonesia between the Prime Minister, Mr. Whitlam, and President Soeharto on the future of Portuguese Timor make it necessary to recall a special claim the people there have upon Australians.

During World War II an Australian Army force fought in Portuguese Timor for months without communication or help from Australia, at a time that was possibly the worst for the allies. The activities of his small force caused the Japanese High Command to divert into the area an experienced army division of some 15,000 troops, which could have been used much more effectively against Australia elsewhere.

I write not to recall the efforts of the Australians but that their survival and effectiveness were dependent entirely upon the loyalty and sacrifice of the Portuguese, both European and Timorese. Some of them died heroically for us and all suffered greatly.

The Australians who were there learnt to think and to speak in the Timorese language and many have revisited friends and places they knew well. All would feel betrayed by any Australian Government that made a facile political decision on the future of these friendly, loyal and courageous people. All of us were impressed in 1942-43 and since by the loyalty of the Timorese to the European Portuguese; and Australia should not ignore the 450 years of European history in Timor.

In addition to a proper concern for the short and long-term peace and prosperity of 600,000 people close to our north-west, Australia has a debt of gratitude to both the European and Timorese people here. Our Government should ensure that at least ample time and facilities are given them in their time of uncertainty to determine and express freely their desires for their future.

B. J. Callinan, Melbourne.

## DEFENCE SERVICE HOMES SCHEME

### Assistance for more than one home

The original War Services Homes Act contained no provision for the granting of second loans. During the second reading of the Bill in the House of Representatives, the Minister handling the Bill replied to a question about second assistance being available in these terms: "Each person eligible under the Act will have one chance, but one chance only". However in 1923 sections 19B and 20A, which provide in effect that the Director shall not, except with the approval of the Minister, grant any person assistance in respect of more than one property, were inserted.

In conformity with the purpose of the legislation, and in view of the continued heavy demand for initial loans from persons who have not previously been assisted, second loans are not ordinarily approved. At present the approved policy provides for a departure to be made only where the circumstances of the case come within one of the following categories:—

- (a) T.P.I. pensioners who produce medical evidence which shows it is essential for them to move to another home.
- (b) Widows who can show that, due to family circumstances, it is necessary for them to move from their present home to some other locality.
- (c) Widows who were joined in the security with their late husband and who apply in their own right as an eligible person for a loan to acquire a home in another area within two years of their husband's death.
- (d) Applicants who produce medical evidence which establishes that, because of the medical condition of themselves or their dependants, and the

very serious effect on their health of continued residence in the present Defence Service Home, it is medically essential for them to move to another home.

- (e) Where the applicant's home is to be acquired by a Government or semi-Government authority or by a hospital, church or some other public benevolent body or institution.
- (f) Where the property develops serious defects to an extent which makes it desirable for the security to be sold on the open market and the liability discharged.
- (g) Where there has been a total loss under the Insurance Scheme and the applicant wishes to acquire a home in another locality.

---

### Thanks . . .

The President and Committee wish to thank the following members for their support with donations towards the financing for the publishing of the Courier:

Dud Tapper, Jerry Haire, Peter Krause, Ted Timcke, Bruss Fagg, Ray Parry, Joe Burridge, Len Bagley, Col Doig, Keith Dignum, Ray Cole, Ron Kirkwood, Ken MacKintosh, Arthur Smith, Clarrie Varian, Scotty Wares, Tex Richards, Keith Craig, G. Pendergrast, John Poynton, Don Young. Other supporters names will be printed in next Courier.

---

## **NOVEMBER MEETING:**

**FIRST TUESDAY, 4TH NOVEMBER, CALCUTT TROPHY  
SATURDAY, 23RD NOVEMBER, FILM NIGHT AND  
XMAS DRINK, IMPERIAL HOTEL, 7.30 P.M.**

---

## **DECEMBER MEETING:**

**FIRST TUESDAY, 3RD DECEMBER, PRESENTATION  
CALCUTT TROPHY**

---

**MEMBERS PLEASE MAKE THE MONTHLY MEETINGS  
A MUST  
ATTEND AND AIR YOUR VIEWS AND ASSIST  
YOUR COMMITTEE**

---