



2/2 COMMANDO Courier

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APRIL, 1977

Price 1c.

1977 W.A. COMMITTEE

- PRESIDENT:** A. Wares, 16 Weverley Street, Dianella, 6062.
Ph. 76 4304.
- VICE PRESIDENT:** D. Fullarton, 13 Riverview Road, East Victoria Park,
6101. Ph. 61 6064.
- SECRETARY:** L. Bagley, 11 Lynmouth Road, Dianella, 6062.
Ph. 76 6923.
- TREASURER:** P. Hancock, 13 Strome Road, Applecross, 6153.
Ph. 64 1539.
- EDITOR:** A. Wares, 16 Waverley Street, Dianella, 6062.
Ph. 76 4304.
- AUDITOR:** J. Burrige, 88 Watkins Road, Claremont, 6010.
Ph. 86 3737.
- WARDENS:** G. Fletcher, 29 Kimbarra Street, Nollamara 6061.
Ph. 49 2264.
R. Dhu, 234 Nicholson Road, Shenton Park, 6008.
Ph. 81 9404.
- COMMITTEE:** B. McDonald, 13 Northgate Street, Karrinyup, 6018.
Ph. 79 5777. (Stegbar).
J. Carey, 13 Stoddart, Way, Bateman, 6153.
Ph. 66 7050.
R. Dhu, 234 Nicholson Road, Shenton Park, 6008.
Ph. 81 9404.
G. Fletcher, 29 Kimbarra Street, Nollamara, 6061.
Ph. 49 2264.
D. Ritchie, 29 Riverview Terrace, Mount Pleasant.
C. Varian, 41 Nottingham Street, East Victoria Park,
6101.
H. Sproxton, 14 Holmesfield Crescent, Carine, 6020.
Ph. 47 5503.
C. Doig, 77 Rosedale Street, Floreat Park, 6014.
Ph. 87 2764.

ANZAC DAY

MEMBERS — PLEASE MAKE THE ANZAC DAY MARCH A MUST.
ATTEND AND SWELL THE RANKS.
REFRESHMENTS AFTERWARDS AT THE
CLARENDON HOTEL, 63 FITZGERALD STREET, WEST PERTH

APRIL MEETING — ANZAC CLUB, TUESDAY, 5th.

Ladies welcome and we will welcome your
suggestions for improving Association activities.

Minutes of Annual General Meeting of the 2/2nd Commando Association, W.A. Branch, held at Anzac Club, on Tuesday, March 1, 1977.

THE PRESIDENT: Mr J. Carey declared the meeting open, and asked all those present to stand and observe two minutes silence.

PRESENT: J. Carey (in the chair), D. Fullarton, P. Hancock, A. Wares, R. Aitken, C. Doig, J. Haire, H. Sproxton, R. Dhu, R. Harrington, J. Burrige, J. Poynton, A. Smith, G. Rowley, G. Maley, J. Fowler, C. Varian, B. McDonald, R. Kirkwood, G. Fletcher, D. Ritchie and L. Bagley.

APOLOGIES from R. Neuzerling and D. Darrington were accepted.

MINUTES of Annual General Meeting, held on Tuesday, March 2, 1976, were read and confirmed on the motion of J. Burrige, seconded D. Ritchie.

Business arising from Minutes:

SAFARI: Which was held in N.S.W. in 1976, had been an enormous success. Sixteen people from W.A. had attended Safari '76.

KINGS PARK: G. Fletcher said that sections of the piping which were rusted, had been replaced, and the system was now in good working order.

ARCHIEVES: J. Burrige stated that he had not received much material as yet for the archives. What he did have he would make a list of and present it to the Committee.

PHOTO ALBUM: D. Ritchie said he was in the process of compiling a sizeable photo album, and he already had a number of photos to be inserted.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP: The Committee recommendations for Life Membership were: Mr J. Haire and Mr R. Harrington.

Mr P. Hancock proposed the Life Membership of Jerry Haire, who he said was always present at any time to lend a hand. A very staunch Association member and Committeeman of long standing. He frequently visited our Kings Park area for the purpose of keeping it neat and tidy.

Mr R. Aitken supported P. Hancock's remarks and said that his association with Jerry went back a long way—to their teacher training days—and that he was popularly known as "Gentleman Jerry".

Mr J. Carey then presented Mr J. Haire with his Life Membership badge.

Mr J. Haire replied by saying that he was very honoured to receive his badge and so join a very select band of Life Members.

Mr J. Carey proposed the Life Membership of Reg Harrington, whom he said was a Country Vice President. He always had the interest of the Association at heart, and was a generous donor to Kings Park. There had been two outings to his property to entertain children from Sister Kates Home.

Mr C. Doig seconded the words of J. Carey and added that Reg was always ready to help the Association in any way he could. Reg also had sponsored the education of a Timorese boy.

Mr J. Carey then presented Mr R. Harrington with his Life Membership badge.

Mr Harrington said he felt very humble when he saw all the other members who had done so much, but he was pleased to receive his badge. He thought it was a marvellous and unique Association and was most proud to be a member. He was particularly impressed with Kings Park and the way it was cared for.

Mr C. Doig then moved the adoption of the two nominated Life Members, the move was endorsed unanimously by acclamation.

Reports:

PRESIDENTS REPORT: J. Carey presented a very comprehensive report of the Association activities of the past twelve months, which he said had been a most successful year.

TREASURER'S REPORT: P. Hancock presented the Annual Balance Sheet and explained each item. He said the finances were in sound position.

AUDITOR'S REPORT: Was prepared by J. Burrige and confirmed the figures as presented by the Treasurer. Mr J. Burrige then congratulated P. Hancock for the way in which he had kept the books.

EDITOR'S REPORT: A. Wares

stated that six issues of the Courier had been circulated in the past twelve months, and thanked his regular correspondents.

N.S.W. SAFARI REFUND: J. Carey explained to the meeting why members who had attended the Safari were each given a refund.

B. McDonald spoke in favour of the refund, as did D. Fullarton. C. Doig did not agree with it, and had refunded his share to the Association.

J. Maley was in favour of the refund.

J. BurrIDGE then moved that if a similar situation ever arose again, that a general meeting be called to decide the issue, seconded by A. Smith.

Mr C. Doig moved that reports as tabled, be received and commented on the excellence of them, seconded A. Smith.

Election of Officers:

Mr R. Aitken was appointed Returning Officer. He then called for nominations, and the following members were elected:

PRESIDENT: A. Wares, elected unopposed.

VICE PRESIDENT: D. Fullarton, re-elected unopposed.

SECRETARY: L. Bagley, re-elected unopposed.

TREASURER: P. Hancock, re-elected unopposed.

EDITOR: A. Wares, re-elected unopposed.

AUDITOR: J. BurrIDGE, re-elected unopposed.

WARDENS: G. Fletcher and R. Dhu, re-elected unopposed.

Committee:

After a ballot of nominations, the Returning Officer declared the following elected: J. Carey, R. Dhu, G. Fletcher, D. Ritchie, B. McDonald, C. Varian, H. Sproxton and C. Doig.

Country Vice Presidents have now completed their second year of a 3 year term.

Mr J. Carey thanked the Returning Officer, and congratulated all those who had been elected to office.

General Business:

R.S.L. State War Memorial Restoration Appeal: The R.S.L. has launched an appeal for funds to extend and maintain the State War Memorial. It was moved C. Doig, seconded J. Maley that \$50 be donated to this appeal, the meeting were

all in favour of the motion.

TIMOR FUNDS: Mr J. Carey read to the meeting a letter he had written to the Hon. J. M. Fraser, Prime Minister of Australia, as the result of a letter Mr J. Carey received from Mr J. BurrIDGE, which suggested that part of Australia's \$83 million aid programme to Indonesia could go towards helping certain Timorese. No reply, as yet, has been received from the Prime Minister.

Money had been donated for the Timor Appeal was held in trust, and Mr J. BurrIDGE moved that we leave it for the time being and persevere with our letters to the Government, seconded R. Aitken.

Mr R. Aitken stated that the International Red Cross could, hopefully, re-establish itself once again in Timor.

KINGS PARK: Mr G. Fletcher said that the lawn edges in our area are becoming a problem. It was suggested that the Committee could give thought to the purchase of an edger. Mr R. Harrington suggested a Scott Bonnar as being an excellent machine.

Mr R. Kirkwood moved a vote of thanks to the two Wardens, for the wonderful job they did in maintaining our area in Kings Park, seconded by A. Smith.

MONTHLY MEETINGS: Mr C. Doig thought that the poor attendance at monthly meetings was due to the drinking-driving problem, also that people seemed to prefer to stay at home in the evening. He suggested Sunday mornings as a better way of getting greater attendances.

Mr D. Ritchie suggested that he could teach silk screening to members and their wives, if anyone was interested to learn this art.

Mr J. BurrIDGE said we should always have some aim, something to achieve, as a means of keeping us together and active.

Mr B. McDonald said that in view of recent floods in the Eastern States, help could be given to any of our members who may be affected by any such disaster.

Mr J. Fowler moved a vote of thanks to the Secretary, for the job he had done, it was received with acclamation.

Mr C. Doig congratulated Mr J. Carey on his retirement as President, and said that Jack had served the Association for many years, and in every position of office, the meeting approved with acclamation.

In closing the President thanked the past Committee and congratulated all those who had been elected to office. He also thanked the meet-

ing for their attendance, especially the members from Mandurah, who were in attendance.

The meeting closed at 11 p.m.

President's Report

The past year has been a comparatively quiet one for the Association.

Monthly Meetings

Attendances at these were only fair. The best attended and most popular being the mixed evenings held at the Anzac Club. The ladies appeared to enjoy the opportunity to come along and join in even though on some occasions nothing definite had been organised. I feel this type of function should be continued.

The ordinary meetings were poorly attended with the Committee making up the bulk of numbers. It was disappointing to see the Calcutta Trophy Night lapse because so few turned up. This sort of thing is nothing new of course but I would ask members to be more considerate of their Association and to come along and give more encouragement to the Committee.

Socials

A number of enjoyable socials were held. The most successful being the Progressive Dinner Party Night held at three of our members homes. This was a wonderful evening and those ladies who worked hard to assure its success must have been pleased with the outcome.

The Sunday picnic to Mundijong in May was another enjoyable outing as was the barbeque held at my residence and the film night arranged by Jack Fowler.

The day at the Poynton's in January was up to its usual high standard, and topped off the year nicely. Our thanks to Helen and Joe.

Annual Reunion

The forty members who attended had a most convivial evening and I would say this was one of our better reunion dinners.

Commemorative Service

The deferment of the Service until late in November proved to be a blessing in disguise as 27 members attended. Even so, members should

make a special effort to be present every year at this service to pay homage to our fallen comrades.

Kings Park

Our Warden, Mr George Fletcher and his assistant, Mr R. Dhu are to be commended for the excellent manner in which they have maintained our Honour Avenue area. Its well kept appearance is a credit to their efforts.

Anzac Day

This was one of our quieter days but went off well. Our thanks to Colin Doig for allowing us the use of his home. This year there will be a change of venue.

Safari

This was undoubtedly the highlight of the Association's activities in 1976. Although the New South Wales organisers would have liked 18 who came from the West, from all to have seen a bigger party than the reports the hospitality was overwhelming and everything possible was done to ensure the visitors had a happy and memorable time. Our sincere thanks go to Mick Devlin, Alan Luby and others who put so much effort into the Safari.

There is already talk of another Safari in Adelaide in 1978 and this is something all members can plan and look forward to. The opportunity to meet up with old Army mates after so many years makes these Safaris well worthwhile.

Courier

Six editions of the "Courier" were published during the year and a high standard publication was maintained. This was mainly due to the efforts of Alec and Elsie Wares, who gave much of their time throughout the year. Their combined effort deserves special praise when we consider that Alec did not enjoy the best of health for a good part of the time. My sincere thanks to both these good people. The "Courier" continues to be the strong link which enables all members to keep in touch with one

another and to share in the activities of the Association as a whole. The rising costs of printing and distribution were offset by the generous donations from many members for which your Committee is extremely grateful.

Timor

The Timor issue continues to be a matter of concern for those of us who feel so deeply for the Timorese people. Monies, given generously by members to help their plight, have, because of the confused position on the Island, not been passed on.

At the present time, on an idea suggested by Mr John Burridge, an approach has been made to the Federal Government, which if agreed to, could be of immense help to the Timorese. Because of the debt we owe to these people, we should not relent in our efforts to do something worthwhile for them. With this in mind, I suggest that at this meeting tonight a sub-committee of four or five members be appointed, who would be prepared to give some of their time to this end.

General

Because of the apathy shown by

members from time to time, some claim we are losing ground and have expressed doubts as to the future of this Association. The firm ties and lasting friendships which have been formed as a result of us being members of the unit and later of the Association are far too strong to allow this to happen. We may, and do get complacent, but when a real issue arises, members rally to the ranks.

On the local scene, the decision by a number of members who were strong supporters, to retire to the Mandurah area has had an effect on attendances at meetings and socials but the Association has benefited in other ways.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all the outgoing committee for their support and help during the past year, with a special mention to our very able Secretary, Mr Len Bagley, who in spite of a serious illness, performed his duties in his usual capable and efficient manner. It has been a privilege and a pleasure for me to serve as your President for the past two and a half years and in stepping down I would ask all members to give the incoming President your loyal support.

J. Carey, President.

Editor's Report

During the financial year just ended the Association has published six Couriers and these were delivered in April, June, August, October, December and February. The cost of printing and postage has risen terrifically, as can be seen by the Treasurers Balance Sheet, but thanks to the members who supported the appeal for funds we were able to keep the Courier account on the credit side, but there is very little left as you can see. The Association will again have to make another appeal and I would ask all members to send in a donation as soon as possible and thereby keep the main link of the unit solvent. The Courier is the greatest link between members and it is only by its circulation all over Australia and overseas that we know what each member is now doing.

Members have been exceptionally helpful during the past twelve months with correspondence and assistance,

and there are a few that I would like to thank, especially June Bennett, Peter Barden, Betty Craig, Mick Devlin, Paddy Kenneally. I would like also to thank my wife Elsie for the support that she has given me and also for making sure that the Courier went out on time whilst I was in hospital. My thanks also to Percy Hancock for helping Elsie by making sure that they were posted.

Should the production of the Courier be to the satisfaction of the members I am willing, as long as my health will allow me, to carry on as Editor.

Yours,
Scotty Wares.

Coming Events

May 9th: Social Games Night, R.S.L. Hall, Cambridge Street, Wembley at 8.00 p.m.

Balance Sheet year ending 31st January, 1977.

RECEIPTS			EXPENDITURE		
Balances forward	1.276		Monthly Meetings		
Working A/c	206.58		Cost	189.98	
Reserve	5636.21		Receipts	114.00	75.98
Safari	53.77	5896.56	Annual Dinner		
Interest Received			Cost	263.75	
Working A/c	10.20		Receipts	175.00	88.75
Reserve A/c	525.22		Anzac Day		
Safari A/c	2.33	537.75	Cost	174.70	
Donation Courier	1528.50		Receipts	107.00	67.70
Cost Printing			Picnic Mundijong		
and Post	1418.30	110.20	Cost	215.37	
Sale Lapel and			Receipts	94.00	121.37
Tie Clips	7.40		Kings Park		92.75
Sale of Glasses	36.00		Administrative		171.53
1977 Refund Safari	2000.00		Balances of A/c		
			Working A/c	208.40	
			Reserve A/c	7761.43	7969.83
		<hr/>			<hr/>
		\$8587.91			\$8587.91

Over My Shoulder

As I write, before me on the table is a small fragment of stone — very grey, very ordinary. Yet when my fingers touch it I feel again the same strange thrill that I experienced when it broke away in my hand as I touched a smooth great stone forming part of a hut wall in a prehistoric, excavated village in far away Chysamster, Cornwall. We walked a long way to reach that strange place — across fields covered with early morning mist, even climbed a couple of stiles, and then we were there, surrounded by the remains of habitations of who-knows-what kind of people. We had explored a similar and better known excavation at Skara Brae in the Orkney Islands, and it is a thrilling experience to touch the walls, still standing bravely and wonder what manner of people placed them there, gave birth and died there, for no one really knows who they were or whence they came.

Our whole trip to U.K. and Europe was all we had expected and much, much more and has enriched our whole lives. We often recall places and events, but now in 1977, looking back over my shoulder, I think our most memorable recollections were of the unexpected, the unplanned. This first happened in London where we had of course been visiting the usual tourist attractions plus a few places that I had read about and

put into my travel scrap book. We had gone very early to St. Paul's — too early in fact to see the galleries and crypt — so we took a walk and happened onto a bit of real old London. First St. Bartholph's Church, a truly old one, and close by among the hustle and bustle, a little oasis — Postman's Park (so called because it was next to an old Postal Institute). It was only tiny but filled with beds of flowers, green lawns and seats beneath shady trees. It was so quiet and peaceful it was hard to believe we were in the heart of busy London. In the park we found a place where memorial plaques told the gallant stories of many people in civilian life who had given their lives to save others. Near this park we also found the remains of the old Roman wall — still sturdy after 2000 years — and a beautiful church St. Alfrages, built in 1390 where Milton is buried. Further on we came to St. Giles Cripplegate — the names never fail to delight me — surrounded by beautiful pools and gardens and with the old headstones set into the brick surrounds.

When travelling by car we had many of these little surprise pleasures. In the glorious Cathedral at St. Alban's there was a lovely ginger cat sitting on the flagged stones of the nave. Ever a cat lover, I stopped to pass the time of day with Puss and a young Clergyman informed me that

his name was Orlando, he had been there for years, and even received letters written to him from all over the world.

After we left Scotty and Jess's town—Wick—we travelled across the North Coast and down the Western Highlands. To visit Scotland and not drive through this part of the country is to miss the best part—it is simply breathtaking. (Future travellers to Scotland please note). On the north coast as we travelled through mountains—majestic and wonderful—we saw a sign "To Smoo Caves". The name was enough. Out we got and clambered down a steep green slope till we reached at its foot, a very shallow, swiftly flowing burn (river to you) with—oh joy!—stepping stones across to the vast caves. Of course, I had to slip on one of the stones and went about the rest of the day with one foot congealed from the icy water. The cave was like a great Cathedral, even to the vaulted ceiling that reminded us of many of the Gothic Arches we had seen in churches. We wouldn't have missed Smoo Caves for the world.

One of the sights that will ever remain upon my "inward eye" was the view of those steep mountain slopes, decked royally in purple and gold of heather and Autumn Gorse warming the lower slopes. At Kyle-scu on the Western Coast we were advised to take a very minor road instead of the one we had planned. How glad we have since been that we took that advice. The road was very winding and so narrow that it accommodated only one car, but it was so lovely we were speechless. I quote from my diary "Single track with one in five gradient but breathtakingly beautiful—mountains on our right covered with ferns and bracken and a noisy babbling brook on our left—so close you can almost touch them. Right on top of the mountains now with silver threads of waterfalls in view everywhere. At every turn of the road we can see little blue lochs receiving the cascading water down the valleys. To think we might have missed that road.

Much later on we were travelling through beautiful Wales when we happened on a quaint little village named Beddgelert. Beddgelert—my mind fumbled to grasp a memory—something I'd read or heard—and then I saw the notice to Gelert's Grave and the memories fell into

place. "He was a dog" I shouted. "and his master killed him mistakenly or something. I read a story or poem about it when I was a kid". Patiently Scotty stopped the car, equally patiently Jess came with me while we sought the grave. The sign posts took us along the banks of a river shaded with trees touched already by the red and golden fingers of autumn. Across a wide field, and there was Gelert's grave, carefully fenced and preserved with a large stone telling the pathetic story. Gelert was the faithful hound of Prince Llewellyn who had slain him, thinking he had attacked his baby son. Afterwards Llewellyn discovered that Gelert had actually saved his child's life from the onslaught of a savage wolf. So grief stricken was the Prince that he vowed his dog would never be forgotten, and thus the memorial. There Jess and I stood bawling over the crumbling bones of a dog who had perished 700 yrs ago. When I read that story as a child it seemed like a fairy tale and yet here I was standing on the very spot where it all happened. It was a memorable occasion.

One of the most delightful surprises came in North Devon. After leaving beautiful Ilfracombe we saw a signpost "Clovelly 1 mile". I said, "That rings a bell" and Jess said "Let's go" and swung the car around. We had to leave the car in a car park and walk to the village as no vehicular traffic is possible. The one main street, terraced and cobbled, runs steeply down to a little beach cove. Clovelly was one of the old smuggling villages on the coast. Well—it was just like something out of a story book. White painted houses flanked the narrow winding street and every inch was filled with flowers. Clovelly has won the award of Garden Village of the Year several times. The only way goods can be taken up or down the street is by way of two little donkeys—one called Up-A-Long and the other Down-A-Long. When you stand at the top of the street—that is Down-a-long Clovelly and when you stand in the cove and look upward it is Up-a-long Clovelly. I told you it was like something out of a fairy tale.

Yes, over my shoulder, our most poignant memories are of the things of which we had no knowledge or did not expect to see.

Elsie Wares.

Western Australian News

2/2 Commando
Association,
G.P.O. Box T1646,
PERTH, W.A. 6001.
5th January, 1977

Hon. John Malcolm Fraser,
M.A. (Oxen.) M.P.,
Prime Minister,
Commonwealth of Australia,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2600

Dear Prime Minister,

In 1968 this Association approached the Commonwealth Government for financial assistance to erect a memorial near Dili in what was then Portuguese Timor. Government provided four thousand dollars which was matched by a further four thousand dollars raised by public subscription. The memorial commemorated the assistance given to Australian soldiers by the people of Portuguese Timor — Portuguese nationals and Timorese.

Recent changes in Timor have brought further misery and bloodshed to those people who were so gallant and loyal to our Australian troops thirty-five years ago. In recent months members of our Association have discussed on many occasions how best, if at all, we could help them. Every proposition put forward proved seemingly impossible and we were left with a sense of frustration and impotence.

Our Association recognises that the situation is a complicated one and we do not wish to enter into public controversy about it or to add in any way to the political problems of the Government. Our concern is solely with helping the people. It appears to us that help can only be given effectively as the outcome of a decision by the Government and in keeping with Australian foreign policy. We are therefore asking you to consider our suggestion that a special fund of say ten million dollars should be set aside from the overall amount (reported to be eighty-three million dollars spread over three years) which is earmarked for special assistance to Indonesia. This \$10 m. could be applied directly in assistance to the people of East Timor.

Should Government agree in principle with this suggestion it would

be necessary for us to have a liaison officer close by. Mr B. J. Callinan, C.B.E. who commanded Sparrow Force in Timor, has offered his services if required. Mr Callinan's office is at 380 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne — telephone 679341 — and he is a constant visitor to Canberra. Also, if a committee should be formed to study the proposition Mr Callinan agrees to be co-opted. His wide knowledge of the diverse peoples of Timor would be of great value; this would be particularly so if Government decided that Australia should become directly concerned in deciding how best and in what directions the fund should be applied.

Yours sincerely,
J. Carey,
President,
2/2 Commando Association

7th February, 1977

In relation to the money which was sent before Christmas to the needy refugee children in Lisbon, I attach copy of another communication acknowledging the money.

Another item which may be of interest is that when I visited Dili before the Indonesian occupation I managed to bring out Henrique Pereira, the son of Afonso Pereira who helped the 2/2 so much in the early days around Villa Maria. Henrique subsequently trained for parachute re-entry but was never used.

He had collected a mortar blast while waiting for evacuation and was left behind for dead but they had managed to patch him up and I succeeded in bringing him back to Darwin.

Henrique was visiting Sydney last week and sought assistance to trace the pilot who was shot down near Cribas in late 1942 — his father had been one of the first on the scene and organised him into the 2/2 lines. By dint of reading Bernie Callinan's book we dug up the name and the fact that he was an Adelaide man and the Adelaide telephone directory did the rest.

I have organised for Henrique to go back to Darwin via Adelaide and the pilot will meet him at the airport.

He would be most interested to renew contact with the 2/2 and 2/4 men and I am wondering if it is

possible to put him on the mailing list for the newsletter.

He is Mr Sid G. Wade, 13 Cedar Avenue, Warradale, S.A. 5046, and if anybody wants to contact him his phone numbers are—Home 2961422, Office 517166.

Regards

Yours sincerely,

A. Stevenson

Dear Friends,

Many thanks for your generosity, you are really the bridge that links Timorese from Lisbon to Australia. Obrigado Amigos Baimi Hoto.

P. Fernandes,
Quinta d a Graca,
Cruz Quebrida,
Lisbon.

THE MANDURAH OUTING

January 30th was another fine and hot day and many members of the Association travelled to Mandurah to partake of the wonderful hospitality of Helen and Joe Poynton, at their home in Ormsby Terrace, for what is now known as "The Poynton Picnic". Members gathered from as far away as Cranbrook, Kojonup and Capel. Everyone gathered around chatting and drinking and nibbling at the very tasty savouries prior to lunch. What a lunch (it seems to get better every year — if that is possible) cooked crabs, baked whole fish and grilled fish, steak and kidney pie, sweet and sour pork, chicken and all the salads required.

In the afternoon members chatted and drank and others went and had a swim in the surf. As darkness approached, out came the steaks for a barbeque tea, and Helen was ready with various salads and plenty of fried onions.

It was during this meal that our Vice President, Doug Fullarton, on behalf of all visitors, offered our deepest thanks to Helen and Joe for making their home available and for providing the delicious food and also it was another perfect day.

SAFARI FILM NIGHT

The Safari Night was held at Anzac Club on Tuesday 1st February, 1977, and was very poorly attended, only 18 people partaking of the pleasure of seeing the films. It must have been very disappointing to Jack Fowler who put a great deal of time

into the compiling and preparation of the night. Surely the members and their wives from the metropolitan area could attend and give support to the committee who are doing a great job in trying to promote an interest in the Association. What about it ladies to make sure that one night a month you attend with your husbands and boost attendances.

Vice President Doug Fullarton thanked Jack for the presentation of the movies.

ASSOCIATION DONATIONS

The President wishes to thank the Courier and Ass. Funds. T. Snow-following for donations towards the den, A. Campbell, J. Epps, A. Douglas, K. Monk, C. Doig, R. Aitken, J. Haire, J. Burridge, H. Sproxtton, J. Fowler, John Poynton.

GERALDTON

Just a few lines to let you know that we are all fairly well up this way and to express the hope that a similar situation applies elsewhere.

Bruss Fagg continues to take a great interest in community affairs and was among those chosen to form a management board for the new Northampton Hospital which is to cost \$642,000. Bruss who is also President of the Pioneer Lodge Committee, says about \$14000 has been raised for this proposed establishment for the aged. The Social Security Minister, Senator Guilfoyle, has told Bruss that six home units have been placed on priority for funding in 1977-78.

Nip Cunningham is cycling as well as ever, and yours truly is walking as well as ever, and we often have a noggin or two at the Victoria Hotel which is situated two doors from my A.B.C. office.

The Town Council have appointed me to the position of ratepayers representative on the Trust which administers Birdwood House, the Headquarters of the R.S.L. In addition I have been re-elected Publicity Officer for the R.S.L.

We are preparing for a visit by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh on March 26th, which we will cover for both T.V. and Radio. I'll be doing a voice report. The Royal Couple last visited us in 1963 when the Queen opened the Civic Centre.

Kind regards to all the boys.

Peter Barden.

MT. LAWLEY

Please find enclosed cheque to help out with the Courier or General funds. The Association does a tremendous job in maintaining the interest of all its members Australia wide. It must be the best of its type in any state and the calibre of the men who administer it, is without doubt a top drawer job.

Give my warmest regards to all the boys wherever they may domiciled. Time has passed quickly but it has not dimmed the warmth of a relationship born in war and which has lasted over all the years. Contributing to this the 2/2 Commando Association Courier the brain child of a true genius.

God bless—may the 2/2 Association go from strength to strength. Warmest regards.

Archie Campbell.

MT. PLEASANT

Sorry I missed you at Joe's place on the long weekend in January, but for some reason or another I got it into my head that the function was on the Monday. We were ready to leave when Gloria said that she had better give Helen a call first, only to find that the barbeque was the day before. I must be slipping in my old age. I hope you and all of the members are in good health.

Regards,

John Poynton.

Sick Parade

Several of our members have been in hospital for treatment and when it is too late for them to be visited by members of the committee they have been discharged. The committee would be very grateful for a phone call from either the family of the patient or from any unit member who knows of anyone who is hospitalised.

Fred Napier has been in Hollywood Repat Hospital and underwent surgery.

Terry Paul has also been in Hollywood and been discharged but has to return in a few weeks for surgery.

Scotty Wares has been discharged but will be returning shortly for more surgery.

Bob (Beaky) Smith has been hos-

pitalised in Newcastle with suspected heart trouble but it appears to be spinal trouble now. He has been in the intensive care ward for three days.

Ron Sprigg has been to Perth for nothing can be done they tell him treatment on the eyes and although that it will not deteriorate any further.

Ron Nieuzerling has undergone surgery for gall bladder troubles.

Arthur Smith has been in Hollywood and had surgery to remove the steel pins from his elbow and has now been discharged but has to attend his local doctor.

Tom Crouch has been in Bunbury Hospital and last report was that he is now improving.

New South Wales News**EPPING**

Received your welcome letter recently, but due to domestic problems, such as replacing the clutch in the car and losing my glasses at Tamworth, and having to stagger about the place with a white stick and seeing eye dog until I collected my new bi-focals, I have been unable to answer same. Pleased to hear that you received the cheque O.K. and the committee to make a decision on its use. Sorry to hear that Roy Watson and Scotty were on the sick list and hope they are both on the way to recovery. Please thank whoever was responsible for the prompt

action regards to the inclusion of the Notice of Motion in the last Courier, this will give N.S.W. members a month more to consider the matter and vote according to their personal desire.

At our February meeting last night, I was requested, to have you forward a copy of the Rules and Constitution of the Association, before our March Meeting. I received the Tie-bars and Lapel badges, and Life Membership Tie-bars. I have forwarded a cheque to cover the cost of same. There are a limited number of badges available and first in first served, at the following prices, Tie-

bars 70 cents, Lapel badges 50 cents, for N.S.W. members. The proposed 1978 Safari was discussed at the meeting along with the letter to Dud Tapper, and it is intended to get a count of N.S.W. members with regards to their ideas and suggestions. I myself like the idea, having had a small taste of Adelaide, when Bet and I were on our private Safari.

Received some wonderful cards from some wonderful people "belonging" association over Xmas. Good to hear from Jim Cullen, Tom Crouch,, Keith Wilson, Pat Costello, Bil Sharpe and wife Eileen from Victoria after such a long absence and back in town. Helen Kenneally, Peta and Maria Luby are back in a few days from a world tour. We are looking forward to meeting these young folk at our next social function. Had a flying visit from Dot Boyland and had a great chat on the phone.

Mick Mannix had a spell in hospital with asthma.

Regards to all,

Mick Devin.

WARRIEWOOD

I have a suspicion that Mick Devlin, with a touch of Irish Charm, has manoeuvred me to the position of social correspondent for the N.S.W. Association. I guess if anyone else can bear it I will try.

We have had two good barbeque get togethers since the safari ended. The first at the Cokers on October 31st, where there was a fine roll up of members and friends. The Coker family had arranged a Halloween party the previous night and it must have been a riot. There were still skeletons, pints of "blood" and grinning pumpkins around the area, enough to scare anyone. It was good to see Marg. and Merv. Jones, looking well and happy after their trip to Canada and America. Joyce and Bob Smith with daughter Beryl, travelled from Shortand near Newcastle to be with us all, always good to see them. It was nice to chat to Graham Coker and his charming wife Chris, now setting down to the toils and tribulations and pleasures of married life.

The second barbeque was at the Devlins, at Epping, on December 12th. It's a nice, country type-area with lots of trees, flowers and horses with accompanying flies, I might add. I collected names this time, so we had Betty & Mick Devlin, with Betty's

brother and sister-in-law, Ron and Joan Searle, Carol and Bill Coker, Edith and Alan Luby, Maria and Jack Hartley and family, Marg. and Rno Goodacre, Mary and Alan Addison, and son Greg. Dulcie and Don Latimer, with Dulcie's mother, Mrs Parker, a wonderful elder citizen, Bill and myself and last but not least Jean and Jim English with their lovely daughter Pauline. Pauline brought her medals, won at Montreal, for us to see, also the book of her life story, which had been told on the T.V. series "This is Your Life". This courageous girl now drives her own car and also works as a typist clerk in a section of Penshurst Library and seems extremely happy about it all.

Bill and I had a nice quiet Xmas with half our family here, the other half in London. I did enjoy visiting them there in Nov. for three weeks, as we now have a second beautiful granddaughter, Melissa Joy. After Xmas, Bill and I toured down to Swan Hill, Victoria to visit my sister and her husband for a few days. A pretty area but very hot this time of the year. We did enjoy seeing aspects of the district, especially the Pioneer Settlement, with the old paddle steamer, the Gem. Also the historic homestead Tintynder, where it is said the notorious Dan Morgan once worked. They have a collection of guns, which includes a sawn off shotgun, reputed to be Morgan's, Swan Hill has a very good Military Museum, small and compact, but with some very extensive coverage of various units. We could only find one small photo of the Timor Campaign there, but the management does ask for items to add to their collection.

On the way home we stayed in Young overnight and were able to visit Betty and Keith Craig. It was New Years Eve and the Craig family were going out to celebrate, but first after which we had time for a Betty graciously invited us to dinner nice chat, before returning to our motel for a good night's rest. Betty does look well and is as active as ever, especially helping people, who also have her medical problem, and I think she is yet another courageous lady.

The next get together will be at the Bennett's home on March 13th, this time a smorgasbord, as we have not yet organised a barbeque area. I guess it will make a change of menu. We hope many friends and

families will be able to come. In closing, Bill and I wish everyone, especially Scotty, Len and Ron, a Happy New Year, with good health and peace of mind foremost.

June Bennett.

YAGOONA

By now I presume you have attended to all your "first footing" duties, and have consumed enough "Duggans Dew" if not to float the Queen Mary to at least keep her Royal Posterior from grating the bottom. To you and all members everywhere, may the New Year bring a goodly share of happiness and good health.

I attended the Xmas Party which the Timorese put on for the La Bariks, at the Villawood Hostel. Nora was unable to attend, as she had choir practice that night for the Xmas Mass. Helen accompanied me, thank the Lord I did not go alone, believe me with all the years bearing me down, those "La Bariks Fetu" round 18 and 19 would bring a corpse back to life. Joking aside I thoroughly enjoyed myself. Gordon Hart from the 2/4th was also present, an ex Army Captain played Santa Claus, actually a most heroic man. It was as hot as Hell and that man kept on the hop all night, and kept the children happy. Also present was one of the doctors who had been to Timor with the medical mission, when the Indonesians moved in they had to get out.

With regret I have to report the death of Joa (John) Dos Martries, who was married to Jullie Maderos niece. When I last saw him he was not in good health. However his death was a shock to me. He was a Custom's Officer in Dilli and also had a coffee plantation, which he lost after the invasion of Indonesia. To attempt starting all over again when well advanced in years would be heart breaking. The Madero family suffered under the Jap occupation, Julie, his wife and 2 sons survived, and one sister of Julie's is now at the Villawood Hostel. The people of Timor must be out of the Hostel by July and this is going to pose quite a problem to these people, affording private accommodation will be quite beyond the means of many.

Nora just had a phone call from Linda Bowers, who is currently visiting Sydney with a friend. Looking forward to meeting these girls. Tony told us that they would be visiting Sydney but unfortunately they are

only here for a few days and then off to Queensland. It is really good of them to put aside some of their time to visit us.

The following is Delindo Encarnacao's address, 71 Homebush Road, Strathfield, 2135, N.S.W. Delino received the Courier ever since the 1968 Safari, changed his address after changes in the Timor situation. Would like to receive it once more. In case 2/2 men have forgotten he was Portuguese Consul in Sydney. Number 4 section men should remember him, he had a lot of contact with us when we were in Remixio. Ray Aitken would remember him quite well. Can you organise the Courier to a man who was a good friend to us in our time of need.

Good night and God Bless.

Paddy Kenneally.

YOUNG

I gave myself a bit of time to write to you Scotty, and I hope that I can give you a bit of news.

We have heard from quite a few of the 2/2 over the Christmas/New Year Period, and some one might be pleased to hear a little of the news I can pass on.

Had a long letter from Ken and Margaret Monk, who are well and very pleased about a new grandchild. Their youngest son is touring Europe now, and has been in North America and Canada. He hopes to stay for a while working in some of the northern countries. Also from Wilma and Bert Tobin, who said they were well too. We had a lovely long newsy letter from Jess Epps, who said some of the movies and the snaps she took were very good. I bet they were able to have a few laughs when they showed them. Jess sent us a couple of souvenirs of Perth, which were really great. Jack and Jean Fowler also wrote with the news, and Jack said his movies were good too, and also the ones they took in New Zealand. They thought that New Zealand was very pretty and loved their tour, but good old Aussie is still the best. So say all of us too. We had a short letter from Len Bagley, who said he is feeling really well again after his trip to hospital, and he was back at work. Look after him really well Dot, and get him back to being 100% again. It was good to hear that you were feeling so much better Len, and that the family were well too.

A few days ago we had a letter

from Jack and Marj. Peattie, who are in New Zealand. They had flown over, and hired a V/waggon and toured the north island, and then went on one tour of the South Island in a twelve seater bus, and now are doing a more extensive tour of the South Island in a bigger bus. They will have lots to tell, and some great slides I guess, as Jack is really very good with the camera. We heard from the Goodacres and the Devlins, who are well, and also their families. I had a chat on the 'phone to Joan Darge, about New Year, and she had spent Christmas with the family, and was going down the coast for a few days, after having a couple of aunts staying with her. Also chatting to Marj. and Merv. Jones, who are well, and thinking they might go to Tasmania for a week or so to see their son and family. If they drive to Melbourne and fly across from there, they will call and spend a night with us, either coming or going back home. Also heard from Ted and Di Cholerton, Carcoar, and Phil, and Frank Sharpe Dubbo, who report all well, in their neck of the woods too. We haven't been up around those areas for quite awhile, but we will make it one day soon, we hope. Joan and Jim Fenwick called in during the Xmas and New Year.

On New Years Eve, which was a very hot night, we had a lovely surprise, as the 'phone rang, and it was Bill Bennet. He and June had booked in at a Motel, and they came up for a meal with us, and stayed until about 10 p.m. They had driven from the other side of Swan Hill that day, and it was about 104°, so they were very tired. It was really lovely to see them, and to hear first hand of June's trip to England. They had spent about 4 days in Victoria, stay-

ing with June's sister, and meeting up with relatives, and were on their way back to Sydney. I am glad to say that the next day was at least a little cooler for them, so it would be a bit better for them travelling. I guess they got away fairly early to beat some of the traffic. We also had a letter from Bob and Joyce Smith, who had been up around Queensland for a holiday, and then Bob found himself back in hospital for awhile, and then home, and then back in hospital again. However, in the letter he said they were both well, and hoping to have the family all together for Christmas. I hope it all turned out really well.

This last week, we have had Garry McLennan, (Macca) to us all, a friend of Phillips staying with us. He is well, and was interested to hear news of the folk he met while he was with us in Sydney nearly 2 years ago.

Well, I seem to have run out of news this time Scotty. We hope that this finds you all well, and we really hope that the op you are going to have on your back in a few weeks, is 100% successful and will give you all the relief the Dr's hope.

We have just heard the final death toll of the tragic train crash at Granville. It is a terrible thing to have happened, and we only hope that no one we know was involved in any way. The scenes on T.V. are shocking to see, and the 100's and 100's of people who are affected have all our sympathy and I am sure I speak for everyone in this regard.

Now our Best Wishes to all, and we trust it won't be long before we see some folk and hear from others, who are too far away to see very often.

Best wishes to all,

Keith and Betty Craig.

Australian Capitol Territory News

Firstly I must apologise for not being present at any portion of the Safari last year. Last year however was not a really great one as far as we were concerned, in as much as Bonnie was in hospital on no less than four occasions, one of these coinciding with the Safari.

Since then I have seen a few of the boys, in Nov. we went down to the coast and paid Jim Hallinan a visit, on the Saturday afternoon we

bumped into Ron Trengrove and his wife whilst in Nowra R.S.L. Club. Over the Xmas period we were very pleased to have Dud Tapper contact us, he and Audrey were on their annual vacation and were staying in Queanbeyan for a couple of days, where Bonnie and I joined them for a few drinks on New Years Eve. A fortnight ago we went to Griffith and had a couple of enjoyable days with Roy and Joyce Martin, then whilst

there we had the good luck to bump into Alf Hodge who is now living in Griffith after having disposed of his rice farm. I am pleased to report that all of these folk appear to be wearing fairly well. On the other hand if any ailments are present there are no indications of same and certainly no complaints. Dud Tapper looks fitter and younger than ever, must be in a very good paddock.

In five weeks time I start 5 weeks holiday and am hoping to pay a visit to Harold Bickerton at Traralgon, it must be 33 years since I last saw him. In October I intend taking

some more holidays and toying with the idea of going to Perth or to Darwin where our eldest son is teaching. He studied his final two years in Perth, at the university, and obtained his B.A. and Dip. Ed. Of course if these trips eventuate, will depend on the health of my good wife, who at the moment is not what you would call 100%.

In signing off I would like to wish all our members and their families the very best of everything.

Please find enclosed cheque towards the Courier expenses.

Tom Snowdon.

South Australian News

FLINDERS PARK

As yet I have not contacted any of the boys re a South Australian Safari, but I am sure they would all be willing workers of such a project. You may not remember but I planted a seed on the W.A. Safari that Adelaide would be an ideal spot but at the time nobody seemed very interested. The only point I would like to raise at this stage is to give a lot of thought to the booking of accommodation. We can handle it at this end, but legally, if we book say 100 people into a motel we are responsible for the account, and in the event of a national stoppage of some kind a lot of money could be involved, this I know is not a major issue. With the P.O.W's re-union some time ago they had something like 1000 members to look after and they ran into all sorts of problems of this nature, to which there is a simple solution.

When the time is right for prices etc. or locality if you let me know I will follow it up if you decide on Adelaide for the next Safari.

Dud Tapper.

Sorry for the delay in writing but better late than never. We had a good trip Xmas time, very hot but managed to survive. We stayed at Bendigo a few days and had a noggin or two with Kev Curran also met him at the Stawell races where he had a horse racing which won. We motored to Queanbeyan staying overnight at Holbrook, dined at the local R.S.L. and can recommend it, plenty of bandits for the gamblers. We did not stay long in Queanbeyan and only managed to contact Tom Snowdon, had a beer and a chat with him and Bonnie and I did ring a chap called Stewart who lived in the same street as Alan but no relation, sorry about that Alan.

We encountered about 100 miles of grasshoppers in plague form on the Murray Valley Highway, they certainly make a mess of a motor car, but we did enjoy the trip.

Would you please let me have Ray Aitkens address when you can, but there is no hurry.

Regards to all.

Dud Tapper.

Change of Addresses

L. ANDERSON,
2 Copperwaite Street,
Kardinya,
W.A. 6163.

T. NESBIT,
54 Tuxen Street,
Balwyn North,
Victoria 3104.

B. GILES,
73b Sutherland Street,
Port Headland,
W.A. 6721.

D. RITCHIE,
29 Riverview Terrace,
Mt. Pleasant,
W.A. 6153.