



2/2 COMMANDO Courier

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JULY, 1977

Price 1c.

EDITORIAL

SAFARI FOR 1978

Another Safari will be held next year and South Australia will be the host State.

These events have proven to be very popular over the years, and it's a great way to have a holiday and meet up with Association members and their families.

A working committee of South Australian members has been formed to take care of all arrangements and to compile a suitable itinerary. The committee includes: Dud Tapper, George Timcks, Bert Bache, Allan Hollow, Bob Williamson and Keith Dignum, all of whom have been on previous Safaris and know what is required for the success of these get-togethers.

Early October has been chosen as the most suitable time of the year in which to be in Adelaide. Further details of times, dates, places, etc., will be published in future Couriers.

So start saving and planning NOW for your holiday of 1978 — then write and let us know whether you and your family can be considered as possible or definite starters.

To make certain that there will be ample funds for our South Australian members to successfully organise this Safari, a raffle will be conducted. It is restricted to 600 tickets of \$10 each, 1st prize will be \$2,000, and there will be 100 prizes of \$10 each (a one in six chance of your money back). Drawing of this raffle will take place on Saturday, July 29, 1978. An application form for the purchase of ticket(s) is included in this issue of the Courier.

It is sincerely hoped that members will support this raffle, and also make every effort to be in Adelaide for Safari '78.

L. A. Bagley, Secretary

COMING EVENTS

2nd AUGUST — BOWLS NIGHT. Bring the ladies and make it a success.

8th AUGUST — Return night at Wembley — Floreat R.S.L. Make it a must and improve on last attendance. Gents bring a plate to augment the supper. Venue R.S.L. Hall, Cambridge Street, Wembley, opposite the Squash Centre.

6th SEPTEMBER — POOL NIGHT at R.S.L. Club, Sherwood Court, Perth.

1st OCTOBER — ANNUAL DINNER at R.S.L. Club, Sherwood Court, at 6 pm. Members make this a must and meet your old mates and let the committee know that you are interested.

2nd OCTOBER — COMMEMORATION SERVICE, Kings Park, at 3 pm. What about attending and remembering our departed mates. Afterwards a barbecue at the resident of Jack and Delys Carey, 13 Stoddard Way, Brentwood.

"BUY A TICKET AND SELL ONE AND BE IN ADELAIDE FOR '78"

Minutes of Committee Meeting held at Anzac Club on Tuesday, May 17, 1977.

The President, Mr A. Wares, declared the meeting open at 8.15 pm.

Present — A. Wares, P. Hancock, D. Ritchie, C. Varian, B. McDonald and L. Bagley.

Apologies from D. Fullarton, H. Sproxtton, J. Carey, C. Doig, R. Dhu, G. Fletcher and D. Darrington were accepted.

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, April 19, 1977, were read and confirmed on the motion of D. Ritchie, seconded C. Varian.

Treasurer's Report — P. Hancock presented the following statement of accounts as at May 17, 1977:

Balance brought forward . . . \$808.80
Balance as at May 17, 1977 . . . \$774.24

Financial report was received and accounts passed for payment on the motion of B. McDonald, seconded D. Ritchie.

Correspondence — Inward from Mick Devlin, Geo Humphreys, Stan Sadler, Sam Fullbrook, Double Diamond (Vict.), Commando News (N.S.W.), Ron Scott Commando Assoc. (Vict.), Reg Harrington.

Outward to Dud Tapper, Scott Bonnar, Sam Fullbrook, Mick Devlin and Des Doherty.

Moved D. Ritchie, seconded P. Hancock that Inward and Outward correspondence be received and confirmed.

Anzac Day — A very successful and well attended day. Our thanks to Don Reynolds of the Clarendon Hotel for an excellent venue and to Jack Carey for his ever popular luncheon catering.

Association Box Number — It was suggested by A. Wares, that due to expense and inconvenience that the P.O. Box number of the Association be transferred to the Morley Post Office. After being discussed, it was moved B. McDonald, seconded C. Varian that the Editor arrange for the Box number to be transferred.

Lawn Edger — which was donated by Reg Harrington for use in our area of Kings Park, has been taken delivery of from Scott Bonnar. A vote of thanks was endorsed by all for this very generous donation.

Directory of Ex-Service Organisations — Correspondence from Commando Assoc. (Vic.) regarding a Pensions Advisory Service for all Commando Associations, after discussion it was moved C. Varian, seconded by L. Bagley that we give this suggestion our full

support and co-operation.

Wembley-Floreat R.S.L. Games Night — A most pleasant social games evening, so much so that a return match has been arranged for Monday, August 8, 1977, at their R.S.L. Hall at 291 Cambridge Street, Wembley, at 8 pm.

Safari Raffle — L. Bagley presented the sub-committees report to the meeting: "We recommend to the general committee that a raffle, comprising 600 tickets, be sold at \$10 each. First prize to be \$2,000, with 100 prizes of \$10 (1 in 6 chance of your money back)." If this recommendation is acceptable the mover and the seconder of the original motion (Committee meeting March 15) agree to withdraw their motion. It was then moved by C. Varian, seconded D. Ritchie that the sub-committee recommendations be adopted.

June Meeting — Fun and Games Night.

Meeting closed at 10 pm.

Minutes of Committee Meeting held at Anzac Club on Tuesday, June 21, 1977.

The President, Mr A. Wares, declared the meeting open at 8.10 pm and welcomed Mr John Burridge to the meeting.

Present — A. Wares, P. Hancock, C. Doig, D. Ritchie, B. McDonald; R. Dhu, G. Fletcher, H. Sproxtton, J. Burridge and L. Bagley.

Apologies from D. Fullarton, C. Varian, J. Carey and D. Darrington were accepted.

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, May 17, 1977, were read and confirmed on the motion of R. Dhu, seconded G. Fletcher.

Treasurer's Report — P. Hancock presented the following statement of accounts as at June 21, 1977:

Balance brought forward . . . \$774.24
Balance as at June 21, 1977 . . . \$872.55

Financial Report was received and accounts passed for payment on the motion of H. Sproxtton, seconded C. Doig.

P. Hancock stated that there was some wastage of liquid refreshments at meetings, after discussion it was moved by C. Doig, seconded D. Ritchie that the Treasurer be appointed to purchase all refreshments.

Correspondence — Inward from Frank Sharp, J. Lett, Gordon Stanley, Harry Botterill, Wilma Tobin, Paddy Keanneally, John Burridge, Commando New (N.S.W.), The 2/4-ther (Vic.).

Outward to Dud Tapper, Mick Devlin, Reg Harrington, Ron Scott, Don Reynolds and Ernie McGuckin.

It was moved C. Doig, seconded R. Dhu that Inward and Outward correspondence be received and confirmed.

June Meeting was a Fun and Games night, organised and conducted by the ladies, which proved to be very popular and was enjoyed by all who attended.

FUTURE MEETINGS —

JULY 5 — D. Ritchie will give a talk on Silk Screening methods.

AUGUST 2 — Bowls Night.

AUGUST 8 — Games night with the Wembley-Floreat R.S.L. at their hall at 291 Cambridge Street, Wembley, at 8 pm.

SEPTEMBER 6 — Pool Night.

OCTOBER 1 — Annual Dinner, to be held at Anzac Club.

SAFARI '78 — Dud Tapper has formed a working committee to make all the necessary arrangements for Safari '78 which will be held early in October 1978 in Adelaide.

Safari Raffle — L. Bagley reported that the tickets and application forms had been printed. Application forms will be inserted in the August Courier.

Archives — Mr J. Burridge, the Archives Officer, presented to the meeting a detailed list of material that he had received so far of Association records. Any members who have items suitable for the official Association Archives should contact John Burridge.

Meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

**OUR NEW VENUE —
R.S.L. CLUB,
4 SHERWOOD COURT,**

**THE R.S.L. HAS NOW
TRANSFERRED TO THE
OLD PERTH CLUB,
AT SHERWOOD COURT.**

**"BUY A TICKET AND SELL ONE
AND BE IN ADELAIDE FOR '78"**

WEST

AUSTRALIAN NEWS

MANDURAH

The main news from the James family is we have now shifted from Scarborough to Mandurah and have purchased a unit with not too much outside work. This will give Kate and I more time for our interests, which are bowls, fishing and a trip to the races each week.

Jess Epps called and left a note a few weeks ago, sorry to have missed her and also Bob Smith's daughter who was over on holidays. Regards — Harvey James.

(Have altered address — Editor.)

BENTLEY

You folk are doing a mighty job which is appreciated by the silent majority. We mean well but never get around to helping you. We do honestly feel that we would be lost without your great work in keeping things going. Thanks, kindest regards to all and best wishes — Neil Scott.

(It would be helping the committee if you made an effort to attend the Annual Dinner and Commemoration Service. Then we would know that at least we are getting through a little. This not only applies to you but a great many others — Editor.)

KOORDA

All well in Koorda but very cold. Keep Courier going. Regards — R. Johnson.

MANDURAH

I guess I am not much good at writing and this will be the first note I have penned in 30 years to the Association, not that I have not thought about it, but never got around to doing it. The news from here is not much but I have met up with Joe Poynton, Roy Watson and a few other 2/2nd boys, for a few noggins, too many most times. Will say goodbye for now and regards and good luck to all — Don Hudson (Huddy).

EAST CANNINGTON

Hello Fellows, yes at long last a few lines from me. I get very annoyed with myself for not writing which proves I have not changed any. I guess I would be posted on the missing list. As for attending any functions, I am afraid I am in the wrong occupation since leaving the Pub game, as I do shift work involving early mornings and late nights, still I

should not grumble when one looks at the unemployment list. The wife (Joan) is always on my back to take a sickie and go to one of our shows, I might just do it one day. Keep up the good work and keep the Courier going. Hoping to see you in the near future — Bobbie and Joan Burns.

(Make an effort and attend with your good wife and enjoy the company again with your army mates — Editor.)

SHOALWATER

Herewith something to help — received the Courier today and enjoyed reading it. I hope that by the time this reaches you that you are up and about again. Surprised to hear that Doug Fullarton had been ill, it would have to be white ants, thankful to know he has recovered OK. Lal and I are well and do a little fishing, walking, swimming, etc. There was something else we used to do. I seem to have forgotten. May you have a quick recovery Scotty, regards to all the other villains. Cuddles to Elsie and Jess. From your best recluse — Gerry Green.

BOLGART

Please find enclosed cheque to cover the lawn edger cost that we were enquiring about. They did not open their hearts that much by the price quoted. I did not think it was expected to be a three weeks delay, so must be ready now to be picked up. I want to make it clear that there is no compulsion for it to be a Scott Bonnar, but I feel that it being a belt drive as against a direct drive there would be less chance of damage through misadventure of any sort.

If any money over after payment, it could be placed in any fund you think and I will leave it to your judgement.

Trusting all is satisfactory with the machine you purchase and I would advise that you procure the wire flails as they are less likely to get damaged.

kindest regards — Reg Harrington.
(Certainly a wonderful gesture and greatly appreciated by the Wardens and Association members — Editor.)

CHANGE OF ADDRESSES

C. McCaffrey, 16 Bent Street, Coffs Harbour, 2450.

J. Lett, 23 View Street, Cessnock, 2325.

B. Webber, 3 Rocks Road, Mt. Gambier, 5290.

H. E. James, Unit 1, 60 Hackett Street, Mandurah, 6210.

B. McLaren, 5 Lucifer Court, Templestowe, 3106.

W. D. Hudson, P.O. Box 327, Mandurah, 6210.

K. Waddington, Villa 3, Byron Villas, Lot 2 Lensham Place, Armadale, 6112.

Mr C. King, 489 Albany Highway, Bedfordale, 6112.

J. Hartley, 62 Palmerston Road, Fairfield, 2165.

The President wishes to thank the following for donations towards the Courier — F. Gardner, C. McCaffrey, R. Baldwin, R. Harrington, D. Ritchie, W. Holstein, D. Tapper, R. Sprigg, S. Rogers, R. Johnson, F. Janvrin, R. Shenn, B. MacKintosh, G. O'Toole, N. Soctt, W. Tobin, H. James, K. Craig, M. Calvert, B. McLaren, T. Bateman, J. Roberts, D. Hudson, R. Burns, G. Green, J. Hallinan, Tony Adams, R. Dook, T. Martin, K. Waddington, K. Curran, C. Beavis, G. Fletcher, H. Sargent, A. Boast, I. McPhee, P. Krause.

ADDRESSES UNKNOWN

Quite a number of addresses of our members are unknown to the Editor and as it is his wish to have the Courier distribution list complete, if anyone knows any of the following members present address would they please forward it to G.P.O. Box T1646, Perth.

C. Dodge, S. McKinley, W. Hollis, J. Dixon, C. Grundy, R. Field, B. Perrot, D. Murray, W. Elery, R. Host, G. Merritt, S. Ward, C. Cubis, A. Spence, R. Mears, J. Daniels, W. Taylor, B. Noakes.

ON THE SOCIAL SIDE

Following some of the suggestions made by the ladies earlier this year the social scene has become rather lively recently. Firstly on 6th May a theatre party was arranged to attend the opening night of the "Mikado" at the Entertainment Centre. A party of thirty of us thoroughly enjoyed this first class production of an old favourite. Most of us started the evening gaily with a drink (or two) at the Melbourne Hotel. Our thanks to Gerry and Dorothy Maley for arranging both the theatre bookings and the hotel arrangements. It was a surprise to us all to meet Joe Burrige and his party at the close of the show and to find out that his daughter Terri Johnson had played the delightful second lead role of Pitti Sing.

On a different note we had a rather mad and hilarious "Fun and Games" night at the monthly meeting on June 7.

A good attendance of 25 at first warily approached our various competitions and silly games, but once we convinced the men that drinking was OUT and madness was IN we received complete co-operation and everybody let their hair down. Highlight of the evening had to be the men's "Loveliest Legs" competition with the chaps vying with other to display a gorgeous array of hairy legs. Unanimous decision by the girls gave the prize to Ron Sprigg, who with wife Win, paid us a delightful surprise visit. The evening closed with everyone in a very happy frame of mind and full of lovely supper. Thank you to the three hostesses of the evening, Ivy Ritchie, Dorothy Maley and Elsie Wares.

The flu took its toll at the July 5

meeting and a smaller gathering assembled at the R.S.L. Club. However those present had a really pleasant, cosy little evening. Dave Ritchie had very kindly offered to give a demonstration of silk screen printing and this was very interesting and a lot less complicated than I had thought. We all had a go at the printing and went home proudly with a place mat beautifully stencilled. Supper and a cup of coffee closed a really pleasant evening. What a pity more members do not avail themselves of the chance to meet together occasionally in a very happy way. Many thanks Dave for giving us such an interesting evening.

Watch out members for announcements of more social get-togethers.

NEW SOUTH WALES NEWS

EPPING

Received the W.A. letter a few weeks back and apologise for late reply. Pleased to hear the Doug Fullarton is now recovering from his last heart attack. Hope to see you in Adelaide for Safari Doug. "Alas" May and June have been sad months for the association. Firstly with the passing of Bert Tobin after a long illness, and it is with regret that I have to report the passing of Dorothy Went, wife of John (Snowy) Went who passed away suddenly after collapsing at home on June 22. I met Frank Press and son John at Eastwood station and was only able to get in a quick good day and good bye. I did notice that Frank was walking with the aid of a stick, hoping that it is nothing serious old mate. What about a short note so I can pass on the details to the boys who are concerned. Had quite a pleasant surprise when I received a letter from M. A. M. Smith advising that he would be in Sydney with the Fitzroy Bowling Club for the Queens birthday weekend. We were able to have a couple of hours with him at the Great Southern Hotel where our guests at the 1976 Safari were accommodated. On tap to welcome M. A. M. were Alan Luby, Jack Hartley, Paddy Keanneally, Bill Coker, Alan Addison and Mick Devlin. MAM informs me that he is not receiving the Courier so please check the address.

Well I shall close now, hoping 1978 Safari arrangements are coming along O.K. Regards to all members — Mick Devlin.

EPPING

As is usual, here I am again, battling against time to have this short newsletter arrive in W.A. in time for the next Courier. Well, another Anzac Day has come and gone and it becomes more noticeable each year how much the ranks have depleted, especially in respect of the diggers of World War I. In recent years the 2/2nd always assembled in front of Qantas House, but of late we have moved down nearly 200 yards closer to the head of the march, "alas" a sure sign of the many departed servicemen and women, plus those who, due to age and health, can no longer participate in the Anzac Day activities. The weather in Sydney this year was made to order, with clear skies and nice warm sunshine. We had 14 members on parade, plus 4 visitors as follows — W. Coker, M. Jones, M. Mannix, T. Fields, J. Went, B. Weir, J. Hartley, F. Press, J. Keenahan, F. Sharp, A. Addison, R. Goodacre, W. Hoy, M. Devlin. Visitors in attendance were J. Press (son of Frank); those two great supporters of our Association K. Glover and R. Whitley; also Merv Barclay, brother of Jeff who was ex 2/2nd. Jeff you will remember was accidentally drowned at Jacquiniot Bay in New Britain during our stay there.

The special wreath laying ceremony held on this occasion at the Shrine of Remembrance in Hyde Park was quite impressive with the 1st Sydney Commando Regiment supplying the guard of honour. It did the old heart good to see these young fellows so well drilled

and uninformed, and just bristling with keenness, and fitter than a Mallee Bull. These lads are weekend soldiers and I believe are trained harder than we ever were. It sure reflects in their appearance. They also led the Combined Commando's in the march and joined us on the ferry for the reunion afterwards.

How are the plans for Safari 1978 coming along. Paddy has just returned from a trip to S.A. and from what he tells me, the boys are keen to organise the Safari in that state, providing that the money aspect can be covered in the normal manner. Some of the lads Paddy mentioned were Dud Tapper, Keith Dignum, Bert Bache, Allan Hollow, Ron Gurr and I feel sure that as the project gets under way other S.A. members would come to the force.

Kind regards — Mick Devlin.

DUBBO

A few lines with some news for the Courier regarding our activities over here. I journeyed to Sydney for the Anzac Day and joined the boys in the march. Our representation from the 2/2nd was well down in numbers this year — only 14 being present. The old stalwarts were there as usual and we had a very pleasant day together, good friendship and good company. We assembled at 8.15 am at the Shrine of Remembrance in Hyde Park and joined up with the N.S.W. Commando Association, headed by Don Latimer. We were the first to lay the wreath on the Shrine and were led by the 1st City of Sydney Commando Squadron and the Bankstown Pipe Band. The service was impressive and the boys from the 1st Squadron stood guard at the Shrine. After the wreath laying we all assembled at Qantas House and marched in the parade under the Commando Association with all our colour patches fully displayed and where each individual unit served. The 1st City of Sydney Commando Sqd headed our section of the march, followed by the Bankstown Pipe Band, both staying with us for the full day. The weather was perfect — not a cloud in the sky and thousands of spectators. After the march Jack Hartley supplied us all with beer prior to us joining the ferry for the combined Ass. Reunion on the harbour. The food and amber fluid was fit for a king, the same caterers supplied the food as for the Safari harbour cruise. Frank Press did not march as he is not enjoying the best of health at present and has had to retire from the position as Western Division Councillor of the R.S.L. Paddy

Kenneally was also absent as he had gone to Adelaide on holiday.

I have again applied for my holidays in September '78 so as to be able to attend the Safari. Phyll and I are looking forward to it. Been very busy this year as we have to shift wheat to four ports — two being through Broken Hill to Port Pirie and Port Adelaide. The cotton crops look a picture so tell Harry and Thelma Sproxtton and Col Doig that Sharpie will bring some over in his case to Adelaide in case we have any more noise problems. Have not seen Keith or Betty Craig since the Safari but I guess we will see them next time they pass through to visit Keith's father.

My best wishes to the new committee and we are grateful for the way the Association keeps pulsating and the interest taken by those stalwarts in W.A.

Cheerio to all and wishing you good health and happiness — Frank Sharp.
(Always great to hear from you Frank — Editor.)

HUSKISSON

Enclosed is a cheque for Courier and Association donation. I don't get to see many of the fellows these days. Jack Keenahan was down here a week or so back and of course a few ales were consumed. Also had a visit from Tom Snowden some time back, he was here on a visit from Canberra.

Hoping to see you all at the next Safari and may carry on to the West after. Hope this finds everyone in the best of health — J. Hallinan.

HEATHCOTE

Herewith donation and congratulations to all your committee for their dedication and service. Kindest regards to Jack Carey, Henry Sproxtton and all members — C. Beavis.

COFFS HARBOUR

We have sold our house in Sussex Street and are on our way to make permanent residence at Coffs Harbour. Our children are over there and as my health still is not the best they want us close where they can help to look after us. It will be a lovely change as we have been told by many Coffs Harbour is a beautiful place with plenty of sight seeing, fishing and crabbing. The crabs will have to be good to beat the Swan River ones, as our summer meals included many a crab and salad — Charles McCaffrey.

(All the best in your new surroundings. Mick Devlin, take note of Charlies address — Editor.)

TAREE

Please find enclosed note to assist with the Courier. Hoping this finds you all well as it leaves me at present — Bill Holstein.

YAGOONA

Greetings from the inundated state. It took a long time to rain, now it is here it apparently intends to stay.

This year Nora and myself packed up and headed for Adelaide to celebrate Anzac Day in new surroundings and catch up with friends whom we had not seen for years. Timed our arrival perfectly and attended the South Australian Commando Association dinner with Keith and Betty Dignum and Lofty Timcke. We enjoyed the turn-out immensely. Good company, excellent orchestra, food and drink left nothing to be desired.

The Sunday before Anzac Day we attended a barbecue at Dignums and those present from the 2/2nd were the Tappers, Williamsons, Timckes, Hollows, Kenneallys, Ron Gurr, plenty of steak, beer and a lot of ear bashing. Alan Hollow had been to the West recently and visited Denmark and gave me news of Norm Thornton and Georgie Smith. Just as well that someone gets to Denmark occasionally as it is our only way of finding out if they are still about.

Anzac Day we marched with the Commando's and five of us went to the reunion with the 2/3rd Field Regiment and Dignum was OC keg and he performed his duties in a tradesman like manner. When the reunion finished we adjourned to a nearby pub to await Betty Dignum who was our driver for the day. Ran into a Scottie there, kilts, pipes and all. He wanted to know if I was truly Irish and I said yes. I'll play you a tune and that was the start of another party. Betty turned up for us at 6 o'clock and we managed to get away at 7.30 pm. Who said women are not patient. Dud Tapper looked fine as a piper as he marched up and down. He has a photo to prove it but I could not even blow the bag up. Talking of Dud, he looks no different now than when on Timor except for a few extra pounds in weight.

Talking of the Safari, they say that they can organise it if Adelaide is chosen and they would have to depend on a very successful raffle for the finance. This is understandable as there are very few members in Adelaide.

Nora enjoyed every minute of her visit, particularly meeting Jean Gurr,

Audrey Tapper, Hazel Hollow once more. She is back to housework once more even though it is a much depleted one now — getting as quiet as a morgue. Helen lives in at Macquarie Uni but is at present visiting the MacLaclans at Brisbane. Sean is working at Ayres Rock. He is a carpenter, plumber, gardener, truck driver and barman at the Redland Motel. He met a couple of blokes from New Guinea who knew Theo Adams quite well. Sean sent our regards to Theo. Michael off to Orange on departmental business for a week. Gerald on holidays and me creaking my way to work, bad tempered, cursing and swearing my way through the day. Thus adding to my purgatory in the next world and doing nothing to alleviate it in this one. Joking aside, I am keeping fine and have damned-all to go crook about.

Fare thee well and God Bless — Paddy Kenneally.

(Thought you had gone to Ireland as I had not heard from you for some time. Great to get your letter Paddy — Editor.)

DEE WHY

Some 5 weeks ago we left here to enjoy 3 weeks holiday and among other things I took with me a writing pad and a lot of good intentions — and brought them back with me unused. Who wants good intentions up on the Gold Coast when the weather was good enough to bring out those round bottomed 45° bosomed mermaids by the hundred, and what they didn't have on was nobody's business — enough to make a man feel 40 and only 39 of these said "Cut it out". One of the intentions was to write and let you know how pleased we were to hear that your operation was a success Scotty.

On our trip we met up with Cliff Paff, Bill and June Bennett, Geo. and Rene Greenhalgh, Geo. and Mel Mathieson. The only others were the MacLachlan's who came round and spent the evening at the Mathieson's.

Some of the old die-hards are still battling against the idea of bringing the wives into the fold — God knows why. Perhaps when they see the direction in which W.A. branch is heading as by the latest Courier, they might realise that our original Constitution must bend to modern times. *(I agree — Editor.)*

On the Combined Commando front there is a move afoot to write a history of the Squadrons from 1940-45. This is being done by Don Newport from 2/12th. He has an almost certain

grant from the Aust. Literary Board and is looking for material of places, incidents and places. He also has been contacted by people in the film industry who are keen to do a drama on each squadron who played any part in the 39-45 conflict. In addition we have some strong contacts from an affiliate body, the No.1 Commando Coy, R.N.S.W. Regiment who feel that a National Commando Memorial should be erected and located in Sydney. In accordance with modern trends, there is a possibility that a major industrial group will sponsor the cost. It is expected that a major announcement will be made at the Commando Ball on July 9.

All the best to all members — Alan Luby.

YOUNG

We are both well and so are all the family. Janette and Stan are basking in the sun at Townsville and we are freezing at Young with snow, sleet, hail, wind and frost. You name it, we have had it just lately. It has come very suddenly and of course we are all feeling it rather badly. We really had a lovely autumn and after a very hot and dry summer it was very welcome. Of course it was too good to last, and now we will get the real taste of winter. Phillip rang last night and said Victoria is in the same boat. At Young we only had light snow, a lot of soft hail (which banked up like snow) and gale force winds, but there was heavy snow all around us. The highways have been cut for about 140 miles from Cowra, 40 miles from Young, right through the mountains, so it has been bad all over the state. Canberra had heavy snow and was very cold too — so I hear.

At Easter we went to Gilgandra to see Keith's father and his brother. Grandfather is 93 years young and was well and very pleased to see us as we hadn't told him we were coming. I just packed food for all and we arrived. It was good travelling although it was cold Good Friday, but the other 3 days were really lovely. We saw quite a few friends and relatives, and it all helped to make the trip really worth while. Coming back on the Monday morning we stopped off at the Western Plains Zoo to have a look. We did enjoy it as it is an open area style zoo and you don't see the fences. The animals wander around in huge enclosures on natural pastures with plenty of trees, rocks, etc. There are plenty of animals just wandering around openly in the park area and they are very quiet and you can feed them from

your hand. Very good picnic areas with gas bar-b-q's, seats, shelter sheds, toilets, etc. Good road for you to drive around the area and it consists of over 700 acres at the present, with nice tarred roads, kiosk too. They also have a wonderful area for children with all sorts of attractions. It is not finished at the present time and there are still quite a few animals to come to the zoo, but those that are there look really good and seem so contented. We were really pleased we made the effort and spent a lot longer there than we had planned.

The following week I had to go to Canberra for check-ups. I had to have a complete scan this time and it took 2 days. It is a weird sensation and after it I felt as if I was dizzy and off balance, but the end result was good as I got a clear report. I was very relieved when the doctor rang me to say all was well. We stayed one night with Joan and Jim Fenwick and only as I wasn't feeling the best we would have stayed on for the weekend. It was a good job I came home as the next day I could have cut my head off and cuddled it to try and give it some relief. It ached so. However I wasn't terribly worried about that as they told me for the next month I could get headaches as it is the radio-active injections which give them to you. So now until about this time next year I don't have to have any more tests or see the specialist. I have been working quite a bit with the Community Health Centre here at Young, helping other cancer patients along, and it is surprising how much you can do to help — if you are willing. People generally are so scared about cancer and if each and every one was a little more sensible and go and have tests regularly, such a lot could be done to help stop the spread of it, as in such a lot of cases it would be detected before it was too late to do anything. It is a hard thing to watch someone slowly fade away with cancer, knowing you can do nothing to help ease the burden — except be a friend.

I have still been playing a bit of golf although not as much as I would like at times. The weather hasn't been the best and I am afraid that I am now a fair weather golfer. I do hope to play on Sunday, if it isn't raining, as it is the Foursome Championships, over 27 holes. That will be a long way for me to walk but I guess with a little bit of determination I'll make it.

I have just been talking to Joan Darge on the phone. She is well and is working hard trying to get her house painted and papered. Said it isn't really good weather to be doing same at the present, but in

about a month she hopes that it will be finished. She has also been helping her son out with some book work as he is running a Hotel at Hurstville. She said that they were now looking around for one to buy and were thinking they might go to Queensland. It would be warmer at any rate.

By this time Scotty, I guess you will be up and about after your op., and we hope that all has gone well for you and that you haven't suffered too much. I am sure that the waiting is the hardest

in some ways, as no matter how you try you can't imagine how you'll feel when you come out of it all. However, we hope that the end result will be worth while Scotty, and you will have no more pain — Betty Craig.

(It is great to hear Betty that you can spare time to help others who are sick as there are a lot of people who think only of themselves and what they can get out of life. Keep up the good work — Editor.)

VICTORIA NEWS

HIGHETT

It is with a heavy heart that I inform all members that Bert Tobin passed away on 12th May, 1977, at his home. Bert had been sick for quite a while and suffered a lot of pain, particularly in the latter stages, but he bore this with true spirit and did not complain. All our Victorian members know the sterling work Bert has performed for us over the years. Always on the committee, mainly in the capacity of Treasurer, but his willingness-wisdom and sincerity and love of the unit association and his welfare work as a trustee endeared him to us all.

A wonderful soldier-husband-and father, and one of natures gentlemen. I personally feel a great loss for a mate that I have worked with in the association for a long time and he will be sadly missed by us all. I would also like to pay a tribute to Wilma who has had a difficult time but looked after Bert with a wonderful love and spirit throughout his illness.

Our deepest sympathy are with Wilma, Warwick and Gillian at this time.
— Harry Botterill.

MACLEOD

Having overcome an energy crisis since my holiday, I now put pen to paper to thank all 2/2nd Assoc. members for the hospitality extended to my wife Win and myself during our stay in the sunshine state. We had a ball and were not happy about leaving but for health's sake it was necessary "you plumb wore me out". A special thanks to those members who took us on guided tours.

To any enterprising member taking a holiday, load up with extra petrol and sell it over here, we have a drought

and I don't like riding my daughters push-bike. Cheers for now — Geo (Pancho) Humpreys.

(We tried to make your holiday a pleasant one — Editor.)

TEMPLESTOWE

Please note change of address, as from 10th June, 1977. After living in the glorious sunshine of Surfers Paradise in semi-retirement I now find it is not for me. Family and friends draw us back home — Bruce McLaren.

EAST COBURG

Greetings to all. I thought it time some of the necessary was sent over as I have not contributed for a couple of years. MUCH LATER — Well, my intentions were good but the shock of having to put pen to paper was too much and I somehow was side-tracked and put this in the safe and promptly forgot to complete.

Cath, the family and myself are all well. Regards to all — John Roberts.

BURWOOD

Please find enclosed cheque and hope you will continue to send the Courier to me. I always enjoyed reading the Courier when it was sent to Bert. Thanking you sincerely — Wilma Tobin.
(Courier will be sent as usual — Editor.)

EAGLEMONT

Please convey my best wishes for continued good health and happiness to all my friends. Hope to see you all again someday.

We are having a lot of "constipation" over here on account of very cold toilet seats. Regards to all — Gerry O'Toole.

HONOUR BESTOWED ON 2/2nd MEMBER

Mr Bernard Callinan, a prominent Melbourne Catholic layman, has been appointed to the Pontifical Commission for Justice and Peace.

Mr Callinan is the only Australian on the commission. He was educated at St. Joseph's Christian Brothers' College, North Melbourne, and is chairman of the Council of the Institute of Catholic Education which supervises Catholic teacher education in Victoria.

A consultant engineer, Mr Callinan was appointed by the Whitlam Government to a committee which recommended the reorganisation of the postal and telecommunication service in Australia.

He is also a member of the Australian Atomic Energy Commission and of the University of Melbourne Council.

The Pontifical Commission for Justice and Peace was set up by Pope Paul in 1967 as a response to Vatican II.

It is an agency of the universal Church for the world-wide promotion of justice for the poor and of "Christ's kind of love for them".

(Congratulations from all members of the Association - Editor.)

BELMONT

No news of any note from this end. I attended Anzac Day and marched with my old mate Bernie Callinan. It was, as always, great to be again with old comrades, but it is certainly a case of "the thinning ranks". Alex Boast, Geo Veitch, Ken Monk, Johnnie Southwell and the two of us, and that was about it. Just as well we go to the joint reunion of the Commando Units - it would be a barbecue in a cemetery otherwise. I hope all is well with you in Groperland. Some day I pray I will be able to come across for another look. Cheers especially for Eric Smyth, Tom Foster and the other Geraldton boys - R. (Baldy) Baldwin.

(Pleased to receive your letter but disappointed with the roll up at the Anzac Parade. What about it you Melbourne members, as by the address book there are approximately 45 members around the metropolitan area - Editor.)

WESTALL

Please find enclosed cheque as my donation towards keeping that great little paper The Courier coming. Also my thanks and my wife's to all of you who make it happen.

Had a letter from Blue Sargent. He's keeping fine and working hard as ever. His donation is also enclosed. Also had a letter from Smash Hodson and Gerry O'Toole. We are a dwindling band I am afraid, we only had about 7 at the Anzac march this year. We will certainly miss Bert Tobin as he was the backbone of the Victorian Branch.

Beryl and I are taking a couple of weeks holidays in Sydney, so hope to see some of the boys.

Regards to all - Alex Boast.

MENTONE

COMMANDO ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA)

P.O. Box 81, Ashburton,
Victoria, 3147.

DIRECTORY OF EX-SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

It was announced in the February 77 issue of Double Diamond that we had set up a Pensions Advisory Service for the benefit of our members in this Association. Prior to distribution of that issue and since, enquiries have come in and assistance has been provided in a number of cases.

Recently, in the course of these matters, we have become aware that our Commando and kindred Associations are not officially recognised by the Department of War Veterans Affairs (formerly the Department of Repatriation and Compensation) in that we are not listed in the Directory of Ex-Service Organisations. This causes us grave concern which we are sure will be shared by your Association.

The Directory lists Australia-wide Ex-Service Organisations, some thirty or so bodies, and is distributed annually. In many cases, where applicable, the names and addresses of State Presidents and Secretaries are provided to the Department and these are listed accordingly under the title of the Australian Organisation. It is proposed that we should register our Associations, for inclusion in the Directory, under the title of Combined Commando, M and Z Special Units Associations of Australia.

Our members throughout Australia are placed at a serious disadvantage by the non-existence of such a body in their dealings with the Department regarding pension applications and appeals. As is well known to all who served in these units medical evidence, which is of paramount importance, is usually not available due to the fact that the operational conditions under which they served did

not permit of medical officers being attached to all units and sub-units, which were often scattered in small parties. Because of this situation medical evidence cannot be produced in support of a claim, thus prejudicing the appellant's chances in his application for a pension.

We know from enquiries we have made from highly experienced persons in this field that we can very considerably increase the possibilities of success for our members if we organise our Associations on an Australia-wide basis for this purpose. This will also enable us to become affiliated with well established organisations, thus further strengthening our position on behalf of our members. It is not intended that a formation such as this will have any effect on the conduct of our normal activities as individual Associations.

We strongly recommend that your Committee gives favourable consideration to this proposal at your next meeting. As soon as you are able to do so we would appreciate receiving your reply. Meanwhile, we shall make enquiries regarding steps to be taken to register such a body with the Department. In the interests of all of our members who may, at some time, need assistance we should do this as soon as possible. We hope your Association will support us in this matter.

Yours sincerely,
Ron A. Scott,
Hon. Secretary

**COMMANDO ASSOCIATION
(VICTORIA)**

**P.O. Box 81, Ashburton,
Victoria, 3147**

**DIRECTORY OF EX-SERVICE
ORGANISATIONS**

Further to my recent letter on the above subject we wish to emphasise that,

by supporting this proposal, no Commando or kindred Association will be disadvantaged in any way. The sole purpose of the proposal that all such Associations should link themselves together on an Australia-wide basis is to gain acceptance as such by the Department of War Veterans' Affairs and to be included in the Directory. To do this we must be formed in this way.

We firmly believe that by doing so we will then be in a strong position to ensure recognition by the Department that medical evidence relevant to injuries, wounds, physical disabilities or nervous disorders caused by incidents, etc., during war service cannot, in many cases, be provided by our members because of the frequent lack of medical facilities. In this way we should be able to render invaluable assistance to any of our members as individuals if they need to approach the Department on pension matters.

Having taken this step in the interests of their members each Association will continue to operate, in all respects, as it normally does. It will, in no way whatever, become less independent than it is now nor will its identity be diminished in the slightest degree.

As a matter of interest this Association, during 1976 through a Canberra member, offered a submission relative to the Toose Report on Repatriation matters. Submissions from interested bodies had been invited by the Department. We took this action as an individual Association on behalf of all former members of Commando and kindred Units, but not on behalf of any Association of which they may be members. The present proposal is designed as a full scale follow-up to that action.

Yours sincerely,
Ron A. Scott,
Hon. Secretary

QUEENSLAND NEWS

BRISBANE

Am up on the Darling Downs trying to paint a few water colours. There is one of our chaps over a few miles away at a town called Allora, but not being mobile have forgotten the name. I wonder if you could send it along.

I seem to be back where I started a long time ago at Dirranbandi some miles west of here where left behind when enlisted an old grey horse and filly by Fireman who was a smart sprinter

from Sydney. At the moment am reduced to Belgitius a lovely mare with a colt foal at foot and have them in the paddock next to the house. What pleasure to just sit on the verandah and watch them eating grass.

See Alex Voevodin at most of the meetings down in Brisbane and he always seems to look well whether it is winners or losers.

Have set up a camp a mile east of the

town and walk four miles each day and annoy the flies with my transistor radio and ponder the mysteries of Australia. Don't be surprised if I get something good out of this mare and come over one day for a New Years gift.

Pleased always to hear and read the gossip in the Courier and best wishes to all — Sam Fulbrook.

BRISBANE

Really no news from up this way. Life plods on its uneventful way, but that can be quite pleasant as one gets older.

Gordon and I have just returned from another trip to the East where we had a ball. We often mused over the whereabouts of the Christian Cemetery while travelling in the native Bangkok taxis. There appeared to be no road rules. The taxis themselves were unroadworthy, rust buckets and if one survived those conditions, there was always the air pollution, measured as the worst in the entire world. We consoled ourselves by thinking that at least we'd go quickly doing something interesting.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWS

FLINDERS PARK

In reply to your letter I called a meeting of the Clan comprising K. Dignum, T. Timcke, A. Hollow, B. Bache, Bob Williamson, who agreed to form a working committee for the proposed Safari. We had a very constructive meeting and in answer to your query on times etc., it was proposed that one time would be from the 19th April to cover Anzac Day, and any reunions connected with such. The other time suggested is early October as the 10th October is a public holiday in S.A. The weather in S.A. in September is usually wet and windy. When you decide the period and set a definite date I will call another meeting and start things moving.

Keith Dignum managed to find Bay Webber in Mt. Gambier and would like him on the mailing list for the Courier.

Enclosed is my donation for the Courier — Dud Tapper.

(Hoping to make the next Safari and must apologise for not contacting you on our return from the last one — Editor.)

MITCHAM

I like everyone else enjoy reading the Courier, though I must admit there are

Currently we are trying to crack the Casket for a long trip to the South Americas. Regards to all — Gordon and Joan Stanley.

(Good to receive your letter and to find all is well with you both. Hope you will make the next Safari — Editor.)

RAINWORTH

Met Bob Field at Katoomba recently and Happy Greenhalgh at Maclean on the way to Brisbane. Unfortunately did not have time to see any of the chaps in Sydney but will do so on my next trip.

I retired from the ANZ bank in March after 43 years service and Iris and I have bought a caravan. We hope to get to W.A. in due course but have a lot of exploring to do on the East coast first.

Regards to all and grateful thanks for keeping the Courier going. It is truly wonderful effort — Tony Adams.

BRISBANE

No real news. Don't see anyone from unit except Tony Adams and I have not seen him since he became a gentleman of leisure. Regards — I. McPhee.

lots of names I do not recall. They really had to be Foster days for me.

I have worked solidly for Anti-Cancer as a supervisor of an annexe of the Royal Adelaide Hospital for two years since Ken's death, so am now taking myself overseas again.. I do it alone as these "Widows" tours give me the horrors.

Ken would be so proud of the success of his two sons but alas it was not to be — Betty Mackintosh.

(Really great to hear that you are taking an interest in the relief of other sufferers who have that dreaded disease. A few more could take a leaf from your book and try and help others — Editor.)

SICK PARADE

Ted Loud has been in Hollywood Repat Hospital for surgery on his foot and was discharged on 1st July and returned to Pemberton.

Doug Fullarton has had another spell in Hollywood with more heart trouble and is now home and having to take things quietly from now on.

Scotty Wares is now at home after surgery at Hollywood and is now better than he has been for years.

To all those we wish them the best and that they will keep on improving.

2nd/2nd Commando Association

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NOTE: The Committee of the 2/2nd Commando Association reserve the right to abandon this raffle and return all subscriptions already paid if it is not sufficiently subscribed.

"Buy a ticket and sell one and be in Adelaide for '78"