



2/2 COMMANDO **Courier**

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EDITORIAL

I do not write regular Editorials as it is hard to find a topic of general interest, but at least once a year I find this duty easy. I refer to the marvellous response from members to the little blue form recently included in the Courier. From everywhere the donations are really flowing in. I think the heartening thing is that we receive contributions from many people from whom we rarely hear and possibly never see,—all with the same message—"Keep the Courier going". It makes one realise that non-attendance at meetings and social functions does

not necessarily mean that our old mates have lost all interest in the Association. When the need is there, these old friends are waiting there to help us out with financial backing.

On behalf of the Committee and myself I would like to express grateful thanks for all donations great and small. Even greater thanks, for the words of encouragement accompanying many of the letters. It's really great to know that the old ties of comradeship still hold our Association together.

EDITOR.

COMING EVENTS

Tuesday, 7th June: Fun and games night for the ladies. So don't forget men to bring them along.

Tuesday, 5th July: Possible guest speaker, Harry Butler, the naturalist. Please ring 76 4304 for confirmation. Swell the numbers and attend as it will be very interesting.

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.

**Minutes of Committee Meeting
held at Anzac Club, on Tuesday,
March 15, 1977.**

The President: Mr. A. Wares declared the meeting open at 8.15 p.m., and welcomed the new committee to office. He also welcomed George Humphries and Terry Paul to the meeting. George and his wife Wynn are here on a holiday from Victoria and Terry Paul from Mandurah was in town to see his Repatriation doctor.

Present: A. Wares, D. Fullarton, P. Hancock, D. Darrington, J. Carey, R. Dhu, G. Fletcher, D. Ritchie, C. Varian, H. Sproston, C. Doig, and L. Bagley.

Apology: from B. McDonald was accepted.

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, February 15, 1977, were read and confirmed on the motion of C. Varian, seconded D. Fullarton.

Minutes of Annual General Meeting, held on Tuesday, March 1, 1977, were read.

Treasurer's Report: P. Hancock presented the following statement of accounts as at March 15, 1977: Balance brought forward \$236.40 Credit balance \$833.90 Financial report was received and accounts passed for payment on the motion of R. Dhu, seconded C. Doig.

Correspondence: Inward from R. S.L. War Veterans' Home, Ernie McGuckin Secretary of Wembly-Floreat R.S.L., N.S.W. Commando News and Double Diamond of Victoria.

Moved C. Doig, seconded D. Ritchie that Inward correspondence be received.

Kings Park: Moved C. Doig, seconded J. Carey, that G. Fletcher select and price a suitable lawn edger for use in Kings Park.

Safari for 1978: It was decided after considerable debate that popular opinion would determine whether the next Safari would be held in S.A. or W.A. A reply from N.S.W. as to their choice was awaited. S.A. has indicated its willingness to have the Safari in their State.

Financing of the Safari was discussed at length and many suggestions were put forward such as Bingo nights, another \$20 raffle and other raffles of a similar nature. Finally it was moved L. Bagley, seconded C. Doig that a \$20 Mammoth

Raffle be conducted as soon as possible and with the hope that all members will give it their support.

Anzac Day: Monday April 25, the venue for the get-together after the parade is the Clarendon Hotel, situated on the corner of Fitzgerald and John Sts., West Perth. J. Carey once again, offered to do the catering. G. Fletcher will arrange the purchase of a wreath which A. Wares and R. Dhu will lay at the Dawn Service.

Monthly Meetings: C. Doig said that the 1st Tuesday of the month meetings were a waste of time, and suggested Sunday mornings would be much better. J. Carey, R. Dhu and G. Fletcher all spoke against this idea. Other suggestions were, to hold meetings on a Saturday night at private homes, or to meet once a month instead of twice, and combine the Committee meeting with the social night. D. Fullarton spoke in favour of a bowling club as an excellent venue for Saturday night socials. It was decided to wait and see what the amenities and facilities are like at 4 Sherwood Court, which is to be the new headquarters of the R.S.L. and the Association.

Ladies Night: To be held in the Visitors Lounge of Anzac Club on Tuesday April 5, 1977. Supper to be provided.

R.S.L. War Veterans' Home have requested that we send an official representative to their Anzac Eve Service to be held on Sunday, April 24, commencing at 3.30 p.m. Mr. and Mrs. A. Wares will attend the service, and represent the Association.

Games Night: The Wembly-Floreat R.S.L. have invited us to a social games night to be held in their hall in Cambridge St., Wembly, on Monday, May 9, 1977. It was decided to accept this offer.

George and Wynn Humphries are holidaying in the West, and are staying at the Imperial Hotel. So that members and their wives can meet them, an evening has been arranged for Saturday, March 26, 1977 at the Imperial Hotel, commencing at 8 p.m., with a light supper to be provided.

The meeting closed at 10 p.m.

Minutes of Committee Meeting held at Anzac Club, on Tuesday, April 19, 1977

The President: Mr. A. Wares declared the meeting open at 8.10 p.m.

Present: A. Wares, P. Hancock, J. Carey, C. Diog, D. Darrington, R. Dhu, H. Sproston, G. Fletcher, D. Ritchie, C. Varian and L. Bagley. Apology from D. Fullarton (in hospital) was accepted.

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, March 15, 1977, were read and confirmed on the motion of C. Doig, seconded C. Varian.

Treasurer's Report: P. Hancock presented the following statement of accounts as at April 19, 1977: Balance brought forward \$833.90

RECEIPTS

April meeting	27.00	
Donations	256.00	
		283.00
		<hr/> 1116.90

PAYMENTS

Annual General Meeting	40.90
Postage April Courier	25.20
1976 Safari refund	150.00
P.O. Box rental	42.00
War Memorial Fund	50.00
	<hr/> 308.10

Balance as at April 19, 1977 \$808.80

Financial report was received and accounts passed for payment on the motion of C. Varian, seconded G. Fletcher.

Correspondence: Inward from Mick Devlin, R.S.L., The Hon. J. M. Fraser Prime Minister, Shorty Stevens, 2/4th Newsletter, Kim Fenwick, Tony Bowers, Qld. Commando News.

Outward to R.S.L. War Veterans' Home, Ernie McGuckin, Mick Devlin Moved R. Dhu, seconded D. Ritchie that inward and outward correspondence be received and confirmed.

Kings Park: G. Fletcher reported that the area was in good condition. The purchase of a suitable lawn edger was being investigated. George said that the reticulation pipes would soon need to be replaced, as rust was building up and affecting the operation of the system.

Safari 1978: After some discussion it was moved C. Doig seconded H. Sproston, that Safari '78 be held in Adelaide. The secretary was in-

structed to advise Dud Tapper of this decision.

Raffle for Safari: It was decided that a sub-committee of four be selected to work out the details of a suitable raffle. Those selected were: H. Sproston, B. McDonald, C. Doig, and L. Bagley.

Anzac Day: All arrangements are well in hand for a successful day.

Ladies Night: Held at Anzac Club on Tuesday April 5, was a well attended evening. A variety of suggestions were put forward by the ladies for future social events.

Social Games Night with the Wembly-Floreat R.S.L., is to be held at their R.S.L. Hall, 291 Cambridge St., Wembly on Monday May 9, at 8 p.m.

May Meeting: Tuesday May 3, 1977, members will meet at our new headquarters, at No. 4 Sherwood Court and see what amenities are available for functions such as: Annual Dinner, Pool night, mixed socials etc.

Guest Speaker: D. Ritchie suggested that we contact Mr. Harry Butler to give us a talk one evening. Dave also mentioned that the photo album he is preparing is almost completed and will be on show soon.

Meeting closed at 10.10 p.m.

APRIL GENERAL MEETING

April 5th was Ladies Night at the monthly meeting of the Association at Anzac Club. Very well attended and the evening proved a fruitful one. Urged by the President to offer suggestions for the years social functions, the ladies responded well and many good ideas were discussed. It was generally felt that the social life of the Association was an excellent way of keeping members together and it is now for the Committee to work out a programme of events, to please all tastes. The following are a few of the suggestions put forward, and the proposer, Theatre Night — Ivy Ritchie, Guest Speaker — Elsie Wares, Games Night — Dot Maley, Buffet Dinner — Dot Boyland, Car Drive and Barbecue — Jess Epps, Hotel Dinner Party — Dorothy Bagley. The evening closed as usual with a pleasant supper.

A very delightful evening was held in the lounge of the Imperial Hotel, on Saturday, 26th March so as members could meet George and Wynn Humphries who were holidaying from Melbourne. Wynn came over for the W.A.A.F. re-union which was held in W.A. this year, and of course George tagged along as her baggage boy. Several of the members also had them out to their homes and others took them to Mandurah to meet up with some of the 2/2 members there.

Those attending the evening at the Imperial were, Jack and Delys Carey, Henry and Thelma Sproxton, Scotty and Elsie Wares, Len and Dorothy Bagley, Charles and Mary King, Gerry and Dot Maley, Jess Epps, Dot Boyland, Dick Darrington, Don Hudson.

We do hope that both the visitors enjoyed the evening and I apologise for the numbers being so low. We hope that you had a pleasant journey to Adelaide and meet up with members there, prior to returning to Melbourne.

ANZAC DAY

The impressive Dawn Service held in Kings Park was attended by the following 2/2 members, George Fletcher, Rod Dhu, Col Doig, Jack Fowler, Len Bagley and son Gavin, Scotty Wares and wife Elsie. Scotty and Ron Dhu placed a wreath on behalf of the Association.

The Anzac Day March was very well attended 44 members were on parade and this is an improvement on the previous years. After the march we had the rendezvous at the Claredon Hotel, West Perth, and the party increased to 50 including friends of members. It was pleasing to see so many members attend from the country including, Clarrie Turner, Gordon Barnes, Don Turton, Tony Bowers, Reg Harrington, Tom Foster. The luncheon catered for by Jack Carey was really excellent and there was certainly no room for complaint. To you Jack the Association is indeed greatly indebted, and also to the proprietor of the hotel who gave us a very nice large room away from the main bars, which kept us fairly well secluded. All in all a most enjoyable day was had by all and as President I would like to see even more members from the metropolitan area attend as it was a public holiday.

Prime Minister
Canberra
15 March, 1977

Dear Mr. Carey,

The Government deeply appreciates the suggestion of the 2/2 Commando Association about aid to East Timor and the offer of Mr. Callinan to assist an Australian aid program. We have long been aware of your Association's concern for the people of East Timor and of your wish to do something tangible to help them.

As you will know, the Government in October last year gave over \$83,000 to the Indonesian Red Cross (IRC) for use in its humanitarian relief programs in East Timor. The IRC has informed us that this sum has been spent on medicine, medical supplies, relief goods and the administrative costs of distributing these items.

On 23 December, 1976, the Government made a further \$250,000 available to the IRC for relief work in Timor. The IRC has told us that this contribution will be used to provide basic medical care facilities in both rural and urban areas, in particular, ambulances for the hospitals at both Dilli and Baucau, upgrading of smaller hospitals at twelve other centres (Batugade, Balibo, Maliana, Bobanaro, Suai, Ermera, Ainairo, Same, Aileu, Los Palos, Viqueque, and Manatuto) and provision of medicaments and pharmaceuticals. According to the IRC, in excess of 100,000 people live in the areas where the money is to be used.

The Government believes that its decision to channel aid through the IRC will directly contribute to helping alleviate the suffering which has resulted from the fighting in East Timor.

All this money is given outside of our aid program, as are donations made following natural disasters such as earthquakes in Orain Jaya last year. Such donations are thus offered and accepted in response to specific emergency situations, for expenditure on aid for the victims.

By contrast, our development aid is given to a country to use as its Government determines in its economic programs. While Australia engages in consultations with receiving countries on use to which its aid is put, we do not seek to impose our views on the Govern-

ment of a receiving country. A fixed proportion of our aid could therefore be channelled to East Timor only if the Indonesian Government requested it. No request has been received, but I assure you that, were we to receive one, we would give it serious consideration.

I regret, therefore, that I am unable to act on your suggestion. You may be assured, however, that the Government will not allow the needs of people of Timor be overlooked. In addition to providing aid in the form of money, we are seek-

ing to resolve the problems of Timorese who have been separated from their families in coming to Australia. Last October President Soeharto and I agreed that officials of our two countries should meet to find solutions. These meetings have now begun, and I am hopeful that they will lead to agreement between the two Governments on the best means of meeting the needs of the Timorese.

Yours sincerely,
Malcolm Fraser

WEST AUSTRALIAN NEWS

DALKEITH

Thank you for the 3 copies of the letter from the Prime Minister. I have passed one on to each of Sir Paul Hasluck and Bernie Callinan and enclose copies of my letters.

In my view we can do no more in this particular matter as the P.M.'s letter gives no room for carrying on further correspondence.

Perhaps you should send a brief acknowledgement to the P.M. and thank him for his interest.

Regards — John Burrridge.

SOUTH PERTH

Many thanks for the continued publication of the Association life line to all members. The Courier is unique in keeping us all in touch after 35 years. Sorry I have been out of touch for about a year. My wife and I had a marvellous trip around the world and were away from Australia for nearly nine months visiting U.S.A., Canada, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Italy, Egypt, Israel, Turkey, Greece, New Zealand and Tasmania. I will have to write more fully on the subject later, but as you can imagine, we had one hell of a good time, and really saw what makes things tick. My wife came home a little off colour, and had to enter Charles Gardiner hospital for treatment. The worst is over now, and she is expected home for Easter as good as new. I am keeping much better myself, but have to wear a neck collar most times.

Hope to make it on Anzac Day and catch up on a few of you with a couple of beers. Enclosed a

cheque to keep the wolf from the door.

All the best to all members,
Jim Smailes.
(Sorry to hear of your wife's illness. Hope there's improvement Ed.)

ARMADALE

My best wishes to all the 1969 Timor Memorial Expedition.— N. Colyer.

BASSEDEAN

Very little news. I have been injured with a broken bone in my neck on the 18th Nov., 76 and all I seem to see is home and hospital. Will be entering hospital again on the 17th April for surgery. Have to have the bone fused.

Best wishes to all members.

Alf Blundy

CLOVERDALE

One thing I must do is congratulate all you chaps on the committee. Where you get your energy from I just do not know. Since I retired the weeks just seem to come and go, and another year has gone.

I have read hundreds of books from the library and caught a lot of fish as I like fishing. What with playing pool and a few drinks, that makes up my day. Anyway I wish all 2/2 boys the very best and regards to all.

Doc Wheatley
(Glad to hear from you Doc, so what about making a meeting in the near future, be delighted to meet you again. Ed.)

BEDFORDALE

Please find enclosed cheque. Please forgive us for not attending the April monthly meeting as we

were so tired after house moving. The boys had to prepare dinner for us. We trust that everyone is enjoying good health. To those dear people who have been ill, we send our prayers and good wishes. Regards to all.

Charles and Mary King

WONGON HILLS

Enclosed is a cheque for Courier and donation. I received a request for a donation to the Assistance fund for the Orphans of East Timor. I was wondering if this is in any way sponsored by our organisation or if the 2/2nd Association has established the bona fide nature of this organisation. We already have donated to a fund for assistance to the Timorese and I believe this money is held in trust.

Saw Jack Fowler and Jean at a clearing sale the other day and it was nice to see them again. All well here and waiting to get rain so as to get the wheels turning again. I don't do much now only odd jobs man.

All the best to the boys,

Regards — Stan Sadler

GERALDTON

Nip Cunningham and yours truly marched together once again in the main Anzac Day parade at Geraldton, and, as I've said in previous years, the way Nip swings those arms would do justice to a graduate from Duntroon Military College. There was an excellent attendance at the Anzac Day civic commemoration during which 39 wreaths were laid by representatives of organisations ranging from youth groups to the Pensioners League. A feature of the ceremony was the unveiling of a plaque on the Birdwood House memorial commemorating those who paid the supreme sacrifice in Korea, Malaya, Borneo, and Vietnam. Our R.S.L. Sub-Branch, of which I have the pleasure of being publicity Officer, gave practical support to one of our State Congress motions by having an ex-servicewoman on the dias from which the salute was taken during the march. This motion calls for the inclusion of a representative of the women's services on the R.S.L. badge.

Bruss Fagg of Northampton has been re-elected Treasurer of that R.S.L. Sub-Branch and continues to do excellent work in several com-

munity organisations including the Pioneer Lodge Committee, of which he is Chairman. One of their latest money-raising efforts, in conjunction with the Northampton Lions Club was the running of a mammoth auction. Bruss is also on top of the world as far as his footie club is concerned because Northampton has not yet lost a game and is on top of the premiership ladder of the Great Northern League.

Nip Cunningham's daughter, Jan and husband Alan Johnson of Silver Springs at Ogilvie in the Northampton district are in the news again. They received second top price of \$2,600 in the Poll Hereford section of the beef sales at Claremont Showgrounds. The bull was bought by a Mr. White of Busselton. All of the 13 bulls they offered were sold, at an average price of \$804.

Our eldest son Ross has been promoted to the position of Assistant works Manager for the Geraldton Plumbing Company which is associated with the Geraldton Building Co. Pty. Ltd., which is the biggest building company outside the metropolitan area with more than 600 employees. Our other son, Rex, who works for Western Mining, on the exploration side, was home from Kalgoorlie for the Easter period and was impressed by the building development which had taken place at Geraldton during the two years when he was previously home.

Please find attached, note, for Courier and Association donations.

Kind regards to all the boys,

Peter Barden

GOLDSWORTHY

I am not much good at writing letters and I take the easy way out and don't write at all.

When I received my Life Membership badge I was both surprised and pleased. I had expected to read something in the Courier as to the reason why. I am enclosing a cheque and I will leave it to you to fill in how much for Courier and Association funds.

I am far from happy at the way our Government have handled the Timor situation but see little that we can do about it.

Any 2/2nd that are passing through Goldsworthy will find Edie at the service station and there is always a cold beer.

I will sign off now, with regards to all,

Blue Prendergast
P.S. Edie sends her regards to Jess Epps.

AT LONG LAST TO W.A. THIS IS YOUR LIFE — PALINE ENGLISH

After waiting so long for this episode to appear in W.A. I have been advised by STW Channel 9, that it will be on at 7.30 p.m., Monday, 18th July, 1977. Ed.

The President wishes to thank the following for their donations towards the cost of the Courier production. It proves that the Courier is a vital link of the Association and that it lets everyone know what is being done by the Committees in the various States.

J. Smailes, T. Bateman, N. Colyer, T. Bowers, A. Blundy, R. Study, F. Otway, B. Callinan, M.

Wheatley, J. Fenwick, C. King, H. Price, R. Gurr, G. Hart, K. Piesse, T. Nesbit, S. Sadler, P. Walter, J. Lilliey, D. Turton, T. Foster, L. Bagley, R. Kirkwood, A. Smith, K. Bowden, F. Sparkman, L. Anderson, R. Watson, R. Barron, C. Turner, R. Harrington, M. Morgan, J. Poyton G. Barnes, G. Maley, W. Howell, D. Darrington, P. Hancock, R. McDonald, H. Sproston, Counsell, A. Sparkman, G. Vandeleur, A. Wares.

SICK PARADE

Alf Blundy was in hospital for surgery in April.

Doug Fullarton has been hospitalised and in the intensive care ward, as the result of a heart attack. Last report is that he is now on the way to recovery.

Scotty Wares entered Hollywood for spinal operation.

The President and Committee wish all members a speedy recovery.

NEW SOUTH WALES NEWS

EPPING

Received your circular regarding the East Timor Assistance Fund, and will submit it to the N.S.W. Committee for discussion at the April meeting. I must apologise to Harry and Thelma Sproston, for being unable to get down to the Great Southern, to meet Mum, Olive and Alan, although we were able to ring them and have quite a chat. It was most unfortunate that they arrived at that particular time as Sydney had 13½ inches of rain in 4 days. Our thanks to Ron and Dot Trengrove who were such wonderful hosts to the party from W.A. Were you able to catch up with any of the 2/32 Alan.

At our Special General Meeting held on 7th March, the Notice of Motion as circularised in the Courier was defeated. There were only 8 members present, with apologies from two others. Well lads Anzac Day again we are hopeful of a very big turn up.

As is custom for this time of the year, I would like to remind all N.S.W. and Queensland members that your Annual Subs are due. (\$2.00 or there about.) If you are coming to the Anzac Day I shall be found on my usual stand,

If not my address is still as per the little blue book.

Had a pleasant day down at the Bennett's yesterday. Bill and June live in that nice little hamlet called Mona Vale. The day was good and the meal was Smorgasbord Style, with the ladies supplying the goodies. Members, wives and friends were as follows, Alan and Edith Luby, Bill and Coral Coker, Bob and Joy Smith with daughters Christine and Beryl, Mick and Betty Devlin, Don and Dulcie Latimer, and our congenial host and hostess Bill and June Bennett. We wish to thank you both for availing us the use of your house and wonderful hospitality.

Had a very nice day recently, as a guest of the Combined Association on the Krait, remember her in 1968. Well apart from a few modifications and a minor overall she still gets along as good as ever. I have joined the local Bowling Club, and had my first coaching lesson on Saturday last. I thought I was in reasonable shape, still playing squash one night a week and indoor bowls 2 nights a week, who ever said bowls is an old man's game. After a two hour session I feel like having gone ten rounds with Finkle.

Bob Smith has recently been discharged from hospital after a three week admission and the trouble seemed to be respiratory and he is now on the mend. (Keep up the good work Bob — Scotty).

Well I will now close with regards to all members, their wives and families.

God Bless—Mick Devlin

EPHING

Received your welcome letter yesterday, and was pleased to hear all's well in W.A. With regards to your request allied to the 1978 Safari, I have enclosed the following information.

1. I have enclosed a duplicate copy of minutes of the meeting held at the Great Southern Hotel on Saturday, 11th September, 1976, during Safari.

2. There were quite a few off the cuff discussions, on the relative merits of the 1978 Safari, with W.A. and S.A. as the most popular venues. The discussions I was involved in, were of an official nature, and the only official meeting held in regard to the 1978 Safari was the one held on Saturday, 11th September, 1976.

3. At the April monthly meeting of the N.S.W. Association there were 10 members present, and the chairman put it to a vote, on who favoured W.A. and likewise S.A. There were 8 in favour of S.A. and 2 in favour of W.A. However should S.A. get the nod, there are quite a few members who still intend, after the Safari to travel to W.A. including yours truly. Would it be possible to get a head count per the Courier or do you feel that time will not permit. Just for general information of the 10 persons who attended, 9 were committee members.

I have enclosed a copy of the Assistance Fund For The Orphans of East Timor, this circular was received by most N.S.W. members. I am sorry that I assumed that the document came to me via W.A. branch. I should have known when there was no cover note attached. Have you identified this organisation yet, and if so what are the feelings regarding possible support from the W.A. Branch. The N.S.W. branch have decided to take no action until we get some definite confirmation, or a little history on their origin.

Scotty I have another favour to ask, regarding a notice of motion which the N.S.W. committee wish to have circulated through the Courier prior to our July 4th meeting.

Notice of Motion

MOVED T. Martin, seconded W. Coker that Quarterly meetings be held at Arncliffe R.S.L. The motion to be dealt with at the July 4th, 1977 meeting with a social, and a meeting programme to be drawn up for the following 6 months. **VENUE**—Arncliffe R.S.L., Wollongong Road, Arncliffe, N.S.W., 4th July, 1977. Time 8.00 p.m.

Regards to all,

Mick Devlin

Combined Association Meeting held at Great Southern Hotel, 11th September, 1976.

Present: Messrs. Luby, Devlin, Kenneally, Bowers, Smith, Fenwick, Bennett, Coker, Fowler, Bryant, Doig King, Bagley, Sproxtion, Smith, Trengrove, Weir, Went, Hartley.

Motion: Moved L. Bagley, seconded W. Coker that the next Safari be arranged for late August early September, 1978, with venue to be decided in later discussions. **Carried.**
Motion: It was moved C. Doig, seconded W. Bennett that the donors of money to the Timor Appeal be asked to nominate what to do with their donations now that it is no longer possible to render direct assistance to the Timorese people. **Carried.**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN — AND IT SHOULD BE ALL OF US

At least one person—Jim Fenwick of Canberra—is worried about many problems facing us today. His following letter speaks for itself. —Editor.

CANBERRA

I have been going to write for months, fact is I even started one letter and tore it up. Firstly let me say how much we enjoyed the safari. It is the first time I have been able to attend one fully, instead of a few days here and there as previously.

The talk of having one in Adelaide is good and having it there will give me a better chance to attend.

During the Xmas/New Year break I called in to see Roy Martin at Griffith and Kev Curran at Ben-

digo. Also saw Keith Craig at Young. Whilst in Melbourne tried to contact Harry Botterill and a few others by phone but no joy. We even called at John Roberts but again no luck.

It would seem that our crazy world it still on the "gimme" and "up you jack I'm alright" kick. I figure that the way politicians want to hand us everything on a platter and the union leaders saying its not enough it is about time we remembered one of John Kennedy's sayings "ask not what the country can do for me, but what can I do for my country" (or similar sentiments).

In this society of today being patriotic appears to be a sign of senility and being prepared to give somebody a helping hand personally a sign of weakness. To protest at the murder of unborn babies a sign of old fashion nonsense. Here they are trying to set up "super market" abortion clinics so that a few medical(?) people can make a fast buck and leave the victims to the mercy of the unknown. If people want abortions, need them, let it be done under strict medical supervision where all facets, physical and mental can be attended to, and not make it easy for "the get rich quick" section of the medical fraternity to buy their yachts and imported cars out of the proceeds.

There is a lot wrong with our country these days and it is about time a lot of us got off our tails and wrote to our local members telling them what we think about the state of our country and their inept bumbling handling of the country's affairs. We should talk about it amongst our friends and business contacts. Even if we don't agree on how to overcome the problems, talking, arguing will help get the different views over and they will seep through to our so called leaders. Union members should, where possible, attend their meetings, if not let your union officials know how you feel about strikes, especially these so called political strikes and any other union matters.

It is a lousy state of affairs, when people whose allegiance to foreign ideals can openly defy our country's laws and do their best to cripple our economy. It is about time we started to fight these traitors by up and saying our piece at meetings, writing to our parliamentarians and telling our friends what we think about the issues. Not all of us agree on how to overcome the problems but at least most of us give allegiance to Australia, most of us have served our country in one way or another since the war so it is about time we took up the fight again.

Maybe these sentiments are not very well expressed but hope fully most of you will see what I am getting at and will have a go and stir up a bit of sensible and responsible reaction to these traitors who are trying to destroy our country.

If by chance this letter is published before the referenda items are put to the voters, please give the section of giving voting rights to the territories population a lot of thought. We are not the "pampered people" of Australia as depicted by the Premiers of W.A. and Queensland. We pay our way mostly through the nose, and it is against all democratic principles to deny any Australian full voting rights. Even the aboriginals, at long last, have been given full voting rights, so why not the taxpayers and people of the territories.

Well having got that off my chest, I'll wait and see if I have sown a crop.

Regards to all and hope to see some of you as you pass through Canberra.

Jim Fenwick
(Thanks Jim for the very thoughtful ideas in your letter and it should certainly wake some of us up. I have written to politicians in Canberra on a few personal matters myself—Scotty).

VICTORIAN NEWS

NORTH BALWYN

It is good to be on the mailing list again of the Courier, all I need now is a copy of the address book.

Great to hear Jerry Haire and Reg Harrington have been made Life Members and my hearty congratulations and best regards to them.

I am about to commence my long service leave and will be away about three months. Unfortunately the West is not on my itinerary which is about the only place that isn't.

Kindest regards to all members

Tony Nisbet

(Great to hear from you but please when you shift again let us know and then no problem with Courier delivery. Sent address book. Ed.)

ST. KILDA

As usual I have won the pen and paper. It was such an added interest to read of so many we met whilst on the trip to Sydney last year—we spent a most wonderful five days there whilst the safari was on and hope to be able to attend the next one. Bill is starting to improve at last, he is in his eighth week in hospital and starting to growl at things - always a good sign. We sent all the negatives of the photos Bill took in Sydney, to Mick Devlin, suggesting that after the N.S.W. boys got any prints, he send them to W.A.

With best wishes to all,

Eileen Sharp

VALE — BERT TOBIN

It is with the greatest regret that we advise the death of Bert Tobin at his home in the early hours of 12th May, 1977, after a fairly prolonged illness.

The 2/2nd Commando Association all over Australia and especially in Victoria have lost one of its greatest stalwarts. He was unceasing in his work for the Association and no one could bring greater talents to bear on his tasks as Secretary-Treasurer, President and general factotum. He was the body and spirit of the Vic. Branch over all its years since the war. His organisation of the Safaries of Olympic 1956 and 1968 and 1973 were to say the least perfection and in the greatest detail as only a master mind like Bert could do. The Association has good reason to mourn his passing, we have lost a friend and councillor and life member.

Bert was an outstanding soldier, great citizen and wonderful husband and father and in all a great guy.

I personally have lost one of my greatest mates in the truest meaning of the word.

Our sincere condolences to Wilma, Warwick and Jillian in their sad loss.

VALE MATE.

Col Doig

QUEENSLAND NEWS

MT. GRAVATT

Not much to write about. I will be on the next Safari to Perth. I see Abe Voevodin at the R.S.L. or the races. I must look Angus and Lois up. Have not seen George or Mel Mathieson for awhile, or Freddie Bryant and his wife. I dropped in on Russ Blanch and Happy Greenhalgh, he has moved 2 miles out of Maclean. His wife is still very sick. I am having a quiet Easter, and enjoying good health.

See you on Safari.

Fed Otway

(Fred please supply us soon as possible Russ Blanch new address, if he is now living in Queensland)

BRISBANE

The form for the donation and subscription was accidently des-

troyed. Please find P/O to cover Courier and donation.

Last June, 1976, Edna and I had a flying trip to the Orient, visiting Singapore, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Teipe and had ten days in Japan. We found it very interesting and their outlook and they certainly have a different way of life and yet most of them seem to be happier in their outlook on life than we Australians do.

Last November again went to Yamba and met up with Lola and Geoff Laidlaw also Rene and Happy Greenhalgh.

Happy was hobbing around as he had just had an operation on one of his knee caps.

Regards to all.

Georg Vandeleur

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NEWS

PT. LINCOLN

Many moons have passed since we returned from our trip to the Eastern States and I have had good intentions about writing but time does not slow down, only the flesh, and I am very much flesh at the moment.

We really did enjoy our trip away, especially the few hours spent in Sydney at the conclusion of the Re-union. It was good to see some of the old faces again. The proposed trip to W.A. in 1978 was discussed and the anticipated rise in costs was accepted as a problem. For what it is worth we travelled to Brisbane down to Sydney and home with an old car and van, the cost of fuel etc. for over 4000 miles was \$180. With the new road to the West, consideration could possibly be given to travelling together by road. At this stage we are hopeful of going West in 1978.

Before I forget please note the new address at the top of the page. We have not moved, only the march of time has caught up with us, our local Post Office has been closed

as unviable and we now are served by private bag.

Have just returned from a trip to Mundowdna and can report the Litchfield family are fit and well. The rainfall has been light and with the dams drying up it looks like a difficult time ahead for them, one can only hope they soon get a darn good rain.

We can report a good season last year despite the fall in cattle prices, with a dry summer behind us we are hopeful of a reasonable year ahead.

Am happy to report the family are well. Our eldest daughter is in her final year and was awarded a scholarship which has made things a whole lot easier for all.

Regards to all in the West,

Shorty Stevens

DARWIN

With greetings from Darwin. Recovering well from cyclone Tracy's visit. We are looking forward to another glorious dry season, wondering what type of visitors will populate temporarily our town this year.

Best wishes to all members,

Peter Walter

TASMANIAN NEWS

RISDON VALE

Once again I am pleased to receive the Courier—it brings back many memories. A. Stevenson's letter was of great interest, although I never met the pilot who was looked after by the 2/2nd, I recall it well also the large wrist watch Tex Richards wore, which I think was a gift from the pilot.

The President's letter to the Prime Minister is of great interest and would express a lot of peoples thoughts. We owe so much to our East Timor people, how do we help them.

It is quite some time since I have met up with anyone who was attached to the 2/2nd ex 2/40th Btn. I was unable to attend the last 2/40th Re-union where most of our Timor gang get together, it is hoped there will be a get together on Anzac Day.

All the best to the 2/2nd,

Bert Price

Changes of Address

G. Prendergast,
39 Mulyie Way,
Goldsworthy, 6723

A. E. Smith,
97 Spinaway Parade,
Falcon, 6210

J. Ritchie
101 Park Street,
Subiaco, 6008

J. Hasson,
112A Lawrence Street,
Bedford 6052

G. Vandeleur
95 Bambrook Street
Taigum
Brisbane 4030

H. E. James
Lot 470, Unit 1
Mandurah 6210

C. H. King
Lot 498 Albany Highway
Bedforddale 6112

THE OPERATION THAT NEVER WAS

He lay there on the trolley in the operating theatre, capped and gowned, mouth and throat dry from the pre-op needle, his body as sterile inside and outside as any body should be - and hazily reviewed all the preparations he had undergone up to this moment. The weighing and measuring, the taking of blood for cross matching, the re-assuring chat from his anaesthetist, the ward doctor explaining the process of the spinal operation, even the ward sister telling him to practice wee-ing lying flat on his back in bed because that's how he'd be doing it for at least a week after the operation, the shaving and the undignified enema. And now. in a few moments he would be blacked out and when he woke up it would be all over. He had been very keyed up and he'd be glad to get that needle. What were they waiting for? Vaguely he heard the anaesthetist using very complaining language because of some hold-up. A lady doctor too - she should be ashamed. Somebody came and looked at him and felt his pulse. He wondered uneasily why they were taking so long. A phone ringing — raised voices, more language, footsteps running. Just as he could wait no longer a voice saying - "Don't do

anything more to Mr. Wares - Mr. S - - - isn't here to do the operation.

Ignominiously he was wheeled back to the ward and lifted into bed - people apologising, blaming, soothing while his body shook with nerves strung out and keyed up too long. Everything had apparently been ordered and arranged for with one small exception - somehow, somehow the specialist surgeon had not been notified!

The above is a true incident and happened recently in a Repatriation Hospital to our Editor, Scotty Wares, who is still not laughing about it. He has it all to go through again on May 27th and this time - THIS TIME - he is personally going to make sure the surgeon knows about it too.

APPEAL FOR WAR TIME PHOTOS

The Association is in the process of compiling an album and this is an appeal to members to send any photos that they may have either of Timor, New Guinea or New Britain.

THANKS

The President wishes to thank the following for donations towards the Courier:

J. Epps, P. Barden, G. Prendergast, J. Smith.