



# 2/2 COMMANDO Courier

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OCTOBER, 1977

Price 1c.

## COMING EVENTS

1st OCTOBER — Annual Dinner at R.S.L. Club, Sherwood Court, Perth, at 6 p.m. 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 p.m. What about attending and remembering our departed mates. Alteration of barbecue date which was originally advertised for 2nd October will now be held in November.

There will be no General Meeting on the first Tuesday in October.

23rd OCTOBER — Car drive through the hills and then a barbecue at the residence of Mrs. Jess Epps, 12 Hackett St., Greenmount. Car drive to start from the Stirling

Arms Hotel, Guildford, at 2 p.m. Make this a must and support the ladies who are willing to organise social events. Please ring 294 1845 or 276 4304 and advise if you will be attending, this is for catering arrangements.

1st NOVEMBER — Bowls Night, bring the ladies and make it a pleasant evening.

27th NOVEMBER — Barbecue at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. Carey, 13 Stoddart Way, Bateman at 4 p.m.. For catering arrangements, please ring 332 7050 or 276 4304 if you will be attending.

6th DECEMBER — Meeting at R.S.L. Club. This is the last meeting for the year so bring the ladies and enjoy a Xmas drink.

~~\$10 from wallet~~

Bowls Shoes

28.99  
2.89

\$26.10

to Bank June 6/12/77

## NEW SOUTH WALES NEWS

### EPPING

I thought that it was about time I dropped a few lines with some news. The first thing being that at the July meeting, it was resolved by members present, that future general meetings would be held quarterly and still on the first Monday of the quarter (public holidays excepted), and still at the Arncliffe R.S.L. Should the committee deem a meeting so important that it cannot wait until the quarter, this will be adjusted as necessary. Our first meeting to be held under the present arrangements, will be our Annual General Meeting for 1977 on Monday, 5th September, and here is hoping for an excellent roll-up.

Had a brief chat with Don Murray recently, he tells me that he is now in the real estate business and doing O.K. He still manages to keep himself looking fit by swimming with the local R.S.L. Club. (What about Don's address please Mick — Editor.) ALEX BOAST was over recently from Victoria, on a caravan trip. We were hopeful of getting him along to the July meeting, but he had to return that morning on the return trip. Ron Goodacre was able to catch up with him and I will get all the news from him later. Alan Luby had a letter from Bill Tomasetti recently. Bill resides in New Guinea and is currently making plans to return to Australia, and intends to set up house in the Blue Mountains area. Received a letter from Geo and Mel Mathieson and both send their regards to all. Al and Edith Luby called on them on their recent trip and reports all well.

I have had a few enquiries re the Safari, mainly at what time of the year has been decided upon. Has the arrangements for the raffle been finalised yet and N.S.W. will assist in any way.

Tom Martin has had a few trips to the AGH since I last wrote, he is having a lot of trouble with his knee since the removal of a piece of bone. We certainly miss the old gentleman from our meetings, so hurry back old son.

Well that about takes me off for the time being and convey my best regards to all — Mick Devlin.

### CARDIFF

It has been a long time since I last dropped a line. I called on Bob Smith some time back as he is now our Rep. He seems to be keeping fairly fit. Since then I made up my mind to retire at 60 (13/6/77). I did so. I am on 100% pension and have been for 20 years and as I have so many things wrong it is not funny. At present waiting for Service Pension to come through, and I believe it takes up to 14 weeks to be finalised. Had a nice letter from the Tech. College Head in Sydney and after 26 years' service.

Came as a great shock to hear of the passing of Bert Tobin.

Yours in friendship —

Les Isenhood.

### BLACKTOWN

A note to say hello and hope all is well in W.A. Dulcie and I had a lost weekend in Canberra with the regional association at their dinner and dance at Queanbeyan R.S.L. Met up with Ron Daniels 2/2nd who is secretary of that association. Did not recognise him at first because of his beard.

Things are not going too bad here. Had a night out in July with No. 1 Cdo. Assn. in Sydney. Well attended by 2/2nd. Luby, Coker, Goodacre and the effervescent Kenneally and their wives among others. It was their first Annual Ball. They pounded the Lord Mayor of Sydney about support for a Commando Memorial in Sydney and got it. They made him an honorary member of their Assn. so he could not back down. Hope he gets re-elected next month.

Enclosed is application form for Safari Raffle. Dulcie and I will make the Safari and I might even bring my squeeze box if I am allowed. Also cheque for ticket and Courier.

Regards — Don Latimer.

### ORANGE

Have just finished reading the latest Courier, and as usual afterwards I had that feeling of guilt because I have not written for quite a long time. I tried to talk Kathleen into doing it but to no avail, so here is my attempt at telling what has been happening to the Press clan lately.

As Frank Sharp told you in his letter, I retired from the N.S.W.

R.S.L. State Council at the end of the Congressional year, and just at the moment I feel that I have lost an arm or something, for after thirteen years on it I am going to miss it a lot. The District Council I represented is giving me a Testimonial Dinner at Wellington this coming Sunday where I will be saying good-bye to a lot of good friends that I have made over those years. I really do feel sad about it, but as my health has, of late, not been the best there was nothing else for me to do but step down.

Had a spell in hospital early in December, but recovered in time to fly to Norfolk Island with the State President, Sir Colin Hines, where we spent eight very relaxing days among the Pitcairners who made us very welcome. Returning home I was both surprised and delighted to learn that Kathleen had booked us on a Pacific Cruise on the Oriana, sailing in March. There were about fourteen of us, all friends, in the party and we spent a wonderful couple of weeks just soaking up the sun and ozone. Came home feeling so fit that I was almost dangerous. That didn't last long though because the Orange winter set in shortly afterwards, and what a winter it has been — Snow, sleet and rain, freezing cold almost all the time. Old-timers reckon it to be one of the worst winters in living memory.

I did manage to get to Sydney for Anzac Day and met up with the boys who were there and enjoyed the company on the Harbour Cruise and I am now keeping my fingers crossed, hoping that I remain fit enough to take in the Adelaide Safari. We are both looking forward to this one with pleasure. Kathleen has never been there and the last time I saw it was when I was doing an OCTU in 1943.

Had another trip to Sydney a short while ago for a medical check up. That was when I ran into Mick Devlin on the train at Eastwood. I just saw him as I was getting off. No, Mick, there isn't anything significant about the walking stick. I only use it when I am likely to be on my feet for long periods, and that's not very often.

Reading back over this letter I

must say it sounds like an autobiography so please forgive me for that. The rest of the family are well. John (a Major now) recently returned from New Guinea and has been posted to Victoria Barracks. Paul is still in Computers in Sydney and appears to be doing alright for himself, thank you very much. Anthony received his Bachelor of Science degree, with first class honours, last year and won a scholarship to go on and work for his Ph.D., whilst Michael seems to be doing OK over in Perth. Kathleen and Frances are both well, and like me, are looking forward to another get-together with you all as soon as possible. Glad both you and Len have both recovered so well after your operations, and may good health continue for you both. We, over here, are very much in debt to you and your committee for the tremendous job you are doing in keeping this association going. It's great to get the Courier and read the names of our mates of yesteryears and know they are getting along fine. I am adding a few bob to your Courier fund with this letter.

Don't forget, 22 Oak Street, Orange, is the address for any of the 2/2nd who may be passing through and a warm welcome is here for any of you who care to call in. There is always a beer in the fridge and good deep water holes are not far away. We would love to see any of you.

Cheers, Scotty, and may God Bless you all.

Frank Press

#### CANBERRA

Find enclosed application for a ticket in your "Asian Tour". Have not seen anybody from the unit for a while.

Did ring Bob Smith whilst I was in Newcastle for my father's funeral.

Well, must away, as I am off for a drive.

Regards — Jim Fenwick.

(Deepest sympathy to all the family in your recent bereavement. Editor.)

#### EPPING

I thought it about time that I put pen to paper and advise you of happenings that have occurred since

my last news letter, here in N.S.W.

Firstly the Annual General Meeting was held on Monday evening, 5th September, 1977, with the main item on the agenda being the election of officers for the ensuing year, results were as follows:

President, A. S. Luby; Senior Vice-President, W. Bennett; Vice-President, A. Addison; Junior Vice-President (to be elected December meeting); Secretary/Treasurer, F. M. Devlin; Assistant Secretary, J. Hartley; Auditor, W. Bennett; Returning Officer (to be elected December meeting); General Committee, P. Kenneally, W. Coker.

Liaison Officers: Hunter Valley, R. Smith; Queensland, A. McLachlan; Northern N.S.W., C. Paff; Western N.S.W., F. Sharpe; A.C.T., J. Fenwick.

Letters will be sent to the above liaison officers, in the near future, requesting confirmation of their appointments, and to give them an outline with regards to duties required of them. President A. Luby thanked the out-going committee for assistance given him over the past year, and wished the incoming members every success in the forthcoming year, especially our co-operation with W.A. and S.A. committees with the view to another successful Safari

in October 1978. Tickets for Safari Raffle are now available and all members are asked to assist with sale of same.

Sunday, 4th December, 1977, is the day nominated to hold the N.S.W. Xmas Barbecue. This function will be held at the home of Jack and Maria Hartley, 62 Palmerston Road, Fairfield (phone 604 7883). It is intended to start the activities from noon onwards, everyone welcome.

Scotty, I have a long lost member who wishes to be included on the mailing list of the Courier, Mr. H. A. Holden, c/o Long Flat Post Office, Wauchope, N.S.W. 2446. We were able to locate Slim recently and he is hungry for news of his old mates. He was unaware that our various State associations were still going strong. (Sent back copies to him and he is now on mailing list—Editor.)

Will you please place the election of officers and proposed date and time of the Xmas Barbecue if at all possible, in the next issue of the Courier. As we now only meet quarterly in N.S.W. we find it difficult to round the old gang up for functions, except for phone calls which are now very expensive.

Regards to all,  
Mick Devlin.

## VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION

### KEW

Recently in London, I met and lunched with Michael Calvert. He sent his regards and good wishes to everyone. Michael is fit and well but recently had an attack of thrombosis which laid him low for a while. He is at present doing quite a lot of writing and was going to

the United States shortly in response to an invitation to attend a special services reunion.

Regards — Bernard Callinan.

(You were luckier than we were in being able to contact Michael, as we travelled many miles and then only contacted him by phone.)

## WESTERN AUSTRALIAN NEWS

### KATANNING

Herewith the blue form, trust I have not been struck off the mailing list. It will be nice to learn that your delayed operation has now been successfully performed — rest assured that you have been in our thoughts and prayers.

A class in one of the Katanning schools has been doing a project on wars, and I have been asked by

the Principal to give a talk on Anzac and wars generally. A half-hour talk surprisingly went on for an hour and a half. Later I was able to arrange a visit to the drill hall for an inspection of equipment and weapons. A question from several sources was "Why don't ex servicemen talk about their war experiences" My reply was that if they were questioned as to how

many enemy they killed then there would be no reply. However, if they were asked to talk about the countries visited and the people encountered then the ex servicemen would be very pleased to converse. The point of all this is that I was then asked would I do just that. Now, Scotty, have you or the Association any film or films available that I could use. Is the original Timor film still serviceable. The date for the talk is immediately after the August holidays.

Whilst we have not been in the real drought area the last twelve months has been pretty difficult and trying on aging folk. Without the support of my wife continually and the children at holiday time, I would not have remained so cheerful.

Had a nice cup of coffee and toast and a chat with Vida and Don Thurton recently. Was on a trip to Muresk College, with a party of committeemen, where a demonstration of a shearing rig was to take place. We benefitted also by Don's earlier tuition in map reading.

Our eldest boy, Peter has taken time off from University and is currently in Sydney where he plans to stay until the commencement of uni. next year. Anyone visiting the Opera House could be served a beer or whatever by him at the Bennalong Restaurant there. Second boy Michael is in final year at Muresk College and plans to take over management here next year. Margaret, who has been at New Norcia College and has now come to Perth and is planning a nursing career at present, though shouldn't be surprised at switch to agriculture.

Kindest regards to all —

Bert Burges.

(Great to hear from you, Bert, and have sent you the film "Men of Timor".)

#### CARNARVON

As you can see, I have made a move. Bit late in life, but still I have a permanent posting to the area covering Carnarvon and North. At present in the process of building a house here, so with the job and house I am kept fairly busy. If any of the gang come this way, we would be very glad to see them. We could give them a conducted

tour of the prawn processing factory here.

Thanks for the Courier with all its bits of information and interesting reading.

Best wishes to everybody —

Albie Friend.

(Great to hear from you, and have altered your address — Editor.)

#### WONGAN HILLS

It has been very dry again this year, crops in our district are looking OK, but feed is very scarce. A lot of farmers are selling stock.

We are going to Exmouth early in August and will be trying our luck on the fish up there.

Regards to all —  
Charlie Sadler.

#### DUBROVNIK

Thought I would drop a line — not to bore you with travellers stories, but with a few observations of this part of the world.

Joan and I flew to Athens and then took an organised tour by air to see Crete and Rhodes. It is not a good idea to try this on your own unless you have unlimited time, as guides are necessary for explanation. Incredible were the ruins and museums of ancient KNOSSOS, one of the three main centres of the MINOAN civilisation. This was no modern Graeco-Roman era, but was at its height 1600-2000 B.C. Imagine eggshell china cups which, despite their antiquity, would have graced our present Queen's tea table. They fished in those far-off days and the mind boggles when in a museum you see swivels such as we use today — apparently identical in form but bigger. We saw the oldest "theatre" in Europe which was made in 2000 B.C. I found the best seat and took a photo of Mrs. B. as she might have been 4000 years ago.

Back in Athens we hired a VW from Avis and set off — me in a muck sweat on a different side of the road from home, plus the additional handicap of the greatest back seat driver in W.A. I got lost getting out of Athens and then we hit a fiveway intersection. The result is something Gilbert & Sullivan might have used if they were here today. Finally on the main road to mighty Corinth, thence on varying degrees

of road making to Sparta, Pylos, and around Peloponnesus via ancient Olympia to Patras — third largest city in Greece. On the way there could have been a tragedy. We were trying to find a little secluded beach the garage bloke described to us in a very isolated area. Swerving to avoid a pothole, I put Volksw, which we have named Homer, into a three foot ditch. Prepared for hours of misery, I started off to the nearest village. No more than three minutes later, along came a truck with 10 Greek workers aboard. Amidst lots of laughter and funmaking, out came Homer, none the worse for the ordeal. I pressed them hard but they would not take a cent. Some of the mountain roads are fantastic for scenery but a bit scary.

I am now writing this from the fantastic old city of DUBROVNIK. Three days on the roads among mighty mountains of Serbia, Macedonia and Montenegro suggested a two-day stop and rest. The main roads in Yugoslavia (away from the touristy Dalmation Coast) are an utter night mare. We were warned by all and sundry before we left Greece and the warnings were timely. There are more big trucks than cars and those truck drivers are madmen. Thank heavens we have only tourist traffic for the rest of our stay in Yugoslavia.

We will wind slowly northwards along this dramatic coastline, cross into Italy and Trieste and Venice. Homer, Joan and I will get a boat in Venice back to Piraeus (port of Athens).

We will fly to Bangkok and Hong Kong and catch the Martha Bakke for the trip to Fremantle via Singapore and Manila.

Regards to all —  
John Burridge.

#### PEMBERTON

Enclosed is cheque for Courier and Association funds. I apologise for not sending it earlier. Roll on the Courier. It was reported that I was having surgery on my foot, but that was not so. There was some inflammation of the bone which cleared up by anti-biotics and a hell of a lot of needles.

Glad to see Scotty Wares looking so well after his op. Also looking in the pink was Percy Hancock,

Jerry Haire, Jack Hasson and his lovely wife, Norma. Also saw Col Doig before I returned to Pemberton.

Hope that Doug Fullarton is on the mend again.

Regards to all — Ted Loud.

#### GERALDTON

Another double-red-diamond-ite is in the news — this time Eric Smyth. He was returning from fishing in his boat Julianna when he came upon an amateur fisherman and local hairdresser, Fred Masotto, who had been thrown out of his dinghy after a rope became entangled in the propellor of the outboard motor when he was pulling his rock-lobster pots near the harbour breakwater. It was indeed a timely arrival and Eric effected a rescue within minutes. There is no greater lover of the sea life than Eric, who has been doing quite a lot of fishing since giving away his previous occupation of accountancy, and who has been a prominent member of the Geraldton Yacht Club for many years.

Eric's wife, Twy, is continuing to take a leading role in community life, and has just been re-elected to the Advisory Committee of the \$1,100,000 Regional Community Health Centre which is nearing completion in the vicinity of the Geraldton Regional Hospital.

My wife, Joan and I, have again had the pleasure of judging the floats in the Sunshine Festival street parade which preceded the official opening of the 19th Festival by Town Planning Minister Cyril Rushton. There were some really good floats and to add to the enjoyment of the day West Perth thrashed East Perth.

While our population is about doubled for the Festival, I would recommend a visit to Sun City Geraldton at any time of the year because we have the best all the year round weather in Australia. Although more rain would be appreciated in the area, the healthy economy can be gauged by the fact that building approvals worth a record of more than \$11.5 million were handled by the Geraldton Town Council during 1976-77. Rock lobsters worth more than \$7.2 million to the Abrolhos Islands fishermen were caught during the 5 months' season.

Regards to all the boys,  
Peter Barden.

The President wishes to thank the following for donations to assist with the Courier costs: T. Nesbit, J. Lett, H. Burges, R. Dook, E. Thornander, L. Thompson, C. Sadleir, L. Isenhood, K. Curran, A. Friend, B. Callinan, R. Williamson, E. Loud, F. Press, B. Lawrence, D. Latimer.

#### **SICK PARADE**

Ron Sprigg has once again been in Royal Perth Hospital, having been flown from Carnarvon by the Flying Doctor Ambulance. He had been on a holiday to the North with Win when he had become seriously ill. Last report received is that he has now gone back North to continue the holiday.

Alf Brady has been in Royal Perth and underwent surgery on the heart. He was in the intensive care ward for two weeks and when I saw him on 3rd September, 1977 he expected to be transferred to the annexe at Shenton Park for Physio treatment.

To those two, the Association sends their best wishes and continuing improvement.

#### **THE SOCIAL SCENE**

The 2nd August saw another monthly meeting when the ladies were welcomed along. This time the entertainment took the form of carpet bowls. Numbers, of course, were small — only 13 people being present, but enthusiasm made up for scarcity of people and we had a really good fun evening with the ladies (raw amateurs) being coached by the gentlemen (professionals) and the ladies showing their general all-round superiority by proving to be the best bowlers of the evening.

## **SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NEWS**

#### **GLENELG NORTH**

Clarise and I have recently returned from Queensland where we spent our annual leave. We drove via Broken Hill, Cobar, Coonabarabran, Toowoomba and stayed at Noosa Heads. The weather was terrific after the cold winter in S.A. We are both keeping well and enjoying life.

I see Dud Tapper, Keith Dignum, Alan Hollow and Bert Bache at intervals and we enjoy a beer.

Regards to all,

Bob and Clarice Williamson.  
(Great to hear from you and hoping to make the Safari—Editor.)

Elsie Wares and Dick Darrington carried off the final honours of the evening with the aforesaid professionals muttering things about "beginners luck" etc. to cover their wounded male vanity. Fooling aside — we had a really beaut chummy evening and supper and coffee nicely rounded off a very pleasant time.

N.B. It was great to see Ron Kirkwood along after a too prolonged absence.

#### **NEW ADDRESS BOOK**

An up-to-date address book will probably be issued at the same time as the October Courier. It is as far as the Editor knows to contain the correct addresses of all members but if anyone knows of a wrong address please let the Editor know by writing to Box T1646, G.P.O. Perth 6001. You will also notice that there are a few names with no addresses so if anyone should know any of them please notify Perth immediately.

When you receive your new book place it in the glove box of your car and you can then refer to it if at any time you are travelling and by this means you can contact members (Editor).

#### **VISITORS TO PERTH FROM VICTORIA**

Ron and Carmel from Melbourne were recently in the West on a part business and holiday visit. Although Ron was tied up with business commitments several 2/2nd members were able to entertain them on several occasions. Carmel and Ron thoroughly enjoyed themselves and went home vowing to return to the West at the earliest opportunity.

#### **PORT LINCOLN**

Having received the Courier some time ago I had better s'ir my stumps and try and acknowledge the fact.

It would appear that the decision has been made to gather together again next year in our fair State. I only hope we can survive long enough to play host to ever-one. I doubt if I would have to spell out that once again S.A. is living up to the name of the driest state in the driest continent. This is the third year in a row that the farmers generally have written the year off and hope for a better one next time.

Luckily we are in the better rainfall area and at this stage are not unduly stressed.

On the law of averages it should be a good year next year so I can recommend that everyone should make the effort to come and have a look around at the Safari.

I noted in the last Courier there were several addresses unknown, added to that list could be A. H. (Arty) Cullen. Last I heard of him was up at Darwin somewhere, working at the Airways I believe.

Also, the current address I have of Hosty is: R. D. Host, 72 Walkers Way, Toombul, Brisbane 4012.

Find enclosed an application for a ticket in the Raffle, will get around to more later on.

Regards to all in the West.

Speaking of the West, two of our neighbours have gone West, one family to Narrogin and the other to Gibson. Could be our turn soon.

Cheers,

Shorty Stevens.

**MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING,  
HELD AT ANZAC CLUB, ON  
TUESDAY, JULY 19, 1977**

The President, Mr. A. Wares, declared the meeting open at 8.10 p.m.  
PRESENT: A. Wares, C. Doig, D. Ritchie, R. Dhu, G. Fletcher, J. Carey, P. Hancock and L. Bagley.

APOLOGIES from D. Fullarton, C. Varian, D. Darrington, B. McDonald and H. Sproxtton were accepted.

MINUTES of meeting held on Tuesday, June 21, 1977 were read and confirmed on the motion of C. Doig, seconded D. Ritchie.

TREASURER'S REPORT: P. Hancock presented the following statement of accounts as at July 19, 1977:

Balance brought forward \$872.55  
Balance as at July 19, 1977 \$949.79

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

CORRESPONDENCE: Inward from Mick Devlin, R.S.L. (W.A. Branch), Commando News (Qld.), Bert Burgess.

It was moved J. Carey, seconded D. Ritchie that Inward correspondence be received.

KEYZOR V.C. APPEAL: It was moved C. Doig, seconded D. Ritchie, that the secretary ascertain if this appeal had been filled. If not, a donation of \$10 was to be made.

WEMBLEY-FLOREAT R.S.L. GAMES NIGHT: To be held on Monday, August 8. It was moved C. Doig, seconded R. Dhu that we supply the necessary liquid refreshments and supper for this evening.

ANNUAL DINNER: To be held in the dining room of Anzac Club, on Saturday, October 1, 1977. The

menu as presented, at \$3 per head, was accepted.

ADDRESS BOOK: A. WARES suggested that the Address Book should be renewed, as the present one was five years old and very much out of date. C. Doig moved and J. Carey seconded the motion to have the Address Book reprinted.

JULY MEETING: Dave Ritchie gave a talk on and also demonstrated the art of silk screening on various types of material. A very interesting and informative talk, which was enjoyed by all present.

Also present that evening was Chris Santos from Timor (now living in Melbourne) who answered a lot of questions about life in Timor today.

PHOTO ALBUM: C. Doig complimented Dave Ritchie for the excellence of a photo album which Dave has compiled with photos of Timor, New Guinea and New Britain and presented to the Association. The meeting was most appreciative of this gift.

KINGS PARK: G. Fletcher reports the area is in good condition, and the new lawn edger is very suitable and capable of doing an excellent job.

The meeting closed at 10 p.m.  
**MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING,  
HELD AT ANZAC CLUB, ON  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 1977**

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

PRESENT: A. Wares, P. Hancock, C. Doig, D. Ritchie, J. Carey, G. Fletcher, H. Sproxtton and L. Bagley.



APOLOGIES from R. Dhu, B. McDonald, C. Varian and D. Darrington were accepted.

MINUTES of meeting, held on Tuesday, July 19, 1977, were read and confirmed on the motion of C. Doig, seconded by J. Carey.

TREASURER'S REPORT: P. Hancock presented the following statement of accounts as at August 16, 1977:

Balance brought forward \$949.79  
Balance at at August 16, 1977

\$964.11

Financial Report was received and accounts passed for payment on the motion of C. Doig, seconded by D. Ritchie.

CORRESPONDENCE: Inward from J. D. Daniels, Australia Post, T. Nesbit, J. Lett, H. Burges, R. Dook, C. Sadlier, L. Isenhood, A. Friend, B. Callinan, R. Williamson, J. Burridge and T. Loud. It was moved by J. Carey, seconded H. Sproxtton that Inward Correspondence be re-

ceived.

WEMBLEY-FLOREAT R.S.L. GAMES NIGHT: Seven members attended this evening and enjoyed the social games, refreshments and an excellent supper.

KINGS PARK: R. Dhu stated that lack of water in summer will be a problem, but the lawns will have to survive as best they can.

ADDRESS BOOK: A. Wares said he had re-typed all the addresses and had made inquiries, and accepted a quote to reprint the Address Book.

JULY BOWLS NIGHT: Another pleasant social evening, with some very good bowlers in action. The successful pairs winners were Elsie Wares and Dick Darrington.

Ron and Carmel Eastick from Victoria, are motoring to Perth for a fortnight's holiday, from August 17 to 31. We hope to meet them during their visit to W.A.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

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

### LONDON

I enclose two entries in Vol. IV of 'A Dictionary of Battle' compiled and edited by Brigadier Peter Young and myself, on the (a) Timor Operation of Sparrow Force; (b) Timorese Civil War, Aug.-Dec., 1975, which may interest your readers.

It was a very good thing that Australia did not find itself with a Russian Naval Base on its doorstep. The Indonesian Government may not be so good but it is better than a communist regime! Look at Angola and Mozambique where we are having to start up new right wing guerilla activity to offset the Marxist regime.

Thanks for the Couriers. All the best — Michael Calvert.

TIMOR (Indonesia) Operations of Sparrow Force, Second World War, 18th February 1942 to 2nd February 1943.

Fought between the Japanese 228th Infantry Regiment and Australian Independent Companies with some Dutch Guerillas under command of Lt.-Colonel Spence and Lt.-Colonel Callinan.

The 2/2nd Australian Independent Company had been landed on

Timor Island on 8th December, 1941 to defend it by defensive guerilla tactics. When the Japanese 228th Regiment from Amboina landed, the Australians, with the help of a few Dutch troops, resisted and then retired slowly into their sanctuaries in the hills. The 2/2nd was reinforced later by the 2/4th Independent Company. These two specially trained companies, totalling less than 500 men, carried out offensive guerilla warfare for a period of nearly 12 months, tying up over 10,000 Japanese troops which could have operated elsewhere, or could have used Timor as an invasion base for an attack on Darwin.

The Australian force, which became known as Sparrow Force, lost contact with Army Headquarters in Melbourne and for four months was considered over-run and destroyed. But a radio set was eventually improvised. Further contact was then made by submarine. Finally, re-supply of this force became uneconomic and evacuation was ordered. This was achieved with the loss of one transport, in January/February, 1943. The Australians suffered less than 50 casualties to the Japanese 1,200.

This operation is a classic example of economy of force, in which quality trained troops were used for a special purpose. Colonel Callinan was the main leader of the resistance throughout the whole period.

**TIMORESE CIVIL WAR** (Indonesia area) August-December, 1975.

Fought between the Revolutionary Front for the Independence of Timor (Fretlin) under the Communist-orientated Sr Francisco Xavier do Amaral (a former Jesuit priest) and the Democratic Union of Timor (UDT) also known as MAC (Anti-Communist Movement), the Timorese Democratic People's Union (APODETI) and some splinter groups under the Chief Executive Officer of APODETI, Sr Arnaldo dos Reis Araiyo.

FRETILIN wanted to form a Communist state of E. Timor allied to Russia. The UDT and APODETI, supported by Indonesia and the U.S.A., wanted re-union with Indonesia. Both sides were ill-equipped and ill-trained.

After the Lisbon government had given independence to its African territories in 1975, there was no possibility of holding the colony of E. Timor. The UDT staged a coup on 11th August, 1975. Civil War between Fretlin and UDT broke out on 20th August. Fretlin bombarded the capital, Dili, with mortars on 22nd August. The big exodus of refugees into Indonesian W. Timor started. By 1st September Fretlin claimed control of the whole of E.

Timor. Massacres were reported by both sides. The Indonesian navy moved into Timor waters in mid-September and there were clashes on the border on 28th-30th September. Five Australian television journalists were killed by Fretlin. Gough Whitlam, Prime Minister of Australia at that time, appeared well disposed towards Fretlin. In November, 1975 his government was thrown out and a caretaker government of Australia was installed. On 13th December Malcolm Fraser was elected Prime Minister by a large majority.

On 7th December 1,000 Indonesian parachutists, supported by a naval bombardment and a landing by marines, seized Dili, and then on 7th December Maubara and on 11th December Baucau were occupied, in each case aided by UDT and APODETI irregulars. On 28th December the off-shore island of Atauro (where the Portuguese had temporarily tried to maintain a form of government) was occupied, as was the enclave of Ocussi Ambeno. The occupation of E. Timor was complete by 1st February and Sr Arnaldo dos Reis Araiyo (then aged 62) formed a government.

**RESULT:** The possibility of a Russian naval base being established at a strategic point between the Pacific and the Indian Oceans was eliminated. The course of operations shows the efficacy of swift, bold action by a small, high-quality force before the escalation of civil war trouble-spot.