



2/2 COMMANDO Courier

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JULY, 1978

Price 1c.

COMING EVENTS



AUGUST 15TH. MIXED SPORTS NIGHT AT ANZAC CLUB. PLEASE BRING SUPPER PLATTER.



SEPTEMBER 19TH. LADIES NIGHT AND SAFARI FAREWELL AT ANZAC CLUB. YOUR HELP WITH SUPPER PLEASE.



OCTOBER 28TH. ANNUAL DINNER AT ANZAC CLUB. COMMENCING 6.00 P.M.



OCTOBER 29TH. COMMEMORATION SERVICE KINGS PARK at 3.00 P.M. Afterwards at the home of JACK and DELYS CAREY, 13 STODDART WAY.



change

Burkholay

8th Aug.

VALE - GEOFFREY LAIDLAW - D.S.O.

I would first like to thank Mrs. Laidlaw and the family for the privilege of paying tribute to Geoffrey Gosford Laidlaw, D.S.O.

Geoff was not a religious man but he did believe in God and that belief was reflected in the standards he lived by and his actions throughout his life.

Geoff Laidlaw was a big man in every way; he was a great friend to have; he was a great soldier and those who worked for him knew he was a great Boss.

He was a very modest man who never talked about himself. In his time, he was a great swimmer and surf life saver; a champion footballer and post-war, he served a period as the Captain of Golf Club in a large provincial city. His personal attributes were many and varied from singing to writing verse; he could be a great entertainer when imposed upon to perform.

I first met Geoff when we both joined the 2nd Independent Company when it was formed at Wilsons Promontory, Victoria in 1941.

In 1942, the Unit was engaged in operations against the Japanese in Portugese Timor, now known as East Timor.

Geoff was a great leader, a fine tactician and a wonderful example to those who served under him. By his courage and fortitude, he justly earned the loyalty and respect from all ranks in the 2nd Independent Company.

Subsequently, he served in New Guinea and New Britain. He passed up promotional opportunities and bigger commands because he wished to stay with his original Unit.

After the war, he joined Ampol in New South Wales and after a few years in Country New South Wales, he was posted to West Australia where subsequently he became State Manager.

In his business and commercial life, he displayed the same leadership qualities that marked his army service.

Geoff had a great ability to get the best out of people who respected his fairness and judgement.

His success in West Australia earned him the appointment as Manager, Victoria in 1962 where he subsequently served for 11 years before taking early retirement and settling in Yamba.

In the 37 years I knew Geoff, I never once heard him either by word or action do anything petty or small.

He was a big man in all ways and his passing will leave a big gap in the Community and the lives of those who knew and loved him.

However, there is some solace and satisfaction in knowing that our lives are fuller and better because we knew him.

Painful and sad though this time may be, I'm glad I didn't miss him in his lifetime.

Vale, Geoff Laidlaw.

Tom Nisbet.

(Oratory given by Tom Nisbet at the funeral - Thanking you for the copy Lola. — Editor.)

GEOFF LAIDLAW

As now I sit some 35 years after the Timor campaign and gaze upon a photograph of Geoff Laidlaw, thoughts come welling up about the man who lived through so much strife and danger and has now passed on to eternal peace.

That strong, broad and bearded face, those keen eyes glinting from beneath dark, bushy eyebrows, those powerful forearms locked across a massive chest - the forceful character of the man breathes forth. For strength was the essence of Geoff. He was a keen and positive thinker who transformed thought into forthright, determined, clear-cut action. Doubts and fears he swept away as, in the past, he must have cleft the waves off the coast of N.S.W.

He breathed an aura of confidence and vitality. No hill was too high or too steep for him to climb, no jungle too impenetrable. No task was too formidable. His enthusiasm was inspirational. With courage and initiative he countered every obstacle.

He inspired men to follow where, in his judgement, they should and could be led.

God rest his manly soul.

THE BULL

A way he had, the Bull,
And it was straight and clear,
Precise and to the point.

A surat came to him at Remexio
While he was soldiering in the hills.

A friendly note it was
Inviting him down to the plain.
"Why go on fighting?" so it said,
For you alone are holding out -
Australia has surrendered. Why
not you?"

And the Bull he smiled - that slight
outcurling of the lips to show his
teeth.

"Why not?" said he. "We'll take
a party down to see these friendly
Nips."

AND INTO Dilli sure he went,
His chosen men he led to where in

strength the enemy lay encamped.

And in the night it was when he
was least expected.

(A way he had, the Bull.)

Nor did he broach the gate -
It was perhaps unceremonious -
But through a gap cut in the
encircling wire they crept
(no red carpet down for them!)
And spitting forth their Tommy
guns and Brens

To that surat blazed the answer in
forthright, deadly terms.
Confusion reigned and panic
seized the hosts.

They'd not expected such a
quick response
To their crafty surat subtly
phrased.

They barely realised that now
he'd gone,

But - piercing thought - when
would he come again?

A way he had, the Bull,

And it was fierce and swift and sure.

Jerry Haire.

NORTH BALWYN. VIC.

On behalf of the Association Members who attended the funeral service for the late Geoff Laidlaw at Yamba, N.S.W., I undertook to write to the "Courier" to report on this sad occasion as I know members would wish to hear first hand, the circumstances.

Most members would know that in 1973, Geoff took early retirement from his job with Ampol as State Manager for Victoria and Tasmania and selected Yamba in New South Wales as the place to enjoy the benefits of retirement.

Yamba is a great spot with excellent fishing, good surf and all the facilities one could wish for. Association members who called in to see the Bull would support this and Geoff and his wife, Lola were living an idyllic existence and very happy in their retirement.

Geoff became a well known member of the Yamba Bowling Club, took up the game and showed a lot of promise as a bowler.

On Sunday morning, 21st May,

Geoff was enjoying a game in a Singles Competition and after winning his match, complained that he was a bit short of breath and a little while later collapsed and died.

Happy Greenhalgh, the Postmaster at nearby McLean, arrived at the club from a morning's fishing and was told of Geoff's death. Happy immediately went to see Lola Laidlaw and I understand was a tower of strength in those first few hours.

Happy Greenhalgh rang me in Melbourne early that afternoon and I conveyed the sad news to the West, Victoria and Queensland, as well as his friends in Ampol.

On the Monday, I flew up to Grafton for the Funeral Service which was held at Noon on the Tuesday. The Service was conducted by an ex Army Padre and the local R.S.L. assisted. It was very moving and the attendance which filled the Church and overflowed outside was a great tribute to the Bull and his wife, Lola.

The 2/2 was well represented by Happy Greenhalgh, Arthur Birch,

Russ Blanch, Jim Cullen, Harry Handicott, Col Knight, Ron McArthur, Ron Orr, George Vandeleur and Bill Walsh and C., McCaffery, most of whom were accompanied by their wives.

I was given the privilege of giving the eulogy to GGL and I hope I did it justice, not only from my own personal regard for Geoff but also as representing all of the Members of the 2/2.

Subsequently, I have been in touch with Lola Laidlaw and like the good trooper she is, I believe she is bearing up well and has received great support and comfort from the expressions of sympathy from Members of our Association.

In closing, I would like to assure Association Members, and I believe the 2/2 that were present, would support the view, that the Bull's Last Parade was as he would have wished.

Finally, I would like, through the "Courier", to say thanks to Happy Greenhalgh, he was of great assistance to Mrs. Laidlaw and also to the writer.

Regards to you all.

T.G. Nisbet

VALE — BERT BURGES

It is with deep regret that we record the passing of our esteemed comrade Bert on the 2nd July. Farming commitments at Broomehill and a deep interest in community activities in the Katanning district restricted Bert's visits to Perth, but on those occasions when he came it was always a pleasure to meet up with him and have a yarn.

Bert served with the unit with great distinction, an original N.C.O. with No. 6 Section, B. Platoon, and upon cessation of hostilities he was Company Sergeant Major.

Post war, while involved with farming and as a husband and father, Bert still found the time to serve the Association as a Country Vice President.

St. Patricks Church in Katanning was packed for the celebration of a Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of Bert Burges. It was a

very moving ceremony, Bert's elder son, Peter, read the Lesson and his younger son Michael and daughter Margaret also participated in the service. At the conclusion of the Mass, the Cortège proceeded to the Katanning cemetery, where, at the conclusion of the Religious Service, the Katanning R.S.L. President recited the Ode, Red Poppies were placed in the grave by returned servicemen, and the Bugler honoured our comrade with his rendition of the Last Post and Reveille.

Comrades of Bert who were able to attend were Reg Harrington and wife Dot, Bernie Langridge and wife Babs, Gordon Rowley, Arthur Smith, Alf Hillman, Col Doig and Gerry Maley.

Our sincere sympathy goes to Marie, and to Peter, Michael and Margaret on the loss of their husband and father.

**MINUTES OF COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD AT ANZAC
CLUB, ON TUESDAY, MAY 16,
1978.**

THE President: Mr. G. Maley declared the meeting open at 8 p.m. and welcomed Ray Aitken, John Martires, Reis Jacintodos, Jose, Filipe and Atanasio DeCosta to the meeting.

PRESENT: G. Maley, A. Wares, J. Carey, G. Fletcher, R. Dhu, C. Varian, L. Isenhood and L. Bagley.

APOLOGIES from D. Ritchie, C. Doig, P. Hancock, H. Sproxtton, d. Darrington and B. McDonald were accepted.

MINUTES of Meeting, held on Tuesday, April 18, 1978 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 May 16, 1978:

Balance brough forward	\$200.75
Balance as at May 16, 1978.	\$389.02

Financial report was received and accounts passed for payment on the motion of J. Carey, Seconded C. Varian.

Mr. A. Wares stated that he wished to resign from the Committee but would still carry on the position of Editor.

CORRESPONDENCE: Inward from W.A. Police Dept., Mick Devlin, Bruce Smith, R.S.L. (W.A. branch)
Outward to Mick Devlin, phone call to Dud Tapper.

It was moved C. Varian, seconded G. Fletcher that Inward and Outward correspondence be received and confirmed.

ON a motion from R. Aitken, seconded J. Carey, the secretary was asked to write a letter of appreciation to Don Reynolds of the Clarendon Hotel.

ANZAC DAY: G. Maley reported that the day was well represented by Association members at the Dawn Service, on the march, and afterwards at the Clarendon Hotel. He thanked G. Fletcher for supplying the wreath and J. Carey for handling the catering arrangements. L. Isenhood agreed with the President and added his praise of the day.

SAFARI: During a phone conversation with Dud Tapper, he said that 44 people had requested accommodation in Adelaide for October. All other Safari arrangements were taking shape and were reaching a stage where deposits would be necessary to secure them. It was then moved C. Varian, seconded R. Dhu that \$800 being held from the 1976 N.S.W. Safari, be sent to the South Australian Committee, to use as they see fit.

SAFARI RAFFLE: With only a few weeks left to the drawing date, July 29, the sales total 415.

Ray Aitken introduced John Martires, Reis Jacintodos, Jose Filipe and Atanasio DeCosta to the meeting and explained that Mr. DeCosta would like to address the meeting. Permission was granted, and Mr. DeCosta said he was speaking on behalf of all Timorese people in W.A. Their main aim he said was to form a club, or an Association, and in this way they would preserve their own identity and customs. Eventually land would be purchased and a hall erected, preferably north of the river. There were many tradesmen among them who could build a suitable meeting place. This would enable them to have socials, meetings, form soccer teams and generally keep together. In W.A. there are 270 adults, plus children. Mr. DeCosta said they needed help and guidance with the various Government departments and other avenues, to get this project started, and was hopeful that we could advise them in all these matters.

Mr. G. Maley replied that the Association would do all it could to help, and it was suggested that

Mr. Tom Bateman be contacted for advice on a State Government level.

Mr. DeCosta then thanked the meeting for its attention, and also mentioned that a former member of the International Brigade, Mr. Rodrigo Rodrigues (75) was living with his son in W.A.

THE meeting closed at 9 p.m.

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL
COMMITTEE MEETING, HELD
AT ANZAC CLUB, ON
TUESDAY JUNE 6, 1978**

THE President: G. Maley declared the meeting open at 8.10 pm and explained that he had called this meeting to discuss future General Meeting and the Committee Meeting nights.

PRESENT: G. Maley, P. Hancock, J. Carey, G. Fletcher, R. Dhu, C. Varian, C. Doig, D. Ritchie, H. Sproxtion, B. McDonald, D. Darrington and L. Bagley.

MINUTES of Meeting, held on Tuesday, May 16, 1978 were read and confirmed on the motion of C. Varian, seconded J. Carey.

TREASURER'S REPORT: P. Hancock presented the following statement of accounts as at June 6, 1978:

Bank balance	
\$540.54 less \$160.00	\$380.54

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

CORRESPONDENCE: Inward from Dud Tapper, R.S.L. (W.A. Branch), Mick Devlin, Jack Hasson, Bill Sharpe, Tex Richards, Jerry Haire, Jim Dent, Alf Hodge, Harry Botterill, John Roberts, Jim Ritchie, Slim James, Shorty Stevens, A. Wares and Austalia Post. Outward to Don Reynolds, of the Clarendon Hotel.

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

MEETING NIGHTS: G. Maley said that the last meeting, on May 16, was a combined Committee meeting and General meeting, and for obvious reasons it was not a success. He suggested that the first Tuesday of every month be the Committee night, and the third Tuesday of every month be for General meetings. This suggestion was moved as a motion by C. Doig, seconded H. Sproxtion and carried.

TIMORESE AID: G. Maley reported that he had contacted Tom Bateman MP, regarding guidance and assistance for the Timorese now living in W.A. Tom has promised his support and said that he would be in touch with the Rev. Keith Wilson MP, who was a person very interested in ethnic groups.

THE PASSING OF Mr. G. G. Laidlaw, our former Commanding Officer, is a sad loss to the Association. He was admired and respected by all who knew him, either during army days or in civilian life. C. Doig agreed to write the obituary of this great man for the Courier.

SAFARI: Approximately 50 people have requested accommodation in Adelaide for October. If any member intends to be there for this Safari, I suggest they write direct to Dud Tapper with their accommodation requirements.

SAFARI RAFFLE: To this date 450 tickets have been sold, and the drawing will take place at Anzac House, on Saturday, July 29, 1978. Supper will be provided for members wived and friends. Ron Kirkwood has arranged for the barrel and 600 marbles for the drawing.

JUNE MEETING: Mr. Dave Ritchie has arranged for Mr. Bill Lonnie to be present as a guest speaker, on Tuesday June 20, 1978.

LAWN EDGER: A sales tax refund of \$20.02 is due from Scott Bonnar and the secretary was asked to contact the firm and finalise the account.

KINGS PARK: C. Doig asked

about the re-piping of the area. G. Fletcher said we should wait and see what water is going to be available, it may even be 12 months. R. Dhu suggested that all the sprinkler heads should be removed for safe keeping. A working bee is to be arranged later.

AUSTRALIA POST: Postal requirements by Australia Post have been altered, and this will mean extra printing on the wrappers of the Courier, which the meeting agreed to.

THE meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING, HELD AT ANZAC CLUB ON TUESDAY, JULY 4, 1978.

THE President Mr. G. Maley declared the meeting open at 8.10 p.m. and extended sincere sympathy to Rod Dhu on the loss of his wife Doris.

PRESENT: G. Maley, P. Hancock, J. Carey, R. Dhu, G. Fletcher, C. Doig, H. Sproxtton, B. McDonald, D. Darrington and L. Bagley.

APOLOGIES were accepted from C. Varian and D. Ritchie. Dave is at present in Charles Gardiner hospital.

MINUTES of meeting, held on Tuesday June 6, 1978, were read and confirmed on the motion of C. Doig, seconded H. Sproxtton.

TREASURER'S REPORT: P. Hancock presented the following statement of accounts as at July 4, 1978:

Balance brought forward \$380.54

Balance as at
July 4, 1978 4176.34

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

CORRESPONDENCE: Inward from D. Tapper, N.S.W. Commando News, W. Wallis, R. Harrington,

G. Vandeleur, Tex Richards, J. Hanson, E. Sharp, J. Ritchie, H. James, L. Laidlaw, Bulla Tait, M. Devlin, A. Hodge, J. Dent, D. Stevens, E. Weller, T. Nesbit and A. Wares.
Outward to D. Tapper.

It was moved R. Dhu, seconded D. Darrington that inward and outward correspondence be received and confirmed.

G. Maley welcomed Jim Smalles to the meeting, Jim looks well, but says he has diabetes. C. Doig said that diabetes seemed to be a common complaint with people who had suffered with malaria.

PRINTING of Courier: A. Wares stated that he has contactd six printers, for quotes to print the Courier, but none of them could compare with the price charged by Swan Print. L. Bagley also secured a quote for the job, but once again it was dearer than our present price. It was then decided that we should continue with Swan Print.

SAFARI DINNER: After being discussed, it was moved J. Carey, seconded H. Sproxtton that the secretary write to D. Tapper and express our opinions on the matter.

TIMORESE AID: G. Maley said that he had been in contact with Keith Wilson MP, who was eager to help, and would arrange a meeting with Ray O'Connor MP, Minister for Housing, to discuss the matter.

SAFARI RAFFLE: 469 tickets have been sold. In the event of some tickets not being sold by July 29, the drawing date, all 600 marbles will be placed in the cage for the draw. If first prize is an unsold ticket, the marble will be returned to the cage, and a redraw will take place. 100 marbles will be drawn as \$10 prizes, should any of these go to unsold tickets the money will be used for Safari '78. The cost of conducting the raffle will be paid from the proceeds of such a raffle. Supper has been ordered for 50 people at \$1.50 per head.

KINGS PARK: George Fletcher

said the park is looking quite green, mainly because of the clover, and will have to be mowed soon.

H.A. (bert) Burges from Broomehill passed away on July 2nd, 1978. Bert was a very devoted member of the Association and had been a country Vice President.

JUNE Meeting: Bill Lonnie, the guest speaker for the evening, unfortunately was unable to attend. Nevertheless the evening was enjoyed by those who were present.

FUTURE FIXTURES:

AUGUST: Tuesday 15th will be a mixed sports night at Anzac club.

SEPTEMBER: Tuesday 19th a ladies night and Safari farewell at Anzac club.

OCTOBER: Saturday 28th Annual

Dinner, at Anzac Club, commencing at 6 p.m.

OCTOBER: Sunday 29th Commemoration Service in Kings Park, commencing at 3 p.m. and afterwards at the home of Jack and Delys Carey - 13, Stoddart Way, Bateman.

R. Dhu has received a card from Terry Paull, who is at present in Holland.

C. Doig reported hearing from Jack and Jean Fowler who are touring Europe, England, Ireland etc. Also Peter and Pat Campbell, Tony and Carol Bowers who are touring Europe.

C. Doig and Joy Loudon have just returned from a bus tour of the Pilbara. Col and Joy met Boomer Giles and Blue Pendergast during their tour.

THE meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

WEST AUSTRALIAN NEWS

WEST PERTH

I was lucky, the owner of my previous place of residence kept the last two Couriers for me. I am sure sick of shifting from one place to another like I have done for the last dozen or more years. That is only part of what alcohol does for you. After 29 years of solid work (3½ years quarrying and 21 years shearing) and 4½ heavy drinking, it was quite an experience to deflate the ego and accept some humility by finally recognising and honestly admitting that I was an alcoholic. I know now but did not 4 years ago when I joined A.A. that one should not be ashamed to admit to being an alcoholic. To say alcoholism is a sickness or disease is not watering down the truth to pull the wool over your own or anybody else's eyes. Apart from an emotional or mental quirk - weakness if the like it - in one's makeup, there is also a purely physical basis for this conclusion.

Briefly, I will give you a few interesting scientific facts about this. It was found that the internal organs

of the human body, especially the endocrine glands differ, one person from another, even more so than do our outward appearance, facial expression, profile etc. They found that one person's organs were so constructed that given a small amount of alcohol, that persons body would be immediately addicted whereas another body could be fed large amounts for long periods without becoming addicted. In another experiment, three alcoholics and three non-alcoholics were given some sugar and the sugar content of their blood was measured. Then they were given a certain amount of alcohol and another blood test showed the alcoholics bodies had consumed the sugar and the non-alcoholics had not. In another experiment to further prove or understand the strictly physical allergy or addiction to alcohol some scientist got a few rats hooked on alcohol. Every time the rats felt they needed a bit more "hair of the dog" treatment they had to cross a steel plate to get it. Then the same scientist gradually increased the heat on the plate till the mad rats

were actually burning their feet to satisfy their physical craving. I have burnt many holes in pockets since 1945. In nearly 4 years since I joined A.A. I have been in Hollywood Hospital seven times and recently been in Quo Vadis - an alcohol and drug recovery centre at Byford just the other side of Armadale, so you are forgiven if your thinking 'this bloke's not really fair dinkum if he says he really wants to give up drinking. Honestly Scotty, I do want to beat this problem As A.A. tells me it is simple but it is not easy. Once you are an alcoholic you are one for life. You can arrest but never cure alcoholism. Anyway my path is much broader now and I know I will make it. I would not have mentioned, far less gone into any detail about this problem to draw attention to myself. I feel the more the public know about and understand alcoholicism the less fear of stigma will be in the alcoholics mind - and allow him or her - to be more honest to themselves. Enough of this love talk, take your pencil and first change my address - this one will be more permanent than the others - although I am not living in Havelock St.

I will have a ticket in the raffle and balance to keep the Courier circulating.

Regards

Jim Ritchie

(A very courageous letter Jim- Editor)

BOLGART

At long last I put pen to paper. The intention has been strong but the motion a bit weak. However Elsie's letter about your trip to Kalgoorlie in particular reference to Jack Spencer, spurred one into action. It is wonderful to hear that he is still kicking and well. We missed him a couple of years ago, expecting to see him in Boulder when in actual fact he was at Norseman and we went there and stayed the night. It was also good to hear of Jack Hanson again, he seemed to drop out of sight for a long time.

Dot and I hooked onto the caravan not long back and took off down

south to see if we could be of any help after the big blow after cyclone Alby. We spent a bit of time with Babs and Bernie Langridge, then went to Bridgetown and Harold and Iris Rowan-Robinson's where we spent a few days picking, sorting and packing apples. It was quite an experience and a help to Harold as well. We called on the Turners one night and several days at Darkan so we really ended up doing a weeks work and having a weeks holiday.

We are not going to make the Safari for various reasons, among them that one of the girls will be having a baby around that time and of course Dot will be required to baby sit. When this happens it will bring the grandies to number 13.

We are finding our retirement very busy. Dot with her garden and I have a very active time at the bowling club in the summer, helping with the greens. Also kept busy with the tractors at seeding time helping various ones. All this week I have been doing Mark's job as he had an injury from football and was laid up. He hurt the tendons behind the knee and hopes to return to work next week.

Please find enclosed cheque for two tickets and balance towards the Courier. It would be a major tragedy if the publication had to stop. The number of deaths lately among the old members and if it keeps up there will be no one to send the Courier to. It is always sad to hear of the passing of old mates.

Cheerio -

Reg Harrington.

(It must be a great satisfaction to you and Dot to think that you are able to help people in need. It is a great pity that more people don't think of others instead of themselves
Editor)

CLOVERDALE

Hi! Fellows, I'M RUNNING A LITTLE LATE, BUT USE EN-CLOSED CHEQUE FOR A TICKET AND BALANCE FOR THE Courier.

I have been keeping quite well

lately, just a bit of fishing and a few grogs. I will be going to Exmouth at the end of May. Four of us are taking a boat and intend to catch up with the big fish there and bring back a parcel (we hope). We are booked in at the Lodge, so if any of the boys are up that way I will be glad to see them.

All the best for now and I hope the raffle is a success.

Doc Wheatley.

(Good to hear from you Doc but what about making a meeting in the near future. Editor)

MANDURAH

Enclosed please find cheque for 2 raffle tickets and balance for Courier. We will not be going to the Adelaide Safari, but wish all participating a really good time.

It is 15 months since we shifted down to Mandurah from Scarborough and both of us have at last got used to the easy going way of enjoying life, with a lot of fishing, crabbing, darts, pool, a few ales and a dance or two at the Bowling Club. To keep the brain from freezing up I still clerk at the mid-week races, which also helps the budget too. We run into some of the local ex unit members now and again while shopping, bowling or fishing, which gives one a chance for a bit of a chat. At the last count I think Arthur Smith said there were eleven domiciled here, which is great raps for the Mandurah climate.

Before closing, both Kate and I send our best regards to all 2/2nd men and women and a very special hello to all ex sappers from all states of Aussie and Tassie.

Cheerio

Harvey (Slim) James.

(Called to see you at Mandurah, with Les Isenhood from Newcastle, but you had gone to Perth to see a Specialist for Kate. Hope the report was good. Editor)

EXMOUTH

Well I hope you are all well and we were very sorry to read of so many

deaths in the June edition of the Courier, but then we don't get younger.

Eric is well and me more or less. I am cooking for eight men up here which keeps me busy. Wanda is going to school here, Josephine is in Busselton with Tony and Graty they have a son now. We now have 7 grandchildren. In December we will have another. Ann and Richard have two, Patricia has four, they are spread all over the state - John and Patricia new Newman, Ann and Richard in Perth and Tony and Graty in Busselton, so we don't see as much of them as we would like. They usually manage to get to Geraldton for Xmas.

We have been here since January. Eric was here for two months before Xmas but I could not disturb the girls schooling so near to the end of the year. I am enclosing a cheque for a ticket in the raffle and the balance to go to funds.

Exmouth is quite a nice place but I would not like to spend the rest of my life here. I prefer Karatha. The shopping centre is adequate but not good, prices are high and there are so many things you cannot get. You even have to order your charity tickets. We get most of our supplies from Geraldton and there is a difference of 20-25 cents per item and it is not all transport costs. Better by far to put things a little cheaper and corner the spending power of the people in the area.

The fishing is quite good but since the cold weather it has dropped off. The macheral are coming around but you need a boat to go after them and we did not bring ours.

We hope to get home in July. I guess my garden will have suffered badly, but as I have been changing over to Australian shrubs perhaps it won't be as bad as a suspect.

We were sorry to miss Norma and Jack Hasson when they were up. It seems everyone comes to Geraldton when we go away.

Must away now, regards to all.

Margaret and Eric Weller.

HOLIDAY MAKERS

At the moment several of our W.A. members are enjoying well deserved holidays. Touring England, Ireland and Europe are Peter and Pat Campbell, Tony and Carol Bowers, Terry Paull and Jean and Jack Fowler. Jean and Jack are also going to tour the Holy Land and I am green with envy. From all accounts all these people are having a marvellous time and wringing every moment of pleasure from their sight seeing. Another who is on an extended tour of our great out back is Jess Epps, at the moment somewhere between here and Katherine. She is travelling with her son and daughter-in-law Terry and Linda. They are really getting off the beaten track and in spite of a few van troubles, Jess says she is loving it all. She says she thinks she is developing hoofs like a mountain goat from so much climbing.

To all these people and any other holidaying, we wish a wonderful time and a safe return.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

- Mrs. M. Dinwoodie, Lot 4, Valcan Road, Wattle Grove. 6107.
 E.F. Freestoinne, 39 Sandy Lane South, Wallington. Surrey. Eng.
 Mrs. M. Robinson, 165 Southern Road, West Heidelberg. 3081
 S. Whitfors, 173 Scenic Crescent, North Eitham. 3095.
 N. Tillett, Rosebud Country Club, Boneo Road, Rosebud. 3939.
 J.T. Ritchie, 33 Havelock Street, West Perth. 6005.
 D.s. Stevens, Private Bag 123, Port Lincoln. 5607.
 N. Hooper, 5 Yiada Street, Kedron. 4031.
 A. Spence, 15 Astolat Street, Yer-Oinga. 4104.
 R. Conley, 24 Byambee Street, Kenmore. 4069.

The president wishes to thank the following for donations towards the publication of the Courier:

- J. Roberts, J. Peattie, J. Ritchie, T. Martin, M. Wheatley, H. Price, T. Richards, J. Dent, H. James, D.

Stevens, R. Harrington, L. Tait, E. Weller, J. Gallagher, A. Webb, G. Mathieson, R. Conley.

ADDRESSES UNKNOWN

There are still a number of Courier being returned to the Perth Box No. so if anyone knows of any of the following members please notify the editor of their addresses.

W.A. — G.R. Lewis.

VIC. — T. Mildern, C. Browne, A. Bennett.

Q'LD. — K.D. Jones, G.A. Coulson.

N.S.W. — L.E. Webster.

SICK PARAGE

Bob Smith from Newcastle went into hospital in Sydney and underwent surgery and results were not the best. On 6th June he had to return to hospital for further tests (blood, X Ray scans and the works). We are all hoping that the tests prove negative and that everything will be O.K.

Bob and Joyce were to attend the Adelaide Safari but now due to his sickness they will be unable to make it. Will South Australian committee please note that they will not be there.

DAVE RITCHIE is at present in Sir Charles Gardiner undergoing tests for some chest trouble but to date we have not heard any results. Hoping the final results will be of a satisfactory nature.

SCOTTY WARES has had the misfortune to be involved in a car smash and received lacerations to the head which necessitated several stitches and wife ELSIE received a fractured chest bone. They are both on the improve.

DOUG FULLARTON at present in Hollywood Hospital with another heart attack. Last report he is improving.

MICK DEVLIN has been in hospital and had surgery but unable to say how he is progressing.

VALE TO A FINE LADY

Members of the 2/2nd Association were deeply shocked and saddened by the sudden passing of Doris, wife of Committee man Rod Dhu. Doris was a lovely person - quiet and unobtrusive, she was what I like to think of as a "Caring" person. She cared about people, she cared about all creatures great and small. Doris's home was also home for many pets, and no animal or bird

was ever turned away. Doris at one stage was caring for and feeding so many birds that she was given a write up in the paper. Birds and animals were her friends, and they too, as we will - mourn her passing. The world is surely a poorer place for her loss.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Rod.

NEW SOUTH WALES NEWS

I thought it about time I dropped you a line and bring you up to date with the latest happenings here in NSW. As you know Geoff Laidlaw passed away recently, which was a shock to us all. Ron Orr was on a visit to Sydney recently and we was only remarking how well he looked, and how keen he was on bowling. It would appear on information received that he collapsed on the bowling green at Yamba. I received a letter from Harry Handicott and he informed me that the unit was well represented at the funeral, mainly the boys from the North Coast area. Tom Nisbet was in attendance representing the Officers of the unit.

On a more pleasant note I have been corresponding with Dud Tapper on Safari 1978 and Dud says on the last head count there were 50 couples and quite a few singles, booked at the various caravan sites, hotels, motels, or whatever the choice of the Safarites. Dud advised that the Majestic was restricted for room to accommodate such a crowd as ours, but has come up with an alternative in the Pier Hotel at Glenelg. Dud advises that all those people who were booked at the Majestic are now transferred to the Pier at Glenelg. Scotty whilst on the use of the Courier would you kindly ask those members who are certain starters to please let Dud know of their requirements as soon as possible. How are the raffle sales going and I hope that they are near the mark.

Had a letter from Frank Sharp recently. Frank as you know is employed by the NSW Railways, and has been transferred as Chief Inspector at Werris Creek and anyone on the last Safari to NSW who had the good fortune to travel on the bus to the Blue Mountains, would certainly appreciate the knowledge he had of the area. However en route to Werris Creek, Frank had the misfortune to be forced off the road by a semi-trailer and rolled his new Datsun several times down an embankment. Luckily for Frank he was able to walk away from the wreck. His car had only done 13000 kilometres and was a write off. Frank assures me that he, Phylis and Peter will be in Adelaide for the Safari.

Paddy and Nora Kenneally are on a trip to Ireland and as yet have had no letter from them although I expect reams when he decides to put pen to paper. However where ever himself may be, I will bet the locals are up to their knees in blarney.

Would you please include in the next Courier the thanks of the NSW Committee regarding the response of NSW and Queensland members for their replies to the appeal for Annual subscriptions via the recent circular.

Our special thanks to Bill and Coral Coker, Al and Edith Luby, Bill and June Bennett and Merv and Marg Jones for organising and making their homes available for

the progressive dinner. It was unfortunate that Betty and I had a prior commitment and only attended the first leg. It is proposed to hold another one soon, only next time it will be held in the Epping, Ryde and Lane Cove area, dates and times will be advised. The next quarterly meeting will be held on 12th June at the Arncliffe RSL. I have heard that Don Murray and his good wife are returning to W.A.

Great to see Col Doig back on the committee and congratulations to all.

Yours -

Mick Devlin.

(Great to see that the NSW ladies are behind the committee and that they organised a progressive dinner. they are certainly good and it is not too much work for any one person. Editor)

YAMBA.

Thank you for the messages of sympathy from the 2/2nd, it gave me a great comfort to know so many of Geoff's comrades were thinking of me and remembering him at the time of his sudden death.

The Association was very well represented at the very impressive R.S.L. service. I think about fourteen members attended and Tom Nesbit assisted and gave a beautiful oratory George Greenhalgh has helped me in so many ways.

May I through the Courier simply say, I thank you all.

I have taken the liberty of enclosing the oratory given by Tom Nesbit, thought you would like to read it.

Yours -

Lola Laidlaw

(It is great to see and hear that unit members tried to help you in your hour of need. Editor.)

TAMWORTH

I am still enjoying receiving the Courier so had better do my bit by dropping your a line. Marj. and I are still keeping reasonably healthy and fit and able to fully enjoy life.

With retirement only a few years away now, we are naturally looking forward to it but realise that we will not have much of a chance of doing all the things we have planned, but feel that it is better that way.

We took a bit of our long service leave last year and went over to visit our daughter and son-in-law in Sarawak and thoroughly enjoyed the trip. They are stationed 200 miles from the capital, Kuching, close to the border of Indonesia. (100 miles of sealed road and the last 100 miles took 5 hours). They teach in a boarding school (secondary) for 1100 pupils that come from the inland areas. Next door is a Teachers College built by the New Zealanders and also a large Army Barracks, they are still fighting the communists, but apart from that only scattered farms and small villages. It was a fascinating place that would take more time than we had to understand and appreciate. However, it gave us a greater understanding of what is meant by the "third world", when you see how little people in these areas have and how they are striving to help themselves.

Unfortunately we will not be able to make the Safari to Adelaide, but will be thinking of all who are lucky enough to get there. Herewith cheque for tickets and Courier donation.

Kindest regards to Elsie and yourself.

Yours sincerely -

Jack Peattie.

(Always glad to hear from you and Marj. Editor.)

GRIFFITH

Enclosed please find postal note for two tickets in the raffle. I hope that the sales have improved, they mostly do at the last minute or getting near the closing time. It is a good fair way to raise money and the odds are attractive. At this stage Joyce and myself are seriously thinking of going, so if things go to plan we will be there.

It was a shock to hear of Kev Curran's passing.

The work all you people do in the West regarding the Association and Courier is much appreciated, although we don't show it as much as we should. Keep up the good work as without it no one would know much about the whereabouts etc. of anyone.

My regards to you Scotty and your family and all members,

Best wishes -

Alf Hodge.

(Please to hear from you Alf and it is only by members supplying information that keeps the Courier going. Editor.)

WIRRINYA.

It is not often you hear from me and it is with a touch of sadness that I write. I was unfortunate enough to lose my wife (Jean) late last year. She was a bit too young to die and I suppose if there was any consolation it may have been that she went very quickly. However we that are left must carry on.

At the moment I cannot see myself making the Adelaide Safari. However if things change I will try and make it.

Enclosed is cheque for a raffle ticket and balance for the Courier

and hope it helps to keep it circulating.

Regards to all -

Jim Dent.

(On behalf of the Association let me offer our deepest sympathy in your sad loss, and it is very pleasing to hear from you. Editor)

READ THIS URGENT NOTICE FROM THE NEW SOUTH WALES SECRETARY

Please be advised that the Annual General Meeting of the N.S.W. Branch will be held at the Arncliffe R.S.L., Wollongong Road, Arncliffe, on Monday evening 4th September, 1978 at 8 p.m.

Agenda

Treasurers report
Election of officers
General business

Members are reminded that immediately following the Annual General Meeting, that the Quarterly Meeting for September will take place. Will all members try and attend this meeting as it will be the last one prior to the Safari. NSW Safarites please check list in Courier re your accommodation.

(What about it you NSW boys please attend and assist the committee. Editor)

VICTORIAN NEWS

Highett

It is with regret that we learnt of the passing of Kevin Curran on 20th April, especially as he had planned to come down with Bluey Sargeant and Leith Cooper to join in the Anzac march and reunion. Kevin was a terrific fellow, always took the unit affairs to his heart and a very generous and wonderful worker for all our raffle efforts, together with the patrons of his hotel, who were behind the 2/2nd to a man. Any member was welcome at the Fleece Inn. We will sadly miss him

and our heart felt condolence to Glad and Dennis and family.

We had a wonderful roll up at the service and the Crematorium and the following paid their last respects - Bluey and Muff Sergeant, Jack Renehan, Jack Fox, Wilma Tobin, Ken and Margaret Monk, Max Davies, Peter McCracken, John and Cath Roberts, George Veitch, Sep Wilson, Alan and Hazel Hollow, Bruce Maclaren, Bald Baldwin, Bernie Callinan, Tom Nesbit, Bill and Eileen Sharp, Bluey Bone, Alec and Beryl Boast, Tex Richards, Ian Briggs, Stan and

Margaret Whitford, Dick Adams, Smash Hodgson, Arnold Webb, John Southwell, Duncan McCallum, Bruce Smith, Keith Beer, Harry and Olive Botterill, Des Williams, Les Gosford 2/5th, Ron Scott, Bill Taylor, Col Johnston from Combined Commando Association.

We had a good rollup at the Anzac march and reunion with the Combined Association afterwards, at the Ponsonby Restaurant and the following were present, S. Whitford, B. Peterson, B. Sharp, A. Webb, A. Hollow, K. Monk, B. Maclaren, J. Southwell, B. Sargeant, L. Cooper T. Richards, B. Callinan, R. Baldwin G. Humphreys, J. Roberts, H. Botterill, M. Davies, A. Boast. It was a terrific reunion and good to see faces we had not seen for a long time and we decided to have a meeting at John Southwell's place on Friday night 12th May to endeavour to get things moving again after our period of stagnation.

Alan and Hazel Hollow were over for a week and were well looked after by Bill and Eileen Sharp and Alec and Beryl Boast. Eileen and Bill arranged a night at the Caulfield RSL Club on Saturday 29th for a get together to meet Hazel and Alan as they were returning home on the Sunday. There were 15 present but unfortunately 3 couples missed out due to wrong information. We had a great night and Alan was in great form as always, never a dull moment when he is around.

The following is the work of Baldy Baldwin written at the Anzac Reunion on the back of a card to show his delight at the good rollup this year after the disastrous effort last year of only 6 members turning up, and I quote "Baldo Calling! come in Diamonds, Come in Diamonds. Negative whinge of 1977. This year all is rosy. Tremendous march with more there than we ever imagined on a lousy day and we had a band close handy so that we could march in step in something like old style instead of the broken gaited shuffle that was all we could manage on occasions when our guide was the random strains of three or four different un-coordinated bands, and

then to Ponsonby. He's a grand chap really, but perhaps we only think that because, for once we have a proper rollup. Its sad indeed to be without Kevin, whom we had regarded as the granite unchangeable. To console us we had the presence of another grand old mate in the person of Alan Hollow" unquote. The reference to Ponsonby in above was the name of the restaurant where the reunion was held.

Wilma Tobin is leaving on 14th May for an overseas trip to England and Europe where she will meet up with Gillian and Warwick who are over there now and we wish Wilma Bon Voyage and a happy trip and look forward to her return to tell us all about it.

Well folks thats all for now so till next time cheerio -

Harry Botterill

(Very please to hear the Vic. branch is again to be active. Have you any idea of the address of Jack Fox, A. Bennett, C. Browne. Regards - Editor.)

HIGHETT

We held a meeting at John Southwell's residence, 2 Terry Street, Balwyn on Friday night 12th May. The turn up was very disappointing as a lot of members had promised to come along and finally only six arrived. It was very embarrassing to the writer as John had rung me up earlier in the week and asked how many he could expect along to help work out catering and I told him 15 to 20. Everybody says how they want to see the Association get going again but actions speak louder than words. Anyway the six stalwarts that turned up were Alex Boast, Bruce Maclaren, George and Wyn Humphreys, George Robinson, Harry Botterill and of course John and Shirley Southwell, with apologies from Bill Sharp and George Veitch who were both on the sick list. Bruce who has only recently returned to Victoria said he was sorry that the Assoc. had lapsed and was very anxious to try and get some interest into it again, (wish we had a lot more like him). In an

endeavour to do this we decided to have at least a working arrangement and to this end Johnny was made President, Harry, Secretary, and Bruce Treasurer - with the two Georges and Alex as committee men and any other members who might like to join in. It was decided to start the ball rolling by a get-together of members and their wives at the Caulfield RSL Hall on Saturday 1st July at 7 p.m. to enjoy dinner and dancing and a good natter and perhaps we can get some ideas of what members would like us to do in the future - so here is hoping for a good roll up. Shirley turned on a lovely supper and our thanks to them both for the use of their home and the supper.

We were all shocked to hear of the sudden passing of Geoff (Bull) Laidlaw on Sunday 21st May. Tom Nisbet rang me with the sad news and later Happy Greenhalgh and told me he and George Vandeleur had teamed up and played bowls on Saturday - and then Geoff was playing a singles game on Sunday when he collapsed and died from a heart attack. Our deepest sympathy to Lola and relatives at this sudden sad loss.

Harry Botterill.

EAST COBURG

Do hope I am not too late to have this included in the next newsletter but time was against me in more ways than one last week. However, will hope for the best.

What a mixed week it was. Monday 24th was Kev Curran's funeral and the number attending was astounding. The Salvation Army Citadel in Hawthorn was packed out as was the Crematorium at Springvale. Some of the 2/2 boys I had not seen for years but I won't dwell on this subject as no doubt you have already received letters from others.

But I must let you know about Anzac Day which turned out to be quite a day. Leith Cooper had suggested that we could use our home as a meeting venue for after the march and that perhaps one or two of the wives would like to meet

their respective spouses after the march and reunion had finished. It snowballed a little and as it turned out, we 'girls' had quite a pleasant day, sitting around nattering, and here I must point out that we drank very little. Girls came armed with their own food and extra 'grog' (for the men of course!) and as I remarked previously, a pleasant day was had by all. I must thank one and all for helping out with the food. Greatly appreciated.

The men started arriving around the 4 p.m. mark and believe it or not, not one of them looked the worse for having marched and for enjoying a few drinks afterwards. I guess our men folk are realising that they can't take it as well as a few years ago which is a good thing.

Bruce McLaren back in Victoria arrived, also we had Win and George Humphries, Alan and Hazel Hollow over from S.A., Leith Cooper and Marg Farr, Alec and Beryl Boast, Bluey Sargent and Muff his wife, Bill and Eileen Sharpe (Bill was given leave from Heidelberg Repat to attend Kev's funeral and march. Tex Richards over from Tasmania and who stayed with us for a few days, plus Moya Coates (Arthur 'Boyo' Coates wife) and Mavis Robinson (Jim Robinson's wife). It was rather nice having the latter two as we had not seen them for some time and Mavis not being in the best of health is not able to get around a great deal. Incidentally, would it be possible for Mavis Robinson to receive copies of the Courier. Apparently she has not had them since Jim passed away and likes to keep in touch. Her address is 165 Southern Road, West Heidelberg 3081.

One face we missed was that of Georgie Veitch who was on the sick list. I think that this year was the first march he had missed since the war and knowing George, he must have been really ill. Last report I had was that he was slowly getting better.

Friday saw a few of us as guests of Alan and Hazel Hollow for lunch. Being a working day not all could attend but those who did were

Olive Botterill, Wilma Tobin, Win Humphries, Eileen Sharpe, Mam Smith, Tex Richards and myself. John couldn't make it unfortunately as working for himself, he had two days work to make up.

Saturday night, Eileen Sharpe arranged an evening at the East Caulfield RSL but I believe that she will be writing to you about this. In the meantime, we have enclosed a cheque for two tickets - the rest you can use for whatever.

John and I hope that you are all going to make the Safari to South Australia. We look forward to meeting you all once more. Look after yourselves.

Scotty, the night that Cath brought this home from work she fell in the house and broke her wrist, plus bad bruising, and will be in plaster for six weeks.

Regards -

Cath and John Roberts.

(Hope you are on the mend now Cath. Pleased to hear the ladies had a get together on Anzac Day and it is an idea for other states to have a look at.
Editor.)

ST. KILDA

Have been endeavouring to write this letter for an entire month, so at last here goes. Ere this, you will have heard the sad news of the death of Kev. Curran - the bell seems to toll far too frequently these days. He had intended attending the Anzac Day march in Melbourne this year, and feel sure that, after his funeral the day before, was very much there in everybody's thoughts. Bill was granted leave from Heidleberg. Repat. Hospital, from Monday morning until Wednesday morning, so was able to join the other members of the squadron at the Citadel for the service, which was very beautiful in its simplicity, then quite a long drive to Springvale Crematorium, where a military service was held, after which a wake was given by the Hawthorn Football Social Club - so began a sad Monday, but there were the happy times to follow also. Anzac march the next

day and quite the best number that have marched for years - after the men settled at their reunion, Hazel Hollow, Beryl Boast and I went on out to Cath and John Roberts home, where we awaited the arrival of the men later - I know Cath has written of this gathering, so shall just say that it was most enjoyable and lovely to meet people once more that one so seldom sees. Hazel and Alan Hollow, from Adelaide, were staying on until Sunday, so we were able to enjoy their company on a few more occasions. Tex Richards was over from Tasmania and he also stayed until Sunday, and joined me for lunch at Caulfield Central RSL on Thursday. I was able to introduce him to several of Bills friends there; whilst I shopped and went to the hairdresser, left him in good hands. Friday Hazel and Alan had invited all who could, to join them for lunch at the London, which was such a nice gesture on their part, and most enjoyable to all who were able to come. Bill was able to leave the hospital early enough to join everyone for drinks, before the party broke up. On Alan's last visit here, we had managed to arrange an evening for him at Caulfield RSL, and he requested a repeat if possible so Hazel could enjoy an evening there. It was really great that so many were able to come at such short notice, and here, may I apologise to the ones who phoned the Club and were told that the 2/2nd were not booked in there. I had phoned to book the table, the chef was told; but not the duty officer. He was most upset that such an error was made. Please forgive the mix up and join in next time. Present were - Wilma Tobin, Olive and Harry Botterill, Win and George Humphries, Nina and Alf Grachan, "Smash Hodgson", Mam Smith, and Bill and I, and to help entertain our guests, Hazel and Alan Hollow and Tex Richards. Apologies and greetings were given by many others, who had prior engagements - impossible at this late date to list the names, but heres hoping next notice there will be more notice given. Friday the following week saw Bill receive his

discharge from hospital after 13 weeks.

News from Tex after his return to Tassie, wasn't so good, as he was admitted to the Repat. Hospital in Hobart. Hope that it was not too much Victorian hospitality that helped put him there. Better news from Adelaide, when Alan phoned to say he and Hazel had a good trip home. Both Dot and George Veitch were very much missed over our social week here, as both were on the sick list.

Best wishes to all -

Eileen and Bill Sharp.

(Most interesting letter and very pleased to see, now that the Victorian branch is again active, that the ladies are putting themselves in a position to assist the committee. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK —

Editor.)

HILLEND

I have enclosed a cheque to help towards the Courier and 1 raffle ticket. I am still clearing land and cutting posts. Had a bit of an accident a few weeks ago - a dozer came in to clear the land, hit a tree and pushed it over on top of me. Now on the mend at last.

Spent last weekend with Cath and John Roberts at Neerim South. Cold, wet outside but nice and warm inside. Hope to make the S.A. Safari and then continue on to W.A. - at least that is the plan at the moment.

Will fill you in with all my news when I catch up with you later on in the year.

Cheers for now -

Arnold Webb.

QUEENSLAND NEWS

MERMAID BEACH

I received your letter and the lapel badge before Anzac Day. Apparently it was sent to Wilbur Wallis at Cherside by mistake and he forwarded it on to me. I must write and thank him for doing so. Also thanks to you Scotty for sending it.

I have been going to the local doctor here to check on my stomach pains and bad back and left hip. He got me to write to Veteran Affairs and they had tests and x-rays done and now the doctor has me on expensive tablets but I have heard nothing from the Veteran Affairs. I wondered if anyone in the Association could give me any advice.

As regards the Adelaide reunion it looks as though I will not be able to make it as I have had to take my annual leave now due to the lack of work which is very unfortunate as I would like to have been able to get with the old mob.

I have recently become a member of the Palm Beach - Currumbin RSL and although only a small branch we mustered about 100 for the Dawn service which is held down

near the ocean at a place called Currumbin Rock. It is about 100ft. above the car park where the ceremony took place. The bugler was posted on top of the rock, which was lit up by the first rays of the morning sun. It was quite a moving event and I was very proud of my Double Red Diamond the only one at the parade. Unfortunately due to my stomach complaint I had to forego the later tot of rum and breakfast.

It looks like all the boys in the West are retiring to either Mandurah or Safety Bay, half their luck, but the Gold Coast is not too bad either if I could afford to retire, but it looks like I will never be able to do that.

Remember me to all the boys, your old mate -

John Hanson.

TAIGUM

Edna and I drove to McLean to stay a few eeks with George Greenhalgh on 19/5/78. That night George rang Geoff Laidlaw in Yamba to arrange a game of bowls and if possible the three of us to play to-

gether. On the Saturday we went to Yamba and Geoff said the game was arranged and that we would be playing together. During the course of the game I asked Geoff how he was keeping and he said he never felt better. He said he would not have any afternoon tea as he had a touch of indigestion. We arranged to play again the next week on the Sunday in a Lions Day game, at Yamba on 28/5/78. On Sunday Edna George and I went fishing, it was not a good day, too much wind and looked like rain, we returned about 1 p.m. and then one of George's neighbours told him about a phone call from Yamba Bowling Club, saying Geoff had had a heart attack and had passed away. I was stunned, I did not believe it, but unfortunately it was true. That night George made several phone calls to members of 2/2nd in the nearby areas, also to Tom Nisbit in Melbourne and some one in W.A. I think he did a very good job to ensure that as many as possible attended the funeral service in Yamba. Those present were - a. buck, R. Bland, H. Cullen, H. Handicott, C. Knight, C. McCaffery, R. Orr, T. Nisbit, W. Walsh, G. Greenhalgh and myself.

Tom Nisbit gave a speech at the funeral service - GEOFF LAIDLAW THE MAN.

Before we returned to Brisbane Edna and I went to see Lola Laidlaw, she told us that she would have to re-arrange her days but that she would manage.

The rest of our stay with George was pleasant, good weather, we caught enough fish and brought some home.

Regards -

George Vandeleur.

(Thanks george for your report and it is greatly appreciated. Hoping to see you and Edna in Oct. - Editor.)

AYR

Don't faint, just make out three tickets and put in balance in for the Courier, cheque enclosed. I am in the throes of writing a report on a three weeks tour of New Guinea. Will get it away probably this

weekend.

Regards -

Bulla

Tait.

(Great to hear from you and will be looking forward to the New Guinea report - Editor.)

MACGREGOR

Sorry I am late with cash for ticket, enclosed is cheque for same, also donation for Courier and Association

Looking forward to joining N.S.W. folk on the trip to Adelaide. Good luck with the raffle and best wishes to all -

George Mathieson.

KENMORE

I returned from Papua New Guinea after 9 years service there with TAA and Air Ningini and am back with TAA in Brisbane.

Many moves and changes of address have meant infrequent receipt of the Courier, but it was always a joy to have news of those not seen since 1942/43 in Timor.

Would like to have anyone visiting Brisbane to call in at TAA.

Best wishes to all -

Ralph Conley.

BRISBANE

Just a few lines to thank you for the Safari Raffle Tickets, tie bar, lapel badge, and the June issue of the Courier. Since I last wrote to you, I have received a letter from Jack Hanson on the Gold Coast, and on the day the June issue of the Courier arrived, there was also a letter from Jim Smiles. He had read my letter in the June issue, and in his words 'was so pleased to see my name mentioned and that I had "surfaced" again after so many years that he just had to get a few lines off straight away'. Jim has brought me up to date on the activities of many of the 8 Section fellows and I certainly appreciated his letter. Seeing as I have "surfaced" again, perhaps the following pieces of information may be of interest regarding the whereabouts of a couple of 'old boys'.

In John Hanson's letter published

in the June issue of the Courier, he mentions that he would endeavour to locate the whereabouts of Colonel Spence. On reading this, I recalled that some years ago an old workmate friend of mine had casually mentioned one day that his cousin had been the C.O. of the same Commando Unit as I had been a member of in Timor, and that his name was Alex Spence. I had not given any thought to this remark until I read the comment in John's letter the other day. Yesterday I contacted my old workmate friend who has now retired, and he told me that Alex is living at: 15 Astolat Street, Yeronga. 4104. Brisbane. Queensland, and his telephone no. was 48 5586.

This morning I rang the Colonel, spoke to Mrs. Spence and the Colonel too. He has been retired for about 6 years, and has to take things a little easy as he has a heart problem that laid him low in hospital last year, but was certainly interested in the Association, and I am sure would appreciate copies of the Courier and the Address Book. During the conversation, I gave him the sad pieces of news in respect of "Tuan Bort" and "Bull" Laidlaw. Incidentally Col Doig's piece on

the front of the June issue on the passing of big Kevin is a very fine effort.

Flushed with my success in locating Colonel Alex, and noticing in the Addresses Unknown column of the Courier that the name of N. Hooper was included I decided to see whether I could locate him, seeing 'as his last known address in the Address Book is "Commercial Hotel Inglewood". Having worked in the P.M.G., Department (now Australia Post) for the past 30 years, and naturally getting to know a few other people in the organisation in that time, I learned that Neil had left Inglewood approximately 12 months ago (at about that time I believe his wife passed on) and that he is now living in a suburb of Brisbane. The address is: 5 Yiada Street, Kedron. Queensland. 4031.

I haven't been able to contact Neil by 'phone, as he does not have a listing, but I have no doubt the address is still current, having regard to the source. Well my friend, I will close now and endeavour to drop a line occasionally and look forward to the bi-monthly Courier issues.

W.A. (Wilbur) Wallis.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NEWS

PORT LINCOLN

I am writing to you regarding the Double Diamond Tie Pin and Lapel Clip your Association have. I would like to obtain one of each to present to my father Don (Shorty) Stevens. I read about them in your Feb. issue of the Courier, 78. Please find enclosed a cheque to cover the cost and if it is not enough please notify me. If it is more than enough retain the balance for the Courier. If it is possible would you forward them to me at above address before 1st July. -

I also read in the Courier about Stan Sadler's lad breeding Limousins, and I am also using Limousins (by A.1.20 in a cross breeding

programme on Fresians and Herefords although I am not aiming for purebreds (just good beef).

The season broke here last week with 1½ inches rain so we have sown feed and done some breaking up. Paddock feed from last years crops quite reasonable.

Dad is keeping fit and well but busy with farming and horses.

Yours sincerely -

Milton Stevens.

(Very pleased to receive your letter and have adhered to your wishes re the pins. When your letter arrived Treasurer was on holidays so that was the cause of the delay in posting.

Editor.)

PT. LINCOLN

About time I got onto this machine again and acknowledged the fact that I am still interested in the affairs of the Unit.

A few weeks ago I took myself up to Marree and visited the Litchfields. While I was away the Dignum fellow called and I missed out on seeing him and probably catching up on the arrangements in Adelaide for October.

However, I plan to be there for some time, unfortunately I will be unable to make it till the Tuesday 10th sometime, may make it in to Clare on our way over. I am supposed to be at Centenary celebrations over the weekend of the 13th to 15th but will worry that one when the time comes.

Unfortunately we are keeping up the record of being the dry State and are urgently looking for rain at the moment. But it is worse where Litch is, things are not at all good up there. Am tempted to "Go West Young Man" and get away from the Dry and Donny Boy.

Find enclosed cheque for another raffle ticket, hope you sell the full quota.

Till October. Cheers,

Shorty Stevens.

1978 ADELAIDE SAFARI

The requests for accommodation have been arriving and I now have 44 names requiring board. Tony Adams wrote to say he would be caravanning and staying for the full period. Keith Dignum, Bert Bache and self made an inspection of the West Beach Caravan Park and found it very good and recommend any caravaners to stay there. In regard to people motoring over I would suggest a suburban hotel or motel as a car is a liability in the city. The manager of the Pier Hotel in Glenelg sent me a quote, the board was \$10 per head and \$5.50 per head for unit dinner for 200 people. I will chase that later on. I have been fortunate to have the Commercial Travellers Club offered

to me for our dinner, and as a meeting place for drinks, it is an ideal spot being opposite the railway station in the city and cheaper than hotel prices, I have yet to get a quote from them. Nearly all the N.S.W. members want to be booked into the Majestic Hotel in the city. I can't remember if I told you Lindsay Park Stud is off. I personally know a chap who is head buyer in Australia of blood stock and he told me they don't want tourists as they have to employ extra staff and October would be their busy period, he is a friend of the manager of the Stud so I won't pursue it further.

Dud Tapper.

From Dud Tapper, May 28, 1978.

Enclosed is a copy of bookings etc. all that I have received to date. If you could publish it in the Courier well and good. As most people wished to be booked in at the Majestic in town, but on enquiring found them booked out for October and only 11 rooms and on enquiring at the larger hotels found the same answer, so I chased up the Pier Hotel at Glenelg and have booked there, the tariff is the same, they dropped \$2 per head for us, \$10 per head. At my suggestion they agreed to hold \$100 in their safe as a guarantee refundable to me at conclusion of Safari less any cancellations etc, so if you see fit could you remit same as soon as possible. I think we will probably have the Unit Dinner there also. See what the Committee says.

The following is a list of members who are to attend the Safari and also where bookings for accommodation have been arranged:

PRIVATE: K. & B. Craig, L. Litchfield, S. & C. King.

SHANDON MOTEL: C. Doig, J. Loudon, M. & J. Morgan, G. & C. Turner, G. & M. Reid, J. Carmody (3)
CARAVAN PARK: J. & N. Hasson, T. Adams, M. Davies.

TAFT MOTEL: M.A.M. Smith
PIER HOTEL: W. & J. Bennett, D. Darrington, G. & E. Vandeleur, F. & P., Bryant, F. Otway, D. & D. Latimer, M. & B. Mannix, M. & B.

Devlin, J. & J. Fowler, D. Boyland & Jon, T. & B. Snowden, R. & Mrs. Martin, F. & P. Sharp, P. Sharp, Mam Smith & brother. D. Hudson, G. Holmes, J. Hartley, L. & D. Bagley, G. Bagley, C. & M. King, A. & B. Smith, Q. Phillips, J. Poynton, N. Tait, G. Mathieson, A. Luby, W. Coker, H. Handicott.

FLINDERS PARK

I have received your letter and cheque for \$800 and your list of bookings. I have arranged your personal accomodation at the Pier Hotel. The hotel people have advised me that they now have left only single rooms (about 10) none with private facilities so late bookers will have to put up with that, or another hotel

in the area if I can arrange same. In regard to unit dinner, I have confirmed the booking at the Pier Hotel, three course dinner \$5.50 per head and a mixed night wives and relatives etc. Would you ask your committee to give me their opinions on whether we charge the visitors including wives the \$5.50 or charge everyone or supply all from funds available.

The tarriff at the Pier Hotel is \$10 B & B. I will enclose another list of bookings to keep you up to date. As yet I have only Max Davies from Victoria and Bulla Tait from Queensland. We have another meeting next week and will write after that.

Dud Tapper.

TASMANIAN NEWS

LATROBE

It is ages since I have written to you and at the present time I am an inmate at the Repat. General Hospital in Hobart but am hoping to be out by the end of May. 1978 has not been a good year again for me.

The passing of Kev Curran was a great shock to me as we were very firm friends. I stayed with him at some time every year for the last twenty one. We had some wild times together, he was not at his best over the Easter of this year. I took him up some of our delicious trout.

I played bowls all the Easter as Bendigo and then flew to Hobart and played in the R.S.L. Championships and finished in 3rd position and have had a really great season.

The family are doing well but still have only four grandchildren, but its the modern trend these days, and one cannot blame them. I still think we are better off here than in the other states. Work is a little hard to find but that is the same in all states.

I flew to Melbourne for Kevin's funeral and then marched with the Vics on Anzac Day. Had a few

glasses with a good number of the boys. We all have gone in one of three ways, outwards, inwards or our head has gone through our hair/. We had a good get together at a R.S.L. Club, due mainly to the efforts of Eileen Sharp. The staff made every effort to make our night an enjoyable one. It was great meeting Alan Hollow again and his charming wife Hazel, but boy can he get you into doing things one shouldn't and the air strike helping and myself these days can be easily led into anything where there is good company and I stayed a little longer in Melbourne. Stayed with Cath and John Roberts also Eileen and Bill Sharp, thanks pals for putting up with me and I hope one of these days I can do the same for you.

It was good to hear your voice again Scotty, also Elsie and Jess's but sorry it had to be with sad news. Well pal I am enclosing a cheque for two tickets and the balance towards the Courier.

Cheers for now -

Tex Richards.

FROM THE EDITOR TO ALL MEMBERS

Checking back through old Couriers, I discover that in March 1959, there are two centre pages setting out the original strength of the unit, with the names of each in their respective Platoons and Sections. This gave the names also of the reinforcements who joined at Wayville, S.A.

The Editor would like to make up a complete list of all those who served with the 2/2nd, from the 1st reinforcements on Timor to those who joined at Canungra, New Guinea, New Britain and prior to the unit being disbanded. Would you please send to the Editor the following particulars so as to enable him to get a complete list.

Name. Number. Rank. Where joined and if possible date of joining.

This might be of assistance to wives of deceased members, should they apply to Repat. for any benefits and would perhaps help the R.S.L. if they were acting on behalf of a widow. So what about taking a little time out and write to the Editor and don't leave it too late as our numbers seem to be depleting at a fast rate lately.

EDITOR.

Address mail to Box T1646, G.P.O., PERTH. 6001.

DIABETES

We are concerned at the ever increasing number of unit members who are suffering from this disease. To assist us in pursuing the probability that malaria and malnutrition may play a significant part in setting up body conditions ideal for the progress of diabetes. We would like all who are sufferers to inform us, with any information or thoughts as to the cause of their becoming diabetic, and whether or not there is any family history of diabetes.

REPATRIATION

For the attention of all.
ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO REGULATION 65A of Repatriation Reg-

ulations which provides for treatment for returned members of the services suffering from cancer.

Application of treatment should be made to the Repatriation Department immediately the condition is diagnosed.

LATE VICTORIAN NEWS.

We held our function on Saturday, 1st July at the Caulfield R.S.L. Club and we had a terrific night with a very good roll up. Those present were A. & B. Boast, J. & S. Southwell, L. Cooper and friend Marj, K. & M. Monk, B. & L. MacLaren, G. & D. Robertson, H. & O. Botterill J. & K. Roberts, G. & W. Humphreys, B. & E. Sharp, A. Webb and Alan Luby who was over in Victoria doing a couple of courses at Mt. Macedon with the Natural Distasters Organisation - it was great to have him along, to meet the boys, and their ladies. We had numerous apologies from those who could not make it. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and voted it a good night. I must give special thanks to Kath Roberts and Eileen Sharp who did a wonderful job sending out invitations to everybody in the address book. We all want to see the Association get going again and by the enthusiasm shown we are well on the way. Tex Richards from Tassie could not make it owing to ill health and he looks as if he will have to return to hospital. It was great to have Alan Luby along and he spent the weekend with Olive and I.

Had a card from Wilma Tobin in England at present and having a wonderful time, both Gillian and Warwick are there also.

Olive and I are going to Perth for our holidays with our friends Doug and Joan Freer. We are doing the round trip by train leaving Melbourne on 15th Aug. and arriving Perth on the 18th. We will travel Indian Pacific to Sydney after 3 weeks in Perth.

Regards to all- Harry Botterill.

BYRON BAY.**ON HOLIDAYS.**

After last writing to the Courier we changed our plans and decided to go to Canberra to see Doug at the Queen's Birthday Parade. It was terrific. The weather was a bit cold and drizzly the day of the parade but the rain held off long enough.

Spent ten days in Canberra and then to Sydney to see our son Ken. Jack Hartley picked us up and took us home for tea at his home. Afterwards Bill and Betty Hoy and Jack Keenahan came round and we had a most enjoyable evening. Thanks Jack and Maria. I was fortunate enough to be there for the quarterly meeting and went along with Jack. About a dozen there but apart from Al Luby, Jack Hartley and Bill Hoy I was at a loss. The boys knew I was coming and so had the word on me. After all, years have passed and age has crept up on us. It did not take long however to remember the different ones and after the meeting tales were swapped. I am so pleased I was in Sydney for the meeting. We moved on next day. Called on Jean and Bunny Anderson at Woy Woy. Bunny has not changed much but arthritis is catching up with him. The district around Woy Woy is very pretty. Looks a good fishing spot.

We eventually moved up the coast and stayed at Kempsey. Unfortunately had not checked the address book so missed out on Bill Walsh so did not meet him till the end of our stay. Learned from Bill that Harry Handicott was at the lighthouse but it was not open for visitors the day we were there. Sorry about that Harry as it would have been great to renew acquaintance.

At Grafton we had a few beers with Ron Orr. We had lunch with May and Ron at the club and had a great chat. Onto McLean and met up with Happy Greenhalgh. He arranged a game of bowls for him and I. Thanks Hap for your hospitality. Said hullo to Russ Blanch at Bangalow. He told us what a great place Byron Bay was and how right he was. We stayed at the caravan park.

Plenty of bowls and we met folk from all states. Hope to meet up with Jack Hanson before the week is out. Have not seen him since just after I got married. All the boys I have met wish to be remembered to all.

The raffle is due to be drawn and hope it was successful. Should I be the lucky winner please bring it to Adelaide for me- by then I will need it as I'll be badly bent.

Regards to all- Norma and Jack Hasson.