



2/2 COMMANDO Courier

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Price 1c.

REPATRIATION, MEDICAL, HOSPITAL AND PENSION BENEFITS FOR 2/2nd MEMBERS

There has been discussion of late regarding just what Repatriation Medical Hospital and Pension Benefits are available to our Timor members. The following points may help those so involved. Members classified T.P.I. or 100% disabled, and those now on Service Pensions, are completely covered for all illnesses, war caused or not.

There remains however a large number who for various reasons do not, as yet, come into these categories. Those on smaller disability pensions are covered for that specific ailment only, and in most cases have to cover themselves for all other illnesses which have developed (through war service) of recent years, and for which the Repatriation Department has rejected medical responsibility.

Through recent approaches to the Repatriation Department by way of R.S.L. research officer, certain facts are now much clearer, and should be known to all our members who not completely covered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

1. As a body or Association, we will never be granted "en bloc" cover for all ailments as compared with say the P.O.W.s some years ago. We can never be classified as such without alteration to existing legislation.

2. Each man must apply individually to the Department of Veterans' Affairs through the R.S.L. stating his ailment, which relates to his service and health in general, in full. The onus to disprove these claims now rests with the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

COMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 28th. ANNUAL DINNER AT
ANZAC CLUB. COMMENCING AT 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.

3. All such claims are to be verified by a supporting signature. It is preferable to have one of our ex R.A.P. Corporals do this, but any member will be acceptable. All our medical records were lost, and our doctor has passed away.

4. Our credibility has been established in this matter. There is no need to enlarge on the isolation, poor food, lack of boots etc. This has now all been researched and accepted as a fact. A senior officer of the Veterans' Department has remarked to the R.S.L. that few members have pressed their claims of late.

5. The research officer advises us to complete our claims in full and to bring them to their advocate who will guide and advise them on the method of approach before lodgement with the Department.

6. Many doubts as to cause of recent ailments have been removed by research and books written on this campaign. It is recommended that our members who claim eligibility should renew their efforts again even though they may have been rejected in the past. It must be stressed however to have a supporting witness, and to seek R.S.L. guidance. That organisation hold all the records to back us up, have the know how, and the ear of senior men in the Department.

The officers of this Association are also available to assist members who feel that they have a claim for medical entitlement.

IF IN ANY DOUBT AT ALL, PLEASE PHONE PERTH BRANCH OF THE R.S.L. ON 325 9799 AND ASK FOR MRS. CRITTENDEN.

N.S.W., QUEENSLAND, SOUTH AUSTRALIAN and TASMANIAN members please contact your STATE R.S.L. who can contact W.A. R.S.L. for further information if so desired.

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING, HELD AT ANZAC CLUB, ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 1978.

The President: Mr. G. Maley declared the meeting open at 8.15 p.m.

PRESENT: G. Maley, J. Carey, C. Doig, H. Sproxtton, B. McDonald and L. Bagely.

APOLOGIES from G. Fletcher, D. Ritchie, C. Varian, R. Dhu, P. Hancock and D. Darrington were accepted.

MINUTES of meeting, held on Tuesday, July 4, 1978 were read and confirmed on the motion of B. McDonald, seconded by C. Doig.

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

BALANCE \$121.99

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

CORRESPONDENCE: Inward from R.S.L. (W.A. branch), Dud Tapper, Keith Dignum, Mick Devlin and Marie Burges.

Outward to Dud Tapper and Mick Devlin.

It was moved by C. Doig, seconded H. Sproxtton that Inward and Outward correspondence be received and confirmed.

ANNUAL DINNER: Anzac Club has been booked for Saturday, October 28, and catering for 50 has been arranged.

SAFARI RAFFLE: The drawing took place at Anzac Club on Saturday July 29. G. Maley reported that the evening was a successful one, and he was pleased to see Max and Grace Davies and Peter McCracken present. Gerry also thanked Len Bagley for organising the raffle. It was then

moved by H. Sproxtton and seconded C. Doig that the proceeds of the raffle be sent to Dud Tapper for Safari '78. L. Bagley reported that 481 tickets were sold, out of a possible 600, which yielded a nett balance of \$1,823.63.

Vice President, Dave Ritchie, is recovering from an operation in Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, and hopes to be going home soon.

Gerry O'Toole from Victoria, passed away in July. On behalf of the Association, the President extends sympathy to his family.

Sympathy is also extended to Eddy Craghill in the passing of his wife Marjorie.

To Merv and Dulcie Ryan we offer our sympathy, in the loss of their son Peter.

Leith Cooper from Victoria, is at present holidaying in the West, and is travelling around in his Ford F100 seeing some of his 2/2nd mates.

THE meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

NEW ADDRESSES

K. CARTHEW,
343 Bridge Road, Para Hills 5096.

V. WALSH
P.O. Box J157, Brickfield Hill 2000.

B. MacMAHON,
238 Beaufort St., Perth 6000.

ADDRESSES UNKNOWN

N.S.W. — Mrs. D. HYLAND.

VICTORIA — T. MILDERN.

DONATIONS

Donations have been received toward

Donations have been received towards the publication of the Courier from the following:

G. VANDELEUR B. CALLINAN
P. COTTESLOE K. CARTHEW
K. DIGNUM

RAFFLE RESULT

1 PRIZE — 048 — K. HOLDEN.

Other Prize List:

02	103	222	350	440	534
12	113	226	351	451	541
22	118	238	355	452	543
25	119	244	356	458	546
33	121	250	365	464	548
39	134	260	368	477	551
49	140	272	375	480	559
54	142	273	386	482	567
60	159	279	396	487	574
69	180	307	398	488	576
75	181	310	399	489	577
81	190	313	400	492	580
83	191	315	402	502	582
89	195	326	404	528	590
92	203	333	428	529	596
94	209	338	429	532	
101	212	341	439	533	

SICK LIST

Dave Ritchie is still recuperating after his recent major operation. We still hope that you continue to improve and that it is not too before you return to work again.

Last report from Bob Smith at Newcastle was he is on the mend. Keep improving Bob.

Ron Sprigg has been to Perth again to see the specialist but he reports that there is nothing that can be done to improve his sight.

VISITORS TO PERTH

From Victoria recently, and attended the drawing of the raffle were Max Davies and his wife. They only stayed in Perth for three days and then travelled on to Carnarvon with the intention of returning to Melbourne via the northern route. They had trouble with the air conditioner in the caravan.

Harry and Olive Botterhill were here for three weeks and certainly travelled a great deal of the State and caught up with a number of the members and their wives. We met up with them at the home of Dot Boyland where a number of the unit met for a pleasant luncheon, on Sunday 20th August. Harry and Olive were accompanied by their friends Doug and Joan Freer. Thanks Dot for extending your hospitality to them. They were also entertained at luncheon by Col Doig and Joy Loudon on Wednesday, 30th August.

WEST AUSTRALIAN NEWS

KOORDA

I see in the Courier where you have for sale double red diamond tie pin and lapel brooch. If these are still available would you please send me one of each for Ron. You may send them C.O.D. or let me know the cost.

Our family of two girls and three boys are grown up. One girl married with a little boy and expecting twins early October. The other girl is nursing at Pingelly. Very tame after travelling in England and Europe and holidaying in New Zealand. Our eldest son in Perth is doing electrical work, another as a bulldozer driver for a local shire, and the youngest in the army in Townsville, with another six months to go to end a three year training period.

Regards to all, from Ron and Norma Johnson.

(Sent you the tie clip and badge. Great to hear from you and received your cheque. — Editor).

ALBANY

The receipt of the Courier has prompted me as Country Vice-President for this area to write to you a few lines as you stated when I spoke to you on the phone the Courier would be a glum old one. It sure was, makes one stop and think a bit and wonder just who will be next.

Things don't change much in this neck of the woods, I don't see many of the boys. I have called in on Norm Thornton a couple of times recently but never seem to catch him in the shop. Got a nice surprise visit from Leith Cooper and friend last week, have not met since the war, unfortunately his time was limited and only spent one night here, he was visiting a whaling station next morning and then off to Esperance. Fortunately they had got ten whales so he was able to see the station in operation, is bad luck they are closing down as it is a great tourist attraction. I only hope that Harry and Olive Botterhill have the same luck on their visit.

I have to return to Royal Perth on 31st August for some more laser treatment, to date it has not been very succesful.

We will not be making the Safari this year as much as we would love to but I expect about that time I will have to visit Royal Perth again.

The information you wanted about my Diabetes is I started having treatment in 1958 but the specialist said I had had it for at least 12 months, there was no known history of the trouble before. Although my daughter Judy developed it a few months after me, to date she has had no problems.

It was great to read Jim Ritchie letter and hope there will be more of them, hope to catch up with you in the not too distant future Jim. Had a letter from Tom Tiernay a short time ago, he has now joined the ranks of senior citizen and hopes to make a trip West before too long.

Must close now, regards to all the boys and to all those attending the Safari. Have Fun.

RON SPRIGG.

NEW SOUTH WALES NEWS

NEW SOUTH WALES COMMITTEE 1978/79.

PRESIDENT — **A. LUBY**
VICE PRESIDENTS — **A. ADDISON
M. MANNIX**
SECRETARY-TREASURER — **F.M. DEVLIN**
ASSISTANT SECRETARY — **J. HARTLEY**
AUDITOR — **W. BENNETT**
RETURNING OFFICER — **T. MARTIN**
LIAISON OFFICERS — **R. SMITH
C. PAFF, A. McLACHLAN,
F. SHARP, J. FENWICK.**
GENERAL COMMITTEE — **P. KENNEALLY, W. COKER,
R. HILLIARD.**

EPPING

Well here I am back on deck again after my recent visit to hospital. I am pleased to say that the operation was successful. At the moment I am resting at home and being terribly spoilt. I have two appointments next week with the doctors, and I am hoping they will allow me to spend a week in Tamworth. I am very fortunate that Betty is a capable driver as this is one thing that the Doc. has restricted me doing. May I through the Courier thank the many members, wives and families for their visits, phone calls and cards and thoughts and concern about one's welfare. Sure does wonders for the morale. Just before I dismiss the sick parade I have received a letter from Bob Smith saying he is now at home having been discharged from hospital. He is under the specialists at present undergoing some tests and they have told him things are going according to plan. Bill Coker is another who has been on the sick list with a stomach complaint. Bill, it looks as if you and I will be on a short leash and hobbles if Coral and Betty have their way during the safari.

A letter from Bunny Anderson saying he will not be on the safari but hopes to catch up with us at a later date. He informs us that he had a welcome visitor in the person of Jack Hasson and Norma during their round Australia tour.

Our good ladies organised another progressive dinner recently at the homes of the Devlins, Goodacres, Cokers, and May Harris (widow of the late Roy Harris). Members and wives were as follows: Al & Edith Luby, Bill & June Bennet, Bill & Coral Coker, Ron & Marge Goodacre May Harris & friend Jack, and Mick & Betty Devlin. The following helped to prepare the food: Loretta, Judy, Jeff, Paul and Bill Goodacre. Many thanks to each and all who in some way contributed to the success of the evening.

Have not heard from Paddy and Nora Kenneally, but anticipate they are having a wonderful time.

Regards to all - Mick Devlin.

(Mick, could you please forward to me the address of May Harris and I will put her on the mailing list — Editor.)

EPPING

So sorry for being long in answering your correspondence but as you know I have been in hospital for an operation which was a success. I can feel myself improving each day and will be fighting fit come safari time. I received a letter from Dud Tapper enclosing final details, including accomodation re Safari. I must commend the boys in S.A. for a job well done. Our congratulations to W.A. for the conducting of the raffle.

So sorry to hear of Bert Burges passing away. He was our Platoon Sergeant in New Guinea and was a good soldier and a very nice man to serve under. July and August have been two bad months as far as the unit was concerned, with the death and illness of many members. however we look forward to brighter times in the future.

Had my first night out since being discharged from hospital. To share the occasion were Al & Edith Luby, Bill & June Bennet, Bill & Coral Coker, Mark Coker, Ron & Marge Goodacre and family, Merv & Marg Jones, and it was especially nice to have Joan Darge along. She is looking fit and well and send her love to everyone.

Regards to all — Mick Devlin.

YOUNG

Greetings to you and Elsie, as it is ages since I wrote to you. Yes we are still in the land of the living, but we really have been busy this last six months or so, but when I look back over it, I am quite sure I could have made the effort and written a few more letters.

We had a very hot and dry summer which really took its toll on most people, and especially me as I don't like the real heat. Coming towards the end of the summer Keith had the misfortune to slip at work and fall

backwards into some wooden bins, breaking two ribs and cracking two more. He spent about a fortnight in hospital, very uncomfortable for the first week, but slowly picking up from then on. It seemed to take him a long time to be sure of himself again, and especially when he tried to lift things. However he recovered well and was feeling really 100% when he had a bout of kidney trouble, which was most unexpected, and which knocked him about very much. He spent 12 days in hospital that time, and although he had all the X-rays and tests you could think of, they could find nothing which would show up. Even went to Canberra, but that was no good either. I also had to go to Canberra for my yearly tests, and came home very pleased as they all showed clear, and I don't have to go back until March/April next year.

We have had Keith's father with us for the last five months, and he is nearly 94. He is very well, although during the wet and cold winter we had this year, he suffered a couple of attacks of bronchitis. Not a great deal to be worried about, but the doctor admitted him to hospital because of the constant heat. He did miss the sun very much, but there was nothing we could do about it this year. It rained and was overcast and miserable for weeks and weeks. We would then get a nice day and hope for the best, but down it would come again. Really getting back to the old cold and wet winters, and although we did grizzle it was really what was needed as we were so short of water over the last couple of years. When grandfather could get out he was very pleased, and just soaked up any sun there was. he has now gone back to Syney to enter hospital and have a cataract taken off his eye. I hope it will do a lot of good for him, as he enjoys getting out a bit.

Phillip has been transferred to Randwick, from Puckapunyal, and likes the workshop there very much, although he is not keen on City life. He spent about five days in Sydney and was sent to the hills around Tamworth, and then back to Sydney, then up Armadale, and back to

Syney, and then spent three weeks in Brisbane and now is back in Sydney. He spent a few days at home with us as of now, and will be going back to Sydney on Monday. So far he has not been playing as much squash in Sydney, but I suppose he won't be long before he gets back into the swing again. Janette and Stan are still in Townsville, and they are hoping to be home around the Christmas break. Don't think they will make Christmas here, but we are all planning to be home for New Year and have our Christmas and New Year together, when they arrive. I guess it will be great fun to have them all together for a while. We are all looking forward to having a bit of time together, and of course Janette is looking forward to seeing some of her friends from home, and especially Phil, as they were very close. I guess they will talk their heads off when they get together. They will have two to three months and Stan could possibly do a course straight after that too, so Jan might stay here while he does it, and that could mean about five months or so here. Would be good if she was here while Stan was away on the course, she would certainly be a lot closer here than at Townsville, as the course is at Bandianna, Victoria.

Keith and I have finally made arrangements about the trip to the Safari, and we will leave Young and drive to Wagga Wagga on Friday night, 6th October, and pick up the bus, and arrive in Adelaide after lunch on Saturday, 7th October. And will leave on Wednesday, 18th October for Melbourne, as I want to do a days shopping there to buy shoes, and then come home. We would like to go to Sydney for a few days and see Phillip while he is there, and also do some work in the garden, which has been very badly neglected since Keith was ill, and with all the wet and cold weather it was impossible to get out into it, and even if you could it was too wet to work at it anyway.

I have written for a Unit, something like we had in Sydney, only with one bedroom, at "The Greenways Apartment", motel style app-

artments which are in King William Road, North Adelaide, just a walk across the park from the city so they tell me. So we should be very close to everything, but they do have kitchens, which of course is a must in my case.

Scotty, we were very sorry to hear that you had been involved in a car accident and trust you and Elsie are really well again and that we will see you both in Adelaide next month. We had a card from London, from Jack and Jean Fowler and will catch up with them too at the Safari. We were sorry to read that Bob Smith had been ill, and he and Joyce won't be able to make Adelaide. Hope that there is some improvement by now Bob. I have been talking a few times to Joan Darge, and Phillip has also been out to see her, and to Merv and Marj Jones, and they are all well. The rest of the folks we hope to catch up with in Adelaide.

Well, Scotty, this is all for now. Our best wishes and will tell you all the news when we see you.

We are still doing Old Time Dancing, although Keith has been out of it a bit lately, with being sick, but I have been teaching now for six months, and I do really enjoy it very much. We do a bit of travelling around with the groups that have formed up from what we started up as a group of about ten. We have one group of over 100 at Jugiong, which is about 40 miles from here. Some of them learn one dance a night and then teach the folks over that way. Next week we hope to go to Grenfell, about 35 miles from here and try out a new band, which we hear is very good. Haven't played as much golf this year as it has been so wet, but go when I can, and had a good game the other day, when I played in a mixed day, and we came runners-up. We were very pleased about that. I won nine balls for the day, which I considered to be a good trophy.

Now best wishes, and will see you in about seven weeks — Keith and Betty Craig.

(Always great to receive your letters. Will not be going on the Safari, but

will explain it to you later. — Editor.)

EXCERPTS OF LETTERS FROM OUR OUT-BACK AUSTRALIA CORRESPONDENT—JESS EPPS.

AUG. 13th. ALICE SPRINGS,

This place is as cold as Paris. No need for me to say any more. I am glad I took my long johns with me. We have been here a week outside the house of Terry's friend. He is a school teacher and they are a nice family with two girls aged 8 and 4. Terry had a few jobs to do on his vehicle and get parts. Apart from being frozen (I bought a cheap parka and woollen gloves) we are pretty good.

We had a beautiful run down from Roper River to Alice, semi desert and very open flats. With unseasonable rains, the wildflowers were a delight. Terry said I was seeing it at its best. The Devils Marbles were a wonder to behold, huge round rocks and seem to come out of the blue. Memorials to first overland telegraph, Explorer Stuart and Dr. Flynn Quaint old pub at Barrow Creek. Poster to say "Gents to wear singlets and shoes". Another with a bloke sitting on a stool looking down at a woman sitting on the next one to him and she's got nothing on with her bum as bare as a badger. Quite humorous and a good cold drink.

Tennant Creek the usual two-road town that seems to be a mile long. Looks prosperous and some mines working. Terry had a laugh while strolling around. A group of native women on the corner chatting. He glanced while passing, saw what he thought was a growth on one woman's arm. He nearly had a fit when he realised it was her boob that somehow came out of her dress.

I like Alice town. Hope to go to Ayres Rock tomorrow, then more sight seeing around when we return later. We are sitting in front of a lovely fire, with wood we all went out and collected. and had a picnic. Alice seems to lay right in the centre of a ring of hills and the Todd River runs alongside the shops—that is when it

has water in it. At present all it has in it now are groups of natives around little fires. Poor devils, no cover or shelter at all. We ought to grizzle.

**AUG. 26th. FINKE GORGE.—
PALM VALLEY.**

We have been to Ayres Rock, the Olgas. Walked the five miles around the base and one mile to the top. Felt like a damned fly and you have to use chains to pull yourself to the top. Terrific view at 1100 ft. Been back to Alice and re-fuelled and stocked the pantry. Palm Valley is so beautiful. Ranges are in layers, like a terrace and with the wild flowers and palms it is unbelievable that it is nature not man made. I can hear the dingoes trying to get in the bins. Wild horses camels and donkeys. Ranges look three dimensional and yellow of daisies, everlasting and acacias it is really lovely countryside. We are all well and I am fighting fit. Back in Alice by 29th.

SEPT. 1st. ALICE SPRINGS.—

Spring with you as it has been with us for last ten days? Received the Courier yesterday and thanks a lot.

We have been in Alice area four weeks and Terry has just come back from ordering parts for vehicle and it will not be here for a few days. We will be here until the 11th. or so.

I have still to see Alice proper yet and will do so in next couple of days. Henley-on-Todd was last Saturday and I believe a large crowd there—42 bus loads from interstate alone. Tomorrow is the big camel race day but I can't see us going. I think I have done very well seeing what I have, and some of the places off the beaten track so untouched or fouled up by humans, were something. Blossom is just starting to appear on stone fruit trees and a few more days like this and they will burst forth.

Regards to all — JESS EPPS.

VICTORIAN NEWS

KEW

I was amazed to receive an envelope with \$20 and a small note to say that I had won two prizes in the raffle. The money was a surprise but to win at all was truly amazing — but most pleasing.

I hope the whole show was a great success and I am enclosing a cheque for the Courier Fund.

What a terrible series of shocks we are having — Kevin Curran, Geoff Laidlaw, Bert Burges and last week Gerry O'Toole, and of course others.

However, give my best wishes to

all — Bernie Callinan,

NORTH BALWYN

Many thanks for the prize money which I am returning towards the cost of the Courier. It is a great little paper and I am always eager to read it although saddened by so many deaths in recent months.

I do hope the raffle was a success and that the Safari to Adelaide will be an occasion of pleasure to all participating.

Kind regards to all — Paul Costelloe.

QUEENSLAND NEWS

MERMAID BEACH

I received your letter a couple of weeks ago and I should have answered before now but time flies and there always seems to be something to do.

I have had a bit of time off work

lately with my crook back and hip. To date I have not heard anything from Repat. although they have there from the doctors for a couple of weeks now.

I had a visit from Jack Hasson during the week and we had a good

old yarn about the old mob. I had not seen him since 1947 when I did a job on his car. I think he is having a great time doing a grand tour of the Eastern States, and he has to be back in Canberra in August and then to Adelaide for the Safari.

We don't see much news over here in the papers about the West, but they carried quite a bit about the Collie bomber. Even on the T.V. news.

We have had a queer old winter over here so far no rain, very little wind and very cold. At the present time there is a big sea running and doing a great deal of damage.

I have not been able to contact the R.S.L. pensions officer so it looks like I will have to go to Brisbane or Southport to get in touch with one of them. I will wait I think until I hear from Repat. and decide on the next step.

All the best — Jack Hanson.

(Jack, check the article in this Courier about Repat. Benefits and contact the R.S.L. Glad to hear that you extended hospitality to the Hassons. — Editor.)

**R.S.L. SHOP
570 HAY ST., PERTH
Gents Outfitters**

Prices are more than
comparable with other
shops in the City.

All profits to the War
Veterans Home.
10% disc. to members.

Dave Ritchie, Manager.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NEWS

FLINDER PARK

Just a few lines to keep in touch, we held another meeting last week and for our unit dinner agreed to charge a fee for wives to help keep finances at a healthy level. We are inviting our Deputy Premier as a VIP guest who is a returned man from Korea, ex captain Des Corcoran MC, also the Mayor of Glenelg and a reporter from the press. We also agreed to invite Mrs. Mackintosh. I wrote to Alex Spence inviting him to attend also but have not received a reply as yet. Ross Smith has the Clare bus trip under control and has cancelled the slate mine tour as he says we would not have enough time with what he has arranged. Gordon Holmes has written again booking in for the Safari. That is about all for now, will write again later.

FLINDER PARK

I have very little news to pass on, we have confirmed the booking for buses etc. and have most under con-

trol for the Safari. the Pier Hotel is booked out for double rooms and have only singles left, so a reminder in the Courier might jog a few memories. We had Max Davies, Grace and Peter here for the weekend and hence the extra raffle ticket. I hope things are going well with you and yours. — Dud Tapper.

SEATON

This is just a short note to let you know I am still alive and to get another ticket. You are well up with the news of the Safari through Dud Tapper, who is elected scribe from this side. Ron Gurr is still keeping fit and I have seen quite a bit of him of late. Find enclosed a cheque for a ticket, and a bit left over.

Regards — Keith Dignum.

PARA HILLS

Please find enclosed a cheque being towards the publication of the Courier and also for a tie pin and lapel badge.

The Courier is certainly a good way of keeping in touch with other members.

Regards to all — Kel Carthew.

SEMAPHORE

Scotty, having read the July Courier a number of times and finding several good reasons for writing again after a break of ten years or so, I thought don't just sit there — get on with it.

Firstly that gutsy letter from Jimmy Ritchie. One could only has at a guess as to the cost in pride and dignity it would be to write such a letter. I seriously doubt if I could do it, yet facing it is probably the best approach. One thing for sure having done just that he must be half way home. I guess in retrospect, any one of us could have taken that same road. There but for the grace of God go I, or you. I do know there was a time when I would have drunk it from a lime burner's boot, counting the vintners as the salt of the earth. Ready to slit a purse, or a throat maybe, for a jar or two of that wonderful stuff and to hell with the cost.

Secondly — the Bull's death. I never thought of it happening to him for he was not like the rest of us. Head and shoulders above the crowd and I guess I had him figured — not for immortality, but to be the last man out or, even carrying his bat.

I thought it fitting that Tom Nesbit gave the eulogy at Geoff's funeral for I reckon he knew him better than any man alive. What Nissie said I think the Bull would have appreciated — direct and to the point, for he was a man who could do well enough without the frills.

It closed the book on a truly remarkable man who could land on you heavy and was quick to apply the axe. Funny though in all those years I only ever heard two critics. One was last seen hoeing cabbages at Adelaide Gaol and the other was

some clot who was pulled up short before he made a larger foolish mess.

Tom and Gerry Haire both have given word pictures of how they saw the Bull, and no doubt there will be others. I would like to add a few memories of a man whom I thought exerted a larger influence on those around him than most and none of it bad. I saw him more like "brother Jack" an older brother, who could tolerate most of your mistakes, even the stupid ones because you were family.

Hearing that call of old Bernie's — "Officers, Make Toast" and seeing the Bull for the first time on morning parade, I thought he looked a lot like Rockfist Rogan. That characteristic stride of his when he came loping down to the platoon and his three axe handle shoulders he looked a real bruiser.

Being poured on the train at Quorn and expecting the wrath of Allah the next day and not getting it. The Bull's only concern was with my head, as in hangover. At Katherine when my brother was finally confirmed as a P.O.W. in Germany with an address near Bremen. When Mac censored the letter I wrote I guess words like "KNIEGSGEFANGEN-ENLAGER" must have caught his breath. Maybe he had me tabbed as a German spy. The Bull's approach was a walk together under the trees where we talked about my brothers, the war, why we didn't go to England plus a lot of other subjects that are now forgotten. I do remember thinking that he is nowhere near as fierce as he looks.

After Bazartete with the wounded and together as a platoon again. Stuck on that ridge in the early morning mist and hearing the Japs passing close by with the old sphincter firmly clasped between the cheeks. Knowing somehow that it would turn out okay because the Bull was there.

The "August Push" with the

outlook bleak and most everyone down in the mouth about it all. The Bull read a few horoscopes including mine, and maybe kicked a few arses too, for all I know. Whatever he did it worked, but then it usually did.

Leaving the squadron at Bulolo with the Baron and Des Lilya. Putting the arm on him for a ride 90 miles downhill to Lae. "Try walking" he said. Marvellous sense of humour too.

Years later meeting the C.G.S., General Daly and him saying he knew my old C.O. well. Me rabbiting on about the Bull and him chatting away about Bernie Callinan. Having taken it for granted that he meant the Bull and me being wrong, finally he got the message and said something about this Laidlaw being a remarkable man. He was indeed, there was only one like him and I sincerely doubt whether there could ever be anyone like him again.

Then in Melbourne with Boy Coates on a Saturday afternoon, oiling the throat at the Southern

Cross and giving the Boss a rallying call. Be there in thirty minutes and he was, which would be in sum what the Bull was all about. HE CARED— HE WAS THERE LIKE A ROCK. When you needed him, when it mattered and when it didn't. Tom Nesbit said it in one sentence, and like him I am glad I did not miss the Bull in his lifetime. We have all been the richer because of Geoff Laidlaw and the poorer also—for his passing.

On the brighter side, it made good reading to know that John Trelease Hanson has surfaced after all these years. I got tired of asking his father where the hell he was, like they probably got tired of me asking when there was no answer. All the best to you Jack and good luck in your coming scrap with the Repat or Veteran Affairs. They are not the easiest but it can be done, so don't give up on the first refusal. Keep her sailing.

Regards — Barry Lawrence.

(Scotty — How's your brother Don)(He is still just the same.

— Editor.)