



2/2 COMMANDO Courier

Registered for transmission by post as a periodical — Category "A"
Address all Association correspondence to Box T1646, G.P.O. Perth 6001
Vol 30. 265 APRIL 1979 Price 1c

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
9 JANUARY, 1979

Dear Mr. Maley,

I am writing further to the correspondence between yourself and the then Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sinclair, in September/October 1978 concerning East Timor.

I refer in particular to your kind offer to provide the text of the inscriptions on the two plaques, one in English and the other in the native language, erected by your Association and dedicated in 1969 at Dare, in recognition of the courageous assistance of the East Timorese to Australian troops during World War II. The Australian Embassy in Jakarta has advised that, while it has been able to obtain the English text of the inscription, which has been passed on to the Indonesian authorities, it does not have the text of the inscription in the native language.

It would therefore be very helpful to us if your Association could provide the text of the inscription in the native language to this Department in order that our Embassy in Jakarta could pass it on to the Indonesian authorities.

Yours sincerely
M.J. WILSON

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
25 JANUARY 1979

Dear Mr. Maley,

I refer to your letter of 20 January to which you kindly attached the texts of the inscriptions to

I refer to your letter of 20 January to which you kindly attached the texts of the inscriptions on the two plaques erected by your Association and dedicated in 1969 at Dare in recognition of the courageous assistance of the East Timorese to the Australian troops during World War II.

The material enclosed with your letter is being forwarded to the Australian Embassy in Jakarta to pass on to the Indonesian authorities.

I should like to thank you and your Association for your assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely
CAVAN HOGUE

2/2nd COMMANDO ASSOCIATION
20 JANUARY 1979

FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
SOUTH EAST ASIA AND SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION,
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2600.

Dear Sir,

Reference: 3038/10/15

Your letter dated 9 January is to hand and we have pleasure in furnishing the information requested. We did state that the text of one of the plaques in question was in English, and the other in the native language (Tetum). In actual fact, the text of the second plaque is in Portuguese, the official language of the East Timorese Territory at that time.

Enclosed are the following:

1. Photostat copy of Australian Information Service photograph No. LS 1093, depicting the cairn with the plaques mounted. The plaque on the left is in English, that on the right is in Portuguese.
2. Photostat copy of the photographer's detail of the photograph, which includes the English language inscription.
3. The inscription in the Portuguese language as inscribed on the right hand plaque.

We are happy that this Association has been able to help with this information.

Yours sincerely
for 2/2nd Commando Association
P.G. MALEY
President

PHOTOGRAPHER' DETAILS OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

At Fatu-Naba, looking down from the mountains on Dili, Timor, 40 Australian veterans on April 13, 1969, thanked the people of Timor for saving their lives, and the Administrator of Australia's Northern Territory, Mr. R. L. Dean, unveiled a plaque which told the simple story in bronze:

"To the Portuguese people everywhere from Minho to Timor this memorial has been given for your use by the people of Australia in gratitude for the help you gave our soldiers during the Second World War 1938-45, and particularly to the people of Timor from the members of the 2/2 Commando (Independent Company) who served here in 1942."

The plaque, in English and Portuguese, is by a roadside, set in stone. Nearby a big pool and shelter for travellers.

INSCRIPTION IN PORTUGUESE ON THE RIGHT HAND PLAQUE

AO POVO PORTUGES
DO MINHO A TIMOR

OFERTA DO POVO AUSTRALIANO
COMO DE GRATIDAO
PELA AJUDA PRESTADA
AOS SEUS SOLDADO
DURANTE OS ANOS DE
1939 - 1945
E MUTIO PARTICULAREMENTE AO
POVO DE TIMOR
PELOS HOMENS DO
COMANDO 2/2
(COMPANHIA INDEPENDENTE)
QUE AQUI COMBATERAM EM 1942

WEST AUSTRALIAN NEWS

CLOVERDALE.

Hi' fellows. Just thought I had better drop a line with the cheque for the Courier. I enjoyed seeing all the boys who made the last reunion and then of course the barbecue later. A very good effort all round. Thanks Jack and all you hard workers that make these shows possible.

I have started to sink a bore, this weather is making the lawn as dry as it makes me, so I hope I find barrock water. Best of luck to all

Regards,
Doc. Wheatley

RIVERDALE

Just a note to tell you Albie Martin and I had a very pleasant evening as the guests of Dave Brown. Dave was over on a short business trip for the Carlton Brewery. He hopes to be back again in 2-3 months. He asked me to pass on this donation towards the Courier with his regards.

Yours
George Strickland

GERALDTON

It's been my pleasure since my last letter to be visited by Jess Epps who was on her way back after an extensive tour of outback Australia. Jess is a delightful and philosophical personality despite the great loss she suffered with the demise of our mate Bill. It was great having a chat with Jess over a few drinks at the Geraldton Bowling Club because apart from exchanging information about double red diamondites, I was given the opportunity to thank Jess for the great job she and Bill did with the Courier. Jess had lunch with Eric and Twy Smyth and also a chat with Glad Drage (widow of our late mate Bill) and a drink or two with pedalling Nip Cunningham. God bless you Jess, it's a great pity there are not more people with a similar philosophical outlook on life, because if there were, I'm sure it would be a much better world in which to live.

Sun City Geraldton continues to attract big numbers of tourists and 1979 could be a record year in this regard because of the programme arranged as part of W.A.'s 150th Anniversary and the Geraldton area's 350th.

We have been using the "BATAVIA" story to promote our celebrations because by a remarkable coincidence next June will be the 350th anniversary of the Dutch ship which was wrecked at the Abrolhos Islands in 1629, and the 150th anniversary of the Swan River settlement in Perth. The Mayor of our sister town of Geraldton in Canada, has accepted an invitation to visit us during the celebrations which will include several of the Festival of Perth attractions.

Regards to all the boys and please find attached a donation towards the Courier.

Peter Barden

(Received your note with money — Editor)

BOYANUP

Thanks again for a wonderful Courier — especially Bulla Tait's and Blossom Lawrence's contribution. It was great to hear of places in N.G. which we knew in bygone days. Thanks for and excellent Editorial and in all respects a wonderful Courier.

I saw Clarrie Turner and got a report on the Safari, and also the excellent coverage of the event in the Courier by Bloss Lawrence.

I would like to congratulate the stalwarts of the Association for their tremendous dedication — their numbers so few and the task never ending. I am sure their efforts on behalf of the Timorese people, through the Minister of Foreign Affairs, will have beneficial results. We usually seem to get our message across.

News from my corner is very low key. I should have reported some time ago on a car trip we did to see Marie Burges, we stayed the night and found her well — she seems to be in control of all situation. The following morning I

spent some time with Michael helping him cull the stud ewes for faults mouths, etc. We looked at the best management procedures under the limited manpower situations. We left about mid morning and went to Ern and Vera Bingham and stayed there overnight. Between them they have turned a \$1,000 piece of land into ¼ million dollars. They have a lovely self help home as is everything else on the farm. They had 300 acres of barley which Bing was going to harvest after working all day at the Shire. I think Bing retires from the Shire about now.

When we left Bing's we called at Turton farm only to find that they are now retired in Perth. From there we went north to Reg and Dot Harrington's where they have a nice retirement home in Bolgart. They took us out to see their old farm with wheat crops up to the fence tops. From there we returned home via Perth.

Our family is fairly scattered still — Kim in America — spec house building. Lex is part time farmer and self styled real estate dealer. David is starting his 3rd year with W.A. University staff doing solar energy research. Our twins are nursing with Erica's graduation on 8th February. Gem still has 18 months to do as she started later than Erica. She went to uni. for 12 months as a librarian and had to wait another 6 months to get into nursing. They both love it.

Babs and I are very busy adding gardens and tree areas to our new house and fencing and pasturing our hobby farm. When Babs has fully recovered we will probably go to see Kim in America.

Please find enclosed donation for Courier and Association.

Best wishes to all members and their wives
Babs and Bernie Langridge

(Pleased to hear that Babs is improving and I am very sorry that I did not know that she had spent so long in hospital in Perth, but never received the message — Editor.)

POYNTON PICNIC MANDURAH AND/OR BUSST!

And that is exactly what we did — with the help of countless hordes of crabs, bowls of mushrooms, fish and meat patties, goodies galore — and booze to burn. My memory may fail me, it is certainly not at fault, but all can rest assured that Helen and Joe Poynton will never fail our Association, as Sunday 28th January proved once again.

Hordes of people, old comrades with wives and families, in-laws, grand kids, friends and helpers, could not even dampen the warm welcome extended by Helen and Joe, ably assisted by Roy Watson with his lovely wife and daughters, Mick and Jean Holland, Mates Cyril and Fitzie and wives and all their other friends who joined forces to make it such a wonderful day.

Any whose names may have been overlooked can place the blame squarely on Dr. Swan Lager and his open handed dispensary. From far away came Peter Campbell, Vince Swann, Tony Bowers, Gordon Holmes, Alf Blundy, Bernie and Babs Langridge, Arthur Smith (unfortunately without Beryl). The Esperence boys brought with them succulent meat for the barbecues and this was greatly appreciated.

It was great to see Fred and Rose Sparkman, and Clarrie and Lexi Varian, enjoying themselves with their families. We do not see enough of those one-eyed Perth supporters.

The Tapper family was well represented with Laurie and his wife, plus sister Joy and her husband, Alan Chatfield, the latter being no strangers to those who attended the recent Adelaide Safari. Nellie Mullins was also welcomed, good friends of the Chaffields, and also present at some of the Safari functions.

Fred Napier, his good lady, and their great friend Jeannie Letts made the happy occasion, or is it "Made the occasion Happy"? Both, of course, and wasn't it a treat to see Fred looking like a million dollars.

Don Hudson was a loner, but may not have ended up that way. Jess Epps, looking like a teenager, was a cheery sight, with her longtime buddy, Ann Douglas.

Gerry (Bomber) McKenzie and wife Mary took time off from getting their new home organised to enjoy the outing. Gerry finds the new Swan Gold suited to his health and much more pleasant taste and price wise than Diet Ale. We look forward to Gerry taking a keen interest in the Association in the future.

George Fletcher, Rod Dhu, Gordon Barnes and Ron Neuzerling were welcome visitors, swapping yarns and enjoying an ale, as were our great mates Col Doig, Joy Lowden and son Alec and family. Col managed to cut his hand on some broken glass, but nothing serious thankfully. Ping Anderson was also on hand with his friend. Nice to see your again, Ping.

Mick Morgan was as big and bright as ever and his wife, Jean, now fully recovered from Alan Hollow's recent visit, was quite gay and chirpy. Jack and Delys Carey with son John accompanied Dot Maley and her big son Rodney for a dip in the Briney. Gerry chickened out, couldn't get him far from the ken.

Don and Vida Turton, and Len and Dot Bagley with son Gavin also thoroughly appreciated the Poynton hospitality. Don even conned Swanny into a pair of borrowed swim shorts and down to the ocean.

After days of record-breaking heat, Elsie and Scotty Wares were too peaked to venture out, but sent their apologies. It was another very hot day, but those who were present didn't seem to take much notice. All in all a wonderful day.

When we consider that it was only a matter of a couple of weeks since the wedding of their daughter, Julie Ann, it was stupendous of Helen and Joe to put so much into this day, and we really do appreciate it. It is hoped that the knowledge of just what it means to the 2/2nd Commando Association brings Helen and Joe some of the recompense that their efforts so justly deserve.

Thank you both.

SICK PARADE

Nick Cunningham has been in Hollywood Repatriation Hospital for surgery on the left arm. The growth was removed and when I visited him a few days after the operation he was well and from reports from the medical staff it is very pleasing. Keep up the improvement Nip.

Yours truly, the Editor entered Hollywood Hospital for surgery on 26th February 1979 and is now home and nearly back to A1 again.

Recently Scotty and I took off for Albany for a few days. We had been concerned about Ron Sprigg's long stay in hospital, and had been wanting to go down and visit him, so after contacting Win (who insisted we stay with her) we made out trip south. We decided for once not to take the car but by Railway bus in air-conditioned comfort. What a wash out

that was! The air-conditioning was only intermittent, the seats were uncomfortable, the toilet was out of order, and they made no "wee" stops. At lunchtime we had 20 minutes to attend to this little matter and try to snatch a bite from an inadequate take away food counter. If anyone is going to Albany, DON'T go by Railway Bus — not unless they improve them anyway.

All bad things come to an end, and we finally pulled into Albany where to our great delight not just Win, but also Ron were there to meet us. We knew that he was occasionally allowed to spend some time at home but now he had arranged to also stay home for a couple of days also. Ron has lost quite a bit of weight but otherwise looked pretty well and he was very glad to meet us. We had a "cuppa" then off we went for a drive around beautiful Albany. It's about nine years since we were there and I'd forgotten about those glorious views from Mt. Clarence and Mt. Melville. The long white sweep of Middleton beach edged with the blue of the ocean is an exquisite sight when viewed from these two peaks.

After a delightful dinner we sat and talked and talked. Ron had already made plans for us all to go to Denmark the following day and he rang Norm Thornton and readied him for a 2/2nd onslaught. Alas for our plans! Next morning a very sick but gallant Ron had to return to hospital, making us promise that we would still make the trip to Denmark. We were disappointed that Ron couldn't accompany us, but knew he would be upset if we did not go, so off we went. We spent a very happy day with Norm Thornton and Geordie Smith, and having a calorie laden afternoon tea at Norm's where we met his wife. Afterwards we drove over to admire the beautiful new home (almost completed) that they are building. Really sumptuous — lots of luck when you move in Olive and Norm. After returning to Albany we visited Ron in hospital and found him feeling a lot better after a day of sleep and rest, and as always — very cheerful.

The following day we again spent sight seeing — going to the Gap and Frenchmans Bay and following this with lunch at Happy Days. After another visit with Ron, we went to Strawberry Hill Farm for dinner. That particular week, in honour of Proclamation Day, they were serving a special Colonial Dinner of home made pea soup, Cornish pasties, scones and coffee. I know now why those Victorian ladies wore those huge full skirts — it was to hide their bulging waist lines.

Early next day we regretfully said goodbye to Win and returned home. Thank you Win and Ron for your hospitality — we had a really great time. Thank you Win for driving us everywhere. We were so glad to renew our memories of lovely Albany.

I forgot to mention that Ron and Win's home on Mt. Melville looks out over a glorious panorama of ocean. It is absolutely lovely.

The President wishes to thank the following for donations:—

M. Jordan, A. Hodge, R. Dook, W. Petersen, R. Gurr, R. Sprigg, G. Hamilton -Smith, B. Langridge, P. Barden, R. Conley, K. Wilson, T. Nisbet, D. Tapper, K. Jones, F. Otway,

D. Wheatley, G. Holmes, V. Swann, D. Latimer, P. Mantle, S. Dubber, V. Pacey, B. Mackintosh, H. Price, T. Field, R. Parry, W. Anderson, I. McPhee, F. Cunningham, F. Craigie, R. Shenn, N. Hooper.

There are still a few Couriers being returned to the Box number in Perth, so if any member knows the new address would they notify the Editor.

VICTORIA: A. Bennett.

NEW SOUTH WALES: J. Hocking, N. Buckman, W. Roberts.

APOLOGY

In the February issue of the Courier, a letter describing the safari was published and signed Frank Press. This should have read Frank Sharp. Sincere apologies to both Franks. I don't know how this error came about.

—Scotty.

PIONERRING IS NOT A THING OF THE PAST

We still have adventurous and pioneering spirits among us and it is with pleasure that the Courier presents the following report from Dorothy Boyland, who recently made a "first time ever" jet flight over - wait for it -

THE SOUTH POLE!

A DAY TRIP TO THE ANTARCTIC CIRCLE AND CASEY BASE

On Monday 5th February, my friend Joan Kros and I did cross to the south of the Antarctic Circle latitude 66 degrees 30 minutes south, as members of the first flight ever made from Perth to the Antarctic.

With 324 other folks we boarded a Qantas Jumbo Jet at 9.45 a.m. and took off for a day in the clouds. Champagne was served several times during the trip. Wines were also served with our two meals.

The weather forecast on leaving was for a fine day with winds of 60 km/h and 28% cloud, temperature was 3 degrees minus. Visibility good.

Flying down the W.A. coast the country looked dry and brown, the result of our hot, dry summer. The coast around Leuwin looked very good, inviting a swim. We flew over Albany at 10.45 a.m. After this nothing to see except ocean and cloud.

At 12 noon we were served a delightful lunch of seafood cocktail, grilled loin of lamb or dhufish with vegetables and rum savarin tropical, biscuits and cheese, coffee, red and white wines.

An in-flight talk on Antarctica given by Mr. Harry Black, who has spent a lot of time down there doing four trips and being officer in charge of a party doing scientific research at Wilkes Base.

At 12.45 p.m., 305 miles from the Australian Base at Casey, we have climbed to a height of 3,200 feet and are seeing lots of thick ice floating about. The ice and snow is starting to thicken now. Saw our first iceberg, this caused great excitement. We are 1/2 hour flying time to Casey. There are two special guests on board, a

Mrs. Kennedy and Mr. Sandall who with the late Mr. Kennedy were members of an expedition to Mawson 50 years ago. They are the only two survivors from that trip alive today.

2.10 p.m. nearly at Casey. Visibility very good and clear, passing in the distance Prince Charles Mountains. We are now descending to 6,000 feet and coming down to 2,000 feet. The ice looks like beautiful thick white marshmallow, sitting on a sea green base, and in other places looks like soft white plaster. Very fascinating. Snow and ice as far as one can see. We were told the Antarctic is the largest, highest and coldest continent in the world and if the ice and snow were to melt it would cover the whole world.

2.20 p.m. nearly at Casey Base, can see very closely the huts and movement. The "NELLA DAN" is in the bay unloading stores and blinking a message to the plane saying "she hopes to sail tomorrow".

2.40 p.m. we are now passing very close to a large mountain, so close it looks as if the wings of the plane might touch. Our flight Captain Geoff Piggott did a marvellous job, circling around and dipping wings to let us see as much as possible. I believe at times he came as low as permissible. We circled low over the icefield for 2½ hours. After seeing Casey Base we travelled East to the French Base Durmont-De-Ville. Then at 4.10 p.m. we turned for home. Coffee and biscuits were served and two films were shown in the lounges. I took a nap.

6 p.m. one of our fellow passengers invited Joan and I upstairs to the flight lounge for a drink. The atmosphere up there did not agree with me, maybe there was more pressure up there, so we returned to the comfort of our own seats down stairs.

6.30 p.m. dinner was served — Hearts Artichoke, Fillet Mignon or Chicken, cheese-cake, biscuits and cheese and coffee served with red and white wine. We saw a beautiful sunset, it lasted over the hour. It seemed as if it was putting on its best effort for us. The colours were so vibrant.

After travelling 5880 miles in the air for 10 hours 40 minutes the lights of Perth were a welcoming sight, just like fairy land.

The Captain said the trip covered the same distance as from Perth to Bahrain, ¾ the distance as from Perth to London.

A most interesting trip and very enjoyable. "Me, oh my, what an experience."

If Joan's son Martin had not spent a year at Casey in 1975, I don't suppose either of us would have given a thought to the trip. Now I am very pleased that we went. It was well worthwhile

— Dot Boyland

P.s. Champagne, wines, coffee and earphones were free. Portion of the trip profits were going to the Spina Bifida Association, so every passenger contributed to this worthwhile cause.

(Thanks on behalf of the Courier, Dot for a very informative article — Editor)

EDITOR'S REPORT 1979

There has again been six editions of the Courier during the last year.

The main reason that the Courier has not been less than a twelve pager is the interest that the members and their wives all over Australia and overseas have taken in supplying various articles. To those people and without singling out any particular one I say Thank you, as it made my task much easier.

The cost of postage has gone up again in January by 25% as has also the printing, but that has to be expected with the current increase in wages. The response to the blue slip which was inserted in the Courier, calling for donations has been excellent as you can see by the Treasurer's report. To all those people who have donated, on behalf of the Association I say

thank you. It shows that the members all over Australia and overseas wish to see the Courier continue.

In closing I would like specially to thank the President, Mr. Gerry Maley, for the assistance he has given me during the year with copies of his letters to the various Parliamentary Ministers re the plight of the Timorese.

Yours

Scotty Wares.

TO ASSIST the Editor it would be appreciated that all mail for the Association be addressed to the box number T1646, G.P.O. PERTH 6001.

The Annual General Meeting was held at Anzac Club on Tuesday 6th March and the following were the office bearers for 1979.

PRESIDENT
G. Maley

VICE—PREIDENT
J. Fowler

TREASURER
P. Hancock

SECRETARY—EDITOR
A. Wares

WAREDENS
G. Fletcher and R. Dhu

COMMITTEE
J. Carey
H. Sproxton
R. MacDonald
L. Bagley
A. Blundy
D. Darrington

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT
TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
TUESDAY 6th MARCH, 1979.**

The past twelve months has proved once again that our "reason to be" is still very much in existence, that the spirit of camaraderie is at a high level, at that, in the face of almost impossible factors resulting from the economic climate, the Road Traffic Authority, and the lure of the television set, we can still proudly get together in large numbers at all our major annual functions, to honour absent friends and to re-affirm friendships of such long standing.

Sickness laid low many of your committee during the year, and great credit is due to each and every one of those your elected to serve that no meeting lapsed, nor did any function suffer as a result. We sympathise particularly with Dave Ritchie, Scottie Wares, Sprigg McDonald, Harry Sproxtan, Col Doig and Clarrie Varian who have had the misfortune to be struck low for some or most of the time, and are pleased that most seem to be on top again.

Briefly commenting on our major functions the first of which was Anzac Day, which saw a better than average attendance at the Dawn Service, and was followed at 10 a.m. by the march, with a roll call of 50 members, all marching to perfection. It is a great honour to be at the head of such a group. After the march past a total of 54, including visitors, met at the Clarendon Hotel for a delightful luncheon and refreshments in a most convivial atmosphere.

The Annual Dinner was held on 28th October at Anzac Club. Present were 34 members, plus 7 guests, including 4 of our Timorese friends, old mates Dave Ross and Laurie Baker, and Keith Wilson, M.L.A. for Dianella. Country members present totalled 8, and their keen interest shown by their attendance could well be followed by some of our metropolitan members. Catering was good, speeches were few — and were short and to the point.

The following day, Sunday 29th October, saw our Pilgrimage of Remembrance at the Honour Drive, King's Park. We thank all who attended, comrades, wives, families and friends, and urge those who could not be present to arrange their calendar to ensure their presence this year. After the service, Jack and Delys Carey invited all present to enjoy a barbecue at their Bateman home. It was a most enjoyable evening, thanks to our hosts, and climaxed an eventful and thoughtful week-end.

What has now become one of our most major events is the Poynton Picnic, this year taking place on January 28th, and again thanks are due to Helen and Joe and all their friends for making it such a great occasion. I can only say that this is a real re-union, and I only hope Helen and Joe obtain as much satisfaction from the day as they put effort into it.

Arising from my review of our major events, my main observation is that, though we consider the attendance of members at each of them as being more than satisfactory, they are such wonderful, never to be repeated occasions that for the life of me I can't comprehend how any member can afford to miss them.

We were also able to enjoy many other occasions together. A pleasant evening on April 5th, in spite of cyclone Andy, when we entertained members of the Wembley-Floreat R.S.L. and their wives.

The Safari Raffle was drawn on 29th July in the presence of members and guests, again at the Anzac Club, and once again, a great night. We were able to contact the owner of the winning ticket, who accepted our invitation to join us, and collect his cheque. Though not a sellout, the raffle was a success, but it is felt that we may encounter problems if we undertake a similar raffle in the future.

On September 19th, an evening was arranged at the Anzac Club to farewell those travelling to the Adelaide Safari. This was well attended and, we believe, more than served its purpose.

Christmas drinks was the order of the night of December 5th, and what a pleasant and festive function it was. Many who had been in ill health were welcomed, and others who had not been seen for some time also made it a really worthwhile get together.

The Adelaide Safari was, by all accounts, a great Success, a fitting result for all who put so much time and effort into the planning and organising. Our association owes much to the continuing success of the Unit Safaris which bring with them such a spirit of togetherness. We must therefore be most grateful to that tiny band of dedicated mates whose efforts resulted in a Safari which has been described as the best ever.

As the years pass we must regretfully anticipate that some amongst us will regrettably pass on. Our major consolation is the knowledge that almost without exception our members have led full, happy and satisfying lives. Nevertheless, the loss of one of our comrades, when it occurs, is felt deeply. The past twelve months saw the passing of a larger than usual number, and to all wives and families who have so suffered, we extend deep sympathy. Some members also have lost loved ones — wives, parents, children, and we join them in their sorrow.

It would be remiss of me not to refer to the passing of the Bull, Geoff Laidlaw. The Bull was with the company from its formation in 1941 until it became redundant after the cessation of hostilities in 1945. He was known and admired by every man who served with the Double Red Diamond, and to lose him was a personal blow to each and every one of us. May he rest in Peace.

The past year has seen many changes in the attitude and relations of our government with Indonesia, and there has at last been revealed a small part of the suffering our Timorese friends have suffered since their country became a pawn in the international power struggle. Your committee has been alert to these problems, and we have endeavoured to the best of our ability to obtain help for them. We cannot report any obvious results, but it is felt that we may have helped to at least keep our government conscious of its obligations, despite the fact that they cannot honour those obligations at this point in time.

The local Timorese community has also been the object of efforts to assist them in the field of immigration. We have no way of recording results, but if all members heeded the call for help we made in the February issue of the

Courier, we feel sure that something of benefit must eventuate.

We have also made representations to our Minister for Housing in an endeavour to locate and obtain a site suitable for a community centre where the Timorese and their families could join together in appropriate surroundings. Up to the present time we have unfortunately not made progress in this area.

The Courier has been produced by Scottie Wares regularly throughout the year, and the deep appreciation from all its readers Australia wide must go to Scottie and Elsie for the enor-

mous amount of work that goes into the production and distribution of our Journal.

I am most conscious of the assistance given to me by the committee, and by Secretary Len Bagley and Treasurer Percy Hancock. On my own behalf, and on behalf of all members of this association, I record the most sincere thanks for all they have done.

May the ensuing twelve months bring happiness and contentment to all.

GERRY MALEY
March, 1979.

2/2nd COMMANDO ASSOCIATION

STATEMENTS OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st JANUARY, 1979.

RECEIPTS		1979
Balance brought forward 1st. February, 1979		
Working A/c.	170.14	
Reserve A/c.	7202.02	7372.16
Interest Received		
Working A/c.	15.72	
Reserve A/c.	576.04	591.76
Sale of Tie Clips and Badges		70.80
Sale of Car Stickers		49.60
Refund Printing S. A. Safari		152.50
Anzac Day Cost	256.00	
Receipts	270.00	14.00
Refund Poynton Picnic		15.00
		8265.82
EXPENDITURE		1979
Courier Printing & Postage	1641.97	
Donations	1357.70	284.27
Monthly Meetings Cost	302.69	
Receipts	194.00	108.69
Annual Dinner Cost	368.36	
Receipts	210.00	158.36
Kings Park		79.25
Lapel Badges		160.00
Car Stickers		106.00
Administration		47.80
Sundries		63.40
S. A. Safari		883.40
Balance Working A/c.		496.35
Reserve A/c.		5878.06
		8265.82

HON. AUDITOR

NEW SOUTH WALES NEWS

GRIFFITH

I know I must be overdue with Courier subs, its hard to understand how one keeps forgetting to write. Anyway, enclosed in a Postal Note making me financial for the coming year. Be sure to keep enough out for a couple of drinks at one of your committee meetings, as committee men of any organisation are always worth a drink.

I was pleased to hear the Safari was a success, sorry I could not make it. I was due in hospital in October for surgery. I am O.K. again now. Great to have Mick Devlin call in on his way home from the Safari. It is sad to hear of so many of our members passing on. I would like to extend my sympathy to their wives and relatives.

Good wishes to all members for 1979.

Alf Hodge.

BLACKTOWN

Answering your letter of November 1st. Like you got a fair bit of writing to do and been too darned hot here to worry about anything much.

Dulcie and I and Ma-in-Law went to Bill Coker's for the December get together for the 2/2nd and had a great day. Bill gave me a recipe for Irish Cream, it was that good that I drank it all myself. I made up two bottles and is a good way to get rid of your cheap whisky. All the photos I took at Glenelg turned out O.K. Saw Frank Press there too and he does not look too good.

Enclosed is a bit of poetry on the Safari. Also some money to cover printing costs. Alan Luby had an operation on his ear and is going O.K. according to Edith.

Regards

Don Latimer.

EPPING

Well here I am again making my first contribution for 1979. Apologies to all for my tardiness with regards to February issue. Xmas this year has been busy and I had to work through the period, also Bet and I decided to update the old shanty rather than move to greener pastures.

Received a phone call from Basher Adams, he was down in Sydney with wife Iris plus grandchildren who were returning to their parents in Japan. He said he had received an Xmas card from Bob Fields. We had not heard of him for years and it appears he has been in ill health for a long time. Scotty, a number of addresses for the Courier.

Tony was confident that Queensland could handle the next Safari so it now rests with the various states to organise.

Sorry to report the passing of Mrs. Merv. (squirt) Clark. May I on behalf of all members express our deepest sympathy. Received a brief note from Alf Hodge informing me that his operation was a success; he is hoping to get back to part-time tractor driving soon. Doreen Hayland called whilst in Sydney and informed me that her application for a repat widows pension had been rejected but with her next try and new evidence she hopes to succeed. Best of luck Doreen and keep in touch. Jim English is also on the sick list, I do not know if he has been

hospitalised but I shall contact his home later.

Regards to all

Mick Devlin

The New South Wales Secretary would like to hear from the following — Cyril Beavis, Harold Newton, Jim English, Bill Gaynard and Fred Stewart.

NARRA

Please find enclosed cheque for Courier as my small contribution. We have been here since last July and I am keeping myself out of mischief by working in the garden, the produce from which makes our meals tastier. Can't beat fresh vegies.

Best wishes to all the W.A. folk and association members everywhere.

Regards

Tom Field

WOY WOY

Please find enclosed money order for the Association and Courier. Sorry I can't make it more but money and I are not too pally at the moment. If I ever win this so and so lottery we will give it a bash. Sorry no news from this area just don't see anybody anymore. Well, wishing everybody all they wish themselves.

Cheers

Bunny Anderson.

THE SAFARI

'We've been on safari, at a place called Glenelg. In South Australia, is where it was held.

The red double diamonds have done it again
They came there by car, by bus and by train,
To meet one another and have a good time,
To see all the sights and take home some wine.
Out through the Barossa and past Seven Hill
We cleaned out the Winery, but no one was ill.
We went through a dairy, and ate with the flies,
And found an old statue, much to my surprise.
And then one cold day, we all ventured South,
Out through the hills to the great Murray
mouth.

Then home once again with laughter and song
But alas and alack, the brass monkeys were gone.

The main unit dinner was on Wednesday night,
Our girls got all dressed up, a beautiful sight.
We ate and we talked and then ate some more,
We earbashed each other, till all throats were sore.

Many a tale was retold on that night
Back thirty odd years, in the thick of the fight.
We all stretched the truth, a little perhaps,
And early next morning, swept out the dead
Japs.

The company was great and when given the
chance,
We all got together to sing and to dance.
To piano, to squeeze box, mouth-organ,
bagpipe,
The merriment continued far into the night.

But all things must end, and home we must go.
We all vowed to come back in one year or so.
Where it will be, no one can tell,
It depends on the future, our health and
ourselves.

DON LATIMER

VICTORIAN NEWS

NORTH BALWYN

Enclosing a cheque for Courier and Association. Would you please put the following on your mailing list for the Courier. Edmund Burke, I understand he was a unit member.

(Thanks for the address and have fixed it all up as requested — Editor)

FISH CREEK

Although we have never met, but having heard so much about you and Elsie I feel I do know you. I am sending this letter per Courier (our daughter Anne and Son-in-Law Rick) it's cheaper that way.

Please accept a few shekles for the Courier. Did send some a couple of years ago with Anne also. You may be able to help these two youngsters as they journey through that part of the world, as they are on a working holiday. Anne is a trained nurse but they will take any work that is offering.

Best I tell you about our part of the globe. We have our rough times the same as everyone else but all in all I think it compares more than

favourably with most places. We have had a rather wet year with 56 inches of rain — the average being 38, but it being spread over the whole year is not bad. From the dairying and grazing point of view this year has been ideal as we have grass everywhere and as green as you like, but harvest wise it has been very frustrating. Normally most people have their harvest off by Xmas but a terrible lot of hay both in bales and loose have been ruined.

Fishing wise it has not been so good as the water has been consistently rough and not many — including myself like it that way.

This year we had Bernie Callinan as our guest speaker for the High School speech night, he did a remarkable job. He is rather a busy man and only stayed overnight. He says he will be back so we are looking forward to that. We would like to see any of the unit who are in this area at any time.

Some day my good wife and I hope to travel to the West so might eventually see you.

Regards to all wherever you may be,
Bill Petersen.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NEWS

PARADISE

Many thanks for the Couriers. I am sorry for being so late in writing but being the worlds worst at same you will have to excuse me.

Had a wonderful time at the Safari, met quite a few I had not seen for many years so now hope to keep in contact.

Could you please send me an Address Book, Tie Bar and Lapel Badge.

I am enclosing a donation hoping it will cover costs and help out a little.

Best wishes for 1979 to all and thanks a lot,
Mark Jordan

(Sent you address book and badges — Scotty)

FLINDERS PARK

Enclosed please find money for subs and Courier. Audrey and I have just returned from our annual trip east, hence the delay in answering. We had a R.V. with Max and Grace Davies and Peter McCracken who were enroute to Canberra. We met at Omeo and had an enjoyable two days with them, touring the mountains around Mt. Hotham, there is rugged country in that area.

I have not seen any of the boys of late but believe they are in good health. I received an Xmas card from Sydney unsigned, I suspect Mick Devlin but it was not his writing on the envelope.

I see in our papers the 2/6th Commando Squadron are having a dinner in Adelaide, the report says they returned from the Middle East to go to New Guinea in 1942, do you know if this is correct?

All for now Scotty,

Dud Tapper.

(Am not aware that any Commando Squadron from Australia went to the Middle East. Does any reader know?)

SEATON.

Now that the tumult and the shouting has died down we can look back and reflect on the events that have taken place. Numerous people have orally or by putting pen to paper, praised us South Australians for the marvelous time we gave them. This is not quite true, because we had just as good a time as the interstaters and if you analyse the situation you will realise it was not the organisers who made this Safari one to remember but the spirit in which everyone applied themselves. No matter where a Safari is held or by whom it is organised, they have no say in the success of the event, it is the participants and their enthusiasm to enjoy themselves that is the catalyst to ensure success.

Meeting the boys again, some we have not seen since 1945 was a pleasure that cannot be described, only experienced. On this meeting the years just rolled back, any visual difference that had taken place over the years soon disappeared and they were the same as before, it could have been 1945.

Like that character at the bar when the school started to increase suggested 2 bob in. The Snowden said "What will 2 bob buy?" One sympathetic person said "Try 2 Dollars Dig." That was a jolt back to reality. I heard a rumour that people living in Denmark, W.A. need a visa to travel to S.A. Still just as well he did not show as there were "12 from 4 section" there, that is not a bad effort. I always said we were the best and had to be. We had to carry Thornton.

I am enclosing a balance sheet of Safari finances. We held a meeting to discuss the bank balance and it was decided to invest the money in fixed deposit. The money to be used only for the advancement of the 2/2nd Commando Association but not in any case for the benefit of any separate individual

BALANCE SHEET

Receipts	\$4603.73
Expenditure	\$3359.49
Balance in Bank	\$1244.24

Yours sincerely,

Keith Dignum

QUEENSLAND NEWS
KENMORE

Best regards to all. Can anyone advise me of Smash Hodgson's address. I last heard of him in 1970 in Nyora, Queensland. Had the pleasure of entertaining Geoff Laidlaw prior to his passing. What a great man he was.

Best wishes,

Ralph Conley.

(Have sent you an up to date Address Book. Smash is in Victoria — Editor)

wards independence (and Australia was often criticized for alleged slowness of New Guinea) and Portugal consistently said that it had no colonies: that Timor, Angola etc. were overseas provinces of metropolitan Portugal.

Well life drifts by very pleasantly in my reclining years in a pleasant old house in a tranquil town on the Darling Downs. People have time to be kind; tradesmen take a pride in their work and charge reasonably; things like campdrafts are high entertainment; a CWA street stall makes quite an exciting week.

I keep excellent — and quite undeserved — good health. Undeserved perhaps because I have played little sport in my life, have inhaled pipe tobacco these 40 years, and eat so little of green vegetables etc, that any dietician would weep for me.

On the other hand I manage happily with very spare eating, and avoid the trap of my age in overweight. In fact I'm the same around the waist as I was at 21.

I do congratulate you on the continued success of COURIER. And while RSL branches still thresh around debating whether women should participate, our association has happily brought in wives and offspring this many a year. Enclosed a small something to keep things going.

Kind regards,

Peter Mantle.

ALLORA

As suggested in the February editorial, I have written to my M.P. about most-favoured-nation treatment for East Timorese, making the point that they served us for love when we had no money, and that now's the time to return that love.

He replies that he's written to the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, and will let me know what develops.

Incidentally it's daft the way politicians and others use the word 'ethnic' as though it meant foreign. We Australians are just as much an ethnic groups as — say — the Greeks.

One small point about that editorial: Timor was not regarded as a colony by the Portugese. Every few years United Nations asked its members to report on the state of its colonies to-

TASMANIAN NEWS
LUNE RIVER

As seen by new address I have moved since last writing.

I am still with the Rural Fire Board with H.Q. at Huonville but cover all of the Southwest of Tasmania. Recently has some time in the Repat. Hospital, had an operation on my leg, but to date has not had the desired results.

Saw quite a few Timor boys at Sgt. Jack Ramsons funeral. Jack had just been awarded the National Medal for service to the Rural Fire Organisation and I had the honour of handing to his son. I also had the honour of receiving the medal.

I am always pleased to receive the Courier and to hear how others are faring. Perhaps when I retire next year I may be able to travel and see some of them personally. I am enclosing an extra amount for a tiepin and lapel badge

Regards to all,

Bert Price.

(unfortunately we do not now have any 2/2nd ties. Nice hearing from you — Editor.)

R.S.L. SHOP

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I REMEMBER

"FORWARD WEST AUSTRALIANS,
BE PROUD OF WHAT YOU'VE GOT,
FOR IT'S OUT 150th BIRTHDAY YEAR."

Well, I've got used to it now, but the first time I heard on T.V. — months ago now — of the approaching sesquicentenary of W.A. my consciousness gave a great lurch, not altogether pleasurable, and I thought "Dear God, 150 years! Why, surely it was only the other day, we celebrated the centenary! Not 50 years ago! What on earth happened to that fifty years? Why, I can remember — I remember"

September 1929

Under a fringe of poker straight black hair, the little girl's face, plain, and normally sallow-pale, was flushed rosy with excitement. At last, after weeks and weeks of practice and anticipation the great day was here! For was she not one of the lucky girls chosen to dance in the big Maypole Centenary celebration on the Perth Oval? Here she was, clad in a new white crepe dress, holding her ribbon, and waiting for the music to start. The ribbons on her Maypole were gold and black — the school colours — and all around her other Maypoles stood at the ready — each gaily be-decked with coloured ribbons and each with its team of anxious excited little girls. She was so glad her ribbon was a gold one — it was like holding a beam of sunshine in her two hands. And now they were dancing, dancing — how pretty it all was — the winding and unwinding, the crossing, the plaiting, the weaving — the fruit of all those weeks learning now being watched by crowds of people. She supposed in was a wonderful thing for the State to be a hundred years old. All the year during History lessons they had learned about the explorers and pioneers and statesmen who had built the State from bushland, but who could understand one hundred years? It took such a long, long time just from one birthday to the next — how could anyone think of 100 years? For her, all the joy and hope and expectation of that 100 years was there in her two little hands, holding a golden streamer as she danced joyously around a Maypole.

I have a faded snap of that skinny little girl in her plain white dress. It was fifty years ago, but I still remember how she felt that day. And what of later — the happy school years — yes, happy even though the Great Depression which struck in 1930 rendered our family very poor indeed. I remember

September 1932

She was on term holidays from Perth Modern School where she now attended. That morning she had caught Mum going through a great bag of old buttons, medallions and coins, searching for some long forgotten threepences and sixpences from Xmas puddings, so that she could go into a childrens show at the Ambassadors theatre. If she walked both ways into Perth from where she lived she would even have enough money to buy an ice cream. Things were very hard at home with the Depression and Dad losing his job, and unable to get another. Twice a week he used to get up very, very early in the morning and walk into the

Metropolitan Markets to help the market gardeners unload produce from their vehicles. For this he did not receive any money — did anyone ever have any money anymore? — but he was usually given a big bag of slightly damaged fruit and vegetables which Mum was always very glad to get.

Sometimes she thought wistfully that it would be nice to have a really new dress, instead of the hand-me-downs of cousins and friends, but still, Mum was clever with her needle and fixed them up really nicely. She knew she was lucky to be going on with her schooling, lucky to have won a scholarship which paid for her books and travelling expenses, because Mum couldn't have afforded to keep her at school otherwise. Mum wanted her to be a teacher. She wasn't altogether sure she wanted that, as all teachers she had known seemed to be old maids, and she definitely did not want to be an old maid. Still she supposed she did not have much choice — it was either teaching or nursing and she couldn't possibly be a nurse. Oh, here she was at the theatre. Goody! Uncle Alwyn and Uncle Paul were running the show and that was always fun. She paid her sixpence and went into the noisy theatre.

Yes, things were tough then, but somehow, some way, we weathered it all. Sometimes it was humiliating — I remember how my mother wept the first time she consented to accept "SUSTENANCE" as it was called. She had resisted it for a long time, but when everything had been sold or pawned that possibly could be, she had at last given in, but her pride suffered a terrible blow. However things did get a little better later, and then just as I was almost finished my training as a teacher, I remember

September 1939

WAR! AUSTRALIA AT WAR! It was incredible. The boys in college were all talking of wanting to go, but supposed they would be man-powered. They all seemed excited about it but she thought it was terrible. Just as she was almost finished her training too. After Xmas she would be a fully qualified teacher and earning big money, about £4 a week probably, but it wall all going to be spoilt because of the rotten war. She was going to be engaged too, and how would that affect him? Of course they could not get married for years and years, but it would be nice to be engaged. She reflected that she might now be able to buy a new dress occasionally next year, and thought that the boys and girls in college must be the poorest dressed crowd in Perth. On the princely sum of £3 per month it was hard to find anything to spare for clothing. The boys in their blue suits, shiny from much cleaning and pressing and always smelling slightly from benzine. The girls, still managing to look pretty and attractive in their cheap home made frocks.

How many of those boys never made it home from the war! Many became flying officers in the R.A.A.F. and were trained in time to be part of the Battle Of Britain. For me, a flying wedding in 1941 while my husband was on embarkation leave. Then the anxious

months when he and all his unit were missing on Timor. The joy of hearing he was "Well and with his unit" and his home coming and being discharged because of ill health. We settled down and in 1944 our first son was born, followed by a second son in 1946. In between, the war had finished and the State held it's breath in expectation of what the future might hold. I remember that

February 1950

She had refused teaching appointment after teaching appointment because of the need to care for her little boys, but now the elder had started school and she had at last consented to going back "just for one year". Strange the way the Education Department were now begging married women to return to teaching, no more old maid teachers now! They simply didn't seem to be able to get enough teachers. Oh, well, she only intended to help out for one year. The money would be handy of course, but the economy seemed to be on the upgrade. There was plenty of work, and more and more married women were joining the work force and entering careers once completely barred to them. How strange it seemed, and of course many men disapproved strongly of their wives working. One year would be enough for her.

Well that one year extended to 25, and I became used to being a career woman as well as a wife and mother. They were great years. Money was plentiful, a nice home, the children growing up, car, holidays, new clothes whenever you wanted them and all the little comforts that once would have seemed forever unattainable. The "boom years" they call it now. Our dear little capital city, once scoffed at by Eastern States suddenly developing and stretching like an awakening giant. Great buildings springing up — freeways extending fingers of

traffic in all directions, beautiful country roads replacing the old tracks and lovely suburbs taking the place of scrubby bushland and sandy wastes. New industries, mining exploration, modern factories all combining to make W.A. a force to be reckoned with — no longer the "Cinderella" State. New bridges spanning the beautiful rivers and everywhere prosperity — prosperity.

September 1929

The small girl, still clutching her gold ribbon tightly, gave a little curtsey and realised it was all over. It made her sad to think that perhaps she would never dance the Maypole again. She sighed — she felt tired now and her feet were hurting in their beautiful new, shiny patent leather shoes. She wondered very little about the future — the next 50 years. To her, today had been enough and tomorrow a long way off. After all what can fifty years really mean to a tired little ten year old?

Faster and faster the years are crowding in on me now. It always seems to be Xmas and I've given away having birthdays — they come around too often. I've lived those fifty years and they've been wonderful years, filled with everything that made a rounded life. Happiness, Joy, Sorrow, Disappointments, high spots, low spots. I've travelled to many places in the world — beautiful, strange, exciting places to see, but always, gladly, I've turned my feet towards home. There's nowhere else I would want to live — oh, yes, we all grizzle and complain sometimes, but we know deep down that we've got it made. What will it be like, I wonder, in another fifty years? Unlike the little girl who danced the Maypole, I'll have no way of knowing, but how wonderful that at least I can remember

ELSIE WARES

COMING EVENTS

ANZAC DAY 25th APRIL, 1979

Please make the march and swell the ranks.

Afterwards at the Clarendon Hotel, Fitzgerald Street,
West Perth.

NEW ADDRESSES

~~DOOK B.
25 Riley Road, Riverton 6155.~~

~~Mrs. D. HYLAND
65 Mortimer Street, Mudgee 2850.~~

~~D. MURRAY
30 Biscayne Street, Saffey Bay 6169.~~

~~R. FIELDS
Parkland, 49 Hay Street, Bulla Burra 2784.~~

~~BOURKE E.M.
Bannockburn Road, East Rosanna 3084.~~

~~H.W. PRICE
Hastings, C/o Lune River P.O. 7116.~~

~~M. CLARKE
58 St. Georges Road, St. Georges Basin 2540.~~

~~N. HOOPER,
Commercial Hotel, Inglewood, 4387.~~