



2/2 COMMANDO Courier

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EDITORIAL

Suddenly it's the season of spring, suddenly the season of summer and suddenly the season of CHRISTMAS is upon us. As a year for the Association it has been a quiet one, with few social events to bring us together. However the visits of several Eastern Staters have been a great pleasure to those of us who were able to entertain them.

My own visit to the Eastern States, accompanied by family friend Jess Epps, helped to emphasise the importance of personal contact and as we grow older, this contact could be one of our greatest pleasures.

Sadly, as always, the deaths of several of our members have thrown a dark shadow over the year's events but we all realise that Time is taking its toll and this must be accepted. To all those bereaved of loved ones this year, the Association wishes you to know that the thoughts of friends are with you as this first difficult Christmas tide approaches. **MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND COMFORT YOU.**

We have had our Annual Re-Union Dinner to be followed by a round of Christmas festivities. The President and Committee wish all members everywhere, their families and loved ones, the best possible Christmas and a healthy, peaceful and a happy year in 1980.

ANNUAL

RE-UNION DINNER

The Annual Dinner was held at the R.S.L. Club, Sherwood Court, Perth, on Saturday 3rd November. There were 40 present which included 3 visitors. This was certainly a very good turn up but I am afraid that with a little more effort some of the metropolitan members could have attended. Apologies were received from J. Burrige and R. Kirkwood who were overseas, and also Clarrie Turner who was unable to be with us due to Grace's sickness. F. Napier, B. Langridge, D. Turton.

The toasts were in the capable hands of the following: Loyal Toast - J. Fowler; Unit and Association - G. MacKenzie; Visitors - P. Hancock.

It was very pleasing to have with us from Victoria Rolf (Baldy) Baldwin, who was in Perth on holidays, having just come from the Nor West area.

Those present were: G. Malley, R. Harrington, A. Wares, A. Smith, H. Sproxton, H. Holder, E. Bingham C. Doig, R. Finklestein, J. Smailes, D. Darrington, G. Rowley, R. Aitken A. Hillman, J. Haire, J. Fowler, R. Baldwin, J. Carey, G. MacKenzie, D. Fullarton, R. Neuzerling, M. Morgan, A. Blundy, R. Watson, J. Poynton, T. Bowers, D. Hudson, L.

CHRISTMAS DRINKS

AT R.S.L. CLUB, ON 4th DECEMBER, 1979

AT 7.30 P.M.

What about attending on this night and making a good impression for the last function for 1979.

Bagley, F. Griffiths, R. McDonald, C. Varian, R. Dhu, G. Fletcher, M. Holland, W. Rowan-Robinson.

All in all it was a very pleasant evening and there were certainly no cause for complaints. The R.S.L. staff must be congratulated for the way the dinner was presented and which was appreciated by everyone.

COMMEMORATION SERVICE KINGS PARK

The Annual Commemoration Service was held in Kings Park, on 4th November at 3.00 p.m. and 25 members and their wives and friends attended. It was also very pleasing to have with us the widow of our late member Kev. Waddington and the family.

The President Mr. G. Malley gave a very nice short address and then called the names of those on the Honour Roll and also informed those present that since 1945 another 88 of our members had passed away. The President then handed over the parade to Mick Morgan and the members marched along both sides of our section of Honour Drive.

At the conclusion of the service the President invited us all to attend a barbecue at the home of Delys & Jack Capey at Bateman.

BARBECUE ON COMMEMORATION DAY

A very pleasant afternoon and evening get together was held after the Kings Park Service at the Carey residence. When we arrived there Delys had a nice assortment of savories set out and the keg was ready also. Everyone sat around chatting and "Baldy" was going from group to group chatting and he seemed to be thoroughly enjoying himself. Among those present were:- G. & Dot Maley, Harry & Thelma Sproxton, Joe & Helen Poynton, Reg. Harrington, Dick Darrington, Mick & Jean Morgan, Col Doig, Len & Dot Bagley, Bob & Betty McDonald, Jack & Jean Fowler, Arthur & Beryl Smith, Jess Epps, Ann Douglas, Dot Boyland, Queenie Phillips, Elsie & Scottie Wares, Rolf Baldwin and Ivy Ritchie. It was great to see Ivy along and we hope to see her along to our future functions.

On behalf of the Association I wish to express our sincere thanks to Jack and Delys for allowing us to use their home for such an occasion. It would be remiss of me if I forgot to mention the beautiful meats that Jack supplied for the barbecue. Once again thanks for a job well done.

A KING SIZE BARBECUE

On 23rd September 1979, members, family and friends of the Association spent a very happy day at the home of Mary & Charles King. The weather was laid on for us and it was a perfect spring day. Mary and Charlie have a lovely home and property at the top of the Bedfordale Hill, and the views overlooking the valley were superb. As the cars arrived, we were all greeted with "King Size" hospitality, and a happy day ensued. The barbecue (more of Jack Carey's delicious meat) took the form of a luncheon and merry was the feast and long.

During the day most of us strolled over the property, climbing even higher to enjoy the beautiful panorama of orchards sloping down into the valley. It was the time of wildflowers and we found many fine specimens.

The very best part of these "get-togethers" is meeting up with seldom seen friends and it was heartening to have Grace & Clarrie Turner all the way from Capel to join us. Also travelling a good distance were Don Hudson, Hazel & Alan Hollow visiting from S.A. I understand Joe & Helen Poynton also made a quick call late in the day, unfortunately after most of us had left.

All in all it was a great day with Mary and Charlie the perfect Host and Hostess. Our heart felt thanks to you both Mary & Chas. for giving us the opportunity to meet together in a wonderful social event.

VALE, KEVIN WADDINGTON

Tuesday, 9th October, 1979, a pleasant, mild day in Perth. During the morning, Kevin bade farewell to his wife, Jessie, with a few tender words to take care, and to explain how he was looking forward to a

T.P.I. meeting that afternoon. He looked and felt great, as was clear to me when he left at 2.45 p.m. after the meeting. Two and a half hours later Kevin passed away, having suffered a massive heart attack, from which he did not regain consciousness.

It is now almost forty years since we first got to know and admire Kevin, then lean, fit and as full of life as a man in his mid twenties should be. He was a signaller and a soldier, and all who came in contact with him admired his morality, and his care generally for his fellow man.

Kevin has had a mammoth struggle against ill health since the late forties, when specialists gave him an estimated life span of ten years. With the help and devotion of Jessie, herself so severely handicapped as to require a heart pacemaker, Kevin raised a fine family, was a loyal and hardworking employee of Westrail, R.S.L. Sub-Branch Secretary, and a keen bowler.

Though finally forced to relinquish his job when classified T.P.I. in 1974, Kevin never lost his interest in people, and in life. He recently nominated as a candidate for election to the committee of the W.A. T.P.I. Association. Nominations closed the day he died.

Perhaps he foresaw the future, in that he recently obtained a second Double Red Diamond Badge, so that there would be one for each of his twin sons. All who were close to him know that his last years were full and happy ones, and he left without suffering too severely. We will remember him.

VALE DAVE RITCHIE

On October 25th a large gathering of members of 2/2nd Commando Association and R.S.L. paid their final respects to their late comrade and friend David Ritchie. Two days previously on October 23rd, Dave slipped away from life after a battle against ill health following a lung operation. A member of the original 2/2nd Ind. Coy. Dave will always be remembered by his friends who shared with him the privations of Timor.

In later years, many people will recall Dave as the proprietor of the "DON" mens clothing store, and his generous dealings with friends who purchased from him. After selling the "DON", he became the manager of the R.S.L. men's clothing store, and in his time there, worked conscientiously and hard. His unflinching courtesy and tirelessness were a feature of his position there. Even after his illness Dave gave of himself to the point of exhaustion to fulfill what he considered his obligation to his work.

Dave has many times served on the Committee of the Association and previous to his operation was a committeeman for two years. Here again Dave proved that he was not content to hold office without proving his worth. He undertook the mounting of old photos, press cuttings and reports of the 2/2nd members into a large folio. This was a labour of love and beautifully carried out and one that was long overdue. The folio has been admired and passed around among members and DAVE leaves us this everlasting reminder of his dedication to what he considered his duty.

In private life Dave was an artist and loved to paint and do silk screen printing. There must be very few members of the Association who have not been recipients of some of Dave's lovely work, whether it be a painting, a set of place mats or a handkerchief beautifully stencilled, and all members will miss this year his personally designed Xmas Cards. I know that we will.

Dave was always delighted to see his mates, and in his last weeks wished that he could have seen more of them. A tribute must be paid to Ivy his wife, whose devotion and care were his greatest comfort. To Ivy and sons David and Neil and all his family, the Association offers its sincere sympathy, but no one who saw Dave's suffering at the last can be anything but deeply thankful that his pain is now over.

MAY YOU NOW BE PAINTING IN THE ELYSIAN FIELDS, DAVID RITCHIE.

Present at the funeral were the following members of the Association- G. Maley, P. Hancock,

C. Doig, J. Fowler, C. Varial, J. Wicks, C. Gorton, D. Fullarton, J. Haire, G. McKenzie, J. Smailes, R. Harrington, A. Martin, J. Carey, G. Rowley, Jack & Norma Hasson, Mick & Jean Holland, Jess Epps, J. Ritchie, Scottie & Elsie Wares, Harry & Maisie Holder, and all the way from Katanning Alf & Elsie Hillman.

VALE FRANK CRAIGIE

It is with regret that I have to record the passing of our member Frank Craigie on 26/10/79. Frank had suffered for a number of years and last news I had from him was that he was confined to his bed. He was the original Sgt/Major of the 2/2nd and was with us all on Timor.

To his wife and family the Association wish to extend their deepest sympathy.

HANSARD-HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Medical Treatment for Ex-servicemen

(Question No. 4216)

Dr Klugman asked the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, upon notice, on 6th June 1979:

(1) Has he received representations from the Queensland Air Force Association concerning the case of 150 ex-service airmen in Australia who eluded capture when shot down behind enemy lines in Europe and are now requesting the privileges of medical care given to ex-POWs.

(2) Will he consider the request sympathetically.

Mr Alderman — The answer to the honourable member's question is as follows:

(1) I have received representations from Air Vice-Marshal W.E. Townsend, C.B., C.B.E., the Federal President of the Air Force Association, in his capacity as President of the Australian Branch of the Royal Air Forces Escaping Society.

(2) I understand that this matter was considered thoroughly in 1974 when it was decided to extend full free medical and hospital treatment for all conditions to former prisoners

of war. It has been carefully considered on a number of occasions since then as a result of representations from Air Vice-Marshal Townsend and others. On each occasion, it has been decided not to extend eligibility for free medical treatment to this group.

Any proposal to extend full free treatment benefits to ex-service airmen who evaded or escaped capture in Europe would need to take into account the claims of many other veterans who spent some time in enemy controlled territory but evaded or escaped capture by the enemy. These include former members of the Forces engaged in commando-type operations in enemy controlled territory and large numbers who became separated for varying periods of time from their units while engaged in operations against the enemy.

I regret that I can see no immediate prospect of an extension of treatment benefits to veterans who escaped or evaded capture in enemy or enemy occupied territory.

(The only way to pursue this any further is for every member to bring it to the attention of your local M.H.R. and ask for his support. Should there be enough backbenchers to support the claim we might get somewhere - EDITOR)

WEST AUSTRALIAN NEWS

GERALDTON

I recently had the pleasure of a visit from Elsie Wares during the course of a six-day wildflower tour. I regret that I was unable to show her around the town or to invite her home for a meal because of work commitments. However, she was having dinner with Eric and Twy Smyth during her brief stay, following the Smyth's return from a visit to their daughter Erica who is a geologist with B.H.P. in Melbourne. Elsie Wares is doing a great job in the Education Department in a section which caters for the special needs of the blind and low-vision students. Both she and Scotty are also doing a lot of voluntary work for

the Association of the Blind, Scotty's work including relief work as a bus driver.

I also had the pleasure of a visit from Gerry (Happy) Greenhalgh of MacLean, N.S.W., who was on his first visit to Sun City Geraldton and was highly impressed by a town which within about three years is expected to become the second country city in W.A., Bunbury having recently attained city status.

Nip Cunningham continues to pedal as well as ever and is hoping that he will be the next Mercantile Club member to win a lottery. One of his club mates, Sugar Easter, has just won first prize of \$80,000 in the W.A. lottery. Nip's daughter, Mrs. Jan Johnson of Ogilvie had outstanding success at the Northampton Show, winning the trophy for most points in the Show and also the trophy for the most points in the exhibition hall where her entries included the best decorated cake depicting W.A.'s 150th anniversary. Jan's husband, Alan Johnson, won the trophy for the most points in the grain, fodder, sheep, wool and pig sections; and his mother, Mrs. H.J. Johnson, was runner up to Jan for most points in the Show.

Bruss Fagg of Northampton continues to follow the motto "Service in Peace-time as in War-time", having been re-elected to the Hospital Board for a further two years.

My wife Joan and my son Rex and myself have just returned from a week's trip through the Murchison and the Pilbara in which we covered about 2,800 kilometres and struck some of the roughest roads and tracks in W.A. but had no trouble with Rex's Toyota Corona. Rex certainly showed his prowess as a driver, having obtained valuable experience in this regard when working in Western Mining's Exploration Section when based at Kalgoorlie. We didn't have any luck with our metal detector in the Murchison and it was a pity to see such former imposing buildings like the Big Bell Hotel in ruins, partly as a result of the work of vandals. However, some of the Pilbara towns were a delight to behold, particularly

Tom Price, which with its beautiful parks and gardens is a real credit to the mining company concerned.

Kind regards to all the boys.

PETER BARDEN

PERTH

Just a line or two to let you know that I have returned from Tasmania and that as I promised you I made contact with Vic Pacey who is in pretty fair health and enjoying retirement. I rang Vic on arrival in Hobart and was able to get out and see him on my one free day. Vic was able to run down Mick Kingston through R.S.L. channels and Mick, retired too, lives only a mile from Vic. Vic lives in Lenah and Mick in Moonah but I am entirely grateful to Vic for taking off in a lead car because Hobart has to have more No Through Roads than any other Australian City. All B Platoon characters will remember Mick Kingston. Four section must have been touched to get people like Jack Sipple, Tas Douglas and Mick Kingston as reos by way of Dutch Timor. Mick sends his regards to all the boys, none of whom, except the meagre Tasmanian group has he seen since 1942.

Tas, who because of his build and sparseness was always known as "Old Tas" still works for the Hydro -Electric and he therefore must have been somewhat younger than we thought. He was somewhere up in the mountains so I was not able to make contact with him.

Mick is a keen gardener and his place in Moonah is a picture. It's a pity we lost track of these "attached Personnel". For this reason I give you his address, Ivan Kingston 7 Burgess Ave. Moonah Tasmania.

Have spent part of today with another of our old comrades but I don't propose to tell you who he is. He will just blow in at the Annual Dinner and presence should stir up memories of old times.

Regards - Ray Aitken.

(You and Jack Fowler certainly kept Baldy's presence in the West a secret - Scotty)

VISITORS TO PERTH

Alan & Hazel Hollow were visitors in September and had quite an enjoyable time. they arrived and were in time for the barbecue at the King's on 23rd September. They were also hosted by Col Doig & Joy Loudon for lunch on the Monday and also by the King's on the Tuesday. They were also entertained by a number of the unit members at dinner at the Dianella Hotel. Those present at the dinner were Gerry & Dot Maley, Jack & Norma Hasson, Jess Epps, Dot Boyland, Percy Hancock, Scottie & Elsie Wares, and of course Alan and Hazel. We also had an afternoons cruise on the river and Alan said it was very relaxing and was worth the trip. To Jess Epps thanks for driving them around and showing the sights of W.A.

Another two visiting Perth were Wilma & Edith Tobin, (wife and sister of our late member Bert). They were on a bus tour and spent four days in Perth prior to taking off for a tour of the Great Southern. Col Doig & Joy Loudon entertained

them for lunch on the Monday and Dot Boyland had them for afternoon tea. The next evening they were the guests of Scotty and Elsie Wares for dinner at Kings Park Restaurant. They both enjoyed their visit to Perth but unfortunately their stay was short and they would have liked to met up with more of the Association members.

At the Annual Re-Union Dinner we had a pleasant surprise in the person of "Baldy" Baldwin attending as he was on a tour by car, having two days previously arrived from the North West. He had been up to the iron ore country and he was very impressed with the developments there.

At the dinner he and Gerry MacKenzie spent a great deal of time looking over the Dave Ritchie album of the war time photos.

To those visitors it was great to have you with us for the short time and we only wish that it could have been longer.

NEW SOUTH WALES NEWS EPPING

Betty and I have had a hell of a time over the last few months which allows for the lack of correspondence.

Firstly I have had my sister in hospital with a slight stroke, then my elder brother with a brain tumor and then finally my daughter with an operation on both feet, for the removal of bunions. I am pleased to say that everyone is doing reasonably well at the moment. Ron McArthur is doing a stint in Concord A.G.H. for some follow up checks and tests. I visited him last Friday and he wishes to be remembered to everyone.

There are 8 N.S.W. members leaving tomorrow for a mini safari at Young the home town of Keith & Betty Craig's. Betty has been rounding up some of the country members who reside within coo-ee distance of the town. Bet and I intended going but our son from Tamworth and his wife are coming down to visit us for

the first time in months and it is his birthday.

Received a letter and a phone call from Tony Adams and had quite a chat regarding the 1981 Safari. He says most of the spade work has been arranged and all that remains are the final details, based on requests of the various State Committees.

Received a letter from Percy Hancock advising that his trip East is still indefinite, owing to the health of his father in law. I hope that your next letter Perc will bring better news.

Scotty would you please advise per the Courier that the XMAS BAR-B-QUE will be held at the home of Bill & June Bennett's on Sunday 9th December 1979 starting at 12 noon. Please bring your own steaks and refreshments.

Well Scotty this brings me to a close and wish everyone a Merry Xmas and a healthy New Year.

Please convey our love to Elsie and Jess and keep up the good work with the Courier the life line of the Association.

Regards Mick Devlin.

(Have printed the Progressive Dinner report in the N.S.W. letter from Ron Trengrove.)

**N.S.W. CHRISTMAS BARBECUE
on SUNDAY 9th DECEMBER
at the home of Bill and June Bennett.
BE THERE AND SWELL
THE NUMBERS!!**

PENSHURST

This is a very belated note to thank the "boys" of the 2/2nd for their moral support to me and kindness and thoughtfulness to both Tom and myself during and after, Tom's four months in hospital. It was a very trying and exhausting time but with the help and encouragement I received I felt I belonged to a big caring family of closely knit members. I wish to thank in particular, Alan Luby, Mick Devlin, Paddy Kenneally, Jack Hartley, Jim English and Mick Mannix for their support when it was greatly needed and appreciated.

Also special thank you to Scotty and Jess for making time to visit me whilst they were in Sydney. What a nice gesture. Thanks also for the kindly remarks in the Courier.

Best wishes to all - Mary Martin

(It was certainly great to meet up with you Mary - Scotty.)

MONA VALE

Once again those of us who could make it on Saturday 22/9/79 to one of those Wheels to meals things, being the day the St. George Dragons met the Canterbury Bankstown Bulldogs for the Sydney League Final. The final made everyone a little late but that was not the Jones's being late. Marj was ready at 1 p.m. to pick them up the house was full of tobacco smoke and the dear girl was apologising for that useless Merv for being at the T.A.B. not that he bets but most of his friends are so busy they cannot make the T.A.B. so Merv being the kind helpful type spends his day at the Tab doing what one does there for his friends. At least Marj says that is his story and he is sticking to it.

We arrived at Joan Darge's just behind the Bennett's, Luby's, Goodacres, Dixon, and Coker trip to the T.A.B. would sharpen it up.

One thing about those Wheels to Meals do's you can always have the drink you want because you B.Y.O. Now that the breweries are putting out this light beer with 2% alcohol content you can enjoy more.

Some of the things we get in the way of public utilities we are grateful for and although we show our gratefulness by paying our bills for such service, I think Joan carries it a bit too far but then if you work for the Gas Company that supplies this service maybe all do it. Just after we arrived I saw Joan reach for a box of matches, kneel down bow her head low and raise her right hand strike a match place it in a small hole and behold a row of lights, a bow then rise to her feet look to the ceiling and turn around with a smile on her face as if the General Manager of Gas was looking at her. I questioned her about this performance but she refused to deny or agree that all employees do this, however it was a good start to what was to come further along the line.

After saying goodbye to the gas we left Joan's for Como where Dixon's welcomed us with St. George Hot Pot and all the trimmings, if the Dragons had been beaten it might have been cold pot and tears, however all was tasty and delightful. Just because I mentioned smoking was not good for lovely attractive women if they wanted to stay that way Marj Jones wanted to wrestle me on the floor, there is a time and place for everything. Very funny people you Australians.

I did not realise until I got home that I forgot to congratulate Bill Bennett on being the new President and I am sure that all who know him wish him well. Congratulations Bill. Time as usual marched on and we wended our way to the Goodacres spread at Putney or Putnee as someone said. At El Rancho Goodacre we partook of coffee, tea, sweet cakes etc and a dash of home brew. Ron and Marj now have a country residence and find it great to get away from the hustle and bustle. Marj

apparently attends auctions and procured an upright piano for \$60 which was played for us by her daughter in law.

All good things come to an end and about 11.30 p.m. we set out for our respective homes. For the Luby's Bennetts, Jones and Trengroves it was a round trip of approximately 88 miles. What one does for a night out and strange Gas Rituals etc. The end of next month we go to Betty and Keith Craigs at Young for a mini safari. Maybe I will be able to see if any of the family inherited Betty's fetish of buying one shoe only the left of course.

Well as the Actress said to the Bishop Thats Enough.

Yours - Ron Trengrove.

COURIER DONATIONS

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

D. May, M. Nicholls, L. Tapper, K. Monk, C. Andrews, D. Dexter, G. Vandeleur, K. Beacham, R. Aitken, L. Bagley, E. Bingham, T. Bowers, R. Baldwin, J. Carey, C. Doig, R. Dhu, R. Finklestein, J. Fowler, D. Fullerton, F. Griffiths, J. Haire, H. Holden, P. Hancock, D. Holland, A. Hillman, R. Harrington, M. Morgan, G. McKenzie, S. McDonald R. Neuzling, J. Poynton, Rowen Robinson, G. Rowley, A. Smith, H. Sproxtion, J. Smaier, C. Varian, A. Wares, R. Darrington.

RETURNED COURIERS

There are still some Couriers being returned Addresses Unknown, so if someone knows the address would they please let the Editor know as all returns are now charged at the rate of 25 cents a copy. Quite a bit expensive now.

Victoria: D. Polan; **W.A.:** R. Tatum

SICK LIST

Bob Smith in Newcastle is still on the sick list and still undergoing treatment at Newcastle Hospital. Very pleased to hear than Alan and Edith Luby called on him whilst they were in Newcastle on holidays.

(Bob would appreciate a visit from any member who happens to be in the area — Editor)

Scotty Wares has had a spell in Hollywood as the result of a slight

heart attack. This is the first time and it certainly is a warning to him to slow up.

Alan Hughes has been in hospital with a heart attack but at present do not know of his whereabouts.

To all those members we wish them speedy recoveries.

DAVE RITCHIE

With heartfelt and sincere appreciation Ivy, sons David and Neil, wish to convey their deepest gratitude and thanks to all members and families of the 2/2nd Association, who extended their warmth, friendship, condolence cards, comforting messages, W.A. Notices and attendance at the funeral of our loved husband and father, to pay a final tribute to their late member and comrade.

LAUGHING FEET

My work with the visually impaired students in High Schools, takes me frequently to the Association for the Blind in Victoria Park, where the Braille Hospital for the Aged Blind adjoins. Recently on a trip there, I was tearing around from one person to another, and at one stage was clattering along one of the covered ramps used by some of the hospital inmates as an exercise route. Guide rails ensure that they do not get lost or fall. My feet in their much-too-high heels were making quite a din on the concrete ramp when I overtook a very frail old lady, painfully making her way along. I always stop to pass the time of day with any patients I encounter, as they love to hear a new voice and have a little chat. I said "Good Morning how are you today?". She turned a laughing face towards me and said roguishly "I heard you coming along behind me, your little feet tap-tapping away there - your laughing feet".

"My laughing feet", I repeated, not quite understanding.

"Your feet sounded as though they were laughing, my dear", she explained, "yes, just as if they were laughing". I looked at her serene old face, at the faded eyes staring into the darkness, at her arthritis twisted shuffling old feet, and thanked God I still had "LAUGHING FEET".

Elsie Wares