

2/2 COMMANDO Courier

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RE-UNITING TIMORESE FAMILIES

The problem facing our government in their efforts to re-unite family groups torn apart during the annexation of East Timor by Indonesian troops is admittedly most difficult and grievous, but it is, nevertheless, a problem that must be solved promptly in an effort to avoid further needless suffering.

A name familiar to us all is Father Fernandez, the Ethnic Timorese priest, whose achievement in organising the repatriation to Portugal of so many East Timorese who had found temporary refuge in Atamboea from the horror and bloodshed that was being perpetrated in their homeland, must rate as one of the most remarkable feats of its kind ever accomplished.

Having done all he could for his countrymen in Portugal, Father Fernandez has now come to Australia to give his guidance to those who have found refuge in this country. His church has appointed him as assistant to the parish priest at Beaconsfield, W.A., and it was to a meeting of the local Timorese community held in one of the schoolrooms at the parish church on Wednesday, 29th November, that Ray Aitken, Colin Doig and Gerry Maley were invited to hear his report to his fellow countrymen of the results of his just concluded visit to Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra, where he met many interested organisations, and also the minister for Immigration, Mr McKellar.

Ray's valued employee, Costa, acted as interpreter, and we were able to follow the report very clearly. It was of great interest to see the manner in which both sexes are moulding to our way of life and dress. There were a number of youngsters, just as happy and carefree as kids anywhere. We did, however, meet women whose husbands were still in Timor, and men whose wives had been unable to escape with them. The reunion of these families is the first priority, and despite some delays on the part of the Indonesian authorities, it is hoped to find good news close to hand.

It was of great interest to learn that of the local Timorese community, numbering in excess of two hundred, there are fewer than ten of the men unemployed, which is really remarkable when all the disadvantages, particularly the language problem, are considered. They have enthusiastically joined in community and sporting activities, and are proving to be fine citizens and very desirable migrants, not creating any of the assimilation difficulties that have been encountered with many other ethnic groups, and which have proven so costly to our government.

We were therefore, considering not only these favourable qualities, but also the real debt owed to them by Australia, surprised to learn that our Immigration authorities were being particularly difficult when asked to approve migrant visas to our country for applicants from among our East Timorese friends who had found temporary refuge in Portugal. It appears that the East Timorese have Portuguese citizenship due to the fact that East Timor was a colony of Portugal. Of course there would be no problems if they could mysteriously arrive on our coast in small boats, but unfortunately that cannot be arranged.

We must help these people. It does not matter two hoots whether you were in the Services through the 1939/45 War, or not. Nor does it matter one iota whether you served in Timor, or not. It is immaterial whether your life was saved by one or more of them. What does matter is that you live in Australia, and had it not been for these wonderful people, your lifestyle could be vastly different from that which you now enjoy.

How can you help? It really is so very simple. Each and every one of us must write to the Minister for Immigration, and to his Federal Member and Senator, and tell

them in his own words how and why we want the East Timorese as preferred immigrants to this country. Let us spell out clearly what they mean to us, and how we feel our Government failed in their obligations when they were most needed. Tell them it is time the misery and suffering which our friends have been subjected to, was stopped. And mean what you say. They must get the message.

COMING EVENTS

JANUARY 28. POYNTON PICNIC AT 169 ORMSBY TERRACE, MANDURAH, FROM 10am.

FEBRUARY 6. COMMITTEE MEETING. AS IT IS THE FIRST MEETING IN THE NEW YEAR, COMMITTEE MEMBERS MAKE IT A MUST AND BE THERE.

MARCH 6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. METROPOLITAN MEMBERS PLEASE ATTEND AND GIVE YOUR SUPPORT TO THE NEW COMMITTEE. TO THE WIVES OF OUR MEMBERS, MAKE SURE THAT YOUR HUSBAND IS REMINDED OF THIS NIGHT. THE ASSOCIATION RELIES ON SUPPORT FROM ALL MEMBERS, SO MAKE THIS NIGHT A MUST BE THERE.

WEST AUSTRALIAN NEWS

GIBSON

Peter and I really enjoyed our trip with Tony and Carol Bowers and had a lovely time with Paddy Kenneally showing us all the Emerald Isle. It truly lives up to its name.

A good season here this year, plenty of feed and crops going well. Had a nice visit from Ernie Hoffman. He and Peter went out fishing and caught enough fish to last months. Hoff took most of it back with him.

We hope to see you all on January 28 at the Poynton Picnic.

Regards to all,

Peter & Pat Campbell.

DWELLINGUP

Please find enclosed cheque for Courier donation.

All the best for the Festive Season and best wishes to all.

John Moore.

KATANNING

Thank you for everything.

A very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year to follow.

Sincerely, Marie Burges.

(Great to hear from you Marie and hope to hear from you again - Editor.)

WARWICK

I daresay by now you have learned that Alan and I joined in the S.A. Safari

1978. I would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone concerned for making us so welcome and including us. All the members and wives and friends quite overwhelmed us with their friendliness. It was indeed a wonderful time and we met many wonderful people. Thank you all so very much. I am enclosing money hoping you will be able to send us the Courier. Alan and I would very much like to keep in touch with you all.

With our kindest regards,

Joy & Alan Chatfield.

(Joy is a sister of Dud Tapper. Pleased you enjoyed the safari - Editor.)

INGLEWOOD

Maybe more news next time. Congratulations to the Editor of the Courier - always a good thing - now getting to be even better.

Kindest regards, Albert Martin.

WEMBLEY

Keep up the good work on the Courier, it is always great to read news of our old mates of war time days. I am still working at W.A. Newspapers, see Len Bagley now and again, also Steve Rogers, both looking well. Hope to be able to make the picnic this time. Please find cheque to help Courier and Association.

Regards to all, Alan Brown.
P.S.: My name and address not in

address book. Compliments of season to all.

(Have included your address in this issue and sorry about the omission but checking back it has not been in the last two editions - Editor.)

WATERMAN

Thank you for the Courier which was keenly read on its arrival today (as always). Although it is not possible for me to attend your various do's, usually I am working or out of town, it is interesting reading of your activities and correspondence.

Please find enclosed a cheque for sub and donation.

Seasons greetings to one and all and get well wishes to those not enjoying the best of health.

Cheers especially to Elsie and Scotty Wares.

Yours sincerely, Clare West.
(Clare is the widow of our late member Sid West - Editor.)

KARRINYUP

I enjoyed the Adelaide Safari immensely. The committee are to be congratulated for all the effort they must have put into the organisation. I have made quite a lot of nice friends through going to the safaris and it is always good to see them again plus making new friends. All being well I hope to be able to continue being a starter at future safaris. I find it a pleasant way to have a holiday and see friends.

My sincere thanks to all. I am enclosing a cheque for Courier and Association funds.

Yours sincerely, Dot Boyland.

WEMBLEY DOWNS

We have arrived home again after our gallivanting around and are settling down to some honest hard work, helping with the harvest.

We would like to thank all concerned for a wonderful safari. It was great meeting up with you all again and renewing old friendships.

We spent some time with relations at Victor Harbour and Adelaide and eventually made our way to Tumbly Bay where Shorty Stevens and Margaret, son Milton and daughter-in-law Anne, made us very welcome. We stayed with them for two days on the farm and really enjoyed ourselves. They also took us to Port Lincoln and showed us around the sights.

Sorry I missed the Annual Dinner but could not get home in time. Wishing all the 2/2nd a Happy Festive Season,
John & Jean Fowler.

DOUBLEVIEW

I received a Christmas card, also a letter started by Frank Freestone and finished by his brother and posted to me. Frank passed away in his sleep on the night of 23/11/1978 and his funeral was held on 30/11/78 at Bardon Hill Cemetery, Wallington, Surrey.

Enclosed a few dollars for the Courier which I enjoy getting. You boys are doing a great job with it.

Regards to all, Bert Matthews.

The President wishes to thank the following for donations towards the Courier: J. Epps, P. Hancock, D. Boyland, D. Turton, R. Finklestein, J. Fowler, C. West, A. Matthews, A. Brown, P. Krause, P. Campbell, W. Wallis, R. Dorham, P. Kenneally, K. Hayes, J. Moore, J. Hanson, D. Ritchie, B. Dennis, W. Bennett, F. Wilkins, A. Stevenson, R. Cole, M. Davies, E. Herd, J. Lett, L. Laidlaw, J. Darge, F. Bryant, N. Colyer, L. Bagley.

Several Couriers have been returned from the last edition posting, so if anyone knows the new addresses would they please notify the Editor so as the mailing list and address book can be brought up to date.

W.A.: J. Wicks.

Vic: A. Grachan.

N.S.W.: G. Wilson.

S.A.: T. Mulcahy.

R.S.L. SHOP

570 HAY STREET,
PERTH.

GENTS
OUTFITTERS

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

All profits go to the
War Veterans Home.

10% Discount available
to members.

Dave Ritchie - Manager

WEMBLEY/FLOREAT RSL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Alf Hillman, Len Bagley and Gerry Maley attended the Wembley/Floreat RSL Christmas Party on Monday, December 18, and were made most welcome and entertained right royally by Ernie McGuckin and his merry men.

It would have been great to have had a larger representation, but that the numerous functions being held at this time of the year takes its toll of members is understood. Indeed, we were fortunate to have the company of Alf Hillman, as it was only his thoughtfulness in consulting the Courier for "Coming Events" that enabled him to arrange a medical appointment for his wife to coincide with this function.

Alf was proudly wearing an RSL Life Member badge, which was recently bestowed upon him by the Katanning Sub Branch. He was Secretary of the Broome Hill Sub Branch for more than twenty years, and when they dissolved, he immediately joined Katanning, was appointed Secretary, and has now held office for a continuous period exceeding twenty-five years.

One of the problems of the Festive Season is how to do justice to the catering efforts of the hosts, and at the same time, retain a reasonably trim figure. Last year, it was the enormous quantity of delicious ham that overtempted the palate, at this Christmas Party. This year mounds of mouthwatering barbecued chicken and deep fried fish pieces provided the same problems.

What ho, we managed to overcome all these things, and enjoyed a fabulous evening. Many thanks to our genial hosts.

SOCIALISING AT CHRISTMAS

On December 5, 2/2nd members with their wives and friends met together at the RSL Anzac Club for a Christmas drink. These get-togethers are always very pleasant and this was no exception, everyone spending a great evening of friendly chatting and later enjoying a delightful supper provided by the ladies. President Gerry Maley thanked members for their presence and wished one and all a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year. Those present were Gerry & Dot Maley, Ivy & Dave Ritchie (that new slim figure really becomes you Dave), Edna & Doug Fullarton, Betty & Bob McDonald (good to see you looking so well again Bob), Charlie & Mary King and son, Scotty & Elsie Wares, Thelma & Harry Sproxton, Dorothy & Len Bagley, Ralph & Eve Finklestein, Dorothy Boyland, Jess Epps, Jack Carey, Percy Hancock, Rod Dhu and Don Turton.

SICK PARADE

Ron Sprigg has been in Albany Hospital and whilst there had the misfortune to have a fall and broke a couple of ribs, which unfortunately pierced the lung. Last report from Win was that he is on the improve.

Bob Smith reports that he is improving since his operation and does not have to report to the specialist for six week check-ups now. Certainly great news Bob and keep up the improvement.

Dave Ritchie still on the improve and very pleasing to hear.

Spriggy McDonald starting to look his old self again although he appears to have lost some weight.

Rip McMahon has been an inmate of Hollywood Hospital for surgery and from my last report is on the improve.

To all those members we wish them speedy recoveries.

NEW SOUTH WALES NEWS

YAGOONA

Received the December issue of the Courier but no back copies. Mick Devlin told me that you had written him they would be sent.

Attended the 30th wedding anniversary of Jim & Jean English at their home on 25/11/78. Had a very pleasant evening. The best turn of the night was Jean's father 985 years young) singing 50 years ago songs. How little the world has changed in 50 years in certain matters only of course. We know less now than the Middle Easters knew about 2000 BC. I will leave the MOD JETS workout.

Gerry Maley has my sympathy writing to the Minister for Foreign Affairs. I did 12 months ago and got a similar reply.

The 78 safari was a hum dinger. Full marks to the South Aussies, shy in numbers but not in organising. By all accounts the Pier Hotel was a home away from home. Wonderful accommodation and service. The beer was good too. I may have indulged more than I should have. I am still trying to take off the poundage. I was bad enough before I got to Adelaide with the beverages of 9 other countries. I do not know if their beer is better or worse than ours but someone ought to teach them how to cool and pull it. Ross Smith did not improve matters. He had enough meat to feed a regiment and enough beer to keep them afloat plus the fact there was a winery five minutes away. I always wanted to know why people visited wineries. They sure are not interested in the process of making, only the tasting. As the tasting progressed the noise

increased. I finally fought my way out and returned to the peace and quiet at the beer kegs. Anyway Ross, you catered for all tastes. It was a beaut day. Dignum spent two weeks trying to teach me the finer points of plonk drinking, no good, I prefer beer.

Have just arrived home and more bad news. Arthur (Slim) Holden passed away on 30/11/78 at Taree. We went to Timor together on the KALAMA and joined No.4 Section. He was well known to the B Platoon men in Timor. I had lost touch with him for years and met up with him a couple of years ago quite by accident. We had some great yarns. He was a good quiet kind of man. May God grant him peace. To his wife and son I extend my deepest sympathy. I will be contacting them.

Good luck, Paddy Kenneally.
(Paddy, I have sent two bundles of back Couriers and whilst you were in Ireland you were still on the mailing list. What happens to them after I post them I do not know. I also sent you a letter – Scotty.)

YOUNG

Once again it is time to type my letter for Christmas, and Keith and I hope that everyone has a very Happy and Holy Christmas, and that the New Year will be all that you wish it to be.

We both feel that this year has gone so quickly, that we cannot believe that it is nearly Christmas. We seemed to start this year on the wrong foot, as Keith fell at work and broke a couple of ribs, and cracked 2 others. He spent a little over a fortnight in hospital, and then was home for another 6 or 7 weeks. He was only back at work a short time, and he was back in hospital with kidney trouble. This was painful and took a long time to get over, but since then he has not been in the best of health, although not really ill in any way. The winter months of course very wet and miserable for not only us, but everyone I feel sure, and of course this didn't help to make anyone feel bright and cheerful. During April Keith's father came for a visit and stayed for about five months. He is 94 and very bright, but his eye-sight is deteriorating a bit, and he was unable to get about because of the wet and miserable weather. With us going to work, it was fairly quiet for him during the day, but he seemed to enjoy being with us, although he had a couple of short trips to hospital with bronchitis. Then of course I went and bumped my leg, and it came up in a lump nearly as big as an egg, and I hobbled everywhere for about 2 months. It was the strangest thing, and although it didn't bother me after the first 3 weeks or so, it wouldn't go down. I couldn't

understand how it was so bad, as I hardly felt the bump on the leg when I did it, but it was up immediately, which was probably the best thing. I had a black ankle and foot for about 6 to 7 weeks, and of course they were very swollen. Other than that I have been keeping very well, and don't seem to miss out on too many things. I have been able to keep up the Old Time Dancing Classes, but this year I did not play as much golf, as it was so wet. Whenever I could I went up and played, but I had to pick my days. We came 2nd in the Mixed Championships this year, which was very good. We have been to quite a few of the dances around the District, and have travelled as far as Gundagai, Coolah, Grenfell, Cowra and around Young.

At the present time we are having a week of festivities for The Cherry Festival. Procession last Saturday afternoon, which wasn't too bad, and plenty on this week of course. This year so far the fruit is very good, and prices for Cherries have been very good. We also hope that the Prune crop will be good, but of course until about March/April next year, we won't know how good. We have managed to stay open all the year, although there will be a couple of extra weeks close-down over Christmas, so that repairs can be carried out, so we have been very lucky, as it looked really grim earlier in the year, when we only picked about one-third crop. We have been able to buy in to keep us going, but soon hope we will be able to pack again from our own stocks.

This year Phillip was moved to Randwick, Sydney and although he doesn't particularly like the city, he likes the Workshop. He was moved again to Moorebank, but is now back at Randwick again, I don't know for how long. He hopes to be married next year sometime, to Lorraine, who is a deserted wife with 3 lovely young girls. We are very pleased, as they are all so happy about it, and have fitted in with us really well. Janette and Stan are still in Townsville, and don't mind it too much, except that they seem to be so far away from everyone.

They will be home here at Young between Christmas and New Year, as they have 2 years holiday and Stan has taken a months long service leave. Says it is too far to drive for about 5 weeks. We thought that we would have a very quiet Christmas with only Keith and myself, and my sister from Goulburn, Valerie, said yes she would come and spend it with us seeing we were going to be on our own. However that is not the case now, as Phillip and Lorraine and the children will be here and also Lorraine's mother and father from Melbourne will

be coming, so we will have a Christmas Party, and as Jannette and Stan can't be here, we are having a second Christmas when they arrive, and Jan says she wants a tree, the works, seeing she is coming from Townsville. Oh well, I guess we will manage somehow. We will have a couple of caravans in the backyard, so everyone will have comfortable beds.

Keith is in the process of building shelves in the garage at the back, and transferring things from the garage under the house. It is a big job, but it will be lovely when it is finished. He is also building a stove in — on a cement block, and bricking it around — near the clothes line for a barbeque. That may be very handy when everyone arrives, and will be good for lazy meals in the evenings.

We have had quite a few visitors this year. Firstly we had Ken and Margaret Monk call and stay a night on their way home, after they had been on a short tour. We of course had a great old chin-wag. They had been out to see Jim Dent, and we had a chat to Jim when he rang to say they were there. We saw Jim in Adelaide, so were able to catch up with him. After the Safari we had George and Edith Vandeleur stay on their way back to Brisbane. They left here and called on Jack and Marj Peattie at Tamworth, before going on to McLean to see Happy Greenhalgh and staying there for 3 or 4 nights. We missed out on seeing Norma and George Hasson, as they didn't come through Young on their way around Australia. Never mind, next time. We are hoping that we might see Jess Epps, if she comes down this way, and I guess she will have some interesting tales to tell. We have been in touch with Merv and Marj Jones, and they are well, and also Joan Darge. Joan said she had called on Bob and Joyce Smith on her way to Queensland, and found them very well. That is certainly good news, and we were pleased to hear that. These of course all 2/2 members and wives.

Of course the main item of interest this year was the Safari to Adelaide, which I won't dwell on, as most of you have heard all about it, and some of you were there, except to say that we thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it, and we thought Adelaide a wonderful city. We walked for miles around gardens and old buildings, and were very impressed with the cleanliness everywhere. We were lucky too, as my sister is in Adelaide and although she had been ill with pneumonia, we were able to have a couple of days with Helen and Conrad, and see Caroline and Richard. They have a most historic church, being an old courthouse, and out the back it still has the old cells, walled courtyard for exercise, bathroom

and day-room. They make good use of them for storage. It was really good to see them as we had not seen them for over two years. My, don't children grow in that time. Both Caroline and Richard seemed to have grown so tall.

I had very good reports on my cancer scans again this year, and at the present time I have just had X-rays and blood tests, and both clear. I have these every six months, and it is a great lift to the morale to have them come back OK.

We have had a couple of trips to Canberra this year, but have not done much sightseeing really. It seems to be growing all the time and whenever we go over, it all seems to have changed and new shopping centres spring up. I have a sister living there too, so usually go over and see her and that takes up the time we would usually have spent sightseeing. We did make the effort to walk around some of the Native Botanical Gardens, on the Black Mountain, and found them really interesting. Some of the native trees and shrubs are really beautiful, and until you see them you don't realize how much they could do for your own garden, and of course make it so much easier to manage too. Coming home from Adelaide, we bought a few more grevillias. We have quite a few, but these were different again, and should be really pretty in a couple of years.

Well I am nearly at the end of the page again, so I will have to say Cheerio for now. Hope everyone is well and that you all have a very Happy Christmas, and bright and prosperous New Year and most of all a healthy one, which I think is the main thing as we get that little bit older.

Best wishes to all.

Keith and Betty Craig.

BROKEN HILL

Congratulations S.A. on a wonderful re-union. It was a wonderful time and I am looking forward to the next one.

Enclosed cheque to cover subs for next year (also this year I guess).

Regards, Lionel Newton.

WARRIEWOOD

Sorry I could not attend Safari, business commitments would not permit. Hope to make next one. June and I hope to take another trip to S.E. Asia and the Phillipines in the New Year.

Regards to all, Bill Bennett.

ALBURY

I guess I am like many others when it comes to putting pen to paper. As 1978 has almost had it, my conscience has got the better of me.

Firstly I must turn the clock back to Anzac Day 1978. The organisers of the day must be congratulated on a job well done. I liked the downhill going, the get together of the 2/2nd afterwards was equally well organised. Meeting the boys certainly made the trip worthwhile. I probably expected the boys to look the same as they were 35 years ago, when I remembered young Joe Poynton as a boy, but now grown old gracefully like the rest of us.

Made the trip to Geraldton and called on Eric Smythe for a brief chat. I was empty handed but Eric produced a cooling drink.

The winter time found me feeling poorly, had a couple of trips to Concord. Somebody suggested I had a couple of feathers in my throat from the Swan beer — I had run out of iron in the blood but have improved now. This upset plans for the Safari and the usual trip to Queensland for the winter. Eventually made Queensland and called on Sid Jones at Chevron Island. He was pleased to hear the news of Anzac Day in the West. Since then I have been over to Tassie to visit my mother, who now is in a Geriatric Nursing Home. Whilst in Tasmania our old mate Jack Sanson passed away on December 3, 1978. I was able to attend his funeral. Jack was in his 83rd year and was transport Sgt of the 2/40th. He was brought into Beco very sick and came back to Aussie on the same trip as Gerry Maley and the other casualties on May 24, 1942.

I am always pleased to receive the Courier, although the news is not always good like the passing of the greats Kevan and Bull and many other brave soldiers of our day.

Enclosing donation for Courier so that the good work can carry on.

I wish all the boys and their families the very best of what's ahead.

Dinny Dennis.

(Good suggestion to place new addresses on last page. Will attend to it — Editor.)

WOY WOI

Lorraine and myself are retiring from the grind in January 1979 and will be doing a bit of driving around Australia during the first year. Both of us are in good health and will take the advantage of it because they all reckon you only live once.

Regards to all unit members and especially 9 section (Timor).

All the best, Lorraine & Eric Herd.

GORDON

Congratulations to those concerned for a splendid job in maintaining publication of the Courier.

Seasons greetings, Ray Cole.

Well another great Safari has come and gone and what memories were taken away at the conclusion of a wonderful 11 days together. Our many thanks go to Dud Tapper and his committee for the untiring efforts and organising that was done by such a small band of workers.

I had a pleasant trip across to Melbourne with Wilma Tobin and Dot Boyland, thanks girls for your nice company and keeping me on the straight and narrow throughout the safari. For those that could not make the trip we were disappointed in not seeing old faces, next time perhaps.

I would like to say thanks through the Courier to all those that sent cards and good wishes to Phyllis after her operation. She really appreciated the thoughts and it gave her a great thrill. I had a letter from Frank Press and he and Kath were thrilled at receiving the card autographed by all at the safari.

I am back at work and it looks like a busy period for me with the shifting of the wheat crop to the seaboard. I do hope that everyone arrived home safely to their respective homes. Also that Len Bagley and Don Lattimer both got through without broken springs with all those souvenirs Dot and Dulcie bought.

Thanks Mick Morgan for your capable job as MC and the manner in which you conducted your band of talented artists and interpreters to decipher Paddy Kenneally's Irish Brogue.

In conclusion thanks once again Dudley to yourself and the boys and their wives for a job well done.

Regards to all, Frank Press.

VICTORIAN NEWS

We had a committee meeting on 28/11/78 and now that we have a new Treasurer (Bruce McLaren) we can get down to business again. I am enclosing a cheque for \$100 which was agreed on by the committee to send you for the association to help in costs for the Courier, as we are all very aware of the good it is doing.

I have sold about half of the car stickers you sent me and as we are having a Christmas evening coming up I hope to be able to sell the rest, and then I can send the money.

We are all well here and hope the same goes for you.

Regards, Harry Botterill.

MORNINGTON

Christmas greetings to all over in the West.

I must add my voice to those who enjoyed the Adelaide Safari. For get togethers it will be hard to beat.

I am enclosing a cheque for the Courier.

Regards to all, Max Davies.

COBURG

Typing the date at the top of this letter made me pause and think how long we have been sending out an annual letter at this time of the year to all of our friends. Must be all of 14 years and started when my mother was ill and the family were all very young. Found this was the only way I could cope with my mail in those days and it's just snowballed since then.

The past year has seen a few changes in the Robert's house. All for the best we hope and to date this is the case. Firstly of course, we had daughter Ruth home from England for the festive season. She had six weeks with us and the family all 'shared' her. Must admit it was hard for us to see her off at the airport but Ruth personally had had enough — she wanted to get back to Glyn who unfortunately couldn't make the trip with her. She is still the same delightful, easy-going Ruth. Her accent was a bit hard to take but by the end of the six weeks, she was talking more like her old self. Of course, a few weeks back in England and she was back to the accent again. Accent or not, it was wonderful seeing her looking so well.

John and I plan to have a reasonably quiet Christmas this year down at Neerim as last year, much as we loved having Ruth at home, was not an especially quiet time and also we did do quite a lot of travelling from one place to another. Actually, we are eating out this Christmas. Will just be John and I plus Craig, Jane and John's sister. Ian and Sue-Ann will be up at her parents' home this year. The family are starting their own traditions and John and I fully approve. I felt very sad at one stage when I realised that our numbers had dwindled but realise that it had to come. However, neither John nor I could face the fact of having Christmas at home with so few of the family in Melbourne. Guess it comes to all families some time or another so we should not expect to be the exception.

John is really keeping remarkably well. Doctor was very pleased when he gave John his check-up last week and now that the family are all established there is no need for John to work as hard as he has in the past. During the past two years he has slowed up a lot and cannot see any reason for not doing so. Still loves getting out of the city during the weekend as indeed I do, and hate the thought of having to return, especially during the warmer weather. At Neerim we still do our own 'thing' —

if we feel like doing anything we do it, if not we leave it go.

As for myself I'm very well. Find that I might be slowing down a little but still enjoy my work although I must admit that I'm looking forward to the holidays. Did have a bit of bad luck by breaking my wrist last May and although we were worried that I may have had to have some steel pins in it, this did not eventuate. I still have a bit of trouble with it by my forgetting that I can't carry anything of any weight and of course, the old arthritis has set in but apart from that it's not too bad. Makes one very humble when one realises just how people with physical handicaps cope so well. Also made me realise just how much our public hospitals do in the way of coping with people. I have the greatest admiration for them.

We had a very enjoyable 10 days in Adelaide this year meeting up with John's army friends and their wives. Usually have a get-together every two years and thoroughly look forward to it. Had near perfect weather during our stay and although 10 days doesn't sound so long, when the hospitality is as good as it usually is, we find this is long enough.

Well friends, in spite of the economic situation here in Australia, in spite of the fact that beer has gone up, in spite of all the nasty things that have been happening, John and I do wish you and your families, our sincerest good wishes for health and happiness during the coming year. To those who are not in the best of health at the present time, may 1979 treat you a little kinder and that all of your problems are at least minimised.

Warmest regards to all,

Cath & John Roberts.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NEWS

FLINDERS PARK

Enclosed is a copy of newspaper writing on the Pier Hotel where most of the people stayed — it might be of interest to some. The safari as you may have heard was a great success, I discovered quite a few tears on the good-byes and not only women.

I had dinner with the manager and his wife (from the Pier Hotel) last Sunday and he said the staff were still talking about the 2/2nd. They asked me could they attend the next safari as visitors wherever it may be held.

As yet we have not held a committee meeting as we have just finalised the accounts and we will send a balance sheet in the near future. Keith Dignum will send you a more complete run down on the safari later.

Regards, Dud Tapper.

FLINDERS PARK

As another year draws to an end Crow Eaters decided to hold our Annual Unit Dinner last Saturday, at the Pier Hotel. Despite the hot weather we had a record attendance and had a most enjoyable night. Several apologies were received due to sickness and work. Those present were the Dignums, K. Carthew, Timkees, Jordans, Williamsons, Tappers and Ron Mackey, fourteen all told.

The combined commando pennant and our colour patch still adorn the lounge bar in the Pier.

A Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year to all.

Dud Tapper.

VALE

It is with deep regret that I have to record the passing of several of our members during the last two months.

Frank Freestone passed away in England on 23/10/78. Frank returned to England a few months previously to spend the rest of his days with his brother. He had been in ill health for a considerable time before he left the West.

H. (Slim) Holden passed away at Taree on 30/11/78. Slim was one of the first reinforcements to arrive on Timor and joined No.4 section.

J. Sanson passed away on 3/12/78 in Tasmania. Jack was transport Sgt in the 2/40th and joined up with the 2/2nd after the fall of Koepang.

To the wives and families we extend our sincere sympathy.

QUEENSLAND NEWS

BRISBANE

Dear Scotty,

On Tuesday 2/10/78 Edna and I started off to Adelaide for the Safari, by car, motored through Warwick, Tamworth to Connabarban first day, countryside in very good condition, wheat as tall as the fences, green grass everywhere. Second day through Dubbo, West Wyalong Narrandera to Tocumwal, countryside also a delight to the eye, rained nearly all the way from Dubbo.

Third day crossed the Murray River travelled via the Murray Valley Highway through Echuca, I had not been on this highway since April 1937, I noticed a lot of improvements. White cockatoos were numerous near the road, the traffic did not seem to bother them at all. Passed through Kerang to Lake Boga, a cousin of mine that I have never seen lived here so we went to the P.O. and I

enquired if he was still in the district. He was and I was given directions to his place. Vic told me an uncle of ours was living in a Senior Citizens Home at Swan Hill. After farewelling Vic and his wife we left for Swan Hill to look up my uncle. We eventually found him and he was surprised to see us saying that he never expected to see us again.

The grapes in this area were just beginning to flower and many of the farms still had to be cleaned of grass, weeds etc. We continued along to Mildura, this area has got much bigger since we were there 14 years ago. It looks a very prosperous town, gardens down the middle of the streets. Leaving Mildura we travelled the Sturt Highway to Renmark, a contrast in the country after leaving Mildura, very dry in this area. I was told they hadn't had any rain for 6 months — just as well they can irrigate from the Murray River at Renmark, otherwise there would be nothing. By the way, we had been staying in Caravan Parks all the way. In Renmark we were camped by the river, a peaceful place, swans and pelicans and other water game in numbers.

Fourth day easy day to Adelaide. Passed through Waikerie, Blanch town to Gawler. Whilst filling tank at Shell Service Station was given directions on how to get to Glenelg without going through the city. I had Edna as navigator, usually not very reliable, but on this occasion was very good. Parked the car near Town Hall at Glenelg and went to Pier Hotel. First face of 2/2 I see is Charley King. I said who I was and who are you. He said "hello" George, you haven't changed much. At the safari there would have been at least 12 that I had not seen since June 1943. I was glad to see my old mate Col Doig. The years have caught up with him. Paddy Keanneally looks fit but did he have to carry on with a one-sided argument. About daylight saving, we don't want it in Queensland. This safari was our first and I must congratulate Dud Tapper, Bert Bache and Keith Dignum and wives and others for the amount of work that they did.

I met a lot of others of 2/2 that I had not known before and I was happy to meet them.

On Sunday 15/10/78 Edna and I left Adelaide en route by train to Perth. The train was comfortable but the scenery (or lack of it) left much to be desired.

On arriving Imperial Hotel I rang Scotty Wares. Said he would be at hotel next day. We did ½ day tour to Yanchep Caves first day and arranged a 5 day trip to Albany later in the week.

Scotty took us to Percy Hancock's

home in the morning — he looks well. Later Scotty called for Elsie and we had lunch at a Pancake House, then went to Ray Aitken's Nursery. He didn't know me to look at. He has a great nursery and he may be a good gardener but he makes a lousy cup of coffee — sorry, must tell the truth. Later met Jerry Haire and his wife. Scotty also took us to the Memorial Drive in Kings Park. Good work has been done, pity the vandals won't leave it alone. Went to Perth zoo, met Harold Brooker, looked well and happy with his animals.

During our 5 day trip to Albany from Perth saw masses of wild flowers, flowering trees. Weather very cold at Albany. Rang Ron Sprigg. His wife said he was in hospital, was given information and took a cab post haste. For a man who has no sight and numerous other complaints he is very cheerful. Could only stay ½ hour, hope you are home again Ron. Travelled through Denmark to Pemberton, had visit to local sawmills and Gloucester Tree. This area has many tall trees including 4 aces. Stayed overnight at Busselton, got in touch with Bob Palmer. He tried to get in touch with Alec Thompson but without success. Bob looks well and does a lot of golfing. On arrival back at Perth Scotty met us at terminal and took us to barbecue at Jack Carey's home and I met quite a few more 2/2 that I hadn't seen since June 1943. Next day we flew back to Adelaide.

Keith Dignum and wife were there to greet us. I had left my car in his safe hands while in W.A. He very kindly put me on right way to Elizabeth as I had intended going to Port Lincoln to see a cousin of mine. Stayed there 2 nights then on to Dimboola in Victoria, stayed there a weekend.

Stayed with Betty and Keith Craig at Young for a night, then to Tamworth to stay with Marg and Jack Beattie for one night, then to MacLean with my old mate George Greenhalgh. Stayed with him for a weekend. He has a pet Jackass, it won't leave him — too well fed.

When I turned into Bambrook Street we were glad to get home, had been way 6 weeks to the day, had only been on the road for 2 days of rain, the rest fine weather. I enjoyed the safari and trip to W.A. Hope sometime we can put on a safari in Brisbane.

Thanks to everybody who made our stay in the West enjoyable.

Regards, George Vandeleur.

CHERNSIDE

Nothing to report, but I do look forward to the Courier and reading about old friends. I was very pleased to receive

letters from Joe Burridge and Jim Smailes. I see Jim has changed his address — I wonder why, so I had better send him a few lines.

Regards to all, Wilbur Wallis.

BRISBANE

Arrived home yesterday. After leaving Adelaide we visited friends in Hamilton, Victoria, and Melbourne and our daughter in Kangaroo Valley near Nowra, N.S.W., then home in the middle of the petrol strike. Saw Jack and Norma Hasson at Mt Gambier and spoke to Max Davies and John Roberts in Melbourne. Had to attend a funeral in Sydney so had no time to contact anyone there.

This letter is mainly to record my thanks to all concerned for making our stay in Adelaide so enjoyable. Winston Churchill's quote: "Never have so many owed so much to so few" could apply to our mates in S.A. What a wonderful job they all did and what a wonderful time we all had. We owe them a tremendous debt of gratitude.

It is my bad luck that this was only the second safari I have attended but my advice to anybody who has not attended one at all is to try like blazes to make the next one. It is a wonderful experience and the comradeship is just superb, and it is one big happy family affair — which of course our unit was, a family.

My regards to one and all and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Basher Adams.

P.S.: Great to read your letter Jim Ritchie in the Courier.

TOWNSVILLE

Enclosing contribution for present and past Couriers and Association funds. Dorham is the correct handle. I think the DORAN was attached by our highly respected 2, I.C. Major Callinan.

Bye the bye, good Christmas and New Year to all Double Red Diamonders.

Dick Dorham.

(Have altered spelling in the change of addresses — Editor.)

MERMAID BEACH

Sorry to hear of your accident and hope you and your wife are well again.

I was unable to make the safari but did make a trip to Sydney and looked up Alan Luby, who made out a Statutory Declaration for me to send to the Dept. Veteran Affairs along with my appeal. I also saw Jack Hartley who came out to the caravan park and took me to his home for supper and we had a good old yarn.

I am still working on a casual basis but my doctor wants me to give it up and go on a pension, as panel beating

and in my state of health is no good. He got me to see a specialist who, after studying my X-rays, had me undergo treatment. He had me on the table for two hours and then told Val my wife that I could go home. She got a wheel chair and took me to our car. I was still out to it when we got home and slept right through the night. The next day my doctor told me there was a functional disorder of the bowel and little could be done. He said he would write to the Dept Veteran Affairs as he considered it a pensionable complaint. I just hope he keeps his word and writes.

Well, I will not bore you with any more of my troubles but wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

John & Val Hanson.

(Wishing you every success with your appeal - Editor.)

MAROOCHYDORE

I have not received any Couriers for some time. I notified my change of address when we shifted but would like to notify you again. Will you please inform me how much I owe for past dues.

All is well with our family. I have 7 grandsons under 6. I had a grand trip on the Krait when it went to Cairns and have some wonderful photos.

Give my best regards to all.

Yours, George Coulson.

(Have sent you an address book and also some back numbers of Courier - Editor.)

BRISBANE

We did enjoy our lovely trip to Adelaide and meeting up with the group again, and there is no denying the boys in Adelaide did us proud, didn't they? I only hope that if the next one comes to Queensland, we can arrange to give the same to all of the visitors who come to visit us too. Only thing, I do hope that all of the troubles of the government and its street marches has been ironed out well and truly before that time.

I have just collected some of the snaps taken while we were away, and am quite pleased with them. Those I took on the Sydney Safari were all a complete disaster but this lot are, to my mind, real good and we are both pleased with them. The ones taken at the barbecue, and on Victor Harbour trip, especially the one of the Wild Tulip which Charlie King told me was a noxious weed. How silly can I get.

Something I wanted to ask you too Len. When we were in Glenelg either Dot or yourself told me of a monument with the different units colorpatches on

it was some way down the road. I enquired of its whereabouts from many people, even getting the taximan to drive out to a spot where he thought it might be, but I had no luck finding it at all. What I was wondering was did you take a snap of it and if so, would you mind having an extra one done for me to put in my Album with the rest of the memories from Adelaide. I take them out every now and then and look them all over again. Still have a film to finish yet. That really was a wonderful trip over there, and I think was really enjoyed by all. Our only real disappointment was that we couldn't make it all the way over to West Aussie, but that is something to look forward to in the future.

I suppose you have heard all about Sam Fullbrook and his portrait of Sir John Kerr. Fred went to see him one day during the week, and said he was giving his opinion of the government in no uncertain manner. He has been on TV News too, so with the paper stories etc, he has been getting quite a bit of publicity in the last couple of weeks. Our Blessed summer in on us once more, as it seems to be over in Perth too, judging by the weather girl, but Oh Golly, how I hate Queensland summers. Much prefer the lovely weather we were having at Glenelg. Of course, included in that was the lovely company and accommodation. We were saying just last week to friends that the only bad day, was the one arriving in Brisbane. Of course it rained.

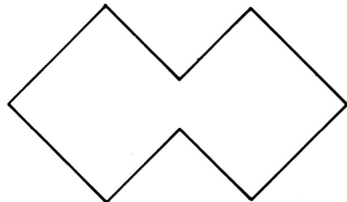
Well now, I think I have excelled myself this time, when it really should have been Fred doing the writing but never mind, he has written the cards for me, and that is something.

Must close now, but first like to send our regards to all members of the Unit there, and hope that everyone is enjoying the best of health and will continue to do so in the future.

Almost forgot to mention, included in this letter are some newspaper clippings of Sam, and also a cheque for whatever it can be used for.

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Regards from Phyllis & Fred Bryant.



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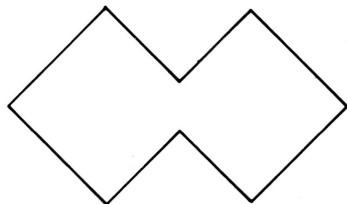
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RE NON DELIVERY OF COURIER

From time to time complaints are received that the Courier is not being delivered to certain members.

The Editor wishes to make it clear that every effort is made to ensure that EVERY MEMBER receives a Courier. As far as humanly possible he endeavours to alter change of addresses, both in the Courier addressing machine, and also in the published amendments to be added to the address book. He would like to emphasise that NO MEMBER'S NAME IS EVER removed from the Courier mailing list for any reason unless specifically requested (a very rare occurrence). Even when there is decease of a member, Couriers are still forwarded to the widow

unless she requests otherwise. SO — if for any reason your Courier does NOT arrive at the beginning of every second month, first check that your Editor has your present address, if you have recently changed it, or check with your local Post Office and mail man or check if some member of the household has misplaced it after bringing the mail into the house.

The Editor posts a Courier to EVERY MEMBER for whom he has an address, and cannot be held responsible for the vagaries of the postal service once it leaves his hands.

SCOTTY WARES, Editor.

NEW ADDRESSES

JORDAN, M.,
695 North East Road,
Paradise, 5075.
COSTELLO, P.,
Sunset Hill,
Leumeah, 2560.
HYLAND, Mrs D.,
Bonnie Doon,
Gulgong, 2852.
McKENZIE, C.G.,
68 Alfreda Avenue,
Morley, 6062.
BROWN, B.A.,
26 Scaddan Street,
Wembley, 6014.

DORHAM, R.,
Atoll Street,
Saunders Beach,
Townsville, 4810.
COULSON, G.,
313 Bradman Avenue,
Maroochydore, 4558.
TATAM, R.,
20 Dinsdale Place,
Hamersley, 6020.

In the last issue R. Dorham was spelt R. Doran so please alter to new spelling. Queensland list.