



2/2 COMMANDO Courier

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Parliament of Australia
House of Representatives

Dear Mr Langridge,

I refer to your query regarding the re-unification of Timorese families in Australia. I read the article in the February edition of the 2/2 Commando Courier and subsequently made enquiries to the Minister for Immigration. Officials of his Department have informed me that criteria for family re-unification have in fact been relaxed in the case of East Timorese families. Normally only spouses, dependent children and aged parents gain automatic entry, but the conditions have been extended to brothers, sisters and non-dependent children. It is however possible that difficulties could arise if the prospective migrants failed to meet health requirements, lacked formal sponsorship, or if the sponsors were unable to provide them with initial accommodation.

It would certainly appear that there are no official barriers to family re-unification and I would be interested to hear of any instances where re-unification has been obstructed.

Yours sincerely,
PETER DRUMMOND,
Member for Forrest.

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING OF THE 2/2nd COMMANDO
ASSOCIATION, W.A. Branch,
held at Anzac Club,
on TUESDAY, 6th MARCH, 1979.**

THE PRESIDENT: Mr G. Maley declared the meeting open and asked everyone present to stand, face the Honour Roll, and remember our fallen comrades.

PRESENT: G. Maley (in the chair), P. Hancock, C. Doig, R. Dhu, G. Fletcher, B. McDonald, H. Sproxton, A. Wares, J. Carey, C. Varian, A. Blundy, J. Fowler and L. Bagley.

APOLOGIES were received from J. Burrige, D. Turton and R. Kirkwood.

MINUTES of Annual General Meeting, held on Tuesday, 7th March, 1978, were read and confirmed on the motion of C. Doig, seconded P. Hancock.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

L. Bagley reported that the Association is affiliated with the Returned Soldiers League, and proposed that an "Association Meeting Notice" be inserted in every issue of the "Listening Post". The meeting signified its approval.

KINGS PARK: G. Fletcher reported that the post and plaque, at the southern end, had been damaged by vandalism. Repairs are being carried out by G. Fletcher and R. Dhu. George explained that the area was very dry, but nothing could be done about it, at the present time.

REPORTS

PRESIDENTS REPORT: L. Bagley read G. Maley's report, which covered all the activities and projects of the Association for the past year.

EDITOR'S REPORT: L. Bagley read A. Ware's report, concerning the printing and distribution of the Courier.

SAFARI RAFFLE: L. Bagley presented and tabled an audited Balance Sheet of the 1978 Safari Raffle.

TREASURER'S REPORT: P. Hancock circulated copies of the Annual Balance Sheet, and explained its contents to the meeting.

Mr R. Dhu congratulated the Treasurer on his presentation of the Balance Sheet.

It was moved by C. Doig and seconded by H. Sproxton, that all reports as tabled be received and adopted.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr C. Doig was elected Returning Officer. He then called for nominations and the following members were elected:

PRESIDENT: G. Maley, re-elected unopposed.

VICE PRESIDENT: J. Fowler, elected unopposed.

SECRETARY: L. Bagley and A. Wares were nominated. A. Wares said that the office of Secretary should be combined with that of the Editor. P. Hancock then moved that the position should be combined, seconded by J. Fowler, and carried. L. Bagley then withdrew his nomination.

SECRETARY/EDITOR: A. Wares elected.

TREASURER: P. Hancock, re-elected unopposed.

AUDITOR: J. Burridge, re-elected unopposed.

WARDENS: G. Fletcher and R. Dhu re-elected unopposed.

COMMITTEE: J. Carey, B. McDonald, H. Sproxtton, D. Darrington, A. Blundy, C. Varian, G. Fletcher and L. Bagley.

COUNTRY VICE PRESIDENTS have now completed one year of a three term.

Mr G. Maley thanked the Returning Officer, and congratulated all those who had been elected to office.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Mr G. Maley thanked L. Bagley for his assistance and the manner in which he had carried out his secretarial duties. He also congratulated past Committeeman C. Doig for the years of service he had contributed to the Association, and also commended R. Dhu for his past efforts as a Committeeman.

Mr C. Doig offered his thanks to L. Bagley for all he had done for the Association, and said he was a good organiser and administrator.

Mr R. Dhu then thanked G. Maley for his kind words towards him.

Mr C. Doig praised the Careys and the Poyntons for all the functions they have held at their homes, to help foster the welfare of the Association. He said these types of functions, including Country Conventions, seem more acceptable than monthly meetings.

ANZAC DAY: R. Dhu said that the Clarendon is in the process of being sold, but he was quite sure the new publican would be glad of our trade.

Mr C. Doig proposed a vote of thanks to G. Maley for the work he had done over the past year as President, and for his excellent Presidential Report. The meeting approved with acclamation.

In closing, the President, G. Maley, thanked the committee for their efforts of the past twelve months, and in parti-

cular he thanked L. Bagley, P. Hancock and A. Wares.

The Meeting closed at 10pm.

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ANZAC CLUB, TUESDAY, 1st MAY, 1979.

The President, Mr P.G. Maley, declared the meeting open at 8.10pm.

PRESENT: G. Maley, P. Hancock, D. Darrington, R. McDonald, H. Sproxtton, L. Bagley, A. Blundy, J. Carey, A. Wares.

APOLOGIES: J. Fowler, G. Varian, G. Fletcher.

Minutes of previous meeting held on 3rd April, 1979, were read and confirmed on the motion of H. Sproxtton, seconded L. Bagley.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mr P. Hancock presented the statement of accounts.

Balance bought forward \$480.82

RECEIPTS

Anzac Day	\$279.00	
Car Stickers	4.00	
Courier Donation	249.07	
Tie Clips	3.00	535.07
Total		\$1015.89

PAYMENTS

Postage Stamps		
L. Bagley	\$ 5.00	
Anzac Day Wreath	18.00	
Print April Courier	260.00	283.00

Balance as at 1st May, 1979 **\$732.89**

Finance received and accounts passed for payment on motion of A. Blundy and seconded D. Darrington.

CORRESPONDENCE: Inward from Australia Post, J. Goodhew, J. Roberts, D. Tapper.

Outwards — H. Botterill, D. Tapper, B. Bache.

It was moved J. Carey, seconded L. Bagley, that inward and outwards correspondence be received and confirmed.

WARDEN'S REPORT: In the absence of Mr G. Fletcher, The President reported that Mr Bryce was having new plaques made and they would be erected on new posts away from the trees. Mr Rod Dhu would liaise with Mr Bryce.

ANZAC DAY SERVICE: It was moved J. Carey, seconded R. McDonald that a letter be sent to the R.S.L. that the song Advance Australia Fair be substituted for Land Of Hope and Glory. Carried.

SAFARI 1981: It was moved L. Bagley, seconded H. Sproxtton, that the next Safari be held in Queensland, and that Mr Adams be advised by letter. Carried.

Discussion on Anzac Day March: Mr Bagley suggested that the first two ranks of the parade be filled by Committee members. It was decided to leave it to the President to select the members to fill the first two ranks.

FORTH COMING EVENTS:
Luncheon B.B.Q. at Charlie King's on 23rd September, 1979. Annual Dinner at R.S.L. Club on 3rd November, 1979 at 6.30pm. Commemoration Service, Kings Park, 4th November, 1979, at 3.00pm. Christmas Drinks, at R.S.L. Club, on 4th December, 1979 at 7.30pm. Meeting closed at 9.30pm.

COMING EVENTS

LUNCHEON B.B.Q. AT CHARLIE KING'S, 489 ALBANY HIGHWAY, BEDFORDALE, 23rd SEPTEMBER, 1979.

ANNUAL DINNER, AT R.S.L. CLUB, SHERWOOD COURT, PERTH, ON 3rd NOVEMBER, 1979, AT 6.30pm.

COMMEMORATION SERVICE, KINGS PARK, 4th NOVEMBER, 1979, AT 3pm.

CHRISTMAS DRINKS, AT R.S.L. CLUB, ON 4th DECEMBER, 1979, AT 7.30pm.

WEST AUSTRALIAN NEWS

WEMBLEY

Please find enclosed a cheque for Courier and Association, my apologies for the delay. I am not about to bulldust, why I have not attended any of our meetings lately, but the truth of the matter is after taking about seventeen months to come through my operation, I am now beginning to feel my old self.

I have recently transferred my R.S.L. membership to the Wembley-Floreat sub branch and I am told our association is invited along from time to time.

This coming Wednesday I'll be playing bowls at Floreat Bowling Club and at this time every year I meet up with Fred Napier, a true veteran bowler, who will never say die, whenever there is a game of bowls on.

Talking of bowls, the "R.S.L. Bowls Section" is well established with over 300 members and increasing, with our headquarters in the Kitchener Park Bowling Club, pending the return to Anzac House. If anyone is interested in joining the ranks for three dollars per year, the above club is the place to apply.

Congratulations to President Gerry and his committee for their untiring efforts to have "CANBERRA" recognise our concern for the people of TIMOR. At least we are on the files of the Department of Foreign Affairs Portfolio. It is most gratifying to know that such a small unit as the 2/2nd Commandoes can stand up and be counted.

Regards to everyone and the best of health, it's so very important to us all.
Colin Criddle.

P.S.: Courier is well edited and received, keep the good work up Scotty.

SOUTH PERTH

Enclosed please find a sub for the "Courier". The latest edition is really a grand effort. There is no doubt about Elsie as a feature writer.

Kind regards,

Jerry Haire.

KOJONUP

Enclosed please find a cheque for the Courier.

The Poynton's party has been and gone, one of our better days I think. Missed you there Scotty but hope you are in good health now.

We enjoyed our overseas trip with the Campbells very much. Paddy Kenneally really made our Irish visit great, would like to go back there again some day. There was a very funny thing happened in a little pub. The girl behind the bar said I can guess where you two come from, Australia or N.Z., but the other chap has a funny accent, just can't pick it — of course Paddy was putting on his best Irish.

Will be coming down for Anzac Day, will be bringing a friend to keep me company for the drive. He was in the air force and flew about Timor during the war and some of the boys have met him.

All the very best,

Tony Bowers.

ROCKINGHAM

Great to be back in W.A. again, and receiving the Courier O.K.

Best wishes to yourself and all the boys, hope to catch up with you all when I settle this business down.

Please let me know if the attached is not sufficient.

Sincerely, Don Murray.

ANZAC DAY IN W.A.

A number of members assembled for the Dawn Service where a wreath was placed on the Memorial by George Fletcher and Len Bagley, on behalf of the Association.

The 10.00am march was led by our President Gerry Maley and the Unit Flag was again carried by Mick Morgan. There were 48 members plus 2 visitors marched which is really not a bad effort but still there are a great number of metropolitan members who could make an effort and swell the ranks.

The luncheon was again held at the Clarendon Hotel and the new proprietors made every effort to satisfy our needs. The luncheon was again in the capable hands of Jack Carey and he certainly turns on a great spread and there should be no complaints as there were vast quantities and certainly it was delicious.

Among the visitors from interstate and country were — Ray Cole from Sydney, Tony Bowers, Tom Foster, Ernie Bingham, Terry Paull, Joe Poynton, Arthur Smith.

Our thanks also to Delys Carey who brought all the food to the hotel after the march and thereby saved Jack the job of having to go and pick it up.

VISITOR TO PERTH

A visitor to Perth early April was Doug Dixon and wife Shirley, accompanied by their two friends Jack and Vi. They were here for a sports carnival conducted by the Commonwealth Works Department.

Doug had not been on the Courier mailing list since before I took over the job and it was great that he had contacted me and now we have his address and I gave him some back numbers of the Courier.

By all appearances the four of them seemed as if they were enjoying themselves at Elsie's birthday party.

Sorry Doug that our trip to Mandurah was not the success that it should have been, only Joe and Helen Poynton home, but then Joe was the one you wanted to contact.

INTENDING VISITORS TO WESTERN AUSTRALIA

It would be greatly appreciated by the W.A. Committee if Unit Members intending to visit W.A. would advise the Secretary, G.P.O. Box T 1646, Perth,

6001, of their probable time of arrival and duration of their stay.

The idea behind this is so that arrangements can be made for an evening get together and will enable the visitors to meet up with old army mates.

When writing please state the section of the unit that you were in and if there are any particular persons you would like to meet. By supplying this information the various ones can be contacted to make sure they will be there.

The President wishes to thank the following for donations towards the Courier and Association:

C. Knight, R. McArthur, T. Adams, R. Snowden, R. Williamson, L. Isenhood, L. Litchfield, J. Hasson, J. Haire, T. Bowers, J. Goodhew, T. Paull, J. Burridge, R. Nieuzerling, D. Darrington, R. Kirkwood, A. Smith, M. Morgan, J. Poynton, R. Watson, C. Doig, G. McKenzie, T. Foster, D. Studdy, J. Fowler, F. Sparkman, R. McDonald, H. Sproxtton, D. Turton, J. Lillie, C. Gorton, B. Barnes, U. Wright, A. Boast, J. Roberts, D. Murray.

SICK PARADE

Several of our members have been reported on the sick list lately.

Bob Smith has been in hospital in Newcastle for some weeks and was taken by ambulance to Sydney for X-rays as there was no X-ray of the type required at Newcastle. Last report was that he had to remain in the Prince Of Wales Hospital, at Randwick. Hope that you are now on the mend Bob.

Tom Martin was in Concord Hospital Sydney and the last report he was still in the intensive care ward. Now in his eighth week in a coma.

Jim English was also in Concord Hospital and underwent surgery which nearly proved fatal. Last report he was still very sick but was on the improve.

Rip MacMahon is in Hollywood Hospital and underwent surgery.

Tom Martin (Miling, W.A.) is in Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital due to a heart attack and no visitors were allowed until 28/4/79. Visited him on 28/4/79 and greatly improved. Expects to be discharged early May.

B. Giles is at present in R.P.H. for tests on chest.

NEW SOUTH WALES

EPPING

Just a brief note hoping that all is well in W.A. At present we are undergoing a very hot and humid period here and January has been the driest for 38 years. Most rural areas are crying out for rain. Received a note from Dud Tapper, I have been requesting a copy of the notes taken by Bert Bache in regards to our next safari held at the Pier Hotel, so far at time of writing I have not received same.

N.S.W. members on sick parade are Jim English in Concord Repat Hospital and Tom Martin in the Prince of Wales Hospital for surgery. Paddy and I visited Jim English and he is suffering from very painful disc trouble.

Anzac Day is again upon us and I would request a large roll up of N.S.W. boys. Received news that Jack (Doc) Cain passed away in Balmain Hospital. On advice from Balmain R.S.L. he had no relations here and according to their records he enlisted in Victoria. Would any unit member knowing anything of Doc's background please let me know as soon as possible.

Please extend best wishes to Elsie from Betty and myself, also to all committee members and their wives.

Regards — Mick Devlin.

NEWRYBAR

Regards to all members and old mates. As you can see I have changed my address and am now about three miles from our old mate Russ Blanch. I have joined the Bangalow Bowling Club and Russ is one of the committee.

My wife and I have sold our business in Ballina and I officially retire on the 24th May next. We had a visit from Jack and Norma Hasson while they were touring over this way. Regards to both of them and thanks for the Christmas card Jack.

All for now — Col Knight.

CARDIFF

It is quite a time since I last gave you any news. Main thing just now is my daughter Gail and Philip who are to have a baby any day now. I can only hope God will be kind to them as it was this time last year they nearly lost their little girl. Then such devastating news of losing so many members with the Bull.

The wonderful time Scotty and Elsie gave us and the very wonderful Dawn Service and Anzac March with the amazing dinner after it and meeting 50

of the boys, that I will never forget. I do not say it will be the last. To all and everyone, good health and God be with you.

Les Isenhood.

(Glad to hear from you Les and Gloria.)

YAGOONA

A budget for the Courier, about time I got around to it. I sincerely hope that our W.A. members are enjoying better health than some of our "Cornstalkers".

Jack "Doc" Cain passed away earlier this month, however was only laid to rest a couple of weeks ago. There was always an aura of the unknown about "Doc". He died that way too, in Balmain Hospital. He gave Balmain R.S.L. as next of kin. Fortunately Dulcie Latimer, Don's wife, saw the notice in the paper and the fact that he was a 2/2nd member. She rang Alan Luby who instigated enquiries. The upshot of it all, "Doc" was laid to rest in the Catholic Section of Botany Cemetery. I was informed too late to change plans to attend funeral. It was a hurried affair when things were straightened out. We are currently trying to trace any relatives. "Doc" was a VX number, he served in 10 section in New Guinea. A tall lean bloke who boasted long side burns in an era of short back and sides. I have an idea he was along with Tom Nesbit and Terry Paull and perhaps Harvey James, on the patrol on which Phil Hopper was killed and Harry Cole wounded. This event was late January or early February 1944. Any ten section men (which was an extra one made up of blokes coming back to the unit) who were active in the section at that time must remember him. He was a character who stayed in a mans mind. Could any of them remember him ever talking about family, relations or friends. Now for GOD's sake, if any one does remember, make some kind of effort to let us know. Pen and paper are not lethal weapons, so if you know anything about him drop a line to the N.S.W. branch secretary with the information.

Tom Martin had a very big operation, something to do with a stricture. Last I heard he was still in intensive care. He had been there for 17 days and more to go. I saw him four days after the op. The nurse warned me that whilst he did not look too good he was really doing well. Mother of God Tom, if your quite well I'd hate to see you doing badly.

Misfortune still dogging Jim English, he has been in Concord Hospital for 7 weeks. They operated on him on 20/3/79 or I should say started to. The surgeon cut an artery in the neck, an artery which he has never known to be in that particular area, on any person he

has ever operated on. They had to plug and sew up immediately before he drowned in his own blood. Even then it was touch and go, and at time of writing improving but still dangerously ill. As long as I have known Jean and Jim they have been constant companions with misfortune.

Pauline English will be swimming across Sydney Harbour, to raise funds for the Paraplegics. Good luck Pauline, and I believe your smile will be the most beautiful on TV when you reach Circular Quay.

My clan well. Nora causing a furore in the Nowra area. There is not much of her in inches, she carries a lot of fight in a small frame. Sean heading back to the Territory Monday, he will be missed around the place. He has been working hard whilst at home and put a good bank together. Michael and Gerald well. The latter dreaming of a dollar empire. The former just working along and studying, takes life as it comes. NORA, there's only one NORA. She is the hub of this family wheel, and no matter where they go, they will always come back and in between times send her long letters of their doings.

Sorry I had to be the bearer of so much bad news. I will write after Anzac Day and please God the news will be good enough to hold a real "Old Hooley" to celebrate.

Good night, Good luck and GOD Bless all.

Paddy Kenneally.

EPPING

As usual running late with the N.S.W. news for the Courier, however I thought it best to wait until Anzac Day. This year the attendance was down but only by a few regular members but this was offset by a few surprise visitors who came to Sydney for the occasion. Our visitors as follows — Bob Smyth from W.A., Ron Orr from North Coast, Lionel and Elsie Newton from Broken Hill, Tom Field from Muswellbrook. It was pleasing to see Stan Cullen and son John prior to the march. Stan is the younger brother of unit member Jim and gave a good report on the old gentleman's activities around Kyogle. We also had the pleasure of Merv Barclay, brother of Geoff, join us for the day, along with our two stalwarts Ken Glover and Ray Whitely. As is customary each year a wreath was placed on the Centopath in remembrance to the fallen Comrades of the 2/2nd. The wreath laying party were J. Hartley, R. Orr, B. Hoy, L. Newton and M. Devlin. A further wreath laying ceremony was carried out by the Combined Commando Ass. at the Shrine

of Remembrance prior to the march. It was well attended by ex-commando's, Z force. In the absence of Al Luby and Bill Bennett who were overseas, Al Addison carried out the official duties associated with such occasions. Members present and not previously mentioned were — Mick Mannix, J. Keenahan, R. Goodacre, Snow Went, B. Coker, R. Hilliard, M. Jones, S. Weir, P. Kenneally. Al Addison moved a vote of thanks to

Jack Hartley for our catering needs. The afternoon re-unions were left to choice of the individual member, with two options open — a harbour cruise or a visit to Arncliffe R.S.L.

Members on the sick list at present, with up to date reports: Jim English returned to Concord for an operation on the vertebrae, for relief of the pain he has been suffering over the past few months. Speaking to Jean it appears that the first operation was aborted and Jim is home and has to return in 3 months, this time hopefully for a success — keep your chin up Jim! Ron McArthur has also returned to Concord for more tests, and on my last visit to him, no definite result yet. He still spins a good yarn and giving plenty of cheek. Bob Smith is presently undergoing tests and specialist treatment. He was one of the regulars sadly missed on Anzac Day. Bobs schedule is at present arranged on a 5 day hospitalised, and two weeks at home. Bob informs me that this will continue for some time. When he is hospitalised he can be found on the first floor of the Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick, and as this is a long way from his Newcastle home he would dearly welcome members of the 2/2nd who can spare some time to visit, as would any other members unfortunate enough to be sick. Also in the Prince of Wales is our old friend Tom Martin. Tom has fought a terrific battle over the past eight weeks after what appeared to be a straight forward operation. One complication after the other set in, with the result that he has been in the intensive care ward for the whole of the time. I was talking to his wife Mary today and Tom's condition has improved and that he can converse with her softly and he is now being fed solid foods. He is now able to sit up for short spells.

N.S.W. members are reminded that annual subs are now due, also that the next meeting is to be held either on the 1st or 2nd Monday in Junr 1979, depending on which Monday the Queen's Birthday holiday is allocated. It is most important that we get a good roll up to this meeting as the main item on the agenda is the venue for safari 1981.

Well Scotty, it was nice to speak to you on the phone from W.A. the other

evening and also to receive your letter. We all wish you well in your elected office. Bet sends her love to all.

Best wishes to Elsie and yourself.
Regards — Mick Devlin.

DEE WHY

I've been having some of my sick leave as a result of having a new Stapes bone fitted into my left ear (Stapedectomy) on 9th January — was just feeling the benefit of the rest, sun and sand therapy and now my back has gone on me again, but not as severe as I have had and hopefully some physio will fix it. Need to get it right as we and the Bennetts have planned a trip to Hong Kong, Macau, Penang, Singapore, etc. from 8th April.

I have an appointment with my Repat Ortho man and will see what he has to say. My pension was increased, on an application I made some time ago, so I will also check on his estimation of appeal. I have prepared a letter requesting full medical cover from Repat, but advice from Wal Newington, our R.S.L. Senior Pensions Officer, advises that the Ministers reply to a motion from Federal Congress is to the effect, "in view of the state of the economy, that policy cannot be implemented at the present time". He suggested that it should be placed on Sub Branch Agendas again for this year's Congress in order to keep the pot boiling. You might be able to organise the appropriate motions over in W.A. and also mention it in the Courier. Recently June Bennett had a library book out with the title "Journey Through Timor" by J. Gert Vondra, Lansdowne Press 1968 — quite interesting and it revived a lot of memories of things and people of 36 years ago. I have been trying unsuccessfully to contact Deolinda regarding the newly arrived batch of Timorese but can't raise him.

You might recall me speaking about Don Newport from 2/12 Cmndo, and his efforts to obtain material for film and book stories. Would you keep that alive too, he is also seeking artifacts or examples of wartime weapons and equipment.

It was certainly a great Safari with its usual feature of goodwill and the satisfaction of seeing old friends, as well as sharing briefly their joys or their problems. We also had a pleasant trip home although we overdid the time and mileage to make it in 2 days — we haven't got the same kind of stamina we used to have. The memory is somewhat saddened by the loss of Barry Lawrence.

We are still awaiting the minutes from the Adelaide meeting and hope to have them by our March meeting. Basher Adams phoned Mick Devlin and said they were ready to commence organising if it was decided to make Queensland the venue for 1981.

With best wishes to all our friends.
Alan Luby

SOUTH GRAFTON

I am both pleased and grateful to be receiving the Courier after having been out of contact with members of the unit over these many long years.

I was boarded out of the Army medically unfit, and on a war pension just two weeks before the end of the war. I wandered the country contract working with bull-dozers, and earth moving machinery, tank sinking, scrub clearing, road work, etc., mostly in the western district of N.S.W., then down to Shepparton and Tatura, and finally to Traralgon in East Gippsland where I met Kev Curran and Campbell Rodd a few times.

After falling victim to that scrub typhus in New Guinea I was never the same physically after returning to the unit after discharge from the A.G.H. at Lae where I was at the time of illness.

When we came home from New Guinea I spent many months in R.G.H. Concord where the doctors, physiotherapists, tried to get some feeling back into my legs that were in the process of becoming numb. But the treatment was not much help to me and I have to have calipers fitted to my legs. I managed to do my work OK, driving dozers, etc., but as I grew older I guess I became worse. My muscles in my legs gradually ceased to function and I went into R.G.H. in Melbourne for further treatment and was advised to cease work altogether and was put on a T.P.I. pension. This was in 1959.

So I had to sell up everything and return to my home state again. I have these many years now been a paraplegic and confined to a wheelchair. This was pretty hard to take at first as I have always been very independent, but I guess one becomes accustomed to it all over the years. I drive my own specially fitted car (hand operated controls) and spend most days painting — mostly landscapes, horses and such. Nursing sisters call each day and assist me to shower, dress, etc. I am married and have four children, my good wife is a great help to me.

As one becomes older this condition that the scrub typhus left me gradually weakens the muscular system over the years, and to some extent affects my breathing. I spend a good deal of my

time hooked up to the oxy bottle. I am going to R.G.H. Concord tomorrow (6/3/79). Perhaps they may come up with some new treatment. When in Concord last year I met quite a few of the boys — Mick Devlin (who arranged for me to get the Courier), Sandy Eggleton (looks well), Merv Jones, and several others. It would be great if one could make it to the next Safari. Tom Crouch called in home here a few years back. It's sad to hear of Tom's passing. I see Ron Orr often (he lives in South Grafton also), also had a day with Jimmy Cullen, also had a call from Jimmy Foote last time he was down this way.

I am enclosing a cheque for sub and look forward to getting the Courier though there are some I cannot remember by name.

My regards go out to the W.A. boys, Jack Carey, Harry Sproxtton, Ralph Finglestein, Alf Hillman and other nine section boys.

I would like to hear from anyone who feels like writing a few lines. I will reply to any letters. It's great to get the news of the members through the Courier bringing back names I had forgotten. I personally feel ashamed of myself to have been out of touch since the war years and the comradeship we all shared, one that I am proud to think back on. Also thoughts of sorrow for those who did not come back. I do not think that there was a better unit than the 2/2nd.

My best wishes to all.

Regards — Ron (Joe) McArthur.

VICTORIAN NEWS

WESTALL

Dear Scotty,

Just a line to let you know that we had quite a good turn up to the Reunion this year, about 19. Alan Hollow and his good wife Hazel, her brother and his wife, came over from South Australia for the week. Eileen and Bill Sharp organized a night at the Caulfield Central R.S.L., the numbers were small, but we had a good time.

On the Saturday before they left, we had a B.B.Q. here at our place, those present were Sir Bernard and Lady Naomi Callinan, John & Shirley Southwell, Harry & Olive Botteril, Alan & Hazel Hallow, their brother Frank and sister-in-law Muriel, Bill & Eileen Sharp, Stan & Marie Whitford and their son Frank and his wife Tina and one small son. The weather was spot on, and everyone enjoyed the day immensely, the amber and the snags.

Please find enclosed something to help in some little way.

Yours faithfully,
Alec and Beryl Boast.

EAST COBURG

Our trees are taking on their beautiful autumn tonings here in Victoria which reminds me that I have not written for some months. Our weather over the past few weeks has been simply delightful but it now looks as though we are not to expect many more days such as we have been having. However, I guess we would get very bored if the weather remained the same throughout the year.

Reading the April edition of the Courier was, as usual, most interesting. Special mention should be made of the 'I Remember' article by Elsie Wares. Reading it through must have stirred up memories in all of us, memories that had been pushed to the back of our minds over the years. Our own off-spring have never known such periods — and I pray they never will — but I can't help thinking that our generation came out on the whole, remarkably well and I still have faith in our children that should adverse conditions hit them, they will have the strength, courage and know-how to cope with them.

Family news is rather scarce. Ian and Sue-ann plus grandson Timothy have settled into their new home and are busy planning all the alterations etc. which have to be done in a 90 year old house. They are just going quietly and not rushing things — what they do now will have to last them for many years to come. Timotny — now nine months — is of course our delight. John and I see them at least once a week and of course we are called on now and then to babysit — a chore we do most willingly.

Sue and Eric — well, Eric is here in Australia after touring Asia for six weeks writing articles for his paper. Sue stayed in England as in all probability Eric will be posted back there. They thought it better for Sue not to travel with Eric at this particular stage as she has a fairly good job and they are very hard to come by. Besides, they both love England — snow, sleet, rain — the lot.

Ruth and Glyn have also settled into their new home which is outside Shrewsbury, their old home being in the centre. I think travelling to work and back would be about the same distance but very hazardous during the weather they have had over the past few months. As the girls both say, once you get used to driving in the weather they have been having, you can confidently say you can drive anywhere. Not for me thank

near. John and I send one and all our sincere good wishes and hope that everyone is saving up for our next safari. To all those friends, from whichever state they live in, who have not enjoyed the best of health, our sincere good wishes for improvement.

Do hope that the various states have a good roll up on Anzac Day with not too many suffering from the 'morning after the night before'. Just as an aside, the new Victorian beer which has 30% less alcohol is proving a very popular beverage.

Cheers for now.

John & Cath Roberts.

QUEENSLAND NEWS

ROCKHAMPTON

Herewith please find cheque for small amount to be used for Courier and Association. I must thank you for your kind favour of keeping me supplied with the Courier which has enabled me to keep in touch, by thought, with all my friends for that is what I call those who wore the Double Diamond. When I look at the date at the head of this note I think where have the years gone, 37 years since we were put to the test and I think we survived the test well enough although age is creeping up. I am 71 and more or less confined to bed but am lucky to have my wife looking after me. Well I would like to write more but must have a spell. Best wishes to all members and if I ever get you on a parade ground again I will try and be nice to you all.

Frank Craigie.

TAIGUM

Last night Edna and I showed the slides we took of the safari in Adelaide and of our holiday in W.A. Our guests were George & Mel Mathieson and Lois & Angus MacLachlan. We had previously met Lois & Angus at the Mathieson's home a few weeks ago. After comparing notes Angus and I discovered we went to Foster together to be in the 2nd 4th company.

Up until 2 weeks ago the weather had been very hot but has cooled off somewhat now.

Regards to Elsie and yourself and hope you are enjoying the best of health.

Regards — George Vandeleur.

INGLEWOOD

Back in the hotel business and note change of address. Right on Cunningham Highway, would be pleased to see anyone who is passing this way. Had a call from Arnold Webb last week who was visiting Queensland and old acquaintances

you — my old bones just wouldn't take it — nerves either I guess.

Craig and Jane still going exceptionally well. Craig has his head down studying for his final exams in June after which he may go overseas for a short period or buy a new car. Jane had the misfortune to get one of the numerous viruses which are raging here in Melbourne at the present time and was off work for a week. Occupational hazard in her situation I suppose, but it wouldn't have been fair on the children at the kindergarten for her to have gone to work, even if she had felt like it.

John — Well, he has given up work in the city and is now working at home. I would like to say that he has semi-retired but this wouldn't be quite true. Work is still plentiful for him but it cuts out the travelling to and from the city. I love it — no longer have to worry about the washing getting wet!!! All jokes aside, it has proven to be quite successful for John, and the family and I are delighted with the move.

As for myself, I still plod along. Had two of my American relatives out for two weeks recently and thoroughly enjoyed their visit and catching up with all their news. Took them sight-seeing and the cameras were clicking all the time. John took them to a special spot he knows near our house in Neerim and they were very lucky to see a Lyre bird and parrots more or less in their native habitat. They were amazed at the profusion of flowers etc. which were out at that particular time. Took them to our local pub for a counter meal — apparently such things are non-existent in the USA.

Easter is coming up, then Anzac Day — where has the year gone! It seems no time at all since we celebrated Christmas. I think I mentioned in my last letter that we were eating out for the first time in our lives for Christmas Day. Left for the restaurant with mixed feelings but decided that if we couldn't have the whole family with us at that time, this is what we would be doing in the future. Hopefully, those of the family living overseas will be joining us this year. One reason that I am not going overseas is that I can see no percentage in going and having them follow me back by the next plane. However, I'll get there one day (hopefully).

We have had one Association meeting this year. Not a very good turn-up. The old stalwarts but at least we are holding together. George (Pancho) Humphries had 'a' birthday recently and wife Win put on a lovely party for him — enjoyed by all. They had a trip to Bali in February and had a great time.

Well folks, the end of this letter is

in the South East area. Many old stories revived and memories renewed.

Regards — Neil Hooper.

RAINWORTH

Iris and I are still recovering from a very busy Christmas and January with our family — 3 grandchildren takes some keeping up to — maybe we are getting out of practise.

Please allocate enclosed cheque as you think best.

Regards to all,

Basher Adams.

TOWNSVILLE

Enclosed cheque for past and present Courier fund. Ran into a chap a while back who called me Lucky. His name is George Frederick Powell, a signaller, QX4534 and his address is 68 Norris Street, Hermit Park, Townsville. I think he came from Brisbane and would like to be on the Courier list.

Regards to all members and hope they are enjoying good health as I am myself.

Lucky Goodhew.

TARRAGINDI

Jack passed away on 26/11/78. He always did enjoy the Courier and had he been alive to read the write up in THE BULLETIN on TIMOR he would have been very pleased and proud.

All the best to you and all on the West side and may you keep in good health. God Bless and regards to Keith Scarffe and Jack Sue.

Yours sincerely,
(Mrs) Ursula (Lou) Wright.

(Deepest sympathy to you and family in the passing of Jack, from all association members. It is the first we have heard of his passing — Editor.)

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NEWS

GLENELG NORTH

Enclosed is a cheque to help things along. I am on leave at present and am going to Pt. Pirie next week where I should see Jim Veal. The following week we are going to Victoria and possibly shortly to Queensland.

I keep in touch with Dud Tapper and Keith Dignum but have not seen any of the other boys.

Clarice and I still discuss the safari. It was a very good show and wonderful to see everyone again. Must go now.

Regards to all.

Clarice and Bob Williamson.

FLINDERS PARK

It gives me great pleasure to inform you we successfully pinned the life

membership tie clasp on one Keith Dignum at a dinner at the Pier Hotel on Friday 23rd March, 1979. Those present were Bert & Sylvia Bache, Ted Timcke, Ron Gurr, Keith & Betty Dignum, Mark & May Jordan, Dud & Audrey Tapper, Bill & Bobby White who are friends of the Timckess and Tappers. Bill is ex navy and was on the Manoora when we went to Rabaul. Many thanks to Ron Gurr who made it for the occasion. Ron is now retired and living at Coonawarra. Apologies from Bob & Clarice Williamson on holidays. Don Stevens a congratulatory letter read at the dinner, Col Carthew a similar letter. Alan & Hazel Hollow who could not make it, also Ross Smith.

To the safari people Steve & Ann who managed the Pier Hotel, are no longer there having moved to another hotel owned by Ann's father.

All for the present, regards to all.
Dud Tapper.

FLINDERS PARK

In reply to your letter I have to advise that the meeting you referred to was in effect a discussion only and no minutes were actually kept. The gathering did not comprise all members of the safari as it was called at a minutes notice, but the outcome of it was most N.S.W. members favoured Queensland, some wanted S.A. to remain as the centre of Australia and finalised. I insisted that any decisions must come from your committee. However Victoria said they could not handle a safari at this stage. N.S.W. was not even mentioned, as the Queensland boys were very keen to hold it. I have had a note from Bash Adams and he is ready to go when given the green light. We in S.A. are willing and ready any time to stage another when your committee decide. Personally Scotty, I find Queensland might be a bit tough on some of the W.A. boys — only a poll will give you an idea on that. I could see the best part of a couple of thousand dollars down the drain which is beyond me personally. As you know we have \$1200 trapped at 8% interest that we intend to send to whoever holds the next safari. From experience we know that some money is required to confirm bookings.

In regard to Ted Mulcahy's address, I have not heard from him so can't help you there.

Congratulations on a good job you are doing with the Courier and as secretary as well — you are a tiger for punishment.

Regards to Elsie and yourself.

Dud Tapper.

VALE

On May 13th, 1979 Association members were saddened by news of the death of their late comrade and friend, Ronald James Sprigg. Ron served in Timor and New Guinea and always has a great interest in unit activities. He liked nothing better than to meet up with some of his old buddies and to have a good chin wag. For well over twenty years Ron was plagued by chronic ill health and his gradually failing eyesight forced him into early retirement. For the last couple of years of his life, Ron was totally blind. Always full of fun and with a great sense of humour, Ron never let his illness get him down, and remained cheerful and uncomplaining till the end. For the latter months of his life Ron was hospitalised and when we saw him at Easter, was so weak he could not stand or walk without help. Yet he still was cheery and talking of the future — a future he must have known he would never see.

Ron's greatest support was his devoted wife, Win. She was his eyes

and his life for many years. Win drove Ron to many places in the State and all over Australia so that he could enjoy his greatest pleasure — meeting up with his mates. Ron and Win attended Safaris, social doings and meetings when in Perth. Ron was a great member of the Association.

Ron was laid to rest in Albany Cemetary on May 16th, 1979. The large crowd attending the funeral service testified to the love and respect Ron had earned in Albany. Seven unit members and two wives attended — Gerry Maley, Gerry McKenzie, Col Doig, Jack Fowler, Percy Hancock, Scotty and Elsie Wares and Joe and Helen Poynton (who broke their holiday at Walpole to attend the funeral).

President Gerry Maley recited the Ode and the Last Post was sounded for RONALD SPRIGG, a brave and gallant soldier to the end. The Association extends its deepest sympathy to Win, her two daughters and son and their families.

REQUIEM

Grieve not for me, my loved ones and
my friends,
Think only of the good times when,
as one,
Together we went gaily along roads
Be-dappled by the sun.
Just for a while, my faltering steps
had strayed
to paths made dim with shadows of
the night,
But now my stumbling footsteps
have emerged
From darkness into light.

NEW ADDRESSES

~~DIXON, D.,
20 Wolger Street,
Como West, 2226.~~

~~KNIGHT, C.,
Newrybar,
via Bangalow, 2479.~~

~~FINKELSTEIN, R.,
41 Plantation Street,
Mt. Lawley, 6050.~~

~~GURR, R.,
P.O. Box 3,
Coonawarra, 5263.~~

~~DOOK, R.,
13 Fabian Close,
Willetton, 6155.~~

~~CAINE, C.D.,
16 Manchester Street,
Merrylands, 2160.~~

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

~~BRADY, A.G.,
P.O. Box 701,
Bunbury, 6230.~~

~~POWELL, G.F.,
68 Norris Street,
Hermit Park, 4812.~~

~~SMITH, J.R.,
91A Scarborough Beach Road,
Mt. Hawthorn, 6016.~~

~~KALINOWSKI, J.,
12b Harrow Place,
Kewdale, 6105.~~

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