



# **2/2 COMMANDO COURIER**

Registered for transmission by post as a periodical No. WAS 0270      Category "A"

Address all Association correspondence to:      Box T1646, G.P.O. Perth 6001

Vol. 33

AUGUST 1981

Price 1c

## **COMING EVENTS**

**SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER 1981  
DRINKS 6 P.M. DINNER 7 P.M.**

**ANNUAL RE-UNION DINNER**

**NEW ANZAC HOUSE  
ST. GEORGE'S TERRACE, PERTH**

**SUNDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 1981 — FALL IN 3 P.M.  
COMMEMMORATION SERVICE  
MAY DRIVE, KINGS PARK**

## ACADEMICOS SOCCER CLUB

In keeping with their competitive nature, our East Timorese friends enjoy and display considerate skills at Soccer, and they showed great initiative in forming their own Club, Academicos. They play in the Suburban Amateur Association and by their efforts received fairly rapid promotion to Second Division. Competition there is pretty tough and they may remain in Second Division for a year or two. Perhaps in an endeavour to spur them on, or maybe just because we like them, your Committee have decided to sponsor a player trophy, the form and designation of which is to be decided by the East Timorese themselves. However, in the certain knowledge that there are many among us who would like to cheer them on, and see a spirited game of soccer at the same time, we are publishing the remaining fixtures for this season — see you there!

- 16/8/81 1 p.m. v Armadale Park  
Venue Raphael Park,  
Victoria Park.
- 23/8/81 1 p.m. v W.A.I.T. Keys  
Venue Edinburgh Oval  
W.A. Inst. of Technology
- 30/8/81 1 p.m. v Wescoa  
Venue Carreeba Park  
Council Ave, Rockingham
- 6/9/81 1 p.m. v Girraween Park  
Venue Raphael Park  
Victoria Park.

### MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT ANZAC CLUB ON TUESDAY, JULY 7, 1981

The President declared the meeting open at 8.10 p.m. and asked that two minutes silence be observed for departed comrades.

#### PRESENT:

G. McKenzie, G. Maley, D. Turton, J. Carey, C. Varian, G. Fletcher, B. Burns, J. Fowler and L. Bagley.

**APOLOGY** was received from R. Kirkwood (on holidays).

**MINUTES** of Meeting held on June 2, 1981 was read and confirmed on the motion of C. Varian, seconded J. Fowler. CARRIED.

**BUSINESS** arising from Minutes: G. Maley reported that he had discussed the proposal of a Timorese Sporting Trophy with Ray Aitken and the Timorese, who were very pleased with the idea.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT:

G. Maley presented the financial statement, which showed a balance of \$341.80 in the Working Account. Statement was received and accounts

passed for payment on the motion of B. Burns, seconded D. Turton. CARRIED.

#### CORRESPONDENCE:

Inward from Keith & Betty Craig, TVW, Doug & Bob Shave, Z Special Force, Dud Tapper, Bernard Callinan, G. Stanley, F. Stevens, Tony Adams, NSW Newsletter, Ross McLean, M.P., Torch Bearers for Legacy.

Outward to TVW, Ross McLean, M.P., Miss J.F. De Jesus Pires. Inward and outward correspondence was received and confirmed on the motion of D. Turton, seconded B. Burns. CARRIED.

**TORCHBEARERS** for Legacy Appeal: After discussion, G. Maley moved that an inquiry be made concerning a donation towards a Legacy ward. G. McKenzie will secure the necessary information, seconded B. Burns. CARRIED.

**N.S.W. COMMANDO MEMORIAL APPEAL:** L. Bagley suggested that the Association donate to this memorial fund. After discussion it was moved by D. Turton, seconded G. Fletcher, that the secretary write to Jack Hartley for further information.

#### COURIER:

Moved by L. Bagley that the Courier sub-committee hold a meeting to discuss the presentation and future format of the Courier, seconded B. Burns. CARRIED.

Fred Napier is in Ward 1 of Hollywood Hospital, and expects to be going home within a few days.

Gordon Holmes has been in hospital with pneumonia, but is now back on the farm tending his sheep, and looking forward to the Safari.

The President closed the meeting at 10 p.m., and thanked all those in attendance.

### MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING, HELD AT ANZAC CLUB ON TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 1981

The President declared the meeting open at 8.10 p.m. and asked that two minutes silence be observed, and to remember the family of the late Tony Davidson.

#### PRESENT:

G. McKenzie, G. Maley, R. Kirkwood, D. Turton, C. Varian, G. Fletcher and L. Bagley.

**APOLOGIES** from H. Sproxton, B. McDonald, J. Fowler, J. Carey and R. Burns were received and accepted on the motion of C. Varian, seconded D. Turton. CARRIED.

MINUTES of Meeting held on May 5, 1981, were read and confirmed on the motion of D. Turton, seconded G. Fletcher. CARRIED.

Losmen Tion Sam  
Jl. Raya Manggadua No. 22  
Jakarta Barat. INDONESIA  
5th/5/1981

#### TREASURER'S REPORT:

R. Kirkwood presented the financial statement, which showed a Working Account balance of \$288.97. Mr. Kirkwood suggested that money not required immediately for use in the Working Account, be placed on a higher interest rate. After discussion the meeting agreed to Mr. Kirkwood's suggestion. Statement was received and accounts passed for payment, also that Mr. Kirkwood be empowered to arrange a more lucrative return on surplus funds. Moved on the motion of G. Maley, seconded C. Varian. CARRIED.

The President,  
2nd/2nd Comand  
Returned Services League,  
Anzac House,  
4 Sherwood Court,  
Perth. 6000

Dear Sir,

I am writing to ask your organization help in obtaining permission for me to migrate to Australia, plus my cousin. My name is Julieta F. De Jesus Pires and I am an East Timorese currently living in Jakarta. I came to Jakarta plus my cousin wishing to migrate to Australia. During the last World War he had to stay with us - myself my younger brothers and my mother - while my three eldest brothers joined the Australian Forces in Queensland. The reason for me contacting the 2nd/2nd Command is that my father Manuel De Jesus Pires fought alongside Australian Forces in Timor during World War II and was eventually killed by the Japanese. My father belonged to special force and his Services record is part of the Garden Island Monument in W.A.

#### CORRESPONDENCE:

Inward from Mick Morgan, Jess Epps, Fred Otway, A. Laffer, R.S.L. Outward to Tony Bowers and Brigadier Mack Grant. Inward and Outward correspondence was received and confirmed on the motion of R. Kirkwood, seconded G. Maley. CARRIED.

#### TIMORESE PICNIC DAY:

G. Maley wished to congratulate everyone who helped in any way, to make this day a most successful one. Especially to Don Turton and his family, at whose Keysbrook property the picnic was held.

R.S.L. Golden Girl Quest: After being discussed, it was decided to contribute \$25 toward this worthy project. Motion was moved by R. Kirkwood seconded D. Turton. CARRIED.

#### KINGS PARK:

G. Fletcher reported that all name plaques were accounted for and in position in our area of Lovekin Drive.

#### ASSOCIATION Sons and Daughters:

G. McKenzie stated that he was contacted by Glen Harrington, son of Reg, concerning the future continuance of the Association. Glen is keen to have a gettogether with other interested sons and daughters.

#### SPORTING TROPHY:

D. Turton suggested that the Association assist the Timorese with their sporting activities, with the presentation of a trophy. After discussion it was decided to contact the Timorese concerning this suggestion. Motion was moved by D. Turton, seconded G. Maley. CARRIED.

The President declared the meeting closed at 9.25 p.m. and thanked all those in attendance.

Although all my relatives are currently living in Australia and Portugal and willing to sponsor my application I now need additional help. Unfortunately, we arrived in Jakarta after the 30th September, 1980, deadline date for migration acceptance to Australia. I therefore would appreciate any assistance your organization could provide in encouraging the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs to approve my application for migration to Australia.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Yours sincerely,  
Julieta F. De Jesus Pires

2/2nd Commando Association  
17th June, 1981

The Hon. Ian Macphee, M.P.,  
Minister for Immigration and  
Ethnic Affairs,  
Parliament House,  
CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2600

Dear Minister,

Enclosed is photocopy of letter dated 5/5/81 received from Julieta Felicia de Jesus Pires requesting the help of this Association to make it possible for her and her cousin to migrate to Australia. The letter from Miss Pires is really self-explanatory, and depicts clearly the

problem with which she and her cousin are confronted. However, we are confident that with your support the problem will be overcome.

Manuel de Jesus Pires was well and very favourably known to all who served with the 2/2 Independent Company (Commando) in Portuguese Timor. He was a member of the Portuguese Army, but despite the neutrality of his Country, he fought alongside the Australian Forces against the invading Japanese with conspicuous gallantry. He was evacuated with the 2/2 Independent Company when that unit was relieved.

"Ten" Pires, as he was known to his Australian comrades, volunteered to return to Timor to engage in undercover operations with the "Z" Special Force of the Australian Army. He was trained with that Force at Garden Island in Western Australia, and was sent by ship to Timor for special duty. He was killed in action during that duty. Photocopy of letter from Mr. J.W. Sue, J.P., Chairman of Z Special Force Australia Inc. is enclosed in support.

There are several hundred migrants from East Timor living in the vicinity of Perth, and the members of the 2/2 Commando Association mix and meet with them quite regularly. They are happy, diligent, and trustworthy, and are proving a great asset to our Community. Amongst them is Jose Pires, son of "Ten" Pires and sister of Julieta, and his family. Jose Pires is well known to the writer who can personally vouch for his character and that of his family.

This Association gives unqualified support to the application for migrant status from Miss Pires and her cousin, and feels that in view of the service to this country of her late father, Manuel de Jesus Pires, every effort should be made by your Department to successfully facilitate their entry into Australia.

Yours faithfully,  
P.G. MALEY, J.P.  
A/Secretary

2/2nd Commando Association  
17th June, 1981

Ross McLean, M.P.,  
Unit 7,  
2A Progress Street,  
MORLEY, W.A. 6062

Dear Ross,

I enclose copy of letter of even date to the Hon. Ian Macphree, Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, with enclosures, in connection with the desire of Julieta Felicia de Jesus Pires and her cousin to migrate to Australia.

As stated to the Minister, my Association gives unqualified support to the application for migrant status for the two people involved, and we will deeply appreciate any assistance you are able to offer. We will be happy to supply any further information that may be needed.

Yours faithfully,  
P.G. MALEY, J.P.  
A/Secretary.

Special Force Australia Inc.  
5th June, 1981

Mr. J. Maley,  
61 David Street,  
YOKINE, 6060

Dear Gerry,

A few short lines to confirm the text of our telephone conversation this morning regarding M. de J. Pires.

We do not have any record of Pires' regimental number or any of his service details which is not unusual for operatives of the above unit, particularly, those who were inserted behind enemy lines as in the case of this member.

He is listed in our official brochure and on the honour roll of our Garden Island Memorial as 'Pires', M de J. Portugese Army.

If we can be of further assistance in the proposed sponsoring of his family member or members, don't hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,  
J.W. SUE, J.P.  
Chairman.

2/2nd Commando Association  
17th June, 1981

Miss Julieta F. De Jesus Pires,  
Losmen Tion Sam,  
Jl. Raya Manggadua No. 22,  
Jakarta Barat,  
INDONESIA.

Dear Miss Pires,

Just a note to acknowledge your letter of the 5th May, and to let you know that we are very happy to try to help you as you ask.

Many of us remember your father as a very brave man, and we will be honoured if we are able to help you.

We know many of your people who now live in Western Australia, including your brother, Jose. They seem very happy and are very well liked by their Australian neighbours.

When we have news, we will write again.

Yours sincerely,  
P.G. MALEY, J.P.  
A/Secretary

### VICTORIAN NEWS

It is with sad regret that I have to report the passing away of Alf Grachan in June. He had been ill since January and suffered 3 heart attacks in that time. Our deepest sympathies to Nina and family.

The funeral was on 18th June with service at the funeral parlors and then to Springvale Crematorium where there was another service including an R.S.L. Service.

Alf had been a very active member of both Middle Park and Waverley Branches of R.S.L.

Our Association was represented by following - Ken & Margaret Monk, Jack Kenahan, Dave Brown, John Roberts, John Southwell, Sep Wilson, Alec & Beryl Boast, Jack Fox, George Veitch, Harry Botterill.

Also Bruce McLaren has been very ill and had a very lucky escape. At one stage he was pronounced clinically dead but with the true McLaren courage is pulling through. He is still in hospital but improving all the time. Bruce has had leg and heart trouble for quite a while - his right leg has narrowing of the arteries which places a strain on the heart, and early in June he had another heart turn and had to be taken to hospital in a hurry and while they had him on the operating table working on his leg, his aorta artery burst and it was a blessing it happened while he was there. They are trying to save his leg and at present he is winning the battle and we all hope he continues to improve rapidly. Our kindest thoughts to Loraine and the boys during this difficult period.

We had an evening at George & Dot Robinson's place on June 6th. Very pleasant and Alec Boast showed slides of his trip to the West and other places. Present were - Ken & Margaret Monk, Hary & Olive Botterill, Jack & Julie Fox, Norm & Fran Tillet, Johnny Southwell, Alex & Beryl Boast - Our thanks to Dot & George for making this get together possible.

That's all the news for now until next time all the best - Harry Botterill.

### N.S.W. NEWS

Well another Anzac Day has come and gone and what a beautiful day it was. Attendance was a little below our

usual numbers, but I am happy to report the reappearance of three long lost members, something which has become a feature of Anzac Day. There are always a couple of unfamiliar faces to pin names on. The full roll call was as follows - Alan Luby, Jack Keenahan, Bill Tomasetti, Mick Mannix, Ron Goodacre, Snowy Went, Ray Whitely, Ken Glover, Merv Jones, Paddy Kenneally, Ron Hilliard, Bill Coker, Bernie Weir, Tom Field, Harry Handicott, Ron Teague, Ron Trengove, Bob Bollinger, Ray Cole, Sid Hiatt, Tony Rose and Jack Hartley. Apologies were received from Alan Addison, Bill Boy, Bob Smith, Les Collins and Mick Devlin. Alan was laid low with a gastric upset, Mick had a couple of sore fetlocks from running up and down ladders with a paint brush and Les has been having a very bad run health wise for a long time now and I'm sure we all wish him better health in future.

Ray Cole we last saw in 1968 at our first Sydney Safari and he still looks as Big and prosperous as ever but says his eyes are weakening - too much bird watching Ray. Ron Teague has been in the power station maintenance business for many years now in the Muswellbrook area, but has now retired and is looking for a home somewhere along the coast. Nice to see you Babe, next time you can sing for us. Bob Bollinger is one bloke I can't remember meeting before and for this I am all the poorer, because he is a gentleman of the first water. Bob had the misfortune to lose his right hand and some of his left in a machine accident some years ago, but he can still shell prawns and pick up a glass of beer as well as the next man. He now dabbles in photography and I hope we will see a lot more of him in future. Sid Hiatt is a former 2/7th Company Officer who is now married to Nancy Rose, widow of our Johnny Rose and we were happy to welcome him along with Nancy's son Tony, a Vietnam veteran. Sid and Nancy now live in Adelaide and Tony is a Bank Officer in Sydney.

As usual Alan Luby and I laid our wreath at the Cenotaph at 7.45 a.m. and then made our way up to the War Memorial in Hyde Park for the wreath laying ceremony by the Combined Commando Association. This is a very impressive ceremony attended by a very big roll up of all the Commando Companies, "Z" Special and "M" Special Units, members of No. 1 Commando Regiment from Georges Heights and visiting members from New Zealand Commando Units. Members of No. 1 Commando Regt. provided an Honour Guard as usual, a Scottish band the necessary music and this year we were

delighted by the most magnificent bugler I have ever heard.

After the ceremony we moved on down to the assembly point for the march where we were able to renew acquaintances with the many friends we have made over the years. The march over, we kept on going down to City Ford's in William St. where I had previously stashed a cache of cold cans. From here we split into two groups, some going out to the Arncliffe R.S.L. and the main party going down to the ferry for the Harbour cruise with plenty of grog and mountains of good food. Altogether a wonderful day and to those members who never make the effort to attend I can only say, "You don't know what you are missing".

Apart from those already mentioned on the sick list the only other one I know of is Les Isenhood who has recently had a spell in Concord Hospital, but I believe he has gone home to Newcastle. My apologies for not getting out to see you Les and I hope you are now feeling much better.

On the personal side, Maria and I and our two young ones Andrew and Janine finally got around to taking the week on Great Keppel Island and we thoroughly enjoyed it. The food was really great, the accommodation good and the weather fine but a bit windy, which spoilt the sailing and fishing trips. There is one lesson I learned from this holiday, take along a few friends with you to have someone to talk to; which is one good reason why our safaris are always such a wonderful success. The Gold Coast safari is getting close and I'm really looking forward to it.

Jack Hartley.

### SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NEWS

Winter has arrived on time, today is a wet one with gale warnings. Hatches are battened and a reef or two in the main. We had a very good roll up on Anzac Day, we out numbered all other squadrons and the weather was good to us.

Clarice Williamson has been and probably still is seriously ill in hospital. I haven't seen any of the boys since Anzac Day so am not up to the latest news. Keith Dignum has just finished three weeks fishing from Pt. Lincoln to Fowlers Bay, he caught a good bag of mixed fish. Bert Bache is due to retire next month and Ted Timke also is drawing close to finishing time. That is all the news for the present, regards to all.

Dud Tapper

5 Ferndale Street,  
Floreat Park, 6014

The enclosed is a donation for the Courier. Thank you so much for sending it to me so regularly.

Best of luck to all the Boys.

Sincerely, Aldyth Laffer.  
(Harvey Marriott's sister)

47 Carrara Street,  
Mt. Gravatt, 4122

It's about time I wrote, it must be a couple of years. Life is very quiet, I am fit and well, and I have taken up tennis. It is a good game, but of course I am pretty rusty. I met up with Neil Hooper, whom I had not seen since about late '43. We had a little do, where Jack Hartley's winning ticket was drawn. I will probably work out my time to 65, before I go on the pension, and I will probably last till I am about 90.

I am looking forward to the Safari, it does not seem that long since the last one in Adelaide. I see George Mathieson and Alec Voevodin occasionally, but as I said life is quiet. I just came back from Tasmania, where I have two kids and a couple of grand children, enclosed is a cheque for the Courier.

Your old mate,  
Fred Otway.

12 Hackett Street,  
Greenmount.

Thank the Association for their kind letter, and I'm only too grateful to help at any time, especially with the 'Courier'.

Heard from Hassons a couple of weeks ago. They were at Byron Bay and having a terrific trip. Lots of bowls and catching up with 2/2.

Win Sprigg has put her trip to England off, as her friend is ill. Bad luck.

If this wet and cold weather keeps up, I'm afraid Linda and Terry will be heading north.

Well, it won't be long before the Queensland Safari. I'm looking forward to it, my feet have been itchy for some time now.

Cheers and Regards.

Jess Epps.

11 Daly Street,  
South Fremantle.  
13th May, '81

Thanks for your kind letter re services rendered, I feel honoured by the 2/2 Association for the opportunity of carrying the flag so many Anzac Day parades for a Unit with such a wonderful tradition and comradeship. Circumstances over the years have not permitted

me to take an active part on the executive of the Association, but I do appreciate the sterling work done by all who have directed the Association to big and better organisation over the past 34 years.

Thanks for the itinerary, looks interesting should be an enjoyable Safari.

Regards,  
H.J. Morgan (Mick)

Rainworth,  
Queensland.

Herewith cheque to assist with Courier production and distribution. No doubt it is a wonderful paper and read with eagerness in this household.

Iris and I returned three weeks ago from a most interesting trip visiting our son and his family in Brazil. We had a great time - got around quite a lot, enjoyed all we saw, and of course, spoilt our grand children!

Angus has kept you advised of developments here for the Safari in October. We are looking forward to seeing everyone - it should be a good show and we only have a few ends to tie up now.

Regards to all.

Basher Adams

*(Thanks for donation Basher. Angus has worked wonders and we know it will be a fantastic Safari).*

Mount Gambier, S.A.

Arrived home after our trip to W.A. and consider the 2/2nd function was a really good show.

Due to our building programme looks as though we are going to be unable to attend the safari on the Gold Coast much to our disappointment.

Was really good to meet the fellows from the Unit at the Timorese show and the wife really wants to thank all concerned for the wonderful time she had.

Sorry was not able to call on Col. Doig the second time as our time went too quickly. Was good to see our son, also his wife and family.

One thing I must mention that I have only had one Courier delivered since Feb. this year, that was just before we left for W.A.

Allan Hollow and his wife, also his brother in law and wife were in Mount Gambier during June. We called around to see them as they were staying with a friend of ours, one Vin Zed, who is also an ex Commando - 2/6 as far as I know.

Weather here has been rather wet and cold lately, but so far have been able to prepare land and build the garage.

Truly hope we can make the safari, but should we be missing then please understand it will only be through our building programme because the sooner we finish the earlier we can shift into our new home.

Trusting this finds you all well, once again thanks for the wonderful day we spent with you all.

Fred and Ruth Stevens.

P.S. 2/2 Unit glasses were awaiting us at our son's place once again thanks. *(You will have received another Courier, the June issue, since you wrote Fred, and that puts you up to date).*

Stafford, Queensland.  
July.

Have just received the Courier for the month of June, and the main thing is to give you my new address, and to forward you a cheque towards the Courier and wherever best fit.

Whilst at Bandiana, I was with the Department of the Army, and now in Brisbane I'm with the Department of the Navy, H.M.A.S. Moreton, at New Farm.

Will be looking forward to seeing some old faces who may be attending the Safari, at present it doesn't look as if I could attend the Dinner, but I will certainly look you all up on the weekend of the 10th and 11th of October.

So for now I send my regards to you all.

L.A. Mitchell  
Everton Hills  
Queensland

It must be our turn to put pen to paper again. It's great to get "The Courier" and read of everybody's doings and interests.

Gordon is sitting back enjoying his retirement and we have just spent quite a long period in our old home town Melbourne. It's been over 25 years since we left there first to go to Tasmania and then Queensland. It's amazing to see how it has developed. We caught up with a lot of relatives and friends we hadn't seen for years.

The old boy is upstairs painting the kitchen cupboards. We are discussing taking a slow run up to Cairns to follow the winter sunshine. Do you know in retirement, we're always "gunna" do something", but the days slip by almost

without our noticing. Do some of you other unit members find you have this lack of motivation in retirement? We'll have to take ourselves in hand or suddenly find that life has slipped by and ill health or old age puts a stop to our plans.

We often have bouts of nostalgia about our holiday to Timor in 1971. It was our first trip outside Australia and we had lots of laughs, adventures and lousy food. We went missing in the Hsabe region due to a ruptured fuel line on our jeep and finished up sleeping on native stretchers with one cotton blanket. We froze to death at night and were subjected to endless scratchy country and western records by the Chef d' Poste. His English was limited, but his good will endless. Naturally the one phone line had broken down.

With our fuel line temporarily repaired (? with chewing gum) we limped onwards where a search party from the hotel finally found us and towed us to the Chinese shop at Lite-Foho. Incidentally this shop remains exactly as it was in 1942 without any new paint and the scars of war still showing. Our rescuers had bought supplies with them which included tepid coffee, strongly laced with brandy and lemon juice. With all eyes watching me, I still remember the difficulty I had to retain that revolting brew in my already upset stomach.

Another funny experience was at Ainaro where we were presented with a duck for dinner. This poor duck had been chased through a fire, complete with its innards and sat on a large salver complete with singed feathers, webbed feet, drooping head and melted eyes. We are still proud that we managed to restrain our laughter until after we had left. Courteously we informed the shopkeeper that we were not hungry at the moment.

We ate water buffalo from tongue to tail and many mystery meals. No wonder we couldn't wait to get back to Darwin for a good feed of Aussie food. Seven years later my bowel was finally rid of a parasite that I had collected in Timor.

No names no pack drill, but one of you blokes had a ripe sense of humour when you christened your Creado "Phallus"!

That's all for now - I could go on forever about Timor. Enclosed find cheque as donation for Courier.

Best wishes and good health to all.  
Joan & Gordon Stanley.

Young, N.S.W.

It seems ages since I wrote to the Courier, and I do apologise and can only say we really have been busy and at other times I was just too lazy in the heat to even think.

Keith and I have both retired and we are really enjoying every minute of it. I left work end of November thank goodness, before the heat and drought really hit us, and we finished up putting in an airconditioner before Christmas. At least it made it livable during the heat. I didn't realize how tired I really was and Keith said for 2 to 3 months all I did was sleep or have my head in a book altho' I'd sit in the chair and try to read and drop off again. It certainly did me good anyway. We had a quiet Christmas, just the two of us and in the heat we didn't mind a bit. Early January we drove to Sydney to spend a week with Phillip, Lorraine and the girls, and as the days were so hot left home at 2 p.m. and arrived at Phillip's at ¼ to 7 in time for breakfast. Good driving that way. Coming home stayed overnight with my sister in Gouldburn and travelled in the early morning. We had another trip to Sydney in late January when Keith's niece passed away, and then again late March when Janette and Stan were moved from Townsville to Holsworthy. Phillip and Lorraine are only about 10 minutes drive from Janette and Stan, so at least they will see a bit of each other now and then, which they couldn't do beforehand.

We had a few trips away and have enjoyed every minute of them too. We drove to Condobolin to see Keith's uncle and then came back to Forbes and on to Wurrinya and had a meal with Jim Dent, just before he left for a tour via "Women's Weekly Tour" overseas. Have had a card or two. He is enjoying himself very much, came back home via round about back roads and saw a lot of country. Have been to Wagga a few times and bypass big towns. It is surprising all the interesting places you find when you look around.

At the end of February Keith took ill suddenly and was admitted to hospital here and transferred to Canberra Royal by ambulance 2 days later. Had an op. on Thursday and left 8 days later. I stayed with Jim and Joan Fenwick whilst over there and they were wonderful to me and to Keith also. They just couldn't do enough for us and it was wonderful to be with them. When Keith came out of hospital we stayed on in the house for a few days as Jim and Joan had to go to Melbourne. It was a little cooler when we came back to

Young so Keith had reasonable weather to get over his trip to hospital. He is pretty fit again now and it was all worth-while. In April, Joan Fenwick and myself attended the National Cancer Conference in Canberra. It was a most interesting time and the speakers, discussions etc. most informative. The dinner at night was really good and we were last to leave - or at least our table were. The discussions were so interesting. We had at our table (all tables were circular so we could talk to one another), a couple from Seymour, Victoria, a couple from Temora, N.S.W., myself and Joan, man from Melbourne, Vic., man from Toowoomba, Q'land, a couple from South Australia and a doctor and his wife from Melbourne.

The talks were all on the subjects of Cancer - its causes - how to help one another - Visiting - supplies etc. and how each and everyone cope. We could have gone on for hours, but I'm afraid the hotel wouldn't have let us stay too much longer.

On the Monday I had all my tests etc. and they have now decided I don't have to have the big tests again, only a short check-up each year or so. This of course was great, and I walked on air as you can imagine, to have such a good clearance after six years. I am quite sure I couldn't have come through it all without the help of my family and really true friends, who have been so good and understanding all the way. It really is possible to get help from people and your own particular faith in God.

We have had a visit from Ron and Marj Goodacre and friends. Ron is now retired and Marj was to retire also about end April, and we are all looking forward to seeing all our friends at the Safari in Queensland on the Gold Coast. Plenty of time too to relax with our friends and just do as we like for so much of the time. I am interested to see how the trip to Canungra makes all the men who trained there feel very youthful again. The comments after that day will be really interesting I am sure.

We are still doing a fair bit of Old Time Dancing and at present I am teaching a group at Bendick Murrell - about 16 miles from Young towards Cowra - and have about thirty, quite a lot of school children and they are really doing well.

A couple of weeks ago I presented the Debs at the Guide Ball to Sir John and Lady Cass. It was a lovely ball, and the Debs and their partners were terrific. They did everything we wanted and danced beautifully. It certainly makes it all worth while as there is a lot of work

in teaching them all the things they have to know.

We are expecting Janette and Stan for the weekend and we will go back to Sydney on the Monday, taking more of their things we still have here at home. Nice to have a bit more room in the house. I will be able to spread a few of my things.

Not much more this time. The letter seems to ramble on and we hope it finds everyone well, and hope to see you all in October at "Silverton Apartments".

Best wishes from us both.

Keith and Betty Craig.

Taigum, Queensland

Last month Edna and I had a trip to the Northern Territory and the Kimberley's, W. Aust. We flew to Darwin had two tours, one city sights of Darwin, has changed a lot since I last saw it on our return from Timor, had a launch trip up Adelaide River south of Darwin, saw numerous water buffaloes, birds and a few crocs, did some fishing, I didn't catch anything but Edna caught a 20lb fish. We then had a coach tour to Katherine and stayed there two days. Took a walk to the area where we camped in 1941, it's all houses now. The train has not run since 1977 and in places the graziers are using the railway lines for fence posts. Had a visit to the Gorge very scenic, also a visit to Cutta Cutta Caves just south of Katherine. Took the coach to Kununurra on Ord River, did all the tours, Lake Argyle, Ord River, farms in three days, very impressed with the lake, flew back to Darwin. The following day went on a four wheel drive safari chasing buffaloes through the bush, knocking down trees etc. I am too soft for that sort of thing and was glad to get back to Darwin. Flew home next day, in all a good trip.

At my bowls club a member told me his brother in law was in Timor. I have not seen his name in the address book, here is his name and address -

A.R. Haly,  
6 Briddon Street,  
Pennant Hills, 2120  
Sydney, N.S.W.

I understand he is chief of N.S.W. C.S.I.R.O.

I hope to see you at the Queensland Safari in October 1981.

Regards,

George Vandelem

6/35 Richmond Ave.,  
Dee Why, 2099  
22.5.81

Dear Editor,

("Whoever you are"),

I address myself this way because of some uncertainty as to who is doing the really big job for all of us at the present time.

There are a couple of items I want to submit to you for publication, mainly for information of interstate visitors and/or tourist members. We trust that over a period each will be of use in their own way.

With the others, they may be able to see them, have pride in them, or even get the cheque book out and support them.

Once again the time for our Reunion draws near and we look forward so much to seeing good mates, good friends, wives and families. All our folk are wondering if there will be a revised program out in the next Courier - I know the Queensland Committee were considering some changes to the original but we've heard no more of them.

One thing I think we should do, and I'm afraid we've been remiss on many previous occasions, is to lay a wreath on the local war memorial in memory of fallen comrades. I'll check with Jack Hartley before I post this surat, but I'm sure he would have sent you a report on our Anzac Day attendance and activity. Once again it was a very good day with perfect weather and a good attendance.

A few days before I was in touch with Les (Twilight) Collins who has been having a rough time with a Tumour - let's hope they have an effective cure for him.

I'll enclose a photo of a group of six of us who joined a group (23) from the Combined Association plus M & L who accepted an invitation from No. 1 Commando Regiment to spend a weekend in Camp with them at Singleton on 4 and 5 April.

Those who joined me were Ron Trengrove, Ron Goodacre, Snow Weir, Snow Went and Bill Coker. All agreed there was only one way to describe it, TERRIFIC. The Army provided a bus to take us up from Sydney and return. They had an NCO on board to brief us and act as guide.

Once at the camp, everyone we met bent over backwards to make us welcome and our stay interesting and informative.

We were shown all items of equipment as used by today's Commandos, from 9mm auto pistols to armored personnel carriers, and even used several different weapons on the small arms

range.

Some things haven't changed - uniforms still come in two sizes - "too big and too small".

We were impressed by the large number of female troops, who were most enthusiastic about their training. The other feature which stood out was the mutual respect shown by all ranks from the troopers to the C.O. and back down the line, whether in the field or in the common mess hall and recreation hut.

It brought back a lot of memories of 39-45 but we wouldn't have missed it for worlds.

Anyone passing through the Singleton area would be well advised to call in to the Infantry Training Centre, allow a couple of hours, and have a look at their Army Museum. It is reputed to be the best in the Southern Hemisphere as a collection and display of weapons - much different to Canberra and well worth while viewing.

The other thing I pass on is the news that Paddington-Woolahra R.S.L. Club, of Oxford St., Paddington, has agreed to full affiliation of the Combined Commando Association.

This means in effect that any member of any squadron is welcome to use the Club facilities, including their motel at Nelson Bay.

To simplify identification I have given the management a copy of our Address Book as a sort of Nominal Roll.

The Club President Russ Crook was a member of 2/5 Squadron, and I'm sure Scotty and Elsie will support me when I say they really lay out the red carpet when we attend any of their functions. When you have some space to spare you might like to publish a copy of each of the enclosed items: -

1. The Commando Memorial Appeal - Memorial to be built in Martin Place Sydney, during this year. The seat format is the only type of structure Sydney City Council will allow.
2. The "Krait" appeal - some of us have had the pleasure of a trip on this remarkable vessel and can appreciate its memorable history.
3. The Townsville Garrison Museum is seeking artifacts and photos, particularly of anyone who served or was stationed there at any time.

Maybe some of our readers will find enough interest to assist any of these with a contribution.

We look forward to seeing many old friends at the Safari but may even make our way Westward before then – we tried last year but didn't make it through various reasons.

Must close now. Edith joins me in sending warmest greetings to everyone.

Sincerely,  
Alan Luby

*You will have picked up the Gold Coast Safari Itinerary in the June Courier, Alan, also the Commando Memorial Appeal was published on the back page of that issue. Thanks for the information regarding the Paddington-Woolahra R.S.L. Club – I am sure all will take note. We will do our best on other matters later on.*

Regards to all,  
Gerry Maley  
(Editor March-April/June/August)

Kew, Victoria

I thought the enclosed report might be of some interest to members, not in its present form as a professional and technical report to meet official requirements but perhaps some few interesting facts could be extracted.

I found the names of some villages brought back memories – Hatolia with a population of 15,129? But most likely that is the population being supplied through that town.

The general note coming out of the report seems to be of improving health, possibly helped by a reduction of hostilities as well as the Red Cross aid.

I have the permission of the Red Cross to pass the report to you.

With all good wishes to everyone.  
Bernard Callinan

### SUMMARY OF TIMOR SITUATION REPORT No. 5 INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

The joint medical and food assistance operation carried out by the Indonesian Red Cross and the ICRC was completed on 15 April 1981. Launched in October 1979 and originally planned to last 6 months the operation had to be extended for an extra year in order to meet all requirements. Its objectives were reached thanks to the considerable efforts of some 250 voluntary workers and staff of the Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) and to the generosity of the donors.

### OPERATION

#### 1. FINAL SIX-MONTH PERIOD (15 October 1980 to 15 April 1981).

During the last six months the assistance programme concentrated on the following 5 villages, where the food and medical situation in October 1980 was unsatisfactory:

Laclubar	8,174 persons
Dilor	4,186 persons
Vatulari	14,419 persons
Iliomar	5,603 persons
Luro	5,204 persons
Total	37,586 persons

#### 2. SUMMARY OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED DURING THE OPERATION (18 MONTHS)

Fourteen villages, with an overall population of 81,671 persons, benefitted from the food and medical assistance programme. The 10,267 inhabitants of the three villages: Velaluhu, Soebada and Cailaco were given only medical assistance.

#### DATES AND DURATION OF OPERATION

Villages	Population	Beginning of Operation		End of Operation
		Beginning	End	
Hatolia	15,129	16.10.79	15.10.80	
Laclubar	8,174	29.10.79	20.03.81	
Dilor	4,186	06.11.79	22.03.80	
Hatarbora	1,741	15.11.79	25.10.80	
Vatulari	14,419	21.11.79	12.04.81	
Iliomar	5,603	07.12.79	15.03.81	
Luro	5,204	19.12.79	08.03.81	
Alas	3,469	17.01.80	25.10.80	
Atabae	6,325	20.02.80	15.10.80	
Lolotoe	4,354	26.03.80	15.10.80	
Velaluhu	2,363	11.03.80	25.10.80	
Turiscari	2,800	28.08.80	25.10.80	
Cailaco	5,204	28.10.80	14.02.81	
Soebada	2,700	01.11.80	09.02.81	
Total	81,671			

#### RELIEF

From the beginning of the joint operation to the end of 15 April 1981, 6,420 tons of international or locally purchased relief was received by the ICRC at Dili.

5,643 tons (88%) were distributed directly.

464 tons (7.2%) were stored in the villages

210 tons (3.2%) were provided to the local branch of the Indonesian Red Cross.

103 tons (1.6%) were lost during transportation.

6,420 tons (100%)

These 6,420 tons were conveyed by various means of transport which in one year and a half of operation represents a

total of 12,449 tons transported.

The following means of transport were used:

Helicopters (4)	3,985 transported tons
Airplane	335 transported tons
Lorries	4,987 transported tons
Boats/Barges	3,136 transported tons
Porters	6 transported tons
Total	12,449 transported tons

On 15 April 1981 stores in the five villages involved in the last six-month programme were as follows:

Laclubar	9 tons
Dilor	77 tons
Vatulari	214 tons
Luro	83 tons
Iliomar	70 tons
Total	453 tons

#### PERSONNEL

Since 1979, 286 persons have taken part in the joint PMI-CICR operation in Timor:

- 13 PMI Doctors
- 3 ICRC Doctors
- 4 ICRC Demogates
- 35 Nurses
- 13 PMI Employees
- 19 Specialist Voluntary Workers
- 200 Volunteer Workers.

Editors Note: A substantial donation towards the cost of the operation described was made by the Association through the Australian Red Cross Society in Perth. This must add to our satisfaction when we read this report.

#### DONATIONS

For some time now it has been our policy not to publish amounts donated. We regret that an amount was inadvertently published in our last Courier and apologise for any embarrassment caused.  
Ed.

#### SICK PARADE

We were concerned to hear that several of our interstate and local members have been sick.

**BRUCE McLAREN** - our information is sketchy, we heard Bruce had been in hospital following a collapse and his condition had been serious also that he may require surgery. We believe Bruce has not experienced good health lately and wish him a speedy recovery.

#### BOB "BEAKY" SMITH

We believe Bob has had several hospital visits including surgery in recent years and that the prognosis is not the best. Hope you can still make it to the Safari "Beaky".

#### GORDON HOLMES

Gordon apparently succumbed to our severe winter and has been in hospital with pneumonia. He is now home and hoping to still make the safari.

#### SCOTTY WARES

Had a recent visit to hospital for minor surgery to a finger. We are happy to hear that the prognosis is much better than at first anticipated and that Scotty is still safari bound.

**FRED NAPIER** is in Hollywood for graft on leg. A long, slow process, and we all wish Fred well and an early return home to Glad.

#### DONATIONS TO COURIER, ETC.

L.E. Laidlaw, Col. Knight, R. Trengrove, J. Fowler, A. Campbell, L. Bagley, J. Poynton, T. Bowers, C. King, A. Wares, B. Langridge, C. Varian, A. Smith, B. Palmer, R. Kirkwood, T. Foster, L. Anderson, G.J. Walter, F. Otway, Mrs. A. Laffer, G. Stanley, R. Aitkin, T. Adams, L.A. Mitchell.

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

- D. (Dave) Brown,  
7 Wansworth Road,  
Surrey Hills, 3127
- L.A. Mitchell  
26 McCawley Street,  
Stafford, 4053
- J. Wicks,  
95 Ryrie Avenue,  
Como, 6152  
Ph: 367 9734
- A.D. Stevenson  
P.O. Box 768,  
Darlinghurst, 2010.

#### COURIERS RETURNED

- R. Neuzerling, W.A. (Redirection lapsed)
- R. Field, N.S.W. (Left Linfield address  
now at Killara)
- N. Parker, N.S.W. (Left address)
- R. Wintour, Q'land (Left address)
- F.A. Stewart, N.S.W. (Not at this address)