



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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WESTERN AUSTRALIAN COMMITTEE 1981

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MANDURAH	J. POYNTON	169 Ormsby Tce, Mandurah, 6210

TIMORESE PICNIC

Much was the excitement evident at the No. 4 Car Park at the western end of the Perth Causeway at nine a.m. on Saturday, 9th May, when buses arrived to transport our guests to Don Turton's property at Keysbrook. Footballs and youngsters were very plentiful prior to the embarking of the passengers, and approximately one hundred were aboard when the three buses took off at nine thirty a.m.

Except for one minor case of motion sickness, the journey of just over one hour was without any untoward occurrence. It was a treat, however, to observe the excitement of the Timorese as the buses ascended the ranges. For most, it was their first glimpse of that type of terrain since leaving their homeland.

The weather was glorious, not a cloud in the sky, balmy, a bit on the windy side until lunch time, but perfect afterwards. Two fine sheep were slowly roasting on the spit, and there was an abundance of delicious dishes and sates of goat prepared by our guests, salads and other Hors D'oeuvres provided by our ladies. Kangaroo rissoles were also a feature, in fact there was much more food than could possibly be consumed.

Before we lunched, President Gerry McKenzie welcomed the visitors and presented the President of the East Timorese Association, Jacinto Dos Reis, with a red double diamond lapel badge. Gerry spoke of our desire to assist the Timorese in every possible way, and expressed the deep appreciation of all present to Don Turton who had done so much to ensure the success of this day. Jac Dos Reis responded on behalf of his countryman, and Ray Aitkin gave a suitable oration in their own language.

It was a day of "getting to know you", and it was certainly not at all difficult to get into conversation with these happy people. Some walked, some talked, most drank, and everyone ate heartily and made merry.

We were tickled pink at such a good roll up, Timorese families including the Dos Reis, Shanches, Matires, Carvalheira, Filipe, Pires, Costa and Tjung Sengue families.

Len Vickeridge, who commanded a small ship on the Timor run, Jock Woods, 2/11 Btn., Bill Regtop, Clarrie Turner's son in law from Darwin, and Don's neighbour Bob Hickson, were among the visitors, thoroughly enjoying the occasion.

Fred (Shorty) Stevens from Mt. Gambier, with wife Ruth and son Fred Junior and family made the trip. Fred would be better known as the "Couda Kid", but would be battling to find a couda to carry him these days.

Other members present included Ping Anderson and Cherry, Tom and Mary Foster, Bernie and Babs Langridge, Ted and Edna Fullerton, Percy Hancock, Ron Kirkwood, Arch Campbell, Mick and Jean Holland, Jack and Delys Carey and young John, Gerry and Mary McKenzie, Jack and Jean Fowler, Len and Dot Bagley, Ray Aitkin, Joe and Helen Poynton, Bob Burns and wife, Bob and Barbara Palmer, John and Joan BurrIDGE, Dick Darrington, George Fletcher, Rod Dhu, Tony Bowers, Millie and Julie Bowden, Scotty and Elsie Wares, Clarrie Varian and son Warren with Sally, Jess Epps and Grandkids, Don and Vida Turton with Doug and Heather (nee Turton) Shave and Bob Shave, Arthur and Beryl Smith, Charlie and Mary King and Dot and Gerry Maley with son Rod.

Apart from Don and his family for their organisation and hospitality, we are most grateful to Arch Campbell, George Fletcher, Rod Dhu, Clarrie Turner and Jack Carey for their assistance, and to the Timorese ladies who prepared the delicious concoctions of goats meat.

Words cannot adequately describe all that was accomplished by Don and Vida Turton and their family which resulted in such a wonderful day. Waterfalls, boating, walking, cooking, drinks, all these facilities resulted from their efforts and were greatly appreciated.

The transport departed shortly before five o'clock loaded with happy, tired friends - who will remember this day for many moons to come.

For all from our Association who were fortunate enough to attend, it was also a day to be long remembered, and was a well worthwhile exercise which will have a great future bearing on our relationship with our East Timorese friends.

Beaumaris, Vic.
10 April 1981

At a recent meeting with Sir Bernard Callinan, whom I have not seen for some time, he was kind enough to give me your address.

I spent 2½ years in Jakarta with our embassy from 1977 to 1979, during which time I was able to visit East Timor for a few days in April 1979.

I served with 2/5 and 2/12 during World War II and had quite a few friends in 2/2. Therefore in Dili during my visit I expressed interest in seeing the Commando Memorial originally erected, I believe, by your Association. You will recall that it was reported that the memorial had been destroyed during the fighting between Indonesia and Fretelin forces sometime in 1975. You will be pleased to know that the memorial had been reinstated, in its original location,

and was in good condition when I saw it, in fact, I enclose a photograph which I took at the time. During my brief visit I was able to move around Dili quite freely by myself, both on foot and in a vehicle, and took a number of still and movie films. I also visited Maliana near the border with West Timor, and Bacau on the north coast. Maliana was in the process of being developed by the Indonesians as a pilot village project, and they hope that in the long term there will be some 80,000 people resident in the Maliana area. From my observations, it would appear that Maliana is one of the few areas in East Timor with the agricultural potential to support this number of people. At Bacau, as you probably know, there is a very large airfield capable of accepting DC10-size aircraft. On the day I was there, there was no sign of life on the airfield.

During my visit I received two briefings from Brigadier General Dading, the commander of the area, whose Headquarters had been transferred from Dili to Den Pasar in Bali shortly before my visit. He acknowledged that there is still isolated guerilla activity in East Timor, and that this could continue for some time. However, he said that the major problem facing the Indonesian administration was the rehabilitation of the distressed population and that he anticipated quite large groups of the civilian population would be coming out of the hills where they had sheltered during the war, for some time to come.

My personal observations tended to support the information supplied by Dading although in each of the areas which I visited, Indonesian military presence was very obvious. I saw no evidence whatsoever of military activity, nor indeed did I see any signs of the logistic support facilities which would have been necessary for any large scale military activity to be conducted. It was also obvious at many of the places I visited that local Timorese were occupying positions of authority and that they were included in the various reception committees to receive me.

I trust that you and the members of your 2/2nd Association will be interested in my comments.

Brig. W.H. Grant
Patron - 1st Commando Assn.

We certainly appreciated the information so kindly provided by our old friend, Mac Grant, and request that we be informed of any items of interest that might give some glimmer of hope to our Timorese friends now resident in our country.

ANZAC DAY

We were extremely fortunate to crack it for a very magnificent day and it certainly brought out the best in the troops marching wise. All who were in a position to view the March on television are in full agreement that the boys looked a picture, striding out in such precision as to catch the eye. A head count disclosed fifty three on parade, with a very proud Gerry McKenzie in the lead.

After an uninterrupted career as Standard Bearer since our first parade, Mick Morgan finally had to stand down as a result of physical problems with his legs and hips. Mick has performed in a magnificent manner and although he still insisted on marching, he felt that striding out front carrying our banner could have proved a little too much, even for him. Thanks, Mick, we have been proud to follow you round.

Successor to the position of Standard Bearer is none other than Tony Bowers. How fortunate we are to have men of such stature willing and able to head our contingent each year. Tony is now domiciled in Mandurah, and it is our sincere hope that he is able to perform this duty for many years to come.

We were very proud to be accompanied on the March by six of our Timorese friends. They are very enthusiastic and it is a treat to have a yarn with them.

After the parade had concluded we gathered together at the Knutsford Arms Hotel in North Perth where mine host Terry O'Dea provided the venue and all that goes towards a pleasant and convivial afternoon. It was pleasing that almost without exception those who marched joined in the hospitality afterwards.

Official business was brief, President Gerry McKenzie gave a resume of more recent activities and thanked those who do so much. He welcomed our guests, particularly our Timorese friends and the irrepressible Jim Gordon V.C., and there was a short commercial publicising the picnic day with the Timorese at Don Turton's Keysbrook property on Saturday, 9th May, and calling for donations towards the cost of that outing.

Jack Carey provided a sumptuous spread, so much a part of these functions that we would be lost without him. Jack had splendid help from Terry Paul and Spriggy McDonald to name but two, and there were others in the cook-house too. Prawns, crayfish, pressed meats, Brawn A La Delys, Meat Balls, Crunchy Bread, Salads, there was an abundance, and more.

It was great to see everybody, and no-one is more welcome than another. Why it is, I don't know, but it is always nice to welcome members coming from afar, and those who for personal reasons cannot be classed as regulars. Among these are Mal Herbert who overstayed and had to be rounded up by Dot, Stan Payne, Ralph Finklestein, Charlie Gorton, Freddie Griffiths, Jerry Haire, Ted Loud, Bob Smyth, Fred Sparkman, Dusty Studdy, and the Terrors from the South, Dutchy Holland, Don Hudson, Terry Paull, Joe Poynton, Arthur Smith, and Roy Watson.

During the afternoon Clarrie Turner phoned to inform the President that unfortunately Grace was on the sick list, thus explaining his first absence for many years. Clarrie sent his best wishes to all in attendance.

Mention must be made and thanks given to George Fletcher for arranging to have a wreath laid at the Dawn Service, and to those who accompanied President Gerry McKenzie at that ceremony. Gerry also represented the Association at the Anzac Day Ceremony at the War Veterans' Home.

VICTORIAN NEWS

We had a pleasant Sunday outing at Alex Boasts place on Sunday April 5, in the form of a barbecue and get together, it was a nice day and we had very good weather and roll up of members. The following were there:

George & Dot Robinson, Fred & Alvena Kruse, Harry & Olive Botterill, David & Thais Browne, Bill & Pet Tucker, Bernie & Naomi Callinan, Bluey & Mary Bone, Norm & Fran Tillett, Norm & Shekia Parker, Bob & Nancy Briggs, George Veitch, William Tobin, Glad Curran, Max & Grace Davies, Peter McCracken, Bruce & Loraine McLaren, Eileen & Bill Sharp, Johnny & Shirley Southwell, Bill & Anita Hopson (in-laws of George & Dot Robinson), Fred Leech (2/4), Ron Scott, Bill Taylor of Commando Assn. Apologies from Jack Renehan, Leith Cooper, Tom Nisbett, Ken & Margaret Monk and several others, who had other engagements. Our thanks to Alex & Beryl Boast for putting on this treat, their place is ideally set up for this, and they enjoy doing it.

Good to see Bluey & Mary Bone from Kardella in the Gippsland area, both looking very well and thoroughly enjoying themselves, Norm & Sheila Park seem to be settling in to Victorian life style and its nice to see them along to our shows. We decided to have another get together on June 6 at 8 p.m. at George & Don Robinson's place, at 10 Ashlar Crescent, Blackburn - plate and bottle night, and we thank them for their kind offer of their home. So ended a lovely day with Alex & Beryl.

Anzac Day has come and gone once again. The weather was just fair with a threat of rain but it held off and we got through the march to the Shrine and then to the reunion at Palm Lake Motel in Albert Park. We had a very good roll up the following were there:

Lionel Newton, Norm Parker, Bluey Sergeant, Leith Cooper, Alf Harper, John Southwell, Max Davies, Don Freyer, Norm Tillett, Jack Renehan, George Humphries, Johnny Roberts, Ken Monk, Harry Botterill, George Robinson, Bill Peterson, Bill Sharpe, Rolf (Baldy) Baldwin, Alex Boast, Bruce McLaren, Paul Costello and Len Sambell, a Canadian who was in 2/11 Air Force, and is the brother of George Humphries wife Wyn, and has been holidaying in Australia. We had a lot of country boys this year, and it was very nice to see them all, they were: Bill Peterson from Fish Creek, Alf Harper from Geelong, Leith Cooper and Bluey Sergeant from Bendigo area, Don Frey from Wangaratta and Lionel Newton from Broken Hill, who with his wife Elsie had just been on a 4 weeks driving holiday in New Zealand and were staying in Melbourne with their son, David before making their way back to Broken Hill. A notable absentee was Bernie Callinan (I cannot remember him missing an Anzac Day) but he sent his apologies, as he was in Japan (of all places to be on this day - his words) on business. This was one of the best Anzac Days I can remember for quite awhile. A very good roll-up and a nice venue. Well that's all the news for now, my kind regards to everyone, and we will be looking forward to meeting the lucky ones who are going on Safari in October,

Bye now,
HARRY BOTTERILL

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 2/2 COMMANDO ASSOCIATION (W.A. BRANCH)

HELD AT ANZAC CLUB,
SHERWOOD COURT, PERTH
ON TUESDAY 17TH MARCH, 1981

OPENING

The President declared the meeting open at 8.20 p.m. and asked all to be upstanding in memory of fallen comrades. He welcomed Stan Whitford from Victoria, and his friend.

PRESENT

G. McKenzie, C. Varian, R. Burns, P. Hancock, D. Murray, A. Wares, R. McDonald, H. Sproxtton, J. Poynton, J. Carey, S. Whitford, J. Fowler, R. Kirkwood, L. Bagley, G. Fletcher, T. Bowers, C. Doig, G. Maley and Victorian visitor, Andy Gates.

APOLOGIES

R. Dhu, A. Smith (in hospital), D. Fullarton, J. Burridge, A. Campbell. Moved C. Doig, seconded G. Fletcher that apologies be accepted.

CARRIED.

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Received as read, and confirmed on the motion of H. Sproxtton, and seconded C. Doig. CARRIED.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. McKenzie presented the following report on the events of the past year, and the conclusions to be drawn.

I decided that the best approach for review of the activities for our year just passed would be first to refresh our minds again with the objects of the Association:—

(a) To encourage and strengthen Loyalty to Australia and the British Empire.

(b) To maintain the spirit of Comradeship among all members and preserve the memory and Traditions of the Unit.

(c) Where possible, give aid to genuine indigent members, or dependants of deceased members.

(a) Firstly our affiliation with the R.S.L. and acceptance of their code of Citizenship if fostered by us in proper perspective will encourage and strengthen Loyalty to Australia and the Crown.

(b) View for what it is worth statements and politicking utterances such as those attributed to Mr. Hayden, and the ridiculous Scottish M.P. Willie Hamilton recently.

(c) Whilst mixing with our people freely as we do at our comradesly gatherings over the years, one hears many words spoken, which strengthen Loyalty, and very, very few which are intended to be destructively critical of our system. None the less, whilst striving to uphold our code of Citizenship, we must not forget to respect the varying political views. By and large, I think our people are doing these things and will continue to do so, so long as we maintain the right environment at our functions. Secondly, I can't say much about our performance regarding indigent cases, because to my knowledge, there have been no applications in the year just passed, however, such is the nature of this object and our administration of it that there could be a case or cases in the pipeline which to date I am not aware of.

Now, to Comradeship. Frankly I believe this Association does a fine job in this regard, as a matter of fact I have been amazed at the quality and quantity of functions arranged

throughout the year, mostly on an Annual basis. Upon return to W.A. after thirty years in Victoria, and after attending a King, a Poynton, and a Carey picnic or BBQ, we decided that this 2/2 Group were more like a lot of cousins, or in essence a family group of old war time mates.

This is splendid because it shows we all know and appreciate each other and their families, and this in essence is what No. 2 is all about. However, let me remind you all, that the best families are always in line for a sp it, a snap, a bicker, or a word misunderstood, and we will be wise to beware and be on guard against this kind of incursion into our fraternity. I find it hard to discuss preservation of the memory and traditions of the Unit, but feel that so long as we continue our comradesly get togethers, and our people continue to talk, re-tell and relate experiences, the memory of all those who made the Unit great will not be lost.

On Tradition. — I wonder how many will agree with me if I say perhaps the greatest tradition established by the 2/2 was that of independence. We began and remained an independent Company — we operated always in an independent role, we operated almost always with independence of action — we were looked on as an independent outfit and we were trusted to perform with distinction, and without all the traditional trappings of support needed by the larger, less flexible, less independent formations. Especially too, in W.A. in particular, the fact that we have withstood and rejected all overtures with respect to amalgamation to other type Commando Ex-Service Associations sees us continuing and I believe we will continue operating independently, as the 2/2 Commando Association of Australia. Our Honour Avenue in Kings Park — our honour roll there, and in our usual meeting room here, are all outward and visible signs I believe, of our attempt so far to preserve the memory of those who gave their lives whilst displaying their utter Loyalty to Australia and the British Empire.

In conclusion, permit me to say, that in my view the objects of the Association were kept in mind throughout operations over the year just passed. The people on the executive and those co-opted who did the work, did it willingly, enthusiastically, and always to the best of their ability. Need we ask more?? However, just in case you are all getting the idea that a year's administration is a mere snap of the fingers, let me tell you why I found my small role

a pushover. It was because:—

(a) Each member did his job willingly and in co-operation.

(b) The members we were doing something for, are all good mates, and we just love sharing their company, and the company of their families.

But perhaps most importantly and surely never to be overlooked, the guidelines available to the Executive stand out like beacons and to be implicated, is to feel that this Association rose out of a need and has been carefully conceived, nurtured and developed by wise men with initiative and planning ability, who must have said — an organisation like this will last if needed, but administering it will be the problem, therefore the principles of administration such as:— SIMPLICITY, CO-OPERATION, ECONOMY, FORESIGHT, FLEXIBILITY, must be written into our objects, constitution and standard practises and be kept in mind in all our pursuits.

I am sure this is so, I have been humbled to follow on and I feel quietly determined to pass on the affairs of control, and I hope, the same feeling to my successor when my term of office ends.

Special thanks are due to all our hosts throughout the year. The hard work done for us, and the friendship and mateship plus exquisite cuisine at Bateman-Bedforddale-Keysbrook and Mandurah, left nothing to be desired. We value greatly the contribution from all venues.

I have purposely endeavoured to keep away from mentioning any one individual, but now I find I must sight a couple.

First **GEORGE FLETCHER** — Few realise how much willing, happy and expert service this member gives the Association throughout the year. He has long been warden on our Honour Avenue at Kings Park, where the area is a credit to him and the Unit. George has lately contributed a survey of the likely need to replace our metal water pipes with PVC, and we are happy to relate that his decision was — “make them do another couple of years!!” George has laid our wreath at the Dawn Service for many years, and has been on call for years in a myriad other ways. I know you don't expect me to recall each separate incident of service given, but I know you will join me in saying “A big thank you and well done George.”

SCOTTY WARES — Last, but not least, you will have seen his editorial in the February Courier. We re-affirm the words of those many other

members who said thanks for a job well done with Courier and secretarial duties but perhaps the task you have made nigh impossible to follow, is in looking after visitors, including those from interstate. That kind of service is the essence in maintaining comradeship, which is one of our objects. Thanks Scotty, and would you please pass on our thanks to your wife Elsie, for the assistance she has given you, and thus the service she has given this Association.

In conclusion, I wish to inform this meeting that I am again offering my hand as your President for another term, and feel I will be in a better position from the point of view of what is required, if this meeting sees fit to entrust the job to me again.

EDITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Maley spoke of all that had been achieved by Alex Wares, and of the plans for the future operation of a Courier Sub-Committee.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The audited statement of receipts and expenditure was presented to the members by the treasurer, Mr. G. Maley. The balance of accounts disclosed thereon were:—

WORKING ACCOUNT	\$135.63
TOWN & COUNTRY	
RESERVE A/C	5557.05
	<u>5692.68</u>

Mr. Maley also presented a statement as of this date, the account movements being:—

BROUGHT FORWARD	\$247.73
RECEIPTS	<u>312.00</u>
	559.73
PAYMENTS	<u>264.89</u>
	<u>\$294.84</u>

KINGS PARK

G. Fletcher reported on the situation, and of all that R. Dhu was doing to keep the area in order. The meeting expressed its appreciation to R. Dhu for his assistance.

REPORTS

Moved C. Doig and seconded J. Fowler that all reports be received and adopted. CARRIED.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

C. Doig was elected returning officer, and conducted the election, with Officers elected as follows:—

PRESIDENT — G. McKenzie
Elected Un-opposed.

VICE PRESIDENT — J. Fowler
Elected Un-opposed.

SECRETARY — Position un-filled for the moment. L. Bagley only nominee and considering position.

TREASURER — R. Kirkwood
Elected Un-opposed.

AUDITOR - J. Burrige

Elected Un-opposed.

WARDENS - G. Fletcher, R. Dhu

Elected Un-opposed.

COMMITTEE - G. Fletcher
D. Turton
R. McDonald
H. Sproxtton
J. Carey
R. Burns
C. Varian
A. Blundy

The above eight gentlemen were elected to the Committee.

COUNTRY VICE PRESIDENTS

Goldfields - T. Davidson
Northern - P. Barden
Midlands - R. Harrington
Great Southern - A. Hillman
South Coastal - H. Rowan-Robinson
South West - C. Turner
Mandurah - J. Poynton

The Country Vice-Presidents were elected un-opposed.

EDITORIAL SUB-COMMITTEE

G. McKenzie, G. Maley, L. Bagley, J. Carey, A. Campbell and K. Hayes were appointed on the motion of L. Bagley and seconded by C. Doig, to look after the editorial output of the Courier, and to study the advisability of any change to the format. **CARRIED.**

EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

The Committee was granted authority to appoint Secretary and Editor as circumstances dictate. Moved C. Doig, seconded J. Poynton. **CARRIED.**

GENERAL BUSINESS

G. Maley reported on outing to Keysbrook with the East Timorese community. A. Wares moved that this meeting confirm the arrangements made by the Committee. This was seconded J. Fowler. **CARRIED.**

APPRECIATION

C. Doig voiced his feeling of the worth of the Officers of the Association, and the hosts at various functions. Carried with acclamation.

SAFARI

It was moved that V/President J. Fowler be the official representative for W.A. Moved A. Wares, seconded T. Bowers. **CARRIED.**

There being no further business, the President thanked all members for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 9.55 p.m.

**MINUTES OF COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD AT
ANZAC CLUB ON
TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 1981**

The President, G. McKenzie, declared the meeting open at 8.10 p.m. and observed two minutes silence.

PRESENT:

G. McKenzie, R. Kirkwood, J. Carey, J. Fowler, A. Burns, D. Turton, C. Varian, L. Bagley and G. Maley.

APOLOGIES:

R. McDonald, H. Sproxtton and G. Fletcher were accepted on the motion of C. Varian, seconded G. Maley.

MINUTES of Meeting held on April 3, 1981 were taken as read on the motion of G. Maley, seconded R. Burns.

BUSINESS arising from Minutes: The Gestetner machine has not yet been delivered to the President, but it is in the TPI Association awaiting collection.

MINUTES of Committee Meeting held on 3rd March, 1981 were confirmed on the motion of J. Fowler seconded A. Burns.

COMMANDO Cairns: The President advised that he would process any orders that were made through him.

TREASURERS REPORT

Mr. Kirkwood reported a balance of \$355.18 in our Working A/c. Report received and accounts passed for payment on motion of D. Turton seconded J. Carey.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Letters from J. Bennett, Pat Moodie, J. Haire, A. Wares, A. Luby, Ted Mulcahy, Gordon Hart, Neil Hooper and Clare West were received.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

The Minutes were discussed and the President advised that matters arising would be dealt with in General Business.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Appointment of Secretary. The President declared Mr. Len Bagley elected. The meeting accepted the appointment with acclamation. Appointment of Editor. The President outlined the position as regards Mr. Arch Campbell and made it clear that Arch would accept the position.

L. Bagley nominated A. Campbell as Editor, seconded by C. Varian. Nominations closed on motion of R. Kirkwood, seconded R. Burns. The President declared Mr. Campbell elected to the position of Editor. Position of Public Relations and Parliamentary Liaison Officer: The President pointed out the need for someone to fill this position, and the reasons for his suggesting the creation of the position. The President called for nominations.

G. Maley was nominated by D. Turton and seconded by J. Fowler. There were no further nominees. The position was discussed at length

and the matter of public relations and liaison was brought forward. An amendment moved by J. Carey, seconded C. Varian that G. Maley be appointed Assistant Secretary. Amendment carried. G. Maley declared elected as Assistant Secretary.

COURIER

The March issue was discussed and the assistance of Jess Epps was recorded with appreciation. The President requested that any member who saw any article of interest suitable for publication to forward it for publication. The Secretary was instructed to write suitably to Mrs. Epps to thank her and look for her future assistance.

STANDARD BEARER:

Mick Morgan has officially asked to be relieved as Standard Bearer on Anzac Day. It was decided to approach Tony Bowers to take over. It was decided to write a letter to Mick Morgan thanking him for doing this job since 1946.

LEGACY

The work for Ivan Davies on diabetic cases and widows pensions was brought forward, and any assistance possible will be given to Mr. Davies.

SICKNESS OFFICER

It was decided to contact Percy Hancock to see if he required any assistance.

COUNTRY VICE PRESIDENTS

The President suggested that they be asked to communicate as regularly as possible.

CHILDREN OF MEMBERS

Advice has been received by the President that some of the children had spoken together with a thought to continuation of the association created over the years. It was decided to follow this through, possibly by invitation.

ANZAC DAY

It was moved that the charge for Anzac Day be \$7.00 per head. Moved L. Bagley, seconded A. Burns.

KINGS PARK WARDEN

Moved G. Maley, seconded L. Bagley that the sum of \$120.00 be sent to G. Fletcher for travelling expenses for 1979-1981, and that he be allowed \$40.00 per annum thereafter. Motion carried.

KEYSBROOK PICNIC

It was agreed to meet at Don Turton's property at 10.30 a.m. on Sunday April 12 to finalise plans.

The President declared the Meeting closed at 10.05 p.m.

Mona Vale, N.S.W.

Having just read your latest epistle, as the actress said to him, himself I'll do a bit of the old business myself and then post it to the Courier.

I read with interest about the pig spit roasting, and I could taste it, you make one feel as we are with you in more than spirit.

Cols writing about the Courier was nice to read, and I think we are all prone to forget the amount of work that goes into a production like it, and makes me ashamed that I have not written as often as I so easily could have, while I admire the Editors, past and present, I seemed to have had more of an affinity with Bill and Jess, after talking to them about the work involved when I saw them both in 68 or 69 was it. But a letter to the Courier when I write, is not only for everyone of us to read, but to me it is like talking to those people, one always feels a little closer to, for some reason or other, and admires in some special way. Like Col Doig being my first officer and contact with the 2/2 after having spent the previous weeks, after having to get out of Atamboa, virtually leaderless, except for Staff Sgt. Laurie Ross, who did his best under very trying conditions. Then Harry Sproxtton, whose company I enjoyed, and felt an affinity with from the first we met, on some ridge or other on a patrol from Malianna and then later at Mendilo, when we took it in turns to use the otherside of the ridge, as we passed each other a sickly smile, but always a cheery remark, such as, not again, wouldn't it give you the brace and bits, which when you have dysentery, like Harry and I had, is just what it does, of course, and then a bloke like Jack Carey, so young amongst so many young, young men you felt an old man at 22 and 1 month, and so many you wish you could see more often, such as Max Davies, and not have to write or have to forget it as one might be considered to be getting old and soft.

About the 1st May I am going to Adelaide again, with my wife and mother-in-law. I am hoping to get some warranty work done on my caravan, which I bought from there last year, and then cruise back thru the coast area of S.A. and Vic., then back home, and be ready for the Big Event of the Year.

Have seen a lot of Bob Smith this year, as he is not far from my eldest son's home in Newcastle, looks well and is very active in Art, Museum Maritime, and a medical group counselling others, I think.

Snowy Weir, Snowy Went, Alan Luby, Bill Coker, Ron Goodacre and myself were guests, among others, from the other Squadrons and Z Special at the invitation of No. 1 Commando Sqdn, to their Annual Camp at Singleton. To

say we were treated like royalty is an understatement and only if the weather had not been so bad on Saturday it could have been better and because of that, certain exercises laid on for our viewing, had to be postponed until next day, too late for us to see, but other than that, speaking for myself, I enjoyed every moment, even to walking a little unsteady on arising from my camp stretcher next morning, no doubt caused by eating so magnificently at the smorgasbord, certainly nothing to do with glare from aluminium cans flashing in the late evening light, electric that is, up to about midnight for me, much later for some who shall remain nameless. But I think something should be done about a 2/2 bod who goes for a shower and comes back with a nice pair of jogger shoes, puts them well away from his bed, when sometime later Lt. Col. Peter McDougall inquired if anyone had inadvertently taken his shoes "nice word inadvertently", however he enjoyed the joke and the Went was none the worse for his joke.

Cpl. Zed Frazer was our co-ordinator from Sydney on the bus and also was our own trouble shooter at the camp. This young man is an S.S. soldier and believe you me knows his business, I spent a long time talking to him, and if terrorists or hi-jackers want to try themselves out in this country, Zed and his boys will be just what the Doctor ordered, the officers of this unit did nothing but inspire my confidence (how's that Col) I would have been a proud father to have my sons standing among them, and their men that I saw, as well as the CMF boys left nothing to be desired in my book. As he said to her enough enough at my age, for the time being anyway. Once more to the oar by the time you get this Anzac Day will have come and gone, maybe a good roll-up because next day is a rest day for all.

If I needed an excuse to come West, our youngest son, who is at present an officer in the CSIRO, has applied for a job in W.A. or was about to apply when I last spoke to him from Canberra, as it would give him wider scope in his degree, so making more use of his skills and giving him more job satisfaction, but things being as they are, you have no doubt, plenty of your own are requiring jobs with the same qualifications, anyway if he were to succeed I guess it would give us a greater spur to come West old man, as it were.

In closing may I say if you ever want to shed a few years, try and spend a weekend as I did with 1st Commando Regt., it was a weekend to remember, with gentlemen of a bygone era, who were treated like prized gentlemen by gentlemen of the present era, who are

equipped and trained to become real nasty bastards, if and when some thoughtless idiot wants to try them out, they will find their S.S. emblem means what it says "Strike Swiftly". Thank you.

Yours as ever,
RON TRENGOVE

60km West of Laverton,
camping in gravel pit.

Here we are on our way to the Safari. We came to Kalgoorlie with Pat and Peter Campbell, stayed a few days and got a few of the things we had forgotten and forgot a few things we had forgotten. However all is going well. It is a very versatile programme we are keeping, but by and large the intention at this stage is to go to Laverton and have a look around, a young friend of ours is a policeman there so he might be able to put us onto an area to try our detectors out, so far all we have found is tin and wire.

We went and saw Jack Sheehan, and Jack Spencer in Kalgoorlie. Went to the races in the afternoon and won a couple of bets, lost a couple too, of course. I feel guilty at not going to see Tony Davidson, but somehow time caught up with us. Jack Spencer came to the races, but Jack Sheehan had the flu, so didn't go.

We are finding that a lot of planning in the way of equipping our unit has paid off and we are very comfortable when camp. I designed a little toilet and bath annex that fits on the side of the van, with a pump-up shower and a porta-potty, in other words a portable thunder box (chemical). By the time Peter and I put that up the girls have the tea under way, then it is time for a stubby or two, then a night of peaceful undisturbed sleep miles from anywhere.

What I really set out to write for is to belatedly thank you for the address book. It was very much appreciated. The more I write, the less intelligible it becomes. Pass the word on to the Unit that we will see them at Broadbeach.

Regards,
REG HARRINGTON.

1981 GOLD COAST COMMANDO SAFARI ITINERARY

OCTOBER

- Monday 5th** Members arrive various times of the day, book in at Silverton or the Caravan Park, and then attend the Hospitality Unit at Silverton. Drinks and get together. Evening meal at Hospitality Unit by courtesy of our Chef Frederico Bryento. Evening free.
- Tuesday 6th** Day free for orientation of the Surfers area. Evening, Unit Dinner to be held in the Bistro Room, Twin Towns Services Club. Assemble at Twin Towns at 7.00 p.m. (summer time) for drinks. Dinner at 7.30 p.m. Transport to and from Silverton organised. Drunks find their own way home.
- Wednesday 7th** Morning free, for swimming (pool, spa or surf), bird watching or just getting over the night before. Afternoon trip to Sea World, time to be arranged. Evening free.
- Thursday 8th** Free day.
- Friday 9th** Depart Silverton approx. 9.00 a.m. for Brisbane City. Civic Reception at City Chambers 11.00 a.m. Free time after reception for quick look at shops, for ladies, then assemble at 2.00 p.m. for tour of Mt. Coot-tha and surrounds. Return to Silverton. Evening free.
- Saturday 10th** Morning free. Afternoon, guests of the Gold Coast Turf Club for 2/2 Race Day. Evening free.
- Sunday 11th** Rest Day.
- Monday 12th** Trip to Caningra Landwarfare Training Centre. Arrive 10.00 a.m. for morning tea. Then half hour for film and lecture, two hours tour of camp and demonstrations over the Confidence Course (ladies to the fore). B.B.Q. lunch 12 noon to 1.30 p.m. at the 19th hole of the Training Centre Golf Club (what were we doing in the Ramu). At 2.00 p.m. a demonstration of fire power at the fire power range. Then to the R.A.P. to lick our wounds.
- Tuesday 13th** Free day.
- Wednesday 14th** All day trip to Numinbah Valley and surrounding hinterland. Then to Terranora for evening meal, pokies, etc. Owing to various difficulties we have decided on a B.Y.O. lunch with liquid refreshments supplied in bulk. Evening meal at Terranora is on a P.Y.O. basis.
- Thursday 15th** Free day.
- Friday 16th** Optional day trip to Stradbroke Island via Moreton Bay with tropical B.B.Q. lunch on Stradbroke or half day canal trip of the superb Gold Coast Estates. Trips on a P.Y.O. basis.
- Saturday 17th** Free day.
- Sunday 18th** Free day. Evening B.B.Q. at Silverton.
- Monday 19th** Book out a.m.

As the Gold Coast is recognised as the (or one of the) top holiday resorts in Australia we have kept organised trips, etc. to a minimum. This will allow you to do your own thing and thus combine a holiday with the Reunion. Apart from the obvious surfing, swimming, and night life, there is a host of various activities and attractions to occupy your time and give you the ultimate in pleasure (straight from a Gold Coast brochure). Details of these, and any negotiated prices we can manage, will be available at Silverton. This includes the optional trips mentioned in the itinerary.

The Hospitality Unit will be open on all free days and evenings, and other times as deemed necessary, for the use of all members, friends and day visitors. It should also be able to satisfy your home supply problems.

The Unit Dinner has been moved forward in time to the first Tuesday because that is the only night the caterers can accommodate us. Attendance to the Dinner is restricted to all members (also read wives and widows), plus friends attending the Safari. Any especially invited guests are excluded from this restriction.

As we cannot make bookings for transport for some time there could be some slight alterations to this itinerary. However we don't anticipate any. If there are any particular attraction anyone wishes to see or anything you should wish to do, not mentioned, let me know and it will be looked into for you.

Regards Air Transport. Some members nominated air transport, some said they would go with the majority and some didn't say anything. For those in

the second category, the majority from the West have nominated air travel. Travel to Surfers will be on the 5th with return on the day you nominate. I hate to do this. I have to supply a full list of air travellers to the appropriate person for pricing. Would those wishing to travel by air, spend another 22 cents and drop a line to me so as we can finalise this matter.

Caravanners are to be accommodated at the Broadbeach Island Caravan Village, Margaret Avenue, Broadbeach. As the name implies, this park is situated on an island in the Nerang River at a handy distance from Silverton. Approaching from Burleigh, you turn left just before the Broachbeach Hotel. Tarriff quoted by the Village was \$33.00 per week for two people.

We have made enquiries re chartering a Fokker Friendship aircraft for a sight seeing jaunt of the Gold Coast and Brisbane area. Suggested route is the Gold Coast, Brisbane City, near Sunshine Coast (north of Brisbane), Brisbane Valley and Toowoomba and back to the Coast. The duration of the flight would be one hour. The high wing aircraft sits 36 people (no strap hangers) and the charter rate works out at \$35.00 per seat. If we go ahead with the idea it would possibly be on a free day in the second week. The go ahead would depend on our ability to fill the aircraft, either once, twice or what have you as the \$35.00 quoted is based on a capacity load. I'm sure the project, as a jaunt, is good value for money. I throw the idea in for your consideration. We are interested in comment.

Costs involved in the Safari. From the proceeds of the raffle, and funds from South Australia, the Unit Dinner will be no charge to members, wives and widows. Safari guests of members, who wish to attend, will be required to pay \$18.00 per head, the actual cost of the function. We regret the necessity of this, but our financial situation does not allow us to do otherwise.

The cost of the Hospitality Unit and, we hope, transport costs to and from functions and day outings will also be paid out of that fund for all attending the Safari. As we cannot get firm quotes for transport until possibly after July, we are a little up in the air regards costs. At times we may have to call on the good graces of some of our motoring members to help with overloads.

For catering purposes we will want to know, sometime in September, the number of paying guests, also members not being accommodated at Surfers, who wish to attend the Unit Dinner.

We still have a few dozen Unit glasses on hand. Anyone wanting them at \$12.00 per half dozen, plus postage,

drop me a line. Any leftovers will be on sale at Silverton during Safari time.

That's all the news for now. Any other developments, on Safari, will be forwarded to the Courier.

Best to all,

ANGUS MACLACHLAN

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT ANZAC CLUB ON TUESDAY, MAY 5, 1981

The President, G. McKenzie declared the meeting open at 8.05 p.m., and observed two minutes silence.

PRESENT

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

APOLOGY from H. Sproxtton was accepted on the motion of J. Fowler, seconded R. Burns. **CARRIED.**

MINUTES OF MEETING held on April 7, 1981 were read and confirmed on the motion of D. Turton, seconded C. Varian. **CARRIED.**

BUSINESS Arising from Minutes: Letter of appreciation to be sent to Tony Bowers, for accepting the position of Standard Bearer on Anzac Day. Moved A. Burns, seconded J. Fowler. **CARRIED.**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Kirkwood presented the financial statement, which showed a balance of \$835.60 in the Working Account. Statement was received and accounts passed for payment on the motion of C. Varian, seconded G. Maley. **CARRIED.**

ANZAC DAY

G. McKenzie stated that he was very impressed with the Dawn Service, and the march afterwards. He thought the Knutsford Hotel was an ideal location for the get together. G. Maley congratulated J. Carey for providing such an excellent luncheon and also to Delys Carey for making the brawn.

CORRESPONDENCE

Inward from Eric Thornander, Edna Olde, Ron Tregrove, Mack Grant, Harry Botterill, Fred Stevens, Reg Harrington, Lola Laidlaw, Col Knight, Alec Wares, Angus MacLachlan. Outward to A. Wares, G. Fletcher, M. Morgan, J. Epps. Correspondence was received on the motion of D. Turton, seconded C. Varian. **CARRIED.**

GENERAL BUSINESS

Correspondence from A. Wares was reported on by G. Maley and G. McKenzie, after which the President

suspended Standing Orders, to allow himself and G. Maley to vacate the meeting. The Vice President, J. Fowler, then took the chair, and a discussion of the situation took place. When concluded, J. Fowler asked G. McKenzie and G. Maley to resume their places at the meeting.

KINGS PARK

A vote of thanks to R. Dhu for his time and energy spent making sure the area is well watered, was moved by J. Fowler, seconded R. Kirkwood. CARRIED.

DAY AT TURTONS

Arrangements are well in hand for this picnic day with the Timorese, at Don Turton's Keysbrook property for Saturday May 9.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked all for attending, and declared the meeting closed at 10.10 p.m.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

- ~~C. KING,~~
3 Wangoola Terrace, Armadale, 6112
- ~~S.E. KING,~~
205 Dunham St., Lake Grace, 6353
- ~~J. SPENCER,~~
4 Hainault Road, Boulder, 6432
- ~~E. THORNANDER,~~ Flat 18,
38-42 Cross St., Shenton Park, 6008
- ~~N. HOOPER,~~
3 Yiada Street, Kedron, 4031
- ~~BENNETT, Mrs. JUNE,~~
186 Warriewood Rd., Warriewood,
2102
- ~~MOODIE, W.P. (PAT),~~
15 Gloucester Cres., Shepparton, 3630
- ~~A.C. BOWERS,~~
9 Talbot Close, Halls Head, Mandurah,
6210
- ~~C.J. KNIGHT~~
34 Tweed St., Brunswick Heads, 2483

DELETE FROM ADDRESS BOOK:-

- ~~Mrs. F.S. West, Waterman, W.A.~~
* ~~P. Costello, Sunset Hill, N.S.W.~~
* ~~C. Browne, North Cairns, Q'Ind.~~
* Couriers returned.

DONATIONS TO COURIER, ETC.

E. Mulcahy, G. Hart, N. Hooper, S. Whitford, W.P. Moodie, J. Haire, A. Wares, Mrs. J. Bennett, D. Murray, M. Holland, C. King, F. Griffiths, C. Gorton, D. Darrington, J. Burrige, R. Dook, T. Paull, M. Herbert, A. Smith, R. Watson, J. Carey, J. Poynton, T. Bowers, D. Hudson, M. Morgan, R. Kirkwood, P. Hancock, R. McDonald, R. Burns, H. Sproxtton, G. Fletcher, S. Payne, R. Studdy, J. Fowler, R. Smyth, G. McKenzie, L. Bagley, R. Barber, C. Doig, R. Aitken, D. Turton, E. Thornander, G. Malley.

Many thanks for your help. The "etc" mainly covers donations towards the cost of our Timor Day.

Acknowledgements to 5th May, 1981.

Canley Vale, 2166

8th April, 1981

I would like to publicly express my thanks to those members of the 2/2 who were instrumental in my receiving the War Widow's Pension, but, above all, who helped to have my late husband's efforts in the war accepted by the authorities.

These men have been of tremendous help in supplying evidence which I could submit to the Tribunal - it is eight years since the case was first heard. The help they have given indicates the great bond of comradeship which still exists in the 2/2 Commando Association.

Once again, thank you!

EDNA OLDE

Shenton Park, W.A.

16/4/81

As can be noted in the last Courier, my address has changed to the metropolitan area, after an association with Kalgoorlie since 1934. At the moment of writing, I am still located here, but only until the disposal of my home. I will then join my wife at Shenton Park.

There is little news to report locally. Was talking to Tony Davidson, and he is sailing along O.K. Seems to have recovered from his illness of a few years ago.

From time to time I run into Jack Sheehan. That man never changes. I have known Jack personally since before the war, and he remains Jack Sheehan, the one and only.

I actually contact Jack Spencer more than any. Either he calls in to see us, or I go out to his place. Has had a few minor accidents of late, but currently he is in good fettle. Has purchased a nice little place at Boulder, but still has the urge to go look for a colour or two.

See one of our ex locals, Ernie Hoffman, was at Joe's day out to help stir things up. Was talking to an old mate of his, Noel Little. Drop him a line Hoffie. We all played tennis together long before the war.

The wife Mollie, and I are well. We have had a setback with our youngest daughter, Jillian. Had to undergo a serious operation, but is now in the course of recovery.

My kindest regards to all the boys. I sincerely hope that they and all their family enjoy the best of health. Cheerio.
ERIC THORNANDER.

Kedron, Queensland
March 1981

At last I have been receiving the Courier regularly. I know it is hard when one changes address as often as I have been doing these past few years, but now it looks like remaining the same for quite a while.

Have now returned from Grafton N.S.W. where I renewed a few old friendships. It certainly is good to meet the boys again. I am looking forward to meeting many more at the Gold Coast later this year.

Enclosed is cheque for Courier. I always enjoy reading the news from everybody. I'm not much of a hand at this letter writing but wait till I get you over here in person and I'll bash the ear and catch up on the past 30 odd years.

Until then, regards to all.

NEIL HOOPER.

Waterman, W.A.
9/3/81

My sincere thanks in keeping me posted with the Courier which I have enjoyed, however, as I'm unable to participate in your activities etc. will you please discontinue posting same.

Many thanks especially to Scotty Wares. May the memories of the 2/2 continue to flourish.

CLARE WEST.

Warriewood, N.S.W.
24/3/81

I would like to say how much I, and my family, appreciated the many expressions of sympathy from friends in N.S.W. and interstate on our deep sorrow of Bill's death. He was much loved by us, and we all miss him badly.

Steven, and especially Marilyn, are being wonderful supports to me, and I would also like to say how much I am indebted to Edith and Alan Luby. They have been true friends, indeed.

I am gradually getting a new life together, mainly going back to voluntary work. I belong to a Community Welfare Club, now also an assistant secretary to Dee Why Legacy Torchbearers, and a regular helper at Mona Vale Hospital Kiosk.

Will be doing a bit more travelling as well, soon making a trip to Flinders Ranges and Wilpena Pound in South Australia. Then a trip to Western Australia in September-October, so will probably miss the Safari to Gold Coast, unfortunately.

I wish you all Peace and Good Health.

JUNE BENNETT

Dianella, W.A.
March 1981

Please find enclosed a cheque for 50 dollars to assist with the cost of the proposed outing for the Timorese, at the property of our member Mr. Don Turton.

We the members of the 2/2nd owe a great deal to the people of Timor. Had it not been for their great assistance during the war, we might not be in a position today, to extend hospitality towards them.

Hoping that the day will be a great success and that the members do roll up and give the Committee wonderful support.

SCOTTY WARES.

Dee Why, N.S.W.
11/3/81

Jack Hartley will no doubt pass on to you the results of our meeting on March 2 - we were down on numbers because Mick Devlin was tied up with something else, as was Bill Coker.

Les Isenhood has been in Repat. Hospital at Concord for about a month. Mick and I have seen him a couple of times - he seems to be making slow progress and undergoing the usual number of tests.

We had June Bennett over for dinner last Saturday to help celebrate Ede's birthday, she is well and finding plenty to keep herself occupied.

The appeal for funds to erect the memorial to Australian Commandos in Martin Place is now open and it should help if you can reproduce the article written by the President of the N.S.W. Commando Association requesting donations.

The Royal Australian Armoured Corps Association has applied to the Organising Committee for the Anzac Day March at the R.S.L. for the returned men of the 1st Armoured Regiment AIF (Royal New South Wales Lancers) to lead the Anzac Day March in 1985, to coincide with the Centenary of the Royal New South Wales Lancers, and the 55th anniversary of the first parade of an armoured unit in Australia. It is understood that Commando Units and "M" and "Z" forces are included as Cavalry Units and would form part of the leading contingent.

Ede joins me in sending our regards and best wishes to all our friends in W.A.

ALAN LUBY

COMMANDO MEMORIAL APPEAL

Dear Member,

Our Association has now received approval from the City of Sydney Council to erect a Memorial in Martin Place, Sydney.

As the Memorial must be of public use, it will consist of a square with seatage on all sides, and an elevated centre containing a plaque on which a suitable inscription, and all Commando Colour Patches and insignias of special Units will be prominently displayed.

This Memorial will perpetuate the memory of our fallen Comrades and keep future generations aware of the sacrifices these gallant men made.

It is estimated that we will need \$10,000 to build the Memorial and any delay could see these costs increased, therefore, our Committee appeal to all Members to donate generously to enable the Memorial to be built quickly.

Please send all donations to our Secretary.

Mr. D. Latimer,
8 Cumberland Street,
BLACKTOWN. 2148

Make all cheques payable to N.S.W. Commando Memorial Appeal.

Yours faithfully,
W.A. Littler, President.

VALE**DAVIDSON, Tony****With deep regret we advise the sudden passing of Tony at Kalgoorlie, 22nd May, 1981.****Deepest sympathy to wife Agnes and Family.**