



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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Vol. 34

OCTOBER, 1981

Price 1c

COMING EVENTS ANNUAL RE-UNION DINNER

SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER, 1981

Drinks 6 p.m. — Dinner 7 p.m.

NEW ANZAC HOUSE

30 St George's Terrace, Perth
(Cnr. Irwin Street)

★ ★ ★ ★

ANNUAL COMMEMORATION SERVICE

SUNDAY 1ST NOVEMBER, 1981

Fall in at 3 pm

LOVEKING DRIVE HONOUR AREA

KINGS PARK

Afterwards — Drinks, Cheese and Biscuits.

4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Anzac House

★ ★ ★ ★

CHRISTMAS PARTY WITH TIMORESE

Presented by East Timorese Association

SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER, 1981

Entertainment Commences 6.30 p.m.

Native Dancing, Music and Food

Venue to be advised at Annual Dinner

Progress Hall, Forget St Ham Hill.

OUR COURIER

Being ever mindful of the objects of our Association, your Editorial Committee is convinced that our "Courier" is the best vehicle for promoting "the spirit of comradeship among all members". In fact it is the one and only type media we can use to reach all members on a regular basis and we have therefore mentioned in discussion that our objects, maybe, should be increased to include "production and distribution of our "Courier"" as one of our primary objects.

A quick look at the "know's — must — should — could" in respect of the "Courier" proves inconclusive, although we accept that comments both verbal and written received commending our little paper are overwhelmingly in favour.

Short notes to say "please don't send "Courier"" received so far can be counted on one finger and we understand this from a bereaved wife. As yet, we have never been told the "Courier" is only a "letter box stuffing" piece of rubbish.

With each change in Editor's, there must inevitably be a change in style and presentation and this includes the paraphrasing of letters written personally, to the Editor, before this news is published. Having heard this, please don't say "to hell with 'em, I won't write again". What we need on a hitherto unknown scale is for members to accept the challenge to write and send in "some news for the "Courier"". It may not always be possible to publish complete letters and we ask you to accept the Editor's decision if he has to abbreviate one of yours.

NOW THE PUNCH LINE — WHO PAYS?

Since inception the cost of publishing our "Courier" has been borne by the Association out of monies donated for the purpose. Our regular donors have been and continue to be most generous and it is evident that they support the "Courier" and wish publication to continue.

Is it time for some to see their name published with other donors? If so let us have your cheque and see your name listed.

We have been examining "Courier" format plus frequency of issue in light of an anticipated increase in printing costs, as well as comparing quotes from other printers and therefore readers can also anticipate some changes to presentation.

COME WHAT MAY — "2/2 Commando Courier" will continue, so come on readers — let's hear from you.

CARRYING ON THE 2/2 ASSOCIATION

At the recent opening of congress of the Returned Services League of W.A. we heard a short address by the Governor of W.A., Rear Admiral, Sir Richard Trowbridge, wherein he made a strong point of the fact that as the number of ex-World War 2 returned men and women gets less, so the need for legacy and welfare work, inevitably, grows greater and more important. He went on to remind us that in the foreseeable future, ex-service organisations, who by necessity carry a large part of the legacy and other welfare burden, would have to look elsewhere for recruits to staff these positions and raise finance on no less a basis than at present.

Coincidentally, not long before the congress address we were contacted by a son of one of our well known W.A. members, asking in brief what view the executive would take if the sons and daughters got busy to form their own association, because, he said, some of them had discussed the desire that they did not want to see the Association "die out" or cease functioning. It was agreed that something in writing was needed to put before Committee, the matter ended there.

I believe:

- (a) the Governor gave us timely advice!!
- (b) the formation of a sons and daughters back-up unit sounds a splendid idea!!

What do you think?

BOX 598, GPO, NSW, 2001
20/8/81

Enclosed herewith is my small donation for our "Courier" and thanks indeed for posting it to me regularly.

As a sole survivor of the Party which Lt. Pires was a member, I am delighted that you have moved to bring his daughter here.

Australia owed much for the paramount sacrifice that this Officer rendered to the Allied Governments during the dark days of W.W.II.

For myself, I was released (14.5.43) from DCA, Essendon, and joined (Special Army Intelligence) Lt. Pires as radio operator and landed at Beaco by US Submarine from Fremantle.

Later our Party was attacked by the Japanese between Baucau and Vemasse Beach.

I refused to surrender and with three men we confronted the enemy and eventually escaped into the mountains by almost a miracle.

We were continuously tracked and two of our men were captured and killed.

Thanks to the Timorese Chiefs (LIURAS) of Viqueque, Baucau and Manatuto, I managed to survive the War by constantly moving from one area to another.

Later I will send more info of interest to 2/2 and Z Forces.

Regards to you all.

PAT J. DA LUZ

PO BOX 768, DARLINGHURST, NSW.
21/8/81

Thanks for yet another copy of the "Courier" and a very interesting one indeed this time, particularly with the news of the daughter of Tenente Pires. I hope you are successful in getting her into the country.

Also interesting reading was the Red Cross Report and I see that they are into Turiscaj which was one of the Fretelin strongholds.

I enclose my cheque towards publication of the "Courier".

Best regards.

A.D. STEVENSON

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ANZAC CLUB ON TUESDAY AUGUST 4, 1981

The President declared the meeting open at 8.15 p.m. and asked that two minutes silence be observed for departed comrades, and a special thought for the families of recently departed members — Alf Grachan and Harold Newton.

PRESENT:

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

APOLOGY:

from B. Burns was accepted.

MINUTES of meeting held on July 7, 1981 were read and confirmed on the motion of J. Fowler, seconded C. Varian. CARRIED

TREASURER'S REPORT: R. Kirkwood presented the financial statement, which showed a balance of \$546.80 in the Working Account. Statement was received and accounts passed for payment on the motion of G. Maley, seconded D. Turton. CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE: Inward from R.S.L., Ron Trengove, Alan Luby, William Heinemann, David Finklestein, Harry Handicott, Harry Botterill, L.A. Mitchell, Mr. Wheatley, International Red Cross, Australia Post, Brigadier Mac Grant, N.S.W. Commando News. Outward to Jack Hartley, David Finklestein.

Inward and Outward correspondence was received and confirmed on the motion of J. Fowler, seconded H. Sproxtton. CARRIED.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE:

TIMORESE ASSOCIATION: G. Maley reported that the legal work for the East Timor Association (Inc.) is well in hand, and should be completed any day.

HOLLYWOOD HOSPITAL: G. Maley reported on a recent survey of deteriorating conditions at Hollywood, which was conducted by the State R.S.L. and T & PI Association.

LEGACY APPEAL: G. McKenzie stated that he had contacted Mr. Bentley of Legacy, after correspondence had been received from Legacy concerning their appeal. After all the information was discussed, G. Maley moved that a \$25 donation be made and also an amount

of \$50 be presented to sponsor a ward, seconded D. Turton. CARRIED.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

ANNUAL DINNER: To be held at the new Anzac House, St. Georges Tce., on Saturday October 31, commencing at 6.30 p.m.

COMMEMORATION SERVICE: To be conducted at our area in Lovekin Drive, Kings Park on Sunday November 1, commencing at 3 p.m.

ANZAC HOUSE: L. Bagley reported that Ted Steele, manager of Anzac Club, has advised us to move our personal possessions from the Club, as the R.S.L. is moving into its new premises in St. Georges Terrace, at the end of August.

MONTHLY MEETINGS: It was moved by L. Bagley, seconded J. Fowler, that future meetings be held at the new Anzac House, St. Georges Terrace.

WREATHLAYING: G. McKenzie will write to Tony Adams concerning the laying of a wreath ceremony, to be performed at the Gold Coast during the Safari period. Moved by J. Carey, seconded H. Sproxton. CARRIED.

STAN KING has been in R.P.H. undergoing tests for a stomach ulcer, but has now returned to Lake Grace, with a few bottles of pills.

The President declared the meeting closed at 10.05 p.m., and thanked all those in attendance.

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ANZAC HOUSE ON TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 1, 1981

The President, G. McKenzie declared the meeting open at 8.05 p.m. and asked all present to observe two minutes silence, in memory of departed comrades, and a special thought for the relatives of recently departed member, Cliff Paff. He also expressed sympathy to Jack Carey for the recent loss of his mother.

PRESENT:

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

APOLOGIES:

from R. Kirkwood, H. Sproxton and B. McDonald were accepted on the motion of J. Fowler, seconded C. Varian. CARRIED.

MINUTES of meeting held on August 4, 1981, were read and confirmed on the motion of D. Turton, seconded G. Maley. CARRIED.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

G. McKenzie reported that he had written to Angus Maclachlin concerning a wreathlaying ceremony, during the Safari period in Queensland.

G. McKenzie thanked D. Turton, J. Fowler and L. Bagley for moving the Association's personal gear from Anzac Club, and storing it at the home of D. Turton.

TREASURER'S REPORT: L. Bagley read the financial report, which showed a balance of \$129.43 in the Working Account. Statement was received and accounts passed for payment on the motion of B. Burns, seconded J. Fowler. CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE: Inward from Alf Hillman, Pat Da Luz, A.D. Stevenson, R.S.L., Dept. Veterans' Affairs, Colin and Bonnie Criddle, Madge Field, Ron Dook, Double Diamond (Vic.), Jerry Haire.

Outward to Harry Handicott, Madge Field.

Inward and Outward correspondence was received and confirmed on the motion of C. Varian, seconded D. Turton. CARRIED.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

COURIER: L. Bagley and G. McKenzie both commented favourably on their visit to Barron Press, where they spoke to the owner, Barry Sales, concerning quotes for both the Courier and a new issue of the Address Book, which is to include members phone numbers. After discussion it was moved by D. Turton that the Courier sub-committee be given the authority to accept satisfactory quotes for the Courier and Address Book, seconded J. Carey. CARRIED.

COURIER ADDRESS WRAPPERS: G. McKenzie and L. Bagley visited Western Business Machines to find out the best method of producing clear and distinct addresses for the Courier wrappers. They were told that the addresses should be typed by an electric typewriter on to the cards, which are inserted into the Scriptomatic machine for printing on the wrappers. A quote will be obtained from a typing service for this job.

CARPET BOWLS AND MATS: President of the Rockingham R.S.L., Mr. Frazer West, contacted G. McKenzie with a request to buy our carpet bowls

and mats. As we have not used them for some time and are very unlikely to use them in the future, it was decided to sell them for \$150 the lot. Moved G. Maley, seconded B. Burns. CARRIED.

UNIT DINNER: The caterers for the new Anzac House have supplied us with four menus, from which to make a selection, No. 2 menu was chosen, and a booking will be made for 40. The charge for the evening will be \$10 per head. Moved by J. Fowler, seconded J. Carey. CARRIED.

COMMEMORATION DAY: L. Bagley suggested that after the service in Kings Park, we all meet at the new Anzac House between 4 to 6 p.m. A tentative booking has been made for the venue, also that cheese and biscuits be provided. B. Burns moved that the secretary's actions be confirmed, seconded D. Turton. CARRIED.

SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE ASSOCIATION: G. McKenzie reported that there had been no more contact with Glen Harrington on this matter. G. McKenzie will write an article for the Courier on this subject.

FAREWELL TO SAFARI TRAVELLERS: G. McKenzie suggested that some form of farewell be organised for those going on Safari. D. Turton then stated that Dave Dexter will be visiting W.A. from September 24 for approximately one week, and suggested a barbecue luncheon at his Keysbrook property, to farewell the travellers and welcome Dave Dexter. The meeting agreed to the suggestions, and Saturday September 26 at 11 a.m. was the date and time agreed upon.

Les Anderson and Roy Watson have both had a short stay in hospital. Both Les and Roy are home again, and we wish them well.

The President declared the meeting closed at 10.15 p.m. and thanked all those in attendance.

INVITATION FROM EAST TIMORESE ASSOCIATION

We are honoured to have been invited to an Xmas Get-together with our very good friends on Saturday 5th December, 1981, at the HSL Memorial Hall in Oxford Street, Leederville.

Our happy friends are expecting us from 6.30 p.m. onwards when they commence a complete well-planned

programme of music and dancing from their homeland. Native instruments will be in evidence and included in the extensive programme is ethnic dancing by their ladies, and again featuring the younger girls, followed by the menfolk.

Timorese food and cooking is on the menu, the meal commencing around 7.30 p.m. As well as background melodies on the native instruments, you will be kept enthralled by the beautiful singing voices of the young people, and a further display of the dances of their homeland. Very little formality is the keynote of the evening.

This function is being presented by our good friends to wish us all a Happy Christmas and a trouble-free New Year, and is most certainly our opportunity to reciprocate. Put a big circle round the date, December 5th, Saturday night. It is one night you would be unfortunate to miss.

MILESTONE DECISION

After years of research and effort by members of Perth Legacy, and our own Association, it is very wonderful to be able to report that the Repatriation Review Tribunal have accepted that the illness that resulted in the untimely death of our mate, Ron Sprigg, Diabetes Mellitus, could have been caused by his war service, and have awarded Mrs. Win Sprigg a war widows pension.

This is most welcome news and we thank most deeply Mr. Ivan Davies of Legacy, and all our own members who assisted him in his efforts which have now proved successful.

We know that there has never been any doubt in the mind of Win, or of any of Ron's countless number of mates, that his death was as surely the result of his war service as if he had been killed in action, and it is most gratifying to all involved that at last the record has been set to rights.

THE WEATHER WAS GRAND AT KEYSBROOK

A barbecue function was arranged at the Hacienda of Don Turton on Saturday, September 26th at 11 a.m. for a twofold purpose.

1. Farewell to Safari Travellers.

From this point of view things turned out well, a good turn-up of intending travellers, with the added bonus of an extra participant making an

on the spot decision to be in it. Many were the messages entrusted to the Safari-ites to deliver to their mates in Brisbane, and President Gerry McKenzie officially instructed them all to keep off the grog and out of the clutches of meter-maids. Jealousy is truly a terrible curse. As these lines are being printed, many ales are being quaffed and many lies being told, you lucky blighters.

2. Welcome to Dave and Freda Dexter.

Both looking extremely well and spending most of their time working out who was who, and why! They have been well cared for by Don and Vida Turton, and have also spent time with the Fullertons and the Doigs. They handled the tractor and the hills like a couple of bushies, and it certainly was great renewing, and seeing renewed, bonds created some forty years ago.

Present were Gerry and Mary McKenzie, Charlie and Mary King, and Charlie Jnr., Dot and Gerry Maley and son, Rodney, Jean and Mick Holland, Tony Bowers, Helen and Joe Poynton, Doug and Daphne King, Les and Cherry Anderson, Don Hudson, Olive Klarie, Jack and Delys Carey, and son John, Rod Dhu, Millie Bowden, Jerry Haire, Clarrie and Grace Turner, George Fletcher, Ernie Bingham, Dave and Freda Dexter, Don and Vida Turton, Don and Geraldine Bowden, and Len Bagley. Apologies were received from Dot Boyland, Ron Kirkwood, and Ray Aitken.

The Turtons made every effort to ensure that we enjoyed an interesting day, and they certainly succeeded. We are indeed fortunate to have members of the calibre of Don.

SAFARI HUMOUR PAST SAFARI -- A HUMOROUS SIDE-VIEW

Our good friend, Grace Turner, kindly sent us this reprinted copy of an "Appointment" she received from an anonymous "Controller" soon after the Tassy Safari in 1974.

Area 4a
Section VI
28th November, 1974

Mrs. C. Turner
Peppermint Grove
Via Capel, W.A., 6271

CIVIL DEFENCE AREA NO. 8
CIVIL DEFENCE PROGRAMME

Dear Mrs. Turner,

Under the direction of the Civil Defence Programme, we are entering extension of training to organise both civilian and industrial corps for the purpose of fire fighting in the event of atomic raids becoming eminent.

As a citizen whose loyalty to the country is unquestioned, we believe we may count on your full co-operation, and we have taken the liberty of appointing you "Atomic Air Raid Warden" for the CAPEL DISTRICT.

Training will be confined to one night a week for six months. Please report to your civil Defence Centre each Monday evening at eight o'clock, commencing on the 30th December.

We hope to have your kind co-operation in this matter. Please accept the thanks of the committee in anticipation for your part in this enterprise which we feel is so vital to the interest of us all.

Yours faithfully,

C. Burke
AREA CONTROLLER.

LIST OF EQUIPMENT

1. Respirator.
2. Stirrup pump to be carried over left shoulder.
3. Extension ladder to be carried under left arm.
4. Long shovel to be carried over right shoulder.
5. Rake to be carried under left arm.
6. Wet bags to be carried under right arm.
7. Scoop to be carried in left hand.
8. Whistle to be hanging from lanyard and to be carried in mouth.
9. Spare pea to be carried in left ear hole.
10. 300 yards of hose pipe to be carried around neck.
11. Belt to be worn around waist and equipped with ten hooks for carrying six bags of sand and four pails of water.
12. Axe to be carried in belt.
13. Tin helmet with upturned brim carrying extra water.
14. Flashlight to be slung around neck.
15. Extra sand to be carried in all available pockets.
16. Toilet roll and suitable receptacle to be carried in haversack on back.
17. Broom to be carried in only available space left.
18. Keep right hand free and a change of underpants re No. 16.

We know you have been unwell for

several years now, Grace, but it is reassuring to learn that you still retain that keen sense of humour.

Best wishes for your complete recovery and your company at future Safari's.

Ed.

FAIRFIELD WEST, N.S.W.
17.9.81

Dear Len,

Sorry you have had to write again for the information on the memorial and have no idea where my reply could have gone to. I usually give my mail to my son Philip to drop in at the GPO as he works in Martin Place. At the time I said my information on the memorial was rather limited but at the last combined meeting we were fully enlightened on what progress had been made.

The cost of the memorial is expected to be in the vicinity of \$15,000 and about 50% of this has been underwritten by one member as he was becoming concerned by the escalating costs and wanted to get the project completed as soon as possible. Naturally he will have to be reimbursed so the appeal will be kept going until sufficient money is raised. All arrangements have now been completed and the deposit and order lodged with the builders through the City Council.

This is the first memorial to be erected in honour of the 2nd World War veterans and as you say it is quite an achievement for the Combined Commands Association.

At our last 2/2 meeting last week we decided to donate \$100.00 to the appeal from our branch funds. I think all of our members who are taking an active interest have made substantial personal donations as well, and I am sure any amount you folk see fit to contribute will be greatly appreciated. It is expected that the memorial will be in place before Christmas and the dedication will most likely be on the 24th January or as near as possible to Australia Day.

Have been trying to ring Alan but no answer so he may have already gone on Safari — he did say he was heading north 2 or 3 weeks early. However, Len, no need to worry about your accommodation here as he told me he had made a booking for you at the Great Southern and I would expect he has written to you to that effect.

We had rather a disastrous month here in August with the loss of 3 members, Harold Newton, Cliff Paff and Bob Field. I will deal with it in full in my newsletter. In the meantime Bonny Newton has asked to be kept on the mailing list for the "Courier". The address is Mrs. O. Newton, 4 Church Ave., Westmead, N.S.W., 2145. Also Madge Field wishes to keep in contact with us and would appreciate the "Courier" being sent to her at 79 Springdale Rd., Killara, N.S.W., 2071. Another member not getting the "Courier" is Stan Dawman who joined us some time ago and is in the address book. Stan was attached to the 2/40th Btn. on Timor and was well known to Col Doig. Will you please check that he is on the mailing list, Len.

Well mate must away as I have a mile of chores to do. Regards to Dot and Gavin and looking forward to seeing you all next month.

Cheers,

JACK HARTLEY

YAGOONA, N.S.W.
31.8.81

Dear Editor,

As you can see by the date on the heading it is the last day of winter. The temperature is certainly showing the fact for miles around. I'm sure it's the coldest day I've known this year. If spring is just round the corner, it must be a long long journey to that particular corner. Anyway welcome spring, we may see you tomorrow.

We have had a sad trinity here, three of our members passed on. Harold Newton, a member of Six Section. I am sure his old Section comrades will be sorry to hear of his death. Up on the mid north coast, Cliff Paff called it a day. Cliff was also an original of the Unit and served with the medical section, a big genial man, he was well thought of by all. The third was Bob Field. We haven't seen much of Bob over the last several years, his health had not been the best. "C" Troop members would know him well, as he commanded one of the Troop sections in New Britain. To the relatives and friends of these three Unit members, I extend my deepest sympathy.

Harold Newton of course was a personal friend of mine for thirty five years, after he settled here in N.S.W. I of course knew him in Timor, I'll always remember his dry humour in those days, particularly when things

could have been better than they were. To his wife Connie, children Warren, Glen, Denise and Robyn, my sympathy in your sad loss.

The cheerful news. Leon arrived home from various parts of West Australia, all his worldly possession aboard a ute that looks as if it had been round Australia a dozen times. He was a welcome sight and we are all glad to have him home again. He gave us news of many in the West, Tony Bowers and family, Joe and Helen Paynton, Huddy, Geordie Smith and Norm Thornton. Looks like he'd been on a Cooks Tour of the 2/2nd in the West. He sends his best wishes to all those people he met, and they will stay long in his memory.

Spent a week with Helen up on the North Coast, very pleasant too. She lives at Crescent Head, out from Kempsey, a beautiful spot with miles of beach on either side of it. A golf course, a country club, plenty of fishing, and thankfully so far undeveloped. Had a good day with Harry Handicott and his wife at Smoky Cape lighthouse. I was surprised at all the duties a lighthouse keeper performs. I thought light up, put it out, and polish the brass work. I know differently now. Bob Smith and Harry certainly put in a lot of hours for their dollars. Harry secured the British Empire Medal for services rendered. He reckons he will be retiring in a year or so, to look at him

he looks good enough for another twenty years' service.

Had a surprise visit from Bob Smith a few weeks ago. He is keeping well, and keeping busy, he has been retired for some years now. That however, and the serious illness he conquered has not prevented him from following many pursuits. He finally caught up with Noel Buckman, or more to the point "Buck" caught up with him. We lost sight of "Buck" all together, he works for the P.W.D. and was being transferred from place to place. He has now retired and is back at his old address, at Valentine, Newcastle, but Bob Smith will have to supply it, I don't know it. Anyway he is still in the land of the living, that's the main thing.

Our Annual General Meeting is next Monday 7th September. I expect it will be a case of the usual six or seven lads. If memory serves me truly, today Sept. 2 is the 42nd anniversary of our Declaration of war against Germany, or rather Neville Chamberlain's. I was wandering around Queensland at the time, when the umbrella man made his momentous announcement. I don't know what anybody else thinks, but in my lifetime I can never remember so many wars going on as have occurred since our 2nd World War finished. Remember the one that was going to bring peace and justice to all for all, boy oh boy, if foresight could only equal hindsight.



Singleton Camp with No. 1 Commando Regt. From 4th - 5th April. Left to Right: (Believe it or not!) B. Weir, W. Coker, A. Luby, R. Goodacre, R. Trengove, J. Dent. This is "before". No one had strength to take photo "after".

I'm off, all my clan are at peace anyway, so I'm grateful for small mercies. Helen will be home tonight, so that state of affairs may only last till tea time and we will probably have a din dong argument going, but I love it, it makes meal times interesting.

Good luck to all.

PADDY KENNEALLY

P.S. What happened to the print in the "Courier"? Our sight's getting worse not better.

REPORT ON MEETING AT REPATRIATION GENERAL HOSPITAL, HOLLYWOOD W.A. — 22nd JULY, 1981

On Wednesday, 22nd July, the following persons conducted a survey at Repatriation General Hospital Hollywood.

Mr. L. Turner, MBE, JP, State President — R.S.L.; Mr. J. Hall, BEM, CD, State President — Thirtyniners' Association; Mr. H. Holder, MBE, State Executive — R.S.L.; Mr. H. Noonan, MBE., State Executive — R.S.L.; and Mr. P. Maley, JP, State President — T & P.I. Association.

The meeting arose because of reports that had been received concerning —

- (a) Cutbacks at the hospital;
and
- (b) Hold up of capital expenditure.

A.

There is no denying that certain improvements have been made in recent years but the care and welfare of the ex-service community is suffering for a number of reasons among which are:

- (i) **DECREASE IN STAFFING** — Although no staff members are being dismissed neither are they being replaced, so that by natural wastage staff levels are not being maintained. Deployment of staff is necessary to fill the gaps caused and this is not good for morale, e.g. theatre staff, not required for theatre duty are being used in other areas.
- (ii) Through lack of finance, surgeons are not able to utilise the theatres outside their own time slots, even though the theatres

are vacant, i.e. when a particular surgeon is on leave his theatre times must remain unused.

- (iii) Materials and equipment for theatre use, although ordered, have now been deferred.
- (iv) Meals, although not changing in quality, have changed in quantity, e.g. one egg in lieu of two at breakfast saves \$2—3,000 a year.
- (v) The closure of Ward 13, a well equipped ward, was brought about ostensibly by finance — or is it that entitled ex-service patients are being placed in other hospitals?
- (vi) These cutbacks are coming at a time when it is expected that the number of patients will peak from 1983 to 1988.

B.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

- (i) **AIR CONDITIONING OF WARDS** — Promised that all wards would be air-conditioned by the end of 1980. Three still not done — reason given — lack of finance. Not good enough. The money was allocated so where has it gone.
- (ii) **ABLUTION BLOCKS** — Some wards still have antiquated ablu-tion blocks, e.g. Ward 4 has one shower. The outcome of this is that some ambulatory patients do not get to shower until 1100 hours.
- (iii) Why is the money (\$50 per bed, per night) charged for Community patients, paid into Consolidated Revenue and not into a Hospital Account so that it can be utilised by the Hospital Administration.
- (iv) **THEATRE BLOCK** — After many years we were pleased when, in 1980, we were told the construction of the new Theatre Block would commence in August, 1981, and be in full use by early 1984. The total of seventy two beds has become essential due to the archaic theatres at present being used. It was most distressing to hear that there is a possibility that this work will not proceed on schedule. The situation in a word is catastrophic. There is every possibility that before very long the specialist surgeons will refuse to operate in them.

It is recognised that some major surgery will always be carried

out at other hospitals because a surgeon has his specialist team on hand, but not all major surgery — including emergency — can be shifted.

The present theatres are a disgrace to any Government — or Parliament as a whole — and we would remind Parliament of the Declaration on Repatriation —

“Through the Repatriation Legislation the Australian Community has given an undertaking to those who served in the armed forces in time of war, that they would be provided with compensation for disablement and a **SATISFACTORY HEALTH SCHEME.**”

This is an obligation which must be honoured and all Kindred Associations must join in whatever action is necessary. Individual members are requested to take this up with their Federal Members to show just how deep our feelings are. Let us face the fact also that these conditions pertain to all Repatriation General Hospitals throughout Australia.

HIGHETT, VIC.
22.7.81

Dear Editor,

Enclosing two cheques towards “Courier” fund. One is from Victorian Association with our apologies for being so long winded as it is three years since we sent the last one — and we are all agreed that we must keep this wonderful paper going. The other is my own personal donation to the “Courier”. Visited Bruce Maclaren yesterday — he is at home now but his leg is still worrying him and I think it will be a long slow job and he will be very lucky not to lose this leg. But he still keeps up the good spirits and we all hope he gets better soon.

All the best Arch.

Kindest regards.

HARRY BOTTERILL

CLOVERDALE, W.A.

‘Hi’ Editor,

I hope this finds you keeping fit and still able to enjoy a few beers. Tony Davidson’s death was a bit of a shock to me as it’s not that long since I called

in on him and we enjoyed a natter and a few beers. He looked good for a lot more years to come. I’ve made a few trips through Kalgoorlie on my gold detecting trips up that way and generally look in on somebody.

I’ve just got over a stupid accident of my own doing. I got under the car to tighten the hose clamp on the bottom of the radiator while it was under pressure. The hose blew off and I got the super heated water in one second flat. I lost about two square feet of skin, mostly off the arm and back. I’m O.K. now but I’ve had to take it easy for the last eight weeks. I have a mining lease up near Leonora and that gives me an excuse to potter around up that way. When the weather gets a bit warmer I’ll be off again. I’ve yet to find that big nugget, all I’ve found at present is enough to cover the cost of the trips I’ve made.

I am enclosing a cheque to help in the cost of the “Courier” which certainly does a good job of keeping us in touch with each other. For now all the best to yourself and the rest of the boys. Will see you sometime.

Regards,

DOC WHEATLEY

SMOKEY CAPE, SOUTH WEST
ROCKS, N.S.W.
14.7.81

Mr. Secretary,

Dear Sir,

Well it’s sometime since I have written and having had a visit from Paddy Kenneally, his wife Nora and daughter Helen, and another read of the “Courier”, I must start. I guess by now you have confirmed the temporary position of Right Hon. Sec.

I suppose everybody is gearing up for the Safari. All things equal we hope to make it — should be good weather — we are having beaut weather here at present — no good for the farmers. We have only had .2mm since the beginning of the month. Had Jack and Norma Hasson drop in some time ago for a quick chat — have not contacted Bob Smith since April. Saw Bill Walsh a couple of weeks back at the Kempsey R.S.L. We were having dinner with some friends — time to go and I found I’d left the keys in the car. Yes it was locked! Couldn’t do any good with a coat hanger. Bill went to the kitchen and got a couple of spoons — bent them to fit around corners and after a bit of sweating I got it open —

must be getting old.

Had a note from Alan Lilly, he said we was heading West, he may be there by now.

Is there any 2/2 car stickers available? I did have an Arson one but since, sold that car — so would like one if they are available. Have enclosed a cheque towards the "Courier" — it's great getting them. A big thanks to the compilers.

I see Pat Moodie's address is Shepparton — I have a son in Albury so may look Pat up next time we go to Albury. Isn't it amazing how much one runs out of news — however there should be enough to talk about in October.

Regards to all,

HARRY HANDICOTT

MONA VALE, N.S.W.

Hi Mr. Editor,

Nice to make contact with you even if it's thru my lousy writing, and whilst we are on me, did I or didn't I put a cheque in my last letter for the "Courier" to help a little, if I didn't well I mislaid it somewhere because just after I had sealed up the thing, Dorothy said I'll make out a cheque — it's about time you kicked the tin (actually those last words are mine) but you know what I mean, so I said too late as the A said to the B, I've put the real thing in. IN being the money now I think?

July the 11 starters lined up at the Barrier for the start of another heat of the Galloping Gourmets handicap at 6.00 p.m. The Barrier being the Kameruka Quarter Dech, Commander and Lady Coker officiating with the starting equipment mainly soup dishes and spoons at the slope with two delicious soups, linseed bread, and toasted, roasted, or cheese grilled fingers to dip in between slurps of sloops, oops I mean spoonfuls of soup. Mind you, we had a little of B.Y.O. It does you good to relax as you move along to the bridge where the Gourmet Delight starts for the evening. After sampling the two brands of soups, not made by Heinz and chattering away about this and that and wondering where the expected sixteen were and only nine turning up,. Where upon the phone rang and then we found out Joan Darge had an oil leak, strange, the Craigs had to return to Young as Keith was going to give a lesson to someone at Young so I guess he picked his six guns up as he passed the ranch and silently wished

the Gourmets somewhere else. That accounted for three. The phone jingled again as we trooped down the gangway from the Quarter Deck to say that the Goodaires were going out on a pick up and couldn't make it as they hadn't known about the Trial by road and food early enough,. The Devilins had made other arrangements probably Nick couldn't let go his ba—bowls (see I nearly wrote some other word. I write too fast).

Monsier and La Bella Luby had left earlier by about 10 or 15 minutes at the trot for the Passion Pad at the sexy end of Dee Why where us other trotters duly arrived for A La Sunny garnished with Shiny Rice and or if you prefer Dull rice as all you ex rice eaters would know the latter does more for what takes you longer than it did in the days when rice was rice and if you could get it (rice I mean) you were glad of it, all this garnished with Madam Papadums. In case you're as mystified as I am, they are thin wafers of flour and water thickened up and then Allan bashes them to a thin wafer between two river stones and rolled them like a Frisbee through the window for Eadie to put on her hop plate (stove of course) where they immediately become crispie and a delightful additive to your entree of the best of good food.

Of course on arrival at these ports of call like all the best eateries one indulges in a little of what it takes your fancy (drink-wise I mean) . A dash of this, a little of that, a glass full of the other, and if you like a bit of the old frozen it's there to take but don't touch it as the Bishop said to the Actress on cold nights.

It was at this port of call Allen showed us his all, excuse me. Films of the mighty warriors of yesteryear taken at Singleton where I hasten to say we represented you all and when you see the photos you might regret it but as I said previously we enjoyed it and they are very good shots.

Dorothy just asked me if I was writing a book. Well Arch, it it's too long cut like a censor and leave it on the floor if you haven't the space, and as she said to him once I start I don't want to stop, he has a way with flock (not frock).

Anyway to continue the Gourmet Safari, the Fengoves left at a canter ten or so minutes ahead of the other starters for Windy Peak where one gets an unbroken view of the wind when it is blowing so much so at times it blows into ones fundamental orifices which gave rise to that much worn

phrase, "up yours" or "in your Khyber" but on this particular evening it was cold but not windy. The starters rolled in sometime later not before I had got the fire well and truly started in the fireplace (I find it works better there). The cuisine here was Shattered Chook a La Stew, Nasi Goering or Go Ring Garnished with Party Pies or Patty Pies (I like a pat on the pie) with a selection of greens from someones garden and a touch of Schmilson old songs and a drop as before of what you fancy or brought with you. By this time it was getting past 11 p.m. and the handicap had entered its last furlongs. Mary and the Quiet One Jones grabbed June Bennett to the Finishing post by Commodore Gallop at Worriewood Gums and here we enjoyed some succulent fare that I particularly am very very partial to. 3 or 4 decked ginger cream sponge, plain orange chocolate covered cake, what a mouthful. Delectable, all of it. If I missed anything it was only because I was keeping my eye on ginger. We also had coffee or tea, and a dissertation by Mary and Merv on how to poison your neighbours tree in the dark even while they are standing right next to where you are doing the nefarious work saying good-night to friends, you must be suitable garbed and by the sound of it Mike Calvert would have been proud of the gear worn for the deed at the hour except that he refuses to cover that grey crop.

The gums at Warriewood Bill planted when he and June moved into their new home, and I was a constant watcher of them as they grew so unbelievably fast. They are to say the least a magnificently growing tribute still to our friend Bill. I never failed to remark to him about them as I am a lover of trees particularly gums.

Well like all good things, the evening with the small numbers that we were was a very very pleasant way to spend time especially with friends and came to an end sometime about 12.30 a.m. I think as the song says "this is a lovely way to spend an evening".

See you on Safari.

Yours sincerely,

RON TRENGONE

P.S. Two days later have discovered what I did about the donation. Dorothy found a cheque butt and reconstructed what I did. A memory like quick sand. Sorry and all that.

P.P.S. Still eating party food.

DEE WHY, N.S.W.
12.9.81

Dear Arch,

Many congratulations on your appointment as Editor of our 2/2 "Courier", I'm sure you will prove a worthy successor to those who have dedicated themselves to this task seriously. Maybe the infusion of new blood will take it to even greater heights as a contact magazine.

For some time I have been forwarding a copy of our N.S.W. Commando News for information and for any snippets of news that may be of value. I note with interest the comment in the recent "Courier" regarding unit autonomy, but having been N.S.W. delegate to Combined Association for many years I must say that because of reducing numbers of active members over this time, our bonds have become stronger with veterans of other units. We still retain our individuality in those areas and for those functions where we so desire we also enjoy strong support from the Executive of the Comb. Assn. as evidenced by their presence at our Safaris and other functions.

I shall also enclose a few additional copies of the Memorial Appeal and Plan — the response so far is slow and if we are to achieve this goal by Anzac Day 1982, we need a strong stimulus to the appeal for the necessary \$11,500.

Edith and I have continued to find obligations that have prevented our trip West up to this time — originally we had hopes of being over there before the onset of winter and to try to be present at some of those great functions that have been reported upon. At this stage it's a big maybe, especially as Safari time draws rapidly closer.

We had a nice little get-together last night with a progressive dinner. Unfortunately only nine people were able to make it but what we lacked in numbers was made up by enthusiasm. Those present, Bill and Coral Coker, Self and Edith, June Bennett, Merv and Marge Jones, Ron and Dorothy Tregone.

Sorry to learn the news of Tony Davidson who is remembered as a nice young fellow — so soon after his appointment as a country V.P. too. Trust Scotty, Arthur Smith and others who have been on the sick list are now O.K.

All is well here as far as known — you might add a note in "Courier" requesting advice of any members sick at home or in hospital. If we don't know

about them we can't visit them. For some time I've been on the panel of Sick Visitors arranged by our R.S.L. Sub Branch and I know how much it can mean to see a strange but friendly face when one is laid up. Recent news of Barry Smith is that he is remarkably well and more than holding his own.

Good news department — member Harry Handicott was awarded an Honour in Queens Birthday List with a British Empire Medal for his diligence in lighthouse service — congratulations.

Must away now, there's much to be done even in retirement — ain't it beaut? Edith joins in sending regards and best wishes to all.

Sincerely,

ALAN LUBY

ALBANY, W.A.
26.8.81

About time I took up the pen again but this is a very quiet area so have very little to write about. Should you want a little rain we have had some we could do without — 26 inches in the last four months, 70 out of the last 72 days wet. Also colder than any of the older inhabitants can remember.

I went round to look up Keith McCachern, one of my Timor section, the other day and found he had done the arab on me (folded up and shifted). His new address is: Unit 9, South Masonic Village, Rogers Road, Albany. He moved there last Christmas so has had plenty of time to settle into a nice comfortable looking unit.

Elsie and I have now had just over a year here so have practically got the garden to our way of thinking, after digging up what seems like acres of lawn.

The bowling club is not far away and I have managed to get in a game now and again through the winter. Next week we have world champ. David Bryant here to show us how it is done.

With the extra distance to travel we don't get to Perth so often now, over five hours travelling, in fact we haven't been up since last Christmas.

Health good except for knee which does not like the prolonged cold spell.

Enclosed a bit towards cost of "Courier".

Yours faithfully,

ALF HILLMAN

WEMBLEY, W.A.

I am writing on Col's behalf, to say hello to all and enclose a cheque to assist in the publication of the "Courier". Col's keeping well enough but can't put pen to paper, a result of the stroke. He sees Gerry Maley once a month and catches up with the news of you all.

Regards to all,

COL AND BONNIE CRIDDLE

SHORTLAND, N.S.W.

Joyce and I learnt of Cliff's death only two hours after he passed away and we went to his funeral on Tuesday. The association members present were — Alan and Edith Luby, Jack Hartley, Snowy Went, and Ron Trengrove. They all drove up from Sydney. The funeral was one of the biggest I have ever seen and was a reflection on how much Cliff was admired and loved. I thought the church service was nice but thought the graveside service was a wonderful and emotional affair. The graveside was set in among hills and woods and when the "Last Post" was played it was wonderful in the fact that it was both haunting and echoed among the hills. Will tell you more about it when we see you soon.

On completion of the service for Cliff a get-together was held at the local hall for tea and scones. By the way Scotty, we all had a very pleasant surprise happening prior to the service. We (Alan, Jack, Ron, Snowy and myself) were approached by the family members and asked to be pall-bearers for Cliff's casket. They had not asked anyone but when it was seen that 5 of his army mates had turned up, we were asked along with an R.S.L. mate of Cliff's. His coffin was adorned with a beautiful replica of the 2/2nd Commando double red diamond, amde up of red flowers and rosemary (grey at this time of the year). It was very lovely and again I felt a sense of pride, as well as feeling a loss at Cliff's passing.

Best wishes,

BOB SMITH

MT. LAWLEY, W.A.

Dear Gerry,

The enclosed letter arrived in the mail while I was away, returned yesterday 2.40 a.m.! Had a good trip and feel a heap better.

Thought Rowan's letter would make news for the next bulletin.

See you soon, God bless.

ARCHIE CAMPBELL

BRIDGETOWN, W.A.

Dear Editor,

Returning from a cruise to China, I find amongst the heap of mail, the "Courier" is waiting for me, and on reading the front page I see that I have been 'mentioned in dispatches', in other words made a country Vice President. This being so thought I had better drop you a few lines giving any news that might interest your readers.

Unfortunately, there are very few double diamonds left in this neck of the woods, in other words down among the jarrah and karri trees. Ted Loud is I believe still further south, at Pemberton, but I never see him. I called in to see Bernie and Babs Langridge on my way to Perth and spent a night with them while attending a seminar in Bunbury. As you probably know he sold his farm and moved to a smaller one close to Bunbury. Gordon Rowley moved from Manjimup (20 miles south) and has retired in Mandurah with several others from the unit as you know. I have now left my farm and let my son take over. We now live in Bridgetown where we have built a new home and have been living here for about 18 months. I still go out to the farm and lend a hand when required.

Our cruise to China left from Darwin. We flew to Darwin and before boarding our ship I telephoned Ted Mulcahey to let him know that I would look him up on our return as we would be having several days in Darwin on our way back. No need to worry says Ted, I will see you on board as he was going too. Ted is by no means well, but he joined in with everything and was even to be seen doing P.T. before breakfast whenever possible.

Needless to say we had many chats about our army days at N.G. He is still staying on with his job in Darwin with the D.C.A. and expects, I think, to retire about the end of the year.

We spent two days travelling to Katherine and on the way visited the cemetery at Adelaide River and enclose the photograph we took of the memorial with many of the 2/2 boys' names on it. (They become more readable with the help of a magnifying glass).

I have not seen Clarrie Turner for some time and Arthur Marshall is also hard to find. Forgot to mention earlier that we were invited to the wedding of the Langridge's daughter, one of the twins. All went well and was enjoyed by everyone.

That is about all the news Archie. I hope the photo does not upset you too much as I notice that many of the names there are of your own section. Reading them through certainly brought me up with a jolt and my mind went back to nearly forty years ago.

Wishing you well as Editor.

ROBBIE ROWEN-ROBINSON

ADDRESS BOOK

It is proposed to prepare a new edition of our address book in the near future.

More space will be provided for amendments and notes, and there will be blank pages for additional and new addresses.

We would like to include telephone numbers but cannot imagine how to obtain these by a set publication time.

Perhaps every recipient of the "Courier" could invest twenty four cents and drop a note with their telephone number to The Editor, G.P.O. Box T1646, Perth, W.A., 6001.

Also perhaps you may have constructive suggestions to improve the format, without radically affecting the fragile cost structure. If so, let's have it!

DEPARTED COMRADES

It is with deep sorrow we have to report the loss of the following mates:

D. Bailey (Norfolk Island)
Cliff Paff (8/8/81)
R.C. (Bob) Field

"I tell you they have not died,
They live and breathe with you
They walk now here at your side,
They tell you things are true."

**DONATIONS TO
COURIER, ETC.**

Doc Wheatley
H. Botterill
H. Sproxton
J. Haire
A. Stevenson
A. Da Luz
J. Haire (2)

H. Handicott
Victorian Branch
L. Mitchell
C. Criddle
A. Hillman
E. Bingham
G. Green

**CHANGE OF
ADDRESS**

Keith McEachern,
South Masonic Village,
Rogers Road,
ALBANY, W.A., 6330.