



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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Address all Association correspondence to:

Box T1646, G.P.O. Perth 6001.

Vol. 37

April
FEBRUARY 1982

PRICE 1c

COMING EVENTS

SANDGROPER SAFARI 1983 — STATE OF EXCITEMENT W.A.

It is off and running — we are all under the one roof with a
HOSPITALITY ROOM!

ACCOMMODATION: Travelodge Motel — Terrace Road, Perth — right on Swan River. All modern conveniences — air conditioning, T.V., telephone, refrigerator, swimming pool, restaurant and cocktail bar, parking. 5 minutes from heart of city.

RATE: 1983 tariff. Single \$38 per day. Double twin \$45 per day.

SAFARI DURATION: 3rd to 16th October, 1983.

OFFICIAL CARRIERS: T.A.A. with real backup support.

ORGANISING COMMITTEE: Gerry McKenzie, Len Bagley, Archie Campbell.

Start saving now — each Courier will carry progress reports — 85 have indicated their intention to attend.

KEEP THIS DATE FREE IN '83

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Association held the above in Anzac House on Tuesday, March 16th, 1982.

Present: G. Mckenzie, President; J. Fowler, R. Kirkwood, C. Doig, D. Turton, J. Carey, H. Sproxton, C. King, H. Morgan, G. Fletcher, J. Burridge, B. Burns, C. Varian, L. Bagley and A. Campbell.

Apologies: R. Aitken, H. James, G. Morley, F. Napier, R. Dhu, A. Smith, A. Wares, B. McDonald, D. Fullarton, P. Hancock, R. Parry.

Life Membership was conferred on Mick Morgan and Charlie King and is referred to in a separate article.

presidents Report: Gerry McKenzie gave a full and comprehensive report on the years activities and progress and it was submitted in a forthright and constructive manner. It will not appear verbatim, but its headings, touching all subjects of our Associations well being, was thoroughly researched and a blue print set by Gerry for the years ahead. His special request was that his paragraph headed "Courier" be put into this report for dissemination to all the members of our Association.

Courier: You will recall that an Editorial Committee was elected at our last A.G.M. At the following committee meeting it was resolved to give this committee the power to act and do what was necessary to put stability back into the production of our Courier. As soon as I found that travel to meetings for some was a problem and that we had engaged a new printer who was keen to give service, there would be no change to our standing method of presentation, therefore without further comment I reduced the committee to three (3). Since then we have reviewed editorial policy. We regard our paper as the main contact media — look for Courier content — collection and collation of material for editing — costing — work volume and the time it takes to prepare for bulk postage — and — we have also had typed and arranged in postcode order, a new address cards file.

Personal correspondence in reply to questions asked re Courier from Qld-N.S.W. and Vic. indicate that the Courier is indeed considered the primary vehicle for keeping in touch. Having been a receiver of the Courier while interstate for 26 years between 1952-1978, I am aware of the expectations and acceptance. Arch Campbell

and Len Bagley took the opportunity to ask questions of our members at the 1981 Gold Coast Safari, and elsewhere on their travels, we came to similar conclusions that we need (a) Standing Editorial Committee (b) standing final backing team, (c) we need Courier expressed as a priority object.

We missed Jess Epps help in final preparation for several issues. Our final backing team carried on and now operates systematically using recently produced 'aide-memoris' which save a lot of time from the old method when applying postcode range in terms of Australia Post, a national pre-sorting plan for registered publications. Incidentally, Jess is now back in the final backing team.

I expect Arch Campbell to submit a plan for Courier to be produced in future through and by (a) Standing Editorial Committee (b) standing final backing team, and urge our new administration to listen with approving ears when he does so!!

All the gear and spares used by the final backing team are now held at 68 Alfreda Avenue, Morley. Mary and I see no reason why the Courier work cannot continue to be done there for the remainder of the year, unless the new administration decides to change venue. Of course we could be offered an irresistible price and sell out at any time, if this happened it would mean a sudden change of venue.

Finally it is my intention later to recommend that we consider altering our Rules and Constitution by adding a primary object to the effect that it becomes binding on all future administrations to:— "Produce a 2/2 Commando Courier as a priority task, six (6) issues annually in Feb, Apr, June, Aug, Oct, Dec in each year."

Treasurers Report: Ron Kirkwood presented the audited statement of receipts and expenditure of the Annual Balance Sheet explaining each item in the report. It was a fine production and we are solvent!

Auditors Report: John Burridge congratulated the Treasurer for his presentation of the Financial Statement, making his job a simple one!

Election of Officers: G. Mckenzie declared all positions vacant and C. Doig was elected to act as Returning Officer which he did with great efficiency and the following result:—

President — J. Fowler elected unopposed.

Vice Pres. — No nomination — left in abeyance.

Secretary — L. Bagley
 Treasurer — R. Kirkwood
 Auditor — J. BurrIDGE
 Wardens — G. Fletcher and R. Dhu
 Editor — A. Campbell

Committee:

G. Fletcher
 R. Dhu
 J. Carey
 G. Maley
 C. Varian
 D. Turton
 C. King
 H. Sproxtion
 B. Burns
 B. McDonald

Country Vice Presidents:

Goldfields — Esperance: Peter Campbell.
 Northern — Peter Barden
 Midlands — Reg Harrington
 Great Southern — Alf Hillman
 South Coastal — H. Rowan-Robinson
 South West — Clarrie Turner
 Mandurah — Joe Poynton

The Returning Officer congratulated all those who had been elected to office and wished them a successful year.

One could not let the curtain ring down without eulogising Gerry McKenzie for the fine contribution he made to the association during his term of office. He gave 100% of effort seeing that our beloved (Association continued to prosper on all fronts. He spared neither time nor energy in his steadfast approach and set a lively pace for future President's to match. Our thanks to Mary for being such a fine partner in allowing Gerry the time he expended on our behalf, and, in being a part of all our activities herself. Our love to you Mary Mckenzie, thanks to you Gerry for a fine job of work.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

At our Annual General Meeting on the recommendation of the General Committee two esteemed members of our Association were made Life Members, Mick Morgan and Charlie King. Gerry Mckenzie our President hit the right nail on the head when he said, "the reason for you both being honoured with a Life Membership is because you have earned that honour. "there was no truer word spoken.

1. **Mick Morgan**, one of the original unit was the first recipient and his illustrious contribution was outlined. Mick had been our Standard bearer at the Anzac Day March for 35 years

giving the Unit a real focus on that day. But that was only the tip of the iceberg, Mick has been a stalwart of the Unit in all its endeavours. It has been one of the loves of his life and as he said when responding, "The 2/2nd has been a grand unit at war and in the area of peace bringing into our lives, friendship, comradeship and all the things one needs to make life so much more pleasant".

Congratulations Mick on your wonderful service to the 2/2nd Commando Association and our love to Jean for backing you to the hilt and for being a real part of us. May you both be spared for many years to enjoy all the good things in life.

2. **Charlie King** was another original and along with Mick, in "B" Platoon, Section 4, making it a double for that famous section. Charlie has given the Association yeoman service in all directions, and, he and Mary have thrown open their lovely home to us over a long number of years for an outing which has been an integral part of our Calendar of Events. Charlie was emotional in his response and considered the honour bestowed on him one of the nicest things in his lifetime.

Congratulations Charlie on an honour thoroughly deserved and our love to Mary and the family. Mary has been a great partner to you and to our Association, a great contributor.

THE HELSMEN

These two people are the unsung heroes of our Association and their positive contributions over many years has been responsible for us maintaining a high standard of administration within our Association. They serve again in 1982.

Len Bagley as Secretary is a meticulous person and covers the ground in his stride. His attention to detail makes everything so easy and, unobtrusively he keeps the wheels turning in the right direction. Thanks from us all Len, Australia wide for your very significant contribution.

Ron Kirkwood, has given service plus over all the years and now as Treasurer is doing a mighty job. His presentation of the "Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the Year Ended 31st January 1981" was first class being so easy to read and understand. Ron keeps our coffers well under control and manipulates our finance to cover all contingencies. Ron has had a health battle if no mean order but his spirit has never

flagged, nor has the zeal he puts into the Association and its affairs. Thanks likewise Ron from all of us all over Australia for your great endeavours.

PERSONAL PARS

Our list grows a little this month of members who are having health problems, but they can rest assured we are right behind them to a man, and yes, a woman, for the whole Association wishes all a speedy recovery to good health, that wonderful gift which no money can buy:—

Harvey (Slim) James is in hospital with cancer of the bowel system and knowing 'Slim' he will put up a mighty fight to get back to fitness.

Ray Aitken still has a battle on his hands with a severe angina. Surgery may take place on the "open heart by pass" type and, if this is not possible, he will have to reduce to half pace. Stop Press! Surgery takes place middle of April.

Fred Napier is another who battles manfully in the area of mobility, he reckons what he needs are "Bader Legs", you know, the tin type, like Douglas Bader!! Why? Because no one can renew the ones he has! Typical Fred humour covering a very painful existence.

Arthur Smith is hospitalised with vascular trouble in his legs, something he has been battling with for quite awhile. We trust the answer is just around the corner.

Doug Fullarton is one who is taking it easy because his "ticker" is not functioning in a 100% manner. A wise precaution "Punchy" to get back on the track to good health.

Paddy (Irish) Kenneally is in hospital with a knee problem the extent of which we are not sure. Paddy, the "Little People" will see to it you do not suffer for long, you will just have to pray in bed!!

God bless each and everyone of you, the love of us all goes out to you in your hours of trial.

VALE R.K. (BOB) PALMER

It is with deep regret that we repeat the sudden passing of our esteemed member Bob at Busselton on 20 March 82.

His funeral at Busselton cemetery on 24 March 82 was attended by a very large gathering of family and sporting friends. Bob was well known

in South West and Country Week Cricket and was a leading player for many years. For about the last decade Bob furthered his interest in sport as captain of Busselton Golf Club. In addition to his family and sporting friends our Association was represented by Jean and John Fowler, Arthur Smith, Scotty Wares, Clarrie Turner, Dot Boyland, Jess Epps, Joe Poynton, Tony Bowers, Arthur Marshall, Bill Rowan-Robinson, Don Turton, Doc Wheatley, Win and Alec Thomson, Gerry McKenzie who was accompanied by brother George (well known to many of us during army PT courses) and George's wife Mary who are related to the Palmer family through the marriage of their eldest son Bruce to the eldest Palmer girl Anne.

Bob was an original member of the 2/2 Independent Company with the rank of Corporal and later became Lt. Bob Palmer. He will be missed by us all. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his wife Barbara and his family.

I. (Les) Collins known to us all affectionately as "Twilight" passed away on the 23/1/82 and was cremated at the Botany Bay Crematorium. Ten (10) of our members attended to pay their respects to our old mate on behalf of the 2/2nd Association. Our deepest sympathy on their said loss goes to his family.

It is fitting to add to our messages of sympathy one for Edith Luby, wife of our well known member Alan, who lost her mother Mrs Mary Pengilly at the grand old age of 91 years.

Edith, even though your mother was well on the credit side, losing such a talented woman who has well and truly contributed to mankind in total, is indeed a sad loss and you have our heartfelt sympathy. Likewise to you Alan, for you shared with Edith the life of her mother for a long number of years.

A CHARMING VISITOR

Fran Tillett, wife of our member Norm, was in W.A. on an organised tour taking in the Inter-Dominion Trotting championships and even though she had a packed itinerary she found time to see some of the unit members.

This was through the kind offices of Jess Epps who picked her up on one of her few spare days and took her south to Mandurah where a nest

of 2/2 people dwell. Fran loved the experience and a letter from Norm Jess stressed his thanks to you.

Fortunately Fran could fit in half a day with the writer, and we headed to Two Rocks and Yanchep in a morning of near century heat. Blew a tyre en route but finished up right outside a garage and we lost only 20 minutes. Fran has been in the nursing profession most of her life and is an interesting and friendly person. She asked me to convey the love of Norm and herself to all unit members.

Norm did this by a subsequent letter and intimated they would be here for the "Sandgroper Safari 1983". Was nice to have you here Fran.

A MATTER OF URGENCY

This is a special request from M-Z Commando Association (Victoria) working on behalf of all Commando Units, plus M and Z special Units, in a submission to the Federal Government via The Honourable The Minister For Veteran Affairs.

The submission: "That former members of Commando Units, as defined herein, M Special Unit and Z Special Unit who served overseas during the 1939-1945 War be accepted for treatment of all medical conditions and issued with a Personal Entitlement Treatment Card".

The Commando Association (Victoria) has had this in front of the Department of Veteran Affairs for some time, in fact two successive annual Government Budgets, trying to establish a point of vital importance to members and to ensure its inclusion in the process of determination by the authorities concerned, when application is made for Repatriation assistance.

That point is the **non-availability of medical evidence** in support of claims arising from the effects of war service. This, as you all know, is due to **non-existence of medical facilities** for much of the time during operations and, because of this, the **non-existence of medical records** containing relevant evidence with which to support members' applications.

The above is a resume of the Commando Association letter to Len Bagley our Secretary and the gist of it all is this: "If you have had a rejection of a claim by the Repatriation Department, or the now Department of Veteran Affairs, because of your non-

ability to supply medical evidence in support of your application, then this information is vital to the Commando Associations submission and their representation on your behalf."

Treat the matter as **URGENT** if it affects you but do not write an epistle! Summarise your points of difficulty e.g. — Commando Association suggestions —

1. When application commenced, over what period they extended. Precise dates please.
2. The number of applications and/or appeals.
3. Be accurate — this is important — we may be required to substantiate what we say, we want no damage done to our credibility with false information.
4. Identify yourself. Name — address — telephone number — unit. **(Block letters please).**

If you are involved send the information to R.A. Scott, Hon. Secretary, M-Z Commando Association (Victoria), P.O. Box 81 Ashburton, Victoria 3147. Their help is for anyone of us involved, please help them with urgent replies, and, before the end of June 1982. Do it now. Thanks — The Editor!

M-Z COMMANDO ASSOCIATION

Identification needed. Can anyone help? Reply to Editor.

"During the first week of September, 1942, a Commando Captain or Lieutenant (perhaps with a recently won Decoration) was hospitalised in 105 A.G.H. at Puckapunyal for surgery. He shared a small ward with a Gunner Lieutenant who was unconscious for several days and who would now like to know who he is and where he is."

Ron Scott

DONATIONS TO 6/4/82

R. Aitken	Tex Richards
T. Richards	B. Callinan
P. Kenneally	A. Dixon
A. Wares	G. Lewis
M. Ryan (2)	M. Mannix
J. Wicks	H. Handicott
R. Studdy	S. Sadler
J. Haire	A. MacLachlan
A. Hillman	A. Chatfield
J. Penglace	A. Beveridge
V. Pacey	R. Trengrove
R. Dhu	B. Price

J. Smalles	Marde Field
P. Mantle	J. Peattie
G. Coulson	N. Hooper
P. Barden	Shorty Stevens
R. Shenn	D. Fullerton
G. Holmes	C. Varian
P. Hancock	C. King
C. Doig	D. Hudson
J. Fowler	T. Adams
M. Jordan	R. Williamson
P. Da Luz	T. Wilson
M. Wheatley	A. Campbell
F. Stevens	Mam. Smith
C. Criddle	T. Adams
D. Brown	B. Brown
R. Cole	E. Mulcahy
G. Veitch	G. Mathieson
W. Wallis	T. Bowers
T. Nisbet	

Perth Sub-branch RSL

CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

Editors Note: We have had to hold these over one issue to fit in more relevant matters but now your letters go out to all members to cover news Australia wide. It is a tribute indeed to the 2/2 Commando Association that its members see fit, and their wives, to write in and convey news for each and everyone of us to read.

Special mention to our interstate widows who despite their heaviness of heart pass on news of happenings that are of deep interest to us all.

I am certain this segment of our Courier will be read with eagerness and understanding. Your letters are an integral part of our communication system.

Geraldton — 11.10.81

Just a few lines to let you know all is well in Sun City Geraldton as far as double-red-diamond types are concerned.

Sorry I was unable to meet up with Association President Gerry McKenzie on his recent visit to Geraldton because of business commitments, but I had a good yarn with him on the phone, as did my son Rex. No doubt he and wife Mary had plenty to do during their short stay because of their early association with the district.

However, before the McKenzies' visit I was delighted to be visited by one of my former tent-mates, Bob (Arthur) Burns and his wife Joan of East Cannington, who were on their way north for a family christening. Unfortunately, my wife Joan was in

hospital for surgery but I and my son Rex were able to have a few noggins with Bob and Joan Burns at whose wedding I was best man after our return from New Britain. Fortunately my wife Joan is coming on well after a double operation and we are now returning to lawn bowls following the end of the footie season.

I also received another pleasant surprise recently when Arthur Marshall of Harvey dropped into my A.B.C. News Room for a chat. We played cricket and football against each other when I was running a newspaper at Harvey and I've still got the photo of the 1947 Harvey-Brunswick Association team of which we were both members and which beat Bunbury in the South-West carnival. Arthur is still an active cricketer and is also doing a good job coaching the juniors. I enticed Arthur to take part in an interview for our sporting session, concerning the highlights of his long cricket career and the result was full of interest. Arthur and wife Audrey were on a tour which would include a visit to Ayres Rock.

Nip Cunningham is again a proud man. His daughter Jan (Mrs Alan Johnson) of Ogilvie in the Northampton district won the Suckling Memorial Trophy for most points in the pavilion sections at the Northampton Agricultural Show and also the Agricultural Society's Silver Cup for most points in the whole Show.

The current season promises to be a good one for farmers in the Geraldton region and this will be good for Sun City, because despite what developments there might be in the mining industry, the agricultural area will always be the backbone of the region.

The important part that Geraldton plays in the region is evidenced by the fact that the State Government is providing \$1,000,000 towards the \$3,400,000 Queen's Park Theatre which is under construction near the Civic Centre and which is expected to be opened early next year.

Well, I must be off now as duty calls. Kind regards to all the boys.

Peter Barden

Am enclosing cheque for donation to *Courier*, and I wish to say how much Bettye and I enjoyed the Gold Coast Safari. I was thrilled to meet so many after so many years. Sorry to have to leave early but the fishing trip was tremendous. Each year they give trophies — the first year I won the trophy for "Most Tangles", last year it

was "Biggest Fish". This year you will be very proud to hear that with my commando training I won "The Albatross Trophy". It had been sitting on my boat rail all day eating the fish bits the crew threw to it while fish cleaning. I stalked it along the deck and caught it just before it started to fly. I held it upside down so that it wouldn't bite me and amidst much laughter soon let it fly away.

So call in when at Maroochydore. Regards to all.

George Coulson

Dear Editor,

As Mr Micawber, that character of Charles Dickens fame said, "Words fail me". Where does one start to tell one's side of Safari '81. The unbelievable crush in Joe and Helen Poynton's suite that eventually overflowed into the Hospitality Unit of the Silverton, where the "Great '81 Safari" started and just flowed and flowed to its final night.

Thanks to all those nice people, particularly the "Caravaneers" who made my in-laws Mervyn and Mary Jesse so welcome. It was a great group who never felt out of the main circle and we had a plus with our own happy hours around the various camp sites. Meeting up with Denny Dennis and his lovely wife June was great. I had not seen Denny since Timor.

A highlight was the mustering of "C" troop at the Broadbeach Shopping Centre, forming up first at the Caravan Park under Max Davies, who approached with that well remembered trudge (if you had walked behind him as often as I have), each foot going down as if he isn't going to lose his grip without a fight!

The "Recce's" had been well carried out and the flanking action by the Peatties, the Trengroves and the Jesses, supported by the Teagues and the Dennis troopers, though carried out with caution, were successful. Bringing up the rear came that delightful stalwart, Trooper Reg Harrington and his wife Dot. They were backed up by Peter and Pat Campbell with Peter dragging a fetlock — it improved as the fortnight continued — then sneaking through the centre Grace Davies and Peter McCracken. Now there is an asset to any raiding party! Covering all approaches from the rear were Mick and Elva Mannix.

Fully assembled our courageous leader had called for reports then proceeded to get a column of sorts organised, which in fact took on

some sort of concertina movement. But, they received a rousing welcome on the arrival of the bus, from the "Silverton Push".

George Mathieson's smile and friendly greeting makes you feel you are the one he has been waiting to see. Smiles like Arch Campbell's, whom I never think of but see him in that tremendous trouble down the young mountain in front of the rear guard position a fourth Company gunner and myself had taken, as he passed with his troop giving me an order with a smile, heavy with pain from the dislocated shoulder, saying — "don't stay there — you are being surrounded". It is as clear now as it was yesterday. If I could paint like Bob Smith or Merv Jesse I could produce the exact picture. The above cameo is what Safari's are all about.

If people like Paddy Kenneally and Bob Smith who have phenomenal memories could write their stories what a fascinating and wonderfully revealing book could have been written with interest to people outside our own Company, to show them what made the Company, what it was and what it is.

To remember all our outings in correct sequence is stretching the brain power, but enjoyment was the key word, with the Civic Reception given to us by the Lord Mayor, Alderman Frank Sleeman outstanding, and a great event in the life of the 2/2nd Commando Association.

A day at the races with all the tipsters. I ask "who was No. 1 tipster on the day?". Who gave a certain bookmaker a hell of a fright when he objected to having his bag lubricated with beer — the "bookie" who adopted a belligerent, unreasonable attitude towards Tony Bowers? By the time he looked up, saw Tony's midriff and eventually in the distance reached his eyes, he was already beginning to apologise to Tony. Standing aside were Joe Poynton and the bookie's female assistant convulsed with laughter. Safari's have it all!

The trip to Canungra was nostalgia itself and brought back memories of old mates and the disappointment of now seeing Harry Sproxtton and his charming wife, Jack and Delys Carey — safaris are about seeing more of people whom you like. Even on the road to Surfers we were overtaken by Merv and Mary James, Bob and Joyce Smith, Arthur Smith, Scotty Wares, and Jess Upps driving Scotty's car. A roadside pow-wow was inevitable, culminating in us all meeting at the

Ballina Service Club, there being joined by Paddy and Nora Kenneally.

As I said once and I say it again "You meet the nicest people on Safaris".

Ron Trengrove

Editor: Lengthy epistle Ron, right on target re the safari. Not possible to publish it verbatim but picked out the interesting and humorous. Great to see you again, the years have treated you kindly.

Dear Arch,

I do appreciate your Season's Greetings and thank you for remembering us.

Olive and Harry came to see me the day after they returned from Queensland and I was so pleased to hear first hand news of so many 2/2 folk. It was good to learn you had made the trip and I'm glad you are once more taking an active interest in 2/2 affairs.

Are you still involved with Legacy? I belong to the Legacy War Widows Club here in Melbourne and go to the Meeting each month in the Melbourne Town Hall. There is also an annual concert in the Town Hall each year. It is always delightful. First class singers and one of the Services' Bands. I also go on day trips to various country areas and to the theatre parties.

Olive and Harry Botterill have been wonderful friends; Harry visited Bert each week when Bert was ill, and now they keep in constant touch with me. Margaret and Ron Monk are also very kind and I know Bert would be grateful. I see Gay Wall (Jim's widow) from time to time. She also belongs to Legacy.

At the end of August Gillian and I drove over to Wangaratta to see Dawn and Arch Clancy. They sold their farm at Carboor and now live at:-

189 Phillipson Street,
Wangaratta. Vic.

You may care to alter their address for the *Courier* and address book.

Dawn and Arch have also been wonderful friends and we have always kept in touch. They have a lovely new home and one feels so happy for them as they have worked so hard over the years.

I had booked for the safari in April but Gillian became very ill in May. She has been in and out of hospital since then and, as she also developed a bad virus at the end of September, the Doctor said it would not be wise for me to be away from her. She is still in hospital but the Doctor is going to

give here more treatment next week and I hope she will then come good. It has been such a strain and I miss Bert more than ever.

Both Gillian and Warwick lack a chemical called Lithium and this causes the illness. Warwick was unable to work for twelve months until April this year, although he is now with a large Merchant Bank as a financial adviser and is enjoying the position.

I am now hopeful that I will be able to attend the safari to Perth in '83. I loved being in the West during the spring flower season. Also enjoyed the trip through the North West and hope I can do it all again one day.

You have taken on a big job with the *Courier*, but its so good to hear first hand news of the 2/2 folk and I know your efforts will be appreciated by everyone.

Like you, I, too, try to carry on in a manner that Bert would want. I was very fortunate to have been married to him.

Wilma Tobin

Dear Arch,

When last I wrote to the West it was in reply to a very welcome and friendly letter I had received from Gerry McKenzie. He had kindly sent on back copies of the *Courier* which had failed to arrive at our new address. We were saddened to read you had lost May and we grieved with and for you. I had intended writing you at home although the *Courier* said you were abroad.

However, my letter never got written because I had the shattering experience of losing Robert following on a coronary occlusion which hit him whilst on a walk. He managed to get home but the efforts of four paramedics and his local doctor failed to save him. Although ill health forced him to retire six years ago at the age of 54, his great strength of character and indomitable spirit led us to believe he was invincible. He was very aggressive to his illness and would not concede that his body could not do all that his active mind dictated. He would never have been reconciled to leading the life of an invalid, and maybe in this he did himself much harm because he endeavoured in every way possible to lead the life of a strong active man, but in time, of course, and after many, many anxious attacks, the weakness of his heart triumphed and I have lost a wonderful husband and the boys a caring and understanding Dad. He

has guided both of them into successful careers — Robert is Financial Controller of A.N.I.-Komatsu, the earth moving equipment people, whilst David is General manager Australian Trades in Korea for the John Swire & Son conglomerate shipping concern.

We were deeply appreciative of the fact that Jack Hartley rallied so many of the 2/2nd to help us say Goodbye to Robert. It was decidedly heart-warming to think they would attend despite the fact that they had not seen Robert for some time. This in the main was due not entirely to his state of health but the fact that for many years we have not lived in Sydney. We only returned in September '79 so that Robert could be closer to more sophisticated treatment than was available in the country. One of his local G.P.s was an ex 'Z' Force man and many were the chats the two of them enjoyed. On one occasion Robert had a badly poisoned big toe and the nail had to be removed. Without an anaesthetic or apology the Doc pulled it out with what Robert maintained was a tool from his tractor! When he asked Robert if it hurt the somewhat terse reply was 'How could a Double Diamond tell a 'Z' Force bloke he had hurt him!'.
 Robert now lies in a special Memorial section of the Northern Suburbs Crematorium reserved for Servicemen. The entrance to it carries a copper plaque bearing the inscription:

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam

Here rest men and women who served their country nobly and well and whose labours are now ended.

He is in such distinguished company as Lieut. General Sir Leslie Morshed and a lot of gallant men from all services. Robert is the only Commando and I think he would be very proud to be in such company.

I am very grateful to receive the *Courier*, Arch, and hope it will continue to arrive. I have always been most impressed with the sentiments expressed in the many letters that are printed and although I have met very few of the Unit I feel I belong to a very special band.

The loss of Robert has affected me very deeply but I am trying to adjust my step to walking alone instead of side by side — the road is very long and hard.

I do hope your trip abroad has helped you in your loss, and as Christmas approaches we will both

recall the happy moments of other Decembers we shared with those who meant the most of all. The mind still sees and the heart remembers.

Madge Field

P.S. I am looking forward to a visit from Tony and Iris Adams — they pass through Sydney this month, so I will hear all about the Safari.

Dear All,

Thanks for the good work you do with the *Courier*. It certainly keeps us in touch with "yesterday and today". Good Wishes, Good Health and God Bless to you and yours.

Neil Scott

Dear Editor,

Congratulations to you people who carry on the *Courier* and for sending it out to us who appreciate it so much.

I live in a neck of the woods where I rarely see any of the boys. Keith Dignum calls in when he is down this way and gives me news of the Adelaide boys and their doings.

Enclosed is a cheque towards *Courier* expenses.

Ron Gurr

Dear Editor,

Enclosed is a cheque for dues plus a small donation towards the publication of the *Courier* which I look forward to greatly. I was unable to attend the Safari on the Gold Coast last month due to health problems. I would have liked to have met so many of the old 2/2 boys again after all these years, but this was not meant to be I guess.

Back in 1944 I think it was I was flown out of Ramu Valley with scrub typhus. (Thanks to Jimmie Ritchie I went into R.G.H. Lae). I returned to the unit (at Kesawai I think) then out to Bogajim area, but was always pretty wonky in the legs. Later I spent about eleven months in 'Yaralla' and had to wear calipers on my legs. Later as my legs became worse I have had to use a wheelchair this past twenty odd years and have been on a T.P.I. pension for many years now (paraplegic). Scrub typhus also caused severe respiratory problems and I have to carry oxygen in the car when I go out (I drive a specially fitted car), plus heart problems and diabetes. But I manage to keep pretty mobile and busy by painting landscape pictures.

Tom Crouch called some years ago when he was holidaying in the Eastern States, also Jim Foote, Jim

Cullen and several other boys.

When in Repat Hospital in Sydney I saw quite a few of the 2/2 boys including Mick Devlin, Sandy Eggleton, and others.

It is good to get the *Courier* and keep up with the news. It is read with great interest by myself, my wife Violet and four children, and there is always a welcome here at my home in Grafton for any 2/2 member who passes this way.

I would like to see our children continue their interests in 2/2 and as our numbers thin out in the years to come, they may, as suggested, carry on with the publication of the *Courier*. I think it is a good idea.

Will enclose my address, phone number etc. for the new address book.

I send my best wishes to all — may health and happiness be with you all.

R.W. (Joe) McArthur (ex 9 Section)

Dear Editor,

Have received last *Courier*, and read all concerning Safari. Wish we could have been there but building our home came first.

Can say same has now been completed except minor touching up here and there.

Please note we have shifted to the above address which is approximately 20 miles from Mt. Gambier on the Panola Road coming from Adelaide. God willing we will be in W.A. in '83 for the safari.

Is there any provisions for parking caravans during same, as we think this is the way we will be travelling. Now have two sons in the West, so all the more reason for us coming over there.

My wife was really amazed at how well things went off at the do we attended over there, particularly the Timorese people. Should any one of the Association be this way, they are welcome to call at any time. The least we can do is boil the kettle and can usually find a glass of liquid for dry throats, besides a little in the garden or pantry to help the innards.

We have had a really wet year here. Some areas are still like lakes.

Christmas greetings to all a little late, but better that way than not at all.

Greetings Col Doig — if ever this way please call on us.

As the mail is due out shortly may away so this may catch mail and may be over there before Xmas.

Regards from wife and self to all we know there.

Hope you all have a good Xmas and a good and safe New year.

Fred and Ruth Stevens

Editors Note: Caravaners will be catered for at Safari '83.

Dear Editor,

A few lines wishing all friends of the 2/2 health and good fortune.

Am sending monies for *Courier*.

Sorry to hear about Cliff Paff and Bob Field. Had no idea until I read the *Courier*.

Am having blood troubles myself and Concord could not tell me why. Also losing use of my hands. Have damaged the nerves in my arms.

All the best to all the boys.

Les Isenhood

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Dear President,

As we are in the process of building a new home in Aspley and you intend printing a new address book, I guess I'd better jump the gun and give you our proposed new address which we hope to move to before Xmas — 1981 that is.

Enclosed cheque for 'Courier'.

Had a day with the safari members at Surfers.

Col Andrews

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Dear Editor,

Just a note to say thanks for yet another copy of the 'Courier'. I do enjoy catching up on all the doings and I hope everyone enjoyed the 'safari'.

I would like to thank Mr Ivan Davies of Legacy and all members who assisted him in his good work towards obtaining my "War Widows Pension". Special thanks to Alex Wares for all his help.

Please find enclosed cheque to help towards printing the *Courier*. Once again thanking you all. Kindest regards.

Win Sprigg

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Dear Archie,

This is to give you the required information for the address book.

But more importantly it is to congratulate you on accepting the challenge to fill the Editor's Chair. There isn't any question that you won't do an excellent job, nevertheless I would like to wish you the

very best of luck.

With thanks and kind regards Archie.

Sincerely
Jerry Haire

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Dear Arch,

On reading the Courier when we got back from Surfers, it registered that the telephone numbers were planned to be included in the next address book, an excellent idea especially for those who are lucky enough to be able to travel.

We were a while before we got home and in the course of our travel home we came up against Jack and Jean Fowler at their relations place on their way back to the West, it was good to see them again.

It was good to meet up with so many of the lads again and to have a yarn and to catch up with news and renew friendships again.

I would like to commend the chaps who organised it all and say, thanks for a job well done.

I was speaking to "Lofty" Timcke by phone on our return and he would like to get to the one in the West.

Local news is not too good farm production wise, good rains early in the year and heavy during June, first 6 months was a record and although we had enough rain afterwards the guts must have been washed out of the soil as practically nothing grew this year, still there is always next year.

Well I had best sign off and get to bed, I'm sorry I have been so long in writing and will have to do better next time.

Regards to all,

Shorty Stevens

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Dear Arch,

We were very pleased to have been able to attend the 1981 Safari. It was a credit to all who organised everything for us. The accommodation was super and all the outings, and of course Freddie's cooking was really something.

We had a leisurely trip home tripping here and there, and we certainly drove the car up and down some good winding tracks. We saw some really lovely places and some lovely scenes, so it was all worthwhile. We called on our daughter Janette and Stan and I stayed for 2 days and Lorraine and the girls came for an evening with us. They expect Phillip today from the army exercises in Queensland. It will be

then off to Melbourne for them soon, as Phillip has his transfer through. We hope to all have Christmas together before they move from Lurnea.

Keith and I hope now to go on a tour of New Zealand in February. Seems we can't stay still for long doesn't it.

All our family are well, and hope everyone over your way are the same. Best wishes to you all and hope to see everyone again very soon.

Sincerely Keith and Betty Craig

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Dear Editor,

Receipt of yet another Courier has prompted ourselves to be positive as we know a donation towards same is overdue. Frank's health does not allow for much activity so the arrival of the Courier is always a bright spot on the horizon. When one is not in the mainstream of things the next best thing is knowing of what goes on among the members, and all is avidly read, good news and bad, as we note life is catching up healthwise on various members as it has with Frank.

Jess, Scotty and Arthur, our regrets on having not been home when you called on your way to the Safari — we trust all have arrived home safely and we look forward to reading about the 'good times had by all'.

Kind Regards,

From Frank and Kath Press

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Dear Sir,

Enclosed please find cheque towards cost of 'Courier'. It's a great newsletter, and we appreciate it, and Eric likes to hear what is happening to his former mates from the 2/2nd as he hasn't been fortunate enough to contact any of them recently.

Eric is keeping reasonably well at present. As long as he behaves, doesn't exert himself too much, and leads a quiet life (which he doesn't like doing too much) but realises that life is too precious to tempt fate.

He had to give up his job as honorary treasurer to Swansea R.S.L. Club as the tension was too great, but he runs a Housie for them on Tuesdays, it keeps him interested and grows all the vegetables for ourselves and families who live close by.

Three of our offspring live close by at Swansea and Blacksmiths. One daughter at Greystanes and our

eldest son John and family at Groote Eylandt. John had six years in the permanent army, then went to Bouganville Copper Mines for 2 years and now Groote. He's a boilermaker by trade and wants to see a bit of Australia before he settles down. His wife and two children are with him. In all we have 10 grandchildren so we done our bit to help keep Australia in Australians, I think.

Sad to hear of the passing of so many of the boys but that is something we can't avoid. Seasons greetings to Officers and Members of the Association and all their families. How the time flies now we are all getting older.

Thanks again for keeping us informed by way of the 'Courier'.

Best wishes to all,

Eric and Joyce Chapman

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Dear Editor,

Enclosing a small donation for Courier, which both Alex and I look forward to getting and reading the news. I feel we don't write enough, but our hearts are there with you. We have 5 children, grown up and married with children, which seems to take up so much time. Summer time Alex's on Fire duty which limits our weekends somewhat. However we did get down to Ted Loud's retiring send-off which was a most enjoyable evening, the forestry gave him a pot belly stove. His health might pick up now he's not working. I think the idea of sons and daughters carrying on the 2/2 association is a marvelous idea, and I'm sure our's would gladly do so, they are very much proud of their dad's association, and never tire of hearing about the different experiences during the war.

Alex keeps fairly fit, but has a leg problem in winter. He's a regular member of the RSL. Bob Palmer is also a member. As you can see, our postal address has changed, but we are still living at Ludlow. I will take this chance of wishing all members a Merry Xmas and Happy New Year.

Alex and Wyn Thomson

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Dear Mr Angus MacLachlan,

I read with interest the news of the Reunion of the Members of the 2/2 Commando Safari presently being held at the Gold Coast.

My husband John Henry Sargeant was with you at the time of the

Building of "Winnie the War Winner", and I am sure he would have been very interested to hear of you all again.

Sad to say he passed away on 4th Oct. '81. I wondered if you remembered him. Jack was not an original member of the 2/2nd but was one of the men who joined you from Koepang.

He was always interested in any news of the "Men from Timor" and I have kept papers etc. all these years of the story when it was published on Dec 31st 1942 by *The Sun* Sydney. Being a Tasmanian by birth myself, I knew of Max "Joe" Loveless. Joe passed away in April 1971.

I would like to wish all members of your unit all the best for the future and I hope your re-union was an enjoyable one.

Sincerely Kathleen Sargeant

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Dear Len,

I hope I may use your Christian name. Thank you for your letter of the 16th December and copies of your Courier.

It was through reading the feature "The Thin Green Line" by journalist Steve Dangaard that prompted me to write to Angus McLachlan. (Mr Dangaard gave me his address.)

Naturally both Jack and I were always interested in any news to do with Timor.

He even named our home in Tasmania "Morobo". The Sundowner Magazine December Issue has written an article about Jack and I think that not only have they paid tribute to Jack, but also to all the men of the 2/2nd Independent Company.

They were a wonderful company and Jack was proud to have been associated with them in Timor.

It is sad to know so many of those brave men have passed on.

I thought you might like a copy of the "Sundowner". It is much the same story as written by William Marion (War Correspondent) all those years ago.

The photography by the late Damian Parer is really superb.

I am enclosing a donation towards your Courier. My best wishes to you all for 1982.

Sincerely Kathleen Sargeant

Dear Arch,

I was reading some old copies of the Courier last week and I now realise that it is over twelve months since I wrote from this "Neck of the Woods". A lot of water has passed under the bridge since then as far as I am concerned. Last February I was declared unfit for further work by the Commonwealth Medical Officer and was put on extended sick leave. This eventually has run out and I officially retired on the 14th October.

In early March I applied for a T.P.I. pension and eventually went to Daws Park Hospital in Adelaide where I underwent a comprehensive medical examination and also had a consultation with a psychiatrist for one and a half hours. I am now convinced that he is a bloody sight sillier than I am and that is saying something. One question was that he presumed through the malignant cancer that I was living from day to day. To this I replied No, I have booked for a cruise on the *Minghua* next May to which he replied — you may be dead by then. That really annoyed me so I just said So what, I will lose my \$50 deposit. That ended the consultation.

In August I received a letter from Repat stating that a report had to be prepared for submission to the Repatriation Board and that may take sometime. As some ladies may read this I will not put in writing the language I used when I rang Adelaide last week. In the meantime I have managed to get 100% disability pension.

Nothing seems to alter in Darwin including the usual front page publicity about land rights with our blood brothers; but there will be some alterations in the new year when it becomes law that liquor cannot be consumed in a park or public place within a radius of 2 kilometres from licensed premises.

This may sound a bit Irish — sorry Paddy, but the Superannuation Board knocked me back on a fortnightly payment and gave me a lump sum instead so that may assist in my T.P.I. application. As we have no full time representative from Repat in Darwin I started a file in March last year and I am up to folio 136 so far with letters back and forth.

I am anxiously awaiting the next Courier to read about the Safari, unfortunately I was unable to attend as I thought it may be too much of a strain on the old constitution.

To the Sydney boys I hope to be

down their way in mid May next year, God willing, and I will contact them prior to my arrival so that we may arrange a meeting.

Keep up the good work Arch and I have enclosed a cheque to help to defray the costs of producing that wonderful *Courier*.

Yours Sincerely

Ted Mulcahy

Dear Editor,

I enclose herewith an extract of a dairy (war) of the bombing raids on Darwin. I found it most interesting because we heard often those planes flying over us and we were always busy with counting the numbers to and return trips. I wish I had a record of our planes — night and day when they visited Timor.

I was much honoured to receive an invitation from the Lord Mayor to attend a reception in honour of visiting members of Gull Force (Ambon) on their way to Ambon for their annual homage.

This brings me to the point of our annual homage — bombing of Darwin. I wonder if you could contact our Lord Mayor and request him to remember our plight the same date and hour. Most of the boys departed from here — same as the Gull Force boys.

It is now quite some time since I saw Ted Mulcahy (DCA Darwin airport). I noticed his name mentioned by Robbie Rowen-Robinson last Courier issue. Wishing all members a Merry Christmas and best wishes for 1982.

God Bless.

Peter J. Walter

Editor's Note:

Thanks for extract of Darwin Air Raids by Japanese; will publish in later issue.

Dear Editor,

Hope this notice of change of address finds all well in the West and regards to all. Attached please find donation for the Courier.

I have retired as from August 4th and am flat out making paths, gardens, fences etc. and trying to

squeeze in as much golf as possible. Aynsly and I did a 2 weeks van/golf tour of the south of N.S.W., to Albury and back, unfortunately Aynsly took ill and could not enjoy the many fine golf courses we located. However we hope to do the same and many others, before we're past it, including the West and as many other parts of Aussie as possible.

Our kids (daughter and son) are both settled and have two kids each so we are often called on to baby sit. Combine this with setting up a new home and one has no time to fish, golf, or waste away!!

We see Keith Cooper now and again and he always has news of some of the 2/2.

Cheers for now — regards,

Blue Sargeant

It is a long while since I wrote to you people trusting the years has done you all well, time has taken its toll on some of us, as for myself, the last two years I have been in reasonable good health, my feet are the only big trouble these days; I have taken up plenty of walking, have lost a stone in weight since Xmas. I also do a lot of bowling; I am still working, having my third long service leave in April, have decided to visit Perth again, my wife Bridget only has had a fleeting glance of your fair city, that was when she came out from England; she hails from Ireland, "County Kerry". We both lost our partners the same year, we have been married for three years, the same day I started work in this hospital. At the present time I am enjoying the position of works foreman of the whole complex which consists of about four hundred bed hospital. The wash for whole of the North West Coast hospitals, therefore they have a laundry capable of washing at least 15-20 tons a day dry weight; we have oil fired boilers, also electrode boilers and each sterilising unit has its own generator, we carry in our service section 4 carpenters, 4 electricians, 4 painters, a plumber and his apprentice, 3 fitters and 2 apprentices, they also prepare frozen dinners for some hospitals in Hobart which is at the others end of the island as some of you people are quite aware.

All my family are married and have children, Charles two, Denise three, Warren one, Patrice one. Bridget has four grandchildren at the present time and another before we come West. Jess Epps has kindly looked into the place where we will be staying, the date I shall know on the 1st of March,

but will be in Perth for Anzac Day.

Our weather over here has been perfect since September, in fact too good, bush fires etc. The farmers are not very happy but we bowlers are getting very fast greens most times between 15 and 18 seconds. I myself am having a good year, will be bringing my gear over, bowls are too heavy to bring. I suppose your clubs have spares. I bowl with No 4 or 4-15/16.

Am enclosing a little, towards the Courier — a grand paper by the way. Sometime during my stay in Perth would like to have a get-together with those guys who were on the drome. I would say it is getting sadly depleted.

I am going to the 2nd 40th reunion Saturday night. A chap called Denis came to my home last week — I missed him — I would say he was 'C' Section, and he is going to this reunion; sorry I missed out on Queensland, were were in the process of installing a very modern sterilizer.

Well pals I had better leave something to talk about when I get to Perto so I will say, Cheers now.

Tex Richards

Dear Jack,

Many thanks for the beautiful piece of jarrah which arrived safely and is now in the hands of the trophy makers. Would you please pass on our appreciation to Spriggy McDonald for his efforts in supplying and joining the timber for us.

I ran into a few problems when I went along to the trophy people as they were expecting us to supply the metal emblems, such as the commando badge, anchor, and parachute with wings which were to be featured on the trophy, whereas I was under the impression that they would be able to supply them. The cost of making moulds to cast them would have been around \$300. However, I went along to the combined association meeting last Monday and when I told Don Latimer and Arthur Littler the scare they said, "no problems Jack, we already have the moulds required, so now the 3 emblems are being made by the firm who made the plaque for the Commando Memorial which was dedicated on Sunday, 31st Jan. in Martin Place, and it will only cost us \$50 for the three.

Paddy Kenneally is in hospital at the moment with a bunched up knee from a slight case of cellulosis (blood poisoning) after getting a small piece of blue metal in his knee.

Jack Hantley.