



# 2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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Address all Association correspondence to:

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

Vol. 39

AUGUST 1982

PRICE 1c

## COMING EVENTS

**SANDGROPER SAFARI 1983**  
**3rd to 16th OCTOBER**  
*STATE OF EXCITEMENT W.A.*

(See Inside)

## ANNUAL REUNION DINNER

### COMING EVENTS

**ANNUAL RE-UNION DINNER**  
**THURSDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 1982**

This year we hope to attract members with something different and because bookings were and still are at a premium we have opted for a Thursday and decided to incorporate our annual dinner and our annual commemoration service into football grand final week-end, dates as follows:—

Thursday 16 September 82—Annual Re-union Dinner—  
**Assembly at 6p.m. Dinner Starts 7p.m.**

Friday 17 September. Free time to recover and  
**City Shopping Time**

Saturday 18 September. Grand Final at Subiaco oval.  
**Arrange Own Tickets**

Sunday 19 September—Annual Commemoration Service  
**Lovekin Drive Honour Avenue, King's Park.**

## RE-UNION DINNER—DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS

### VENUE:—

MISS MAUD FUNCTION CENTRE  
65 Murray St., near corner with Pier St., Silvia Room, (named after the young and beautiful Swedish Queen).

### MENU:—

“GOTEBORG VARIETAL SMORGASBORD” Comprising:—  
4 varietal Hors D'ouvres—3 separate kinds of meat and poultry platters—3 kinds of hot dishes—various hot and cold vegetables—4 kinds of salads—4 kinds of sweets.  
(leg ham—danish roast beef—roast chicken—meat-balls—chicken mexican—lasagne etc).  
Continental Cheeseboard—B/W coffee.

Full bar service—stewards—individual seating for all during the toasts, official speakers and guest speaker.

### COST:—

It's a steal at \$15 per head.

### PARKING:—

Miss Maud Function Centre is bounded by a number of car parks.

- (a) Try the No. 9 car park diagonally across in Pier Street, with bays for 850 cars.
- (b) No 10 car park between Hay and Murray Streets has 168 bays.
- (c) Park Towers has 300 bays, of course there is also parking along Murray St., (pointing in the right direction).

ANNUAL COMMEMORATION SERVICE  
SUNDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 1982.

**FALL IN AT 3PM**

**2/2nd Commando Honour Area—  
Lovekin Drive—King's Park  
seats available for our lady visitors  
Afterwards—4pm to 6pm—**

*TO BE NOTIFIED*

While this is not relevant to other states, Gerry McKenzie has put real endeavour into upgrading and make entertaining our Annual Dinner and Commemoration Service. He has detailed every facet, as you can see, to make four enjoyable days possible plus catching up with old mates. The important thing **BE THERE!!**

*THE EDITOR*

## SAFARI NEWS

Certain areas of this project need some clarity and this article is written specifically for that purpose.

W.A. is not trying to outshine any other state, what they are trying to do is to make sure that the accommodation is adequate, the price commensurate with the facilities, all those coming are under the one roof, for this is what Safari's are all about, it generates goodwill, mateship and gives all the ability to be able to spend maximum time with each other. It certainly makes for easier organising and creates a common meeting ground for all who attend, for certainly there will be those who stay in Caravan Parks or may be with friends.

We started early giving all those who have nominated they are coming a picture of what is taking place. (From the time all delegates from other states decided W.A. was to be the next Safari venue, it was not going to be cheap. Travelodge was chosen as an accommodation area, T.A.A. as official carriers and this was published so as we could get onto the Convention Bureau Listing, this has happened.

The Organising Committee have covered Perth looking for the ideal accommodation we are not geared for Tourism as are those on the Eastern seaboard, except in the luxury hotels and motels. Out of the blue and because of our Convention Listing we received an invitation to view the Freeway Hotel. This proved to be a winner in every way, facilities are first class and they projected a 1983 price for twins and doubles of \$37 per day, a drop of \$8 on our quote from Travelodge.

There has been mention made by some members of booking in at Hotels in Perth. This in not on-(a) because most will not project a price, (b) because facilities are not what we want for our Unit members and their wives, (c) the quote from one Hotel was only \$2 cheaper than the place we have chosen and there is no comparison!

We have booked the Freeway Hotel which is beautifully located in South Perth, has all conveniences in the rooms, T.V. tea and coffee making facilities, bath and showers, twin or double beds, whichever is required, serviced daily, ironing facilities available, laundry service daily, swimming pool, cocktail bar, hospitality room, banquet hall for our formal dinner and breakfast available in the room or the dining hall.

Access to the city is ideal by bus which run frequently, about 8 minutes to the heart of Perth, by Ferry across

the Swan River which is a pretty trip and very relaxing and is only five minutes walk from the Freeway.

The committee will continue their efforts to make the Safari within the reach of all and if there are those who require alternate accommodation we will help to get what they require, but you will find our final price will be as near the best possible.

If any member has spare monies at any time do not hesitate to send it to us for we will do the bookkeeping and have it earning interest to further reduce the price structure. Do not wait if you have some dollars to spare, it will make the planning of your Safari trip a little easier than doing it in one lump sum.

Planning is progressing favourably and we can assure you all fo it being a real Safari:—

*"If you are free—be here in '83"*

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## ADDRESS BOOK

Since the Gold Coast Safari (1981) committee set aside \$300 from surprises and sent that amount to W.A. branch towards the preparation and printing cost of a new and updated edition of our address book, we have been hopeful of bringing the project to a successful conclusion.

To this end we introduced our intention in October 1981 courier.

In later issues we first provided an information sheet and then later published a reminder

**THE RESPONSE BY MEMBERS HAS BEEN MAGNIFICENT** In provision of the information we need and in donations towards the cost of producing 2/2nd Commando courier. Now the punch line!! But so far we have had returns from about only 30% of those members for whom we hold an address card and to whom we mail a courier in Feb/Apr/Jun/Aug/Oct & each year, to that address.

To all those who so far have not been able to return a completed yellow information sheet—**WOULD YOU PLEASE DO SO NOW!!**

Receipt by us of your latest address and the "known as" christian names of yourself and wife plus your latest telephone (preceded by your STD area code number) will enable us to produce a new updated edition of our address book and thus enable all members to keep in touch even when travelling.

**THE NAME OF THE GAME IS KEEPING IN TOUCH!!** Send particulars as above on any scrap of paper (yes any) if you can't now find your yellow sheet.

**DO IT NOW—PLEASE!!**

## VALE

Harvey Edgar ("Slim") James passed away after a long battle with the dreaded scourge of cancer. He showed all the courage and resolution he displayed as an original member of the 2/2nd Independent Company on the field of battle in his endeavour to win the biggest fight of his life.

"Slim" was a L/Sgt in the Engineers formed on Don Turton when the unit was formed on Wilsons Promontory and went on to serve in Timor and New Guinea with distinction.

He was an active member of the Association in its formative years and continued as such over a long period of time. His contribution in war and peace was in keeping with our best traditions.

The "Roll Call" to say farewell to "Slim" by the unit members, their wives and lasses already bereaved, was first class indeed, indicating the esteem in which members held him. Members of the Dudley Park Bowling Club in Mandurah chartered a special bus to be in attendance, his pals in the racing fraternity and personal friends made up a very big crowd to pay their last respects to an old and dear friend.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Kate his wife, and his two sons Greg and Murray. Kate shouldered a big load for a long time and was a wonderful support to "Slim" in his hour of need. To you Kate and your family our best love, may time heal the void left by the loss of our old mate Harvey, your lifelong partner.

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## FRED GARDINER

Though not a unit member, Fred Gardiner who passed away recently played a big part in the formation of the 2/2nd Commando Association, so much so, he was made an Honorary Life Member.

He helped in the formation of our Constitution and was very active in unit affairs until the year of 1955 when he decided to call it a day. His service from the Association's inception was outstanding and we have to thank Fred for the years of real endeavour he gave to our Association.

To his wife Jean, (Jack Hasson's sister) and her three sons, we pass our deepest sympathy on their sad loss.

He was a man amongst men and a newspaper cutting, which appears below, shows Fred's contribution to his state of W.A. was indeed first class.

## TRIBUTE TO FRED GARDINER

### RECOGNISED BY NASA

The death occurred recently of Mr Frederick, at the age of 72.

Mr Gardiner was born in Guildford, and although he lived at Bassendean until his marriage, he spent much of his time at Guildford where his grandparents lived.

Mr Gardiner's parents, George and Amy Gardiner, were well-known in the Bassendean area.

After his marriage to Jean Hasson, of Toodyay, Mr Gardiner left the area, and the couple spent the war years at Rawlina.

He was a Supervisory Technical Officer with the former PMG Department and was very active in the affairs of the Australian Postal Institute.

It was for his outstanding work in those two areas that he was awarded the British Empire Medal, and later the Imperial Service Medal for long service.

His work and ability were recognised by NASA (The American National Aeronautics and Space Administration) from which he received a Special Award relating to his work with the Carnarvon Tracking Station during the Apollo 11 space flight.

Mr Gardiner was a keen sportsman, particularly in bowls.

He started the bowling club at the Postal Institute and when later he moved to Nedlands he became President and Life Member of Nedlands Bowling Club.

He was also a Freemason and achieved high rank at an early age in his lodge, Star of the West.

Mr Gardiner is survived by his wife, Jean, and three sons.

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## OUR LATE ALEX (SCOTTY) WARES

Below are two letters received from Elsie Wares which are published as a symbol of what "Scotty" was to his family and to his friends. It would be remiss of me not to mention that the eulogy to "Scotty" published in our Courier was written by Gerry McKenzie on our behalf. If truly told our feelings for Alex and Elsie, the love and esteem in which they were both held.

The Editor



16 Waverley St.  
Dianella. 6062  
21.7.82

Dear Arch,

I am writing to the Courier to express thanks from David, Les, their families and myself for the wonderful written tribute paid to Alex (Scotty) in the last issue. I found it most moving. I also was so much comforted by the great number of Association members who attended the funeral, the flowers, the expressions of sympathy, both written and personal from all over Australia and the press notices. I have tried to give my thanks in some form to everyone, but if anyone failed to hear from me, please accept this as my expression of gratitude. I know Scotty would have been very proud to know so many were there to say goodbye to him for the last time. I will qualify that statement. I know he was proud!

I received many wonderful written tributes to Alex, but one in particular I found very touching, because it not only spoke highly of him, but also paid a magnificent tribute to the 2/2nd Commando Squadron as a whole, and for this reason I would be very grateful, Arch, if you would publish this letter which I am enclosing. I am sure Jack Boardman will be known to many of you, although his name was unfamiliar to me. He has given his permission for his letter to be published.

At the moment I am very lost and lonely without my beloved Alex, but I also know that the love and support given me by my family and many friends will give me the courage to carry on.

Thanking you all  
Elsie Wares

97 Manning St.  
Scarborough. 6019  
9.6.82

Dear Mrs Wares,

I have just read today's paper after tea tonight and was shocked to see Scotty's name in the bereavement column.

I had the privilege of attending a 2/2nd Commando reunion some years ago and was introduced to Alex.

I want you to know how much I admired him and his mates who took part in Australia's history.

The Timor commandos, by forcing the Japs to tie up their two best fighting divisions (the 48th and 51st Japanese Divisions) when the battles of the kokoda Trail and Milne Bay and Guadalcanal were in the balance, turned the scales in the Pacific War.

There are those, in their fear of Indonesia, who want to forget all about

Timor, but they will never get away with it, and I am sure the day will come when the Commando Memorial overlooking Dili (destroyed by the Indonesians) will eventually be re-erected.

With deepest sympathy to you and your family.

Sincerely yours,  
Jack Boardman  
(2/8 Commando Squadron)

## OUT OF THE WOODWORK

Continued.

I'm still alive and well and back into hard work, started working after a six weeks spell.

Have been to Indonesia to see our daughter and family, who along with her husband, will be domiciled there for 2 years because of his work.

Our youngest son Robert has been in W.A. for about 3 months. We hope to be there for Safari '83 but will not know until the last minute as it is a busy time and hard to arrange.

Ken Monk  
Poowong East

Sorry about the silence from my part of the world but am in touch with mates and events via the Courier—thank heavens for that! Still working but retire February 1984, hope to do a bit of travelling.

Albie Friend  
Carnarvon

Have retired to Perth reluctantly because of a heart condition and finding it very hard to settle in. Look forward to getting the Courier. Regards to all.

Tom Martin

Keeping well and hoping to make it in October '83. All good wishes to the West.

"Happy" Greenhalgh

Hope to see you for Safari '83. Enclosing a cheque, Courier is always welcome here.

Jack Rice

Had Betty and George Coulson, Babs and Bernie Langridge for the day last week. Dry as hell here and cold as hell. All well, Bernie gone on to "Soapy" at Townsville.

"Bulla" Tait

Congratulations on the good work by the Association and the info contained in the Courier. I retired in Nov. 72 and on 20th Nov. '82 will join "The Doig" as a retired geriatric (70). I copped a virus on 23th April and was really sick for a fortnight, my first sickness in about 40 years. Fighting fit again now and on Wed. 14th July will be heading North to the Gold Coast. Say hello to all for me please.

Jack Fox

Sorry about late entry, must be getting lazy or oldage creeping up—73 last January! Keeping fit most of the time but travelling a bit of trouble these days. Am busy with committees etc. for local affairs.

"Bruss" Fagg

Please note change of address. I have sold my property near Lake Epaloch and have built a new home on Phillip Island overlooking Western Port. Visitors from 2/2nd would be most welcome.

Leith M.R. Cooper

We live on a small 125 acre farm in retirement about 21km North of Boyanup which is in the Bunbury area.

Bernie Langridge

Please find enclosed donation—am in the process of retiring. Hope to make it over next year for the Safari. Best wishes to all.

Lionel Newton

Very sorry this is such a belated effort. Have been away for two months and have come home much brighter in health and spirit. With kindest regards to all.

June Bennett

*Ed. Nice to hear from you June, good to know things look brighter. God bless from all 2/2nd members.*

Hope to see you all in October '83 at Safari.

Fred Broadhurst

Have not seen much of the local 2/2nd as they hibernate for the winter. Joe and Helen have gone North for a month or so. Helen's mother died a couple of weeks ago.

"Dutchy" Holland

Sorry for the delay in returning information required but have misplaced the questionnaire. Hope the attached will do. Dot and I are enjoying retirement and still reminisce over our last trip West and would be happy to do it again if ever finance permits. Best wishes to all over there.

George Robertson.

## THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED

Many people have given yoeman service to the Association over all the years and in this year of 1982 we should take a look at the boys who gave so freely of their time to make sure the 2/2nd Commando Association stayed as the No. 1 of its kind in Australia.

Looking back in retrospect the names conjure memories of some mighty able fellows, some not with us today, who gave their time and their expertise to our beloved Association.

We thank them from the bottom of our hearts for their magnificent endeavours, to their wives who so ably supported them, we send our love.

May God bless you all.

### VICE PRESIDENTS from inception of Association.

- 1947 — J. Burr ridge
- 1948 — T. Nesbit
- 1949 — D. Murray
- 1950 — G. Boyland
- 1951 — R. Kirkwood & B. Epps
- 1952 — M. Calcutt
- 1953 — M. Calcutt
- 1954 — M. Calcutt
- 1955 — R. Dook
- 1956 — B. McDonald
- 1957 — B. McDonald
- 1958 — K. Bowden
- 1959 — K. Bowden
- 1960 — P. Hancock
- 1961 — A. Smith
- 1962 — A. Smith
- 1963 — R. Smyth
- 1964 — W. Epps
- 1965 — W. Epps
- 1966 — W. Epps
- 1967 — W. Epps
- 1968 — L. Bagley
- 1969 — L. Bagley
- 1970 — B. McDonald
- 1971 — J. Fowler
- 1972 — F. Napier
- 1973 — J. Carey
- 1974 — J. Carey
- 1975 — D. Darrington
- 1976 — D. Fullarton
- 1977 — D. Fullarton
- 1978 — D. Ritchie
- 1979 — J. Fowler

1980 — J. Fowler  
 1981 — J. Fowler  
 1982 — Vacancy not filled

1978 — G. Maley  
 1979 — G. Maley  
 1980 — G. McKenzie  
 1981 — G. McKenzie  
 1982 — J. Fowler

**PRESIDENTS**  
 since the inception of the  
 Association

1947 — J. Denman  
 1948 — J. Denman  
 1949 — J. Burridge  
 1950 — J. Burridge  
 1951 — J. Burridge  
 1952 — G. McKenzie  
 1953 — C. Doig  
 1954 — C. Doig  
 1955 — M. Calcutt  
 1956 — G. Green  
 1957 — G. Green  
 1958 — R. Kirkwood  
 1959 — R. Kirkwood  
 1960 — B. McDonald  
 1961 — B. McDonald  
 1962 — B. McDonald  
 1963 — A. Smith  
 1964 — A. Smith  
 1965 — J. Hasson  
 1966 — J. Hasson  
 1967 — J. Hasson  
 1968 — W. Epps  
 1969 — W. Epps  
 1970 — L. Bagley  
 1971 — L. Bagley  
 1972 — L. Bagley  
 1973 — A. Wares  
 1974 — A. Wares/J. Carey  
 1975 — J. Carey  
 1976 — J. Carey  
 1977 — A. Wares

## A WARTIME FLASHBACK 1942

Darwin in the years pre-war was a sleepy hollow, a stopover for airmen and women who were pioneering air routes from all over the world, to we city dwellers an isolated place in the far North of Australia.

Today it is the "Gateway" to our country with a population nigh on 50,000, has become the Capital of the Northern Territory now having its own Parliament, as modern a city after its devastation by "Cyclone Tracy," as one could wish to see, the rebuilding is superb.

Back in 1942, it was the focal point of a Japanese attack on the Australian mainland, an event which had a profound effect on the role of the 2/2nd Independent Company which is now history.

A very interesting diary had been kept on all the Japanese raids and Peter Walter, who lives in Nightcliff, a suburb of Darwin, has kindly sent an extract of the diary and we are deeply indebted for such a piece of history appearing in our Courier. Thanks Peter.

### EXTRACT OF DIARY-DARWIN 19TH FEBRUARY, 1942.

First raid on Darwin was on Thursday 19th February, at 10.15a.m. bombs were dropped on wharf, Post Office, Shipping and Myilly Point, 13 ships were sunk. It was estimated that 900 were killed on wharf and ships.

The second raid was at 12.15p.m. at R.A.A.F. 'Drome at 4 mile (now Parap)

20th Feb. Administrator and Superintendent of Police left Darwin and Military Barracks empty.

4th March Two Jap. planes machine gunned railway men repairing the tracks at 4 mile. They set fire to two planes at R.A.A.F. on the ground. Time 3.30p.m.

16th March 14 Jap. bombers bombed the R.A.A.F. building- time 2.30p.m. Japs bombed Daly St and Myilly Point. Nearly copped one.

22nd March On Sunday two air raids were made on Civil 'Drome (grass now Ross Smith Avenue) and Katherine 'Drome 200 miles inland.

28th March R.A.A.F. 4 mile bombed.

31st March First raid on R.A.A.F. time 10.30p.m.

2nd April Shell oil tanks were bombed. Houses in Harvey and McMinn Streets were damaged.

4th April Big air battle over Darwin Harbour. Bombs dropped at 2½ Mile and R.A.A.F. Japs lost many planes

5th April Sunday R.A.A.F. at 4 mile was bombed.

25th April Anzac Day- 25 Jap bombers Artillery Camp at 6 mile at 2.00p.m. during cloud weather.

27th April 27 Jap bombers bombed R.A.A.F. 4 mile

8th June Jap submarine sunk at boom net (longest in the world) East to West point.

13th June 27 Jap bombers bombed R.A.A.F. 4 mile and 5½ mile

14th June Sunday- Big air battle at wireless Station (Coonawarra-only one then) (10mile) Saw Jap plane and Yank shot down.

15th June Monday- 27 Jap bombers bombed old Hospital (only hospital was where Packard St is and it overlooked Harbour) to Police paddock (N.W. of Daly St at bridge-75 feet from area- camps etc.) (low class area) Rail track at bridge- 75 feet from bridge.

16th June Tuesday- Japs bombed oil tanks, Banks, Jolly's Store (General store), Railway Station Yards.

25th July Saturday 7 Japs bombed R.A.A.F. and Civil 'Drome.

26th July Sunday-First raid at 9.15p.m. bombs dropped at Vestey's (Vestey's meat works in silence, used by Army as Store)

26th July Sunday- second raid at 9.15p.m.- bombs were dropped at R.A.A.F. 4 mile.

27th July Monday- first raid at 10.30p.m.- bombs dropped at 10 mile near wireless station.

28th July Raid at 1.25a.m. R.A.A.F. bombed.

30th July Thursday- one raid at 4.00a.m. on Civil 'Drome.

30th July Second raid at 1.20p.m. from R.A.A.F. to East Point- The Japs lost 20 planes.

9th Aug. Two Jap submarines sunk in Darwin Harbour.

23rd Aug. Sunday- 27 Japs bombed 28 mile and 29 mile at 12.20p.m.

24th Aug. Monday- Jap Reconnaissance plane shot down at Koolpinah Station

28th Aug. Friday- Raid at 4.15a.m. on Railway Yards and Wharf.

30th Aug. Sunday raid at 2.15a.m. on Railway Yards.

31st Aug. Monday- raid at 5.00a.m. on Point Charles.

31st Aug. Raid at 1.30p.m. on R.A.A.F. Civil 'Drome.

25th Sept. Raid on 34 mile at 4.35a.m. (Francis Bay beach down from McMinn street.)

27th Sept. Sunday- raid at 3.00a.m. at Adelaide River, Batchelor and Winnellie.

25th Oct. Sunday- Raid at 3,35 a.m. at East Point, Fanny Bay and Francis Bay

25th Oct. Japs came again, but were driven off.

26th Oct. Monday-Raid at 3.30a.m. Bombed Lands Office (was near where R.C. Cathedral stands now) Don Hotel and Railway Offices.

27th Oct. Tuesday- Raid at 1.15a.m. Bombed East Point, Civil 'Drome Don Hotel and South Point.

23rd Nov. Raid at 3.50a.m. on South Point.

26th Nov. First raid at 4,00a.m. on Victualling Yards (was alongside railway at Parap) and 28 mile.

26th Nov. Second raid at 1.00p.m. on other side of Harbour.

26th Nov. Third raid at 4.15p.m. on R.A.A.F.

27th Nov. Friday raid at 4.00a.m. Beach and Railway yards bombed.

27th Nov. Second raid at 11.00a.m. West Point bombed.

28th Nov. Saturday- Japs came over but were driven off.

29th Nov. Sunday- Japs came again but were driven off.

3rd Dec. Thursday- Japs made another attack but were driven off with heavy losses.

JANUARY 1943

20th Jan. Wednesday- Raid at 12 midnight. Bombs dropped at Ironstone (I don't recognise this possibly Dripstone.)

21st Jan. Thursday raid at 10.00a.m/ on Daly Street and Police Paddock

2nd March Tuesday raid at 1.00a.m. on Batchelor 'Drome six Japs shot down.

7th March Sunday- Reconnaissance Jap plane came over but was shot down.

13th March Saturday- raid at 12 noon Batchelor bombed.

15th March Monday- 22 Jap bombers came over at 11.00a.m. bombed the Church, Army right through the town, to the large oil Tankss Set fire to two oil tanks near the wharf.

2nd May Sunday- Raid at 10.30a.m. R.A.A.F. bombed- 11 Jap bombers shot down and five zeros. We lost 15 Spit fires.

20th June Sunday raid at 10.40a.m. Winnellie bombed.

21st June Monday Japs came over at 10.20a.m. driven off

22nd June Tuesday- Japs machined gunned Batchelor roads

28th June Monday- raid at 11.10a.m. East Point and Vestey's Meat works bombed.

30th June Wednesday- Raid at 12.30a.m. Batchelor and Fenton 'Dromes attacked.

6th July Tuesday raid at 11.00a.m. on Fenton and Brocks creek.

18th July Sunday- Jap plane shot down at 38 mile at 10.301.m.

13th Aug. Friday raid at 11.00p.m. at 29 mile and Fenton 'Drome- bombed at low level.

17th Aug. Tuesday- raid at 12.15a.m. on Batchelor.

20th Aug. Friday raid at 3.00a.m. at Darwin

20th Aug. Raid on knights cliff (now Nightcliff) and Batchelor.

29th Aug. Sunday raid at 9.30a.m. at 29 mile.

7th Sept. Tuesday- raid at 10.00a.m. 29 mile

15th Sept. Wednesday- raid at 12 midnight at Fenton.

6th Nov. Saturday Earth Tremor at 7.00a.m. violent.

12th Nov. Friday raid on Power House 2½ mile, Winnellie, Adelaide River at 2.20a.m.

LAST RAID

The above entries are a true and correct record of all raids as entries from my diary.

NOTE.

Army had camps along Stuart Highway Darwin to Katherine each side of Road in bush (some 100,000 men from memory). Later R.A.A.F. built fighter strips by widening road and making revetment areas.

(sgd) J.F. Burton  
176 McMinn St.

Darwin N.T.

## PERSONAL PARS

### BILL COOPER

Some information has come to hand about this original member of 3 Section under Clarrie Turner and Bill has had a mighty rough spin and is at present in the Home of Peace, Subiaco.

He has had several strokes and has lost the use of his arms and his speech. Bill was first in Hollywood and when the doctors could do no more for him he was transferred to the Home of Peace.

He has been fiercely independent and because he was not an active member of the 2/2nd Association he stated he would not impose on them when his health had failed him.

However the Union to which he belonged looked after him and he now gets the invalid pension. There is a family involved and that no doubt has created quite a problem, but one of our boys keeps in touch to do what he can to help.

*Editor:* This is quite a tragic situation and will be investigated further to ascertain all the pros and cons. Suggest if anyone member wants to go and see him they should contact the Home of Peace to make sure of the current situation.

### RAY AITKEN:

Is a whole heap better and he is going into his business 3 or 4 days a week, or part of the day, so that is indeed good news. We all know Ray's courage and no one doubted his ability to get on top of his affliction. May you go from strength to strength Ray—it is proof positive too that Muriel is a supernurse.

### FRED NAPIER:

Back in the repatriation Hospital for further treatment to his legs, Fred has suffered a heart attack and at the time of writing is having a very bad spin. Glad too is having her troubles and needs house help to keep things going. These very popular members are well overdue for a run of good luck and certainly our prayers for a speedy recovery. Our love goes out to them both in full measure.

This is real stop press news for Mrs Alf Walsh rang the night prior to this Courier going to print. Alf Walsh is in Hollywood Repat Hospital undergoing a skin graft and will be there for about ten days. Good luck Alf, trust the operation adjusts the problem you have—all the best from the boys of the 2/2nd.

## DONATIONS RECEIVED

Clarrie Turner  
 Bill Sharp  
 John Roberts  
 Albie Friend  
 Tom Martin  
 Marie Burgess  
 Ken Monk  
 Bruss Fogg  
 Jack Fox  
 Fred Otway  
 "Bulla" Tait  
 Merv Jones  
 Jack Rice  
 "Happy" Greenhalgh  
 Jim Smith  
 Albie Martin  
 Nellie Mullins  
 Jack Hanson  
 Ian McPhee  
 "Dutchy" Holland  
 June Bennett  
 Lionel Newton  
 Bluey Pendergast  
 Bernie Langridge  
 Leith Cooper  
 Bob Smith

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I meant to write before, but I suppose I am getting old and disorganised.

We have had Bernie Langridge and his wife, also Bob Smith and wife and Smithie and wife from Shortland pass through Brisbane. They were entertained at Angus' place, I enjoy those evenings.

I had not seen Bernie for about 38 years. I think I will retire next year, I will come over to the Safari, and I might go home to the West, and retire there. The games will be upon us in a few months, Brisbane is getting a lot of roads upgraded, and also sporting facilities for many years to come. The Safari in Qld was well managed, and though I meet the committee from time to time, I have never expressed my congratulations for a good Safari, Thanks to you all committee.

Your old mate,  
**Fred Otway**

Had a trip to Tassie in February to help my son Stephen with the building of his new home. I'm sure the people on the Tassie Safari will remember our wonderful coach drivers well I was sitting in the Plaza in the main thoroughfare of Devenport when I spotted John (the one with the moustache). He doesn't look any different, possibly a few pounds heavier and he was proudly wearing our 2/2nd badge on his tie, will we ever forget the night at the motel at Devenport when we made the presentation to both the drivers.

The motel proprietor who is still there said it was the best night he had ever had at the motel, both financially and for enjoyment of the festivities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people who sent their condolences following the death of my mother at the age of 91. Sadly Margery's mother also died recently at the age of 92.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the Queenslanders for a wonderful Safari.

**Merv Jones.**

Editor,

Considerable time is spent by office bearers of our Association—time and effort not generally known by the average reader of the Courier.

I strongly recommend that every issue should detail all office bearers and committee—particularly identifying the Editor and including the names of two men who for many years have attended to our Kings Park Honour Avenue, namely Rod Dhu and George Fletcher.

It was great to be with the boys once more on Anzac Day. I felt that the average appeared in better health than I have observed for some years. Could it be the result of or prospect of retirement?

Regards to all,

**Bob Smyth**

Thanks Bob it is a good idea and will put it to the Committee at our August meeting. Editor. *Result:* Will keep the same format but bring to members notice those who are serving their Association in any capacity.

Thank you for your message of sympathy from yourself, Dot and Gavin and also on behalf of the 2/2nd members. The thoughtfulness of so many good friends from far and wide has been very much appreciated by myself and family.

I was very sorry to hear of Scotty's death—so soon after Franks. How sad. It must have made a big impact on the local 2/2nd men.

Frank had a great representation of R.S.L. men at his funeral, with Colin (Sir) Ivins doing the R.S.L. service—it was heart warming to see so many there, as his illness became very prolonged and he was out of circulation for a long time—I can only think of him as being at rest and in peace. In the meantime, although my time has been very occupied, I find there is still quite an amount of adjustment to be made.

I hope this finds all well with your family, Len, please convey to the

members of the 2/2nd our appreciation.

**Kath Press & Family**

## Correspondence Corner

Such a cold wet morning—ideal for trying to do some letter writing. Firstly, must apologise for not sending on the information re the word "Canungra" for the land war plaques. Can only plead ill health—went into the hospital for surgery in November—(of course, anyone letting the knife fall on Friday 13th couldn't expect much else)—and haven't taken a trick since.

Do hope that you are well—give our love to Jean & Mick when you next see them. We were shattered when there were two letters from Dot Boyland in Mondays post, written days apart, one with the news of dear Scotty having a stroke, the other that he had passed away. You may not know, but when Bill was in Hollywood Hospital, Scotty was so absolutely fantastic to me, nothing was too much trouble—he provided daily transport to the hospital, then, the week after Bill came out, the only day we didn't see him was when he knew Jess Epps was coming to visit—no one could have done more, in fact, have often told the folks over here of the wonderful kindness of Elsie & Scotty, Jess Epps and Dot Boyland during those troubled days—the world has said goodbye to one of its great and good citizens in dear Scotty Wares—as long as I live, he will be in my daily thoughts and prayers. Bill has been accepted for his heart condition, that added to his other accepted disabilities, has finally pulled the stoppers out and Repat. tribunal ordered that he be granted a T.P.I. pension—in fact, said it was a disgrace that, looking at his records, he hadn't had it years ago—despite the fact that this was in July 81, took until 23rd April '82 for the Repat. Board to arrive at their determination, news finally reached Bill on the 26th—we were so delighted, cracked a bottle of champagne! Bruce McLaren has been in hospital for some weeks—the artery (plastic) was rejected and he required further surgery. It is such a shame over here in Victoria, that no one cares to circulate the news—it was only by having to contact another member we found out—Lorraine bought him home on Monday, and, as soon as possible, they will head for their unit at Surfers, and the warmer climate, but this is where the

folks in hospital are left without lots of visits to brighten their day and know that others do care—such a contrast to the close contact kept in your state. Speaking to Joy Hodgson (widow of "Smash") by phone last week and she has now settled happily into her new home at Dandenong—was granted a War Widows pension—should think so, after caring for a man who suffered so shockingly. Manage to pay a visit to Ted Fuller, the quadraplegic member of the 2/2nd every few weeks—it is a pity that some of the menfolk don't make an effort now and then, even if he didn't serve in their particular section. This note is to send a donation—later on, shall try and dig up some news for publication—Congratulations to all office bearers.

Regards from  
**Bill and Eileen**

Today is Bert's 4th Anniversary and this together with the receipt of the courier has at last made me sit down and write a note to you—oh yes! and also to enclose the cheque for wherever it will be most useful.

How are you adjusting? I notice from the Courier that the numbers have been markedly reduced in that 4 years.

I continue to live on the farm though it is leased—another 18 months to go—and I am lucky enough to be able to participate in the activities. What happens when the lease finishes I am not sure, but I don't think any of the children will take it on—a pity because Bert made it.

Margaret is the outdoor member and is currently mustering cattle in the Kimberleys! Michael next week completes a Nursing Aide course and Peter is with the Social Security Dept. in their branch at Midland.

Had a lovely surprise last Sunday to meet up with Reg. & Dot Harrington at Church, it was really good to see them and to have a good long chat.

**Marie Burgess**

Thought I might get hauled up to the orderly room over not writing before re address book (please note change of both address and telephone number). Also I note that I have again been named a country vice president and as such should keep you informed of local news. Only Ted Loud and myself left down here amongst the big trees and as I see that Ted is in hospital it did not give you people in Perth much to choose from.

Saw quite a few members at Bob Palmer's funeral and we were well looked after after the funeral by Mrs

Palmer and family, many thanks to the Palmer family.

Arthur Marshall doesn't change, still living at Harvey and spends much of his time helping the youth of that town with sport and p.t. etc.

Had a post card from Bernie and Babs Langridge. Both are in Queensland staying with their married daughter near Brisbane and greatly enjoying the change and holiday.

My wife Iris and I took off to Malaysia for a short holiday, after flying to Kuala Lumpur, we then travelled north to Penang where we spent most of our time. Of course we did the usual things that tourists do, sight seeing, shopping, eating etc. However I did find time, while my wife was shopping, to take to the jungle every now and again, could not resist the smell of the native huts, chooks and what have you. On one occasion I took to the hills and climbed the highest mountain I could find, returning to the hotel wet and smelling of B.O. (fortunately had the lift to myself). After a shower and a clean up I felt real good as a yank might say.

Now fully retired, I find myself even more involved in the local town, and have even become a shire councillor which takes up about a week out of every month. This includes, meetings, committee meetings and others, and doing my home work of which there is much as I have a lot to learn. Other thing such as the Agricultural Society, of which I have been involved for a long time, the Arthritis Foundation and R.S.L. also take up a bit of time not to mention the bowling club where I'm often called upon to help in one way or another, especially after the floods when one of our greens went well under water, and was left covered with mud and silt, branches and other rubbish. It has recovered and now they want me to make some more seats, so will do.

Thanks to yourself and committee for the work you are all doing.

Yours  
**Robbie Rowan-Robinson**

P.S. Forgot to mention that I see George Timms every now and again but can't stir him up to take an interest in the Association. He often heads north where his son has a cattle station. He also keeps his sons on their various farms. He lives in Como.

It must be all of 18 months since we last wrote so thought it best if we got at least one letter in before the end of the financial year. Mr Howard just may not leave us enough for postage otherwise!!! Going back to the beginning of 1981 (wish we could do this physically) will try and fill you in with the 'comings and goings' of the House of



Roberts and believe you me they are numerous.

Firstly will relate to No. 2 daughter who lives in England. Cath took a trip over for the birth of our 'Pommie' grand daughter. On her arrival they had a wonderful tie but it was rather traumatic getting there. Trip was during the stewards' strike and she ended up by having to fly to Port Moresby, then back to Darwin to get onto the scheduled routes. However, even though she left in 102 degrees here and landed during a freeze at Heathrow, she thoroughly enjoyed the trip. Son-in-law Glyn met her at Heathrow and they made the four hour trip to Shrewsbury during which Cath's neck started to ache through trying to take everything in. She only did Scotland briefly (but being a Scot she could not have returned home without setting foot in her native soil), and London and keeps telling me she is definitely off again whether I tag along or not. Ruth and the baby came over for a visit at the beginning of this year with the reverse conditions—left the big freeze where they had to dig themselves out of their house to get to the airport and arrived here in over 100 degrees heat. Of course, we were doing a bit of panic in case the heat was too much for the infant but she stood up to it better than anyone. As Ruth remarked, it was the first time Carly had dirty feet. Socks are the order of the day most times over there.

Whilst Ruth was over here and Glyn away from home the thaw started and apparently a pipe burst and unfortunately by the time Glyn arrived home the house had been flooded. Water from the ceilings through all of the house. Kitchen was about the only room that was not effected so poor Glyn had to turn around and practically have the whole house rebuilt inside. He just managed to get it finished about two hours before he had to leave for London to meet Ruth's flight on her return.

No. 3 daughter Jane gave up her job and decided that she would go back with her sister for a holiday and at the present time is up in Lapland. She uses Ruth's home as a base which makes things a lot easier for her but has 'done' most of the Isles etc before she set off for other places. Having a wonderful time but tends to head for Ruth's when she is beginning to feel homesick.

Jane's twin brother Craig arrived back from overseas the day before Cath took off and at the present time is in Darwin hopefully making lots of money so he can go back. Wonderful the way the young ones just take off these days isn't it?

In the middle all this with returning

home and Jane preparing to go back with her No. 1 daughter Sue and Eric decided they were going to get married. At least they had plenty of time to think about it as they have been together seven years but only gave us two week's notice. However, they arranged everything themselves and were married at Ripponlea (one of our oldest historical homes in Melbourne). Although the weather that day was also over 100 they were married in the gardens and it really went off exceptionally well. Just prior to all this, they had had to lease their home in Hawthorn as Eric went to a Sydney newspaper so Sue ended up there naturally as well.

No. 1 son Ian and his wife decided to opt out of the rat race and have bought the 'E' tree restaurant in Bairnsdale so after selling their big house here in Melbourne they were fortunate enough to manage to rent a place in the area. They also left at the end of February and so far so good as far as the restaurant is concerned. Anyone passing through are very welcome so make yourselves known. We spent the Queen's Birthday weekend with them and they have just been lucky enough to buy a home with seven acres of land attached to it. Sue-Ann being a country girl is delighted with it and Cath and I were rather impressed ourselves. Plenty of fresh air for the 'smalls' where they can run off some of their energy—a thing not possible in a built up area.

So you can see from the above Cath and I are once again back where we started 35 years ago. At times we rather enjoy the peace and quietness and other times miss the family dropping in. Eric said that they are only a hour away by 'plane and Cath remarked the kids take a 'plane the same as we take a tram to get into the city!!!

Have not seen any of the crowd since the B-B-Q at the Boasts with the exception of Win and Pancho Humphreys whom we see quite often. Not many of the boys live over in our area now. However we all manage to keep up with the news as much as possible.

Still enjoy our weekends down at our holiday home at Neerim South and have the occasional visit from Ken and Margaret Monk. Last time they called in they were off to a local football match but somehow we all got chatting and they never did make it. However it was a very enjoyable visit.

Cath and I were very saddened to learn about Scottie Wares. One of nature's gentlemen and will be sadly missed especially by the W.A.'s.

Gordon Holmes was over recently and as usual spent some time with us. Arnold Webb who lives in the Neerim

South area has been trying to catch up with us for some time but usually picks the weekend. He rings Cath up every so often and he did mention that he would make it for Anzac day but didn't. However, he will turn up one of these days I guess.

As for the next Safari—well we are definitely coming and this time I think we may persuade my sister to accompany us so put us down for three definite bookings. She can share our room as I take it for granted that the double accommodation will have the usual 'double and single bed' arrangement. If there is any alteration to this we will let you know immediately.

Enclosed please find a cheque which you can put to whatever use you want.

In the meantime, Cath and I send our very best wishes for good health to one and all and look forward to seeing you in 1983.

Cheers for now and take care.

**John Roberts**

That's an impressive start if only I can put the brakes on enough you will not have your usual problem of reading, or should I say deciphering, my scrawl. I have decided to start a letter while Dorothy, her mother and yours truly are on a Safari of our own, but to cut the gaggle we had a very nice reunion at Bowen with George Shiels, George Coulson, and to be lucky, Bernice Langridge and his good wife. Unfortunately Margo Shiels could not be at home that night, she left a meal for us even though we did not expect to stay. George or Bernie brought some pies, they had spent the day seeing "Bulla" Tait then had the shock of finding I had arrived with my two Squaws, so with pies, fish cakes and tropical fruit we had a delicious meal.

The two George's who are very good with the words, as Bernice would agree, made it a very enjoyable evening for me, as many a name came up as to how certain people became interested in the amber fluid etc etc. Very sharp, very sharp!! On George Coulson's advice we that is Dorothy Mum and me, went out to Abbott Point twelve miles north of Bowen to see the huge construction and beginnings of a monster wharf for coal export, plus a South Pacific "Bali Hi" view from the musical of that name.

As we went out past the workings there was hectares of site buildings on our right plus a Caravan Park for the workers who prefer their own accommodation. On the left, two pits so big you could have put Sydney's pride and joy, the Opera House, in them, not to mention the mountain of dollars the lat-

ter cost. Then towards the East these huge twin concrete tarmacs, Ables and Homes a Court could have laid their dollars end to end and still left room for the Invincible, six Harrier jets and an Excocet missile to play silly buggars with, and, not stepped out of the mountains.

On the way down from the mountain view I noticed work seemed to have ceased, not that there was a great deal of evidence of it in the first place for the size of the job and the accommodation. I thought the reason was they had seen me going past in the Volvo and decided they had everything, they now would like a mobile shopping basket for the ladies at home, so had gone to a stopwork meeting until they got one for each of their girls. Any excuse is better than none?

We stayed at the Bowen Caravan Park and as we were about to leave I heard one of the permanents talking to a Newcastle-ite about the latters next day plans to go out west then wander back down home through the middle. The oldie said, quote "Arrr well, the further you go west the cheaper your food bill gets." Newcastleite says "How come?" Well says oldie, "You eat more dust all day the further you go west so you aren't hungry at night!!"

Max Davies was somewhere in Queensland as he left Sydney the day before me and expected to be in the Bowen area before me. I told the two George's, so next day Coulson made an enquiry at the Caravan Park where Max usually stays. The proprietor said, "No mate if you want to find him you had better wait until Friday afternoon then you will find him and George Shiels making a case of themselves at the R.S.L.!!" I think it was sipping lemonade, causes the trouble every year, they get hiccups about 11.30 at night! Once again, you meet the nicest people on Safari.

Saw a coal train the other day so long by the time the Guards Van gets into the Guards home station, the neighbours think his wife is shacking up with a stranger! To top that—we caught up with an engine towing empty coal trucks which took me 4 kilometres to pass it at 81kmh The Guard on that one was pensioned off when he got in, got long service leave, sick pay, plus loss of conjugal rights!

Well I haven't got to Cairns yet but aim on a delightful spot called Mission Beach, will see you all when I see you all when I see you. Took umbrage at having my last letter cut in halves, but when I took it up to the local tip they refused to take it, so took it home and threw it over the cliff. Bye now.

**Ron Trengove**  
On Safari