



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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A Christmas Message

In the present world of trouble and depression the advent of Christmas brings some ray of hope to brighten things for most of us.

The Christmas Message of "Peace on Earth and Goodwill to all Men" gives us something to think about.

Surely the ordinary folk of all nations want nothing more but peace to live their lives in their own manner and to partake of the fruits of their labour.

It is time we all learned to live with trust in one another. It is mistrust that breeds the Evil in anyone. What is wanted is the Spirit of Christmas to extend throughout the whole year. Let us work and strive to make this a better world to live in and a more neighbourly haven for everyone.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a Pleasant New Year.

John Fowler
President

MERRY XMAS TO ALL

BANANALAND HOSPITALITY

- (a) My visit to Queensland, Brisbane in particular, was a lesson in finding out what hospitality was all about. I arrived Saturday, on the Sunday Unit Members and their wives rolled out in full force to a B.B.Q. held at Jindalee on the banks of the Brisbane River. It was indeed a lovely setting and a glorious day, one that complimented the warmth of the reception they gave me.

It was a day for quantities of Fourex, a chance to fill in our Queensland group with progress of the "Safari" thus far and its attendant problems, yet to tell them it was going to be a delight to see members from all over Australia. That planning had progressed well and projected nominations were in excess of 100, also we were fully aware of the cost structure and were doing our best to keep it in reasonable bounds.

I would find it difficult now to name all those who so kindly made my first full day in Brisbane such a pleasureable one, suffice it to say, all the Queensland Safari faces were an evidence, plus an additional extra in Peter Hearle, who sent his kind regards to everyone.

- (b) Tony and Iris Adams were my host and hostess during my stay in Brisbane, we had made tentative plans at the Safari to take in the Games after I had finished with the Legacy Conference. This happened, and what a memorable and nostalgic stay I had with these two delightful people. We turned the clock back 37 years when I was "Best Man" at their wedding. I visited again with them the Church of St. Thomas at Toowong where the grand occasion occurred, it brought back some lovely memories.

There were many happy moments, quite a few humorous ones too. Tony and Iris have a lovely Japanese type garden, waterfalls and waterways, exotic tropical plants and trees, at night, beautifully lit. Tony also has a Humus Shredder to give the necessary material to kick his garden along which he spreads with some zeal.

He is also plagued with two "Scrub Turkeys" who seem in the course of mating bent on piling up or scratching out all his humus. They performed apparently for my benefit, I had spent an hour or two spreading some, that night they kindly removed it with their powerful feet.

"Battle Stations" was the cry by Tony who has become the ace brickthrower of Rainworth in his bid to rid Coudrey Street of these menaces, he successfully subdued one by a well directed shot. Then the piece-de-resistance, Tony chasing the other one flat out up the street hell bent on destroying it, the only effect was to get it further removed from his garden.

Result! One muscle stiff former Commando, plus a scared "Scrub Turkey" still full of running!!

We caught up with Ralph Connelly by going to lunch at the Tattersall's Club. He and Sheila sent their kind regards to all members. Ralph has been most helpful to us with his T.A.A. contacts for which the Safari Committee our most grateful.

Thanks to all Queensland members for their typical "Bananaland Hospitality" so exemplified at the Queensland Gold Coast Safari 1981.

God Bless.
The Editor.

BRISBANE THE SUNSHINE STATE - MATILDA AND ALL THAT! THE FRIENDLY GAMES THE EDITOR

Twice in 12 months I had the great pleasure of being in Brisbane and its environs. First for the Queensland Gold Coast Safari, which was a gem of a show and beautifully organised. Next, for the Brisbane '82 and Commonwealth Games rightly dubbed The Friendly Games, this too was a masterpiece of organisation, to be seen to be believed.

Having been involved in the 1962 British Empire and Commonwealth Games held in Perth as Chief Announcer, sort of on the inside looking

out, this time I was an avid spectator on the outside looking in, I liked what I saw immensely. It would have to be Queensland's finest hour.

The whole gigantic exercise stemmed from a spur-of-the-moment decision by one man 13 years ago, November 22nd 1969. Name, Norm Gailey. He had listened to all states being recommended when someone mentioned Newcastle N.S.W. he thought, by God, if that industrial city thought it was big enough to handle the Games, so was Brisbane. He leapt to his feet and forcibly said so - the Brisbane Games were born. The result of all the planning to run the 10 day extravaganza is now history. It was successful beyond the wildest dreams bringing real credit to Australia in general and Queensland in particular.

All the venues chosen were functional to a high degree and in their planning deep thought was given to how they could be utilised after the Games were over. This they achieved in total and their foresight will be to Brisbane's advantage.

The QEII Stadium is a magnificent structure in a spectacular setting which proved so appropriate for the opening and closing ceremonies. Set in a natural amphetheatre, cleared from the bush, which includes a fine warm up area, it became via the medium of T.V. a star attraction world wide its tartan synthetic running track providing all the athlete's required. Its capacity of 58,000 spectators, 10,000 in the multi purpose grandstand and the remainder in temporary aluminium stands, gave great viewing with no blind spots or annoying towers in the line of sight.

The grandstand is in fact below the seating area, a community sport centre. Fitted into its four storeys are eight squash courts, an international standard gymnasium, a weight gymnasium, saunas, bar and restaurant facilities, meeting rooms, media areas and living accommodations for 81 people attending training camps. This gives the complex a value far beyond athletics. Those who were on the Safari saw this 20 million dollar project.

The Chandler Complex contained and catered for a variety of sporting events. Most would have seen on T.V.

the Chandler Aquatic Centre with its world class swimming pool and diving facilities, the equal of anything in the world, the fast times proved this to be so.

A venue for the fast moving game of badminton was the Sports Hall, a first class area which can be adapted for a whole range of other uses, wrestling, indoor hockey, table tennis, but above all it has put Brisbane on the international indoor tennis circuit, for already two "Legends of Tennis" tournaments have been staged there and the tennis stars delighted with the facility.

The weightlifting stadium is in fact the Chandler Theatre for musical recitals and theatrical performances, but what a great spectacle this sport became because of this venue. In fact the, "1981 A.B.C. Sportsman of the Year" function, was nationally televised from here, it certainly helped the weightlifters to emerge as real personalities.

Then there was the Chandler Velodrome where the Australian cyclists were so successful on the 333.3m track. It could seat 6,000 people all with excellent views of the steeply banked circuit. It is identical to the Edmonton Argyll Velodrome in Canada but according to the cyclists fractionally faster. What a home for future international events.

There was the City Hall for the wrestlers in the heart of Brisbane, it was built in 1930 so has had a life span of 52 years, a very dignified and a state-ly neo-classical building.

Boxing in the old Festival Hall, for years "House of Stoush," right up against the City Hall. Bowls at Moorooka rifle and pistol shooting at Belmont near Mt. Gravatt, a searching marathon course designed to suit both runners and spectators. How successful it was.

Brisbane had it all on the score of facilities for competitor's allied to spectators.

The Games were out of this world and from the Opening Ceremony went with a swing and a spirit that fired every person with enthusiasm which lasted over the full 10 days. Matilda was the highlight of the Games wonderful in its conception, she captured the hearts of everyone from the first "wicked" wink she gave on her entry to the stadium for the brilliant Opening Ceremony. All six

tonnes of her and 13m high she trundled smoothly around the red track, turned to the Royal Box and threw another special wink with eyelashes bigger than a house verandah!

The opening was a dazzling scene of pure theatre, a mixture of fun, pageantry, art and slick timing, there was not a dull moment. Rolf Harris led the singing and combined with "Tie Me Kangaroo Down Sport," Matildas pouch opened up and dozens of little "Joeys" emerged and began jumping up and down on trampolines. It was a lovely symbol for a games opening.

Emotions ran high with the singing of "Waltzing Matilda," it would be a better National Anthem than "Advance Australia Fair?" To round off a spell binding show Prince Phillip arrived in the lovely elegant, open Rolls Royce then a flight of F-111's and mirages shot across the sky. The guard of honour stood ramrod still even though a number lost their hats in the exceptionally high winds.

There were "cooee's," a Kookaburra, amplified many times over, gave voice over the P.A. system, 6,000 children forming the map of Australia, the Games symbol and the basis of Many Tableaus. They were wonderfully disciplined. Many tears were apparent as the whole stadium sang Peter Allen's lovely song, "I still call Australia home."

Raelene Boyle carried the Queens Message relay baten into the stadium, Tracey Wickham took the oath on behalf of all the competitors, who had proudly marched onto the arena, with a special reception for the two man team from the Falkland Islands. Brisbane had it all, bands, balloons, pigeons, colour, flags of all Commonwealth Nations, the trooping and raising of the Commonwealth Games flag, the spectacular electronic Napboard the largest of its kind in the world, designed to supplement the on field attractions, and, the massive result board which carried all the words to the songs that were sung. I, along with Tony and Iris Adams, plus the 60,000 others were held spellbound, it was a seat edge presentation of some great magnitude.

The Competition among all the nations was one of high calibre, of grand performances, of nostalgia, such as Raelene Boyle's win in the 800m, the first dead heat in the Games history in a running event, the 200m mens final

between Alan Wells of Scotland and Mike McFarlane of England. The superb quality of the black athlete's an attack on the world high jump record kept the crowd on the edge of their seats until night on 6 p.m.

The wonderful Aussie girls in the swimming segments Tracey Wickham, Lisa Curry and Lisa Forrest. The men who filled 1-2-3 in the 100m freestyle, Neil Brooks, Greg Fasala and Michael Delany, then the world record swim in the relay by Canadian Alex Baumann.

In the field events we witnessed the magnificence of Daley Thompson, surely the finest athlete at the Games, winning the testing, trying decathlon. Our own Glynis Nunn who won the Heptathlon for women from the dark English girl, Judy Livermore. In doing so she showed talent, determination and great courage.

Then came the unforgettable run by Robert De Castella in the marathon, the event given to us by the Ancient Greeks where the winner in the early days of the Olympics was crowned with a laurel wreath. So too was De Castella and no one person earned it more, he ran the perfect race to overtake the two great runners from Tanzania Juma Ikgangaa, the little man with a big heart who ran second, and Gidamis Shahanga who finished in sixth place. At one stage he was over 300m behind and looked to be a doubtful winner but then Robert took off like a rocket and with long strides, great endurance, he cut the field to pieces to record a magnificent win. His time for the first 20km 1.00.33 and for the final 20km 1.02.06 so one can see just how accurately he timed himself. He was without a doubt the hero of the Games.

Cycling was a great spectator sport and the performance of Kenrick Tucker in winning the sprint title was outstanding, he is a miniature dynamo.

Archery produced an all time first at the Games, a Gold Medal won by an athlete in a wheel chair. New Zealand womans Archer, Neroll Fairhall - what a reception she received at the closing parade, and what an inspiration to other disabled people.

The public deserve a great pat on the back, one of the outstanding features was their acceptance of all athlete's regardless of colour and their spontaneous applause given with enthusiasm and from the heart. It occurred at every venue, even when the disqualifications at the swimming oc-

curred the team who was declared the winner received a great ovation. Infact they were indeed the "Friendly Games" for one never heard a cross word or protest from the huge crowds that attended the different stadiums. Everyone spoke to each other, you felt so welcome, those in front, behind and at both sides made you feel the warmth of friendship, it was so delightful.

The Volunteer Helpers were full of everything nice, always a cheery "Hallo," "have a happy day," "enjoy yourself" no matter where you went this was the treatment you received. The behind the scenes helpers were just as bright and cheery and it was a real tribute that all that could be made available took part in the Closing Ceremony. They certainly deserved the recognition all 5,200 of them.

A letter in this issue from Angus MacLachlan will give a greater insight to the value and contribution of the Volunteer Helpers. The unsung heroes.

The Games Closing had everything that stirred the emotions and was a fitting final to 10 days of sheer magic. It was a waving, cheering, weeping, joyous mass of colourful humanity and no one, but no one, expressed it with greater intent than Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth. She and Phillip set the pattern.

Ethnic groups, a chinese dragon, the daring and colourful sky divers in a triple jump with smoking feet of red, white and blue. Marching girls, lissome dancing girls, the "Brisbane Belles," a bright bouncy group in slinky white leotards, 10,000 balloons released, a massed services band played "Waltzing Matilda" and voices rose to a crescendo.

Then came "Matilda" with the most "wicked wink" in the world, the terrific "Games Mascot," clutching a posy of red, white and blue balloons. The athletes came on in force the guard lowered the Commonwealth Games flag and trooped it with precision to the dais. Everyone involved was full of sheer exuberance, then came the time for the Queen to declare the Games closed and call on the athlete's to assemble again in Edinburgh, Scotland, 1986.

The Queen smiling that wonderful smile of hers entered the, Royal Rolls Royce, an open car, and indicated to the delight of everyone that the driver was to do a full lap. Prince Phillip who

had done a grand job over the whole Games period acquiesced quickly and they inched their way through a wonderful cheering group of predominantly Aussie athlete's, security thrown to the wind, in a tremendous display of National pride and unity. Here was our Queen, the Mother figure of our nation giving herself to her subjects in a manner everyone loved. She had set the seal and given the lead in these "Friendly Games."

It was all over one stood there bewildered at the spectacle, emotion ran high inside ones body, Australia via these Games had gained stature throughout the Commonwealth, our country had been brought closer together than since the years of war, may that spirit ever continue. Even "Matilda" appeared to have a tear in her eye as she quietly trundled out of the stadium.

The planning and running of the Games was efficiency personified with no detail left unturned. To sum up Queensland's effort, one word, "Magnificent." God Save the Queen.

OUT OF THE WOODWORK

The yellow slips still roll in but "O, so" very slowly! Where are you all hiding, we have only received 150 replies which has really prolonged the printing of the new address book.

We will have to get this mobile in the New Year and can only trust those who have not replied live at the same address as shown in the old one.

The "Queensland Safari" helped fund this project and we can only say to their Committee and Association members, we have done our best to get it all together.

Members, this is a last appeal to straighten out the members problem of these who have "not replied."

Received From:-

Although I have not written for some time it is with pleasure I do so. This leaves me in very good health, during my stay in Concord Hospital for some months, they currently found

what was wrong. Since then I have been OK. Good luck, Gloria joins me in this.

Les Isenhood

Ed. By the photo enclosed Les you look as fit as a fiddle and still as strong as a "Bull." What about 20 minutes of tackling practise?

Am off to Christmas Island for 4 to 6 weeks as part of my job for Administrative Services Transport and Stores. Leaving 2/11/82. Best wishes to Editor and all members and sorry for such a late reply.

George Bayliss

Keep up the good work with our magnificent little paper. Was surprised to hear how long it takes to prepare each issue. Maybe one or two of your staff oldies have slowed. Sack-em!

Gerry McKenzie

Ed. Good luck to you and Mary in your new abode, have a lovely holiday in Victoria with your daughter one and 8/9 grand-children!! The contribution of both you and Mary to our "little paper" has been inestimable.

VICTORIAN NEWS

Sunday October 31st was a very enjoyable day spent with Norm and Fran Tillett at their home in Rosebud where they organised a B.B.Q. and get together for the unit members. The weather could have been a little better but it did not rain and we saw some sunshine.

There was a very good roll up with the following attending:- Norm and Sheila Parker, Max and Grace Davies, Bruce and Lorraine MacLaren, George and Dot Robinson, Don and Joan Freyer, Bill and Eileen Sharp, George and Dot Veitch, George and Betty Coulson, Alec and Beryl Boast, Keith and Betty Craig, son Phillip and wife Lorraine and girls, Susan, Karen and Linda. Ken and Margaret Monk, Olive and Harry Botterill, John and Shirley Southwell, Welmatobin, Ron Scott (Secretary Combined C.D.O. Assoc. of Victoria). Apologies from:- Rolf (Baldy) Baldwin who is in Japan, Tom Nisbet, John and Cath Roberts.

It was very pleasing to see George and Betty Coulson from Queensland and Keith and Betty Craig from N.S.W., it gave them a good chance to see so

many Victorians. Also good to see Don and Joan Freyer from Wangaratta both looking very well.

Our special thanks to Norm, Fran and son Paul for putting on such a lovely day.

Olive and I have just had a very enjoyable two weeks coach trip to the Flinders Ranges, Coober Peddy, Ayres Rock, Alice Springs, returning home on the new GHAN, a lovely train and very comfortable.

When in Alice Springs we ran in to Paddy and Norah Kenneally who were visiting their son Shaun now working in Alice Springs, and we had a very enjoyable lunch with them, then they saw us off on the train. Had not seen Alice Springs since 1941, it is now a very big and nice town. Where did I swallow all that dust??

I am not sure whether you have Norm Parker on the mailing list, he has moved from Dubbo, N.S.W. to Victoria and his address is, Unit 2, The Spur, Frankston 3199.

That is all for now, cheers and best wishes to all.

Harry Botterill

Ed. Nice to have kept track of Norm Parker he was possibly the youngest member of our unit at its inception. Was in section 7 for quite a long period. Trust he and Sheila are fit and well.

COMMANDO MEMORIAL IN MARTIN PLACE

by RON GARLAND

His Excellency the Governor of N.S.W., Sir James Rowland KBE, DFC, AFC, K.St.J officiated at a memorial dedication service for the Commando Memorial in Martin Place, at 9.45 a.m. on Sunday, January 31, 1982.

The official guests included senior representatives of the Armed Services, the State President of the RSL Sir Colin Hines, OBE, Ald T. Bradford representing the Lord Mayor and the Hon Mr. P. Flaharty representing the Premier of N.S.W.

The recently constructed Commando Memorial is dedicated to those members who saw active service with Independent Companies, Commando

Squadrons, 'M' and 'Z' Special Units and other such units during the Second World War.

These Commando type units played an outstanding role in delaying and disrupting Japanese military operations in the vulnerable northern areas leading to Australia.

It is regretted that the activities of our Australian Commandos have received such little publicity in view of their tremendous sacrifices and casualties in their operations behind Japanese lines whilst living under appalling conditions.

The Commandos were originally formed as Independent Companies with a training base at Wilson's Promontory in Victoria. It was intended that these units would operate with British Commandos in Norway.

When the war against Japan commenced after the bombing of Pearl Harbour and the invasion of Malaya, the available Independent Companies were rapidly deployed in the islands north of Australia to delay and impede Japanese military operations.

The 2/2 Independent Company later reinforced by the 2/4 Independent Company fought a bitter guerilla war against a Japanese Division in Timor over an eight month period.

The famous war photographer, the late Damien Parer was smuggled into Timor and prepared a documentary film on the Australian guerilla operations in that country. He asked the Australian Major "Bull" Laidlaw, if he had seen any fanatical Japanese dying, "Bull" replied "I haven't seen any fanatical dying, but I have seen a lot of b..... fanatical running!"

This attitude was typical of the other Independent Companies who serviced behind Japanese lines in the South West Pacific area and in particular in Papua New Guinea.

It should be appreciated that these Independent Companies in the early days of the war had virtually no supply lines or means of medical evacuation and no artillery or air support. They had no medication against such diseases as Malaria until late 1943. They operated without maps in rugged jungle areas that had often not previously been explored by white people.

The late Lt Col George Warfe commanded the 2/3 Independent Company in the Wau Salamaua operations. The

bulk of their operations were conducted behind the Japanese lines in the Salamaua area. At one stage during these operations. George Warfe discovered a Japanese Company in the jungle who were cooking their rice near a river.

George deployed his hungry Commandos in suitable positions to launch an ambush on the Japanese soldiers. When the ambush was effectively set, a message was passed to George Warfe as to when to open fire. George replied in typical fashion — "Wait till the b's have finished cooking the rice."

The dedication service of the Commando Memorial included the handing over of the Memorial to Ald T. Bradford who accepted it on behalf of the citizens of Sydney.

OUR SYMPATHY

This goes out to our old and beloved member Fred Napier on the loss of his wife Gladys, who along with you Fred has been an Association stalwart since its inception.

Fred it is hard to lose a life long partner, more so when you are battling to keep your own health intact. But rest assured you have the deepest sympathy of every member Australia wide in your sad and sudden loss of a very special and tremendous person.

The attendance of so many members and their wives, plus our widows, to Glads funeral was a deep mark of respect and a tribute to the esteem in which you both been held over all the years.

"Ping" Anderson has been hospitalised and is not all that well. Everyone wishes you a speedy recovery "Ping" and trust you will be out and about and among us before long.

Kate James wife of our late member Harvey (Slim) James has written this letter.

Dear Jack.

On behalf of my family and myself, I wish to thank you for the support you gave me on the occasion of the sad loss of my husband Harvey (Slim).

It was most comforting to see so many of the Association members attending the funeral, our sincere thanks to you all. Harvey would have been so very proud to know how many were there to say their last goodbyes, and express their sympathies. Also would like to thank the last issue of "Courier," for their well chosen words, along with the warm expressions of sympathy to my family and self, in our sad bereavement.

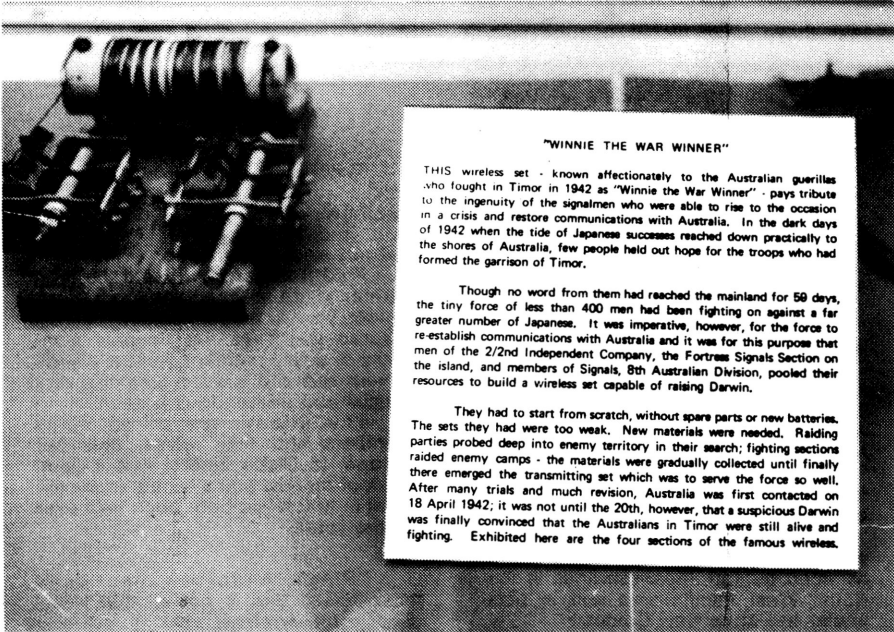
Thanking you all.

Kate James

Grace Turner has been in Bunbury Hospital for surgery and is now making a good recovery. All members send their love Grace and a big "hallo" to Clorrie.

STOP PRESS: News has come regarding Lois Maclachlan undergoing urgent surgery. We trust all has gone well, you have our prayers for this happening. Kind regards Angus, look after the girl, you are both very dear to us all.

"WINNIE THE WAR WINNER"



"WINNIE THE WAR WINNER"

THIS wireless set - known affectionately to the Australian guerrillas who fought in Timor in 1942 as "Winnie the War Winner" - pays tribute to the ingenuity of the signalmen who were able to rise to the occasion in a crisis and restore communications with Australia. In the dark days of 1942 when the tide of Japanese success reached down practically to the shores of Australia, few people held out hope for the troops who had formed the garrison of Timor.

Though no word from them had reached the mainland for 59 days, the tiny force of less than 400 men had been fighting on against a far greater number of Japanese. It was imperative, however, for the force to re-establish communications with Australia and it was for this purpose that men of the 2/2nd Independent Company, the Fortress Signals Section on the island, and members of Signals, 8th Australian Division, pooled their resources to build a wireless set capable of raising Darwin.

They had to start from scratch, without spare parts or new batteries. The sets they had were too weak. New materials were needed. Raiding parties probed deep into enemy territory in their search; fighting sections raided enemy camps - the materials were gradually collected until finally there emerged the transmitting set which was to serve the force so well. After many trials and much revision, Australia was first contacted on 18 April 1942; it was not until the 20th, however, that a suspicious Darwin was finally convinced that the Australians in Timor were still alive and fighting. Exhibited here are the four sections of the famous wireless.

Now in the War museum, Canberra this famous relic has been photographed and its history is here for all to read.

DONATIONS TO COURIER

P. Kenneally /
J. Hartley /
P. Costello /
C. Grebert /
J. Daniels /

G. McKenzie /
L. Isenhood /
I. McCaul /
(nee Servante) /
G. Bayliss /

Butch Barnier /
Bob Williamson /
K. Hayes /
H. Botterell /
F. Sharp /

CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

Dear Arch,

Enclosing cheque for accommodation at Safari from Oct. 3rd to Oct. 17th (staying an extra night), for Olive and self and also Wilma Tobin who is coming with us would like to share with us if this is at all possible - please advise if it can be done. Hope you enjoyed the Commonwealth Games, looked very good on T.V.

Olive and I have just had 2 weeks coach tour to Flinders Ranges - Coober Peddy, Ayres Rock and Alice Springs really enjoyed it, weather good and the first time Olive has been up that way - wants to see more of the outback.

Looking forward to seeing you all next year.

Kindest Regards.

Mary

Dear Arch,

Have enclosed a cheque with this note for Association Courier.

Thank you for sending the Courier so regularly, we do enjoy reading the news especially the Vic "doings." Both Pete and I were unable to attend your service on the 19th, but will be present at the next especially as the chaps will be over for the great "Safari."

Do hope that everyone is keeping well and busy. Speaking for myself, maybe home about one day a week with the four little ones keeping me on my toes.

Peter, Bev and their Families are very interested in the Association and its activities, they too are very busy themselves in all directions. Ken too loves the little ones and finds being a Grandpa fun and near a full time occupation!

Bye for now.

Isobel (Servante) McCaul

Dear Jack,

After much deliberation, Les and I have decided we would like to join the "Safari" of W.A. in '83.

We understand accommodation will be \$37 per day, motel rates. Which is okay with us.

Les has been in touch with Bob Smith who is also going.

Could you let us know when moneys need to be sent to cover "Rates."

We are lax at keeping courier books and the ones I have kept don't have President's, Secretaries' or Treasurers addresses. So hope you don't mind dealing with this matter for us.

We will be travelling by car.

I hope this will suffice for the moment but I expect more information will come along by Courier. As it is a year off there will be lots of time.

We feel a bit lost regarding all this so please forgive us as it is something quite new.

All the best and hope this helps out.

Yours from the East.

Les and Gloria Isenhood

Dear Arch,

The latest "Courier" has once again stirred Bob into action. He is dictating this letter to me as he has such a writing problem these days. His left hand is the one with the problem, and being left handed, causes great difficulty.

I have been on peritoneal dialysis for 18 months, but cannot continue, and am on haem dialysis, on the kidney machines. I have to attend the Royal Adelaide Hospital, 3 days per week, Mon, Wed and Friday.

However, on peritoneal dialysis, it required 5 hours per day, 7 days a week. Naturally, we were unable to go away from home at all.

Bob is now looking forward to us being able to go away for at least a weekend. This would enable us to visit Jim Veal in Pt. Pirie, and Howard Marks at Loxton.

Any members passing through Adelaide, are most welcome to drop into the above address. We would be most happy to see them.

We were very sad to hear of the passing of "Scotty" Wares, he was a fine man and mate.

Our many thanks to Jess Epps for the letter and photo, the photo taken here on their way home from Queensland. Jess told us of "Scotty's" passing.

Enclosed please find cheque, to help continue your hard work.

Yours Sincerely,

Clarice and Bob Williamson

Dear Editor,

2/2 Commando Association,

Enclosed is a small donation for the continued publication of the "Courier," which is avidly read and enjoyed by us both. The Production Team do a fantastic job and appear to be very happy at their work, judging by the cheerful photo in the October issue.

I am not sure whether Keith has already supplied the information for the Address Book or not, but as we have not moved in the past 25 years it is still:

Val and Keith Hayes,
98 Hillview Terrace,
Bentley 6102
Telephone 361 3122.

Many thanks to all those who keep the 2/2nd together and our best wishes to everyone.

Yours sincerely,

Val Hayes

The Editor,

2/2 Commando Courier,

Thank you for sending me the June and August Couriers.

It was with regret that I learned from the latter Courier of the passing of "Slim" James and "Smash" Hodgson.

The enclosed cheque is intended to be applied in the manner most beneficial to the Association.

Hoping I'll be able to attend the Safari of 1983.

Yours faithfully,
H.B. (Bob) Grebert

Dear Len,

Sorry to have been so long in answering your letter, but I just don't seem to have enough hours in the day anymore. My plans for retirement just didn't work out because Maria wouldn't give her work up and was earning too much money for me to claim my pension, so I had no option but to start working again.

I couldn't go back to my old job and cab driving was becoming too dangerous an occupation, so last April I bought a new Holden Shuttle Van and went into the Courier business with a long established firm and I'm on the road for about 10 hours a day, 5 days a week and then I spend about an hour every night writing up my account

books and I'm pretty worn out and ready for the cot by the time I get that finished.

Actually, I went into this primarily to set up my son David in his own business, but he doesn't seem interested, so it looks like I'm stuck with it until I recoup my investment anyway.

We discussed the Safari at length at our Annual Meeting Len, and are fully in agreement that your Committee have made the best possible arrangements for accommodation and we will go along with whatever itinerary you wish to draw up. There are just a couple of suggestions I would like to make Len and I'm sure they will cause no problems. Firstly we would very much like to have a Timorese day such as you had last year included in the Safari outings and I have been wondering whether any of the Sydney Timorese would be interested in joining in. Since our old friend Dealinda died we seem to have lost touch with our locals here but I know where to find them if necessary.

Secondly, we have recently been in touch with a Colonel Reg Beazley who was formerly C.O. of the S.A.S. Regiment in Perth and he suggested that we should get in contact with the Regiment and invite them along to some of our outings. There is a very strong feeling here among the Combined Commando Association members that we must try to foster a closer liaison between the old Commando Associations and the new Commando Regiment and the S.A.S. with a view to them possibly carrying on the Association after we are all dead and gone. Strangely enough, Reg Beazley brought up the subject in conversation with Alan Luby, myself, Mick Devlin and several other of our boys and he was very keen to get the old and the new together as much as possible. Last month we had an evening out at the Commando Regiment Headquarters at Randwick and we presented them with the beautiful trophy we had made for them for the top marksman and there were 3 S.A.S. men there from Perth. I had a long talk to them and they gave me their C.O.'s name and address and said they thought he would be happy to hear from you. Here it is:

Lt. Colonel R. Curtis,
S.A.S. Regiment,
Campbell Barracks,
Swanbourne W.A. 6010

To revert to the Safari Len, I suppose the best way to collect the booking deposits will be through the Courier, but if you want me to do anything from this end just let me know.

I have reminded everyone I have seen about the information sheets Len and I am enclosing my own with a donation.

Must get a newsletter off to Arch this week and hope I am not too late for the Courier.

Kindest regards to yourself and Dorothy.

Cheers.

Jack

To all members
of my old unit 2/2,

I thought you may be interested to know that one of the son's of an ex-deceased member is in our Ass. Namely Geof McGibbon who is the Manager of the Canberra Olympic Swimming Pool. He was only 7 months in pregnancy when his father was killed in Timor, and was later to become an Australian Surf Champion and a member of the S.A.S. in Vietnam.

I never see or hear from Tommy Snowden or Jim Fenwick tho' we always notify them of any functions we have on. It appears they want to be alone.

Our Representative on behalf of all members ex-commando's and M.Z.'ers is Jack Daley of 18 Getting Crescent, Campbell 2601 A.C.T., Ex 2/7, Phone 48 5750, who is in the Attorney-Generals Dept. and is also our Hon General Officer.

Just to remind all members that if anyone is travelling over this way at anytime to let me know in advance, so that we can arrange accommodation and an excuse for a party.

Oh! By the way is it possible to get a tape made for us, sung by your members of "Oh! It's great to be a soldier, and Soldier in the A.I.C.," plus all the words of the verses, we know the chorus. The reason is two fold, one- we want it, Two- The War Memorial is building up tape recordings by service members of events that are not recorded in Unit War Diaries. So if any of your Association would like to make topics of events that are memories now, I would be very pleased to receive them.

I have written often before but have never received any answers, I hope this note is received.

P.S. I have a number of war time photos of Ernie Bingham, Scotty Sharp etc. do you want them if not I'll donate them to the War memorial as they keep asking for them. But I told them you had first choice.

J.D.T. Daniels

Combined Ops or Tomo from D Troop
P.P.S. Find enclosed donation towards Courier.

Also this association has a policy that all wives of members no matter which unit - Commando - M & Z - S.A.S. - British Marine Commando - Special Forces - Vietnam Training Team - are made Hon-members when their husbands die and are guests at all functions. This is to let them know they are one of us and not forgotten just because their husband has died.

Dear Len,

I'm sending the enclosed material and this letter to you as Association Secretary because I believe this to be the correct channel - some of it for the archives, and perhaps some for the Courier.

It also provides a reason to write you personally and we hope this finds Dorothy, yourself and Gavin all well.

I've been intending to write for some time to congratulate you and the other members of the W.A. Committee on your various electional to office but time has beaten me, although I have written a couple of long letters to Arch. I am sure you have a good Executive that will steer the Association well during the year. Incidentally our N.S.W. officers including myself were returned unchanged or unchallenged at our Annual Meeting on my birthday September 6.

Jack Hartley, if he has not already done so, will be in touch with you regarding meeting business and the Safari, as well as the presentation of the marksmanship trophy we initiated and was given on behalf of the N.S.W. association on Tuesday 7 September at a small, informal function at the Regimental H.2. of No. 1 Commando Regiment, A Voca St. Randwick as well as Arthur Litterer, Don Latimer, Ted Ashford, Ray Webber and Russ Brook from the Association, we had Jack Hartley, Snow Weir, Snow Went, Bill

Coker, Ron Hilliard, Mick Mannix, Jim and Greg English present and they were delighted with the finished product. In case Jack omits to do so, I'll enclose a photo. This trophy arose from one visit to their Annual Training Camp at Singleton last year (April) as a gesture of appreciation, and also to promote interest in one of the basics of good soldiering - marksmanship.

The "Terrain Study No. 50" of East Timor was given to us for our archives by Stan Donovan (address book) who first went to Koepang about September 1941 as an Engineer to build up the Aerodrome for closer liaison between the N.E.I. people and Australia. He escaped with others to link up with our H.Q. and this was the task he was given. It would be of particular interest to Col Doig, who provided the armed escort for him. I believe Mick Morgan, Don Turton, Gerry McKenzie, and Ray Aitken would also be keenly interested as well as many others.

I have a copy for ourselves of the printed report but not the sketches, photos, or maps. The Commando news is self explanatory and for your information and interest for some time I have been sending a copy to Scotty as an exchange of information medium - you might let me know whether it's best to send it to you or to Arch.

Here are a couple of items on the front and back of the Arncliffe R.S.L. news - a club that we still frequent and mostly find ourselves welcome. The Hawes Boomerang Factory brochure was found when we were sorting out some photos and brochures and reminded me of what I thought was the wise crack of the Q. Safari. When our Coach Captain was pointing out the features of the industry Gordon Holmes, in his inimitable dry manner quipped - "They must be bloody millionaires with all that return business!!"

At our last meeting it was also decided that we should write again to the Fed. Government to express our dissatisfaction with the continued lack of interest in the East Timor situation, so presently I'm looking for time and inspiration to put it together.

So far, this year has been one of enormous variety for us, with some special highs and lows. At the beginning of February Ed went down with what was diagnosed as a virus that turned out to be an unresolved pneumonia, that even now she has not completely

had cured. On February 21 her mother died just short of age 92 and of course that provided a set-back. We went on our U.K. - European trip in the hope that altitude and air changes would fix everything but it didn't quite work out that way and her right hip began to give her real problems, to the extent that she is now lined up for hip replacement surgery on 18th October.

Two days after our return Marg and Barrie gave us a wonderful present of a new grandson (Keiran) who after some early feeding problems is now doing very well. Early July Barrie tore an achiller tendon to pieces playing squash and has been in plaster ever since.

Maria is planning to be married on 9th October in a quiet, family only, civil marriage ceremony, at Lindfield. Hubby-to-be is the manager of Futures trading establishment, one Les Hosking - seems to be a nice bloke. There's a probability that they may go to Malaysia for a term, leaving before the end of the year.

We see quite a lot of June Bennett who is keeping well, but still some what restless. Was on a train recently when who should enter and stand alongside me but Joan Darge. She is also well and retiring from work in about 2 weeks time.

That's about all I can do for you at the moment Len. Edith joins me in sending love and best wishes to you both, and all our good friends in W.A.

Sincerely,

Alan

P.S. We trust your Annual Dinner and Commemoration Service were great successes. The amended Safari venue sounds much more suitable than Travelodge would have been. I'll send you some money soon for a deposit and a prayer that we will all be able to share another tremendous reunion with old friends.

Alan

Dear Arch,

Having joined the ranks of the retired in the middle of August I can't seem to find time to do the things I normally used to do. Had an interesting retirement week. Customs gave me a big send off a few days before I retired and the highlight of the evening was when my two girls sent along a singing telegram girl. She was dressed as a

Eastern harem girl and the two of us spent 15 minutes drifting through an imaginary harem much to the delight of my fellow officers and their wives. On finishing day my two girls again appeared, this time at the International Airport, and had me presented with, of all things, a boob cake. As I had stocked the airport up with plenty of tinnies in the morning the staff were in a right mood for this presentation. When asked to cut the cake I tried to decline explaining that I could not stand the sight of blood or milk. Altogether it was a lost week for me but it is nice to know that people are thinking of you, or perhaps glad to see the last of you.

For the past 16 months we, at Customs, have been building a 34 foot, half size, Viking ship from plans provided by the Oslo museum. We were building it complete with armour, uniforms and half size Vikings if possible. The whole project was financed by us to the tune of some \$10,000. During Festival 82, in conjunction with the Games, we were to put on pillage and rape scene on the river bank. There were plenty of volunteers as rapists but, sad to say, very few rapees. The ship, when completed, has a compliment of 24 and is propelled by 14 oars or single square sail. On our first tryout with 22 aboard we made 7 1/2 knots in blustery weather under sail and about 4 knots with oars. It causes some consternation amongst other craft when we put to sea. A week before retirement, while working on the boat, I managed to insert my fingers inside an electric planer, it wasn't easy. Now two months later it is all but healed with only a slightly different shaped finger to show for my troubles.

The Games are now over. The athletes, the visitors and most of the workers have gone and Brisbane is sitting back happy and content with the way things went. To say the Games were a success is putting it mildly. Before the games started the people of Brisbane, apart from those actively engaged in the Games, possibly had the same attitude towards the Games as the rest of Australia, a mild interest. It was interesting to see the city wake up as "D" day approached and realised that the Games were a goer. Two days after retirement I joined the Games Foundation as a volunteer worker and expect to finish at the end of October.

Prior to and after the Games I was and am engaged in stocktaking Griffiths University, the Games Village, and Mt. Gravatt Teachers Training College for the Foundation. This entails taking stock of all building, condition thereof and quantities and condition of furniture. Any discrepancy between before and after had to be met by the Foundation. During the Games I was working with a Service Committee providing day by day supplies to the athletes, such as drinks and laundry supplies. We also had to trouble shoot any breakdowns or shortages as they arose. During about 18 days we handed out over \$100,000 worth of soft drinks free to athletes and staff. Converted hundreds of electric leads to suit our power points, kept the Scottish team happy (no mean feat) and tracked down hundreds of faults and complaints.

My good wife Lois was to baby sit our four grand children during the Games but our good neighbours came to the rescue and Lois joined the volunteer force as a seamstress. She and 22 others worked long hours making the athletes look presentable. For most of the time they were working up to 12 hours a day, such was the demand. Over 2000 athletes visited the sewing room for work to be done.

It was much more than they bargained for. The Canadian Team were issued with their uniforms after arriving at the village, over 290 of them each with 2 pair of pants or skirts and 3 track suits. All of these had to have the hems done and many had to have other alterations to make track suits or uniforms fit. Most teams had to have emblems and pockets sewn on blazers and thousands of numbers had to be sewn on singlets. Apart from this there was miles of running repairs to be done. One of the Police Force even brought in his gun holster to be repaired. Steeple chase runners wanted holes punched in their running shoes to let water run out after the water jump. Again, they had to keep the Scottish Team happy. This was okay until one of the Scots decided that Lois could keep him happy in another direction. That did not come under her charter. Though they worked hard they thoroughly enjoyed the work and meeting so many of the athletes (except the Scots).

My two daughters hate boxing, and always have done. Janette, my eldest, was a co-ordinator of staff at the boxing arena and worked for some weeks prior to the games working up their staff. During the Games she did everything bar climb into the ring. As it was a couple of the boxers threw their hat into the ring with no avail. For 6 weeks prior to and during the games she also was a marshal for the opening day. This involved marshalling 230 school kids into their right position in the middle of QE 2 for the opening ceremony. She couldn't get over how they could be right little buggers on the warm up track but put their heart and soul into their job out on the main oval. She even acted as a joey on the trampoline during one of the practice dry runs.

Number 2 daughter, Ann, was hostess (or some long name) to the overseas boxing Representative. This consisted of wet nursing him during the Games and attending to his every wish, bar throwing the hat into the ring. Working long hours, start at 0630 and knocking off any time up to 3am, she thoroughly enjoyed herself. As she had access and seats to all venues she managed to see a cross section of the Games. So, as you can see, the whole family was actively engaged in the Games and I am still wondering what retirement will be like.

The Friendly Games were indeed the Friendly Games. The atmosphere at the village had to be experienced to be believed. With over 2,000 athletes and 700 volunteers in the village the scene was like on big happy family. The organisation was superb and the competitors impressed. The weather was good and the African athletes almost shivered to death. When you walked into their accommodation it walking into an oven, all heaters going full blast. In all it was a worthwhile experience and I think we got more out of it than we put into it. As for the show itself, I'm sure you all saw it on T.V., no need for me to say any more, except to say that the City of Brisbane, the Foundation, the Volunteers and the Army have every right to be proud of the way the Games progressed from one success to another. We are also very proud of the effort of our 6,000 school children on opening day as they went through their routine under difficult

weather conditions, they were marvellous.

Have had visits from Bob Smith, Bernis Langridge and Arch Campbell this year. had a good roll up for each get together, Arch will fill you in on those he saw at the barbeque. Nice to see a few faces drop into our home town. Enclosing a donation to the courier from one of our members who is suffering from paralysis of the writing finger. Butch Barnier, 15 Kelvin St., Wavell Heights 4012, Phone 07 266 1649. Regards to all who read the Courier and a very Merry Christmas to one and all.

Kind regards Arch.

Lois and Angus Maclachlan

Dear Len,

Thank you for the reply to our letter, dated 10 Sep 82, expressing your Association's approval of our proposal to contact former members of Commando units and "M" Special Unit in Western Australia. This, as you know, does not include those who have an existing Unit Association of which they can be members without that Association's approval.

We do feel, however, that we should correct an error in terminology contained in your letter. We are not greatly concerned about it as it is realised that it is merely a loose term applied to our proposal. We do think, though, that we should draw attention to it. This is the reference to a "Combined Association in W.A.."

It was not intended that we should attempt to form such an Association as we could not administer it from here. That should have been done many years ago within .W.A. as the 2/2 did for its unit members. Unfortunately, it is now far too late. A lot of time is required for an Association embracing all units to develop and strengthen sufficiently, as you would appreciate. It was stated in my original letter that a few years ago it seemed that a W.A. chap was about to try to get one under way and, although it seemed a late start, I wrote to him and offered our full support but heard nothing from him.

We are now offering the next best alternative. That is our organisation and its facilities to enable W.A. members of the units not provided with them to contact their friends in this state and through us, those in other states. That also applies in reverse, of course.

We wish to thank your Committee members for their interest and valued support and to express our best wishes to all.

Yours sincerely,

R.A. Scott
Hon. Secretary

Dear Len,

Hallo everyone do hope you are all well and making the most of life, Phyllis and I all being well will be returning back to W.A. for the 1983 "Safari."

I retired from the State Rail Authority in August after 37 years, I took my family and grandchildren to America for 24 days during the school holidays to visit Disneyland. The children had the time of their lives and visited Disneyland on five occasions, even the adults enjoyed the experience it is very rewarding and educational for all to enjoy.

We also visited San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego, Las Vegas Universal Studios and the old Queen Mary which is now anchored at Long Beach California and is used as a great floating hotel also for wedding receptions, conventions and other forms of entertainment. Whilst doing a tour of the old girl there was a large picture on display of her final trip to America after World War 2 where she carried 15,000 American Servicemen on that final trip. Hitler also had a bounty on her equal to \$250,000 at that time for any axis warship or submarine that could sink her.

The history of the old ship is very interesting and the tour was well worthwhile.

The American people were very hospitable and went out of their way to make our trip very happy and pleasant and I feel that we still have a long way to

go before we attain their standard of living.

We were very impressed with San Francisco a beautiful city and we had five none stop days there and then never saw everything.

Before closing I would like to wish all my good mates and their families a very pleasant and Merry Christmas and may 1983 be a healthy and kind year to all.

Bye for now and looking forward to renewing old friendships once again at the W.A. "Safari."

Kindest regards,

Frank Sharp

COMING EVENTS

POYTON PICNIC - SUNDAY 23RD JANUARY 1983

The Event of the year demands nothing less than a 100% roll up.

For the ladies:- All you are required to bring is a cake or cakes for afternoon tea.

Address:- 169 Ormsby Terrace, Mandurah 6210
Phone (095) 35 2261.

Landmark:- Big 2 storied home on the waterfront.

SEE YOU THERE - 23RD JANUARY, 1983.

SANDGROPER SAFARI 1983 3RD TO 16TH OCTOBER STATE OF EXCITEMENT W.A.

We are nearly in the year of '83

Now is the time for deposits so as the final impact will be easier on all
attenders

Keep the coin rolling in.

ABOVE ALL: WE NEED YOU HERE IN '83.