



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

Registered for transmission by post as a periodical No. WAS 0270 Category "A"

Address all Association correspondence to:

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

Vol. 36

FEBRUARY 1982

PRICE 1c

COMING EVENTS ANZAC DAY — SUNDAY 25th APRIL

1. DAWN SERVICE

LAYING OF WREATH — GERRY MCKENZIE

Assembly point for members — top of stairs leading to War Memorial — 5.45 a.m. Let us have a good roll up at this service.

2 ANZAC DAY MARCH

ASSEMBLY POINT: Proximity Irwin Street and St. George's Terrace, opp. Council House.

TIME: 9.45 a.m.

STANDARD BEARER: Tony Bowers — Coming up from Mandurah.

3. REUNION

12 NOON: Knutsford Arms Hotel, Knutsford Street, North Perth. Travel Along Fitzgerald Street North to Walcott Street. Turn left — first street on left is Knutsford Street. Phone 444 1006.

Invitation to all members whether at March or not — roll up and enjoy the companionship.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, 16th MARCH 1982

VENUE: Anzac House, St. George's Terrace.

TIME: 8.00 p.m. sharp.

This vital yearly meeting deserves a large attendance so make it a must on your going out calendar!

SANDGROPER SAFARI 1983

(See Over)

SANDGROPER SAFARI 1983 - STATE OF EXCITEMENT W.A.

By virtue of popular consent, via the delegates from each state, this event on our calendar is an established fact.

The Queensland Safari proved just how much emphasis is placed on this type of get-to-together. With the passing of the years our numbers lessen but this is one way of making sure that we all retain the wonderful friendships forged in the years of war and so solidly cemented in the years of peace.

We in the West guarantee to give you the holiday of a lifetime, the opportunity to share with your friends from all over Australia everything that you could wish for, above all, to share it with those whom you love so well.

Life at our age is all about enjoying oneself and reaping the benefit of our labours, plus keeping alive that bond of friendship formed over all the years, in the unique atmosphere of a 2/2nd Safari.

It behoves all members to give serious consideration to joining in the Safari for such a function brings to life all the wonderful things both to us, to our ladies, and indeed our families, that the 2/2 Commando Association is all about.

The Queensland "Gold Coast Safari 81" was an outstanding success, so much so that early interstate nominations, including our ladies who are so much a part and parcel of the whole show, number fifty (50). That is a magnificent start to Safari 1983.

So as you can share the joy and the companionship here are the names to date of those who anticipate coming West:—

QLD.

Angus & Lois MacLachlan, Charles & Pam Mills, Tony & Iris Adams, Ralph & Sheila Cauley, Ron & Betty Host, Freddie & Phyllis Bryant, George & Edna Vandeleur, George & Irel Mathieson, Mick & Betty Devlin, Jack & Maria Hartley, Bill & Coral Coker, Alan & Edith Luby, Dan & Dulcie Latimer.

VICTORIA

Bill & Eileen Sharp, Peter & Elvena Krause, Max & Grace Davies, Peter McCracken, Harry & Ovide Botterill.

N.S.W.

Paddy & Nora Kenneally, Ray & Joyce Martin, Bob & Joyce Smith.

S.A.

Alan & Hazel Hollow, Frank & Muriel Shaw, Dan & Marg. Stevens.

A.C.T.

Tom & Bonnie Snowdon.

2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

Our Editorial Committee Review of our Courier also indicates that along with our address book, 2/2 Courier is indeed one of the two "primary vehicles" or media types of means if you prefer it that way, that we use in keeping all our members together. Therefore —

- (a) We want all members to receive their copy of Courier!
 - (b) We want to use Courier as a means of keeping our members together.
 - (c) We **do not** want members to "drift apart" and become lost to their mates.
 - (d) We want our association to maintain strength in numbers, and so it is essential to receive information of "changed address" etc, so we can continue keeping in touch with Courier.
 - (e) Finally, under the conditions laid down by Australia Post re bulk postage, a charge of 30 cents is incurred on each posted item returned. Australia Post classes returned Couriers as "undelivered registered publications" which have to be paid for and so we are sure members will appreciate the need for prompt advices regarding changes of address, to enable us to reduce or eliminate such costs. Couriers returned either for 8/81 — 10/81 or 12/81 issues include:—
Mr C. Browne, Mr B. Giles, Mrs M. Robinson, Mrs J. Cantrall, Mr R. Nieuwerling, Mr F.A. Stewart, Mr J. Chalwell, Mr N. Parker, Mr W. Tucker, Mr P. Costello, Mr K. McEachern, Mr R. Wintour.
- Can anyone help us to put these records straight and ensure that the (12) above members re-commence to receive their Courier. Please advise.
NOTE: Records are now held out of system.
-

TIMORESE XMAS PARTY

The Unit members, their wives and families were guests of the East Timorese Association in Progress Hall, Paget Street, Hamilton Hill on

Saturday night the 5th December, 1981 at this magnificent function. Our Association turned out in force to what was a nostalgic evening filled with everything wonderful. Our total combined was 84 — add to this 140 Timorese and you have a very large crowd indeed.

What a lesson in organisation was given by these delightful people. On entering we were given the programme for the evening and supplied with refreshments and nibbles, the charming young hostesses made everyone so welcome.

Then came the time to dine, what an eye opener; the food preparation, presentation and the abundance of it, was just short of miraculous. After feeding 220 people there was enough left to start all over again!! The choice and range of exotic dishes, Timorese, and every other style, was unbelievable and one could not leave the smorgasbord type table without the sign, "plateful".

To add to our delight the entertainment presented was of a very high standard right throughout the evening and A. Da Costa, well known to us as 'Costa' compered the show in a grand manner keeping everything going with a swing. The groups dressed in the costumes of their land, danced and played their instruments in a very friendly, professional and considerate manner, for they included dances we had seen during our sojourn in their country. The girls looked stunning in the beautiful leipers, their coloured scarves, used so delicately and effectively during their dancing, enhanced the colourful presentation.

The boys danced with energy, sang in perfect harmony with the girls and when the Catana (type of sword) Dance was performed, swung that weapon with skill and timing fitting in perfectly with the music, and/or the dancing, to make it an exciting and spectacular production.

It was an enjoyable and completely absorbing evening with refreshments being on tap from start to finish, nothing was left to chance, the Timorese gave us a truly memorable Xmas Party. They have wanted ever since the Timorese picnic on Don Turan's property at Keysbrook on the 9th May, 1981 to reciprocate for what they called, "this kindness", they did so with telling effect to make everyone only love them more. It certainly cemented our two Associations and is the forerunner we trust of many more combined functions.

Addendum: We owe them so much,

to see their country torn apart is heartbreaking, politically we should hide our heads in shame, for here is a people who gave so much to the Australian soldier and Australia in general by foiling, because of their support to us, a Japanese invasion of our country. Their tremendous loyalty in the face of a Japanese landing enabled us to puzzle the enemy as to what our numbers were, how long it would take to overcome us?

Troops that were to be invaders were stymied by the aggression of the 2/2nd Independent Company who kept them guessing long enough to stop any advance on the shores of Australia. How? By the loyalty, help and co-operation of the Timorese native. Australia certainly owes them a debt but have turned their back or closed their eyes to the plight of these "dark angels", who in many instances gave their lives that we might return to our native shores to continue the fight and keep Australia free. Who could do more?

Every man in the 2/2nd Australian Commando Association, members of a unit with an extremely high reputation throughout the war, can thank the Timorese native, whether they served there or not, for being a member of it, for we could have so easily been completely erased as a unit without the tremendous support of our beloved people of Timor.

Knowing all this the refugees, so few in number, showed what a great spirit of co-operation and forgiveness exists in their heart by playing host to us at a Timorese Xmas Party.

One can be made to feel so humble in face of such friendliness, add to this the speech of welcome by the President of the "East Timor Association in W.A." Jacinto Dos Reis which is quoted hereunder:—

"President of the 2/2nd Commando Association, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. My warmest welcome to you all on this wonderful and festive night.

The Timorese community is happy with your presence here and believes that in a society like the Australian society, in which live people from different ethnic backgrounds, languages and cultures, meetings of this nature are a good means to achieve a better understanding and to create a high level standard of life.

On May 9th, 1981, exactly seven months ago, we had been honoured with a picnic at Keysbrook. It was really a very nice friendly get-together and our thanks go to the 2/2nd Commando Association and to the

organisers. On that occasion I told you that everyone had to be ready and fit for another get-together to be arranged, so this party is the one we have been looking for.

Mr President and distinguished members of the 2/2nd Commando Association, you had been in Timor during the Second World War fighting a long guerilla war against the Japanese Army and after months and months of suffering and deprivation you survived and got back to your lovely country, Australia. In Timor you met a lot of people, though poor, they tried to help you as best they could, and they did, to save your lives despite the then dangerous situation. Many lost their lives in so doing.

In 1975 our country faced a civil war, for that reason many left Timor to settle here too, then came another invasion?

The people of Australia have been very kind, we are really safe but our hearts are still in Timor — maybe your friends of wartime are suffering in a situation they never wanted. But little or nothing has been done by us on your behalf in Timor, so for the sake of justice we accept your sympathy and friendship, plus any kind of support that can be directed to those in Timor who helped to save your lives.

We are enjoying, ladies and gentlemen, a wonderful and very happy night, the "Night of Timor", our lovely country. Keep it in your hearts and your memories for the time being.

At our General Meeting held on the 22nd November, 1981 a motion was presented and approved concerning the institution of the "Day of Timor" to be celebrated every year on December 8th — consecrated by the Catholic Church to "Our Lady of Immaculate Conception".

In accordance with the approved motion ladies and gentlemen I proclaim December 8th of each year the "Day of Timor" in Western Australia at the community level.

Finally I would like to say "thankyou" for your attendance and for any kind of support you gave the organisers of this party and take this marvellous opportunity to wish all in this hall, "A Merry Xmas and A Happy New Year," thank you.

Editors Note: We took up a "round robin" from all 2/2nd members present which paid for the refreshments and were able to also donate to the East Timor Association in W.A. one hundred and ten dollars (\$110).

RESPONSE — OUR PRESIDENT GERRY MCKENZIE

Gerry responded on our behalf eulogising the Timorese for such a wonderful night of friendship, of folk dances, of music, of Timor culture, the latter he trusted would continue to exist.

UNO he stated were in favour of self determination in Timor, pray God it comes to pass. During our occupation of Timor you Timorese people took us into your homes and hearts, we owe you a debt of great depth and can in some small way only, move towards repayment by assisting the East Timor Association in W.A.

God bless you all for this great get-together, may you all have a Happy Xmas and a Joyous New year. Thankyou.

Editors Note: Particular thanks to Mick Morgan for upholding the reputation of the 2/2nd as entertainers. In his own inimitable style he sang a few songs from his well known repertoire in which we were able to join. The Timorese loved it Mick. Well done!

ANNUAL RE-UNION DINNER 31-10-81

This function is the highlight of our Association Calendar for it is wrapped around the present and the past. An opportunity for all old comrades to meet in a convivial and happy atmosphere to further cement long standing friendships our years of war, and of peace, have made possible.

Those in attendance were:—

Jack Hassen
Dick Darrington
Jerry Haire
Charlie King
Len Bagley
Ron Kerkivovel
Gerry McKenzie
Gerry Mafey
Colin Hodson
Ernie Bingham
Doug Fullarton
Ray Aitken
Joe Poynton
Mick Morgan
Clarrie Vearan
Colin Doig
Dan Hindson
Dan Turton
Dutchy Holland
George Fletcher
Rod Shee
Arthur Smith

Robbie Rowan-Robinson
 Ralph Finklestein
 John Burridge
 Gerry Green
 Jack Carey
 Spriggy McDonald
 Bob Burns

APOLOGIES:

Clarrie Turner
 Henry Sproxton
 Les Anderson
 Percy Hancock
 Bernie Langridge
 Jack Fowler
 Archie Campbell

**ANNUAL RE-UNION
 DINNER — SAT 31
 OCTOBER 1981
 TOAST TO THE UNIT
 AND ASSOCIATION BY
 PRESIDENT GERRY
 MCKENZIE**

Gentlemen — It is again my pleasure to propose a toast to our unit and I deem it an honour to be given another such opportunity.

The splendid unit to which we belonged and this association of which we are members, is very dear to us and I know we all serve it with pride and pleasure.

The unit in the beginning, known as 2/2 Australian Independent Company, was a special unit formed to resist the special kind of tactical danger which confronted Australia at that time. We needed to provide fighting troops to resist over a widespread front with limited forces and so we began preparing for guerrilla or "little war" operations. Our formative and training days at Foster on Wilson's Promontory in Gippsland, Victoria, were shrouded in secrecy, even to naming the training camp at Darby Chalet on the Darby River "No. 7 — Infantry Training Centre". This surely must have confused the Jap and German Intelligence Services, because no one could have located the other six I.T. centres, not even our own Australian Field Security Services.

The most "special" thing about the formation of our unit was perhaps that the young volunteer soldiers selected by Lt. Col. Scott to make up our ranks, were simply mostly young sand-groppers who were training in W.A. centres at Northam, Melville and elsewhere as general reinforcements for our infantry battalions already fighting overseas. Our troops-to-be were at that time hardly fully trained

"Spud Barbers or Dixie Bashers". They were not special!! That they readily became "special" well trained independent jungle and mountain fighters, who performed with such distinction later in Timor, then New Guinea and New Britain against the numerically stronger Japanese invaders, is to their credit. Another "special" they were credited with was contained in a Japanese surrender proposal in Timor in 1942, which after suggesting a safe and comfortable, also well provided-for life as their P.O.W.s., concluded with the words "You alone do not surrender to us". Perhaps though, the most "special" compliment was paid to the unit by Australian High Command who saw the unit at its best in an independent role and throughout its period of operations never ever obligated the unit to come under control of a regimental headquarters for operational command, as did all other independent companies and cavalry commando squadrons at one time or another during their period of operations. We were so independent that I believe we were classed as "hot potatoes" by the training camp administration at Canungra and that probably accounted for the unit being hustled off to New Guinea after such a short rest and re-fit, so soon after our return from an arduous 1942 in Timor. At this stage quite a few of us, **especially the "bull" went bandy??**

Our association was formed by some parents of our members, to support the unit during war time, and was handed over at war's end in early 1946, to our then newly returned members as a going concern. To say only that the association has flourished over the ensuing 35 years is understatement, because I am sure you will agree, it has gone from strength to strength, mainly because members enjoy the company and the comradeship of their old war time mates, but also in no small way due to our early planners having had the good sense to set down meaningful and attainable objects.

Two of those objects are:

1. To encourage and strengthen loyalty to Australia and the British Commonwealth of Nations.
2. To maintain the spirit of comradeship among all members and preserve the memory and traditions of the unit.

These things have been done over the years and will continue to be done in large measure.

Toast

ANNUAL DINNER — 31.10.81

TOAST LIST

Loyal Toast: Bob (Spriggy) McDonald

The Unit and Association: (President)
— Gerry McKenzie

Our Visitors: Don Turton

Official Guests:

(East Timor Association)

Jacinto Dos Reis - President

A. Da Costa — Vice President

Lec Filipe — Member

Leong Sjun Seng — Member

Gavin Green — Member

Apology:

Dave Ross (former Australian Consul
in Dili)

COMMEMORATION SERVICE 1981

Last year I said it was 29 years since I last had the honour of conducting this parade, which is an event of primary importance on the 2/2 CDO Association calendar.

Despite the years — now 30 — since my first involvement, I feel just as responsible to attend today as ever before.

The act of tuning-in in memory of those grand mates who did so much for us and did not return, touches me just as much today as it did on the day they were notified as casualties (KIA).

It has been said that some of my comments 30 years ago carried political undertones, and if so, I apologise again, because that was not intended, and I hope no comment I make today gives the impression or inference of political intent.

I would like to think that this service of ours is just one way of "doing our thing".

You will be aware that this parade — Anzac parades, Remembrance Day parades, in fact any parade or service by R.S.L. or Ex-Service Associations — is criticised by many and said to be merely a "glorification of war". Who wants to glorify war? Of course we do not and the claim against us is just not true — it's rubbish. But it is true that our critics are mostly people younger than us. Though they condemn our ceremonies and spread at least verbal opposition, they

vehemently insist on their democratic right to "do their thing" whatever, whenever and wherever.

Let us therefore continue as long as we can to join our services, to remember our mates, and give a silent thank you to those who were not spared to come home and be with us.

Let us continue to do this — join this ceremony at this parade, at this place each year at about this time — in remembrance. This is "our thing". Let us continue to do it!

I would like at this moment to thank you all for coming along and sharing in this simple ceremony of homage, and hope with the passing of the years we will continue to remember those who did so much for us. I would now ask you all — ladies and gentlemen — to stand a moment while I read the names of those who grace our Honour Roll.

Don Airey,
Dick Alexander,
Frank Alford,
Gordon Barclay,
Roy Beardman,
Len Brown,
Hughie Brown,
Harry Cotsworth,
Bob Chalmers,
Bill Cheverton,
Gordon Chiswell,
Harry Cole,
Fred Crowder,
Owen Davies,
Cyril Doule,
Bob Ewan,
Brian Gannon,
Ken Hogg,
Bill Holly,
Phil Hopper,
Peter Kemp,
Patrick Knight,
Tony Lane,
Stan Ludlow,
Des Lilya,
Laurie Moloney,
Des Fallon,
Jack Maley,
Harvey Marriott,
Eric Mitchell,
P.R. Mitchell,
Les Moule,
Gordon Mulqueoney,
Reg Murray,
Dick McKenzie,
Val Nagel,
Jack Northey,
Jim Pollard,
Don Ramshaw,
Keith Richards,
Jack Simpson,
Andrew Smeeton,
Fred Smith,

Charlie Stanton,
Alec Stewart,
Bob Swift,
George Thomas,
L.G. Thomas,
John Walker,
Don Waller,
Dick Wordie,
A.E. Yeates.

*They grow not old
as we who are left grow old
age shall not weary them
nor the years condemn
at the going down of the sun
and in the morning
we will remember them.*

ATTENDANCE AT COMMEMORATION SERVICE

Though a little down on previous years the attendance, as usual, was good and the atmosphere one of reverence and remembrance. Unfortunately a number had still not returned from the Queensland Safari, and in absentia their apologies were accepted, as they too were in spirit at the holy place of the 2/2nd Commando Squadron, our **Lovekin Drive Honour Area**.

Gerry and Mary McKenzie,
Len and Dot Bagley,
Rod Dhu,
George Fletcher,
Jim and Marion Smarles,
Percy Hancock,
Bob and Betty McDonald,
Jack and Delys Carey,
Mick and Jean Morgan,
Joe and Helen Poynton,
Roy and Vera Watson,
Gerry and Dot Maley,
Robbie Rowan-Robertson,
Bob and Joan Burns and family,
Charlie, Mary and Jnr. King,
Mick and Jean Holland and family,
Vida Turton,
Jess Epps,
Jerry Haire,
Dan Hudson,
Jacinto Dos Reis — President East Timor Association.

THE POYNTON PICNIC

What can we say about the contribution of Joe and Helen Poynton to the camaraderie of our Association? "The Poynton Picnic" has become a blue ribbon function looked forward to by all members.

Joe has carried his affection for our old unit into his peacetime activities.

Helen, without whose wonderful support such an event could not happen, gives her all to make this day one always to remember. In fact, her personality at all unit get-togethers adds that certain something that goes to make them a resounding success, for Joe and Helen are always among those counted as present.

Not only do they throw open their delightful home, but the occasion has become a real family affair, the youngsters enjoy the outing as much as the adults. It was a grand day where unit members, family and friends all mingled with happiness, had fun galore, and a modicum of old "Bacchus" gave all things an added stimulus!

Then there are the good friends who contribute towards the day — Peter Campbell, Tony Bowers, George Fletcher — "dawn patrol George" they call him, for he arrives prior to crack of dawn to prepare the fire and the spit for the now famous "pork roast". Many other friends who Joe and Helen organise to assist, do it all with a smile, a laugh and plenty of good humour, while the Host and Hostess go about seeing that everyone is being cared for and sharing in the super hospitality.

To be present is to experience a fabulous day. Below is the list of those who were at what is now to the 2/2nd a household word — "The Poynton Picnic" at Mandurah, plus friends:

BAGLEY, Len & Dot
MORGAN, Mick & Jean
BURNS, Bob & family
STONE, Aussie & Flo
HOLDER, Harry & Maisie
FITZSIMMONS, Jim & Alma
KING, Doug
DOIG, Colin
LOUDEN, Joy & Alec
HOLLAND, Dutchy & Jean
FLETCHER, George
TURTON, Don
FOWLER, Jack, Jean & family
HARRINGTON, Reg & Dot
BOWERS, Tony, Willie & family
CAMPBELL, Peter & family
KING, Charlie, Mary & family
HOSSON, Jack & Norma
McKENZIE, Jerry & Mary
O'BRIEN, Davey
CAREY, Jack & Delys
PAULL, Terry
SWANN, Vince
BLETHON, Don
SMITH, Arthur
WHEATLEY, Doc, Harry & Garry
ANDERSON, Les & Cherry
MARSHALL, Arthur
HOFFMAN, Ernie

DHU, Rod
BOWDEN, Millie
EPPS, Jess

SPECIAL SAFARI NEWS

Queensland Presentation to W.A. Branch

This unexpected gesture by the Host state at the Reunion Dinner of the "Queensland Gold Coast Safari '81" was not to be lost in the welter of information given to members in the last *Courier*, but was saved for a special mention. It was a sincere expression of loyalty and recognition.

To describe its uniqueness is impossible, but tribute must be paid to Gar Wood, a next door neighbour of Angus MacLachlan and a tremendous worker at the Safari, for a beautifully crafted memento which I will try and describe, be it ever so inadequate:-

The whole is set on a square wooden base which carries the Queensland Coat-of-Arms and the following wording: "Presented to the Western Australian Branch of the 2/2nd Australian Commando Association as a memento of the 1981 Gold Coast (Q'land) Safari".

On top is a beautiful carving in the shape of an open book, while standing in front of the open book is a dark wooden cross inset with a dagger of light coloured wood, so placed that you can read the inscriptions on each of the open pages, and they read thus:-

Left Side

2/2nd Commando Squadron

Our Colour Patch

Timor

New Guinea

New Britain

'Ita La Halua'

"Ale no losim Tink Tink long all"

1941-1945

Right Side

"They shall not grow old
As we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them,
Nor the years condemn,
At the going down of the sun
And in the morning,
We will remember them".

"For the Fallen"

Laurence Binyon

1869-1943

Justice of course is not done to this by the written word, but it will be an attractive addition to our history. It is not only a memento but shows that our solidity, loyalty and comradeship are as strong now as in the days of war. Thank you Queensland from our hearts, for such a noble thought.

PAINTINGS — BY BOB SMITH

Again specially reserved for mention were a series of paintings that were hung in the Hospitality Room of the Silverton — the creator, Bob (Beaky) Smith. Most of us did not know that we had in our midst an artist of such calibre.

Rural in content, they were admired by all who saw them; they were the work of a fine and discerning painter and would grace any wall of any home, adding colour and dignity to the surrounds.

Bob presented one to the unit so as it could be raffled to augment "Safari Funds" and the members responded with great enthusiasm. Don Turton, who beat the Editor by a short half head, was the envy of all as he won the right to choose a painting which will be hung with pride in the Turton home, and be a delight to his wife Vida.

I know that Keith and Betty Craig were to take another which had a special significance to them — it was a beautiful painting by any standard.

Just another of Bob's hidden talents which go to make him the person he is — thanks too, Bob, for an extremely generous donation.

STOP PRESS

"Queensland Safari Committee
Donates \$1500 to 2/2 Commando
Association"

Two areas are involved — the "W.A.
Safari 1983" — \$1200; the "New
Address Book" — \$300.

What a magnificent gesture and what a tribute to the organising ability of the Queensland boys. To be able to finance that long-to-be-remembered "Gold Coast Safari 1981" and budget so expertly as to have a residue to assist our Association in running yet another Australia-wide get-together and sponsor in part our new and vital "Address Book", is really some achievement.

Thank you Queensland, a big "well done" from members Australia-wide and W.A. in particular.

PHOTOGRAPHS REQUIRED

To augment our history via our current photograph album could any member who has spare copies in his or her collection forward them to the West Australian Branch.

Requisites are: Names, dates, places — these details for identification. Without them it could be an exercise in futility. There is plenty of scope in our campaigns — Timor, New Guinea, New Britain — plus our training and reforming areas of Foster, Canungra, Strathpine.

Any photographs sent will be very well received and much appreciated. As well, it will define the "shutter-bugs"! Thanks.

PERSONAL PARS

Ray Aitken had a heart problem in December and has been through a trying period but is now well on the road to recovery.

He has ceased smoking — that for Ray is no mean feat — has lost a couple of stone, is back in his beloved nursery among the trees and flowers for two or three days a week, so all in all Ray has made a determined effort to get on top of his problem. That is typical of his approach to all things.

Ray, all members wish you a complete recovery to 100% health and look forward to seeing you back in circulation at our functions, which you have been part and parcel of for so long. From us all "Good luck Amigo".

DONATIONS RECEIVED

Thanks to the following:

J. Veal
G. Coulson
W. Sprigg (Wyn)
A. Thomson
C. Andrew
E. Chapman
K. Craig
B. Dennis
L. Isenhood
P. Krause
H. Sargeant
N. Scott
W. Anderson (Bunny)
J. Fowler (2)
P. Walter
F. Press
D. Stevens (Shorty)
J. Hasson
R. Smith (Ross)
R. Conley

W. Petterson
F. Bryant
D. Turton (2)
J. Steen
J. Poynton
E. Hoffman
A. Marshall
D. Darrington
L. Bagley
R. Kirkwood
C. Hodson
E. Bingham
D. Fullerton
D. Aitken
C. Vorian
A. Smith
R. Rowan-Robertson
J. Burrige
G. Green (Air Force)
J. Carey
B. McDonald
R. Burns
W. Tobin (Wilma)
A. Birch
A. Voevedin
R. Gurr
E. Mulcahy
R. McArthur
R. Parry
K. Sargeant (Kath)
D. Gay (Dulcie)
J. Epps (Jess)
P. Campbell
A. Campbell

DONATION OUTGOING

The West Australian Committee on a motion from the floor forwarded to the M-Z Commando Association an amount of \$100 as a donation towards the "Commando Memorial" to be located at the Eastern end of Martin Plaza in Sydney.

Our N.S.W. Branch forwarded a similar donation.

VALE

R.A. (DICK) ADAMS

News came in December of the passing of Dick Adams, an original member of the 2/2nd Independent Company.

He was a Sapper in the Engineers section under Don Turton, from the formation of the Company until the cessation of the Timor campaign. He was hospitalised in Queensland and never rejoined the unit. Later his brother Alan did. Both boys were from Yarraglen in Victoria.

Dick was a big cheerful character, a mate of ' ' Hodgson, one of the party who worked on "Winnie the War Winner", and a very able player of the accordion, who led many of our sing

songs.

To his wife and family we offer our deepest sympathy and trust treasured memories will sustain them in the years ahead. As one of the originals Dick will have a special place in the hearts of those who knew him. May he rest in peace.

CHAMPION OF OUR CAUSE

Editor:

This article was written by a very close friend of the 2/2nd Independent Company who was only a schoolboy in the years of war — Ken White, a talented journalist working with the Northern Territory Newspaper in Darwin.

He and his wife Joy accompanied Don Turton and myself into the mountain country of Timor when we were in search of our respective "Criardas" during our visit to that island in May-June 1973.

Ken was particularly interested in the campaign the 2/2nd fought there and gleaned as much information as he could about it from us and all other relevant sources, becoming completely engrossed in the whole thing, particularly the participation of the East Timorese people.

He became a real champion to their cause and was in the last batch of correspondents to visit Timor prior to the Indonesian invasion. Since then he has left no stone unturned to seek out information on their plight, has written forthright articles regarding the Australian Government's treatment of the Timorese people, has given them shelter in his own home, and via his paper has kept their plight in proper perspective.

His latest article published hereunder is typical of his approach, his deep affection for our Unit and the Timorese people. Ken is discerning, wise, and gentle by nature, but uses his pen like a rapier. Thanks Ken for your continued deep interest in the Unit and more especially, the Timorese.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

In an introductory chapter to Lieutenant-Colonel Bernard (Bernie) Callinan's book, *Independent Company*, the late Neville Shute wrote that without the enthusiastic co-operation of the natives, the Australian campaign in East Timor during World War II could not have achieved the results it did.

Had there not been this help, he said, it might well have ended in the defeat of the Australians.

Outnumbered by nearly 100 to 1, members of the tiny 2/2 Independent Company killed an estimated 1500 Japanese compared with 40 losses of their own.

Wrote the author of *A Town Like Alice*, "They (the 2/2) stood and fought when practically every other unit in the Far East was forced to surrender; they evacuated in good order

NEW ADDRESS BOOK

Another splendid "spin off" which emanated from Gold Coast Safari (1981) was the donation to us of a cheque for \$300, to be used in producing a new address book.

In essence, this project has been in hand for several months and our editorial sub-committee has been working to a plan to record suggestions and list changes sought by members, particularly those interstate. Our new, understanding and co-operative editor, has also been studying, noting and recording suggestions and wishes, so that we now have a new format worked out, wherein we seek to incorporate all or most of your suggestions in our new address book.

The concept of using our address book as a "primary vehicle" for keeping members in touch means that we must include "STD phone numbers" to ensure that members, especially when travelling interstate, have a rapid means of contact through the nearest public telephone.

We still need your added help and prompt co-operation to ensure that all available "STD phone numbers" and the latest in accurate information, goes to press.

Therefore members, please, as soon as you have received and read your *Courier* (Feb 82 issue) extract the loose leaf enclosed and headed **New Address Book — Information Sheet** and:

- (a) fill it in as required;
- (b) add your notes for *Courier*;
- (c) enclose your cheque for donation to *Courier* expenses if you feel like assisting — (don't worry and delay if you can't donate or know you have recently contributed), but;
- (d) do return your completed information sheet, by return mail, to:

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

Gerry McKenzie

and became operational again as a detachment in New-Guinea.

"They were one of three small forces which between them immobilised two Japanese divisions."

Speaking at a Darwin Press Club luncheon yesterday, Federal parliamentarian, Mr Ken Fry, emphasised the disgraceful disparity between the loyalty of the Timorese and the studied indifference of their plight, akin to the Jewish holocaust, which has been shown by successive Australian governments since the Indonesian take-over.

Mr Fry's speech coincided with the sixth anniversary of the storming of Dili and the execution of Darwin journalist, Roger East.

It was on December 7, 1975, that Indonesian paratroops, backed by regular army units, overran the sleepy, picturesque capital of the former Portuguese colony which, only nine days before, had proclaimed its independence.

It is estimated that in the five years that followed they slaughtered at least 250,000 of the Maubere people, far more than the Iberian overlords did in more than 400 years of colonial rule.

And this was in a campaign which, one Indonesian general boasted, "would be all over in two days."

"It is ironic that this week in Canberra," said Mr Fry, "the Australian Human Rights Commission will be launched with great fanfare and fine words, no doubt, by Prime Minter Fraser.

"But you can be quite certain that the question of human rights of our near neighbors in East Timor, those loyal World War II allies, will not be mentioned, nor will the new commission be called upon to take up such an embarrassing issue.

"You can be equally sure that as each Anzac Day and Armistice Day comes around, dignitaries will continue to call on us not to forget the great sacrifices made by Australians in defending our own and other nations' interests in the various wars in which we have been involved.

"On these occasions we will be called upon to repeat the words "Lest We Forget" in memory of fallen comrades.

"When I have said and heard these words recently, I have often wondered what our fallen comrades would think if they could hear our leaders strutting around the country and on the world stage, especially Indonesia, proclaiming with great enthusiasm, not "Lest We Forget," but

"Let Us Forget" all the nasty business of East Timor; there is good business to be done in Indonesia so don't let us spoil it.

"The Prime Minister, his deputy and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, as well as other lesser actors on our stage have distinguished themselves recently in a concerted effort to have the East Timor issue buried once and for all."

Mr Fry said that fortunately there were enough people scattered throughout the world who were aware that the attempted forced integration of East Timor into Indonesia had been a ghastly and costly failure which continued to haunt the Indonesian Government and their many accomplices "in this blatant act of unbridled aggression."

In the past six years, a legacy of hatred has been built up to such an extent that there was now a situation of permanent resistance.

But instead of Australian foreign policy being brought into line with this reality, it had, in the United Nations, gone on to complete the full circle — from muted criticism of Indonesia, then abstention from voting and then the final disgrace of voting with Indonesia against the majority decision of the Council and the Assembly condemning Indonesia.

"The reality of permanent resistance in East Timor is reinforced by the reports of this year's savage new Indonesian offensive which has been confirmed from reliable church sources as well as letters from relatives and friends of Timorese in Australia and Portugal," Mr Fry said.

"According to the Union of Catholic Asia Newsagency, practically all men between 15 and 50 have been conscripted to join with Indonesian forces to attempt to drive Fretilin from their mountain bases by sweeping through, as the agency puts it, "like African beaters for white hunters".

"Because so many people have been taken away from their farms at the time when they have to be cultivated for planting (just before the wet season in October), there will be serious food shortages.

"Church sources are estimating a famine even more severe than that of 1978-9."

Mr Fry said even more significant to the reality of permanent resistance was a report of the Regional Assembly of East Timor to the Indonesian Government, recently leaked from Jakarta through Dutch sources.

This body, comprising supporters

of integration and collaborators, complained to President Suharto that the Assembly "is continually with deep sorrow receiving verbal as well as written reports or complaints from the people about torture, maltreatment, murders and other unimaginable cases."

The report also criticised the military commanders who it stated were not only responsible for the systematic slaughter of the Timorese, but were squandering development funds provided by the Indonesian government and creating totally fictitious development projects involving hundreds of millions of rupiahs.

Said Mr Fry: "Indonesian generals have become millionaires and multimillionaires through the misdirection of aid from donor countries.

Mr Fry added that there was one small light at the end of the long dark corridor.

"The move by Senator Button in the last week of the Senate to refer East Timor to the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs could be the real breakthrough after years of obstruction by the Government."

THE LORD'S PRAYER IN PIDGIN

This has been sent by Jess Epps and it is a chance for all "Old New Guineans" to dust up their "Pidgin" English. Proof positive, too, that whatever the colour of your skin, prayers are universal and lasting.

Your separate translation to your children or relatives, regardless of age, will be an interesting exercise!

Papa Bilong Mipela

Papa bilong mipela, yu i stap long heven,

nem bilong yu i mas i stap holi.

Kingdom bilong yu i mas i kam.

Laik bilong yu i biahinim long

heven, olsem tasol mipela i mas biahinim long graun tu.

Nau yu givim mipela kaikai inap long dispela de.

Na yu lusim ol sin bilong mipela, olsem mipela tu i lusim pinis sin bilong ol man i bin rongim mipela.

Na yu no bringim mipela long samting bilong traim mipela, tasol tekewe mipela long samting nogut.

(Kingdom na strong na glori, em i bilong yu tasol oltaim oltaim. Tru.)

Correspondence Corner

Just a little nourishment for the *Courier*.

Peter Krause

Editors Note: This was a gem of a letter from Peter — all it contained in words but a handsome donation accompanied the note! A real economy in words, Pete. Our best to you and Elvina.

Dear Archie,

One week after Safari and Lois and I are taking it easy in Townsville for a couple of weeks. After preparing for Safari over a two year period, the two weeks on the Gold Coast passed us by ever so quickly. Perhaps that is the sign of a good holiday.

Comments on the success or otherwise of Safari '81 I will leave to other, perhaps less biased historians. Nor will I list those who attended or those to whom we owe thanks for making our task that much easier. All these things, I know, are in your little black book and will see the light of day under your penmanship. Suffice to say, Lois and I, and I'm sure all of our committee, received reward for our efforts in the continuing comradeship of our members, wives and friends. To whoever takes up the running for the next Safari may I wish them the same spirit of togetherness that our committee experienced over the last couple of years. Long may the spirit of our association live on.

As I sit here with a stubbie in my hand, came to the north to dry out, I wonder at the progress of north Queensland since we were last here eight years ago. For anyone who thinks they are forty years younger than they really are, this is the place to be. Life is slow and easy, most people are prosperous, and you can still get your supply of Castlemain Four X. What more could one ask for. As for me, its back to the rat race in a couple of weeks time.

To all those we missed saying good-bye to and to those we did, Lois and I wish the compliments of the season and hope to see you all at our next big gathering.

Yours in friendship,
Angus MacLachlan

NOTE:

**Other Correspondence
next issue**