

2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



The season of Festivity is practically upon us and soon the joyful Bells of Christmas will ring out their message of Good Will.

Another year has nearly reached its close & with the Christmas season just around the corner we think again of all our friends from near & far.

Many of us have just enjoyed the never to be forgotten Sandgroper Safari that has made us realise what a wonderful thing friendship is — with happiness in meeting old friends we do not see very often, & the pleasant hours spent together.

We are now back amongst our families again with Christmas gatherings uppermost in the minds of us all.

May the spirit of Christmas & Peace on Earth & Goodwill to all men be with us at this time.

We spare a thought for those who are sick or who have suffered bereavement & we wish you to know the thoughts of friends are with you at this time & trust the new year will bring you better health, & comfort.

Best wishes to you all for a Merry Christmas & a happy & healthy New Year. Jean joins me in this

MERRY XMAS TO ALL

John Fowler
(President)



CHAIRMAN EDITORIAL COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS ON SANDGROPER SAFARI 1983

SANDGROPER SAFARI! OUR SAFARI'S! OUR PEOPLE!

Some will remember our editor's comment in June 83 issue "Any 2/2nd re-union has just got to be a real — "Ding—Dong Affair"!!

How right he was? How truly he anticipated the planned happenings in Perth, through 3rd to 16th october!!

What made "The Thunder Down Under" at Sandgroper Safari? It wasn't the venue or the weather or the gut wearing toil of the few (too few) or any other single aspect — WHAT THEN ?? PEOPLE ?? PEOPLE ARRANGE SAFARI'S. PEOPLE ATTEND SAFARI'S. PEOPLE ARE SAFARI'S. PARTICULARLY OUR PEOPLE!!

All 2/2nd Safari's over the years have been boomers' — bonanza's — Boomerang affairs for the one same good reason and that reason is simply because, each function at each venue, no matter in which state has drawn a well represented and highly respected group of interstate visitors.

In this regard, Sandgroper Safari was no exception! matter of fact it was heard, said "They get better and the numbers increase as the years go by" PEOPLE said that and we agree!

PEOPLE also commented "So Jim Fenwick reckons they can "Bung" the next one on in 1987 (the mind boggles as to whom might volunteer sponsorship for that one).

PEOPLE again commented on 16 Oct "Guess a few more of us will have dropped off the perch by 1987"

Regretfully this latter has to be true. So soon after Sandgroper Safari we mourn the passing of two dear old mates who attended, namely the late Rod Dhu (W.A. branch vice pres/committee man and assistant warden of our king's park honour area for years and the late Wilbur wallis, who became ill, whilst on Safari. Thankfully due to his courage and his spirit in attending many of us were able to say a last "Cheero Wilbur" They will be sadly missed at all future safari's and all othe 2/2nd Reunions.

Our sympathy goes out to their near relatives.

(P. 10)

SANDGROPER SAFARI 1983 — DAY BY DAY RESUME

What a magnificent response by our interstate and local members, only you dispite all the organisation, can ultimately & make such an occasion tick. Tick it did in a grand manner and for the whole fortnight we had humour, joy and wonderful friendship shared, as it should be, by our wonderful ladies, without whom Safari in its present form could not function, they just make the whole thing live. We the men of the 2/2nd love you all for it.

Life is about living, having fun sharing our joys and our sorrows, making sure as Bob Smith who so wonderfully sets the example says, "make the day count". People came despite their infirmities and we thank them for their courage. The Caravaneers brought a new dimension in fun, not only to their Caravan Park, but to the whole Safari. Thank you for coming so far to share with us all the wonderful spirit of the 2/2nd.

As we recount our every day we can look back with nostalgia as it becomes part of memory lane. Tony Adams set the seal in his toast to the unit by nominating us as a family. We are, a big, close, tremendously knit family who has, as its father, Colin Doig, we the children of it make sure it remains intact. Safari adds to its dimension in warmth, spirit and abiding love for each other. God Bless us all.

DAY 1

This was a night reunion to welcome old mates, a time to share our common bond friendship, to bring our ladies together, to drink a toast to a fortnight in which we were going to have tremendous fun within this family of, the 2/2nd Commando Association.

DAY 2

This was a trip to New Norcia which had been beautifully organised by Reg and Dot Harrington. What a day it dawned, this was the pipe opener we needed, as our buses rolled out onto the road leading to our destination. The wild flowers bloomed in profusion as if to welcome our visitors and within the buses the warmth of close friendship could be felt.

We were welcomed by the Benedictine Monks to the absorbing atmosphere of New Norcia, the museum with its glorious paintings, antique pieces of great value tracing its history to the early days. Our guides were learned, co-operative, under-

standing and informative. They won our respect from the start.

Then we went to the historical church for and organ recital which turned the rugged individuality of our members to softness by the power and creativeness displayed by a brilliant organist within a church of holy atmosphere. Time stood still as we listened spell bound to the masterly recital of some very moving music.

We wanted to applaud, but all respected the sanctity of this christian edifice but the Father, feeling the atmosphere I am sure, led us into prolonged applause for such a touching performance. This gesture brought delight to us all.

Then the celebrations began, how well every thing went off, is history. A very warm W.A. sun, refreshments galore, a meal superbly catered for by the Harringtons, the Sadlers, Stan, Charlie, Mavis and Blanch plus Edith Hewitt, and others whose names escape my memory. It was beautifully done.

The highlight was to be joined by the Brothers in our celebrations and our fun. So too did the local policemen, a Vietnam Veteran, who enjoyed every moment of it.

It was a day to be remembered by us all, and our thanks go out to our fine country members who launched us into a magnificent Safari. Thank you sincerely, the brothers of the New Norcia Benedictine Order, you were indeed grand hosts.

DAY 3

Our memorial Service in the unit area, Lovekin Drive, Kings Park. What a wonderful "Roll Call" to a ceremony with dignity, emotion and deep respect for our "Fallen Comrades". The special Air Services paid us a fine compliment when their O.C. LT. Col. Chris Roberts and two of his force laid a wreath on our memorial, all done with precision and feeling which made us proud to have the involvement of our young virile counter parts.

Tom Russell, who was our Bugler, gave the occasion real meaning with the playing of "The Lost Post" and Reveille.

99 of our members marched, 8 infirm were present, 107 was our total and with our ladies and visitors over 200 people were present to listen to our President's Address.

Formal dinner at night saw 228 sit down to what was a great occasion compared by Colin Doig in his inimitable style. A night of happiness, joy, remembering old friends — here is a list of apologies:— Bunny Anderson, Jack Spencer, John Burrridge, Jim Gallagher, Rolf Baldwin, David Dexter, Tom Nisbet, Jack Hanson, George Lewis, Jack Hartley, Freddie Stevens, Nina

Grachan, Jack Peattie, Mick Kingston, plus a sincere and lengthy telegram from Bernie Calliman who was so deeply involved, wanted to come, but finally was not able to do so.

There was nostalgia galore in a setting of dignity and our ladies looking their lovely best, certainly adding colour to the whole picture. We welcomed into our midst the O.C. of the S.A.S. Lt. Col. Chris and Mrs. Roberts plus members of the East Timorese Association, their good ladies, Rameu Baptista, Carlos Pereira, Matires Madera, John Matires, Jack Dosreis, Joe Filipi and Costa, to whom we all gave a hearty welcome.

Tony Adams proposed the "toast to the Unit" and here it is:—

2/2 DINNER - PERTH SAFARI - OCTOBER 83 TOAST - "THE UNIT"

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Guests, Members of the Unit, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all I want to say how exciting it is to be here with you all and how honoured I am to be asked to propose the toast to the Unit.

Iris and I have enjoyed everything we have seen of Perth and what you have organised for us tremendously. You may not remember but 38/39 years ago I was regarded as a Queenslander who could describe the views of Perth as you came over the Darling Ranges better than any Westralian!! I am certainly not disappointed.

I hope you can hear me at the back? Perhaps I should not have asked that question because at a Political rally in Brisbane last week - we are in the throes of a State Election - an aspiring Politician asked the same question. A voice from the back shouted - "No. Speak Up." Quick as a flash a voice from the centre yelled - "Shut up - you don't know how lucky you are"!!!

I do not intend to trace the history of the company, in fact I am unable to do so as I only joined the unit at Canungra after the all important and history making campaign in Timor.

At the same time I don't want you to think that I haven't heard about that campaign from time to time!!!! Every now and again one hears it mentioned when 2 or 3 originals are gathered together !! In fact, if I was completely honest I could probably tell you many of the happenings at Dili, Maubisse, Atsabe, Mape and other places with great attention to detail!!!!. Maybe the fact that Bomber McKenzie was my troop commander has something to do with my deep factual knowledge of the Dili action !!

Seriously though it was the Timor Campaign that welded the men thrown together from all walks of life into the large caring family which is what the 2/2 is. A family home for us all, a home in which I, and I know you too, have such pride.

I would like to very briefly tell you how my dear old mate Val Nagle and I found our way to the Unit, Our home in the Army as Nagle used to say.

Our Army lives had run parallel courses. We both joined up in October 39 and both, on eve of sailing in May 40, were sent to the School of Artillery. We where then sent to different regiments and both went through the Syrian Campaign.

As you know the role and use of Artillery in the Islands was very limited so when we returned to Australia we grabbed the chance to train at Foster as Independent Company re-inforcements. Can you imagine the joy Nagle and I felt when asked to run refresher courses for the Unit's Officers and N.C.O.'s and then to be posted to the 2/2 Independent Company. What a pity our name was changed as 'Independent' perfectly describes the role we played, and individually we were always independent!!!

We both celebrated in the usual manner and apart from feeling very, very sick next day we both knew we had at last found our home. How true this proved to be. We were with a Unit welded together as a family, having experienced good times and bad, joys as well as difficulties. Isn't that the strength of all sound family units? Isn't a pity that the ability to weather all storms and to enjoy the sunny days together has weakened in recent years and cosequently family ties have weakened too.

This great unit - our unit - how proud we all are to refer to my Unit - Has weathered the storms of war and enjoyed the spread throughtout every State of the Commonwealth only because of the family ties formed during the campaigns in Timor, New Guinea and New Britian : the unfailing help and support of our womenfolk : and strengthened since by the regular publication of our unit newspaper the "2/2 Courier". What a debt we owe to our Editors and Production Teams - both male and female - for their dedicated and hard work. Where would we be now without the efforts of our peace time father - Col Doig?

Our peace time activities are known to all here, our unit association, our address book, our safaries (only yesterday at New Norcia Mission we heard of the value of reunions) our involment in matters of National Importance, and our fight for justice for not only so many of our members but for those who helped our members in Timor.

The unit's was record is one to be proud of it has been well documented in not only the volumes of "Australia in the War of 1939 - 1945" but also in many other publications.

It is a really wonderful unit

It is our Family

Ladies and Gentlemen I give you the Toast
The Unit Our Family

Roy Aitken proposed the toast to "Portuguese friends and Native Helpers" and did a fine job, painting a verbal picture to all of the value they were to us in all our campaigns placing particular emphasis on the people of Timor.

Jack Carey gave a moving and well put together toast for our "Absent friends and Archie Campbell welcomed our visitors.

DAY 4

We visited the Swan Brewery, a fully computerised and most interesting complex with all details imparted to us by the charming guides. Swan could not give us product with which to welcome you but they made good their promise to look after us on our visit to their establishment.

They did us proud with beer of every sort available and the tables groaning with lovely food. It was and educational and convivial morning all wrapped up in one parcel, setting the scene for a Jovial day for many of our members!!

DAY 5

The Civic Reception was a winner in every way, hosted by the Lord Mayor Mick Michael and his councillors. A really spectacular view of Perth Waters and beyond was opened up to our visitors, a scene of real beauty enhanced by brilliant sunshine.

The refreshments and food were in great proportions and to cater for 160 plus was a real gesure by the City of Perth to our 2/2nd Commando Association. Here is the speech of welcome:—

Reception for the 2/2nd Commando Association National Reunion

on Friday, 7th October, 1983 at 11.00 a.m.

The right Honourable the Lord Mayor Mr Michael A Michael, OAM

The President 2/2nd Commando Association - Mr John Fowler;

Councillors of the City of Perth;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Today it is my privilege and honour to welcome to our city, interstate and Western Australian members attending the National Reunion of the 2/2nd Commando Association and on behalf of the lady Mayoress, councillors of the city of Perth and myself, I would like to say how

pleased we are that your association selected Perth as its Reunion Venue.

The 2/2nd independent company, as the unit was known on its formation in 1941, later became the 2/2nd Commando Squadron and was an entirely West Australian unit with the colour patch of a double red diamond.

It was a unique unit specially trained on Wilson's Promontory in Victoria for a role which was to bring it fame on the island of Timor, where it contained 15,000 Japanese for nine on twelve months with only a force of 350 men. It was the only unit fighting intact in the Pacific for quite a few months and had no contact with Australia in over three months until, "Winnie the War Winner", a bits and pieces radio now in the Canberra War Museum, made contact with the mainland. The unit was lifted to safety in December, 1942.

This campaign prompted the great Sir Winston Churchill to state in one of his epic speeches, "Little known but great in importance are the men of Timor. They alone of all the Troops in the Pacific did not surrender."

The 2/2nd Commando Squadron went on to New Guinea and New Britain to become the longest serving unit in the A.I.F. in terms of days at the front. Such was its prowess it remained an independent unit for the entire war being used as long range reconnaissance troops working ahead of the divisions. Western Australia can be justly proud of its unit and its members who remained predominantly West Australian even though many of our reinforcements were from other states.

I understand that your itinerary has included a scenic tour into the country areas in and around New Norcia. As part of that tour you will have noted, with interest, the extent of wild flowers which are now in season. August and September is the start of the season in Western Australia when the world's largest collection of over 6,500 different known species explode into a colourful display through the bush and parklands.

One again I take this opportunity to welcome you to our city and on behalf of the Lady Mayoresse, Councillors, and Myself, I wish your Reunion a happy and memorable occasion and trust that your return to your homes, wherever they maybe, is safely negotiated and that you take with you fond memories of Perth and Western Australia.

A plaque beautifully crafted by George Fletcher with the inscription by Col Hodson, made from W.A. mallee root and timber was presented to the Lord Mayor

by our President John Fowler. It will grace the walls of Council House over all the years ahead.

**Timor - New Guinea - New Britain
1941 - 1945**

2/2nd Commando Association presented to the City of Perth as a token of our appreciation and to mark the special occasion of our 1983 Sandgroper Safari Perth 7th October, 1983

A memorable day was topped off by being guests of the W.A. Trotting Association, at the magnificent night venue, Gloucester Park, Wins and Losses were of varied proportions, but a great night was had by all.

DAY 6

Saturday was Race Day at Belmont Park where we were guests of the W.A. Turf Club and given special treatment by being invited into the Rank Arena Room for the afternoon. A well appointed comfortable place where we were welcomed by our host, Albert Jordan, and, given a Rousing reception Albert marked the card and those who followed his selections would have done very well indeed. It was a relaxing day with humour and fun galore, some pockets bulged, others had a slight dent, but all voted it a super afternoon.

This was followed by a buffet tea and dance at the Freeway where everyone got into the swing of things, it really cemented more closely the wonderful friendships that have endured over all the years. The fare was varied, beautiful food, stimulating music of our vintage, which had all our feet tapping and our voices in good form.

Those who did not dance watched a great video play back by George Coulson who had taken some fabulous footage of film and which will be a great account of many facets of our Safari that can be stored in our memories for long years ahead. Thanks George.

The finish to the night came all too soon — it was a real winner.

DAY 7 DONS DAY!

What a herculean effort Don Turton put into making this day really fizz. He was wonderfully supported by his whole family, including the in-laws and a back up team of Helen Poynton, who took command of the catering division, a huge task beautifully done Helen, plus George Fletcher who set the spit in motion to cook the two sheep thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. His chief stoker, Helen Poynton !!

It was a day apart from all other in fun, organisation, humour and great camaraderie. The feeding and providing of refreshments was spot on in its every detail

and every one had ample of all the goodies available on tables set with white paper sporting red double diamonds. There were tubs, pots and buckets of W.A. wildflowers it looked magnificent. In excess of 350 people were present.

All this was highly coloured by the East Timorese Association who were invited to join us and they did us proud by bringing over 100 of their people to take part in this reunion. They brought dishes of Timorese style cooking which delighted everyone and their colourful costumes, their music and their dancing held everyone's attention. Their contribution to this super day was tremendously appreciated by us all. God Bless Them.

The country was at its beautiful best, a luscious green, a warm sun, slight cloud cover, a tremendous roll call of the troops, their ladies and families, made it a perfect blend of everything we desired.

This day, especially 2/2nd in its content, made one proud to be part of this marvellous picnic, always to be affectionately known as - DON'S DAY!

DAY 8

A visit to the seat of our state parliament House was kindly organised by our own Tom Bateman M.L.A. Tom was host for the tour of Parliament house and at a lovely morning tea. It was indeed a most interesting and educational morning, some thing with a difference.

DAY 9

El Caballo Blanco was the scene set for an unusual and thoroughly enjoyable day the trip opened up a vista of our wild flowers that were growing profusely on the sides of the road once we were in the hills country.

The tour of the stud section saw some exceptionally fine products of the Andalusian breed, the little foals lying contentedly on the ground while the mother kept a sharp look out for any marauder. The museum showing every vintage vehicle of the horse drawn days was something to behold and the "dummy horses" (real life like you wanted to pat them) carrying all the harness and equipment used in those days was both nostalgic and historical. It covered the whole gamut of the horse and buggy era right down to the commercial vehicles we knew so well as kids.

The smorgasbord was in one word, superb, with a myriad of dishes to choose from; no one could go hungry at a table with such fare.

Then came the display by the Andalusian Dancing Horses, this was the piece-de-resistance, all presentations were poetry in

motion and displayed the uncanny understanding between both horse and rider. Trained to perfection these grand animals answering every signal given by their very accomplished riders, both men and women were firm favourites with everyone present. They were almost human in their acknowledgement of the sustained applause.

The graceful beasts captured the imagination of us all. It was a highlight day.

DAY 10

What a day this turned out to be! The Lady Houghton River Cruise to the Valencia - Houghton Vineyards at upper Swan was a day to end all days. It started with rain falling, the only time during the whole safari but nothing deterred us from making this trip to the upper reaches of the Swan River a day where everyone became one big happy family all set to have fun. It never diminished for the entire day.

Wine Sipping, singing, crocodiles of people up and down the aisles, a bus trip to the vineyards in double decker buses all added zest and colour to this gala day. A run down of all the wines available, a fine carvery lunch of beautiful beef, plus an outstanding floor show, which brought us all together singing in fine harmony led by a boy and girl from the boat crew, with a brilliant young pianist thrown in for good measure. It was the liveliest luncheon performance ever seen and everyone was ecstatic showing their appreciation by joining in everything.

That mood continued all the way back on the boat, the weather took up and all who wanted to could catch up on the scenery but most joined in the revelry, humour and spontaneous fellowship generated by everyone on board. Bacchus would have been proud of us, we had wine, dined, danced to tremendous effect. This day brought us all into the heart of the unit family, it was what safari is all about.

It was proof positive that the closeness of a confined area, where all could be part of each other, welded us into a fun loving group the like of which the lady Houghton crew had rarely seen. And, believe it or not we were the first to knock over an 18 gallon keg on a "Wine Boat" without any diminution in the wine consumption area!!

What a glorious day we all had as we rolled back full of the joys of life to our respective billets, full in the knowledge that the 2/2nd safari's have it all.

DAY 11

This had to be a rest day and it gave everyone a chance to recuperate. We had a few sore throats, flu and numerous

cough problems to get over, but everyone was so wrapped up in our activities they cast aside, in most cases, their problems.

DAY 12

Weather wise this was a glorious day, all was set for our down River Cruise to Fremantle and fishing boat Harbour. It was a scintillating day and all on board were full of joy and laughter as we cruised our way down the magnificent Swan River. Refreshments galore, coffee, tea, beer and cool drinks, sandwiches, cakes, you name it, Jack and Delys Carey had organised it in a masterly fashion.

Into the Indian Ocean, which was almost an ad for reekits blue the water looked so inviting. Rottneest in the distance Carnac and Garden Islands silhouetted against an azure blue sky and the sun pouring out its warmth. Fremantle harbour supplied a varied array of crafts Submarines, Warships, Sheep carrying vessels container ships and the Hydrofoil Rottneest bound. It was as though everyone knew the 2/2 was coming.

It was a super outing enjoyed by everyone and it was great to see dear old Fred Napier on board with his huge grin and making light of a mobility problem. Thanks Jess Epps for bringing our old mate, it made the day for Fred and for us.

DAY 13

Our final day in the activity programme, no one was to be involved until the evening, it was au revoir. It started quietly but we were once again all in a confined space and close to each other so conversation and fun was near at hand.

Once the dancing started and an ample flow of liquor was available it loosened up every thing and the Freeway Hotel became alive with the fun loving members of the 2/2nd making sure we were going to enjoy each others company on our final night.

Magnificent Max Davies thanked W.A. on behalf of all visitors, very sincerely and with emotion. May I add, that nickname suits the contribution he has made to the unit over all the years, particularly at this safari, it has all been of inestimable value. Max, keep those ground hugging legs mobile, we want to see you and Grace in Canberra, or before. Thanks for your thanks on behalf of our wonderful visitors.

Singing, dancing, so many Budding Fred Astaires and Ginger Rogers gracing the compact dance floor, the night had to be a huge success. Farewells were at first formal and then belonged to each other. As the bewitching hour of midnight approached there were many emotional good byes by men and women who love each other so

well. Fast friendships further cemented by Sandgroper Safari 1983 gave us all something to hang on to until we meet again in Canberra 2½ years hence.

Strong men had tears in their eyes as they shook hands with strength, women hugged them and each other in a display of comradeship that has bound the 2/2nd Commando Association in to a marvellous organisation that has existed over all the years of peace. It has bound individuals and families together in an un breakable bond of friendship that will stay with us until time is no more.

God bless you all for coming to make this another memorable Safari.

EDITORS NOTE

I thought this could act as a diary for all who attended to look at over the years, plus the inclusion of those who could unfortunately not be present to be part of the scene, by the reading of our activities.

KINGS PARK

LADIES & GENTLEMEN,

Today it is my honour to address you at this our commemoration service for our fallen.

We welcome to this service our visitors from the Eastern States, many being present for the first time and others who have taken part on previous occasions. I'm sure our visitors, as they gaze at this hallowed piece of ground, will be most proud of the way our unit honours its dead. Probably nowhere else in the world could you find such living reverence and serenity as one finds in this grove of trees.

We commemorate on this day the 37th year of our association's formation and the taking up of the torch that was handed to us by those brave souls who paid the supreme sacrifice. This torch was but a tiny ember when we caught it in the war years of 1940-45. With the passing of the years it has grown into a mighty beacon and we can feel a deep sense of gratification in the way in which we have kindled the flame of remembrance.

It is the aim of the association to honour our fallen and, initially, this area in Kings Park was virtually handed to us on a plate by our fathers, mothers and loved ones of those who died. All who are present will glory in what has been achieved. When at first we embarked on the task this area was a wilderness of weeds. Today, it is planted with lawn, reticulated and kerbed and is the cynosure of all eyes, as well as a tourist attraction in Kings Park. We do this

work as a labour of love and will continue to do this while we have the health and strength. We give thanks to our present wardens, Rod Dhu and George Fletcher, who carry on the noble tradition of the past.

I think we can look upon this association of unit members as wearing their colour patch as proudly today as when we were in uniform.

We have been active to the extreme in many areas of social endeavour. We have stuck together through thick and thin, and I have no doubt we will do so until our dying days.

The things we have achieved for our members are a legend. The interstate conventions commenced with the great olympic reunion in Melbourne in 1956 followed by that magnificent get together in Perth for the Commonwealth Games in 1962. Then the Great Safari to the Eastern States in April 1968, The jubilee safari in Perth 1971, Sydney 1976, Adelaide 1978, and the Gold Coast in 1981. These have engendered a togetherness of which we can be justly proud. These are the big moments, but we have countless little moments - with social meetings, annual dinners, picnics and other doings too numerous to recount.

Perhaps one of the highlights of past years was the building of the memorial in Timor as a mark of respect to all those persons who so cheerfully helped us in the dark days of 1942. The opening of this memorial, of 13th April 1969, was an event which will live in the minds of all, and especially those who were privileged to attend. We hope that this magnificent resting place will still be intact for many years.

The independence of spirit, which was created in us when we were formed as a fighting unit, has been a terrific driving force. We learned to give and take but, above all, we learned what it was to have esprit-de-corps. This is the greatest asset that can be handed down to anyone. It is this motivating force that will carry us into the future.

An association such as ours must not live in the past; It must be ever conscious of the future. We can take great satisfaction from past achievement, but we must work in the present and plan for the tomorrows. What has been done is only a guideline for that which can be achieved in the future. We now know what we are capable of, and we must use this knowledge and energy to push on strongly in to the years ahead.

We have proved the point, that mateship which is born in the cauldron the the battlefield, and later tempered with the maturity of experience of life, is the very best friendship of all. The passing of the

years has covered the scars of "their" passing and we have ceased to mourn, because there are much greater things to do than to stand still and weep at the passing of a loved one.

Today, I can truthfully say, it feels just so great to be President of such an association, and I feel that everyone present can also feel equally proud of their commitment to such a fine organisation. Let us continue to set our sights high and to make our targets the greatest ever.

I appeal to all of you who are present to use this brief moment as a time for rededication to the tasks that most certainly fall upon us, reflect upon the past and give due praise for all that has been achieved, so that we may go forward, hand in hand, to the golden sunset of tomorrow.

I would like to thank you all for coming along and sharing in this simple ceremony of homage, and hope that with the passing of the years we will continue to remember those who did so much for us. 'May they rest proudly in the knowledge of their achievement and may we and our successors in that heritage prove worthy of their sacrifice.'

I would now ask you all, ladies & Gentlemen, to stand 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 Doyle, 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 Mulqueeney, 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 Walker, Dick Wordie, A.E. Yeates.

(2 Minutes Silence for our fallen Comrades)

Last Post

They grow not old
As we how are left grow old
Age shall not weary them
or the years condemn
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning
we will remember them
Lest we forget.

Reveille

VALE

The joys of safari was closely followed by grief. Two of our members who shared this wonderful occasion are no more. Both men were originals of the 2/2nd Independent Company.

(1) ROD DHU

Was a fine soldier and great contributor to the cause of the 2/2 Commando Association. He was currently our Vice President and did a sterling job as warden of our Memorial Area in Lovekin Drive, Kings Park, he kept it in A1 condition the year round. All who attended safari would testify to this. Likewise as a member of our committee he worked hard to make what was to be his last safari, a real success.

Rod was quiet in approach, always called a spade, but co-operative to the enth degree he was an original with No 1 Section A Platoon and was highly regarded by the whole unit. The big crowd at his funeral was a true acknowledgement of the esteem in which Rod was held by us all.

We will miss Rod for his quiet approach to any task he had to perform, always done efficiently. Above all we will miss him as an old mate — God Bless You Rod.

(2) WILBUR WALLIS

Was a member of 8 section, "C" Platoon and made his mark with his quiet, determined approach. A good soldier indeed.

He came to safari knowing his days were numbered but he wanted once again to share the company of the boys of the 2/2nd, which he told me, he had missed over the years.

From the Gold Coast to Perth was a long haul but closeely tended by his wife Daphne, who knew the odds were very short. He made the grade living every moment of safari 83. Typical of his fortitude and he wanted to keep living each day, that he did, unfortunately he passed away on the 3/11/83 ere he reached his beloved Gold Coast. You nearly achieved your objective Wilbur of a return journey now old timer you have gone to join a lot of old mates.

Daphne to you and your family we send over heartfelt sympathy on your sad loss. You did a noble job nursing Wilbur throughout his problems, you did it with a big smile that hid an aching heart. May the

months ahead bring you peace of mind and heart. This comes from all members, boys and girls of the 2/2nd Commando Association.

NEW ADDRESS BOOK

This has already been distributed to most of those who attended safari — the new book will be in you hands shortly. Please note the following alterations and additions etc. Keep your Courier handy and make the changes when you receive your book.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Will be a future heading on the second last page of the Courier as from the February 1984 issue so as we can all keep up with the movements of our mates.

PLEASE ADVISE

When you change your address or your telephone number so as we do not get a return of Courier. It costs much more to get it back than to send. Co-operate and the delivery of your Courier is assured.

AMENDMENTS - ADDITIONS ALTERATIONS TO THE 1983 ADDRESS BOOK — PLEASE COPY!

B.F. DENNIS N.S.W. NOT F.R. DENNIS
N.HOOPER QLD PHONE NOW 359 1616
A. MACLACHLAN QLD PHONE NOW
(07) 398 2858
J.S. ROBERTS VIC PHONE (056) 28 1267

ADD PHONE NUMBER - QLD

P. HEARLE (07) 267 5257
G. MATHIESON (07) 349 8830
G. STANLEY (07) 355 0950
A. VEOVODIN (07) 398 4737
K. CARTHEW (07) 256 2224

G.B. PIPER VIC ADD WIFE'S NAME JEAN
PHONE (03) 82 4241

ADDITIONS TO BOOK

F.J. THORPE (SLIM)
15 NORTH STREET., GRETA N.S.W. 2334
PHONE (049) 38 7187

C. CHAPMAN (CYRIL)
34 KENT STREET., ASCOT, QLD 4007
PHONE (07) 268 5782

ALTERATION -

B. BARNIER QLD TAKE OFF LETTER "S"
W. WALLIS QLD NOT WALLACE

DELETE

R. DHU W.A. DECEASED
W. WALLIS QLD DECEASED LEAVE
NOW AS MRS D. WALLIS

NEW ADDRESS

DAVID & THAIS BROWN
9 CLEELAND STREET, NEWHAVEN,
PHILLIP ISLAND VIC 3925
PHONE (059) 56 7393

HARRY & AMYCE HANDICOTT
REDBANK VIA WAUCHOPE N.S.W.
PHONE (065) 85 1775

NOT AT ADDRESS SHOWN IN BOOK

F.A. STEWART N.S.W.
A. BOAST VIC
N. PARKER VIC

PERSONAL PARS

Harold Brooker is still in Hollywood Hospital and has been viseted by quite a number of the boys. He is not all that well but is battling on like he always did. Good luck Harold and God Bless, may you be out and about soon.

Ted Loud is out of Hospital just missed seeing him prior to his discharge but quite a number attending the safari visited him. Nice to know you are on the mend Ted, good luck from us all.

Fred Napier as mentioned, come along to a safari outing and looks fine, still battling with the old pins but full of beans. Jess Epps and Keith Hayes see him regularly keep it up Fred, You've sure got what it takes.

STOP PRESS:

HAROLD DIED ON THE 23RD NOVEMBER.

"GE-EM"**NOTE FOR JIM FENWICK,**

Good work Jim!! Courier will do what it can to assist with publishing planning details as you go along, but naturally our resources are quite limited and timings are of the essence

EDITOR

Thankyou Gerry McKenzie for your pertinent and spot on observations, like wise to you and Mary for your wholehearted support behind the scenes.

DONATIONS TO**COURIER**

MESSRS
WILMA TOBIN
BARBARA PALMER
KENNEALLY
MONK (TED)
DEXTER
CAMPBELL (PETER)
PIERCE
LANGRIDGE (2)
SHARP (FRANK)
FOSTER (2)
ANDERSON (BUNNY)
SMYTH
HAIRE
GRACHAN
GALLAGHER
PEATTIE
SPENCER
BOTTERILL
DOIG
KRAUSE
CAMPBELL (ARCH)
RICHARDS (2)
BINGHAM (2)
HANDICOTT
HERBERT (2)
MARTIN (2)
SMITH (ARTHUR)
DAVIES
PAYNE
PALM
BRYANT (2)
HUDSON
THOMAS (DAN)
GREBERT
SMITH (MAM)
TAIT
MONK (KEN)
COLE

SAFARI APPEAL

MESSRS
DOT BOYLAND
FULLERTON
MACKAY
LOUD
BROWN
SMAILES
THORNTON
MONK (TED)
CAREY
ROWLEY
THOMSON (ALEC)
FOSTER
HAIRE
MARCH

ADDRESS BOOK

QUEENSLAND BRANCH
MAX DAVIES
WILMA TOBIN

COMING EVENT**GUESS WHAT ??**

NO 1 EVENT OF THE YEAR
"THE POYNTON PICNIC"

WHERE ??

169 ORMSBY TERRACE
MANDURAH

PHONE (095) 35 2261

LANDMARK - BIG 2 STORED
HOME ON WATERFRONT
FOLLOW THE CROWD !

WHEN ?

ALL DAY SUNDAY

22ND JANUARY 1984

LADIES - ALL YOU NEED TO
BRING IS A CAKE OR CAKES
FOR AFTERNOON TEA

SEE YOU ALL AT JOE AND
HELEN'S -OK!

22ND JANUARY 1984 - ITS A
DATE !

VICTORIAN NEWS

Back home after a fabulous Sandgroper Safari which we thoughtfully enjoyed - it was wonderfully organised and deserved the great roll up it enjoyed. Our thanks and congratulations to all involved in it.

There were approx 100 Eastern States visitors of which 26 were from Victoria, a good representation from this State. The weather was excellent, mostly sunny days and pleasant with only a couple of days when it rained briefly. The following members represented Victoria:— Bluey and Mary Bone, David and Thacs Brown, Max and Grace Davies plus Peter McCracken, Alf and Gwenda Harper friends Marg and Alina, Peter Krouse, Ken and Margaret Monk, Peter Piper, John and Cath Roberts, Mam Smith and friend Jack Carmody, Wilma Tobin.

Our thanks to the various members in the West who entertained us before, during and after the Safari, the hospitality was

overwhelming but thoroughly enjoyed by us all.

It was great to speak with Theo Adams who rang from Goroka in New Guinea on the final night, he spoke to quite a few of the boys. I will keep this short as no doubt a lot will be written about the functions, it was a great Safari with one of the best roll ups yet, so it was fitting it should be held in W.A. I can safely speak for all the Victorian members in thanking you for a memorable stay and a job well done.

Very sorry to hear of the passing of Rod Dhu, he was so happy and well during the Safari. Norm Parker has been very sick and is in St Vincent's Hospital. I visited him and he is feeling a lot better but will have to take things quietly for a while. With the loving care he will get from Sheila he should soon get better.

We are organising a B.B.Q. at the home of Mary and Bluey Bone on Sunday 8th December, we should have a good roll up, all we want is a fine day!

That is all the news for now, as it is getting close to Xmas, I will take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Xmas and a very happy, Prosperous New Year.

Harry Butterell

TIMOR MEMORIAL PLAQUE

This is a follow up to the article in our April 1983 issue of the Courier and is pictorial proof that our plaque has indeed been replaced.

Here is a letter from the returned services league of Australia:—

13 JULY, 1983

Dear Sir,

re: Timor Memorial

In 1969 a commemorative plaque was unveiled at Dili in East Timor to record the assistance given to Australian troops during World War Two by the people of East Timor. The plaque was subsequently stolen and negotiations have been in progress for some time to replace it.

We have now been advised by the Australian Embassy in Jakarta that a new plaque was put into place on the 25 May, 1983. The plaque is on its original site and its wording is exactly as it was previously:—

**TO THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE
EVERYWHERE
FROM MINHO TO TIMOR
THIS MEMORIAL**

HAS BEEN GIVEN FOR YOUR USE
BY THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA
IN GRATITUDE FOR THE HELP
YOU GAVE OUR SOLDIERS
DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR
1939 - 1945
AND PARTICULARLY TO THE PEOPLE
OF TIMOR
FROM THE MEN OF THE
2/2 COMMANDO INDEPENDENT
COMPANY
WHO SERVED HERE IN 1942

The replacement plaque has been made of marble rather than the original copper in order to reduce the risk of it being stolen again.

It would be appreciated if you would please take steps to promulgate this.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Gollings
National Secretary.

Our gratefull thanks are extended to State President of Victoria R.S.L. Bruce C. Raxton O.B.E. - The returned services league of Australia and our own Sir Bernard Callinan for their efforts on our behalf in getting the plaque replaced.

Plaque and Wording

Senator Gordon D. McIntosh of W.A. went with the last fact finding mission to Timor and undertook the task of taking a wreath, in the form of a floral cross, to lay on our memorial. Here is a letter from the Senator, followed by two photographs showing "Mission Accomplished"

The President,
Second/Second Commando Association,
Box T1646, G.P.O.,
PERTH. 6001

Dear Sir,

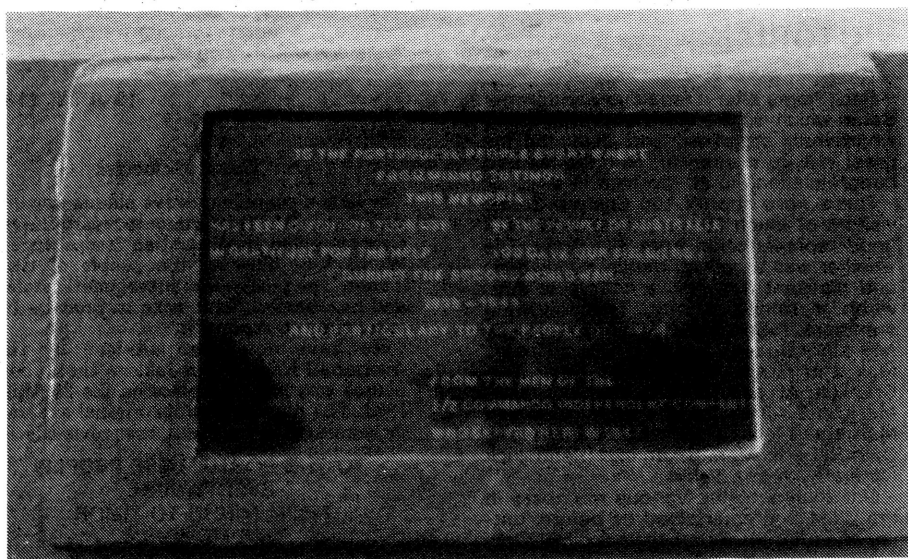
As requested by you, it was my privilege and honour to lay a wreath at the memorial near Dili. I am enclosing photographs of the occasion and would add that the plaque has been replaced by, what would appear to me to be, a black stone plaque with gold lettering.

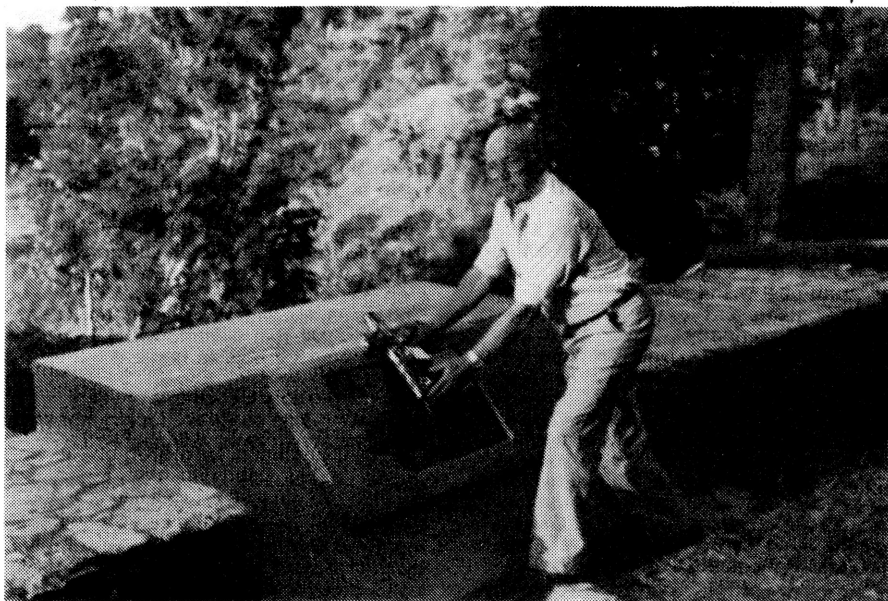
The wording is similar to the wording on the original brass plaque.

I would add that the administrative authorities in Dili promised to cement your floral cross underneath the Memorial overlooking and ornamental pool, in case of vandalism or accidental breakage occurring. The exact location is in a photograph taken by me which is in a film not yet completed. When it has been processed I will forward a copy to you.

Yours sincerely,

Gordon D. McIntosh.
Senator for Western Australia.





Senator McIntosh with the Cross that will be cemented in under the plaque.

CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

**CAMBERWELL VIC
26/10/83**

Dear Archie

I was very sorry I missed saying "au revoir" ever so many thanks for your help and kindness to me during the safari.

I brought back very happy memories which will linger long. It also gave me an opportunity to stay with my sister and brother in law and catch up with the Family generally, nieces, nephews etc. Had a very happy time.

Overall I have nothing but high praise for the committee on a first class safari, you have given Canberra a good start.

Would you pass on my sincere thanks to all members and their wives for all the kindness and thoughtfulness given to me during my stay. Their help in so many ways was very much appreciated and made life very much easier for me.

Caught up with my old shipmates Allen Bennett, John Leggoe, Roy Hillier it was marvellous, we had some happy reunions whilst we had the opportunity to do so.

So Sandgroper Safari will be a constant

memory for me. Every good wish and thanks again to you all.

Peter Piper

Dear Archie

What a wonderful happy time we all had! Being our first safari we really enjoyed it all, and God willing we will be attending them all in the future no matter where they are held. Please thank all your hard working committee men and women who did such a wonderful job in organizing such a "Good Safari"

The outdoor funtions were really well catered for people involved must be congratulated on their great effort especially as both days were rather warm.

Thank you all once again and best wishes and a Happy Christmas to all the 2/2 members
Mary Foster

**YAGOONA N.S.W.
11/11/83**

Dear Arch,

Back home in the Cornstack State and settling down one more to a life in one spot the good Lord assuredly launched me into this world with itchy feet, allowed me to gratify my wandering whims for years.

Called a halt in 1952, hence Nora and family and, me anchored in one spot. Looking back down all those years before and after I reckon he did me the greatest favour of my life.

Nora and I enjoyed a great reunion and wonderful holiday in the West during and after Safari. Our sincere thanks to the committee and members of the 2/2nd Commando Association in W.A. and all the men and women who worked so hard and inspiringly to give us such an enjoyable time during our stay in the West. Our thanks and best wishes also to the visitors from other states and for the happy hours spent in their company.

Speaking to "Carly" O'Neill last night, he wishes to be remembered to his comrades from "A" Platoon, particularly to Col Doig and Don Turton. For the turbulent O'Neill to be sending special and particular greeting to a couple of ex officers speaks volumes, they must be men above the ordinary because O'Neill has spent a lifetime in open rebellion against authority. Or are the years of the Lord catching up with the O'Neill, and, the chieftain mellowing with time?

We had a great time in Mandurah, caught up with people we had'n't seen since 1971, Cyril and Kath Stone, Hill and Sussie Stone who can't remember me, yet way back in 1949 he almost made the fatal mistake of taking me to the 2/28th Battalion dinner, "a Night in Cairo". Fortunately for us and the 2/28th Bn. our condition deteriorated, we could'n't quite remember where we intended going until next morning, then it was too late!! So I have still got to spend "a Night in Cairo".

Met Jen Gallagher in Kojanup, it was a long time between sightings, last time 1946. Picked him a mile away, except for the limp, like the rest of us Jen is getting aches and pains we didn't know existed forty odd years ago. He is hoping his next trip to Hospital will clear the limp. You know I've been thinking when we came to depart this vale of tears most of us will not be in original condition, we will have a lot of replacement parts!

Ted Loud had just got out of Hospital in Pemberton, prior to that I had seen him in Hollywood Hospital. He is much better second time, jumping around like a lightweight with his new helps. Gordon Holmes had also just got out of hospital when I saw him, reckoned he was feeling much better, I hope so as he is fairly isolated where he lives. Had it not been for Tony Bowers I'd never have found him, Tony was a good navigator. Gordon, your creditors will never find you however you, had better publish a map for your friends!

Good Luck and better health in the future.

Denmark is as beautiful and quiet as I remember it a quarter of a century ago. Norman Thorton reckons it is a pretty, lively place during the holidays. Norman looked much better than he did in Perth, said he felt better too. Geordie Smith must be thinking of increasing his family, he's sure built a mansion, must be getting younger, God Bless Him.

Sydney fine but cold at present, snow in the mountains between Lithgow and Bathurst - still it's better than humidity the clan is well, should all be home at Christmas, Helen, in Canberra, has a new position, still with Commonwealth Education, should be able to make it home for the festive season. Expect Sean home from the territory too, couple of years since he's been home so we are looking forward to having him at Xmas. Michael and Gerald like the poor, are always with us, even if not always visible!

I have not sighted any of the N.S.W. men to date, the Xmas Party will be on next month so should have some news of them by then. I hope the world is treating you well - enjoy a well earned rest after your labours.

To you and all our members and their families my family extends best wishes for Christmas, and, may the New Year bless each and everyone of you with abundant good health, happiness, a life filled with contentment. Good Luck — God Bless

Paddy Kenneally

FLINDERS PARK S.A.

Dear Arch,

A line to record our appreciation for the efforts of the committee on a very successful Safari for the welcome and hospitality shown all who show. Also to many of our old friends, when on coming hence, we realise we should have spent more time with them, our apologies, and promise to do better next time. A special mention to Dot & Reg Harrington for their efforts in the caravan park, a mighty effort. A cheerio to Edith Pendergrast for the wild flower seeds she sent us via Hazel Hollow and regards to Blue. We had Max Davies & Co. here for a couple of days on their way home after five months on the road. Was sorry to hear Ron Tregrove had the bad luck to injure his back, hope you are better now Ron. All for now

Dul Tapper