



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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PRICE 1c

COMING EVENTS

SANGROPER SAFARI IN THE STATE OF EXCITEMENT W.A. 3RD TO 16TH OCTOBER, 1983

THE YEAR OF THE SAFARI — EDITOR

This year of 1983 brings together the members and wives of the finest Unit Association in Australia. The links were forged in the years of war and the chain has remained firm and strong because of the calibre of men existing within the framework of the 2/2nd Commando Association, plus the tremendous support received by their wives and families.

Time and illness has caught up with many of our outstanding members and they have gone beyond the vale having given, as they did in the years of war, their very all that their beloved Unit might continue to flourish.

Safari's over the years of peace have afforded a wonderful means of keeping all of us in touch and they have been very well attended, an outstanding success in keeping all involved closely knit.

The passing of the years has seen many in retirement from the work force, escalating costs in every sphere has found money tight, travelling, accommodation and social areas place severe restrictions on the number of times one can venture into this field. Safari 1983 will be no different.

With this in mind we should look closely at our future plans. At Safari '83 all states should come prepared to discuss the future of our Association and the direction it will take. The "Courier" so brilliantly conceived, has been the very medium of communication by which we are held and bound together. This too has been put at risk by the cost factors.

This is amply warning to all states to come with a plan so as we can sit and discuss logically the years ahead and how we can aim to keep our Association at a stable level, the distance apart of Safari's, so located as to make the travelling problem as equitable as possible. There will be time allotted to this important aspect.

Safari planning is taking good shape due to the spade work put in by the Committee, and by Len Bagley in particular. Len's resignation received just prior to Xmas for private reasons has left quite a void, not only in the area of Safari but in the general running of the Association. He has been a tower of strength in every direction and we will miss him tremendously.

Terrific trooper that he is Jack Carey has volunteered to fill the vacancy and knowing the calibre of Jack's ability he will be just the man to fill Len's shoes. Thanks Jack for everything and thanks Len from us all for a superb job, we look to the day when you return, make it soon.

We have had a great response in the numbers who have indicated they will attend Safari '83. Now is the time for firm commitment by virtue of finance in the form of a the deposit, to cover our monetary outlay in a number of areas essential to make our Safari '83 a success.

I am writing a separate article to W.A. members of the Unit on the subject of finance after the Annual General Meeting.

Now is the time for all interstate members to make a decision on their attendance, positive or negative, so as planning can proceed full bore. But:—

"Be Here in the State of Excitement W.A. in this year of '83."

EDITORS NOTE

Important. Please make out all cheques to, "2/2nd Commando Association" NOT TO Freeway Motel or Caravan Park. Thanks. It will be easier for our Treasurer and you.

POYNTON PICNIC

What can one say to eulogise this wonderful picnic. We have run out of superlatives trying to describe the involvement of Helen and Jod Poynton in the annual event, the finest on our calendar. Each year seems to succeed the former in its presentation of fare and refreshment in the glorious setting of their home particularly that area which is almost a "Rain Forest."

The large attendance shows the great enthusiasm that unit members show in this Annual Picnic, because it is a real family affair with children being catered for as well as adults, all joining in to be one happy family. They came from points as far spread as Dongara and Esperance, and even Ross Smith from South Australia took time out of a holiday to come along with Tom and Mary Foster.

A number of people work hard and long to make it the success it is, always beautifully planned and set out by Helen and Joe. Peter and Pat Campbell have been to the fore for a number of years and the large sized pig on the spit was part of their yearly donation. Tony Bowers, complete with family, has long been a contributor to this great day and his sheep count, ask Willie, is depleted at this time each year!

Jean and "Dutchy" Holland, plus a host of locals, lend a real hand, and all these people, plus many not mentioned, have

our heartfelt and sincere thanks. Must include Clarrie Turner, who arrived with Grace looking fine after her operation and hospitalisation, for his carving artistry on the barbecued pig is, on a yearly basis, a sight to behold. Keep the knives sharp Clarrie!

This was the "Twelfth Poynton Picnic" on an annual basis, so imagine the work over the years that the two stalwarts, Helen and Joe, have done on behalf of the Association they love so well. It is all done with a minimum of fuss and bother, but with a terrific amount of personal hospitality.

On your behalf to Helen and Joe may I say a humble "thank you." The words are not all that appropriate, but when it comes from our hearts and goes with our love, then it takes on a new dimension.

This is our tribute to Helen and Joe, for a day we trust, that will be an integral part of our future. God bless you both.

EDITORS NOTE

"Courier" space precludes all names going in, suffice it to say, 52 of our members including wives and families were in attendance, plus 14 of Helen and Joe's friends and their families. It was a mammoth turnout indeed, a tribute plus to our Host and Hostess.

2/2nd — Its Most Famous Son

Below is appended a write up of the achievements of our former O.C., originally the first 2 1/C of the company, Bernard Callinan. Our thanks to the M—Z Commando Association for the article.

We would be remiss if we did not acclaim within our "Courier" the exploits and successes of our members, particularly one who was such a fine soldier and man.

Many will not know Bernie on a personal basis for he was seconded from the unit in Timor to take over as C.D. Sparrow Force, which he did with great aplomb and achievement of high order. Army H.Q. could see the vital potential in this soldier and he was from that moment destined for higher ranks. History now knows that Geoff Laidlaw succeeded Bernie and the high calibre leadership remained.

Bernie has never lost touch with the 2/2nd over all the years of peace even though his every workday was scheduled to the hilt. He is a regular subscriber and donor, always available to help if needed.

Recently hospitalised. Bernie had a "Pacemaker" inserted in an operation, as he said "I am now nuclear!!" He took it all in his usual courageous style, was up and in circulation in no time. Typical!

Naomi, his wife, has a deep affection for our unit and has been a tower of strength to Bernie in every sphere plus being the mother of five strong sons, in itself a magnificent performance, for their upbringing was achieved with a minimum of fuss and an extremely busy husband.

Our salute to you both, and our love.

**SIR BERNARD CALLINAN, C.B.E.,
D.S.O., M.C.**

Sir Bernard Callinan became the 20th President of the Melbourne Cricket Club when he was elected on 22 January, 1980 following the untimely death of Mr. Hans Ebeling. Sir Bernard has been a member of the Club since joining as a junior in 1933 and was elected to the Committee in 1966 becoming a Vice-President in 1978. He was Chairman of the Building Committee prior to the commencement of construction of the Western Stand in 1966 and has held the position since. He has been largely responsible for the many improvements made to the Ground during the past several years.

A consulting engineer by profession, Sir Bernard had a most distinguished war record particularly during his service with the Independent Company which was left in Timor following the Japanese occupation of the island in the early stages of the war. He was Company Commander and later Commander of the Force that performed miraculous feats. His service there won him a Military Cross and later he was made a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order (D.S.O.). In 1971 he was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (C.B.E.) and was created a Knight Bachelor in 1977.

His total achievements and involvements are far too numerous to mention but some of the positions he presently holds are a Councillor of the University of Melbourne, a member of the University's Faculty of Engineering, a member of the Pontifical Commission for Justice and Peace which is headquartered in Rome, Chairman of the Parliament House Construction Authority for the new Parliament House, a Commissioner of the Australian Atomic Energy Commission, a Commissioner of the Australian Broadcasting Commission, a Commissioner of the State Electricity Commission, Deputy Chairman of the West Gate Bridge Authority, a Director of C.S.R. Ltd., a Director of British Petroleum Aust. Ltd., and was Honorary Colonel of the Prince of Wales Light Horse. There are many other activities and they all give an indication of his energy and talents. Sir Bernard also has five sons.

The Melbourne Club has always been extremely fortunate in the calibre of man who has held the Presidency and Sir Bernard will continue the high degree of excellence of those who have preceded him. The MCC remains under superb leadership.

VALE

N.S.W.

Ron Trengrove

JIMMY ENGLISH

It is difficult to write or start a letter after another of our members has gone to where we must all go, sooner or later.

As you will no doubt know, Jimmy English, another cancer victim, had been told the dreaded news some months ago, he had a limited time to live. I would like to think I could accept the verdict with the courage that he and Bob Smith showed and have shown, each in their own way.

Bob with his magnificent help to others in his quiet manner, Lois MacLachlan would be able to tell you so much better than me what it is to talk to Bob.

Jimmy on the other hand made a decision, that in no way was it going to change his way of living and intended to go out as he lived. He talked about his illness like on talks about a cold in the head. His last words as I left the B.B.Q. at Ron Hilliards few weeks back as we shook hands were "Mate, it's been great knowing you all, I'll be lucky to see you in the New Year, but as we both come from the other end we have a lot in common." I could not answer him I was lost in my own emotions.

Paddy Kenneady in the chapel at the cemetery told it all and brought 1942 February back to me in a tear stricken flash as we left to go to the mountains of Timor, Jimmy, myself and all the others to rely on ourselves because we were so inadequately led, as Paddy so pointedly made in his eulogy about Jimmy English. That sort of luck dogged Jimmy all his life I guess — now he is no more.

A REQUIM

by Frank "Curley" O'Neill

**AS WRITTEN TO THE PARAPLEGIC
AND QUADRIPLEGIC ASSOCIATION OF
N.S.W.**

IN MEMORIAM

This is a requiem for Mr. Jim English, father of one of your members, Miss Pauline English.

I write it because I believe that courage, like love, is a many splendored thing.

And also because courage can run in the family.

Jim English was a former member of the 2/2nd Australian Commando Squadron, the A.I.F. unit most in combat with the enemy in World War II.

He died on January 1 1983 and the funeral was held at Woronora on January 5.

But how is it that I, a stranger, am intruding into the columns of your magazine?

First, I am a friend of the family. Jim was one of my closest mates. Second, I, too, served with the 2/2nd Commando Squadron, and Thirdly, as a former Australian and international journalist, I believe that certain stories should be told, certain tributes paid.

In February 1942, the all-conquering Japanese swept through the Dutch East Indies. Jim was then with the 2/40th Battalion in Dutch Timor.

With about 150 others he escaped to join the 2/2nd Commando Squadron, which was still fighting in the mountains of Portuguese Timor.

It was a time when the world as we knew it was in ruins. Our best roops were overseas. In Sydney, frightened people were running to the shelter of the Blue Mountains.

The 2/2nd was still fighting on, although officially listed as missing, it was the only Allied unit to do so.

Months later contact was re-established with Australia by means of a makeshift radio. Flying boats came in on secret missions to pick up the first of the sick and wounded. Jim English was among those evacuated.

I do not recall if I met Jimmy in Timor. We were fragmented into small groups for attack and survival. But I did meet him after the war, and our friendship went on until his death.

Looking back I see many of us, including myself, were disoriented, which is a more charitable word than crazy.

Jim, later to become totally and permanently disabled, endured us in all our moods.

He was an esteemed and valuable member of our Association, always there with a word of comfort, always organising. His mother even used to put on soup for us on Anzac Day — and what great soup.

Jim allied us with that splendid body, the Arnccliffe R.S.L., and many of our meetings, reunions and sporting fixtures were held there.

Back in my green and salad days as a reporter and sub-editor, Jim would call at my office and we would go for a drink at the Aurora, where I introduced him to a friend, Mr. Jack Lewitz, the owner.

Yes, your own Jack Lewitz, former Regimental Sergeant-Major of the 2/1st Artillery Regiment, and arguably one of the

most famous RSM's of the AIF in World War II.

As a former ranker, I prefer the word infamous to famous when discussion RSM's, but we'll let that go.

Jack, as you are probably aware, later became disabled himself when speedboat racing, for charity.

Anyhow, he and Jim became good friends, an association strengthened by Pauline.

I remember Pauline as a baby, before she was stricken with transverse myelitis.

I know of the sheer guts and determination that took her to the top of world disabled swimming.

And I know of the courage, the dedication and the sacrifice of Jim and Jean English as they stood by their wonderful daughter.

War is a transient thing; it is far harder to be really brave in peace. And after a war there is no such place as a "home fit for heroes."

In this age of materialism, Jim, Jean and Pauline stood out like beacons.

I recall Jim forever battling, picking us up to see Pauline in hospital, explaining her progress and later constantly taking her to a wimming pool and timing her.

The three were ever mindful of others. I recall Pauline ordering me to get a rock band so the kids at her school could really enjoy their annual concert.

How could I not obey? I got a band and for good measure threw in TV personality John Mahon and ex-boxing champion Rocky Gattellari as MC's. It was a night to remember.

The 2/2nd watched Pauline grow, sharing her triumphs as if she were their own daughter.

They constantly marvelled at the way Jim, Jean and Pauline faced up to adversity and overcame it.

Jim had not been expected to live until Christmas, but for an extra week battled on, dying at home among those he loved.

At his funeral our hearts went out to Jean, to their son Greg, an Army sergeant, and to Pauline.

The chapel was packed to overflowing with Jim's friends and relatives. Paddy Kenneally of the 2/2nd gave the panegyric, pointing out that Jim was a good man, a compassionate man, a good friend. And he also pointed out that not once during his long illness had Jim ever complained. I can endorse that.

Mick Devlin, also of the 2/2nd, read the Ode.

VALE! as our unit magazine says when noting the passing of a member. May we all meet one day in some Elysium field, where no doubt Jimmy will have a beer waiting for us. And it will be our pleasure to drink with him.

EDITOR

Thanks to Paddy Kenneally for this and his message that "Curly" is in good health and retired. Regards from all "Curly."

EDITOR

Thanks Ron and Curly for your tributes to Jim on our behalf, it will be of tremendous solace to Jean and Pauline. You who knew him so well qualified to do just this and it could not have been done with greater truth and emotion and, what we all feel in our hearts. We the men of the 2/2nd deeply mourn his loss.

ALF BRADY

Another of our members has been called beyond the vale, one who put up a courageous fight against great odds. To his dear wife Alma and the family we send our heartfelt sympathy. May god support you in the trying months ahead.

Alf was amongst the first intake at Foster in 1941 and was attached to H.Q. "C. Platoon" under Captain George Boyland. He served the unit faithfully and well. A good attendance of unit members at the graveside testified to this.

"RIP" MCMAHON

News of the loss of "Rip" is late, it happened a couple of months ago after a brave fight against failing health.

He joined the unit in Foster and was a signaller under the command of Lt. John Rose, a fine soldier and a real personality. He threw in his lot with our Association and worked hard, he was also a dedicated member of R.S.L.

We are indeed the poorer for his loss and we send our deepest sympathy to his immediate family.

OUR SYMPATHY

All members would like to express their deep sympathy to Peter Alexander on the loss of his dear wife Shirley.

We trust the months ahead Peter will bring you peace of mind and that wonderful memories will sustain you and your family and help ease the burden of your sad loss.



Correspondence Corner

Dear Sir,

Just a card to my mates and old comrade commandoes everywhere wishing you all health and a happy xmas. I have been so proud as I spent 1 week on the old fishing vessel The "Krait" I spent many hours talking to over 1,000 children and the same amount of adults. I met some old friend commandoes Z force and managed

to get my picture in our local paper on board the Krait. As you probably know she is going to the Canberra war museum to rest now. I include a few names and addresses of a couple commandoes of former members of 2/2 and of Z force who wish to join the association. Well all keep well for 1983.

Regards
John Hanson

Secretary

Just a short note to report the death of Fred Lomis who was C.O. of one of the squadrons I think the 5th. His code name was (Broken Biscuits) I think Fred had an M.C. He prosecuted Jap war criminals in Rabaul after the war. He was living in S.A. but died in Queensland whilst on holidays.

South Australia is still suffering from lack of rain, we in Adelaide are 8" below average but we are assured there will not be any water rationing in the metropolitan area.

I have a cheerio to send to Roy and Joyce Martin from Laurie Statterly of the Findon hotel he is looking very fit and doing well as assistant manager.

Xmas greetings to all

Dud Tapper

Editor,

Am writing a short letter to let you know that I am still in the land of the living and to apologize for not having kept in touch with the association more regularly over the years but will try and rectify that.

I have been retired from the painting trade for three years now and am on a war services pension.

Sorry I was not able to make it on Safari on any of the occasions they occurred but circumstances and financial position at the time would not allow it.

I will have to try and meet some of the New South Wales members when next in Sydney with enough time on my hands to do so.

Was R.A.P. corporal with "A" Platoon and made some great friends. Would you give my regards to Joe Poynton, Doug Fullarton, Jim Richie, Watto, Ernie Bingham, just to mention a few, that is provided you are in contact with them.

Get a christmas card from Alec Boast and wife every xmas. They never miss, will have to visit them if and when I every manage to get to Victoria. Have all the family placed in jobs with the exception of one son who suffers from epilepsy.

I will have to make a mention of the weather to the extent of saying we are having great weather here now, after a bad winter.

Nora and I do not travel around much but if things change we will have to try and meet some of the members and their wives.

Better bring this screed to a close now, hoping you and yours are all well and wishing you all the best in the years ahead.

Yours sincerely
Harry Fredericks

Dear Arch

A letter from out in the cold, especially December here.

We were glad to see Alan and Edith Luby earlier in the year. However, we were very sorry to hear of the death of Scotty Wares, who came here a few years ago. Our sympathy goes to Elsie in her sad loss.

I am still working hard, as ever, and both of us are keeping well.

Enclosed is something for the "Courier," which arrives regularly.

The efforts of you, who produce it, are really appreciated here.

With kind regards from Margaret and myself.

Ian Ronald

Dear Arch,

I started writing a letter a long time ago and got no further so will make another attempt.

At the present I am working with C.B.H. taking the harvest in and by the end of the day am interested in nothing much more than a stubby and a sleep. Very often I have to do half an hour or more at the bowling green before and after work and then start at quarter to seven and finish mostly after six and then do a bit more at the bowling club, being the voluntary unpaid green-keeper.

When the safari is on Dot and I intend booking in at the caravan park for the duration and will have our son's mini-bus, hoping to repay some of the many kindnesses shown us at surfers. Most particularly Margaret and Neil Hooper. Don't believe we don't think of you and remember all your kindnesses Hoop. We surely do, but I am a very poor letter writer.

However we will be able to provide transport for 6 or 8 at the time to wherever people want to go.

Please find enclosed a cheque to go towards the association funds in whatever department it is most needed. I feel very remiss in not having done this a long time ago and didn't get to finish it so am determined to finish this now and get Dot to post it in Perth today.

Sorry to miss you Jack Hanson, also Charlie Browne. We were in Cairns for some time but had no address.

In conclusion Dot and I would like to say a very happy xmas to all and may 1983

be much happier and brighter than our politicians and statisticians etc., make it out to be. Thanks once again to all those who made out stay in Queensland so enjoyable.

Regards
Reg Harrington

Dear Arch,

Here's hoping you can stand the shock of hearing from me.

Thanks to the association for keeping on sending the Courier to me its good to receive new of some of our old mates, although it is not always good news.

Very sorry to hear of Fred Napier's great loss and that Fred himself is not in the best of health, and, that Ping Anderson is also on the sick list, and of course the passing of Slim James and Smash Hodgson. Peter Alexander was up for the "Round" and came out to the game, we had quite a long talk and he gave me news of Keith Hayes and quite a few of the other lads. Fortunately he missed the "Raid" it was a bit of a shock as things are pretty free here during the Round. It is not finished yet as there is an appeal against the charges against Dan and myself, they are being treated as frivolous. However everyone else seems to be O.K. and that's really the main thing as quite a few of the jobless caught couldn't really afford to be convicted.

Things are still pretty good around here although money is fairly tight.

Enclosed is a cheque to make up for some of the arrears.

All the Best From
Jack Sheehan

Editor. Jack, words from you are always welcome regardless of the distance apart. All the boys send their very best and trust the "Law" sees it your way. You have been an institution in Kalgoorlie and while the "Game" was going we all knew you were O.K. God bless.

Dear Arch,

Just a note to make sure you have my address correct. Greetings to all for xmas.

We are still not sure if we will make the "Sandgroper '83," will certainly make an effort to be there making the trip by car and van a few months earlier and return with the convoy.

Had a trip to Queensland a couple of months ago, stayed in Brisbane for 10 days and had a good look at the Games venues. Most impressive. Regret I left my address book at home.

Played a bit of golf here and there, had a few side trips and generally had a good look around. Arrived home on Friday and by Saturday, mid morning finished up in hospital — tore my right leg calf muscle

and had two months in hospital and two weeks lying about. Am OK now, back at golf, gardening etc.

Have plenty to do making cubby houses, hobby and rocking horses etc., damed if I know how I ever found time to work.

Great to get the Courier but sad to read of so many passing on.

Regards to all
Blue Sargent

Dear Archie,

Do hope these few lines find you well, you are doing a colossal job with news in the Courier. It saddens me to see so many boys passing on when they have fought so hard for their country with little or no appreciation. However that is life.

We are in the worst drought and depression in a decade and this adds to the problems greatly.

Do not see much of the 2/2nd but was invited to a picnic but could not attend. Hope to go to Bendigo for xmas and maybe S.A. for new year.

Have had a sore throat for nearly 12 months and three specialists cannot seem to find a cure for it, but hope there will be a break through soon and the root of the trouble diagnosed for it is a real worry.

Had a letter from the Hawthorn Football Club, apparently the club is being extended and one room is being named the "Kevin Curran Room." Asked me if I had a photo of Kevin so have sent them in but have heard no more news, I was to be guest of honour at the opening.

Good health to all for xmas and new year, nice to remember good friends. Take care. God bless.

Glad Curran

Editor. No one deserved this honour more than Kevin Glad — you will be proud. Good luck.

Dear Arch,

Find enclosed cheque for deposit on caravan site for Safari '83. I wish to be among the Peaties, Smiths, Devlins, Dennis Davies, Mannix and Teaguf groups so as they can all share my wisdom and mild mannered ways. Would like a site close to them all and not too far away from the action.

To all Caravaneer from the East who are going and can afford to take time out to make it a comfortable trip over, how about talking about your preferences in regards to times, distances per day, when it suits you to start from, your own paddock or to rendezvous with any or all etc. etc.

Denny Dennis in Albury has written a letter to Dorothy and me suggesting roughly, times dates etc., and like myself

considers 250 miles a day a thing to do only when you have no alternative. Thinks perhaps a month is not too great a time to leave before the arrival date in Perth, idea being, we could stay a various suitable places along the way for a few days and really make this Safari '83 a "Caravaneers '83 Australia Look Along!"

Thought about going via the top but long distances for quite a few are out. So if you are thinking that you would like to go the South way in company lets get together at a suitable time, or write to anyone of the names given above and give us or them your thoughts on Caravaneers to Safari '83.

Names I have mentioned I think are all starters, maybe there are others, so let us know. How about you George Coulson?

Regards to all
Ron Trengrove

Editors Note. Interested parties get in touch with Ron or Dennis.

Len,

Xmas has been and gone now it is back to ordinary thinking again. However reading the Courier I was reminded about our deposit, so I must get it away to you.

I retire the first week in July '83 and fly out to Canada on the 29th to my daughter in new Foundland for a month. Then on to the U.K. for 25 days, 2 days in Athens, arrive in Perth during the 4th October, so hope there are no strikes!

We hope to stay from the with to the evening of the 10th october, we are booked out on Qantas QF16 at 2230 for Sydney. Reckon we would have travelled the furthest to go on Safari.

Attached cheque for deposit and Courier — cheers for the present to all.

Harry Handicott

Dear Archie and all of the boys of 2/2nd,
Just a line to let you know my wife (Mavis) and I will be coming over to W.A. for the Safari '83.

I am enclosing a cheque as a deposit for our accommodation, as the plane fares and bookings have already been taken care of, to ensure Mavis that we are actually going.

I am looking forward to seeing the boys once again and have a chat and a beer, so until then give my regards to all and wish them all the best for the new year.

Yours sincerely
Fred Broadhurst (Broady)
B. Troop, 6 Section

P.S. Does anyone know the whereabouts of Jack Campbell.

Dear Ed.,

Enclosed please find cheque towards expenses.

Would it be possible for me to have a badge sent over please as somehow my other one became unclipped and was lost from my coat.

Reason I'm late this year is I've had a stint in hospital as I have had a rather solid head malfunction which hospitalised me for a period, really thought I had come to the end of the line but it was not to be, possibly my place was not ready. Am home again not allowed to drive my vehicle so have a grandson doing this for me.

Hope improvement continues as we are looking forward to Safari in W.A. in October.

Best of everything a safe and prosperous new year to all in '83.

As ever
Fred W. Stevens

Dear Editor,

I expect you have had the news of the death of Jim English on the 1/1/'83. Jim's health had deteriorated rapidly over the last few months, his death however took most of us by surprise. I had seen him very shortly before Christmas and he was as well as could be expected. It was a sad loss to me and my family, we have lost a valued friend, he is, and will be sadly missed by us.

Since the 1950's I have seen Jim English and his family, receive many misfortunes, misfortunes to family, health, and economic well being, that would turn most people bitter and cynical in their approach to life. The English family, with Jim leading by example, gave help, understanding, and compassion to anyone who needed it, I should know, I witnessed many such acts by them. So Jean, Pauline, Greg and his father in law - Tom, we extend our deepest sympathy, in their sad loss.

News not over plentiful, the drought is still with us. I was out in the central west lately, it's just getting worse out there, must be costing the people on the land millions, all this so called drought relief looks good on paper, and that's about all and must be getting close to another election. Mal is talking in hundreds of millions to be spent on water conservation, but I'll bet Sydney to a grain of sand, that years from now our coastal rivers will still be emptying water galore into the sea. When I was a green immigrant kid way back in 1927, I remember the talk of mitigating floods in the Hunter Valley, well were we

fortunate to get enough rain, the Hunter would flood as well as ever, and more talk would go on about various dams.

We are having great times, a cousin of mine and her husband, are visiting us from Ireland, we aren't getting much done, but there's some great talk. Tony Bouriers and Peter Campbell, have met them, I can assure both of them they haven't changed, Jus still plays golf seven days a week, Bridie manages to keep contact with her twelve children, even if they have spread around from Ireland to Australia.

We are still afloat, Helen has been back in Sydney a couple of times, interviews for some position she is applying for. The others staying put and applying for nothing, unless Sean is doing something different since we last heard from him at Christmas.

Saw Ron Hilliard last week, he's not losing any weight, or any of his humour either, I spent a couple of enjoyable hours, listening and laughing at Drips slant on life.

I'm off now, best wishes to all the unit everywhere, may 1983 treat them kindly.

Paddy Kenneally

Everton Hills
Queensland

Dear Editor,

Yellow slip lost. Still at same address as above. Enclosed cheque to help funds. Very best wishes to all. A special thought for the singles. Have peace of mind. For you have loved, and were loved, and will be always.

Gordon Stanley

A XMAS MESSAGE

This has a special significance for it comes from one for whom the unit, while on Timor and since has had the highest regard. Not only because he was such a fine person but he was also a courageous soldier who I threw in his lot with the 2/2nd Independent Company in face of great odds, and had all the cards stacked against him. Thank you Julie for such a kind thought. The message:—

"To all friends of 2/2 Commando — Xmas Greetings and Best Wishes for the New Year and sincere appreciation for all your kindness."

Julie Madeira and Family.

DONATIONS TO COURIER

J. Fowler (2) ✓
 B. Callinan (2) ✓
 R. Kirkwood ✓
 C. Doig ✓
 A. Brown ✓
 A. Stevenson ✓
 K. Dignum ✓
 Dulcie Gay ✓
 R. Trengrove ✓
 I. Ronald ✓
 H. Sargent ✓
 R. Harrington ✓
 D. Stevens ✓
 G. Stanley ✓
 M. Jordan ✓
 J. Sheehan ✓
 C. Grebert ✓
 D. Hudson ✓
 G. Holmes ✓
 T. Paull ✓
 O. Bone ✓
 D. Dennis ✓
 M. Wheatley ✓
 Jess Epps ✓
 A. Smith ✓
 A. Campbell ✓

XMAS B.B.Q. N.S.W.

Held at Ron "Drip" HILLIARDS

Ron and Pat Hilliard
 Ron's sister Grace and Husband Jack
 Bill and Coral Coker
 Ron and marge Goodacre
 Men and Marge Jones
 Jim, Jean and Pauline English
 Don and Oulcie Latimer
 Alan and Edith Luby
 Ron and Dorothy Trengrove
 Bob and Joy Smith
 Jack Hartley
 Paddy Kenneally
 Stan Dowman

NEWS FROM N.S.W

Dear Arch,

Here with copy of latest NSW Commando News with our very best wishes for a happy xmas and a wonderful 1983.

My compliments to Jack Fowler on his xmas message December Courier — simple but concise and now relevant to the end of '82 which should be a year best forgotten by our Australian Government let's hope '83 holds a lot more positive moves, to lift us out of recession. It's a pity they didn't forget about parties and began to act like Australians and attended a limelieon behalf to say farewell to L/Col. Peter McDoug all who is posted to Stapp Corps Victoria Barracks and a welcome to L/Col. Phil Gould — the new C/O No 1 Commando Leot. Early impressions very good and a report that May. John Press is doing very well.

Will hold any further comment at this stage until after Sunday when I can give you a run down on attendance at our xmas barbecue, Thursday 16.

Sorry but time gets by so quickly when you're having fun! Will make a list of those present. It was a lovely day with most pleasant conditions for a barbie and in particular Ediths first social outing for her 8 weeks.

Last night Jack Hartley and I were amongst a select group of nritees to the xmas committee dinner of the board at Paddington — Woolahra R.S.L. Club and a most pleasant function. The only formality was a presentation by Arthur Litteer of a NSW Commando Association Shield to both the club and sub branch in appreciation.

I could go on and on but will conclude with our best wishes for a wonderful xmas and a health new year to all our good friends in W.A.

Sincerely
Alan and Edith

The President,

No definite date of arrival as yet, am trying to organise convoy for August and take easy stages via Adelaide — Albany to Perth but have in mind at present to arrive say 2 or 3 weeks pre Safari date and leave for home when the shouting is over via the Eastern Highway.

Ron Trengrove of Sydney is a starter and perhaps you would be good enough to give us a small space in the Courier — that a convoy is being suggested and those interested to contact Ron or myself. All the best.

Regards — Sincerely
Denny D.

Dear Arch,

The next year is almost on us so I'll get a few lines away to you, the year has not been a good one for many folk so we hope for a better and brighter one for everybody.

The action has started for the next Safari and I would urge as many as possible to be there, the best way to say thank you to the busy organisers is to be present and take part, so lets be there in '83.

Marg and I broke all records and went to the cup this year, (there was an organised tour that cut the cost a lot). I had planned to break away and see a few of the lads while in Melbourne but circumstances dictated otherwise. I had spoken to Johnny Roberts about being there and had to change our plans, sorry John, we'll get there yet.

Was speaking to Litch on the phone over xmas and they are having the worst year ever I'm sure.

I took our young daughter up in November 1980 and gave her a week or more in the mustering camp, she really enjoyed it and we worked a lot of cattle, he said when talking on the phone over xmas that if it continues as it is he'll have nothing

in the way of cattle left. I mentioned the Safari to him and he would like to go but will have to wait and see.

Marg is away in the city at the moment being over there for the birth of our first grandchild, a daughter, we must be getting old. Helen has been away 5 years teaching up near the border on an aboriginal reserve, she is keen to get back up bush, her husband is involved doing contract building for the government.

Don't see many of the lads but was talking to Dig (while over in the city) by phone, plan to see him in a few weeks when I'll have to go over.

He was a big help to Marg when I was non-com after I had my fall a couple of years back, a big help to me also.

Well the mail is due so I'll sign off wishing everybody the very best for next year, especially good health.

Cheers
Shorty

Dear Len,

Xmas B.B.Q. held at Ron Hilliards on Sunday 12th December. Those present are mentioned by Alan Luby in N.S.W. News. Stan Downan mentioned, is the man that gathered all the information on Portugese Timor you have in that map he donated to our museum. All well except Edith Luby who is still getting over an operation to her hip to relieve the old scourge. However Edith looks well despite the brakes on her mobility at present.

"Drip" Hilliard has retired and is a keen gardener, he reckons he is the labourer and Pat the Horticulturist. Must be a good team for the place looks like a miniature botanical gardens.

Roy Aitken wrote in the "Historically Years," section of the Courier but could not recall some of the names of the men who took part in the raid minus their rank — Geoff (Bull) Laidlaw, Tom Nisbet, Mick Morgan, Ray Aitken, Norm Thornton, Bob Ewen, Bill Holly, Charlie King, Don Lacy, Alf Blundy, Geordie Smith, Arthur Holden, Paddy Kenneally, Charlie Pickering. I am pretty certain was left at the rendezvous with the Timorese, Stan Ludlow had not moved up to Remexio with the section, he had been ill. That left Julie Madeira as the 14th man. The third Tommy Gunner was Tom Nisbet he took over Ludlows gun when Ludlow had to stay behind.

Julie Madeira was certainly a busy man as he also went down to Cumeer with Bill Tomasetti's in international Brigade. Ron Kirkwood, Pedro and Francesco, a lame Portugese deportada was on horseback when Bill and his party ran into the Japs in the saddle East of Dilli on the Hera Road, the poor devil was captured and beheaded as an example to the Portugese and Timorese to mind their own Business!

Ray did not mention "Baldy" Garnett's beach party who were just as much of the raiding party as we were in Section 4. Here they are:— "Baldy" Garnett, "Curly" O'Neill, "Porky" Thompson, "Squirt" Johnson (name Merv Clarke), "Blue" Beresford, Ner Meiser was, I am fairly sure with them.

Will be seeing the mighty "Curly" O'Neill after xmas, I'll land on his doorstep about 7 a.m. get hold of him fresh and keep him to the subject. That is what Paddy Kenneally thinks in mid December '82 what O'Neill will let him achieve in January '83 may be another matter!!

Enclosed a photostat copy of an article written by Curly O'Neill when he received news of Jim Griffins death. Jim was a character as all who knew him will testify. Jim and Max Davies hold a special place in my memory, they joined us from 2/40th and were still with us at the end in 1945.

Nora and I had a great trip in the Northern Territory, soon took time out to drive us to Katherine and places East and West of Alice Springs. Struck Harry and Olive Botterill on a coach tour from Melbourne to Alice and were returning on the Ghan, a far different Ghan from the one in 1941.

Sean looked fit and will be home for xmas, Gerald 21 in January, Helen home next week, Michael based here. Regards to all boys, wives and families.

Paddy Kenneally

ADDENDUM

Letters came in from the following sending their kind regards to all which are heartily reciprocated:

Mark Jordan, Arty Cullen, Steve Stevenson, Keith Dignum, Mrs. Dulcie Gay, Harry (Blue), Sargent and John Hanson.

Had to split your letter Ron Trengrove as you will note and thanks.

Paddy had to cut yours a little and will do something with the words of — "Its nice to be a Soldier" later. What is he address of Dan Thomas, I could forward a copy to him?

Len,

Xmas has been and gone now it is back to ordinary thinking again. However reading the Courier I was reminded about our deposit, so I must get it away to you.

I retire the first week in July '83 and fly out to Canada on the 29th to my daughter in new Foundland for a month. Then on to the U.K. for 25 days, 2 days in Athens, arrive in Perth during the 4th October, so hope there are no strikes!

We hope to stay from the with to the evening of the 10th october, we are booked out on Qantas QF16 at 2230 for Sydney. Reckon we would have travelled the furthest to go on Safari.

Attached cheque for deposit and Courier — cheers for the present to all.

Harry Handicott



Hereunder a submission by Gerry McKenzie currently holidaying with Mary in Victoria awaiting the birth of, now I can tell you, a son to his daughter Sandra.

Trust you have both enjoyed the stay immensely and congratulations on again being proud grandparents.

HOW YOU CAN TELL IT'S GOING TO BE A ROTTEN DAY

When:

You wake up face down on the pavement
You call suicide prevention and they put you on hold

You see a "60 minutes" news team waiting in your office

Your birthday cake collapses from the weight of the candles

You turn on the news and they're showing emergency routes out of the city

Your twin sister forgot your birthday

Your car horn goes off accidentally and remains stuck as you follow a group of Hells Angels on the freeway

You call your answering service and they tell you it's none of your business

Your blind date turns out to be your ex-wife

Your income tax cheque bounces

You put both contact lenses in the same eye

Your wife says, "Good morning, Bill" and your name's George.

author unknown ... but troubled.

Remember!

SANDGROPER SAFARI 1983

3rd to 16th OCTOBER

STATE OF EXCITEMENT

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Criterion Hotel Hay Street
Tuesday 1st March, 1983
7.30 p.m. for 8 p.m.

***URGENT AND MOST IMPORTANT
A BIG ROLL CALL IS ESSENTIAL
WE NEED YOUR KNOW HOW IN
SAFARI PLANNING FOR***

***“THIS IS THE YEAR OF OUR SAFARI”
REMEMBER 1ST TUESDAY IN MARCH***
