



# 2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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Address all Association correspondence to:

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

Vol. 44

JUNE 1983

PRICE 1c

## ITINERARY—SANDGROPER SAFARI 3RD TO 16TH OCTOBER, 1983

- MONDAY 3RD** Arrive — evening welcome at Freeway Hotel Function Room.  
☆ Cost (P.H.) Nil.
- TUESDAY 4TH** Day tour — New Norcia Mission founded by Benedictine Monks from Spain — guided tour, magnificent museum — barbeque lunch — return scenic tour and wildflowers. Evening free.  
☆ Cost (P.H.) \$10
- WEDNESDAY 5TH** 11.00 a.m. — Kings Park Memorial Service, Lovekin Drive. Evening — formal dinner, Freeway Hotel.  
☆ Cost (P.H.) \$15
- THURSDAY 6TH** 10.30 a.m. — tour of Swan Brewery — remainder free.  
☆ Cost (P.H.) \$3
- FRIDAY 7TH** 11.00 a.m. — Civic Reception by Lord Mayor of Perth, Council House. Evening — guests of Western Australian Trotting Association.  
☆ Cost (P.H.) nil
- SATURDAY 8TH** Afternoon — guests of Western Australian Turf Club. Evening — get-together buffet tea, Freeway Hotel - 6.30 p.m. to 10.30 p.m.  
☆ Cost (P.H.) \$10
- SUNDAY 9TH** Gala Day at Don Turton's Keysbrook property in hills area with Timorese invited — barbeque lunch.  
☆ Cost (P.H.) \$10
- MONDAY 10TH** Optional — free day or visit to Parliament House.  
☆ Cost (P.H.) nil
- TUESDAY 11TH** Day at El Caballo Blanco — Spanish Andalusian Dancing Stallions — Stud tour — smorgasboard lunch — transport by El Caballo Blanco.  
☆ Cost (P.H.) \$20
- WEDNESDAY 12TH** Lady Houghton Vineyard Cruise — upper Swan River — luncheon in Cellars — wine tasting — 56km scenic cruise. Launch to load at Mends Street Jetty. Evening free.  
☆ Cost (P.H.) \$20
- THURSDAY 13TH** Day free. (private entertainment).
- FRIDAY 14TH** 3 hour down river cruise to Fremantle — refreshments. Launch to load at Mends Street Jetty. Evening free (private entertainment).  
☆ Cost (P.H.) \$10
- SATURDAY 15TH** Farewell party and dance at Freeway Hotel.  
☆ Cost (P.H.) \$10
- SUNDAY 16TH** Au revoir. Book out of Freeway Hotel — depart by bus to Airport.

NOTE:

☆ Cost (P.H.) approximate for duration \$108

## SANDGROPER — SAFARI — 1983 3RD TO 16TH OCTOBER

Now is the time to start generating news via the "Courier," there is no possible chance of contacting those who are coming on an individual basis for generalities — this publication will be the medium for news conveyance.

(a) One very important item is to know who is coming. It is quite apparent that a number have made private arrangements, we must know when you are coming and where you are staying so as our planning can continue on orderly lines. A number have already nominated that they are privately committed, but if someone has booked for you, or you have done it on a personal basis, please notify the Safari Committee via the Secretary. This applies only to Eastern States Members. The Caravaneers, ten (10) in total have been catered for at the Como Caravan Park, 4 Ednah Street, Como. They are:—  
Tren Grove, Teague (2), Dennis, Davies, Smith (Bob), Colson, Chatfold, Peattie and Devlin.

(b) We have published the itinerary covering the whole 14 days showing the cost of each outing. To keep expenses down the Committee in its wisdom is going to subsidise every activity and social function to take the load off those attending. You can see by the total amount it is going to be an inexpensive set of rates for each member. This may induce more members to consider coming knowing approximately what their outlay will be.

We want everyone to be starters in all the listed daily events on the itinerary — this will make for fun, mateship and enjoyment.

(c) We have set a deadline for nominations 30th June, but, for those who give it late consideration the 31st July will be taken as the cut off point. Extenuating circumstances, taking in very late starters, will be by committee decision.

A very warm welcome awaits you, with eager anticipation W.A. looks at your coming as a real bonus. We want you to thoroughly enjoy yourself, for our part, having you will be a pleasure and a privilege. Any 2/2nd Reunion has just got to be a real "ding-dong" affair!!  
Hurry on October!

### STOP PRESS:

Watch for Cheap Airfares!!

**Deposits Received:** This is to identify those who have forwarded deposit and to confirm the receiving of them.

FREEWAY HOTEL	\$
T.B. Adams	50
D. Bone	50
H. Botterell	100
F. Broadhurst	50
F. Bryant	100
C. Grebert	50
H. Handicott	50
G. & W. Humphreys	72
P. Kenneally	56
P. Krause	100
A. Luby	200
R. Martin	70
L.A. Mitchell	250
Kath Press	50
J. Roberts	200
F. Sharp	50
M.A.M. Smith	500
T. Snowden	50
Wilma Tobin	50
Bulla Tait	50
Palm Joe	50
CARAVAN PARK	
D. Dennis	20
M. Devlin	20
J. Peattie	20
R. Teague	40
R. Trengrove	20

## ANZAC DAY THE UNIT

Once again on this day of considerable importance the 2/2nd Commando Association turned out in force to pay honourage to the men of Anzac who exactly 68 years ago, by virtue of their courage and tenacity of purpose, gave Australia its birth as a nation within the framework of the countries of the world.

Likewise to honour the members of our own Unit who paid the supreme sacrifice during the 1939—45 World War, and, those who have since died, for the life of many of them was shortened by their long involvement in service to their country. Marching in the front row of our contingent were two of our beloved Timorese, Jack Dosreis and Jack Filipe, they did so with pride and belonging. We were honoured.

Australia contributed deeply in two global conflicts, thought they were the wars end all wars, but now Anzac Day has taken on a different meaning to people. Now on this day the veterans of Korea, Malaya, Borneo, and, the magnificent young soldiers of the Vietnam campaign march, all are part of the debt Australia owes to its men of war involving many more people and families. But, the nationalistic feeling, though narrowed over the years, remains a deeply valued form of patriotic expression.

No one person marches for the glorification of war for within the stinking hell holes of all the wars, Australia lost the flower of its manhood. Now Anzac Day tends to remind the people of the ugliness and wastefulness of War. This is clearly emphasised in the current situations world wide, particularly the Middle East, but this day of Anzac is still to be revered for it was the key element in our birth as a Nation. It is one day Australia can set aside to honour men of all wars who made our way of life possible, and, the ability for us to live in the best country in the world.

The 2/2nd marched with pride and firmness of step even though the years have taken toll of the health of many. Our Unit flag carried confidently and proudly by Tony Bowers, a man of some proportions, was the cynosure of all eyes, it fluttered in the morning breeze to show the people that here was a Unit with a proud and enviable record, fit to be called the "Sons of Anzac."

Our participation was not for glory but the chance to meet again to honour the men who have crossed into the vale beyond. We mourn them for what they were to us, wonderful mates, who helped make this Unit of the 2/2nd Commando Squadron one of the finest in the A.I.F.

We now of the 2/2nd Commando Association salute you, humble the knowledge that we were spared to keep the spirit of the 2/2nd alive and burning brightly. "Lest We Forget." In part of the words of our Unit song with which we honoured our dead it says all:—

**"ALL THE BEST MEN HAVE GONE  
BEFORE US AND ONLY THE DULL LEFT  
BEHIND."**

### THE DAWN SERVICE

In the pink glow of a lovely autumn morning this silent service gave us ample opportunity to think and to pray that the sacrifices of our soldiers has not been in vain, even though the world generally is in turmoil. John Fowler laid the floral tribute, made in the shape of our "Double Red Diamond" insignia, on behalf of the whole Association.

The glory of the morning was in keeping with the memory of our dead. The hushed silence of the big crowd, with a preponderance of young people, was a tribute from them, their silence spoke in volumes.

### ANZAC DAY REUNION

This was held in the Mangoes Room of the Criterion Hotel and Mrs Douglas and their staff turned an a first class catering effort in the beautiful surroundings.

No sooner had we settled than the Perth Ladies Pipe Band came through the door, the skirl of the pipes raised the adrenalin in

everyone a little higher. They stayed to render a couple more Scottish airs and departed to an enthusiastic handclapping by all our members plus those of the 2/5th Commando Association who had joined us for the festivities.

It was a day for reminiscing, for drinking toasts to old mates, for renewing old friendships, for laughter, fun and nostalgic moments. It was proof positive our closeness and mateship has ripened with the years, a tribute to those who had the foresight to start this Grand 2/2 Commando Association.

From the Dawn Service to Lights Out it was a day to remember. May God spare us all to meet again on the Anzac Day in 1984.

### THE ROLL CALL

Messrs. Payne  
Kirkwood  
King  
Burridge  
Foster  
Murray  
Blundy  
Barron  
Macoboy  
Darrington  
Hart  
Wallace  
Green  
Bagley  
McLoughlin  
Sparkman Fred  
Sparkman Alec  
Thorlander  
Turton  
Neuzerling  
Aitken  
Da Costa  
Strickland  
McDonald  
Watson  
Criddle  
Barton  
Parry  
Birch  
Varian  
Studdy  
Fowler  
Townrow  
Griffiths  
Fullerton  
Morgan  
Gorton  
Bowers  
Sproxtion  
Fletcher  
Hudson  
Carey  
Maley  
Campbell Arch  
Hancock  
Bingham  
Haire  
Poynnton

## A TRIBUTE

### COLIN DOIG — UNIT PATRIARCH

Defined this means, paternal, the father and ruler of a family, in Jewish parlance, a learned and distinguished character, a venerable man. Colin Doig is to our Unit and Association what the Patricians were in the days of the Ancient Romans, a dignitary superior to the order of Arch bishops. Not that Colin Doig could ever, or would ever, want to aspire to be an Arch bishop?? But - I am sure I can speak on your behalf when I say that we look on this man as our nominal head.

Colin was born in the country town of Wagin over 71 years ago, the son of a farming family. I had the good fortune to know his mother, she was a gracious and lovely person. His childhood was no sinecure, like all tillers of the soil, pioneers of the area, he worked hard and long. There was no affluent society and Colin to earn money cut his teeth on the "boxing booths" at the country shows. He learnt the hard way, was very sport minded with football one of his loves.

He joined the Citizen Military Forces, the 25th Light Horse and it was in the role of a soldier his acquaintance was first made in April 1941. To be precise, by a heap of newly released Officers from the Officers Training School, Bonegilla, plus a seasoned batch of Officers from the Citizen Military Forces, all had been interviewed by Lieutenant Colonel Scott and chosen to undertake a "hush-hush" course, the Independent Company Cadre on Wilsons Promontory at the Chalet. Colin Doig was O.C. train, snappy, alert, volatile, but with an easy going nature.

Two months later the 2/2nd Independent Company was born, from that moment Colin Doig was a dyed in the wool, "Double Red Diamond" man, one in each eye in fact! He remained with the Unit over its whole existence to become its most loved character. A raconteur, an entrepreneur, both of high order, he was the greatest story teller imagineable, allied to that a vocabulary that would outshine any Drover, coloured indeed to a high degree!!

The service Colin Doig has given the 2/2nd over all the years since 1941 has been little short of magical, not I feel, equalled by anyone. No C.D. Doig, no 2/2nd Commando Association as we know it, the best of its kind in Australia. His commitment and dedication was the inspiration needed to keep the Unit intact in times of peace and it has rubbed off on all the members. The 2/2nd is as Independent as when first formed as a fighting unit, it has, as then, played out its Independent role so that all members are as closely knit as yesterday, and, supported entirely by itself.

Just have a look at Colin's contribution:—

1947 — 1952 General Secretary  
1950 Made the Associations first  
1947 Life Member  
1953 — 1954 President  
1947 — 1952  
1958 — 1974 Courier Editor

Remarkable in every way. Colin dedicated his life to the 2/2nd, his every working hour saw his agile brain sorting something out to benefit the 2/2nd Commando Association.

Colin would not want to be eulogised for his magnificent performance, but, we only pass this way once. My pen cannot do justice to his outstanding contribution, one could write a book on Colin Doig and it would remain forever interesting.

So we salute Colin Doig for giving us what we have got, an Association to be proud of, something to hang onto. Thank you Colin from each and everyone of us Australia wide, there will never be another quite like you. We hold you in deep affection for all you have been, but above all, for being yourself.

God bless you and give you many more years to enjoy the grand organisation which you nurtured in its infancy and saw it blossom into the tremendous 2/2nd Commando Association it is today.

Colin, it will always be said of you with great love and affection —

"There goes a man."

## VICTORIAN NEWS

It is with deep regret I have to advise of the passing away of Robert Ian Briggs on 23rd March, 1983. It is very sad as Ian had retired in October, 1982 and was looking forward to it, but he developed cancer in the lung and went very quickly. Our deepest sympathy to Nancy and family in their sad loss.

Those present at the funeral were:— Johnny Roberts, George Humphries, Harry Botterill, Max Davies, Norm Tillett, Norm Parker, Ken and Margaret Monk, Alec and Beryl Boost.

We had a very pleasant barbeque at the home of Alec and Beryl Boast on Sunday 17th April, the weather was very kind to us and it was enjoyed by all present:— Don & Joan Fryer, down from Wangaratta, both looking very well, Fred and Mavis Broadhurst, Bill Tucker, Norm Tillett, Norm Parker, Sep and Monica Wilson, Harry and Olive Botterill, John and Shirley Southwell, George and Win Humphreys, John and Kath Roberts, Keith and Marg Cooper, and it was very nice to see and have Nina Eastick with us again. Plus a face we had not seen for quite a while, Ed Bourke. Good to see you and I hope we see more of you in the future.

Our thanks once again to Alec, Beryl and family for putting on this show, it was a very pleasant day indeed.

**Anzac Day** — Once again we had a good roll up at the March and Reunion afterwards with the Commando Association at Palm Lakes Motel. The following were present:— Ken Monk, Alf Harper, Bill Tucker, George Humphreys, John Roberts, John Southwell, Arnold Webb and friend Cliff, Bernie Callinan, Rolf (Baldy) Baldwin, George Veitch, Tom Nisbet, Max Davies, Bill Sharp, Bruce McLaren, Keith Cooper, Gordon Holmes, Don Fryer, Norm Tillett, Alec Boast, Bill Peterson, Harry Botterill, Jack Fox. It was a great day and very pleasing to see the country boys out in force and Gordon Holmes from the West.

At the Barbeque at Alec's we had a little meeting with the express purpose of trying to get some new blood on the Executive positions of the Association. But as has been the case in the past we had no luck and they voted the old hands down in:— John Southwell, President — Harry Botterill, Secretary — Bruce McLaren, Treasurer — not the hoped for result but we will carry on and do our best under the circumstances. Quite a few of our boys are moving further out of the city into the country and the city ranks are shrinking noticeably.

Ken and Margaret Monk are going over to the West this month, their son Robert is getting married on the 16th May. We wish them a happy trip and send our best wishes to Robert and his future wife on their Wedding Day.

That is all the news, so until next time all the best — Harry Botterill.

## COMING — READY OR NOT

How long it is?! — Since in our youth and innocence, we became so well acquainted with the cry — "Coming — Ready or Not!!" As we enjoyed that grand childrens game of "Hide and Seek."

Well — in some respects, Courier efforts to assemble up-to-date information, for our new address book have resembled a game of "Hide and Seek."

You will recall that soon after the 1981 Gold Coast Safari (mainly due to their effort in donating a generous sum towards the cost of up-dating of our address book) Courier told you of W.A. branch intentions in that regard and in a following issue we published a loose-leaf page (yellow) requesting you to fill-in, thereon, the information and details we needed.

A lot of reminders have been published since that time, but alas, no amount of persuasion has succeeded in stirring some of our readers into taking action. We say "Readers" because those from whom no information has yet been received are names still listed in our address files and

for whom we hold a current Courier address card. Names to which a Courier has been regularly mailed and not returned by Australia Post.

Courier is convinced that our Association will only "Live-on" and continue to fulfil it's desired role if members take steps to keep in touch and therefore surely, the very essence in producing a new address book, must be, to provide readers with the very latest in address information in respect of other members — or their old mates!!

What a pity this cannot now be done for all members appearing in our new address book!!

No further time can be consumed in waiting for replies to come in, otherwise Sandgroper Safari 1983 will be with us and those who have contributed so magnificently would be entitled to ask "What has happened to the money "they" received to produce a new address book?"

Though a disappointment in communication and information, in respect of the 50% who have so far played, to telling effect, the "hide" role, the new address book exercise has been a brilliant success, both in provision of information and a magnificent response to financial needs by the regular 50% named "those magnificent men" who have again filled the "seek" role in the manner in which we have become accustomed to expect from them.

As with every other project in Association affairs, in which we have been involved, the new address book project has taught us something — for this we are grateful!!

Hope now to mail your new address book (if we have your address) before October '83.

"GE-EM."

## EDITORS NOTE

Thanks you Gerry McKenzie and Mary for your work in the compilation of the "New Address Book," it took some hours and some effort. Now its printing is almost fact and not fiction. Once again special thanks from us all.

## RETURNED MAIL IS COSTLY!!!

From each issue of Courier mailed to addresses held, we get back those for which Australia Post cannot find a home. The postage on returned Courier's is therefore increased to four times the original "Bulk" cost.

You can help, hold this cost in check, by notifying your change of address as soon as you make a move!!

**VALE****JOHN MOORE**

It is sad to record the passing of yet another member of our Unit John Moore of Dwellingup W.A.

John joined the squadron in Canungra and was attached to 2 section "B" platoon. He was a find soldier, quiet and efficient and served out the war in New Guinea and New Britain.

He was born and bred in Dwellingup and spent his working life with the Forestry Department, who held him in high esteem. His funeral was one of the biggest ever seen in the town, according to Col Doig, one of the largest seen anywhere. A tribute in itself.

John suffered a heart attack which he brushed off as not serious — typical of his spirit, but at 60 years too young to die. Our members paying tribute on our behalf were, Jack Fowler, Jack Carey, Colin Doig, Joe Poynton, Mick Holland, Arthur Smith, Don Hudson and Alec Thomson.

To Mrs Moore and her family we send our deepest sympathy and our love. May the months ahead bring you peace of mind and heart.

**DONATIONS****RECEIVED TO  
COURIER**

(Not acknowledged previously:)

**Messrs:**

Devlin	McLaren
Hodge	Brodie
Loud	Rowan-Robinson
Hair	Handicott
Johnson	Jess Epps
Fredericks	Kath Sargent
Rowley	Joan Darge
Humphreys	
da Luz	

\* \* \* \* \*

**Messrs:**

Payne	McKinley
Burridge	Doig
Foster	Haire
Blundy	Ritchie (Jim)
Macoboy (2/6 coy)	Murray
Darrington	Holder
Bagley	Foster
Sparkman (Alec)	Dook
Thorlander	Harper
McDonald	Mulcahy
Fowler	Adams
Fullerton	Sharp W & E
Sproxton	Chatfield
Hudson	Mantle
Campbell (Arch)	Lewis
Fitzgerald (2/5 coy)	
Chalwell	Nancy Briggs
Hillman	Elsie Wares
Tait	Tomasetti
Joe Palm	Gerebert

**SAFARI APPEAL****Messrs:**

Payne	Nellie Mullins
Foster	Kath James
Thorlander	Elsie Wares
Watson	Finklestein
Varian	Green
Studdy	Scott
Fowler	Holder
Morgan	Dhu
Gorton	Kirkwood
Fletcher	Sproxton
Hillman	Campbell (Peter)
Poynton (Jack)	Smyth
Rinaldi (Les)	Marshall
Criddle	Holmes
McKinley	Chatfield
Doig	Wicks
Haire	Penglace
Pendergrast	Langridge
Ritchie (Jim)	Turner
Murray	Lewis
Ryan	Wheatley

**PERSONAL PARS**

1. Arthur Smith is in Hollywood still and has had another skin graft which was only partially successful. Arthur is out and about and still his cheery self. Good luck Arthur from all of us.
2. Fred Snadier has improved tremendously like a good wine Fred you improve with the passing of the years. Every Unit Member sends kind regards and a wish for continued good health.
3. To "Curly" O'Neill our deepest sympathy on the sad loss of his wife Betty. May the months ahead treat you kindly and that you find peace of heart and mind. Paddy Kenneally has expressed the thoughts of us all "Curly" God bless.
4. Jack Hartley had a minor stroke but all reports see a good recovery if Jack takes it easy. All members send their very best and a wish for a speedy recovery to A1 health.
5. It is so sad to report that Lois MacLachlon passed away late in May after a terrific fight against the dreaded disease of cancer. She was a lovely person and all who were at the Gold Coast Safari will recall her contribution and her personality that made it such an enjoyable event. Our sympathy goes out to Angus and his family and may they find peace of mind in the days ahead in the knowledge that god takes early, those whom he loves.
6. Bill Peterson and Arnold Webb are leaving Victoria by caravan to come West in the next few weeks. Those on the route they take can look forward to a call from these two boys. I believe through Jess Epps it is the Southern track they will be very welcome.

7. Jess Epps has just been up North and took a few youngsters on school holidays with her. She had a grand time and is always doing something for somebody else. She regularly takes Fred Napier out of Tandara Hospital to give him a break from routines. Thanks Jess for your thoughtfulness. She said Fred would love to see any of the boys — address, 73 Jarrah Road, Bentley.
8. Terry Paul has been the subject of a heart attack but has come through it reasonably well, just needs to take it quietly. The best to you Terry from all of us.

It is with deep sadness that we have to record the loss in tragic circumstances of Mark Campbell, son of Peter and Pat, at Esperance in a motorcycle accident on the farm.

Mark leaves behind his wife Debbie and three children and our hearts go out in deep sympathy to her and her children in such a shattering loss.

I know on behalf of all 2/2nd members Australia wide I can convey to Peter and Pat just how sad we all feel at such a happening and our wishes that god will be kind and guide them through the hard days ahead.

We all are with you in your sorrow. God bless and take care.

had a few visits by the Peatties to the area. Jack last called in and had a good "natter" in January — our talk was mostly of the forth coming Safari and — of course — on caravanning.

I am in close contact with Angus and Lois McLachlan by phone — Lois is having a tough time and I feel deeply for her, and she is often in my thoughts. We visited Angus and Lois on our last couple of trips to Brisbane and will be seeing them again in 3 or 4 weeks time, when we next travel to Brisbane to see Joyce's mother. Also have seen Fred and Phyllis Bryant and George and Mel Malhieson — both times at the McLachlans home. George had been very ill but I believe he is quite well now — we hope to see George and Fred on our next visit also. On our way to Brisbane we will try and make contact with "Babe" Ron League, although his new address is unknown — (it hasn't been printed in the "Courier") but will make use of the electoral roll at Ballina to locate him.

By the way Arch, I do hope my letter of last September was received — (with a cheque for Association funds enclosed) — for there has been no acknowledgement of the letter or cheque in the "Couriers."

We are looking forward to our trip and subsequent get together in October and also to renew friendships. Till then, very kind regards to yourself and all members of our great Association.

Cheerio.

**Bob Smith.**

## Correspondence Corner

Dear Arch,

Am penning these few lines in which to inform you that Joyce and I will not require our booking at the Freeway Hotel for the '83 Safari. However, wild horses would not keep us away and we will be in attendance, but making alternative arrangements.

Providing that all things are equal, we will be travelling to Perth by car and caravan taking in the sights along the way. (I would dearly love to have a good look around the area of the Flinders Ranges — Wilpena Pound.) Hopefully we will get away from home mid-August and be away from home approximately 3 months. I was talking to Jess Epps recently by phone and she kindly volunteered to make a booking at the caravan park for a period. On our arrival in perth we will make personal adjustment with the park management for our stay — we may be much earlier than the Safari and we will be staying on after the Safari for a while — (I hope the money tree doesn't suffer with blight in the meantime). We are very interested in the idea of a Safari of caravans to the west and have discussed it somewhat with Ron & Dorothy Trengave.

We often see Ron and Dorothy who come to Newcastle now as they visit their son who lives in Newcastle, and also have

Dear Arch,

Well, here I am at last, re-joining the human race and trying to catch up on a lot of very overdue correspondence. I am forwarding a cheque for Safari funds and the "Courier" — divide it any way you wish.

It is now almost a year since Alex (Scotty) died, and so far I have simply been going through the motions of living — without interest or purpose. However, I recently gave myself a good talking to and set about making a new direction in my life. For starts, I went back to my old love, Amateur theatre. I was lucky enough to get a very good part in a comedy that "Playlovers Theatre" in Floreat was producing and which proved highly successful. This was at the end of 1982 and at the beginning of this year I was again cast in another play. This finished half way through march and I then went into Hollywood Hospital for a foot operation. It was off work for 5 weeks and my toes are still not quite right but improving steadily. I can recommend the Re-pat Hospital to anyone who might be going there. I was lucky enough to have a room to myself with my own bathroom, the attention I received was fantastic, and the meals excellent. In every way I was given first class, V.I.P. treatment. I am not sure, Arch, if you are

away that Alex was granted a T.P.I. pension about 2 months after his death. He had been before the Medical Board but had been waiting months for their decision. It upset me rather that he received no benefits from this late decision, but I know he would have been glad for my sake as the T.P.I. status automatically granted me a War Widow's pension and privileges. Because of the medical benefits I receive it was necessary for me to enter Hollywood Hospital and I am very glad I did.

Right after my homecoming from Hospital, and when I was just resuming driving the car again I was run into from behind, demolishing the rear end of the car. Luckily no one was hurt but it was frustrating being without my car for three weeks, would you believe. However, it is all fixed now, and things are looking up again.

Dorothy Boyland and I are going to Bali for a fortnight — leaving on May 15th. We intend to live a life of luxury in the pampered surroundings of what I have been assured is the best hotel in Bali. I expect it will be hard to come back in wintry conditions here. However by then, I will be ready to look for another good role in a play and then there will be the Safari to look forward to, with a long awaited visit from lots of my Eastern States friends. As I am working during the day, when the Safari is in progress, I will only be able to attend evening and weekend doings but hope to be part of it all.

Next year around March I will be finishing my present work with the Education Dept. — something I am dreading as I love what I am doing and incidentally, all my handicapped students. However I have about four things I am thinking of taking, an so who knows where I will be turning up next!

Well, Arch, I seem to have been doing a lot of soul search in this letter but I am sure you understand. Anyway all the best, — maybe I'll even catch up with you one of these days.

Regards from  
**Elsie Wares.**

#### **Editors Note.**

Thank you Elsie for a nice newsy letter, am sure all members would love to share it and wish you well in whatever you do.

Dear Arch,

"Heroes Day" behind us, as far as I know all have once more survived the barrage of shot and shell, not to mention the far more dangerous quantities of liquor and food we got into that day. We mustered twenty members of the Unit, plus four visitors, to swell the ranks for the march. Actually the N.S.W. Commando Association always produce a good contingent for the parade.

Our usual meeting place in lower Potts Point (Woolloomooloo) at what was once Hastings Deering, gives us a chance to

swop lies before we take off for the ferry boat, or other venues, for the day. Present from other areas, Lionel Newton from Broken Hill, he must be lonely up there as I cannot recall any other 2/2nd blokes being with a few hundred miles of him. Maybe that is why he looks so well. But Merv Jones contradicts that argument, he looks like "Mr Health," but that could be discounted on the score that he does not see much of us? Tom Yates from Kyogle, he just made it, a few miles further north and he would have to bear the burden of "Joe Jelke." Tom Fields, from I don't know where, think he is once more back on the Central Coast. He had a recent holiday in Melbourne where he met quite a few of the Unit. Vince Swann all the way from the West, looks well, even though undergoing treatment for old shoulder injuries.

The rest of us were locals, all keeping reasonably well. Jack Hartley OK now, he did suffer a stroke some weeks ago. Doc thinks he'll be OK as long as he takes life easy, that for Jack is going to be difficult after putting long years into work and keeping out in various organisations, including years of work for the 2/2nd. Taking life easy is going to be quite a change for Jack, no matter how you handle it Jack we wish you well and give you thanks for all the years of work on our behalf. Nora has an idea she would have been a widow years ago had you not delivered me on many an Anzac night!

Our sympathy goes out to "Curly" O'Neill in his sad loss of Betty who passed away a few weeks ago. I knew Betty for thirty seven years, meeting up with her and "Curly" at various times over that period. She was a gentle woman with an enormous love and compassion for the poor and under-privileged of this world. She saw her share of those people as she accompanied "Curly" on four tours of duty when he was foreign correspondent for the "Telegraph" and "Mirror" working from London. Those particular assignments took toll of "Curly's" health, without Betty it would have been far worse. She loved and understood him, took him for what he was, didn't spend her life trying to turn him into someone else. Consequently today O'Neill is not greatly changed from the O'Neill of 1941-42. After 34 years of marriage to Betty he did acquire much of her tolerance. It is a sad loss to "Curly" and to those who knew Betty. It will take a long time for you "Curly," but god is good.

The Unit was well represented at the funeral, Jack Hartley, Alan Luby, Ron and Pat Hilliard, Mick Devlin, Merv Jones, Ron Goodacre, Billy Hoy, Paddy Kenneally, plus many of "Curly's" colleagues from the press and Betty and "Curly's" family. It was a sad occasion, but it brought many people together who had drifted apart.

Expecting Helen home tonight, she'll be based in Sydney for a while. It will help fill the table at night, the place always seems



empty with a couple of them away. Rest OK. Nora looking forward to the Safari and renewing good friendships.

Attended a Timorese wedding last Saturday night, 23rd April, the groom is from the West, Jose Manuel Pires. His mother, father and two sisters came East for the wedding. The bride Fatima Lemos is a niece of Nicolau Goncalves who was North Thornton's "Criarda" in Timor. Also present Julie Madeira's sister, niece and nephew. Julie's son Jose, his wife and family, are now in Sydney, they arrived from Portugal shortly before Xmas.

Many of them remembered us in 1942 and before you could blink an eye on old dear broke into a torrent of tatum, I picked up about one word in twenty. But if the smile on her face meant anything it was a good story. She came from near Baucau. Enough food to feed a regiment, Portuguese, Chinese, Timorese, being no gourmet I probably ate them in the wrong order? There was enough beer, wine and spirits to float a ship. What with .05 and Nora I called it a night after three cans. Taxi's are awful hard to get now otherwise I'd have left the car there and helped the pile of empties along. It was a great night.

Best wishes to all, a good roll up for the Safari and I hope your heads have stopped ringing by now.

Good Luck  
**Paddy Kenneally**

P.S. Nearly forgot my old friend Norm Thornton. After 37 years of correspondence I know now why I never get any replies. In all fairness I must say he has a good alibi, he is still trying to decipher the first one I wrote in 1946. I wish you luck Norm.

**Paddy**

Dear Editor,

Anzac Day is over, the details I will leave to others, but I will tell you of my pleasing five days. Early in the week Dorothy called me from the head of the stairs leading to the garage and workshop, where I mostly live during the day to say Vince Swann was on the phone. Had just taken my shoes off and was in my socks, I let out a wrong word of surprise, dashed for the stairs, my feet slid and I crashed through a couple of treads and thought I had broken my left leg half way from my knee. I made the phone half blacked out.

Dorothy bathed and took care of the wounded digger on this end but I did a dreadful thing and arranged for Vince to bring himself out on the following Friday. He duly arrived before lunch and I apologised for not getting him myself but had no way of contacting him anyhow. By the time lunch and dinner were over we had got as far as Mindelo South of Kablak. Next morning I took Vince back to North Sydney to his room left him there while I

picked up Denny and June Dennis followed by Vince. Denny and June were going to stay with us until Tuesday.

Both of them are trying to resume a normal life after the tremendous shock of losing their youngest son Ian 10 days before. he was about to have dinner with his wife and his boss from Melbourne, dinner was ordered, Ian excused himself and was found to have passed away in the toilet from external asphyxia. One does not find it easy to help people in their hour of need but we did our best, perhaps our company and Vince's helped to take their thoughts away occasionally from their loss, but nothing does for long I guess.

Denny and I were able to settle on a probable departure date if it suits Bob Smith and Jack Peattie. Mick Devlin will be leaving at a later date. Vince gave us a lot of useful information and he and Peter Campbell, (not that he knows about it yet), will be carrying out watch duties when the word of our approach gets to Gibson, from where we will be wandering through 2/2nd country right through to Perth.

It is sure great to have a captive speaker in your own home, Vince can tell you so much about the people you were so close to long ago. Then at the same time have Denny who has been to 38 (I think he said) reunions of the 2/40th Btn in Tassie, some effort you will agree. He has revived faces and names in my mind I had long forgotten, if only more of us had taken the trouble to jot down names, dates, faces right through our various exploits with the Unit, it would provide great conversation or reading.

Out of Anzac Day, by the concerned ones at Hastings Deering, came something concrete. A party of us from the Sydney area are going to look up one "Bunny" Anderson very soon, hopefully in the next week or ten days.

So I will close saying thanks to my wife for making Anzac weekend this year one of the best I have ever had. Denny, Vince and I were brought home by Merv Jones from the H.D. rendezvous and we quietly talked away the afternoon with all our needs taken care of — what more could you ask!

Merv Jones by the way looks so fit he would beat a kangaroo dog from a standing start over 500 yards!

Yours Truly

**Ron T.**

P.S. See you a week before "blast-off."

#### **Editors Note.**

Your letter re C. Wray received. His request already circulated here and mentioned in other correspondence.

Dear Len,

Last week we received the Courier telling us all the latest news about what is going on over there, which is what we like to hear. Thanks for the information regarding our deposit for a booking at the Freeway.

I am writing this on behalf of George who last year wrote a long letter telling you all the news of what was going on, he also enclosed a donation in it. By all accounts he thinks the letter might have gone astray or been misplaced.

Hoping you are all well over there, looking forward to seeing everyone in October. Cath and John Roberts are coming to stay with us for a few days next week.

Regards to all

**Win Humphreys**

#### **Editors Note.**

George's letter and donation did arrive but somehow the letter got through the net and was not published.

Dear Archie,

Please find a cheque enclosed for "Safari Support." Have just returned from a month at Hopetown and two weeks before that marched in my hometown of Ravensthorpe on Anzac Day. Of twenty six on parade I was one of three original enlistments from the district.

Had a successful fishing trip with a bit of light work thrown in when I felt like it, which is not often! My arthritis is not improving with age, but hope to be around at Safari time.

Am expecting Ray, our older son, who is a builder in Darwin, down with his wife and first baby, a daughter, about that time. At present his is building houses for our "black brothers" — Government contract I presume.

Saw a piece in the Courier from Jackie Hanson a while back, we shared many a night on Timor with my old ground sheet over us on an O.P. The only person I know who could spin from one side to the other in his sleep and finish with the whole bloody lot wrapped around him! Kind regards Jack wherever you are!

My best wishes to one and all of our Unit. Hope can read this Arch, my hands will not always do what they should.

Cheerio for now  
**John Penglase**

Dear Archie,

Enclosed is a copy of the actual Portuguese wording which appeared on the missing memorial plaque taken from DARE above Dilli.

I noted from the last Courier that you had been able to obtain the original English text but thought a copy of the porto translation may be of value.

I obtained a copy of the translation from Christopher Wray whose father was in our Sig Section but now deceased. A friend of Christopher Wrays, a Doctor, photographed the plaque during a trip to Timor and gave Christopher a copy.

Incidentally Christopher Wray is writing the history of 'Sparrow Force' the whole operation and would be glad to hear from any members who served in Timor and particularly those that were at KOEPANG end when the balloon went up.

Wray's address is:

C. Wray,  
3 Monica St.,  
East Doncaster.  
VIC. 3109

I have suggested he write to the Courier and ask any specific questions he would like information on and no doubt he will do this in due course.

Regards to the President Committee and Members.

**Tom Nisbet**

#### **Editors Note.**

Thanks Tom for the Portuguese wording on the Dare Plaque. Will put it in the archives. The Indonesian Administration appeared to only want the Australia wording!!

Dear Arch,

It is with much regret that it is necessary to write and cancel our planned trip to the Safari in October. Bill finally, was admitted to R.G.H. in February, after being most unwell from mid December. The doctors have patched him up again and he is home, but has been told, on no account to attempt such a long journey — with vivid memories of his last journey over, we have decided to heed the doctors advice and stay put. Needless to say, we are very disappointed, and know that all attending will enjoy a wonderful time. Bill sends regards to all.

Hope that our cancellation does not cause too much inconvenience.

Regards to All  
**Eileen & Bill Sharp**

#### **Editors Note.**

Bad luck — God bless — take care.  
Regards from all in the West.

Dear Archie,

Please find enclosed Sub & Donation from Allan and self. We are still at the above address but will be leaving here on the 4th July 83 to return home for good. We plan on going to Darwin to a Bowls Carnival and then down through the Centre, should be home around Aug. — Sept. We have arranged to park the van at Como Park for brother Dudley and Audrey to use for Safari 83. The booking has already been made. We are looking forward to joining in the Safari ourselves as by June 15th Allan will be retired. Wishing all members the best of health.

Thanking you for Courier.

Yours Truly  
**Joy Chatfield**

Dear Arch,

Just a few lines to comply with the request in the April Courier to let you know that I will definitely be at the Safari during the period 3 to 16/10/83.

As I have several brothers and a sister in Perth, it would be detrimental to my health if I did not stop with them (!!), so we do not require any accommodation booked for us.

We will be driving over and back, leaving here about the 20th of September so to give us plenty of time and not have to push ourselves on the way. Will most probably get there a couple of days early, so will be an early visitor to the hospitality unit.

On Sunday we are going to Brisbane for a 2/2nd Unit Barbecue at Slaughter Falls. It will be a good day, you can believe — Fred Bryant does the cooking, and he always does a great job.

I lodged an application for acceptance of my complaints with Veterans Affairs last December, and have undergone many tests and probings, but so far I have not heard the result. On the basis of the saying "all good things come to those who wait," I'll have no problems.

Regards to you all, and will see you in October.

**Wilbur Wallis**

Dear Editor,

It is with sadness I write to let you know that my husband Ian Briggs (Bob), passed away on 28th March. Ian had not kept good health for the past three and a half years, having suffered a coronary, having a by-pass done in each leg, then they found lung cancer last September. He had just returned but unfortunately did not live long enough to enjoy it. I am enclosing a cheque towards the Courier that Ian had been receiving and enjoying.

Yours faithfully  
**Nancy H. Briggs**

Dear Archie,

After many years I have come to the conclusion that it is time that I put pen to paper and firstly thank you and members of the "Staff" for producing that wonderful journal, the "COURIER."

Today is a very important anniversary for me, as three years ago I was operated on for malignant cancer of the bowel, but so far so good. In the intervening period I have been back to hospital numerous times and have just got out again after a further operation to remove that unnecessary organ, namely gall-bladder.

When discharged weighed in at 50 kgs but have now advanced to 52½ kgs; but still need braces to hold my shorts up.

At this juncture I do not know if I will be fit enough to attend the Safari in October, but I shall let you know before June 1st.

I am now in receipt of a T.P.I. Pension and go away on holidays between trips to hospital. I met Rowen Robinson on a cruise to China and last year I went to Honolulu on the same ship. I have bought a Toyota Commuter bus and have set it up as a campervan, but so far I have not proceeded very far from Darwin.

If any member of the unit is ever in Darwin I would be glad to see them, my telephone number is in the local register.

By an act of god my photos of unit members taken during the war were not destroyed during cyclone Tracey and I hope to have them placed nicely in an album prior to the Safari.

Good health and long life to all my mates and their families.

Regards  
**Ted Mulcany**

Dear Archie,

Please find enclosed cheque to help with support to the Safari. Both Peter and I really looking forward to it. We are going back to our old stamping grounds, Southern Hills Station, for a few days, camping with some friends quite excited about it as haven't been up there for about 20 years. Hope to be setting out for Exmouth at the end of June for about six weeks. Peter's two brothers and wives are going too; so be there Dot and Reg Harrington! Had a very good start to the season here but then a dry spell and an inch rain last week so things looking good again.

We are both keeping fit and enjoying living overlooking the sea.

Regards to all  
**Pat Campbell**

Dear Arch,

Enclosed is your note 'Safari Support' and also a little extra to help keep the Courier going. it's always great to receive the Courier and be reminded of mates we knew so long ago. Harry Fredericks — your letter certainly took my mind back to the time when we could keep going uphill from dawn to dusk with a heavy pack on our backs, I also remember the leeches that always seemed to get under my gaiters and skin. One of our blokes, forgot his name, had one up his nose for a week or so. Those were the days and don't want to forget because of the many mates I shared the leeches with.

Regards  
**Jim Ritchie**

Dear Arch,

I have now finished work medically unfit. I have asbestosis and I have applied for workers compensation but I think I will have a battle to get it.

We will be building a new home at Dongara and am only waiting for our plans to be approved by the Shine.

I think I may be getting out of the iron ore at the right time as they are trying to cut down on everything.

Yours faithfully  
**Blue Pendergrast**

Dear Arch,

Greetings & good wishes to all.  
Enclosed towards Safari Support.  
God Bless.

**Neil Scott**

Dear Arch and Jack,

So sorry it has taken so long to contact you regardin Safari 1983, however Betty and I are definite starters, having just recently purchased a new car and caravan mainly for the trip west. I am enclosing \$20.00 deposit for a site at Como Beach Park, from the 3rd of October until the 16th October being the duration of the Safari, should there be no vacancies left at Como Beach Park the nearest available van park will do. Betty and I shall be staying a while after the Safari, and are hopeful of touring around your wonderful state for an indefinite period, I have had my share of bad luck since I met you in Queensland Arch, having lost a brother and sister, and brother-in-law in a short span of time, and I am still trying to sort out their affairs as they all died intestate, with no next of kin other than myself. Our daughter Gail is being married on the 4th June 1983 and there is also some preparation to be done there, so by the time Safari 1983 comes around Bet and I will be looking for a well earned rest I shall possibly be one of the last to leave N.S.W. heading west, as I do

not retire until the 16th of September 1983 and will not be leaving Sydney until the 17th of September 1984 this coincides with the maximum benefits I shall receive from the company's superannuation scheme and marks my 46th year with them. Please convey our kind regards to all in W.A. and we are looking forward to meeting you all again soon. Hope to have further news from N.S.W. after Anzac Day.

**STOP PRESS:** Just received a phone call from Ray and Joyce Martin have arranged to meet them at Griffith N.S.W. on the way across.

Good night and god bless for now.

**Mick and Betty**

Dear Arch,

It is a long time since I made contact with the Unit in W.A. and I am ashamed of myself for it; however I always look forward to the Courier and thank you for taking on this very Big task of Editor.

I am intending to make the trip to Perth in october with my wife, Gwenda, her sister marj and another friend, Alma Ward. We were planning to stay at a Unit in Cottesloe, if that didn't conflict with the plans of the Association.

As for myself, I am still in the workforce, and will probably be asked to retire next year when I will be 65.

I have been involved in the local Snooker Association for a number of years and it takes a lot of my time; my other sport is Golf which I am still keen to play.

I will be seeing the local boys at the Anzac Day march in Melbourne in the near future and I dare say the Safari will be a topic of conversation utmost in everyone's mind.

I daresay I have been in a rut as my Address hasn't changed in over 30 years, and my Phone Number (Home Area, Code 052 Number 433357 and work 781152)

If there are any queries regarding Safari, then let me know and I will write return mail.

Enclosed is cheque which is a little late, and if any more is required, then let me know, and I will catch up.

Regards to all, especially my Section mates and please excuse the typewriter; I am a poor writer.

See you in October  
**Alfred E. Harper**

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## NOTE

Correspondence not in this issue will appear in August edition.