



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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Address all Association Correspondence to: Box T1646, G.P.O. Perth 6001

Vol. 48

APRIL 1984

Price 1c

COMING EVENTS

TUESDAY, 24TH APRIL, 1984

**SPECIAL AIR SERVICE REGIMENT
WILL HOST 2/2 COMMANDO ASSOCIATION
AT CAMPBELL BARRACKS, SWANBOURNE**

TIME: 10.15 a.m. SHARP AT MAIN GATE

Come and see demonstrations by our modern counterparts

ANZAC DAY WEDNESDAY 25TH APRIL

1. DAWN SERVICE:

Laying of Wreath by John Fowler. Assembly point for members, top of stairs leading to War Memorial 5.45a.m.

2. ANZAC DAY MARCH:

Assembly Point:— Proximity Irwin Street & St George's Terrace opp Council House.

TIME: 9.45a.m.

STANDARD BEARER:

Tony Bowers coming up with contingent from Mandurah.

3. REUNION:

TIME: 12 Noon.

PLACE: Knutsford Arms Hotel, Knutsford Street, North Perth.

DIRECTIONS: Travel along Fitzgerald Street, North to Walcott Street turn left first street on left in Walcott is Knutsford Street.

PHONE: If map reading weak !! 444 1066

We want a full roll call, come whether you march or not. Be in it and enjoy the companionship. Make sure you have a Skipper, or catch a Taxi, or drink light !!

**CANBERRA SAFARI 1986
DIARISE THIS DATE!**

2/2 COMMANDO ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST JANUARY, 1984

BALANCES FORWARD 1ST FEBRUARY, 1983

Working Account	425.54
Reserve Account	4526.03
Savings Investment Account	2080.53
Debentures	1511.64
	<u>8543.74</u>

INTEREST RECEIVED

Working Account	16.68
Reserve Account	147.81
Savings Investment Account	268.60
Debentures	540.05
	<u>973.14</u>

"COURIER"

Donations	4903.85
Printing and Postage	Less 2166.16
	<u>2737.69</u>

SALES OF:

Lapel Badges	140.50
Car Stickers	1.20
	<u>141.70</u>
	<u>\$12396.27</u>

I certify this to be a true and fair position of the 2/2nd Commando Association as disclosed by the books and vouchers made available.

J. C. BURRISSE

1983 SANDGROPER SAFARI

Costs	20287.61
Receipts	Less <u>20220.50</u>
	<u>67.11</u>

KINGS PARK HONOUR AVENUE

Water Rates	186.10
Insurance	63.00
Honorarium	40.00
Repairs to Mower	93.68
	<u>382.78</u>
	Less <u>39.00</u>
	<u>343.78</u>

ANZAC DAY

Costs	955.35
Receipts	Less <u>811.00</u>
	<u>144.35</u>

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Petty Cash	40.00
Postage on Address Books	93.50
Rental on Box T1646	52.00
Capitation Fee -	
Commando Assoc.	<u>100.00</u>
	<u>195.50</u>

SUNDRIES

Cost of Funeral Notices	41.30
Donation to Legacy	50.00
Establishment costs on	
Jess and Peter Epps Museum	207.63
Cost of New Lapel Badges	163.20
Loss on Xmas 1983 Gathering	10.15
Cost of Wreath taken to	
East Timor July, 1983	46.00
Donations from Queensland	
Branch to Safari and	
Address Book 1981	<u>1500.00</u>
	<u>\$2018.28</u>

FEDERAL DEBIT TAX

12.25

BALANCES AS AT 31ST JANUARY, 1984

Working Account	340.34
Reserve Account	2294.42
Savings Investment Account	1980.24
Debentures	5000.00
	<u>9615.00</u>
	<u>\$12396.27</u>

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - W.A. BRANCH

There was a very good roll call indeed to our A.G.M. held in the R.S.L. Headquarters, St. George's Terrace, Perth on Thursday, 8th March, 1984 at 10.30 a.m., showing that our inaugural daytime meeting was a really successful innovation. The response from the Mandurah boys was excellent and quite a contingent made the journey to Perth.

The meeting was followed by an exceedingly well presented light luncheon with adequate refreshments. This time factor, so convenient to the retired personnel, should next year draw an even bigger attendance of members.

Hereunder is the list of Office Bearers for the year 1984-85:—

President	John Fowler
Vice President	Doug Fullarton
Secretary	Jack Carey
Treasurer	Ron Kirkwood
Auditor	John Burrridge
Courier Deitor	Archie Campbell
Warden - Kings Park	George Fletcher
Liaison Officer	
East Timorese Assoc.	Gerry Maley

GENERAL COMMITTEE

As above, plus:—

Don Turton
Len Bagley
Charlie King
Henry Sproxtion

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - MARCH 1984

Gentlemen,

This meeting sees the completion of my second year as President.

Last year and this year we were busy organizing 'Sandgroper Safari 83' the success of which was the result of long man hours from the many willing workers, and our thanks to all concerned. The committee consisted of:—

President	John Fowler
Vice President	Rod Dhu
Secretary	Jack Carey
Treasurer	Ron Kirkwood
Courier Editor	Archie Campbell
Auditor	John Burrridge
Wardens - Kings Park	Rod Dhu & George Fletcher
Liaison Officer	Len Bagley
Campbell Barracks	As above, plus:—
General Committee	Don Turton Charlie King Doug Fullarton

I wish to thank the Committee for the effort they all put into make this past year a happy one and the Safari such a wonderful success, with special thanks to the following:—

ARCH CAMPBELL

as our Organizer kept everything moving smoothly and spent many hours in helping at busy bees and taking care of our visitors.

JACK CAREY

as Secretary was responsible for all the tour buses, besides helping out in all areas, including busy bees.

RON KIRKWOOD

our Treasurer had a mammoth task with the finance and keeping the account books up to date and finishing the year with a handy credit balance. Most of our extra meetings were held at Ron's home, with coffee and eats being supplied by Gwenda.

LEN BAGLEY

as our Assistant Organizer. Nothing was too much for Len and he put hours of work into the Safari with his presentation of folders, brochures, T.A.A. matters, etc.

We also appreciate the assistance of all other members who helped in many and varying ways.

Now a quick rundown on the Safari Itinerary:

Monday 3rd October

The welcome evening saw us all together for the first time. What a wonderful gathering it was.

Tuesday, 4th October

We all went by bus to New Norcia where we visited the museum, heard a lovely organ recital and enjoyed a first class barbeque organized by Reg & Dot Harrington, helped by Charles & Mavis Sadler, Stan & Blanche Sadler. Thanks to the boys who barbeque the meat and the girls who provided the salads and delicious home-made cakes.

Wednesday, 4th October

Henry Sproxtion, Rod Dhu and George Fletcher organized our Memorial Service in Kings Park which was attended by a large number of members and their families. Thanks boys!

The Reunion Dinner that night was all we wished for in comradeship. Our 'father-figure', Col Doig was Toastmaster.

**Thursday,
6th October**

The morning trip to the Brewery was interesting and enjoyed by all.

**Friday,
7th October**

Our Civic Reception at Council House was well attended. From the Reception Room on the 8th floor our Eastern States visitors admired an excellent view of the Swan River and surroundings. I had the pleasure of presenting to the Lord Mayor, a plaque in the shape of a Double Diamond which was made by George Fletcher from W.A. timbers - mallee root and curly jarrah. Thank you George for a craftsman's job.

The night trotting meeting at Gloucester Park was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed.

**Saturday,
8th October**

We were guests of the W.A. Turf Club for the race meeting at Belmont Park in the afternoon.

In the evening we had an excellent roll-up for the Buffet Tea and Social and an enjoyable night was had by all.

**Sunday,
9th October**

This was our Gala Day at Don Turton's farm at Keysbrook. The roll-up exceeded all expectations. Don was helped by the Mandurah boys as well as the committee, and Helen Poynton and helpers provided salads, bread rolls etc. Thanks to Helen and all the girls who helped to make this a day to be remembered.

One of our greatest workers - George Fletcher - in his quiet way did much, including attending the spit cooking of the two sheep donated by Don. I also wish to thank Don's son-in-law who provided the drinks and worked tirelessly behind the bar.

Thanks to Don, Vida and family for a wonderful day.

**Monday,
10th October**

An interesting morning visit to Parliament House was kindly arranged by Tom Batemen, M.L.A.

**Tuesday,
11th October**

We had a great day at El Caballo Blanco but were down in numbers owing to a virus that affected many of our guests.

**Wednesday,
12th October**

A happy day was had on the 'Lady Houghton' cruise to Houghtons's Winery in the Upper Swan Vineyards.

**Friday,
14th October**

We had a delightful cruise down the Swan River to Fremantle on the 'Captain Cook'. Jack and Delys Carey organized a lovely morning tea. Thanks Jack and Delys.

**Saturday,
15th October**

The last night and the last of the happy gatherings was our Farewell Party, culminating in regretful farewells to our friends from all over Australia.

To all — a big Thank You.

ARCHIVES:

One lady who works so tirelessly behind the scenes in all areas is Jess Epps who, with her son Peter, has created our Archives and Museum. Thank you Jess and Peter for all you have done.

THE COURIER:

Production of the Courier is in the capable hands of the Editorial Committee. Thanks to Gerry & Mary McKenzie, Len Bagley and Arch Campbell for a great paper, and to Gerry & Mary for all the work done in compiling the new Address Book.

AUDIT:

Thanks go to John Burrige for the annual audition of our accounts.

HONOUR AVENUE - KINGS PARK:

Maintenance of our Honour Avenue has been handed over to the Kings Park Board as we were unfortunate to lose our friend, Ron Dhu, who passed away at the end of October. Rod was one of our Wardens and George Fletcher, our other Warden cannot carry on the work owing to back trouble, but has agreed to keep an eye on our 'Sacred Acre'.

MEETING VENUE:

This has been reverted back to Anzac House as our meetings are now being held in the day time.

BEREAVEMENTS:

I am sad to report that seven of our members have passed on this year, and two have been widowed. These have all been reported in the Courier.

GET WELL:

Quite a number of our members have been on the sick list; our best wishes to them for a speedy recovery.

ANZAC DAY 1983:

The Dawn Service was well attended by the 2/2nd and I had the honour of laying the wreath. The Parade drew members from far and wide. Afterwards we adjourned to the Mangrove Room of the Criterion Hotel for a pleasant afternoon together.

ANNUAL DINNER:

This is still not very well attended but enjoyed by those who do attend. Some thought will have to be given to what can be done to improve our presentation of this function.

CHRISTMAS PARTY:

Once again this was a great success. We gathered at the Criterion Hotel where the staff provided us with an excellent supper.

EAST TIMOR ASSOCIATION:

They invited the 2/2 Committee to join them at a Dinner Dance at the Dalkeith Hall on 10th December. We did appreciate their hospitality and their company.

THE POYNTON PICNIC:

January 22nd this year saw the usual enthusiastic gathering of people from all

parts of the State. Joe and Helen always make everyone so welcome. Once again there were many helpers to make the day go with a swing. Peter & Pat Campbell donated the pig that Helen's brother cooked on the spit all day and was eaten with relish at tea time. Tony Bowers' sheep was also cooked to perfection by Helen and went well with the delicious salads provided by Helen and helpers. Joe, as usual, saw that everyone had ample to drink. I had the pleasure of presenting Helen with a Life Membership Badge for the service she has rendered to us over many years.

I wish to thank all the ladies who helped Helen on this great day, and the men who assisted Joe to get things ready and to clean up afterwards.

CONGRATULATIONS:

Finally, we congratulate our old mate, Ray Aitken, on being awarded the O.A.M. Thank you, Gentlemen.

(Editor's Note)

Thank you, John, for an excellent term of leadership in what was an extremely busy, interesting and fruitful year, with Safari 1982 the focal point and an outstanding success. You set a fine example and on behalf of all members I would like to say to you and Jean, who so ably supported you, well done, a fine job indeed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The audited Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the year ended 31st January 1984 was presented by our Treasurer, Ron Kirkwood and amply demonstrates how expertly he handled our affairs.

Ron, your contribution was one of high order and, with the added load of Safari 1983, you certainly were fully committed to Unit affairs. The end result shows just how capably and how hard you worked and all members Australia wide are deeply indebted to you for a task so expertly performed. From us all a hearty 'thank you'. A Treasurer supreme.

Jack Carey spoke for us all in eulogising your contribution; he then formally moved the adoption of the Annual Statement.

NOTE: The statement of receipts and expenditure can be seen on page 2.

VICTORIAN NEWS

We had a pleasant Sunday afternoon January 22nd at Norm & Fran Tillet's place at Rosebud. George & Bettye Coulson, on their way back from the Safari were in Melbourne and showed their video tapes of the 1983 Safari and parts of their trip before and after Safari. We had a good roll-up, those present were Max & Grace Davies, Peter McCracken, Alec & Beryl Boast, Ken & Margaret Monk, Bluey & Mary Bone, Harry & Olive Botterill, Wilma Tobin, John & Cath Roberts & daughter Jane, George & Win Humphreys, Tom Nisbet, Peter & Jean Piper, George & Dot Robinson, Jack & Julie Fox, Betty & Keith Craig. We had apologies from Sir Bernard & Lady Naomi Callinan, Fred & Mavis Broadhurst, Norm & Sheila Parker, Bruce & Lorraine McLaren, Bill & Pat Petersen, David & Thais Brown, John & Shirley Southwell.

It was good to see Keith & Betty Craig again - they were visiting their son Phillip and family at Frankston and their visit worked in very well.

George's tapes are still in the unedited stage and when he gets them into one film it should be a beauty. We enjoyed what we saw and relived that marvellous Safari, and were saddened at the boys who have passed on since then. We were very sorry to hear that Norm Thornton had passed on. He was a terrific soldier and I feel very honoured to have served with Norm in Timor, New Guinea, Etc., and we extend our deepest sympathy to his wife and family.

'Happy' Greenhalgh was in Melbourne over Christmas to see his sister Alma and other relations and a little cricket. Olive and I enjoyed a lovely dinner and evening with them at Alma's place. 'Hap' is still looking as good as ever and enjoying life. Also, Gordon Stanley came down to visit his mother and two of his daughters. We had Gordon and his daughter Helen out to lunch and had a good chat. Helen is looking very well and still enjoys the air hostess life. Gordon was looking pretty good too. Theo Adams came down to Melbourne over the Australia Day weekend with Lisa and Thea, two of his daughters - lovely girls and very attractive too. Theo was visiting his brother and other relations. On the Monday Bill & Pat Tucker took Theo and the girls to see Jock & Gay Campbell at the home in Peacedale where they en-

joyed a 'B.B.Q.' lunch. Olive and I joined them after lunch and we had a very pleasant afternoon. It was good to see Jock & Fay again, both looking very well and they have a nice property of around 8 acres, on which they must have worked hard to bring it up to the lovely place it is with dams, wild ducks and plenty of Australian native trees, shrubs and fruit trees, plus spacious lawns. They can be very proud of their work. Theo and the girls had to fly on to Sydney that night to meet up with a few of the N.S.W. boys, then back to Goroka in New Guinea. Theo is looking very well - hardly knew him - has got fatter in the face and a little extra weight but he is still the Theo of old and is enjoying life at Goroka.

Well folks, that's all for now. All the very best for 1984.

Harry Botterill

BENEDICTINE ABBEY NEW NORCIA

(Editor)

Because of our tremendous admiration for the work they perform and the wonderful hospitality the Brothers extended to the 2/2 Commando Association on our trip to New Norcia during Safari 1983, we sent copies of our December 1983 Courier to Father Justin in acknowledgement of our sincere appreciation. Here is his letter in reply:—

BENEDICTINE ABBEY
NEW NORCIA
1st Feb, 1984

Dear Archie,

It was a very kind thought of yours to send us the copies of Courier. I found them most interesting and the rest of the mob here are reading them with the greatest interest.

Also it was our great pleasure to have been in the act to help make the great Safari such a roaring success.

It is wonderful to see the great bond that has persisted between the members of the unit. It tends to make life worth living when one sees such a bond of friendship and sharing. How much happier the world would be if there could be more of it

among the people, instead of the rancour and ill-feeling that so often prevails.

You will notice PAX on the head of this page. It has been the motto of the order of St. Benedict for many centuries. Of course it means PEACE, and we have had our own private peace movement long before the modern variety!

All good wishes to you, Archie, in your work, and God bless you and all the members of your group.

Yours sincerely,

J.BRUCE O.S.B.
(FR.JUSTIN)

NEEDED — A HELPING HAND

This is a chance to do something for two of our loved and esteemed members, Bob and Joyce Smith. The letter which follows this lead in Bob would not want published but the committee feels it is a great chance to at least give some one person a help over the stile. Unemployment has hazards all of its own, but here is a boy with talent trying to do something positive.

The "T" shirt sample is beautifully screened and would be unique in any society. Maybe you may not want to wear it but your son or daughter, grandson or granddaughter, would wear it with pride and purpose. It is a quiet dignified type of "T" shirt bearing the insignia that appears on our beer glasses:—

It is red printing on a white shirt with gold scroll.

2/2 AUSTRALIAN
COMMANDO SQUADRON
(IN SCROLL)

DOUBLE RED DIAMOND WITH DAGGER
1941 1945
NEW GUINEA TIMOR NEW BRITAIN
(IN SCROLL)

It is a good quality shirt and Bob's son-in-law is a real artist. Let us give the boy a boost and Australia wide put your order into Bob, for such a direct method would be advantageous to those in the Eastern States. Here in W.A. you can give your size

and forward your money to the Secretary. NOTE:— The shirt will be on display at the Anzac day reunion, orders will be accepted on that day and sent in total to Bob. "So here's a hand my trusty friend"

8 KING ST
SHORTLAND N.S.W. 2304
14.3.84

Dear Arch,

I am forwarding you a sample T-Shirt that my son-in-law has made up.

As an explanation:— He is unemployed, but being very proficient in art, designs, and silk screening processes. I asked him to make me up a couple of T-Shirts for my own personal use, using the design as on the Unit drinking glasses. I thought the finished product was so good that it crossed my mind that other members of our association would also like the shirt.

I was reluctant & hesitant about writing you this letter as it may seem that I am "pushing" the sale of these shirts. I suppose I am in a way — (but without any gain to myself) but purely for the purpose as I mentioned above. First that my son-in-law is unemployed & secondly I thought our lads may like the shirt.

Could I ask you as a friend Arch to show the shirt around to gauge the interest of our association - The price would sum to \$10.00 postage paid.

I received the address book today Arch a thank you - I hope the committee meeting will arrive at a solution to the disposal of the painting with a good return to the association. I still regret I didn't take one over for the Safari - however! Heard from George & Colleen - they are in Victoria I will soon be on the way home - sometime to the end of April I think.

I survived my last round of tests - a growth on the surface of the right kidney - with the surgeon still not prepared to operate. I wasn't exactly displeased with that decision however. Joyce has a few tests scheduled for this week following her heart attack earlier, but if alright we intend leaving here on 31st March, for the Grampian Mountains in Victoria, with a visit for about a week also in Melbourne. We hope to see some of the lads there. I am afraid that if our Doctors want to see us they will have to follow us over there.

Well Arch, all the very best to all "our family" in the West - sorry to hear Col has'n't been the best, but also pleased he is much better now

Sincere good wishes

Love Joyce & Bob

PERSONAL PARS

COLIN DOIG

was hospitalised recently and looked pretty poorly, he was having a real battle with fluid in the liver and kidney area. Typical of old C.D. tough as the old army boot, he underwent treatment for a couple of weeks, being drained etc then he reckoned it was time for home!!

Stop press report sees him alot stonger, bit of a problem with his balance but he is ever so much better. Joy must take a lot of credit as she acquiesced to his coming home if it would help Colin. She is doing a grand job in getting the old boy back on his feet. Well done Joy.

Col, every member wishes you the best of everything, this Australia wide, plus a speedy recovery to at least reasonable health and the ability to give plenty of cheek.

ARTHUR SMITH

was at the A.G.M. and looks a picture. He certainly has been through the mill and there is nothing more that can be done to alleviate his problem. Just has to live with his indisposition and Arthur is doing it in a positive manner.

FRED NAPIER

continues to retain reasonable fitness and is chirpy as ever. We are going to see if we can get Fred to our Anzac Day Reunion, he would love that, so whould we. Keep it rolling Fred, regards from all the boys.

TED LOUD

is back home and even though in trouble with his arthritis is making light of the problem. They breed them tough in the "timber jerker" country. Ted's ambition is to live a long life and enjoy it. Good luck Ted, you always were a fighter and we are sure you can win this one, or at least have a draw!! Best wishes from all your mates.

ROY WATSON

has had a really rough spin, but typical of "Wattie" he never complains. "Life was not meant to be easy" is the cry of the politicians, but some people have more than their share of hardship and Roy is no exception. Vera too has been having a battle but goes about her way quietly and without fuss. Maybe the tunnel of darkness will turn to light very quickly for you both. Our love to Vera and all the best to Roy from members Australia wide.

COUNTRY VICE PRESIDENTS

Your appointment and your area of operation is recorded in the article covering the Annual General Meeting. Let 1984-85 be a year where the country makes a contribution in the sphere of news, particularly regarding members and our widows. Maybe it is time for a Country Convention, for want of a better name, more in the form of a weekend get-together for comradeship and fun.

Do not be backward in coming forward, make a suggestion to the Secretary for the committee to act on, and if necessary, implement. Let us keep the spark in our Association, not overdone, just nice and even.

The country boys and their wives are an integral part of our Association and their inclusion in our activities would bring great pleasure to each and everyone of us.

W.A. FUTURE FUNCTIONS WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST?

The ball is in your court to come up with suggestions for another function each

year. The idea is to keep us all together, particularly the ladies, who mean so much to our Association. We men can get together on a reasonably regular basis, the girls are really limited in that direction.

Suggestions are:—

- (a) Another River Cruise up or down the Swan
- (b) Sandalford Wines came up as an alternative to Houghtons. Of course the main ingredient for a river trip is sunshine and very little wind, quite a contract.
- (c) A day barbeque at the property of one of our country members.

This is only the basis for you to work on, let us have some bright suggestions. We can use them for a few years ahead, a different one each year. Clear the cobwebs and let the cogs tick over. You may have the answer, we will do the rest!!

VALE NORMAN THORNTON Tribute from Paddy Kenneally

I would like to pay a last tribute to Norman Thornton. He was an original member of the 2/2nd Independent Company and served in that Unit from its foundation until his discharge at the end of the war in the Pacific. Apart from a short period as Troop Sergeant at war's end, his entire period of service was spent in No. 4 Section. He went from Private to Sergeant and stayed within the Section he loved so well.

Anyone judging Norman Thornton on appearances would have been far wide of the mark as to his character and capabilities. He didn't look soldierly, yet he was one of the finest soldiers and N.C.O.'s in the Unit. He possessed enormous physical endurance and determination. We who served with him loved him for his integrity, courage and leadership, not to mention his own particular brand of humour with which he cloaked tolerance of our failures.

The capabilities he displayed as a soldier went into civilian life with him. He founded and developed a successful

building business, joinery shop and hardware. He had the satisfaction of seeing his two sons take over the management and efficient running of that business.

Norman has gone, however his memory will stay in the minds of people who knew and loved him for the fine man he was. To his wife Olive, his sons and daughters, we extend our sincere sympathy in their sad loss.

CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

YAGOONA 2199 N.S.W.
13.2.84

We are having a bout of hot humid weather at present. However, compared to some of the scorchers you are having in Perth it is comparatively cool here.

I was in Canberra recently visiting Helen who has bought a home there. As you can well imagine, there was work to be done - cleaned it up in a couple of days. Helen likes Canberra, plus the fact her new job poses challenges, and that particular bundle of five feet nothing likes nothing better. It also means she will be visiting various parts of the Commonwealth of Australia - she's not 'agin' that either.

Saw Tom Snowdon who survived the Safari in good condition. He has put off retirement for a while yet and is still working for a living. Also saw Jim Dent who is in Sydney for throat surgery. The operation is behind him and I haven't seen him since then. On returning to Sydney I went walkabout and called at the Prince of Wales Hospital to see him but he was visiting his son so I missed him. The Sister assured me he was doing quite well. Hope to see him soon.

Had a call from Keith Dignum who was somewhat upset that our old No. 4 Section mate, Horrie Gay was not mentioned in the Honour Roll, or have a tree bearing his Army number, name and unit, in Lovekin Drive. I told him as far as I know that honour was restricted to men who had been killed in action or died whilst on service and that left all of us survivors unqualified for the honour. Dignum, in his usual droll cynical manner, lamented - 'I thought I'd have had a tree all to myself

commemorating the fact that I won the war and all the world should know it. Now I won't and I'm the only person who will know it.' Bad luck Dig - you should have had yourself killed instead of wounded. Think of all the people who would have missed knowing you!!

All the best Arch, and here's hoping we have finished losing some of our members for 1984. Norman Thornton was a sad loss for many of the men of the 2/2nd who had known him so well.

Good luck.

Paddy Kenneally

MAROOCHYDOR, QLD 4558

Well today is February 2nd, 1984 and it's George's birthday and the day we arrived home from the safari.

We had some wonderful visits with the W.A. fellas and wives after the Reunion and then showed the video in South Australia and again in Victoria. We were so thrilled with the reception we received from all the 2/2 members and when we received a standing ovation in Melbourne I felt like having a good cry. It was certainly worth any hassle to have the record we now have. George is getting ready to make copies as soon as possible. We enjoyed the Sandgroper Safari every 8 months of it.

We were lucky to get through N.S.W. with the floods that are causing havoc at present. We made a point of visiting Denny and June Dennis after hearing that they had lost their caravan near Clare in S.A. Had a lovely day with them and met their family.

We wonder if Max and Grace Davies and Peter McCracken will come with us via N.T. and W.A. to go to the Canberra Safari in 1986. We will have to ask them.

Please change my name to Bettye not Pat in the address book.

Please thank all the W.A. members who made the Safai the success it was.

Bettye & George Coulson.

WARWICK, W.A. 6024
24.2.84

Sorry for the delay in saying congratulations for the huge successful 1983 Safari. Our thanks especially to the organizers for the privilege of being able to participate - it was indeed an honour and gave us a very happy time.

Please find enclosed a cheque for whatever.

We noticed the number of our house was 48 in the address book & in fact it is 46.

The Courier is so welcome, we read every part of it, always enjoying the news.

Hope this finds all members well and happy. Kind regards to all.

Yours sincerely

Joy & Allan Chatfield

DEE WHY, N.S.W. 2099

Just a note to enclose with a cheque for \$30 for the 12 lapel badges I brought back from the West, and also our last N.S.W. Commando News. I apologise for my tardiness but blame it on the Xmas - New Year festivities and all that goes with them.

All well here, as far as I know. Bob Smith is due for a session of follow-up therapy starting this week and Jim Dent due to enter Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick on the 13th for some exploratory tests.

Betty and Keith Craig are working on a Mini Safari at Young about the middle of March and hope for a good response. Some of us will also be attending the Commando Regiment bivouac at Jervis Bay on the weekend of 31 March/1 April.

We had an enjoyable return trip home after that wonderful Safari and were most impressed with the southern end of W.A. We could have easily spent a couple of months but wanted to reach home in time

to see Maria before she and her husband left for Kuala Lumpur.

We trust this finds you all well and extend our best wishes for 84.

Sincerely,

Alan

DENMARK, W.A. 6333

Could you please publish the following letter on my behalf in the Courier:

On behalf of myself and my family I would like to convey our sincerest thanks and appreciation to the members of the Unit who attended Norm's funeral and for the floral tributes, cards and letters received.

As some members will well know, Norm was in ill health during the reunion in Perth in October. However, even with his ill health Norm was still able to enjoy the reunion very much and was very pleased to see his many old friends from the Unit, some of whom he had not seen for many, many years.

As some of you will know, Norm had the disease asbestosis diagnosed upon his return from the reunion, and unfortunately it was a very fast growing cancer. Norm had picked up the disease from his work as a building contractor.

Once again, our sincerest thanks to you all.

Yours sincerely

Olive Thornton

EVERTON HILLS, QLD. 4053
4.3.84

Please find enclosed cheque as a donation towards the Courier. We appreciate all the effort that goes into the newsletter and enjoy reading all the news.

Gordon and I have made it (finally to some of the get-togethers of the Unit in the last 12 months. It is great to be able to put

faces to some of the names I've read about in the Courier.

All the best for 1984

Gordon & Joan Stanley

NARRABUNDAH
CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2604

Things have been rather quiet over this way since returning from Perth. As a matter of fact Bonnie has been sick since our return - firstly she was more or less confined to bed for six weeks prior to entering hospital for two and a half weeks where she has been making a gradual recovery.

Saw Paddy and Nora Kenneally at the end of January, they were in Canberra visiting their daughter Helen who is working in Canberra and has bought herself a nice home here. Was also speaking to Jim Fenwick.

Spent a few days with Roy and Joyce Martin in Griffith last week. They are well and we managed to sink quite a few ales etc., for old times sake.

Owing to work commitments I will be unable to attend the get-together arranged by the Craigs in a fortnight's time.

We were saddened to learn that three or four of our comrades had passed on since the Perth Safari, especially Norm Thornton, as really I do not think a better soldier or citizen ever lived. Guess, however, the dreaded day must come to us all eventually.

We are enclosing a cheque for the Courier of, if you so desire, to a more important need.

Regards to one and all, no matter where they may happen to be enjoying life.

Tom & Bonnie Snowdon

THE PRESIDENT & COMMITTEE
2/2 COMMANDO ASSOCIATION

Last weekend when President Jack Fowler presented me with 'Associate Life Membership' of your Association I was

speechless and confounded, and any words I may have uttered were in no way adequate to relate just how appreciative I am to have been awarded this very great honour.

Being pleased and proud, I most sincerely thank you and trust that I can continue helpfulness and hospitality to your Association and your members, of whom I have high regard and admiration. Indeed, any assistance I have given to your Unit has been my Pleasure.

Thank you again. Take care, be well and happy. You are all dear to the heart of

Helen Poynton

WEST PENNANT HILLS,
N.S.W. 2120

Herewith small donation toward costs of Courier.

Congratulations to all who run the Association and produce the Courier.

As onetime editor of 'Goroka Grumblings' and 'Faita Fiblets' I very much appreciate their work.

A special 'Hello' to Ron Kirkwood and Col Doig

Best wishes.

Alan Dixon

SHORTLAND,
N.S.W. 2307

Thank you for your letter of 17th January, and as promised, am dropping you this note to let you know I have forwarded a painting to the West.

George & Colleen Strickland spent about five weeks with Joyce and I at our home and in Queensland (where we spent 14 days) and left here nine days ago. I cannot say when they will arrive in Perth, but they will contact you when they do.

We enjoyed their company at home and also on the road and in Queensland. We

called in on Noel & Marie Buckman at Stuarts Point and spent some pleasant hours catching up on their doings since we last met. Also called on Ron (Babe) & Nancy Teague in Ballina again a very pleasing visit with a beautiful dinner as a further reward. After a few days in Brisbane, in which time we were able to see all of Joyce's family, we spent a week in Maroochydore - home of George & Bettye Coulson, who whirled us away on sightseeing tours etc., and entertained us each night for dinner and movies he took on his tour to the West Australian Safari. George & Bettye are a couple of dynamos - and hard to keep up with - but wonderfully generous in their friendship.

The day we left Maroochydore we spent a very wonderful day at the Petrie Dam with Queensland members of the 2/2 (their get-together barbecue) with Angus & Alistair MacLachlan, Neil & Margaret Hooper, Fred & Phyllis Bryant, George & Edna Vandelluer, George & Bettye Coulson, Col Grebert, Gordon Stanley & wife (I apologise for forgetting her name) George & Colleen and Joyce & I. The day was very hot but the surrounding area was very lovely with coolness coming from the lake, and the wonderful company and conversations overcoming any discomfort of the hot day. Later, after saying our good-byes to everyone we headed for the South side of Brisbane where we were to spend four great days. A day to the Gold Coast to show George & Colleen the sights, a day seeing the sights of Brisbane, per favour of Angus MacLachlan (and his new car) with a plus of hot scones, jam and cream at the cafe on Mt. Cootha. Thanks then to George & Mel Mathieson for their wonderful hospitality (George is much better now after much pain and discomfort following an eye operation) and also Freddy & Phyllis Bryant who always welcome us to their home.

Just an aside to our travel, Arch, it is a wonderful thing, but every where one goes this terrific hospitality and friendship is extended to one and all who have in any way been connected to our Unit.

On leaving Brisbane we headed down the New England Highway with a stopover in Tamworth and a visit to Jack and Marge Peattie - again enjoying their hospitality. Marge is in wonderful health now, following her operation which prevented them attending the Safari. They will soon be on

their way to see their daughter (who is expecting) in Borneo.

Continuing our trip, we called in on George & Gloria Smith (Ron & Nancy Teague's friends who came with them to the Safari) at Musswell brook, and ran slap bang into a beautiful Sunday lunch which they had prepared in double quick time when we had phoned from Tamworth that we would drop in to say help! We departed Musswellbrook with a full tummy and sleepily made our last two hours to Newcastle and home.

George & Colleen said they had enjoyed their few weeks away and that was all the Joyce & I could hope for, for we had also had a wonderful time.

However, back to mundane things - back at home we were able to catch up on home life again, catch up on overdue bills and overdue long grass, plus hospital and medical check up.

Giving some thought since I last wrote Arch, regarding the method of disposing of and obtaining the most for the painting - I suggest that the best method would be by raffling - so it may be necessary to hold on to it until a large enough gathering of 2/2 members takes place, when a raffle could be held. Alternatively (and this would take away the onus on you to get tickets and money in) it could be announced through the Courier that the painting is to be raffled and tickets could be had on application - forwarding the money with the application. Tickets thus paid for could be enclosed with the next Courier to that person. Any way Arch, I will leave it to you and the Committee to arrange some way of disposal.

Thank you so much for your kind words in your letter but the 2/2 does mean a lot to me, and anyway if I can help I am only pleased to do so. After all, for so many years - in my job as a lighthouse keeper - I was unable to do anything or participate in many get-togethers.

Must away now Arch, please give our regards to all our friends and accepted the same.

Sincerely,

Joyce & Bob

FLINDERS PARK,
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Dear Col,

Sorry I was not at home when you rang the other night. Your bad news was not unexpected as I had a word with Jim McLaughlin during Safari and he said Brooker was in Hollywood with leukaemia and Wilbur I never did know during the army days but saw him on a couple of occasions during outings on the Safari and he looked a very very sick man.

Age is certainly catching up and thinning our ranks. I think we should have yearly get-togethers from now on as, at our age and the tempo we live at, we are a bad risk for long time policies and every year would suit most as the majority are retired. See if you can get the Canberra Safari brought forward.

We entertained the Davies on their way home, they stayed two days.

All the best to you and Joy, keep plugging.

Yours

Dud Tapper

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Norm Parker (Vic.)

we just have to get this right. Last issue misprint of address. It is—
2 McCombe Boulevard,
FRANKSTON, VICTORIA, 3199
PHONE (03) 787 8113

Delete

F.W. (Fred) Stevens, S.A. Deceased

G.A. Chatfield, W.A.

46 Dorchester Street NOT 48.

F.C. Sparkman (W.A.)
New address now —

1 Homewood Street,
CLOVERDALE, 6105
PHONE (09) 277 4058

18 BARKLY LODGE,
289 BARKLY STREET,
ST KILDA 3182
VICTORIA.

Dear Arch,

Hope that this note finds you all well in the West. Bill had his new address book and have to let you know that ours came up wrongly in it. Had the 289 Barkly Stret been there, the 18 Barkly Lodge isn't important as we live in a block of O.Y.O. units and the postie can do the rest. Main reason for this note is to send the words that Bill can remember of the words of a song Des Lilya made up about "A" Platoon. He feels that there is more to it and someone else may be able to supply those.

With best wishes for '84 to all

Bill & Eileen

A.P.S. to this Arch — Bill feels that he may have some of the words not exactly right, plus I may have spelt the place names a bit off key, but thought that it may be imprtant for your hall of memories. There mayby someone else who can remember it more correctly and completely.

Eileen.

DONATIONS

Full list in June Issue.
