



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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Vol. 50

AUGUST 1984

Price 1c

COMING EVENTS 1984 ANNUAL DINNER

PLACE: Anzac House, St. George's Terrace, Perth.
DATE: Friday, 12th October, 1984.
TIME: 11.00 a.m. — First Floor — Refreshments
12 noon — Lunch Buffet Style

The Committee very wisely decided to hold this as a day time function to attract a larger Roll Call. Make it a must day on your calendar. It may be the last all male Annual Dinner for next year the Committee will discuss inviting the ladies.

Ladies: The suggestion is to accompany your husbands and have a get-together of your own at a chosen spot. Link up later at a pre-arranged time in the early or late p.m., whichever you decide on!

COUNTRY CONVENTION - MANDURAH

DATES: Friday, 2nd November 1984
Saturday, 3rd November 1984
Sunday, 4th November 1984

At last we are back on the ball. It is a 'Unit GET-TOGETHER' retaining the old nostalgic name of CONVENTION.

THE PROGRAMME

Friday, 2nd FREE DAY - private entertainment.
EVENING - meet in the famous front bar of the Peninsula Hotel for a 'Happy Hour' Dinner in the Peninsula Bistro.

Saturday, 3rd CRUISE ON THE 'RIVER QUEEN' up the Estuary to Ravenswood Hotel for lunch and return to Mandurah for a free evening.

Sunday, 4th FREE DAY - private entertainment.

Monday, 5th HOMEWARD BOUND.

Accommodation MANDURAH HOTEL - \$34.00 Double or Twin, room only. Breakfast available.

Contact LEN BAGLEY - P.O. Box 166, Mandurah, 6210
Phone: (095) 35 6186
Please advise Len if you are certain starters before Saturday, 15th September.

WHAT A WEEKEND!! - BE IN IT!

The Mandurah Members will be on the ball!!!

COMMEMORATION SERVICE

PLACE: Unit Area - Lovekin Drive - Kings Park
DATE: Sunday 18th, November, 1984
TIME: 3.00 P.M.
To Honour our Fallen - Please - A Big Rollup.

We are trying to organise a function after the Service. Watch October Courier.

CANBERRA SAFARI 1986

DATES HAVE BEEN SET:

8th to 17th March 1986

Canberra want numbers attending 12 months ahead for booking purposes. Committee on the move.

TOPLINE SAFARI — JOIN THE CROWD

FURTHER NEWS — OCTOBER COURIER

CONTACTS: JIM FENWICK AND DANNY DANIELS (THOMAS)

EDITORS NOTE:

Your Editor will be out of circulation from the 18th September to early November. October Courier will be handled by Gerry McKenzie and Len Bagley. Thanks boys.

"EXCLUSIVE"

TIMOR SITUATION - A CLEARER PICTURE

This article is nearer approached to a logical review of the situation than any seen so far. It was recorded in the Melbourne Age but will be of interest to all members Australia wide. It gets nearer to the heart of the matter.

It comes hot on the heels of the Federal Government's approach and puts the self determination issue in a right perspective. The "Courier" will try and convey as much news on an island and its people that are so close to the heart of us all. It certainly has been one of the tragedies of the last decade. What would we give for a truthful review of happenings on the island of Timor over that period of time.

JAKARTA, 15 July.— The head of the Roman Catholic Church in East Timor has accused Indonesian troops there of intensified repression in a new campaign launched to Indonesian rule. But Monsignor Carlos Felipe Ximenes Belo, the Apostolic administrator of Dili, said guerillas of the Fretilin independence movement "also terrorise people, burn houses, steal and take food".

In an exclusive interview here with 'The Age', Monsignor Belo said: "It is the East Timorese people who suffer from the Indonesian side, and from the Fretilin side".

Monsignor Belo, a priest of the Salesian Order, was appointed by the Vatican last May when his predecessor — acting Bishop Martinho Da Costa Lopes, also a Timorese and an outspoken critic of alleged human rights abuses in the territory — was withdrawn under Indonesian pressure.

He told 'The Age' that the violent methods used by Fretilin were wrong and had caused suffering to their own people. But I do not think those in Fretilin are communists. Their real aspiration is for self-determination. But everyone who wants self-determination in East Timor is called communist by the Indonesian authorities."

He said Fretilin was not united. Nor was the guerilla movement very strong and most people in East Timor were living under the control of the Government.

Indonesia had tried to improve education, roads, bridges and other facilities in the province through a development program. "But it has not satisfied the Timorese. It has not made them happy. They feel it is

not for them, but for Indonesia.

"We live under oppression. The Timorese want peace and liberty, but at present the whole of East Timor is like prison."

Monsignor Belo said he believed the best way to restore peace and protect the rights of the people was for a ceasefire to be declared, Indonesian military reinforcements sent to East Timor since last August withdrawn, and negotiations resumed between Fretilin and the provincial administration headed by Governor Mario Carrascalao, who is a Timorese.

East Timor was incorporated as Indonesia's 26th province in 1976 after Indonesian forces invaded the disputed Portuguese colony in December 1975 at the request of a small Timorese pro-integration party when Fretilin made a unilateral declaration of independence.

Monsignor Belo said East Timor should be given greater autonomy. He said several parts of Indonesia had been given this status by the Government.

"Self-determination is very difficult to obtain. So there should be a special status for East Timor. I think that would be a first step to peace, to development.

"The hope of the people is for a Timorese administration, with Timorese given more opportunity to work in Government offices, trade and commerce," he said.

"Instead, they find Indonesians, usually from Java (the country's main island where more than 65 per cent of the 160 million population lives), Sulawesi and Sumatra." Monsignor Belo, who is in Jakarta to attend an Indonesian Catholic Bishops' conference which began yesterday, said there must be respect for Timorese culture, religion, identity and the rights of its 565,000 people.

Traditionally, East Timorese have been animists, Catholics or a mixture of both. But he said some Indonesian military and civilian officials in East Timor who were "fanatical Moslems" had started to build mosques in prominent places and promote Islam.

"If Indonesia is determined to colonise East Timor by force, things will become more difficult. There will be more resistance from the Timorese."

He said he would like to explain his proposals to Indonesia's President Suharto and the armed forces Commander, General Benny Murdani, but he had not had the opportunity. After a meeting here with Australia's Foreign Minister, Mr Hayden, on Friday, General Murdani said he told Mr Hayden "loud and clear" that a request contained in a new resolution on Timor passed by the

ALP conference last week to send an independent fact-finding mission to East Timor was unacceptable interference in Indonesia's internal affairs.

General Murdani said there was no human rights problem in the province and no more fighting between Indonesian forces and Fretilin guerillas.

In May, Western sources told me Indonesia had about 12,000 soldiers in East Timor. They said Fretilin had no more than 500 armed fighters and that although incidents continued they were confined mainly to the eastern end of the island in the Los Palos and Viqueque districts.

An Indonesian source closely involved in East Timorese affairs agreed that Monsignor Belo, who is 36, was in a very difficult situation. "He's caught in the middle in a civil war," the source said.

But the Catholic leader was young and inexperienced. He should be realistic and recognise that the most effective way to protect the interests of the East Timorese and the Catholic Church there was to co-operate with those in the civilian administration and the Indonesian armed forces who were trying to restore order and develop the province after centuries of neglect under Portugal.

The source said East Timor had become "an emotional issue" for Indonesia. The military maintained that Fretilin extremists after negotiations early last year took advantage of a lengthy truce to re-arm, reorganise and resupply.

In August they launched an unprovoked attack against an Indonesian military unit engaged in development work, killing or wounding many of its members.

The armed forces head made the decision then to crush those Fretilin supporters who would not surrender.

But the source also said that the civilian administration in the province had been improved this year and the International Committee of the Red Cross allowed to resume visits to detainees. An ICRC delegation had made the second in a continuing series of visits to detainees last month.

In February, Monsignor Belo wrote to the Reverend Costa Lopes, who is now a priest in Portugal, accusing Indonesian forced of widespread excesses. Excerpts from his letter were published by 'The Age'.

When the US Secretary of State, r Schultz, briefly raised the East Timor issue in a meeting with Indonesia's Foreign Minister, Dr Mochtar, on Wednesday he was told that a recent letter from more than 120 US Congressmen and comments from the Pope in Rome that were critical of Indonesia had been influenced by

Monsignor Belo's report.

Dr Mochtar said that was unfortunate because he did not think the information in the Belo report was accurate.

Monsignor Belo told me he kept the Vatican informed of the situation in East Timor by sending regular letters to the Papal Nuncio in Jakarta.

He said he was prepared to speak out publicly if things needed to be removed if that is the price of defending human rights and the rights of the Timorese. The truth should be published."

The situation in East Timor was still "very critical". Last month Indonesian forces had begun a new operation against Fretilin and anyone suspected of being a Fretilin sympathiser.

But he said the operation had not been successful because the Fretilin guerillas had broken up into small squads and the Indonesian troops could not find them. Indonesian troops are everywhere and the people are afraid," he said.

Monsignor Belo said there was also pressure to remove Governor Carrascalao from office but "we don't know who is behind it". He said the Governor, an Indonesian appointee had been "working very hard for the province and the people."

He said in many places there were "violations of human rights, assassinations, and cases of arrest and imprisonment without trial of anyone suspected of having links with Fretilin. The families of the prisoners are in bad condition."

He claimed that last month, 10 Timorese **were summarily executed at Bacau airport** by Indonesian Red Beret troops because they were suspected of being Fretilin supporters.

"I have heard of many cases like that in other places. I get a lot of complaints from the people about military abuses and the violation of human rights."

Monsignor Belo said in some areas of East Timor people were not allowed by the military to go more than a few kilometres from their villages and this meant they could not tend some of their crops.

There was no food shortage in the western part of the province, "but the situation is rather bad in the eastern part".

Indonesian authorities had also conscripted Timorese villagers into a local militia that was being used to try to track down and fight Fretilin guerillas.

ARCHIVES MUSEUM

Peter Epps letter below will put this in its right perspective. He has done a tremendous job establishing an Archives/Museum essentially dedicated to the 2/2 Commando Association to keep very much alive their proud record during the war years of 1939/45. This, so that posterity will know what our Unit was all about. Give him the support he deserves, likewise his Mother Jess Epps.

We have all been remiss, that includes the Editor, but let us make a big effort to help Peter create something close to his heart. Dear old Bill Epps would appreciate this tremendously. Come on fella's get out the form and all the gear Peter requires to activate this grand idea.

The Editor

Peter Epps
Box 39
Hillary's,
W.A. 6025

Dear Mr Campbell,

Could you please place a reminder in the next "Courier" regarding the questionnaire in the June issue. As at this date I have only had 17 replies. Please emphasise that I require the information from all members including widows, who can get the Regt. No. from the medals and hopefully rank from members discharge or paybooks. If widows are not sure of what medals they have, they can get in touch with me, above address, and I will only be too happy to be of assistance.

I still require material for the Archive Museum, so if members have anything at all could they please write and tell me. I require photo's, written accounts of service badges, slouch hat, caps, the list goes on. No matter what it is, if it has anything to do with the Unit and it's members, it should be in the Archive. Once again thanks in anticipation, Regards,

Peter Epps

AIR NIUGINI

When one of our boys has been successful at anything it is a real news item for the Courier. But, to be the Manager of an inaugural company that has proved a big success, then we must give due praise to the person involved. This, then, is about Ralph Conley, who figures so prominently in a publication commemorating Air Niugini's 10th Anniversary.

We all know that Ralph was the very successful Manager of T.A.A. in Queensland, but the events leading up to that appointment shows how justified T.A.A. were in making such a move.

The early part of 1973 saw the planning of the takeover from T.A.A. and Ansett of their internal services by Air Niugini. The middle of 1973 plans for a nationally owned airline were well under way, on the 1st of November, 1973 Air Niugini operations officially commenced with Ralph Conley its first General Manager. Michael Somare, now Prime Minister, then Chief Minister, in a speech following the ribbon cutting ceremony said, "I believe Air Niugini will be more than just an airline, air travel had always been and will continue to be a major unifying force within our country. The aircraft will fly over geographical barriers that previously isolated our people from each other. It will help to create a united Papua New Guinea far more than all the words of politicians. Because of this it is fitting that when we enter self government we will do so with our own airline. I wish to convey to the General Manager, Mr Ralph Conley, and his staff throughout Papua New Guinea, the Government's faith in the future of Air Niugini.

Successful it indeed was and in its first year the record it established humbled its critics, who warned not enough time had been allowed for planning the airline. They argued that it would take years, little did they appreciate the talents of the new General Manager, Ralph Conley. In its first year of operation it carried 350,000 passengers - 85,000 more than the taskforce had forecast and more than the number carried by T.A.A. and Ansett in the preceding year.

Under Ralph's astute management it grew and prospered, not always without its problems, but Ralph had had 26 years experience with T.A.A., seven of it in New Guinea. He was well qualified to lead this brand new organisation and it made a profit in its first year of operation despite, and significantly, the fact that the worlds major airlines were in financial difficulties owing to inflation and fuel costs.

The conception of international operation and need for expansion had been pursued by Ralph Conley fulfilling the desire to show the Papua New Guinea flag on the international scene. In 1975 there was a weekly service to Manila and Hong Kong by wet-leasing a Boeing 707 from Quantas, already a service was in operation to Brisbane by the same leasing method.

1976 saw Ralph replaced after three years of rapid expansion and strenuous efforts by him and his staff that had put Air Niugini on the map as a very viable organisation. It had been well bred for its role as the national carrier and Air Niugini can thank Ralph Conley for the base set and the tremendous expansion it has achieved in its first decade.

Today Ralph is retired but still deeply involved as a consultant for his experience was born in a very hard field. He achieved great success and we congratulate Ralph (Tuan Blue), on his contribution to the founding and forming of Air Niugini. Quietly in the wings has been his delightful wife Sheila, all who know her would testify to her being the ideal person to keep Ralph on an even keel, making the adage live, behind every successful man there is a fine woman.

Happy retirement to you both. God bless and love from all the 2/2 members.

Editor

This article could not have been written without the information sent by Ron Archer conveyed in the publication of Air Niugini's "Paradise" - a 10th Anniversary Special Issue. Thanks Ron for your thoughtfulness.

VALE - DAVE ROSS

This man will be known to many of the Unit boys, particularly those who were in the Timor Campaign.

He was, when we occupied Portuguese Timor, although an Australian, the British Consul. His contribution to our cause was one of high order. He helped us to settle into Dili and was a great diplomat in his dealings with the Portuguese, Dutch and our own hierarchy. His advice on the Timorese and the way to get on side with them was invaluable, the terrain, the weather patterns, the hazards we would encounter in our patrolling, all were spot on.

Dave was virtually under house surveillance once the Japanese landed and we next saw him when he was sent by the Japanese to Hato-Lia with a 'Surrender Notice', via the Japanese Consul, but the message was from the Japanese Commander. Bernie Callinan's 'Independent Company' describes it perfectly.

On the 17th March 1942 Dave was on his way back to Dili with a 'No Surrender' message for the Japanese. It was a traumatic occasion for him, likewise us, to see him go was really emotional as no one knew what would happen to him.

Dave was to make another trip for the Japanese, again carrying a 'Surrender Notice' to Ainaro, this time in poor health after close confinement and meagre rations. Before departure he told the Japanese that the Australians would not surrender, they, the Japanese, would have to go out and fight them in the hills, but **even then they did not have enough troops to capture the Australians.** He was a brave man who did not hide behind his post as Consul.

Out he came in June and reached Ainaro an exhausted man. He had made no promise to return so Force H.Q.'s asked permission for this loyal man to be repatriated to Australia. It was not immediately forthcoming, but ultimately Dave Ross left Beco heading for Australia on the little 'Kuru' piloted by Lt. Bennett. His job well and truly done he deserved it, an Aussie to the nth degree.

We mourn the loss of this old friend, gentleman, diplomat, courageous. When the 2/nd Commando Association was formed he became a member and was a regular guest at our Annual Dinner and other functions.

He remained a friend of the 2/2nd to the very last and we honour him for his excellent contribution to our cause, to contain the Japanese and to 'Not Surrender'. Both were done and Dave Ross played a big part indirectly in both these happenings.

Vale, Dave Ross, you fought a good fight. Rest content in the vale of Valhalla, where the only surrender will be, to God himself.

PERSONAL PARS

FRED NAPIER is still jogging along fairly well and remains the old cheerful Fred. You certainly take infirmity in your stride Fred. Very kind regards from us all.

WENDEL WILKIE has been hospitalised but is out and about again. Nice to hear all is well Wendel, take care of yourself and very best wishes from all the boys.

RON DOOK is making progress after an extended period undergoing physiotherapy for his replacement knee cap. Ron rigged up his exercise area and is trying his very best to gain maximum mobility. Knowing Ron's courage he will succeed. We all wish you well Dookie and love to Nan.

BRUCE POYNTON, brother of Joe and Jack, has been visiting the West and staying with Helen and Joe at Mandurah. Bruce has returned to Melbourne after an enjoyable stay. He is a keen 2/2 supporter and an avid reader of the Courier. Good luck from us all Bruce.

ALF HILLMAN came to our July Committee Meeting and despite having to use two walking sticks to help his mobility is as bright as a button. Still drives his car, has to be an automatic, finds it a lot easier on his long treks from Albany. Great to see you Alf.

GORDON and EVA ROWLEY have escaped the chilliness of our Perth Winter having headed to the glorious climate of Darwin. Great place at this time of the year, you surely picked the right spot. Happy travelling.

ARTHUR SMITH is out of hospital at long last, what a haul it has been for him, what a battle he has had, and won! Colin Doig passed on his news and Arthur gives great credit to the nurses in the handling of his situation, they virtually did the job of reducing his leg problem to the size of a finger nail scar. What a great relief for Beryl and how wonderful she has been over the long, long weeks of waiting for such an improvement. Arthur we may not have visited you in hospital but rest assured our prayers have been with you this time for a great recovery. Well done, well fought, trust this is a happy ending to your problem of so many years. Our love to you both.

"PING" MATHEWS is coming back to good health nicely. He and Terri are living in Northampton and enjoying the new scenery. Ping lost his brother in Esperance recently. Our sympathy to you Ping. Good Luck from us all.

HELEN POYNTON and JEAN MORGAN. Both of these tremendous girls have had injury problems of some order, but like the "troopers" they are, have said naught until they were back on their feet. Helen was hospitalised for a period but now has recovered to be her old self. Jean has a series of mishaps, busted knee, burnt stomach from a cooking accident, for an encore decided to break a rib. Never, like Helen, mentioned the troubles until she had almost completely recovered. These girls do nothing by halves! Keep on your feet girls we need people like you about. Everyone across Australia will be glad to know that you have both rebounded to good health. Our best love to you both and God bless.

A SPECIAL BULLETIN ON COLIN DOIG

Every letter received enquires about Colin and his current health. He certainly is the **Father of the family of the 2/2members** and his contribution in the years of war and peace, have endeared him to each and everyone of us in a very special way. Colin is not all that well but still moves about with courage and fortitude, fighting an ailment that is a difficult one, giving to all who see or ring him a cheery "hullo" and relegating his problems to the background. Joy still tends him with loving care, she too has had a ban spin with her back but is now recovered and is back on the ball. Colin over all the years has been as tough as granite and that continues to this day, but in his heart of hearts the old bloke is a real "softie", no wonder we love him so. Thought all members would be interested as to his welfare and that of Joy's. God bless you both, this from everyone of us.

DONATIONS

Kath Press	Pulleine
Dorothy Spence	Mitchell
MESSRS:	Gurr
	Shenn
Hodge	Adams (Tony)
Fullerton	Grebert
Hillman	Goodhew
Timms	Smythe (Eric)
Murphy	Haire

CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

Young, N.S.W.
June, 1984

This being my first letter, I don't know how to start. I quite often chastise myself for having an acute case of writer's cramp, but guess there is no excuse for a thirty years silence. One of the high lights of my life is the Courier and my thanks go out to all who have helped in its compilation over the years - my address has changed half a dozen times but it's still arriving O.K. Please note new address.

I would have loved to go to the W.A. Safari but finances did not permit. Finances - that's been the problem of my life. In the early fifties I divorced Jess, we had no children. I then married Dulcie who popped the kids out like shelling peas - we had fourteen. Unfortunately she got wise to the fact I was causing it, so she took off nine years ago and left me a sole parent, which I still am, with two kids in high school and one in primary school. I have nineteen

grand children at the moment and none on the way. I'm not complaining as all the kids have been great. I guess the training and being in such a unit as ours taught us to adapt to changing conditions.

I'm looking forward to April as this will give the opportunity to meet all who attend. I will make my own arrangements as I'm only ninety odd miles from Canberra. What is happening in Timor is very disturbing and I would like to see our Government take real hard line with Indonesia, regardless of diplomatic relations. People like the Indonesians take a tough line and understand nothing else. Let us hope and pray that the people of Timor survive the oppressions of this very nasty Government. My sincere sympathy goes out to all Timorese affected by these events - let's hope for brighter news in the future.

Enclosed is a few dollars - will try to send more at a later date.

My regards to all and may God bless you all.

Tom Pulleine

EDITOR

Tom, wonderful to hear from you. You sure have had your problems and surmounted them. All the very best from everyone. Good luck.

Orange, N.S.W.
June, 1984

Afraid I do not have anything of interest to contribute to the Courier but arrival of June issue prompts me to forward a donation towards same - something I have intended doing for some time. I look forward to the Courier - on par with receiving a good newsy letter. To all those on the sick list I wish them better days ahead.

All well on our home front and I trust the same with you. My love to Jean M. I hope she is keeping well.

Regards,

Kath Press
Mt. Gravatt, Qld.
June, 1984

Just a few lines, also am forwarding a donation for Courier, or where best suited in accounts.

I wish to make a belated apology for not staying for duration of Safari, but as I earlier said to John Fowler and yourself that I would be attending on a daily basis only. I spoke to John about the wife's misadventure when crossing Nullabor, stood on a stone and received an infected leg in the process. It did not improve so we decided to return home.

I found the Sorrento Caravan Park very good and would recommend it to any who are travelling up the coast from Perth. When speaking to Ron Archer, 2/2nd, at Sergeants' Mess, Victoria Barracks on Anzac Day, he said he did not receive Courier so I am enclosing his business address card and am sure he would be pleased to receive same.

Also noticed in address book Sam Fullbrook's name only. His last known address to me was Gresham Street, East Brisbane, 4169. Also Cal Carthew, address Kedron, Qld. I heard he went back to his home town of Mount Gambier.

Had a talk to George Coulson on Anzac Day. He's considering making a Safari with two vehicles across the Simpson Desert during the winter months. It may be worth following up as it might have some interest for a column in the Courier. I'm sure if you wrote to him he would give you details.

Am not a good letter writer so I will close now. Am enclosing \$1.50 for car sticker and a cheque for a donation. Hoping you are all well.

Yours faithfully,

(Spud) Murvin Murphy

Yeronga, Qld.
July, 1984

I have certainly been a long time acknowledging your kind remarks and sympathy in the Courier. It was a year yesterday since Allan died. I know you will forgive me and understand.

Thank you for so kindly sending the Courier. The names of the original Unit members are so very affectionately remembered by me, as they always were by Allan. What a splendid job you fellows have done in keeping the Association and supporters together.

Enclosing a cheque towards postage or whatever.

Yours sincerely,

Dorothy Spence

EDITOR

Dorothy, we all fully understand the time factor. May the years ahead treat you kindly. Love from us all.

Griffith, N.S.W.
June, 1984

It seems quite a long time since I last sent along a donation to the Courier, but then age steadies us all down in several ways and I'm no exception.

Hope this note finds you and all the boys well and enjoying life. I met up with a few of the boys at a mini safari at Keith & Betty Craig's place in Young early in the year. They all appeared to be wearing well, but by the reports in the Courier the numbers are thinning out.

We are experiencing quite a dry spell and a lot of the dry area farmers need rain to finish sowing their crops. We had good rain early in the autumn.

Give my regards to all the chaps over your way and tell Mick Morgan I've slowed down 80% walk-wise and can't raise a jog. I still look forward to the Courier, without it we would be lost. We all appreciate the amount of work you people do over there regards the Courier. Enclosed is a cheque for the new address books and Courier - use it whatever way you think best.

Cheerio, good health and good luck.

Yours Sincerely,

Alf Hodge

Shorthand, N.S.W.
July, 1984

I have today forwarded a windcheater to you and trust it is to your satisfaction. Still the orders are coming and it is only by your kind words per medium of the Courier that this is so. My daughter and son in law thank you so much and also wish to let all those who have ordered T-Shirts or windcheaters know that they deeply appreciate the support they have received.

Thank you also for your kind words regards the painting - I'm pleased that all went off O.K. in that regard. It sounds as if your Anzac Day reunion was great, also the turnout with the S.A.S.R. Group. Would like to have been there.

We had a wonderful time with Jess Epps when she stayed with us. We were sorry to see her leave but very pleased that she stayed with us as long as she did. We have had a wonderful year so far in regard to having our dear friends around. It was like old times with the years rolling back with George and I being together in the Sapper Section again. He hasn't changed - still a rotten liar (in a humorous fashion of course) and still of impish behaviour. Of course I remembered back that one has to look into his eyes to gauge his seriousness - personally I don't know how Colleen has

put up with him so long. She has that calm temperament that overcomes George's exaggerations. Our trip to Queensland with them was great with never a worry and more enjoyment meeting up with many of the 2/2nd Group.

Our trip to Victoria was also a wonderful experience. First to Dubbo to meet up with Frank & Phyllis Sharp then to Broken Hill, The Grampian Mountains, Mt. Gambier, Warrnambool, Ballarat and Melbourne. What a lovely surprise there - a get-together at the Esplanade Hotel, St. Kilda. Harry Botterill, in his letter to the Courier, has listed all who attended. It was a great afternoon spoilt by the fact that it had to end - we wished it could have lasted longer. Our stay in Melbourne was marred by heavy rain and we were not able to take advantage of the many invitations we received to our friends' homes, but there is always another day.

We travelled to the Snowy Mountains, experienced the cold and then headed for warmer areas. Called in at Young where we met up with Keith & Betty Craig, Harry & Olive Botterill and Jess Epps (we seem to run into her a lot). Had a very pleasant time there before heading on to Dubbo where we met up with Jess again, and again calling on the Sharps, and then home. Following our invitation to Jess she arrived at our place a week later and then followed three weeks of fun and good company. Maybe she will write of her travels so will only say - like George Coulson, she is a human dynamo and damn hard to keep up with - but great fun.

On our return home it was found that my condition had regressed and it became necessary for me to commence Chemotherapy again. Bloody Hell! That was something I could do without, thank you! I am required to undergo six one monthly treatments at this stage and so far have had two, with the third coming up this week. As usual it makes one a bit out of sorts and works out that just as one is getting over one lot it is time for the next dose. Oh, well, I feel that I beat it once, I can do it again.

Joyce is also battling her illness and at present is not very well, indeed, has been quite sick this last week or so. She has been for some tests and is undergoing medical treatment at present with the aim of lowering her blood sugar content to contain the diabetes becoming worse, but as usual Joyce hides her illness a lot and carries on uncomplaining.

One good point about Joyce and I being as we are, we are quite content to stay home now (only till after winter though) and catch up on my painting and Joyce her knitting and sewing. I have completed quite a few

paintings in the last 6 or 8 weeks.

One thing I missed out on - while Jess was here we also had Don ('Shorty') Stevens from South Australia with us a week and have had him with us again these last four days, with him leaving for South Australia and home this morning. It has been great meeting up with Don and catching up on old times. He really is a great bloke and has the courage of ten men, having brought himself back from that bad accident he had in 1979. It is a marvel, for I believe he was very badly injured and to know what he has been through just shows what courage does exist inside many of our friends - and men and women in all walks of life.

Well, this is developing into a saga so will have to stop this pen hand running off the rails.

We are looking forward to Canberra and 1986 with great anticipation so that we will meet up with all our friends again, but in the meantime would you convey through the Courier our kind regards and wishes to all. Pleased that Col is bounding along and his health improved. Best wishes and sincere regards,

Joyce and Bob Smith

EDITOR

Bob, we are all right behind you and Joyce in your ever present battle against adversity. Your wonderful approach is an object lesson to us all. God bless from members Australia wide.

Yagoona, N.S.W.
July, 1984

What a day to write to the Courier. The glorious 12th. The Lambeg drums will be beating all over North East Ulster - Boom Boom Boom, and it will go on till the end of August. The battle of the Boyne must have been the greatest battle in history. Another strange thing the ones who have celebrated it since 1690 had nothing to do with winning it. Sure and was King Billy and his gallant Dutchmen, as usual we Irishmen backed the wrong king to fight for. We lost, and although it wasn't a very big battle it certainly handed down some mighty big problems, and alas and alack, King Solomon has been in his grave for about 29 centuries and Maggie Thatcher is a poor substitute.

Talking about the Emerald Isle, Nora has been over there since early May and should be back in God's own country within a couple of weeks. Reports the weather has been absolutely glorious, the political scene zero, the cost of living is wishing the Angels good morning, and at

the rate work is disappearing, the number receiving Social Service payments will outnumber those paying taxes to supply same. The Irish have solved one problem. They only fill the pubs from Friday night to the early hours of Sunday morning now - it reduces the drinking, singing and dancing somewhat, but that is also overcome, they talk about what it was like on Monday and Tuesday, and speculate on what the next 'cehhid' will be like during Wednesday and Thursday. Friday, of course, is spent getting ready for that night's 'Hoaley'. Living is easy, it's saving that's hard and the Celts have never been noted savers. Why make life difficult? The above is the report by my Special Correspondent in County Cork.

Spent a couple of weeks in Melbourne, played golf with myself and managed my usual century plus, and it is quite a plus. Enjoyed the Carlton beer, had a look to make sure Chloe was still about, she is, and hasn't put on any weight or aged one whit since last I saw the wench (about 1940). Enjoyed good weather, a good transport system and a fairly good game of Aussie Rules. One team was very good, it was their opponents down-graded it to 'fair'. Met up with Max Davies, he's taking life easy in a very pleasant spot. Had a great couple of days with John & Cath Roberts. They have quite a lovely corner of Paradise up there in those mountains. The weather was excellent and the view from the dining room superb. Cath is well, happy and contented and has no desire to return to the busy life of a career woman. John was only out of hospital a week or so, a double hernia operation, so that restricted his mobility. It will take a while for those lower abdomen muscles to strengthen, that's a slow job requiring the right exercise. It didn't stop him taking me over to see Arnold Webb. I would not have found him without a guide. He's a bit like Gordon Holmes, he has an address, but you have to be a good tracker to find him. He has a nice little property up there 'in them thar hills'. I've only seen the few stumps left behind, but if what has been cleared was anything like them for girth, they would not be out of place down in your Karri Valley of the Giants country. Arnold was not sitting down scratching his head to get that property to its present carrying capacity, plus the fact that he was working outside felling timber, splitting posts, or mill work to keep the finance coming in (he's no Celt).

I invited him to Sydney - first time he called it off, one of the cows was crook. Second time he made it, he set out on the return journey today. Curly O'Neill had disappeared for the weekend. Called up to

Jack Hartley yesterday afternoon, no-one there either. Jack must reckon West Fairfield is an extremely honest area - unlocked garage, the door a couple of feet open and a motor scooter on show for all to see. Three dogs barked like hell then nearly licked me th death. We waited for over half an hour, but the Hartleys had surely gone walkabout.

We spent a pleasant evening with Alan Cardy and his most charming wife. I think Alan admitted to 76. Well, if I look as trim, lean and fit and presentable at 76 I'll volunteer for the century. Alan retired from the Army 1972. Put in eight years with B.P. Oil after that and has now retired altogether. He passes his time in doing charity work for various organisations, I mean Charity Work, it probably costs Alan. He and Arnold had much to talk about. As the tales unfolded I knew why Arnold had made a special request to see him. It was a most enjoyable evening, well after midnight before we left. Another request, he wished to see Bob Larney, a bit harder to accomplish, in fact impossible. Bob Larney was killed in a motor car accident on 13th December 1974. I was lucky and managed to find where his widow lived. We had not seen Bob for years, and then only once. I caught up with his history. He married a Land Army Girl from Roma while the war was still on, raised four girls and one son - the son was a long time behind the rest, he was only eight when Bob was killed. A fine boy, finished school last year after his finals and has a good position with a future. All the girls are married and spread around the country. Looking and listening to Mrs Larney, I reckon she was the best luck Bob ever had. She is a fine woman. Reckon that's what turned the rough, wild tearaway from Redfern to reasonable mellowness. There was one hell of a lot of good beneath that wild exterior, as Norman Thornton could testify. If Bob was about when Norman arrived at the end of his track it would have been a happy reunion. They had a friendship, understanding, and a high regard for each other hidden under the guise of rough humour and banter.

Arnold isn't all that good, he looks, and is, I expect, strong and hale. There were times here when he looked very drawn on it and the few late nights we had wouldn't have helped. Apart from that he's been hit by trees, tractors, trucks, he's a bloody walking accident, and some of them serious, but you can't get him near a doctor. The best I could do was get him to a chemist, fortunately he's a friend of the family so he took an interest in the 'bushman'. Those blue eyes of his looked much clearer this morning; I hope his trip

home is safe and without incident. This house is awfully quiet; Michael is off playing indoor cricket, Gerald is dining out. He brought a Towing Company and is sole owner. He knows what he has bought because he worked for it and pretty well ran it. His boss frantically scraping money up anywhere and everywhere. The story is not unusual - the assets go for whatever they will bring and it was the usual old story causing all the strife; each reader will have a different answer and there are no prizes. Scrooge (Gerald) stepped in, reckoned if he could run it for someone else he could run it for himself. He's only 22 so if it goes down the drain he has plenty of time to pick up and start again. A few stumbles, falls and kicks in the tail are all in a day's work as long as the person concerned has enough will and determination to get up. If they haven't they can lie there and collect a few more kicks. The quicker you are up and kicking back the less you suffer and it's up to yourself. I think the 'lean bloke' has learned this since leaving school. I intended watching Nationwide, commenced this letter and forgot all about it. I wanted to catch up on the comment concerning the A.L.P. Conference. Not impressed with the policy on Timor, it's quite at variance with what Bill Hayden was advocating when he was Leader of the Opposition. He is certainly following in the footsteps of all Opposition - it looks different from the other part of the House. As for their abortion policy, we need abortion in this country about as much as we need a Hydrogen bomb on each Capital City. We must have finally reached the stage where the area between our ears is a solid block. 3,000,000 square miles of country inhabited by 15,000,000 people. There are over two billion people living to the north of Australia, an enormous number knowing nothing but hunger and poverty; morally they would be quite entitled to grab us. They may get desperate enough to just do that one day, and do to us what we did to the aborigines. It's up to ourselves - either we populate it with our own or continue to take migrants in an effort to raise our population. Seeing I'm almost at my three score and ten, don't suppose it will cause me much heartbreak and my offspring don't seem to be any different from the rest. They prefer the good life. Well, they may be around to experience the misery. Now, with all those cheerful thoughts, and dire forebodings I'll say farewell, clean up and read Lord Moran's Winston Churchill. The good Lord who is a fan of Winnie's (he was his doctor) has done nothing to alter my opinion of the tubby man with the cigar.

Unfortunately I won't be around when the objective histories of Winnie and his times will be written. As the Doig would say I'll either be Harping or Stoking. For the record, when I was a school boy I dreamt I mae the half way house and I was last in the queue for the exit. In fact my backside was pressed hard up against the bars separating the hot place from where I was. I've always consoled myself with the thought I could only move forward or upward.

Good health and happiness to all.

Paddy Kenneally

Para Hills West, S.A.

June, 1984

I have been receiving the Courier for the last 20 or more years, so thought I should write a few lines to say what I have done since the end of the War.

I moved to Brisbane on the return to Australia from Rabaul, and worked in the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. Married a Brisbane girl and we had two children, now parents themselves and we had our own home in Windsor, a suburb of Brisbane. Whilst working in the Fire Brigade I also joined the C.M.F. and spent 11 years with this unit, the 9th Battalion. I left the Battalion and joined the regular army in the Royal Aust. Fire Service which is a wing of the Engineer Corps. The reason for joining was the Fire Service Inspector, Northern Command, knew I was in the Fire

Service so he invited me to move to the regular army. In the six years I was in the Army Fire Service I served at Amberley Air Base where the light aircraft were stationed originally, then 1 Base Ordnance Depot at Meeandah, Brisbane.

The last few years were at the Royal Military College, Duntroon where I was a Fire Sergeant, under the C.R.E. In this time my wife and I divorced.

After discharge I moved back to Brisbane and joined the P.M.G. Department, now known as Australian Postal Commission, having spent about 6 years in the mail exchange in Brisbane I transferred to Adelaide where I am now working in a section known as the 'City Delivery Section'.

I read the Courier when I receive it and was interested to note where Dud Tapper made a suggestion for the Safari to be held in Canberra in the year 1985. I am in favour of this as we are all getting on, a year by year existence is now what we can expect, and it will be the fortieth anniversary of the end of the second World War. Whilst on Safaris, the only one I have attended was the vone in Adelaide, which I thought was very good, well organised by the small Committee. I couldn't get time off to go back to Brisbane, and the one in W.A. fell on my holidays and I had the choice of going to Brisbane to see my son and daughter in law and baby boy.

I read about the Safari in W.A. and the people who attended - Frank Sharp and Freddie Broadhurst; also where Frank

visited Geraldton and met Nip Cunningham. I had the pleasure of receiving a letter from Nip during the last few months.

I marched with the Commando Squadron in the last Anzac Day march. 2/2nd men who attended - B. Bache, Lofty Timke, Bob Williamson, Ron Mackie, Keith Dignum, also Lioel Newton from Broken Hill. After the march I went to the Hindmarsh Hotel where there were a few of 6 Coy's men, and a nice day was had by all.

Since I have been in Adelaide, I have been in hospital four times, an operation on the nose, second time the prostate gland played up and an operation was necessary. I was off work for 3 weeks, luckily there was no trace of cancer. The third and fourth were for an inspection around the area of the Hiatus Hernia.

There is trouble owing to an ulcer.

As I draw to a close with these notes I have just seen the result of the footy match W.A. vs S.A., where W.A. won by one point. A lot of noise by South Australian supporters - what would they say if the last minute had been reversed. Also the Adelaide Cup was won by the Perth stayer. Well done, W.A. Then you have supplied a few great cricketers in the last 10 years and our present captain, also West Australian. Best wishes to all.

Regards,

Kel Carthew

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