



# 2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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## COMING EVENTS

### ANZAC DAY, THURSDAY 25th APRIL 1985

#### DAWN SERVICE

Laying of wreath by Doug Fullarton.  
Assembly point for members top of stairs leading to War Memorial, 5.45a.m.

#### ANZAC DAY MARCH

Assembly point - proximity Cathedral Ave & St. George's Terrace, opposite Council House.

#### TIME

9.45a.m.

#### STANDARD BEARER

Tony Bowers

#### REUNION

#### TIME

12.30p.m.

#### PLACE

Special Air Service Regiment, Campbell Barracks, Servetus Street, Swanbourne.  
Nominate to guard that you are a member of 2/2nd Association.

#### DIRECTIONS

Get into Hay Street and go under Subiaco Subway - turn left into Stubbs Terrace which runs parallel with Railway northside - turn right into Alfred Road and continue to Servetus Street. Check your road guide if lost. Easy to get back on line - will test your map reading.

We want a full roll call whether you march or not to show the S.A.S. boys how much we appreciate being part of them. Remember a skipper - catch a taxi - or drink light -

**BUT BE THERE!**

## COUNTRY CONVENTION

To be held in Busselton, some time in September. Watch for further details.

### CANBERRA SAFARI 1986 8th — 16th MARCH (incl.) MAKE CANBERRA CLICK IN 86



Hereunder a list of starters from W.A. as at the 31st March, 1985.

(1) For information to Eastern States members so they can seek out old mates.

(2) So as those travelling by road from the West can co-ordinate times etc. to make travelling in convoy a possibility:-

Len Bagley & Betty Ilsley  
Dot Boyland  
Arch Campbell  
Peter & Pat Campbell  
Jack & Delys Carey  
Colin Doig & Joy Louden  
Doug & Edna Fullarton  
Jack & Jean Fowler  
Reg & Dot Harrington, Dave & Mrs King  
Jim McLaughlin  
Wilf & Lorraine March  
Ray Parry

Joe & Helen Poynton  
Jack & Gloria Poynton  
Fred Sparkman  
Henry & Thelma Sproxtton  
Vince Swann  
Reg & Joan Tatum  
Don & Vida Turton  
Merv & Dulcie Ryan  
Elsie Wares

**NEVER TOO LATE! DEPOSIT \$50 PER  
COUPLE — Cheque payable to:-  
CANBERRA SAFARI 1986**  
Sent to:-  
**DAN THOMAS**  
21 MACKINALTY STREET,  
SCULLIN A.C.T. 2614  
Phone Contact:- (062) 54 3536

— BE THERE —



### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1985 — W.A. BRANCH

An excellent roll call of 24 attended this meeting held at the R.S.L. Club on Tuesday, 19th March 1985. It showed that the best attended meetings are those held during the day as most of our members are now retired.

They spanned a wide range of country, coming from as far east as Esperance and Mandurah to the south. A fine meeting was followed by ample amber and other fluid, plus light refreshments to appease the inner man. All the lads had a chance to mingle and catch up on the activities of each other. It was a meeting of warmth and the usual 2/2nd camaraderie.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### MARCH 1985

Gentlemen,  
I have now completed my third year as President of this Association. It has been an interesting year.

#### OFFICE BEARERS FOR 1984/85 WERE:

President ..... John Fowler  
Vice President ..... Doug Fullarton  
Secretary ..... Jack Carey  
Treasurer ..... Ron Kirkwood  
Auditor ..... John Burridge  
"Courier" Editor ..... Archie Campbell  
Warden - Kings Park ..... George Fletcher  
Liaison Officer - East Timor  
Association ..... Gerry Maley  
General Committee ..... As above plus -  
Don Turton  
Len Bagley  
Charlie King  
Henry Sproxtion

I thank the Committee for the time and effort put into making a good year, with special thanks to Jack Carey and Ron Kirkwood, Archie Campbell and the "Courier" team, Gerry & Mary McKenzie, Len Bagley & Betty Illsley. John Burridge as Auditor put his signature of approval to the Balance Sheet and we thank him for his efforts. We thank Jess Epps who works tirelessly behind the scenes in all areas and in particular visiting the sick. Also, with her son Peter, Jess helps carry on the Archives and Museum. Thanks Jess and Peter. I am sure they would like everyone to visit the Museum. Thanks to George Fletcher for keeping an eye on Kings Park, which he does with efficiency.

## BEREAVEMENTS

Unfortunately five members of the Association have passed on, and two wives.

## SICK LIST

We wish a speedy return to good health to all who have been on the sick list.

## S.A.S.R.

On 24th April we were invited by Lt. Col. Chris Roberts to a day of displays by the S.A.S. covering all duties of the troops. It was an eye opener to see such a fine body of men trained to the utmost and was much appreciated by the large crowd who attended. We enjoyed morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea and were able to meet and talk with some of the boys. I had the honour to thank the S.A.S. for a wonderful day and to present to Lt. Col. Roberts a plaque with the Double Red Diamond mounted on polished mallee root crafted by George Fletcher, as a token of our esteem and future comradeship.

## ANZAC DAY 1984

A number of members attended the Dawn Service at Kings Park where I had the honour of laying the wreath. A wreath was laid at the S.A.S.R. Dawn Service at Campbell Barracks by Len Bagley representing the 2/2nd.

The Anzac Parade saw members from far and wide marching together and afterwards enjoying a day of companionship and a good meal at the Knutsford Hotel. During the day I was honoured to be presented with a Life Membership badge by Col. Doig.

## ANNUAL DINNER 1984

As I was away on holiday in South Australia, our Vice President Doug Fullarton attended this function on my behalf. Thanks Doug. The dinner was held at the R.S.L. Club and was very well attended - the biggest roll up for a number of years - and was a great success, illustrating that we are in favour of daytime functions.

## COUNTRY CONVENTION

Mandurah was the venue for our first country convention for some time and was organised by Len Bagley, ably supported by the Mandurah members and their wives. Thank you Len and company. It was a great weekend and we look forward to more country conventions.

## LIFE MEMBER

### PETER CAMPBELL

On the recommendation of the Committee, John Fowler, our President, presented a Life Membership to Peter Campbell. He eulogised the work Peter had done for the 2/2nd Commando Association over the years - it was a quite considerable contribution.

Distance has never been a bar to Peter's involvement with the Association, he has taken it in his stride and as a country vice-president has performed admirably. Congratulations Peter from us all on an honour so thoroughly deserved.

We thank Pat for being such a tremendous support to you. She certainly has graced many, many 2/2nd functions and our Association has been the better for Pat's involvement. God bless you both, this I am sure from members Australia wide.

## TREASURERS REPORT

The audited Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31st January, 1985 was presented by that Treasurer supreme, Ron Kirkwood. How lucky we are to have Ron so ably guiding our financial structure, everything at his fingertips and his presentation always so easy to follow. Thanks Ron for once again taking up the "cudgels of the cash". We are all deeply indebted to you for your continued support of the Association you and Gwenda love so well.

## COUNTRY CONVENTION 1985

On the suggestion of Len Bagley it was resolved to hold the above in BUSSELTON. Len is to liaise with Barbara Palmer, who incidentally was the only one to come forward with a suggestion when called for in the Courier. Thank Barbara.

## CHRISTMAS PARTY

Held at the R.S.L. Club on 14th December, this function was enjoyed by 41 of our members and wives in very relaxed atmosphere.

## POYNTON PICNIC

### 20th JANUARY 1985

There was the usual enthusiastic gathering of members, wives, families and friends from all parts of the state - Joe & Helen make all so very welcome, and there were many helpers to make the day successful. The pig donated by Peter & Pat Campbell, and Tony Bowers' sheep were cooked to perfection by Helen.

In 1986 Helen & Joe will be joining the early trek to the Canberra Safari so unfortunately there will not be a picnic. We would like to say thank you for 16 years of happy gatherings. Also thanks to all the helpers.

## COL. DOIG

It is wonderful to see our old mate, Col Doig, back on his feet and compiling the "History of the 2/2nd".

This completes my report.  
Thank you Gentlemen

Hereunder is the list of Office Bearers for 1985/86:

- President . . . . . Doug Fullarton
- Vice President . . . . . Len Bagley
- Secretary . . . . . Jack Carey
- Treasurer . . . . . Ron Kirkwood
- Auditor . . . . . John Burridge
- Courier Editor . . . . . Archie Campbell
- Warden - Kings Park . . . . . George Fletcher
- Liaison Office - East
- Timor Association . . . . . Gerry Maley
- General Committee . . . . . As above plus
- Henry Sproxtton
- Wilf March
- Don Turton
- Colin Doig

Who else could be returning Officer than old C.D. Doig doing the job in his own inimitable style - even nominating himself for service on the Committee. "Old soldiers never die" - they just keep on taking more jobs!!



## HAIL EX-PRESIDENT JOHN FOWLER

John Fowler stepped down from the Presidents chair after rendering yeoman service to the 2/2nd Commando Association, W.A. Branch. Archie Campbell stated it would be remiss if we did not acknowledge the dedication, endeavour and personal service that John rendered to the Association in his three years of office, and, that statement would be right on the mark.

Jack combined many things during his period of Presidency, fitting his farming activities around those of the Association, seeing Jean through a torrid period and making the W.A. Safari 1983 one to be remembered.

Family commitment was part of the whole, as it should be, his commitment to the 2/2nd Association, total. Jack never spared himself in his endeavours to keep the high standard of camaraderie and mateship intact, something the unit prides itself on having in abundance. How he succeeded became history when he stepped down from the Presidential chair to be replaced by Doug Fullarton.

Jean too must take her rightful place when we thank the Fowlers for all they have meant to the Association over the past years and indeed, to many prior. She was always at John's side willing to take and be part of all that happened. During that time she suffered quite a setback in health, but typically, came through with flying colours and continued to support Jack to the utmost.

Our love and best wishes go to you John and Jean from every member in Australia on your grand contribution to the Association we all love so well. Thank you for carrying out the position of President Jack with efficiency and feeling, to Jean for supporting you so wonderfully. God bless you both.

## W.W.C.P.

The "walking wounded collecting post" is an area for good news. There are quite a few names in the "light duty" division but - read on: -

Tony Adams — Back to near A1 health.

Merv. Ryan — Weathered a torrid storm but home and improving, even if a little weak.

Jerry Haire — At the A.G.M. replete with walking stick, very distinguished, improved tremendously.

Ron Dook — Out of hospital and under treatment, making ground. He is a tough customer with tons of grit. He will beat the knee problem.

Colin Doig — Discharged A1 plus!

Henry Sproston — O.K., if a little seedy - Henry always wins.

Fred Napier — Going along like a house on fire - an old one, mind you!

Jim Gallagher — Sketchy report but he is not 100% - hurry and reach the century Jim!

Good luck to all the above, our prayers are partially answered. You are all on the improve. God bless and a short trip back to A1 health.

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## A TOUCH OF HEATHER LT. BILL (Scotty) TAYLOR & BROTHER JOCK TAYLOR.

Letters from Jock Taylor and information about our "Scotty" Taylor should have been in December 1984 issue of the Courier, somehow it escaped into the too hard basket and as a consequence have not yet been published.

For the information of readers both Scotty and Jock have been on the Courier mailing list since December issue. The letter and "wee story" about Scotty from Bristol U.K. will now be in the June issue.

THE EDITOR

## F.O.I. IS FOR YOU!

What is this all about you will ask on seeing this heading. Well, via Gerry Maley, head of the T.P.I., we received the precis which will be shown hereunder and it came from the Deputy Commissioner of Veteran Affairs.

It certainly involves us all, members needing to use "The Act" to obtain their file or particulars should proceed in terms of:— "How to Lodge a Request". Read on regarding the Freedom of Information (F.O.I.) Act.

The Freedom of Information (F.O.I.) Act, came into effect on 1 December 1982, and is intended to make government more open to the community. It gives you a right of access to your personal records held by the Department of Veterans' Affairs. It gives you a right of access to the rules and practices used by the Department's Officers when making decisions affecting you, and it gives you a right to change incorrect or misleading information about your personal affairs, held by the Department.

### WHY USE THE F.O.I. ACT

There are many reasons for wanting to use the F.O.I. Act. Some people, appealing against a decision, want to inspect their files to arm themselves with information. Some, preparing a pension claim, find it very useful to obtain a copy of the documents held about their war service. Others may just wish to have a copy of their records of service.

### HOW TO LODGE A REQUEST

It is important that you know how to make a request. When making a request, you do not have to give a reason, but you should make sure that you:-

- \* put your request in writing;
- \* identify the documents you want;
- \* state that it is an F.O.I. request under the F.O.I. Act;
- \* include a return address in Australia;
- \* post your request to the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

If you wish, you may make your request on the application form which is available from the Department, but this is not essential - a letter will do.

### ARE REQUESTS EVER REFUSED

Of the over 10,000 requests for access received by the Department of Veterans' Affairs only about 100 have been refused. The usual reason being that the document requested was not held by the Department or because the document contained information about the private affairs of another person (personal privacy is strictly protected by the Department).

So it is most unlikely that your request would be refused. Should this happen, however, you are given the reason for refusal, and you have a right of appeal.

### WHAT DOES IT COST

You are able to examine your personal papers for up to four hours free of charge. You may also obtain up to 100 photocopies free of charge. Beyond the limits of four hours and/or 100 photocopies charges may be applied.

So if you are thinking about lodging a request write to:

The Department of Veterans' Affairs,  
G.P.O. Box F352,  
PERTH W.A. 6001; or  
Phone the Freedom of Information Manager,  
Mike Scafidi, on 327 8422.

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## DONATIONS

June Bennett  
Alma Moore

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Hopkins  
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Murray  
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Poynton (Bruce)  
Cholerton  
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King (Chas)  
Varian  
Haire  
Fletcher  
Hasson (Jack)  
Hasson (Doug)  
Doig  
Hudson  
Morgan  
Martin (Albie)



## CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

Maryborough, Qld.

Would you please send the Courier to me c/- Maryborough Post Office, Queensland. I have closed our mail box at Pialba, Hervey Bay.

Thanking you.  
JACK HANSON

Bolgart, W.A.  
7/3/85

Having received the last copy of the Courier has jogged this lax old conscience again. I'm afraid it is a conscience that takes a fair bit of jogging if that means writing letters. The next time won't be the first that I have gone as far as to write numerous pages and then don't get it posted. This time it's for real as I have already written out a cheque. Please put same to the Courier fund.

Had a wonderful time at the party. There's no doubt about Helen & Joe, they have enormous hearts. Thanks for all those great parties.

We are off to Perth per caravan and will be booked in at the Como Caravan Park for a few days while I play in the Bowls Carnival.

♫ All the best to everyone. Denny Dennis is one of the people I wrote to and didn't get to post it so take heart Denny, there's a five page letter around here somewhere.

Dot & Self, along with Peter & Pat are off to Hong Kong on 27th April. The programme is Hong Kong for 7 days, Bangkok for 3 days and Pataya for 4 days. It will be good to get away from all the hassles for a while.

Regards  
REG. HARRINGTON

Warriewood, N.S.W.  
10/3/85

Hello to all my friends in W.A. Trust you are well and happy. I am well and busy as usual.

I was wondering if you would be interested in this story for the Courier. I wrote it in 1983 as a tribute to Bill and his mates, about their gallantry in Timor. I was pleased to receive a commendation award for it in a competition held by the local branch of the Fellowship of Australian Writers and it was printed in their anthology for that year.

Please find enclosed a donation for the Courier.

Yours sincerely,  
JUNE BENNETT

## "HE WAS ONLY NINETEEN"

Even before he joined up, he walked tall, with a poker-straight back and a sharp step. His smile was wide and ready, and his smoke grey eyes, bright with the quest for life. Then the conflict came and full of young bravado and love of country, he went away to war.

His name was Bill and I was his girl, and we loved each other with the innocence of youth. We often spent evenings strolling under the Manly pines, along to Fairy Bower, weaving our dreams of tomorrow. Bill was a city boy, born and bred in Surry Hills and when he escorted me home, on the long tram ride to Dee Why, he was certain he was going into the Never-Never land. Many nights he spent, sleeping on the hard bench of a ferry, waiting for the early return to the Quay next morning.

So, Bill volunteered for the A.I.F. and was sent away to train, on the far south eastern tip of Australia, called Wilson's Promontory. There he met some new mates; Alan, fair curly-haired ambulance officer from Wollongong, Frank, lanky, slim farmer from Gulargambone, Cliff, timer cutter and genial giant from Gloucester on the North Coast, and Jack, called "Bosun", an ex-merchant seaman. They joined the newly-named 2/2nd Independent Company, and as Commandos, they trained to fight wherever required to do so. They worked hard together, to be ready for the big adventure, boys at play in the serious games of war, but their camaraderie and mateship was solid.

There was more training at Katherine, south of Darwin, then they joined the 2/40th Battalion, and were named "Sparrow Force", before sailing to Timor, to help

protect it from possible Japanese invasion, and to guard Australia's northern approaches.

It was a small island, 480 kms long and 64 kms wide south of the Equator, with a steep mountainous central region, and stretches of tropical jungle along its coastal areas. They found the vegetation similar to home, but the animals were different, cheeky grey monkeys, deer, wild pigs and goats and deadly python. The island was rich in products of copra, rubber, rice and eggs, bananas and buffalo milk and coffee of good quality.

The natives were dark brown or black in colour, small and slightly built, with pleasant features, and happy natured, with a willingness to help their new friends. The young boys, called "criados" worked with each soldier carrying their heavy packs while also guarding their backs from enemy attack. This allowed the men to cover ground more quickly. The boys often prepared the meals and were loyal and faithful to their friends, the "Australie Soldado".

Bill loved horses with a passion, and at home he would often take the old steam train to Windsor just to ride a favourite mare. So the small island ponies were his special joy, being hardy and strong. They were used to carry men and supplies over the winding mountain tracks, which the soldiers had mapped well.

Then the initial Japanese invasion force landed, five thousand of them and the Commandos guarding the airstrip fought strongly, but they were out numbered, so decided to retreat to the hills and carry on the fight from there. They blew up the airstrip before they left. The mountains were ideal territory for guerilla warfare, and this was the course they decided to take, harrassing the enemy by day and night. They build up dumps of ammunition and stores in various mountain caches to prepare for a long resistance. They laid clever ambushes on jungle tracks, raiding Japanese patrols, sometimes even raiding and sabotaging their bases. Many of the Australians came from the outback, most from Western Australia, often farmers and they were all lean and tough. One, "Doc" Wheatley, was a kangaroo shooter a crack shot, and he rolled many Japanese heads with his accuracy.

The soldiers found their regulation issue shorts exposed them to the malarial mosquito and as the quinine powder had to be taken, rolled in a cigarette paper, a dose they didn't like, the malaria spread quickly and was a

constant companion, forever after. The weekly cockfights, in the local markets, were a favourite pastime. The cocks were bred by the owners to fight fiercely with special metal spurs, fitted to their legs to make them more deadly in combat. So, for Bill and his mates, being gamblers at heart, many a hard earned shilling changed hands. Once, there was a lucky escape for Bill and his mate George. They were reconnoitering a village when they heard a Japanese patrol approaching whose loud chatter usually gave them away, so the Australians quickly climbed into the nearby mission roof and quietly lay hidden.

Then Bill spied some bottles of "tuaca", a potent native wine, brewed from the sap of the bamboo palm, so he and George proceeded to sample several bottles. It was just as well the enemy decided to leave the area fairly promptly or there may have been two less brave young men!

The cat and mouse game went on for several months and supplies were running low, and some of the Timorese were being won over by the Japanese, with extra food and money, and they turned against the Commandos.

Another fifteen thousand Japanese troops arrived to try and rout the elusive guerillas, but with a dogged determination, Bill and his mates fought on, giving no quarter and expecting none. One classic example of this was an incident when Lieutenant John Rose, dressed as a native, walked into a village alone. He tossed hand grenades into a hut where enemy troops were sleeping, and as the survivors tumbled out of the hut, he cut them down with fire from a tommy gun, then successfully escaped.

The Zeros made regular reconnaissance flights over the mountains, searching out the guerillas and when they did find them, strafed the ground around them, as the men sped for cover.

The fighting continued and on dark nights, as Bill lay waiting in ambush, he shivered in a malarial fever, and the monsoonal winds howled through the trees. He would pull the crumpled photo from his pocket, and look at the dark-eyed smiling girl, and the memories flooded back of that sun browned land far away with the long, rolling breakers pounding on the sand, the seagulls wheeling and squarking, fighting over the scraps thrown down by the holiday-makers. And he wondered with food now scarce, ammunition low and illness rife, would he ever make it back to Australia, would it still be a free country and closest to his heart, would his girl still be waiting for him?

By now, the soldiers' uniforms were in tatters, shirts non-existent, or patched with native cloth, hats made with strips of bamboo leaves, pistols held in holsters of uncured goatskin, and knives tied to thighs with flax. Often they looked more like pirates than soldiers!

The situation was becoming very grim for the men with greater harassment from the Japanese, less help from the Timorese and more casualties among themselves. At this stage, Bill's mother had received a telegram from Army H.Q. as had other families, about their men, that he was "Missing in Action" and our hearts were desolate. Then a skilful young signaller, John, with help from the other soldiers, began to try and build a radio transmitter to contact Darwin for help. With odd pieces they already had, some scrounged by the Timorese, even more stolen from the Japanese, they worked hard and long. It was a frustrating job, with many setbacks and often having to work with just a pig-fat flare for light. Finally 'Winnie the War Winner' as it was later dubbed, was born and the faint signal beamed out to Darwin. As this small force had been assumed to have been wiped out, those who received the signal were highly suspicious. It was checked and re-checked and after some interrogation, a query was made about a certain soldier's wife's name and the right answer "JOAN" crackled back over the Timor Sea, to the amazement of the listeners in Darwin. It was ironic this happened on Anzac Day. Soon the supplies started coming from Australia, ferried by the faithful Hudson Bombers, quite often dropping them in the wrong area. Once there was much derisive mirth, amongst the soldiers when they received boot polish alright, but they rarely had boots to polish! But the planes most precious cargo was the mail from home for the weary fighters, a great morale booster. Letters full of love, and praise, and hope, for their safe return. The men had to use the unwritten sides of those letters for their return mail, as paper was at a premium. Bill found an ingenious way to let me know where he was as their destination was officially still a secret. He queried my change of address, which mystified me, till I turned the page and found under my street name one tiny word printed "TIMOR".

Often bamboo bark and large pieces of banana leaf were used to send messages and even the Japanese surrender leaflets dropped by planes, were used. But, more often than not, for less sanitary purposes! Big Catalina planes were sent from Australia to bring in the mail from home and take out the badly wounded men. The less wounded men were kept in the Commando Forces Hospital,

hidden away in the mountains which was moved many times to stay ahead of the enemy. No beds or mattresses, patients slept on a blanket on the floor with fighting packs for pillows. Despite enormous difficulties, Captain Dunkley, the medical officer, with help from the faithful natives, tended the men well. He made long journeys to visit soldiers too ill to be moved. Once he climbed a ten thousand foot range and penetrated Japanese lines.

It was decided by the Australian Army Command to try and relieve these exhausted men. The veteran destroyer, H.M.A.S. VOYAGER was sent with a relief force, 2/4th Independent Company. Unfortunately, the ship ran aground and despite frantic efforts by the crew to release her, she was bombed and strafed by the enemy planes and left a complete wreck at Betano. Then a Dutch destroyer was sent to bring them away. In the dark of night the Commandos were ordered to swim out to the ship, carrying only their rifles. Haggard, emaciated men, ill with dysentery, covered in tropical ulcers, bearded and unkempt; it was a superhuman effort, especially as they were hounded right to the beach by the enemy.

They were taken back to Larrimah in the Northern Territory for several weeks to build up their health before re-joining their joyful families. Yes, Bill did come home, to my great relief. He even had a gift stuffed down his tattered shirt, as he swam to the destroyer. A suppercloth crocheted by a Timorese woman, for the "soldade's lady in Australia".

We were married and had nearly forty happy years together. But often I knew his thoughts were far away on that little island. He couldn't bear to stay in the house when the westerly winds whipped through the gum trees on the lawn, he'd go for a long walk, or I would find him, sitting on the front porch, his manner quiet and those grey eyes misted over and I'm sure he was back there with those gallant mates, left forever in Timor. Sometime after the war, the surviving Commandos raised enough money to have a rest house memorial built in Dare, in Timor, in memory of those fallen comrades and in gratitude to those brave people of Timor.

Now I am alone again, without Bill. He died three years ago but I have wonderful, proud memories of him and his mates, how they fought so courageously for their beloved Australia. And I will never give up hope, as he did not, that our country will remain free as long as that Anzac spirit lives.

186 Warriewood Rd.  
Warriewood NSW 2102  
JUNE BENNETT

Carcoar. N.S.W.  
10/3/85

Just a short note to send a long overdue few bob to that great little paper - tthe Courier. Also to say how happy I am to have read of the Doig's recovery - magnificent!!

All as well as can be expected with us. Was going to sell part of the place at this time but the sale fell through so we are going to carry on for another three years when we will probably sell the lot and move to a hobby farm or something.

We had a hectic few days recently with bushfires which came as close as a mile from us. CB radios are selling like hot cakes around here so everyone can know what is going on when the next one comes.

Am just leaving for the Craig's mini safari at Young and am looking forward to seeing them all again.

Best wishes to everyone. Cheers  
TED CHOLERTON

Scullin A.C.T.  
10/3/85

Enclosed is receipt for account Safari 86. Regret delay but I have been in hospital for two operations, the last one a major one, and am still trying to recover from same. Have been writing to the boys and wives to let them know the latest and enclose brochures for perusal (along with their receipt). I've been doing this to help Dan who has been rather busy of late! He has also been working for my club, helping with stalls etc. in my absence. I have been Secretary of the local Senior Citizens Club since 1982 and now, the very year of the opening of the Club (in June) all this has to happen. It will be some months before I can return as I have to attend hospital for radiation. Here's hoping I can at least attend the opening day.

Apart from me, all well here. Everyone looking forward to Safari 86.

All the best  
SUNNY & DAN

## EDITOR

So sorry to hear of your problems and the post operation treatment you have been through.

Thanks for your thoughtful letter and best wishes from all members for a speedy recovery. God bless.

Wongan Hills, W.A.  
11/3/85

Enclosed is an envelope from Col Doig with a couple of letters in. The address was 6 numbers out and evidently the P.M.G. don't believe in making enquiries. Enclosed also two cheques - donations.

This is a message to Col Doig: "Glad to hear you are coming good again after your illness. We were away on a trip at the time and were happy to hear you were on the mend when we got back.

I keep well and busy with the aid of a few pills and go out to the farm every day, all day, except Sundays. I don't run the farm now. My son Peter is doing a good job of that. He is married and has a daughter and two sons. The eldest boy is deaf but with the help of hearing aids is making reasonable progress at school. His speech is hard to understand but his comprehension is O.K.

Our daughter Margaret is married to a farmer at Calingiri. They have a son and a daughter, both bright kids, so we are quite happy to spend the rest of our days up here near our children and grandchildren.

Blanche and I send our regards and best wishes to you and Joy."

Nearly finished shearing here, thank God. The first week of shearing was done in 42° heat and one night of the next we had an inch of rain and unfortunately we lost over 300 sheep, freshly shorn. No warning from the forecasters - just a few showers for Perth. It rained continuously for five hours with a steady wind. Peter, my son, and Brian, our man carted 270 sheep back to the shearing shed, went to all sorts of trouble, fires in half 44 gal. drums, but only managed to save 50 of them. We found another 80 dead in the paddock and I guess we've missed a few in the wheat stubble. It was our worst loss ever, due to the weather. There is always something to grizzle about in this farming game. "Whingeing Cockies".

Going down to Busselton next week to see my sister-in-law. Ron Sadler died last year. When I was down last time I met Bob Palmer's brother - nice chap and he has been very good to Barbare, helped her no end.

All the best to you Arch.  
Yours sincerely  
STAN SADLER

Lot 166 Poplar Street  
Dwellingup 6213  
12/3/85

Please find enclosed a cheque towards the Courier. Keep up the good work, I look forward to reading each issue.

I wish to extend my deepest thanks to those Army friends of John's who attended his funeral in May 1983. I know the thanks are a long time coming but hope they understand. John had a heart condition which, in his usual manner, he didn't complain about. When he did pass away it was quick and he wasn't in any pain.

Nothing else to report - thanks again to the boys. I know John would have been honoured to have you present.

Yours faithfully  
ALMA MOORE

13 Cedar Avenue  
Warridale 5046  
South Australia  
31/1/85

Dear Colin

It has taken a considerable number of years, but finally I have the opportunity of expressing my thanks for your personal efforts in organising my "escape" from Timor. A job well done! under difficult circumstances. I also think my wife, Mavis, our two daughters, Rosslyn and Jacqueline and our two grandchildren, Natasha, 15 years and Alexander, 5 years, would concur with these sentiments.

Like the Timor episode, how I made contact with the 2/2nd Commando Association after all these years is a very involved story which I won't write in this letter, but have had your address since 30th September 1984 when I received a letter from Bernard Callinan. Subsequently I met Allan Hollow, Keith Dignum and Mark Jordan who got together and through them at parties they organised, all the South Australian 2/2nd fellows. Allan (I have been calling him Alwyn!) also gave me a 1977 address book. Both the letter and the address book I put away so carefully that I couldn't find them, but tonight I did - hence this letter.

Hope this letter reaches you before the February Courier is published because I wanted to express my sentiments to you first, and include my congratulations to you for

your ability in organisation. The members of the 2/2nd have left me without doubt that you were a driving force in the creation of your excellent "family" and I am very proud to be a member.

Have written to Tom Nisbet and received a reply, also to Tex Richards but haven't heard from him (I thought he was dead!! but have been assured that report was a gross exaggeration).

Trust you are well and hope to hear from you soon.

Regards and best wishes  
SID WADEY

P.S. Where *did* YOU find me?? What was the place called?

EDITOR

Your letter was sent to the wrong address and unfortunately missed the February issue of Courier.

Yagoona N.S.W.  
17/3/85

Dear Arch,

Just take a look at the date - St. Patrick's Day, and what better day could I pick to write to a descendant of a Western Highland man, so here's to us fellow Celts, Irish, Scottish and Welsh. St Pat had a bit to do with all our countries, not forgetting France.

Life running reasonably well and happily for our clan. Spent a bit of time with Helen in Canberra. Michael was along in the vain hope of separating the bookie fraternity from some of their pelf during the "Black Opal" race meeting in our National Capital. About all he didn't have to do was walk back to Sydney. Helen had made sure of that by purchasing a coach ticket for him before he arrived. Do a bit of thinking on that and it is open to as many interpretations as a statement by a politician or a Bishop. Helen is well and keeps herself mighty busy.

Sean will be home towards the end of April for Gerald's wedding. He had a great time during his holiday in the West. Met up with Willie and Jan Bowers in Kojonup and had a look over the farm once again. Last time he went for a visit and finished up working there. Of course he descended on Joe & Helen Poynton and enjoyed their company and hospitality. Met up with Tony Bowers, Don Hudson and Jim Lines (2/5th). He reckons the only thing that changes about

these blokes is their figures - their elbow bending capacity has not decreased one whit. Dutchy Holland was also in the group at The Pen.

Gerald still has one more month of freedom. He will then join the ranks of the blessed and like all mankind, black, white, yellow or brindle, pay homage to God's chosen people.

We had our March meeting - nothing startling. Seeing it's an 11a.m. job now the rollup has improved as most of us have attained geriatric status and, I fear, act accordingly.

The mini safari at Young was a huge success. The roll call - Bob & Joyce Smith, Bill & Coral Coker, Ron & Marj Goodacre, Ron & Dorothy Trengrove, Jim & Joan Fenwick, Merv & Marge Jones, Bill & Betty Hoy, Tom & Muriel O'Brien, Denny Dennis, John & Cath Roberts, Harry & Olive Botterill, Dan Thomas, Jack Hartley, Snow Went, Ted Cholerton, Nora & Paddy Kenneally. The Rev. Bailey & Family, friends of Keith & Betty Craig, dropped in to renew acquaintance with the 2/2nd. Our sincere thanks to Keith & Betty for making their home and grounds available for this function, not to mention all the time and work they put into organising the entertainment and social aspects. Their son Philip came all the way from Melbourne to help out with the catering and did a first class job on the barbecue. A good weekend was had by all.

Dan Thomas gave us a run down on the Safari 1986 arrangements. Canberra should be a good place to be in March 1986, despite all the jokes about the National Capital. It is a beautiful place and can keep us busy for the time we will spend there. By the time the Safari concludes we will not have covered all it has to offer.

Anzac day coming up in five weeks and as usual I've gone into training for the event. I'll be well and truly dried out as it will be nine or ten weeks between drinks. One day I'll take the pledge as infinitum, and have everyone worried. At this time of the year Nora always reckons I look very well and of course that's because I'm only drinking tea, milk and coffee. If all Australia does that taxes will go sky high. Imbibing is a national economic essential as is gambling and smoking. Otherwise all the antis will be taxed out of home and comfort to keep the country solvent.

Mick Devlin has been in and out of hospital one again. We all wish Mike the best, he has been a great worker in many causes apart from the Unit Association. Good enough health to enjoy his retirement would be a fitting reward.

I saw in the Commando News that Maxie had died. He was originally in the Armoured Division and came to us at Strathpine. You may remember him Arch, I believe you supervised their training at Canungra. Our sympathy to his family in their sad loss.

I'm off to the football - St. George and Parramatta. There's an argument to settle with those two. Parramatta beat St. George in the final last year in the last seconds of the match and only by one point. Everyone agreed on one thing - St. George beat themselves. When you see proven first grade players carrying on like juveniles they deserve to lose. Stupid penalties cost them the game - a determined Parramatta capitalised on them. The reigning Premiers, Canterbury, beat Cronulla yesterday. Jack Gibson, Cronulla's new coach, has a lot of work to do on Cronulla. However, he's just the man capable of doing it. Don't ask me about the Sydney Swans, South Melbourne in Melbourne. They have reached the stage where no one knows who or what they are. I do know they haven't won a premiership since 1932 - I remember that because in those far off days I was at school when the brother of one of the team members and Frank sure let us know just how good South Melbourne was. Well, here's hoping they can restore the glory. Good luck now and I hope all you football fans enjoy your particular code this winter. I love the football season. Oh yes, and N.S.W. to win the Sheffield Shield. I used to have a soft spot for Queensland but since Joh started to carry on as if the remaining 2,400,000 square miles of Australia and its 13,000,000 people revolved around Queensland, Joh Bjelke and Russ Hinze and their 2,000,000 unfortunate inhabitants I've changed. Reminds me, I owe Angus MacLachlan a letter.

God bless  
PADDY KENNEALLY





## VERIFICATION IF POSSIBLE 2/2nd MEMBER

Does anyone know or can they throw some light on the following:-

MERV. COLES  
26 Hereford Street  
Stockton, N.S.W.

G.R. WATTS  
39 Cross Street,  
Newtown  
Hobart, Tasmania 7008

Where did they serve?

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## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

HOPKINS, J. (IRISH) ✓  
Phone: (090) 27 1367

SPROXTON, Henry

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## REQUEST

We have had a Courier returned from:-  
I. Brown, 333 MacQuarrie St., Hobart 7000  
Does anyone know his whereabouts?

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