



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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A Christmas Message



Another year is drawing to a close - a year in which some members have suffered the loss of their loved ones and illness of varying severity. To these people we offer our whole hearted sympathy and the wish for a speedy recovery.

It is goods to see that the Association is still going strong and, with the aid of the 'Courier', keeping contact with members Australia wide. The result of this will be the Canberra Safari, the highlight of 1986.

On behalf of the Committee, myself, wives and friends, I wish you and your families a Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year.



Doug Fullarton
(President)



COMING EVENTS

CHRISTMAS DRINK

For Members and their Ladies
Friday, December 6th, at Anzac House from 11.30 a.m.

CANBERRA SAFARI 1986

8th to 16th March inclusive

Members staying privately please advise immediately to address below.
Travel by T.A.A. will be concessional, if you nominate 2/2nd Canberra Safari

Canberra Contact — Danny Thomas
2 Mackinalty Street, Scullin, A.C.T. 2614 or Phone (062) 54 5356

Don't forget to return your Raffle Ticket Butts to the above!

N.S.W. NEWS

My form with the pen has left a lot to be desired lately and I can't promise any improvement in the foreseeable future, but for now at least I'll tell you all I know. September 9th at our usual venue of Arncliffe R.S.L. Club, our Annual General Meeting was held and the following office bearers were elected for 1986. President, Alan Luby; Vice Presidents, Bill Coker and Cyril Beavis; Sec. n Treas, Jack Hartley; Assistant Sec, Ron Hilliar; Auditor, Bill Hoy. Committee, all members present.

There was not much on the business side of the agenda, so after all the formalities were completed President Alan took the opportunity to perform the pleasurable task of creating a new life member, one very surprised but very deserving John Snowy Went.

On the serious side of things, Bob Bollinger spent a few weeks in Concord Repat. but is now O.K. Snowy Weir has also been in and out of there a couple of times with a rare blood disorder causing trouble in his leg; Mick Mannix has had problems with his asthma and was recently granted a T.P.I., wife Elve also has serious health problems and at present seems to be in a no win situation; lets hope things will brighten up for them very soon. Also on the very seriously ill list is Norma Keenahan who is in Campbelltown Hospital.

Bunny Anderson was looking and feeling very much better when Snowy Went and I trekked up to Woy Woy and took him to lunch at Ettalong R.S.L. Club. On a previous visit Bunny was having a hard time with Arthritis and a couple of hernias, but is now much improved. While in Woy Woy we tried to find Eric Herd but learned that he and Lorraine have moved up the north coast to live.

In a Courier some time ago I noted that Slim Thorpe was seeking news of Jack Prior who originally came from around Temora. Well Slim, in the early 1950's Jack and I corresponded regularly, but suddenly there were no more letters from him. Jack worked in a bank and was transferred to a town somewhere up the North Coast, perhaps Lismore or Grafton. Anyway, some mongrel held up the bank and shot and killed Jack in the process. Just how much of this story is correct, I am unable to say Slim, but its what I gathered from my enquiries at the time, and as I heard no more from him I can only assume it is regrettably true. Sorry pal, wish I could have given you happier news.

Memo to Ray Parry - at a bowls days at Blac-town R.S.L. some months ago I met one Sam Dawson who asked to be remembered to you. He was in 5 section, 2 platoon, A coy, Operation Blaze. Funny who you can meet on a bowling green - at Cabra-Vale Club recently Snowy Went and I bumped into Clarrie Turner's brother Charlie who was

visiting a friend who brought him along for a game, Charlie was lucky enough to win a \$22,000 mobile home when he went along to the Yennora home show and put his name into a lucky draw.

Shorty Stevens passed through Sydney recently on his way north to visit his daughter and stayed a few days with Snowy Went. Shorty was able to give us some news on Artie Cullen who lives at Fannie Bay, Darwin and is not in the best of health.

Well Arch, mustn't overdo this writing business so will conclude with the request that you include the following addresses on the Courier address list. Am also enclosing a cheque for Courier expenses.

Merry Xmas to all hands.

Jack Hartley

VICTORIAN NEWS

We have had a few interstate visitors lately. Firstly Bernie and Babs Langridge passed through on their way up to Brisbane. Olive & I picked them up in Melbourne and looked after them and took them up to Ken & Margaret Monk where they stayed for a short while before going on. Both were looking very well and it was a pleasure to be able to help them.

Alan Hollow and Frank Shaw were over from Adelaide for a few days to go to the Combined Commandos Memorial Pilgrimage at the Shrine - Tom Nisbet gave the address and Frank Shaw was in the 2/9 Commandos when Tom was O.C. This was a very good day and we managed to get quite a few of our boys to roll up and lend Tom support. The following were there - Bruce & Lorraine McLaren, Harry & Olive Botterill, Wilma Tobin, Fred Broadhurst, George Veitch, Tom Nisbet, Bernie Callinan, Bill & Pat Petersen, Jack Fox, Alan Hollow, Bill Tucker, Alec Boast and Johnny Southwell. It was a good service and Tom gave an excellent address and the weather perfect. After the ceremony they provided afternoon tea at the President Hotel.

Beryl Boast has had a short spell in hospital but is out again and coming along quietly. We wish you all the best Beryl.

John & Cath Roberts have had a bit of bad luck. Their house at Neerim South caught fire through an electrical fault in the middle of the night and luckily they were on to it fairly quickly and the main damage was confined to the roof, with a little water damage down below and Johnny thinks they got out of it very well. They were due to go to China on a holiday around this time and it looked

like they would miss out, but everyone around was so good to them that they eventually got away and had a very good time. When they returned their house was nearly ready and they just have a few things to fix up.

It was good to see Bruce & Lorraine again after their stint up on the Gold Coast, both looking very well.

Betty & Keith Craig have just arrived in Melbourne and are staying with their son Phillip at Frankston. They stayed a few days with Arch & Dawn Claney in Wangaratta then on to John & Cath Roberts, then to Ken & Margaret Monk and on down to Melbourne.

Was very sorry to hear that Jim Dent passed away recently and we all convey our deepest sympathies to his wife and family.

We will be having our end of year outing at Ken & Margaret Monk's place on the 1st December - a barbecue and we supply our own eats and drinks.

Well, that's all the news and I take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and very prosperous New Year.

Harry Botterill

ANNUAL DINNER

Luncheon held at Anzac Club - 4/10/85

What a tremendous success this was and faces we had not seen in years appeared. To name a few - George Timms, looking resplendent and sporting a beard, Tom Fitzgerald, maybe a bit overweight but still as bright as a button, Stan and Charlie Sadler came down from Wongan Hills and look fitter than ever, no doubt country life has something in its favour. Steve Rogers looks a picture, although he has to exercise to keep the old ticker doing its work. Jim McLaughlin dashed in from work to have a quick one and a yarn to old mates. Jim Smiles, looking a million dollars was another it was a joy to see and he handed in another poem for publication later. It was a great get-together - everyone in top form.

Major Gordon Hill represented the S.A.S. Regiment. Everyone will be pleased to know he is to get a new posting and a promotion. Gordon brought apologies from the new C.O., Lt-Col. Terry Nolan and the R.S.M., Mick Ruffen who is on the verge of retirement.

We welcomed three of our Timorese friends, representing the Timor people all over Australia. They were John Matires, Sed Madeira, old Julie's nephew and Costa who

has been part of us in W.A. for so long.

John Lillie 2/3rd and Tiger Lyons 2/5th, added another dimension to our dinner - they are old and good friends ever welcome at any function of the 2/2nd.

Colin Doig - how well he looks - was Toastmaster and in his usual inimitable style did a first class job. His repertoire of jokes knows no end and he kept us entertained between the toasts. Jack Carey eulogised Col's great health fight back which brought spontaneous applause, and thanked C.D. for his fine contribution as Toastmaster.

We stood in silence for Absent Friends, those we love and see no more. Doug Fullarton, our President, proposed the Toast to the Unit with sincerity, dignity and well chosen words. Gerry McKenzie gave us the Toast to our Guests with humour, warmth and sincerity.

What more is there to say, for when we get a roll call of 41 plus 4 guests, the scene is set for a great day; that it really was. Len Bagley hosted the dinner and made particular mention and gave adequate thanks to the boys for a wonderful attendance. He was so right. It was the old 2/2nd camaraderie at its very best.

PICNIC AT KEYSBROOK FOR TIMORESE PER FAVOUR DON TURTON

The Association held a most successful picnic at Don Turton's farm at Keysbrook on Sunday, 20th October, 1985 to be with our Timorese friends now resident in W.A.

The weather was most kind to us despite a forecast of occasional showers. It was a mild day with sufficient breeze to keep the flies at bay but requiring a pullover to keep really warm.

We had over 200 Timorese with children who came in buses and private cars and also 24 members plus wives and children and, of course, some of our widowed members.

The Timorese brought along their band instruments and regaled us with songs and later with dancing to piped music - it was a really enjoyable situation. Later in the afternoon our boys sang quite a few of our old songs and had a very grand audience of the young Timorese ladies clapping to the rhythm of our very gravely voices.

Don Turton in his little truck and Costa with Ray Aitken's van took big parties around the property, specially to the waterfall and the steep hills in the area. This was much ap-

preciated by everyone and many were seen to be carrying big bundles of wild flowers picked on the property.

A very good barbecue was provided with sausages, mutton and roo rissoles and hopper burgers (kangaroo) provided by Ray Aitken. The sweets were provided by the Timorese and the afternoon tea by our ladies. It was a terrific set up and of course plenty of all nature of drinks were available, thanks to Don's son-in-law Doug Shave.

Our ladies did a marvellous job in getting the food together, preparing the meal and washing up afterwards.

Our thanks in a very big way to Don, Vida and their daughters Maxine, Diana and Heather and their husbands and children for all they did to make this a marvellous day and special thanks to George Fletcher who went up with Don on Saturday to help.

It was a wonderful show and much appreciated by both ourselves and our good Timorese friends.

BUSSELTON COUNTRY CONVENTION

Courier can again take a bow!! Len Bagley saw to it that members received a reminder, through Courier, to advise Committee of any venue in their districts worthwhile being looked at for a Convention site. The response was a shattering disappointment until a trim and terrific lady member, Barbara Palmer, long time Busselton resident, came to the rescue and assured that not only was her Busselton district a swell place to spend a few days sightseeing, but that she could book accommodation, arrange buses and a programme and negotiate something of an overall package. This she did, in cahoots with Len Bagley, and between them they brought off something of a coup and the Busselton Country Convention was under way!

The above, we believe, amplifies what a bit of interest, initiative and a willingness to cooperate can do to provide a happy occasion for those who regularly attend our conventions.

After a magnificent smorgasbord luncheon at Caves House, Yallingup, a meeting was held in a nicely furnished function room adjoining the dining room. Country Vice President, Clarrie Turner, chaired the proceedings in a fair, firm, friendly and experienced manner and left no one in attendance doubting that they have a right or claim to being a valued member of the body politic. It was a worthwhile ending to a splendid luncheon.

The Safari Committee held a further meeting on November 3rd, at which duties were allocated to all members and general business conducted, including the exact dates of the Safari - from Friday, 18th March to Monday, 28th March, 1088.

As we have to book 12 months in advance to secure accommodation in a compact area, I am enclosing an application form. If we can get all applications in early we can make bulk bookings to ensure members are placed close together in each establishment and also secure discounts to everybody's advantage.

Harry Sargent, from Eaglehawk, came down to attend the general meeting at Newhaven on October 13th, so you see enthusiasm in Victoria is widespread. He too is looking forward to meeting W.A. mates at the Safari. He sends particular greetings to Gordon Rowley.

Yours sincerely,
Leith Cooper.

Victoria and Safari news a bit duplicated but who would worry about enthusiasm.

A/ED.

Lieutenant Colonel T. J. Nolan
The Special Air Service Regiment
Campbell Barracks,
Swanbourne. 6010
7/10/86

Dear Doug,

Thank you very much for a most enjoyable lunch with your Association members last Friday, 3 October 1986.

I am speaking for Major Andy Leahy, Warrant Officer Class One Terry O'Farrell as well as myself when I say that we were most appreciative of the hospitality and friendship shown towards us.

We look forward to seeing you all again in November.

Yours sincerely,
Terry Nolan

ADDRESS PROBLEMS

The courier team has recently been more than usually bewitched, bothered and bewildered by happenings to our 'Address Index'.

Couriers returned by Australia Post under our postage paid address slip request - if undeliverable (their word) return to Box T, 1646 G.P.O. Perth, 6001 - upon investigation or advice from our readers should have been

delivered. We do not know why they were judged 'undeliverable'. What we do know is that 'returned couriers cost us 45 cents for a first time return, and 95 cents for a second time' and raises the need for a system to be managed for collection, payment and recording of such cards.

Perhaps readers could assist by ensuring that when necessary, due to move or addition to their address, changes are notified promptly in time for 'next' couriers. The problem can strike any person any area: several troubled recently were Dean Anning, Peter Campbell and Stan Payne. Sir Bernard Callinan also copped an address lapse - the Callinan place of abode was suddenly changed from Kew to Kewdale. Most annoying, you will agree!! The answer, good humouredly given was, 'Oh! A simple mistake for our girls (secretarial services types), you see there is no other suburb name with a K-E-W in it, in W.A., except our Kewdale, and it's easy for a typist going flat out not to realise the error'.

We discussed annoyance, improved service, the problems of R.S.I, then returned to Base to help out with the preparation of the next courier.

Whilst driving home, that delightful note from Charlie Gorton (this issue), about the dear old lady aged 91 'she had no problems because she has 6 legs', kept rolling in my mind as I recalled the oft expressed wish by 'Mary McK' that she could suddenly receive the use of 6 legs and 6 extra pairs of hands at courier time.

Would you believe, the most part of this issue has been hand written for presentation to the printer. Our typist extraordinaire has suddenly become unfit for duty due to previous indulgence - in too much typing. It's not R.S.I., but she is forced to spend the week in Perth for Chiropractic treatments over several days.

She will be receiving lots of encouragement to mend up and return to the keyboard in time for the Feb 87 issue.

'GE—EM'

DONATIONS TO THE COURIER

Messrs.

Bomford, L.
Costelloe, P.
Fagg, B.
Goodhew, J.
Kenneally, P.
Mitchell, A.
Moodie, P.
Smith, Joyce.
Snowden, B.
Teague, R.
Dignum

Hodge
Swann
McDonald
Doig
Fletcher
Wicks
Criddle
Hudson
Carey
Poynton (Joe)
Holder

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Dook | Rogers |
| Darrington | Rowan - Robinson |
| McKenzie | Burridge |
| Aitken | Hodson |
| Rowley | Bingham |
| Hopkins | Studdy |
| Langridge | Taylor (Scotty & Jock) |
| Herbert | Sharp |
| McLoughlin (Stan) | Callinan |
| Wheatley | Jordan |
| Morgan | Smyth (Eric) |
| Thompson (Lew) | Humphrey |
| Parry | |
| Harrington | Joyce Smith |
| Finklestein | Betty Coulson |

Williamson
Sparkman
Sadler (Chas)
Griffiths
Nisbet
Hayes
Moodie
Stevens
Jones
Iles
Monk
Loud
Jordan
Krause
Goodhew
Fagg
Thompson
Herbert (2/4)
Paul
Beveridge
Veitch
Burridge
Tomassetti
Holmes
Taylor (Scotty & Jock)
Davies
Elmore
Turton
Sproxtton
Botterill
Hancock
Maley
Turner
Blundy
Varian
Napier
Fullarton
Doig

Campbell (Pat)
McKenzie
Hopkins
Humphrey
Kenneally
Campbell (Arch)
Dorham R.
Da Luz P.J.

DONATIONS TO THE TIMORESE APPEAL

Kath Sargeant
Madge Field
Isobel McCaul
Maria Burges
Beryl & Queenie Smith
Jess Epps
Dulcie Gay
Dot Boyland
Jean English
Kath Press
Messrs.
Coker
Lillie
Parry:Poynton (Bruce)
Lewis
Archer
Dennis
Isenhood
Harper
Grebart
Bryant
Costelloe
Snowdon
O'Neill
Mantle
Dook
Aitken
Stevenson
Scott
Wheatley
Gorton
R.S.L. C of P Sub Bch.
Holder
Hall, State Pres. R.S.L.
Smailes
MacLachlan
Smyth (Bob)
Kirkwood
Carey
Teague
Murray
Cole
Haire
Gorton
Mitchell
Thompson (Lew)
Sadler (Stan)

VALE—JIM GALLAGHER

Jim Gallagher passed away early this month after a long battle with Cancer.

Jim joined our Unit from Canungra prior to us going to New Guinea and was one of our many valuable signallers. He saw out the rest of the War in this capacity with our Unit.

Jim hailed from Kojonup and returned there after leaving the Army. He worked for some time with Tony Bowers on his timber mill and later worked around various farms. He was a very well respected citizen of the Kojonup area and took a keen interest in many local activities, especially the R.S.L.

The Association did not see a great deal of Jim as he was tied up with work and family commitments.

We extend to Jim's wife and family our deepest sympathy in their sad loss of husband and father.

LEST WE FORGET

VALE—BERNARD ALAN BROWN

It is with great regret that we have to advise of the death of Alan Brown earlier this month after a brief spell in hospital for heart surgery. He had apparently weathered the operation quite successfully and appeared to be doing well when he had a relapse and died suddenly.

Alan joined our Unit after we left Wilsons Promontory and was therefore one of the originals. He was drafted to No. 3 Section and served throughout the Timor Campaign but did not join afterwards due to ill health. He later served in Borneo.

After demobilisation he joined the "Daily Newspapers" as a machinist, eventually moving to the "West Australian" where he became foreman of the Machinist Section which actually prints the paper. This was a most onerous job and full of tension to get the papers out on time. He was forced to resign due to ill health a few years ago.

Due to the fact that Alan mostly worked night shift he was not able to take a great deal of interest in Association affairs but did attend Safaris in W.A. and joined in wherever possible.

Alan was a great family man and was much liked and respected by his friends and workmates.

The Association was well represented at the Karrakatta Crematorium which was filled by friends and relatives.

We pass on our sincere sympathy to Alan's wife Phyllis and family.

LEST WE FORGET

VALE—ROYCE BARROW WILKERSON

Once again we have to record the passing of one of our members. This time Royce B. Wilkerson better known to all unit members as "Wendel Wilkie" a nickname tagged on him when first he joined the unit as at that time the great "Wendel Wilkie" was Vice President of America. Quite a large number of his mates would not know his correct name he was so used to answering to his nickname. Royce departed this life on Saturday 15th November 1986 after a long illness.

Royce was an original member of the unit having joined with a large contingent from Kalgoorlie and was drafted to 9 section C. Pln., and served with that section right through Timor, New Guinea and New Britain. He originated in the Goomalling area but like a lot of people was driven to obtain employment at the Goldfields during the depression 1929-1938.

He proved to be an outstanding soldier due to a degree of maturity plus an ever ready sense of humour for which he became known both in the army and after demobilisation.

Royce went back to the farming game in Goomalling after the war, and put in quite a few years before selling out and coming to live at Armadale and worked in the Kelmscott area for a considerable time.

Ill health forced him to give up all forms of work some 4-5 years ago.

The writer saw quite a lot of 'Wendel' in recent years and he was always excellent company or full of humour and a truly whimsical character.

Our sincere sympathy to wife Merle and his family from all the unit.

Farewell "Wendel" hope things are better on the other side.

LEST WE FORGET

UNIT MEMBERS ATTENDING ROYCE
WILKERSON'S FUNERAL

| | |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| J. Fowler | J. Hasson |
| D. McKinley | J. Wicks |
| J. Carey | M. Wheatley |
| K. Hayes | G. Fletcher |
| C. Varian | D. Fullarton |
| R. Kirkwood | S & C Sadler (Wongan) |

CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

Mornington 3931

5/11/86

Things are under way for the 1988 Safari. I feel a big step in the right direction was getting Tom Nisbet to take the helm of a strong, capable committee.

We took a trip north during the winter and met up with quite a few 2/2nd types, most of whom seemed to be wearing pretty well.

Regards to all over W.A. way.

Max Davies.

Katanning 6317
30/10/86

Earlier this year I had a lovely trip to Scotland - highlands and islands - and was saddened to read on my return of the death of Alf Hillman. We used to see him from time to time when he was in Katanning but not at all once he moved to Albany.

Warm regards,

Marie Burgess.

Griffith N.S.W.
17/9/86

I guess it must be time for another sub, so enclosed is a cheque.

Have heard nothing but glowing reports about the Canberra Safari. The Canberra boys certainly did a great job organising, and high praise must go to them.

Len Bagley phoned me on the way over, but did not have time to call. It was good to hear his voice again.

On the way home Keith and Betty Dignum called in on a flying visit. It was nice to see them again, although I had never met Betty before. Dig has worn extra well, in fact there didn't seem to be much difference from when I saw him last in 1945. We appreciated his visit, though short.

Season-wise the country is very good around here - there should be good crops about, then of course we have to sell it at a price. We hope old Ronnie leaves a few of our markets for us. The rice industry here is also anything but bright, high water costs, sprays and fertilizer are also high, as well as harvesting and carting. All these things eat into the profits. I don't have that worry now as I sold out ten years ago.

Don't get around very well these days. Health-wise I'm fairly fit but the pins don't carry me too well. Anyway, I can still walk, so must be thankful for that.

My regards to all the boys.

Cheerio

Alf Hodge.

Seaton S.A.
9/9/86

I have some sad tidings to pass on - in two months we have lost three men known to the 2/2nd.

Alistair Flett passed away on the 16th July, 1986. I did not know him. Bert Bache, in the course of his employment came in contact with him - he was State Manager of the Colonial Sugar Sales Division. He mentioned to Bert that he was in Timor. He was a very reticent type, didn't say much about it and didn't appear interested in renewing old acquaintances. For those Timor Wallahs who have forgotten him, his photo appears in Callinan's book on the page facing page 190.

Padre Arthur Bottrell passed away on the 5th August 1986. It was a private funeral, but I think the Commandos were expected and we turned up. A good number of the Companies were represented. I represented the 2/2nd. Padre Bottrell wrote two books - Cameos of Commandos and History of the Army Padres. I think there could have been a third one. A quote from his Cameos of Commandos: 'A

pleasant surprise came my way when on an early pastoral visit to the R.A.P. at Faita, one of the orderlies told me he was a South Australian from the suburb of Payeham. I was glad to meet Trooper Timcke, as my family was living in that area during my absence in the 2nd A.I.F. We had a good yarn.'

Lofty Timcke passed away on the 31st August 1986 after a hard battle with 'Big Charlie'. We visited Lofty in hospital - he was very sick but was pleased to see any of the boys, a different face to look at. He had no illusions about the future and the way he handled the inevitable was an inspiration to all. He adopted the attitude of a person who has missed out on the lottery. He said - 'That's it, nothing you can do about it.' A very brave man. Betty and I went to Lofty's funeral and took Hazel Hollow, Dud Tapper and Shorty Stevens. Also, there were Bob Williamson, Bert Bache, Mark Jordan and Sid Wadey, RAF. The funeral was a large affair, attendance would have been in excess of 200 - speaks well for his popularity. The only 2/2nd chap who doesn't live in the metropolitan area is Shorty Stevens, he hails from further afield., Yallunda Flat on Eyres Peninsular, a nine hour bus trip each way. Not a bad effort and he thought nothing of it - just said Lofty was a pretty good bloke.

After the funeral Bob Williamson asked me and my car load to call into his home, on Clarices's suggestion, and over a few glasses we spoke and thought of Lofty, then the conversation shifted and evolved around the merits of different cheeses, Jaguar cars and shonky used car operators, interdispersed with ill informed interjections from Clarice.

Sorry the news I impart is of such solemn nature, but that's life, and of our age group.

Enclosed is a donation for the Courier.

All the best

Keith Dignum.

Busselton 6280
1/11/86

Eric and I had a wonderful few days in Bridgetown sharing all the activities with the other participants in the get together of 2/2nd men and their ladies. In some instances 20 years had passed since previous meetings. The hospitality and organisation was superb and we arrived home much better informed on the activities of the area. Thanks so much. Now we are living in Busselton it will be easier to share in the various 2/2nd occasions and we look forward to seeing some of you now and then.

It was particularly great for us to meet up again with Ron and Dorothy Trengrove and when they joined us in Bremer Bay on a wildflower search we felt the trip rounded off with the renewal of a good friendship.

We would be remiss if we didn't give a special mention to the way in which this luncheon was presented. Caves House dining room is a place wherein there still exists an old world charm. Spotless and ample table linen, well polished silver, gleaming crockery and cutlery and an efficient, functional seating arrangement. Add to this a group of unusually sweet, well trained and groomed, patient, attractive, articulate girls under the guidance of one exquisite 'Mine Hostess'. We were made to feel welcome, almost important and I am sure we all did justice to that splendid meal. Thank you Caves House. The menu was splendid - the best for such an occasion. Who ever heard of bully and biscuits or M & V, or dehydrated onions - certainly never the Caves House!

Those in attendance included: Len Bagley, Bob & Joan Burns, Jack & Delys Carey, Alan & Joy Chatfield, Col Dolg, Ron & Nan Dook, Anne Douglas, Jess Epps, John & Jean Fowler, 'Happy' Greenhalgh, Alan & Hazel Hollow, Don Hudson, Betty Illsley, Bernie & Babs Langridge, Joy Loudon, Gerry & Mary McKenzie, Wilf & Lorraine March, Mick & Jean Morgan, 'Gus' O'Connor, Barbara Palmer, Stan Payne, Robbie & Iris Rowan-Robinson, Joe & Helen Poynton, Alex & Wyn Thomson, Clarrie & Grace Turner, Don Turton. (Interstate visitors were 'Happy' Greenhalgh and Alan & Hazel Hollow).

A FEW SIDE SWIPES:

On the first bus trip to Alexander Bridge to board the launch for the 27 km trip down the Blackwood River to Augusta, one of our most prized visitors, Alan Hollow, carried on a continuous exploratory routine which seemed to include most seats on the launch, especially all those next to old mates he hadn't seen for some time. As if by magic Alan was able to avail himself of a stubby here, there and everywhere. Back at Busselton we said he'd had a ball of a day. Next day, en route to Cullen's Winery, he wasn't noticed until seen standing close to the security fence surrounding Cape Naturalist Lighthouse. It was a bit windy too!! At the Winery some were surprised to see Alan taking the part of a 'loner' as he carefully found his way to the flat top of a very large stack of cartons of bottles of wine. There he sat in splendid solitude as all the old wineos did their tasting - a picture of splendid control. Well done Alan and don't forget to come back to W.A. with Hazel to see us again soon.

After Ron Dook broke the mirror of the dressing table in his hotel room and the same day went to the Chinese Restaurant and smashed up a couple of things he was given a new name - 'Ron the Wrecker'.

During the meeting after lunch at Caves House, Mick Morgan, who is a little hard of

hearing, walked into the meeting room where everyone was listening intently to Clarrie Turner, and in a loud voice said "Come on you lot - wake up". Jeannie leapt up and said a few stern words to him and he subsided into an easy chair to be heard no more until the end of the meeting.

At breakfast on the second morning Jeannie Morgan, who had spent a very enjoyable first day relaxing in the lounge of the hotel, was heard to say she hoped everyone had enjoyed themselves as she had a lovely day - and how unusual! We got the impression that Jeannie is not accustomed to sitting for some hours in a hotel lounge sipping scotch and water.

'huddy' was using his favourite pocket knife to slice lemons for his black tea (?) and was upset because he thought he'd left it behind in the motel room but was delighted to find it at the bottom of his case.

On the first coach trip Joe Poynton went on board with a well stocked Esky. A good time was had by all in the back seats and Joe left the coach at the end of the day with an empty Esky. Next day Joe arrived looking like everyone else - a little seedy - but always the optimist, with the well stocked Esky. That day, however, the Esky was not a great deal lighter at the end of the day. Was the 'Good Life' taking its toll??

Helen Poynton, in her usual style, did a good turn during a short visit to Augusta and bought a classy blue crocheted hat to help raise funds for the local hospital. she looked very smart in it and a pair of earrings in exactly the same colour in the shape of Australia, and wore them for the next two days. She has promised to keep them in good order and condition, to be worn at all times during Canberra Safari.

Stan Payne would not have been there if his daughter-in-law had not taken matters into her own hands and phoned to book him in. What a lovely lady. He enjoyed himself so much that he is now gearing up to have the next country convention in Merredin next August or September and all those who went to Busselton are eagerly looking forward to it. As a matter of fact when 'Gus' O'Connor left the coach on the last day she said "Cheerio - see you in Merredin".

Iris Rowan-Robinson also suggested we think about having a convention in Bridgetown.

To end this short story of some of the happenings prior to and during the Busselton Convention, something more must be said about the role played by Barbara Palmer. She had a good idea and she showed our planning team over areas she had suggested we visit. She then went to work to

arrange the package and had time before the convention to fly off overseas and provide service as well as friendship in a "World Help to the Under-privileged Organisation" of which she is a dedicated member. Back in time for the convention, she met us on arrival in Busselton and played the part of a well-informed hostess/guide. Also, you wouldn't believe it possible, but Barbara invited all those attending, in three evening parties, to partake of an excellent meal at her home. Top marks, Barbara, for a top effort for which, on behalf of all members attending, I say many, many thanks for your contribution. We appreciated it more than can be said in these few simple words.

Clearly, Country Conventions are alive and well!

Look out Merredin then Bridgetown - we are coming to see you!!

Still to end this story - did you know that during the Busselton "Show" another important occasion took place, when our beloved Jean Fowler celebrated another birthday. Many happy returns Jean and best wishes, that you celebrate many more of them.

"GE-EM"

ANOTHER "TAYLOR" MADE STORY

You will recall our story about the Taylor Brothers, "Jock" and "Scotty" in October issue.

Jock, from 15 Dromana Avenue, Pascoe Vale, 3044, has sent us more news of Scotty at Wood Croft Elderly Persons Home, 30 Innis Court Garden, Knowle, Bristol, England.

Courier is pleased to report that as a result of a short 'identification and testimonial' we arranged for Jock to take to the U.K. on his last visit, our Scotty has now been granted a 100% Disability Pension due to cerebral vascular and other medical problems having at long last been accepted as due to his war service.

This information is most gratifying and we believe is yet another instance to show that it pays to keep in touch through Courier.

"GE-EM"

CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

Everton Hills, Qld.
17/9/85

A few lines to enclose with our donation.

There is no great news from our area these days. Our family are grown, mature adults and we have a great crop of grandchildren.

It is very pleasant these days in retirement to go to the Unit barbecues and put faces to the names I've heard over the years. Freddie Bryant always does duty as cook as we ladies loll back and take our ease and have a good old natter.

The stalwarts of the group are Freddie Bryant, Angus MacLachlan, Neil Hooper, George Vandeleur, Alex Veovodin, George Coulson and Tony Adams. Sheila Conley puts in an appearance when "Red" is too busy in some "distant clime".

It's great to see the visitors from interstate from time to time.

Peter Hearle was at the last barbecue but I didn't recognise him as the fellow I met twenty years ago. The beard and extra weight had something to do with that!

Good wishes from us to all of the unit, no matter where you are. Congratulations for the goods job of getting the Courier to all of us.

All the best.

Gordon & Joan Stanley

Wongan Hills, W.A.
26/9/85

Am hoping to come to the reunion next week and thought I'd better bring my subs up to date.

The countryside at this time of year is at its best and most farmers in this area should have a good season.

The main street in Wongan is having a good face lift and should look great when completed, thanks to a Bi-Centennial grant.

Regards to all.

Charlie Sadler

Wongan Hills, W.A.
18/10/85

Am enclosing raffle butts and cheque to cover same. also some snaps which someone may be able to identify, then to be handed on to Peter Epps if they are of any use. I have already sent him some.

I thoroughly enjoyed the annual reunion and meeting up with many of our old mates some of whom I had not seen since Timor.

Best wishes to you all.

Stan Sadler

Stockton, N.S.W.
15/10/85

I remember Archie, McKenzie and Rosey, Sgt. Green, Jerry and Cpl. Epps. I was in their Section and was known as the Cisco Kid. I will catch you all at the Safari.

Am sending cheque for Courier.

Thanks

M.R. Coles
(Alias Cisco Kid)

Nice to hear from you Cisco.
ED.

Hurstville, N.S.W.

Have enclosed butts for raffle and little bit over to buy a couple of drinks for the boys. I only wish I could get there with you but my old legs won't let me these days and I'm not as young as I used to be.

Give my regards to the boys, that is those who may remember me for I was a loner and mostly worked on my own, seeing the only Unit I had was the Advance Maintenance Party, Sparrow Force.

Best regards,

Stan, Dowman

Esperance
29/10/85

Dear Arch,
Please find enclosed raffle butts and cheque for same with a donation.

We had a nice day at Turtons picnic, nice meeting everyone again but missed you Arch hope to see you at the Safari. Had a nice couple of days with Joe and Helen

organising our travel arrangements for the trip over east next year.

After a very dry start to the season things are looking good after plenty of rain in October.

Everyone hale and hearty down this way.

Regards to all

Pat Campbell

LETTER TO COL DOIG FROM ARCH C. BOWMAN

Col passed your letter on to Courier Arch, nice to hear from you.

Will give your letter "The Treatment" in Courier when our editor gets back.

A/Ed.

SICK LIST

DAN THOMAS is recuperating at home after an operation. Dan is a key man on the Safari Committee and will be keen to get back on his feet and get on with the job. A speedy recovery to you Dan.

GEORGE COULSEN who underwent a heart bypass operation recently is making steady progress. Our thoughts are with you George during a difficult time.

HENRY SPROXTON is making satisfactory progress with a heart problem. Happy Greenhalgh spent three weeks with Henry recently which would have acted as a good tonic for Henry.

CHARLIE PIERCE has been in the wars. Some time ago charlie, who is a diabetic, injured the big toe on his right foot. Gangrene set in and Charlie had the misfortune to lose part of his right leg to about six inches below the knee. He spent three weeks in Royal Perth Hospital and a similar time at the Shenton Park Rehab. Centre. At present Charlie is staying with his daughter at Cannington and is back and forth to the Rehab. Centre. He expects to be fitted with an artificial limb in about three weeks and is hopeful of returning to his old job as a fitter in Port Hedland early in the new year. Learning to walk again will no doubt take a little time but Charlie, who cherishes his independence and possesses plenty of courage, is sure to overcome his problems. From his old mates in 2 Section and all members of the Assocoation the message is: Keep your chin up Charlie and God Bless.

VALE: JIMMY DENT

It is with great regret that I have to advise the passing of Jim Dent in N.S.W. early in October. Jim contracted a cancer of the throat which he had to live with for some time. He learned to articulate by resonating his vocal chords. This cancer was the eventual cause of his demise.

I first met Jim when I took over A Troop in New Guinea in 1944 and immediately formed a high opinion of him both as a man and a soldier. He joined the Unit from Canungra in 1943 and served with it until the bitter end in New Britain.

Jim was a man of most impressive build, standing over 6 feet and built like a true athlete that he was. I think the intervention of the Was stopped his career as fast bowler at cricket as he was really outstanding in this department.

After the War he returned to Forbes in N.S.W. and was in business as a real estate agent and also a publican. He had to overcome problems most of us had but he did it with his usual courage. Jim lost his wife some year or so ago and battled on regardless. He was a staunch supporter of our Association and attended many of our Safaris.

The world is the poorer for the passing of this superb soldier, citizen and athlete. Goodbye dear Jimmie.

LEST WE FORGET.

DONATIONS

Messrs.

Sadler (Chas)
 Stanley
 Doig (2)
 Thompson (Lew)
 Thomson (Alex)
 Rogers
 Turton
 Maley
 Criddle
 Carey
 Holder
 Kirkwood
 Fullarton
 Smailes
 McDonald
 Sparkman
 Hasson
 Aitken
 Fitzgerald
 Finklestein
 Fowler
 Dook
 Campbell (Arch)
 Campbell (Peter)
 Brown (Allen)
 Haire
 Hudson
 Poynton (Joe)
 Fletcher
 Studdy
 Coles, M.R.
 Hartley (Jack)
 Greenhalgh (Happy)

VALE: LEO CRIDDLE

Another of our members has passed to the Great Divide in the person of Leo Criddle.

Leo joined our Unit from Canungra and served in New Guinea and New Britain with A Troop. He was an easy going highly likeable chap and his good humour was appreciated by all who came in contact with him.

He returned to Three Springs after the war and was employed as a ganger on W.A.G.R. line gang at Three Springs. He raised a very large family who were dedicated to him.

I saw quite a bit of him on his various trips to Perth and always enjoyed a beer with him.

Our sympathy goes out to his wife and family.

LEST WE FORGET
