

# 2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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

Vol. 55

JUNE 1985

Price 1¢

## COMING EVENTS COUNTRY CONVENTION TO BUSSELTON

OCTOBER 22-25, 1985

### ITINERARY:

- Tues., October 22:** Arrive Vasse Hotel
- Wed., October 23:** Bus to Shell Museum at Witchcliffe. Two hour cruise on Augusta Ferry of Blackwood River, including lunch. Visit Catholic Church at Margaret River — afternoon tea included.
- Thurs., October 24:** Bus to Dunsborough and Old Mill. Cullen's Winery including lunch. Newtown House and afternoon tea. Evening function at Vasse Hotel.
- Fri., October 25:** Leisurely drive home.

Cost of the above, including B/B accommodation is approximately:

Single — \$146 plus drinks  
Double — \$185 plus drinks

Please advise the following by August 31 if you will be attending:

Wilf. March (Metro area) 330 3131  
Len Bagley (Country) (095) 35 6186

## ANNUAL DINNER

Friday, October 4 at Anzac Club 11.30 a.m.

## COMMEMORATION SERVICE

Sunday, November 17. Lovekin Drive, Kings Park, 3 p.m.

## CANBERRA SAFARI 1986

8-16th March (inclusive)

Get your deposits in NOW. Time is running out.

Send to: DAN THOMAS, 21 MACKINALTY STREET, SCULLIN, A.C.T. 2614  
or phone: (062) 54 3536

Attendance figures to date for Canberra Safari, 120. Please advise Danny Thomas if you are staying privately. Please do it now.

**"MAKE CANBERRA CLICK IN 86"**

**2/2 COMMANDO ASSOCIATION**  
**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE**  
**FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST JANUARY, 1985**

**Balances forward 1st February 1984**

Working Account	340.34	
Reserve Account	2294.42	
Savings Investment A/c	1980.24	
Debentures	5000.00	9615.00

**Interest Received**

Working Account	32.92	
Reserve Account	164.51	
Savings Investment A/c	190.48	
Debentures	658.72	1046.63

**Courier**

Donations	3580.00	
Printing, Postage etc.		
LESS	2778.57	801.43

**Anzac Day**

Receipts	487.00	
Costs	LESS 473.90	13.10

**Sales of:**

Lapel Badges	8.50	
Car Stickers	2.50	11.00

\$11,487.16

**Honour Avenue**

Water Rates	78.78	78.78
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**Annual Dinner**

Costs	651.80	
Receipts	LESS 560.00	91.80

**Administration Expenses**

Petty Cash	37.50	
Rental on GPO Box T1646	57.00	
Government Charges	10.99	105.49

**Sundries**

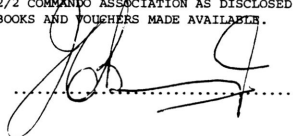
Funeral Notices	42.60	
Donations	500.00	
Costs towards		
EPPS Museum	70.00	
Loss on 1984 A.G.M.	3.60	
Loss on Xmas 1984		
Gathering	46.90	
Towards Canberra		
Safari	1000.00	
Various Expenses	66.95	1730.05

**Balances as at 31st January 1985**

Working Account	593.85	
Savings Investment A/c	2170.63	
T & C Building Society		
Reserve Account	1057.84	
Debentures	5658.72	9481.04

\$11,487.16

I CERTIFY THIS TO BE A TRUE AND FAIR POSITION  
OF THE 2/2 COMMANDO ASSOCIATION AS DISCLOSED  
BY THE BOOKS AND VOUCHERS MADE AVAILABLE.



## ANZAC DAY

### DAWN SERVICE:

A glorious autumn morning heralded the start of this important day of remembrance, one that saw Australia emerge as a nation in its own right. The men of Anzac performed feats of valour unparalleled in our history against overwhelming odds in a landing which, if it had been a half mile either side of the Gallipoli escarpment, would have seen a result so very different.

Being privileged to have stood off the shores of Anzac Cove in the Dardanelles while travelling to Turkey, one could feel nothing but admiration for the intrepid men who made the landing and scaled the heights to write their niche into Australia's history.

King's Park must be positioned as close as, and reminiscent too, any memorial dedicated to our nation builders. Watching the beauties of dawn break over the Darling Ranges, vividly pink and gold, with a foreground of dark cloud that showed up the twinkling lights of aircraft becoming airborne, one was held enraptured by the silhouette of our lovely memorial pointing proudly to the sky — a sight which in any language would be a painter's dream.

To make it all typically Australian the kookaburras gave vent to their infectious laughter and, as if in response, the warbling of the magpies must have brought a lump to the throats of the hushed crowd. It was a marvelously fitting tribute, not only to the men of Anzac, but to men who have served in wars over all the years and who came to pay tributes to their mates who made all this possible by paying the supreme sacrifice.

It was a big crowd, family oriented, proof positive that the vocal anti minorities are indeed a very small section of the community. Thinking people rose early and came in large numbers to pay homage to the War dead, not in glorification, but in humble tribute to the men who made our way of life possible.

This service is one of dignity and reverence and the crowd is hushed over its duration, many in prayer for lost loved ones, many giving thanks to God for sacrifices nobly made, with many, many children, beautifully behaved, absorbing the atmosphere of totally quiet reverence which they will carry into the years ahead, making these words live:

"Fear not that you have died for nought  
The torch you threw to us we caught!  
And now our hands will hold it high,  
Its glorious light shall never die.  
We'll not break faith with you who lie  
On many a field."

### THE MARCH:

Time has not dimmed the enthusiasm and pride of the 2/2nd boys for 51 turned out in tribute to the men of Anzac on the 70th Anniversary of the famous Gallipoli landing. Likewise, to pay homage to our own lads gone to the vale beyond, plus all men who gave their lives for their country in all wars in which Australia has participated. The bravery of the Aussie soldier is legendary and his sacrifice, we trust, will ever be remembered by those who, through this happening, can continue to enjoy life to its full. Our debt to those departed can never be fully repaid.

The men of the 2/2nd marched with heads held high, spring in their step, pride in the Unit they love so well. Doug Fullarton, our new President, led the Unit march with all the verve and purpose of yesteryears, while out in front our standard bearer, Tony Bowers, cynosure of all eyes with his massive frame, helped to draw the ready acclaim from the big crowd who recognised the outstanding record of the 2/2nd Commando Squadron. Behind them the boys marched better than most of us can remember to the gay tunes of the Channel TVW7 band, the steady beat of their feet drummed out the affection and mateship they all felt for each other, plus a tribute of great warmth to those we love and see no more.

The service on the Esplanade was sincere, the singing of the children's massed choir magnificent — children's voices do something to your heart. They are the leaders of tomorrow and their involvement makes it certain that the words "Lest we Forget" will truly remain a part of their heritage.

A wonderful tribute was paid to the boys of the 2/2nd by the S.A.S. Regiment who have adopted us as their own. We went out on to the road to give them a big hand and Lt-Col. Chris Roberts gave a smart "eyes right" and, as one, this fine outfit followed his command. It was a case of the old and the new and our hearts swelled with pride as this crack Unit acknowledged the boys of the 2/2nd as their veteran counterparts. Our sustained applause indicated how much we appreciate being a part of them. May it long continue.

Earlier in the day at the S.A.S. Dawn Service, Colin Doig and Harry Sproton represented us at the inaugural wreath laying at their new and beautiful War Memorial. Colin staggered everyone by reciting "The Ode" in its entirety with nary a fault. The S.A.S. Regiment deeply appreciated the participation by the 2/2nd.

The "March Past", with the Governor of Western Australia taking the salute, only served to show the public what a disciplined unit the 2/2nd had been, and still are — they drew loud and spontaneous applause. It was grand to have members of the 2/4th and 2/8th Commando Squadrons marching with us, while right behind was the 2/3rd carrying their own Unit Flag for the first time. It showed the people the fine type of men chosen to serve in the Commando Squadrons.

Those who marched were Messrs Aitken, Bagley, Bingham, Bowers, Brown, Burns, Burrige, A. Campbell, P. Campbell, Carey, Chalwell, Criddle, Darrington, Doig, Dook, Finklestein, Fletcher, Fowler, Foster, Fullarton, Haire, Hancock, Herbert, Holland, Hudson, Langridge, Lillie, Maley, Morgan, Murray, McDonald, McLaughlin, Parry, Payne, Penglase, Poynton, Strickland, Studdy, Smyth, F. Sparkman, A. Sparkman, Sproton, Swann, Turner, Turton, Thornander, Watson, Wheatley, Wicks, Holder, Thorpe.

Others who marched were Messrs Hart, McEvoy, Wallis, Barron, J & B., Freeman, Coverley, Boardman, Gray, Birch, Jacobs, London, Pip Dunkley, Noel Turner.

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## THE REUNION:

This function wrote another chapter in the annals of our history as Lt-Col. Chris Roberts invited us all to share the Southern Mess at Campbell Barracks with the men of the S.A.S. Regiment. Our appreciation of this new innovation was shown clearly when 48 2/2nd boys faced the barrier to be hosted by at least 50 S.A.S. men. Add another 14 from the 2/3rd, 2/8th and 2/10th and you can see it was a roll call of some order.

Over the years we have been on our own except for the men of the other Commando Squadrons and our reunions have been enhanced by the magnificent catering of Jack Carey, helped by his wife Delys and to these members we owe a deep debt of gratitude for having helped to make our reunion what it is today. Jack has been a lynch-pin in our Association activities from way back and on behalf of all members we thank him sin-

cerely. Well done Jack and long may you live to enjoy our Anzac Day Reunions, at last being able to sit back and enjoy without the worry.

The S.A.S. caterers turned on a luncheon fit for a King, you name it, there it was on the tables which literally groaned under the weight of food. Ample supplies of all beverages lasted well into the afternoon and it was grand to see the groups mixing so well and fully enjoying each other's company and conversation. The Regiment that has adopted us is full of character, stemming right from the top. Lt-COI. Chris Roberts, his officers, NCO's and men were hosts supreme.

Lt-COI. Roberts welcomed everyone with typical sincerity, very proud of the fact we were able to celebrate Anzac Day as one, from the Dawn Service to "Lights Out"!! Our President, Doug Fullarton, never one to waste words, spoke on behalf of us all in giving sincere and heartfelt thanks to the S.A.S. for initiating such an amalgamation.

Anzac Day 1985, held on a glorious autumn day, was one to remember for many things, above all the opportunity for everyone in the Unit to dedicate themselves and declare, as always, that —

"We Will Remember Them".

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## VICTORIAN NEWS

Olive and I, along with Cath and John Roberts made the trip to Young for their mini safari in March and we had a fabulous time. The weather was great and they had a very good roll up. Betty and Keith did a fine job — a lot of hard work but they say it is well worth while. I met Alf Hodge for the first time since the war.

On the journey home Olive and I called in to see Don and Joan Freyer at Wangarata and spent the night with Dawn and Arch Claney. Unfortunately Arch was in hospital but has since recovered. We had a lovely night with them and some of their family.

It was very sad to hear of the passing of Mick Devlin and our deepest sympathy to the family. Jack Hartley rang me with the news and they will sadly miss him in N.S.W.

Bob and Joyce Smith made a trip down recently. I didn't catch up with them but Bob phoned me.



Gordon Stanley was down from Brisbane to see his mother for her birthday. We had a day with him and he is looking very well and enjoying life.

We have just had our Anzac Day March and Reunion with the Combined Commandos. It was a beautiful day and we had a good roll up, Ray Splatt, Don Freyer, George Kennedy, Alex Boast, Bruce MacLaren, Max Davies, Jack Fox, Tom Nisbet, Ken Monk, Harry Botterill, Rolf Baldwin, Bernie Callinan, George Humphreys, John Roberts, George Veitch, Johnny Southwell, Alf Harper, Norm Tillett, Bill Sharp, Paul Costello, Jack Renehan, and a great day was had by all.

Well, that's all the news for now. Regards to all.

Harry Botterill

1/5/85

Dear Ron,

Enclosing a cheque for \$200 from the Victorian Branch towards cost of the Courier. We all appreciate the wonderful work done by this mighty paper and look forward to getting it.

Also enclosing a cheque for \$25 from the Young Mini Safari last March held at Betty and Keith's place. We collected to pay Betty and Keith for all the food supplied but Betty would only take a certain amount so we decided unanimously to send the balance to go towards the Courier.

Kindest regards,

Harry Botterill

## VALE

### FRANCIS MICHAEL DEVLIN

It is with much regret we advise of the death of Mick Devlin, who passed away in the Concord Repatriation Hospital on the 16th of April last.

Mick joined the Unit at Port Moresby in 1943 and served in 9 section for the remainder of the war. He was a loveable character, one whose keen sense of humour and cheerful outlook on life made him a popular member of the unit.

After the war Mick resumed his job with Plessey Communication Systems and continued with them as a production supervisor until his retirement in September 1983.

Mick and Betty attended the W.A. Safari in October of that year where Mick renewed friendships with his old mates of C Platoon. A devoted family man he was also an active member of the N.S.W. Branch, for many years serving on the committee and later as State Secretary and Vice-President. In recognition of his services he was made a life member of the Association.

Mick was blessed with the great virtues of patience and kindness and was always prepared to assist his fellow man.

The love and respect with which he was held by those people who had the privilege of knowing him in life was evident by the very large attendance of mourners at his funeral. We extend our deepest sympathy to Betty, Gail, Michael and Gary and other members of the family.

— May he rest in peace.

Epping  
N.S.W. 2121  
21.5.85

Dear Doug,

My thanks to you and everyone for their sympathy in our sad loss of Mick.

Would you be so kind as to print the following in the Courier.

On behalf of myself and the family of Mick, (I will call him by the Unit's favourite name for him), I wish to thank you for your kindness and sympathy at this time. All the letters and cards I have received helped so much and made me realise even more the great friendship and comradeship that exists between his mates.

A special "thank you" to all his mates in Sydney whose company gave me added strength, he would have been so proud to see you all there. I will never forget the good times we had at the Safari's and other functions, those memories in the months and years ahead will be so wonderful to remember.

I am not a good letter writer but would like to tell you all, if you are over East please call in, I would love to see you.

Once again Doug, thanks for your kind words. Mick did not suffer for too long and for that I can be very thankful. It was a tragic loss but I was blessed with his good humour to the day before he died. He was semi-conscious that day but I was with him and he looked as though he was in a peaceful sleep, which he is now.

Kind regards,

Betty

## IT NEVER RAINS BUT IT POURS

The above heading was prompted by a letter received from Peg McPhee, wife of our Unit member, Dr. Ian McPhee.

As most are aware, Ian suffered a real setback on the physical side which left him partially immobile and negotiating steps etc. a real hazard. A decision was made to quit the family home in Union Street, Clayfield, Queensland, and purchase a unit which was a one level structure.

Having waited for a considerable time for the sale of the house to go through, at last the time came to move. Such a happening is a traumatic experience when one leaves behind so many memories of yesteryears, but add to that a burden of devastation that hit the McPhee family unheralded, then you can imagine just how much more difficult everything became.

Brisbane was hit by a ghastly rainstorm and the damage was horrendous and in Peg's words "while we personally had quite enough to content with, it was only moderate compared with others". Apparently Union Street was totally blocked by trees, power lines down and Peg had to call at the new unit to close it up but did not make the mile from their old home. She was caught in the 185km wind gusts, blinding rain and hail. What an experience! Damage to the family cars, three in total, came to a cool \$10,000. It is a move that will never be forgotten.

In the tranquility of their new surroundings Ian is enjoying the one level living even though his daily walk programme is more difficult because of the hilly terrain. However, they still had time to send their best wishes to all members of the 2/2nd and congratulate Colin Doig on his compilation of the 2/2nd History, likewise on his recovery to his old vital self.

Ian and Peg, everyone will be sorry about your unenviable experience, but all would wish you God speed and years of enjoyment in your new abode. Take care.

The Editor.

## SCOTTY TAYLOR — GERRY MCKENZIE

That "little touch of heather" is being prolonged. Gerry McKenzie, a good Scots name, who is putting the article together has been super busy. Gerry and Mary have had their family in the West to celebrate "Bombers" 70th Birthday!!

Congratulations from us all Gerry you are now on the credit side of life, well done!! How the devil did Mary weather all those years? Answer. Because she is such a lovely person, and Gerry, you are the first to acknowledge that. God bless you both and your family. It must have been a joy to have them here for such an occasion.

The Editor.

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## W.W.C.P.

Our list is longer, some good news, some not so good, but everyone will be interested.

FRED NAPIER: Like a good vintage port, improving with age. Not so good in the legs but tops in the spirit.

RON DOOK: Knee operation successful, is improving in leaps and bounds — marched on Anzac Day.

JERRY HAIRE: Gentleman Jerry showing how resilient he is. Mobility improving tremendously. Marched the full distance on Anzac Day — and — made the Reunion!!

MERV. RYAN: Having a real battle, holding his own and Dulcie right in there pitching. Keep it going old timer!

ALF BLUNDY: Had operation in Hollywood for removal of voice box. Back home and fighting on with spirit. Keep on plugging Alf, you will make the grade.

JIM GALLAGHER: News is that you are not too well Jim. We are all concerned so give us a rundown on the problem. Good luck from us all.

FRED GRIFFITHS: Has a battle with a problem of his mining days. Right behind you are all the boys Fred, so best of luck and a quick recovery.

**CLARRIE VARIAN:** Not very well at all and to add to the burden Clarrie's wife is very much on the sick list. Am sure your spirit will see you both on the recovery road before long. God bless and good luck from all members.

**JIM VEAL:** Sorry to hear about the sad loss of your wife and all the members send their deep sympathy. May time partially erase the heartache. God bless.

**ALAN BROWN:** Not 100% at all but am sure with Phyllis looking after you there will be a great improvement. Good luck from all members.

**RON KIRKWOOD:** Been hospitalised, now out and about and feeling a lot better. We missed you Ron. God bless — good luck — get better quickly.

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### PETER EPPS — 2/2ND MUSEUM

This young man has created something for posterity and we are truly appreciative. At our committee meeting on Tuesday, 14th May we not only gave thought to how to utilise it as an interesting facet but also to appeal to any 2/2nd member who is good with his hands, carpentry division and the like, to contact Peter and see what could be done to help. Ring Jess on 294 1845 and she will put you in touch with Peter whose only address known to us is Box 39, Hillarys, W.A. 6025. There is sure to be among our numbers someone who could contribute some time to help Peter. The Association will defray any costs of materials. Thanks fellas in anticipation.

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### OUT OF THE WOODWORK

Once again we can use this heading as Andy Beveridge has corresponded in the briefest and big hearted manner possible. Your substantial donation is tremendously appreciated Andy. Let us hear more about your activities. Kindest regards from all members.

The Editor.

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### WANTED BY COL DOIG

Original copies of NEWSLETTER prior to the printing of 2/2nd COMMANDO COURIER.

These would be numberes 1—50 and the last copies would be in the form of duplicated Couriers.

Also, any early copies of the COURIER from No. 51—100.

The above will be required eventually for a history of the 2/2nd Commando Association.

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### S.A.S. REGT. MEMORIAL DONATIONS

It is not too late for any member to participate in this effort, by the Regt. who have adopted us, to honour their War dead. Donations to:—

Major G.F. Hill  
2 I/C SASR  
Campbell Barracks  
Swanbourne, W.A. 6010

Cheques and/or money orders payable to "SAS Regimental Fund — Memorial A/c".

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### STOP PRESS

It is with extreme sadness we record the loss of two of our ladies within a short space of time in the month of May.

**MRS MARY DINWOODIE**, wife of our late member Ernie Dinwoodie. We had not seen Mary Dinwoodie for some time but her passing is mourned by us all. Our deepest sympathy is extended to all members of her family.

**MRS LEXIE VARIAN** — wife of our esteemed member, Clarrie Varian. Lexie, as mentioned in W.W.C.P., had been extremely ill and she passed away very suddenly. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Clarrie and his family on their very sad and untimely loss.

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### DONATIONS

Messrs.		
Aitken ✓	Maley ✓	Dook ✓
Bingham ✓	McDonald ✓	Fletcher ✓
Brown ✓	McLaughlin ✓	Foster ✓
Burns ✓	Parry ✓	Hancock ✓
Burridge ✓	Payne ✓	Herbert ✓
Chalwell ✓	Penglase ✓	Langridge ✓
Criddle ✓	Smyth (Bob) ✓	Lillie ✓
Darrington ✓	Sparkman, A. ✓	Sparkman, F. ✓

Sproxtton ✓  
 Swann ✓  
 Turner ✓  
 Stevenson ✓  
 Tucker ✓  
 Vandeleur ✓  
 Archer ✓  
 Adams ✓  
 Miller ✓  
 Mrs J. Dunkley ✓  
 McPhee ✓ Victorian Branch ✓

Turton ✓  
 Thornander ✓  
 Watson ✓  
 Dignum ✓  
 Beveridge ✓  
 Smoiles ✓  
 Cole ✓  
 Botterill ✓  
 Keenahan ✓

Courier to this 2/4th 'ring-in'. It's always great to read news of many of you that I struck at the Prom in 1941.

I enclose a small contribution towards the publication of the Courier and convey my best wishes to all your members.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Stevenson

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## CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

Albury, 2640  
 14/3/85

Have recently been overseas to Tassy attending 40th Reunion of 2/40 Bn — my 35th. Met some of the Timor boys who were not aware of the 2/2 Association so have gathered some information for roll book and issue of Courier — no fees collected but feel sure a contribution will be forthcoming.

Had an enjoyable weekend at Young last week. A mini safari organised by Keith and Betty Craig and top marks to the organisers. Counted 30 heads at the evening dinner. No doubt one of our members will give you a full report on this activity.

Regards to all members.

Denny Dennis

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Flinders Park, 5025  
 17/3/85

I am writing to report the death of one Jean Gurr, wife of Ron of Coonawarra, South Australia — I believe a heart attack and went very quickly. You may have received this bad news already. I only heard the news after the funeral so didn't have time for a wreath, but sent a sympathy card to Ron from the boys of the 2/2nd.

Things here are quiet at the moment. I saw Bert Bache and Kel Carthew at a meeting last week — they are looking fit.

Regards to all.

Dud Tapper

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Darlinghurst, 2010  
 25/3/85

Many thanks for continuing to send the

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Seaton, 5023  
 20/3/85

I am writing to pass on some bad news. Ron Gurr has lost his wife Jean. It was very sudden with a heart attack, a very traumatic experience for those who are left.

Ron was in 4 Section in New Guinea and was well known to all as "The Old Gent".

Jean was a local girl from the Penola area and had a lot of expertise in sheep, cattle and property management. Jean was a very placid person ideally suited with Ron. They made a grand couple.

Ron and Jean had a property at Wrattontully, approximately half way between Naracoorte and Penola towards the Victorian border. I was a regular visitor on my trips to the S.E., always got a cuppa and a meal. Jean and I could manage to argue on practically any subject that cropped up — actually I think most of the time she set me up.

Please find a donation to be used towards the Courier.

All the best for now and keep the good work up.

Keith Dignum

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Taigum, 4034  
 14/4/85

During the Easter holidays Edna and I went on a bus trip out to Moree then to Coonabarabran, over the Tamworth — phoned Jack Peattie but he wasn't home — up to Armidale, over the range to Dorrigo and on to Coffs Harbour and back to Brisbane. I was discussing war areas and a certain lady asked me where I spent my time during the

War. When I said I was in Timor in the 2/2 she said she knew some of us — Don Turton, Jerry Haire and some others now deceased. She worked in Allied Geographical Section, Queen Street, Brisbane. Maiden name Joyce MacGillivray, Corporal A.W.A.S. She would like to be remembered to those she met from the Unit. I intend bringing her to our barbecues. Her address is: Mrs. J. Ames, 29 Eton Street, Nundah, 4012.

When I was in Grafton I rang George Greenhalgh — he is still playing bowls and doing some fishing — not many fish about, he said.

Enclosed is a donation for the Courier.

Regards,

George Vandeleur

Highett, 3190  
17/3/85

I noticed in the Courier that Col Doig is putting together a new project with humorous aspects. One of my many vivid memories was as a sig. reinforcement, together with Bill Gilchrist, Ray Splutt and Jim Fenwick we arrived at Goroka on Christmas Day 1942. After billeting down we were invited to a party in the bottom hut. On the way we met a Padre who was not at all enthusiastic about our destination. Well, can you imagine **raw** rookies walking into the grass hut and finding a Christmas tree decorated with grenades, Owen guns and toilet paper, a mob of blokes in various states of dress and Col Doig as Master of Ceremonies, telling yarns in the true Doig style and inviting everyone in turn to render their own presentation. Our contribution paled into insignificance but I'm sure we knew we had joined a great group of men.

The Goroka period with the "Native sing songs", swimming pool, jungle juice and mission horses which I rode around the area, was a welcome interlude after the Canungra training. I was then transferred to 'A' Troop at Faita and stayed with the Unit until we broke up in Rabaul.

It is a regret that I have been unable to get to the west to see all again, particularly the good mates who have departed our ranks, but still very much in our memories.

I'm looking forward to the Canberra Safari and have sent the necessary information to

Dan and my sig. mate Jim.

Donation cheque enclosed.

Regards,

Bill Tucker

Gooseberry Hill, W.A.

Just a line of appreciation to all who do so much to keep the Courier going and of course to those who contribute the letters and articles that make it so interesting to our members. Nice to hear that Scotty Taylor has surfaced after so long in the wilderness. I tried to locate him in England in 1976 but had no luck.

I often pick up Fred Napier for a drive and a meal at a pub. He gets very lonely in the hospital, but is not doing too bad for nearly 80. My son and I took him up to Kalgoorlie just before Christmas for an overnight trip and we dug out Jack Sheehan at the two-up. They had known each other from the old Wiluna days and of course were in 8 Section in the 2/2nd. Jack wished to be remembered to any of the boys and is not looking too bad for 77. Not quite so active perhaps, but that goes for us all, I'm afraid.

I am not doing too badly healthwise, and cannot complain. Would like to make another trip to England and Scotland, but am afraid it is too late. You have to be in good condition for modern travelling. However, there is a lot of Australia yet to see, especially our North. It is nice to see Kalgoorlie so prosperous again, and only wish I was 30 years younger. However, it has been a wonderful innings to look back on with satisfaction. Am also well blessed with three great kids and eight delightful grand children. Marion slowly recovering from the devastation of cancer eight years ago. Yes, I am truly thankful and happy.

Enclosed please find a few dollars to help keep the wheels turning, and all the best to the Association.

Jim Smailes

West Swan, 6055

Re the 2/2nd Commando Courier. Mr. S.C. Jarvis has changed his address and is now living with me at Lot 41 Marshall road, West Swan, 6055.

Mrs. S.C. Jarvis has been deceased for the last sixteen years and it is Mr. Jarvis who

celebrated his 80th birthday at the beginning of the year after undergoing three operations within the past year, and is now convalescent under my care. Dad was able to have a long conversation with Smithy in Ward One.

Cheers to everybody.

Annette MacGregor  
(on behalf of my father)

EDITOR: Thank you Annette for your information on Syd. It is listed as syd in our Address Book. If it is being addressed to Mrs instead of Mr our very sincere apologies. It will be rectified forthwith. Congratulations to Syd on his 80th birthday. Well done, Syd — you are well on the credit side. Kind regards from us all.

Toowong, Qld  
April 1985

It was really beaut having Frank and Phyllis sharp on our 8-day tour to Ballina last week. They had a great time and Frank and I caught up on our Unit and our mates with many good chin wags. Frank reckoned it was like one of our Safaris!

Ron Archer

EDITOR: Ron is tied up with Logan Travel Services, working from his home at 36 Soudan Street, Toowong, 4066. He was tour leader on this trip, so if anyone is looking for tours in Brisbane, Ron Archer is your man.

Yagoona, 2199  
28/4/85

Sadly, I give you the news of Mick Devlin's death. His health has been deteriorating for some time — he went quickly, which was a blessing, at least his suffering was minimised. Mick was a real stalwart of the Unit and the Association. He joined us at Murray Barracks, New Guinea in the middle of 1943. Served, I think, in 9 Section 'C' Troop, and was still with us at War's end in August 1945. He was one of the most tolerant and charitable men it has ever been my good fortune to know. In all the years I have never heard him speak or act in a derogatory manner towards anyone. Much of his leisure time was spent in making life more pleasant for many people. To Betty and his family we extend our deepest sympathy in their sad loss.

Nora had sad news from Ireland. Her father, who was within a week or two of his 90th birthday, passed away recently. Paddy had his share of tough times in a country where, until recent years, depression and poverty were almost the norm for most people, yet like many of his compatriots he was a cheerful man, with a great sense of humour. He certainly didn't let life drift by, he lived and enjoyed every minute of it. He was also blessed with good health to within a month of his death — don't reckon Paddy Kelly had any regrets.

I have some cheerful news. Gerald was married on Saturday and a good time was had by all. Another empty bed in the house. Anyway, prior to the wedding the house was full — Helen and Sean home and a crowd round the table once more.

Rhian Poynton and her friend Andrea were here for a few days. They were on their way back to the west after a holiday in New Zealand. Michael and a friend of his showed them round some of Sydney's night life. Rhian and Andrea returned the compliment, ensuring Michael and his mate made it safely back to port. A couple of lively girls, they are welcome here any time they come east.

I came back from Cowra a week ago, left beautiful autumn weather behind me in the mid west and returned to a week of rain. It has rained inches and looks set for plenty more. We don't need it here and it refuses to rain where it is needed in the inland areas.

Anzac Day wasn't all that good this year. It didn't rain during the march, however, I think the unsettled conditions kept many men from attending. We didn't have a bad roll up. Ted Cholerton was in from Carcoar, looking really well, intending to give serious farming away in three years time. Tom O'Brien was also along. He has retired, looks well and puts in plenty of time on the bowling green. Keith and Betty Craig were up from Young. Keith did not march, his health has not been first class over the last few months. He met most of us near the Hyde Park War Memorial. He and Betty kept open house in their motel apartment. The tea was a blessing after the beer. I may have stayed off the "demon" too long or else i'm "outward" bound. For the first time in memory I didn't really enjoy Anzac Day. As usual I went to Millers Point to catch up on some of the men I went to school with at St. Pat's years, or is it centuries ago. Also men I'd worked with on the waterfront. I met two, the remainder hadn't been sighted all day. Must be a mes-

sage somewhere in that for me, perhaps there's a hint that life must change and so it must, but not until it is really forced on us, and I don't feel like changing yet. Time enough for that when a man can only sit in the sun and watch other people living.

I hope Angus MacLachlan is holding the fort in beleaguered Queensland. If his friend Joh continues the tirades he had been making lately he will either be committed or the remainder of Australia will assume he is Premier of Bedlam anyway.

Good luck and good health to all.

Paddy Kenneally

EDITOR: Deepest sympathy to Nora on the sad loss of her Dad. Great Dad's only pass this way once and old Paddy must have been a gem. This comes from all members.

Burnie, Tasmania  
29/4/85

I have received the April edition of 2/2nd Commando Courier and your Association address book for which I thank you very much and enclose a cheque towards the cost of these productions.

It is 42 years, Canungra, February 1943, since I have had contact with any members of the 2/2nd. I have a number of names and addresses of chaps I knew in Timor in an old note book and on a one pataca note.

My wife and I are interested in the Canberra Safari 1986 and would be obliged if you would send a brochure or some information on this.

Some of the chaps I remember are Fred Griffiths, Jerry Haire (he was my Section Corporal), Reg. Harrington, Mal Herbert, Tom Martin, John Penglase, Eric Thornander, Bluey Wilkes, Norm Demmery and Alan Ludy.

Yours faithfully,

Max L. Miller

EDITOR: Bluey, write to Danny Thomas, 21 Mackinalty Street, Scullin, A.C.T. 2614 or phone (062) 54-3536. See April issue of Courier.

2/4th Aust. Commando Sqdn. Ass'n,  
5/42 Edward Street  
Sandringham, 3191  
2/5/85

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Our Secretary for many years, Norm Holgate, died quite suddenly on Christmas Eve, 1984. For the time being, at least, I am acting as Secretary, so would appreciate any future correspondence for 2/4th being directed to me at the above address.

Thanks for the April Courier just to hand but not digested.

Kind regards,

Ian Searle

10 Edith Road  
Safety Bay, 6169  
2/5/85

Please find enclosed donation towards general funds, do with it was your will.

It was an absolutely marvellous experience for me to be with you all at S.A.S.R. on Anzac Day. To meet up with old friends again after so many years and to meet, in the flesh, men who for so long had been names only, albeit revered names, was a great joy.

I am impressed with the trust in each other and the respect for each other that is so evident amongst you all and I suggest that the modern society could do well in following your example.

My mother extends all best wishes to you and your families. She is in good health although her eyesight is not as good as she would like it. However, it was good enough for her to see the final score of the South Fremantle/Claremont match last Saturday, 27/4/85, and let me know in no uncertain terms, that I should start to take an interest in a good team and not continue to support a "lack-lustre, middle of the road mob."

Some home news relating to us. I have a lovely wife, Barbara, who teaches Physical Education at Rockingham Senior High School and certainly keeps me in shape! We have two boys, Hamish (15) and Jock (14) both at Safety Bay High School and I am working at Australian Iron & Steel at Kwinana. Hamish has aspirations of a military career and Jock thinks medicine is for him. Early days yet but hopefully they'll make it.

It seems you have a permanent "home" at S.A.S.R. and, frankly, I can't think of a more fitting tribute. Full marks to Chris Roberts and all ranks for a truly great function on Anzac Day.

Many thanks to you all for making me so welcome; my best wishes to you and your families and special wishes to those on the sick list.

Kind regards, Pip Dunkley

Huskisson, N.S.W.

Enclosed please find cheque towards Courier.

It has been ages since I last wrote but better now than not at all. I have now had three years of retirement at the above address, which is a quiet fishing town with great people to enjoy life with.

I pop back now and then to Cabramatta which is approximately 160kms from Huskisson and always see and have a few beers with the likes of Tom O'Brien, Snowy Went and Jack Hartley. Curley O'Niell made his way down this area (Husko) some months ago and I met up with him at the R.S.L. He hasn't changed — a laugh a minute.

My wife Norma and I will be at the 1986 Safari and look forward to seeing old friends after many years. Have sent the necessary deposit to Dan Thomas.

All the best — keep that Courier coming.

Jack & Norma Keenahan

Para Hills, S.A.

Another Anzac Day has gone by and what a beautiful day it was in Adelaide, weather wise. The Commando units met at a Plaque at the Army Barracks, Keswick, at 9 o'clock and a memorial service was conducted by Padre Botterill. The Vice President of the Commando Association, Mr. Keith Dignum, laid a wreath.

The 2/2nd members marched with the Commando Association. Members of the 2/2nd who attended were K. Dignum, Bert Bache, Lofty Timke, Ross Smith (from Clare), Bob Williams, Kel Carthew. Ron Mackie was laid up, having had an injury whilst playing golf. Dud Tapper had gone on a holiday.

The Commando Association had made arrangements with the Hindmarsh Hotel for a get together after the march. Ross Smith and self went along and had a good afternoon with the other members of their respective units.

The evening prior to Anzac Day a dinner was held at the Gothic Hotel. 60 members attended.

That about completes the Anzac activities.

Yours faithfully, Kel Carthew

Keith & Betty Craig  
Young, N.S.W.

March '85

Dear Everyone,

We have been very busy since Xmas and had Janette, Stan, Donna and Marc coming and going for a couple of weeks. Phillip, Lorraine and the girls are well. Susan and Sharon are doing their H.S.C. this year and have changed schools to do so — they are now at Frankston. Karen is in year 10, Linda in year 7 and both doing well. Phillip has gone back to school for special math courses and, at the beginning of next year, goes to Wodonga to take exams so as to climb the Army ladder a little further.

Our busy life seems to go on and on, eases off a bit, then bang, we start again. Some church work keeps us both busy, Keith does the lawns and gardens, I do most of the typing and bits and pieces for the Minister. There is always a meeting to go to, or a trip to another town to represent the church.

The Debs Guide Ball is on again and after trying to get help for a couple of years, two men who help with old time dances have come along to assist. This year 14 debs and their partners are taking part and learning the Swing Waltz. It will help celebrate the 75th year of Guiding in Australia and should be on the night, a very pretty sight.

Keith went in Concord Repat. Hospital on the 11th Feb. to have tests for the balance problem he is having. There is nothing that can be done about it, as it is something affecting the vertebra in the neck — he just has to live with it, but thankfully he is free from pain. So we go on from day to day and have not missed out on anything, as long as we take things slowly all will be ok.



The best thing to happen this year was the "Mini Safari" we had on the weekend of 9-10th March. Friday night 18 for a meal, Saturday 36 for a B.B.Q. lunch, 30 went out to Anchorage for dinner at night. Sunday 40 for B.B.Q. lunch, 28 for a salad tea. Strange thing, no one wanted anything to eat on Monday prior to leaving for home!! It was a wonderful weekend, the weather was kind, and imagine the talk, laughter and pleasure it all brought us being together again.

Phillip came up from Melbourne, that was a big surprise, and, he did all the cooking for us. The ladies came laden with slices and cakes there was so much to eat I still have some in my freezer. However, I will take them to Sydney when we go down for the Anzac Day march.

At the safari for the weekend were: Olive and Harry Botterill, Bill and Coral Cother, Merv and Marjorie Jones, Jim and Joan Fenwick, Alf and Joyce Hodge, Ron and Marjorie Goodacre, Danny and June Dennis, Ted Cholerton, Paddy and Nora Kenneally, Bob and Joyce Smith, John and Cath Roberts, Ron and Dorothy Trengrove, Danny Thomas, Tom and Muriel O'Brien, Jack Hartley, Bill and Betty Hoy, "Snow" Went, Phillips, Keith and Betty Craig.

A really wonderful weekend. Keith and I hope that you all enjoyed it as much as we did. Once again we asked our Minister, Laurie Bailey, his wife Jenny and children, Andrew and Cristy, plus a friend of ours to give a hand on Sunday, Audrey Shannon.

It was a real pleasure to have had you all and we appreciate the distance quite a few travelled to be part of the "Mini Safari".

♥

Betty Craig

EDITOR: Had to cut your news back a little Betty because of a space problem but trust I conveyed most of what you wanted everyone to hear.

Am sure that the thanks of all members go out to you and Keith for the magnificent gesture that comes from you each year. Those who attended were loud in their praise of your superb efforts in hospitality and entertainment. Well done, two truly great members of our 2/2nd Association.

Mandurah  
W.A. 6210  
17th May, 1985

Dear Jack,

Writing to let you know our new address. We have sold our house in Warwick and have now settled in Mandurah, very happily I might add.

We see Len and Betty quite often, they are going to keep an eye on our place while we go looking for gold for about a week! Great to have nice friends.

Thank you very much for the Courier, we read every page and enjoy all the news therein.

Best of good health and good luck to all.  
God bless.

Joy and Allan Chatfield

## CHANGE AND ADDITIONS — ADDRESS BOOK

BOMFORD, L.  
Lance  
11 Terry Street,  
Glenorchy, Tas. 7010  
Phone (002) 72 4953

ARCHER, J.H.  
Jack and Silvia  
1 Upper Gawler Road  
Gawler, Tas. 7315  
Phone (004) 25 2711

ELMORE, W.J.  
Snow and Isobel  
19 Cadorna Street  
Launceston, Tas. 7250  
Phone (003) 26 2046

LEHNER, C.R.  
Colin and Enid  
14 Antony Street  
Launceston, Tas. 7250  
Phone (003) 31 4232

MARSH, J.R.  
Swampy and Joan  
17 McGough Street  
Glenorchy, Tas. 7010  
Phone (002) 72 7883

MILLER, M.L.  
Bluey and Noreen  
156 Wilson Street  
Burnie, Tas. 7320  
Phone (004) 31 3489

McPHEE, Dr. I.G.  
Ian and peggy  
2/46 Upper Lancaster Road  
Ascot, Qld. 4007  
Phone (07) 262 8101

SPLATT, R.  
Ray  
25 Lascelles Avenue  
Manifold Heights  
Geelong, Vic. 3218

CHATFIELD, G.A.  
Allan and Joy  
59 Coolibah Avenue  
Mandurah, W.A. 6210  
Phone (095) 35 2837

NICHOLSON, L.  
4 Hayes Place  
Launceston, Tas. 7248

DOOK, R.L.  
Ron and Nan  
23 Waraker Way  
Leeming, W.A. 6155  
Phone (09) 332 6913

SPROXTON, H.Y.  
Henry and Thelma  
28A Keane Street  
Wembley, W.A. 6014  
Phone (09) 387 6889

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## ADDITION TO ADDRESS

MARCH, W.  
Wilf and Lorraine  
3 Bricknell Road  
Attadale, W.A. 6156  
Phone (09) 330 3131

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## 2/4TH CONTACT

SEARLE, Ian  
5/42 Edward Street  
Sandringham, Vic. 3191

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