



# 2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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

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PRICE 1c

## COMING EVENTS

### ANZAC DAY

Thursday 25th April 1986

5.45am - DAWN SERVICE - 5.45am

Laying of wreath by Doug Fullarton, assembly point for members, top of concrete steps leading down to State War Memorial. 5.45am.

9.45am - ANZAC DAY MARCH - 9.45am

Assembly point - proximity Cathedral Ave & St. George's Terrace, opposite Council House. 9.45am.

**STANDARD BEARER** - Tony Bowers, our magnificent "Flag Carrier" will again be up from Mandurah to lead us on the march.

### RE-UNION AFTER THE MARCH

TIME - 12.30pm

PLACE - S.A.S. Regt. Campbell Barracks, Servetus Street, Swanbourne. (Tell the guard on duty that you are a member 2/2 Commando Association - that will get you into the barracks.)

THE ROUTE - 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 stagger on to Servetus Street. Now - when you are lost check your road guide, then ask a local, they all know Servetus Street - Campbell or S.A.S. Barracks or Swanbourne Beach, it's easy to get back onto the best route!!

REMEMBER!! - We want a full roll call to share hospitality with the S.A.S. boys.

AXIOMATIC - Don't drive when drunk - keys to a long or short hair and let the skipper, DRIVE!

Confirm these arrangements on the march parade. Before you get lost!!

## W.A. BRANCH ASSOCIATION

### Annual General Meeting

DATE - Wednesday 7th May 1986

TIME - 11am

VENUE - Anzac Club

AFTER - Light luncheon and refreshments at the Club.

We need a full roll call in attendance for this most important event - can we please expect to see you there?

## SAFARI RAFFLE RESULT

1st Prize No. 600 - Mrs A. Tapper Bullcreek W.A.

2nd Prize No. 61 - R. Kirkwood Cottelsoe W.A.

3rd Prize No. 3431 - J. Dasey Dubbo, N.S.W.

Dear Sir,

I should be pleased if you would accept my tiny contribution towards our much loved Courier.

The Courier is our link with the past, the sacrifices made during the war, and the vehicle carrying our memories and recollections of our dear departed comrades.

It is, I believe, a duty which befalls us to carry on the publication of this precious periodical, the Courier.

The Timorese People say "Hanoin halo ita moris" - Memories are the stuff of life.

Yours truly,  
P.J. da Luz

## NATIONAL REUNION - Melbourne

Dear Editor,

I refer to the article in the 2/2 Courier a few issues ago under the heading "A Clash of Dates - What a Pity!" that is right. It is a pity. I did not write to you then as I did not want to give the unintended impression that it was a swift response the purpose of which could have been misunderstood by some. That possibility had to be avoided. More time than I intended has gone by for various reasons and this is now belated. But, better late than never.

In 1983 (about August) when we - the Commando Association (Victoria) decided to hold a National Reunion in Melbourne in 1986 immediate advice was sent to all State Associations. Unfortunately, as you know, there is no such Association in Western Australia.

We are all aware of the passage of time and know only too well, because of the loss of many good mates, of the consequences of it. We can expect many Reunions, large and small, to be held and the organisers will select dates with regard to the time of year, to weather conditions and other factors, including Anzac Day (or week). This latter time is favoured by some but we think it should be left free for all to conduct their usual Reunions. So, obviously, do you in Western Australia. It is, because of the expected increase in the number of Reunions from now on, likely that there will be some overlapping particularly as in our case where the duration extends over the period of a week. Regrettable but, understandably, likely. Liaison, as suggested, is important but it is a matter to be observed by all.

We sincerely reciprocate your good wishes and hope, as we also expect, that your Canberra Safari will be the success you deserve it to be. If any of the 2/2 boys do manage to attend part of our Reunion they will be more than welcome to be with us. Our efforts promise to be successful. The figure for the Dinner at present is close to 500 with what appears to be an almost certain increase to 550, possibly more. All other events will be very well attended. In many cases members will attend all of them. All States are well represented and a New Zealander will be with us right through.

Our very best wishes to all.  
Ron Scott Hon, Sec.

## WINNIE'S ROLE IN WAR EFFORT REMEMBERED

The Royal Australian Signals Association celebrated the 40th anniversary of its foundation with a commemoration service at Angelesea Barracks and Beaumaris Signal Drill Hall in Hobart yesterday.

A highlight of the day was the opening of the Max Loveless Pioneer Memorial Collection, which contains past and present communication equipment.

The guest speaker and former second-in-command and later commanding officer of the 2/2 Independent Company in Timor during World War Two, Sir Bernard Callinan, of Melbourne, presented awards and spoke on his experiences in Timor, which included the construction of "Winnie the War Winner".

"Winnie" was a radio transmitter made from kerosene tins, recovered domestic radio equipment, captured Japanese apparatus and the remains of a low-power Australian wireless set.

The transmitter is in the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, but photographs of it are included in the display. Sir Bernard said the 2/2nd Independent Company of 300 men had spent 13 months in Timor and for 59 days they had no contact with Darwin. He said Signalman Max "Joe" Loveless had built the transmitter, helped by several other soldiers. When the set was finished, the Australians could hear radio "chatter" in the Northern Territory, but could not transmit.

"Eventually we broke in one night, but in the middle of the message the batteries gave out," Sir Bernard said. The next night their message was received and vital supplies, including boots and quinine, were later dropped.

Sir Bernard said "Winnie the War Winner" made a lot of difference to life in Timor and proved valuable in pinpointing enemy positions.

He said the soldiers had relied on the Timorese and Portuguese, who would give them whatever food they could spare. Apart



**The former commanding officer of the 2/2nd Independent Company, Sir Bernard Callinan, with World War two radio equipment and the book he wrote about his war experiences in Timor, Independent Company.**

from this, the soldiers lived off the land. Sir Bernard has written a book of his experiences, which began as scribbled notes on pieces of paper when he was serving in New Guinea.

December 1985

## VALE W.C. (BUNNY) ANDERSON

There was a great sadness right across Australia when it was learnt that our old mate "Bunny" Anderson had passed away. It came with such suddenness that it cast a shadow over the start of the Canberra Safari at which Bunny was to be a starter.

Words cannot express the type of man he was, quiet, powerful, loyal, a true friend, he loved his fellowman, but never wore his heart on his sleeve. He had all the gifts of a true leader of men, always one was ready to follow him, he in return gave you his full and un-

qualified support. He was a rare breed of man. A tremendous soldier, a fine athlete who, excelled in the sport of boxing, he was a fine exponent of the art when living on the South Coast of N.S.W.

Bunny joined 2/2nd on Timor as a reinforcement prior to the Japs landing. He was allotted to 7 Section "C" Platoon after that fine band of men were tragically torn apart. His service in Timor was one of excellence, of courage, of determination. Who will ever forget him piggy-backing "Hector" Bagnall out of trouble for a mile or more, when only walking from memory. His performance in the Dare raid, was one of class, his first thoughts were for those around him.

He served the 2/2nd faithfully and well through Timor, New Guinea and New Britain rising to the rank of Sergeant. Bunny was a decided asset over all the years of war, one of the men who made the 2/2nd the excellent unit it was.

Life was not always easy for Bunny and he battled every inch of the way to support a family, his health in later years was a big problem. We know little of his family but he had two daughters, grandchildren and great grandchildren, plus a sister who lives in Canberra.

To them all goes our deepest sympathy on the loss of a fine man, father and grandfather. To pay the last respects on behalf of the Unit at the graveside on the 27th February 1986 were:- Paddy Kenneally, Bill Coker, Snowy Went, Jack Hartley, Tom O'Brien, Ron Trengrove. To them we say thank you for attending on our behalf and acknowledging our deep affection for Bunny.

The one sentence that eulogises to perfection as he moves to join his comrades beyond the vale is:-

"There goes a Man."

Lest We Forget

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## CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

Bentley W.A.  
17/1/86

Please find enclosed money for Safari raffle. I have to go to Hopetown to finish cleaning up our block. My son Ray who is a builder in Darwin has bought a pre-cut house for us to put there. We spend a good deal of time in Hopetown and it will save a bit of caravanning which I have done a lot of these last ten years. Am hoping to settle down to some steady fishing this year.

I hope everyone has a marvellous time at the Safari and my sincere regards to one and all.

John Penglase

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Cannington W.A.  
13/12/85

Please find enclosed cheque for \$10 to cover cost of raffle tickets. I felt I should buy some myself as I contribute very little to the Association.

I doubt whether I will have very much time as I am going into business. However, I will try to make the Anzac Service with the Unit next year. I may upset the Cannington R.S.L. with whom I have been associated for many years. May I also pass on to you the very best of good wishes for the festive season.

Kind regards  
Tom Bateman

Coodanup W.A.  
25/1/86

Herewith raffle butts plus donation to the Association.

My very best wishes to all members and for the success of the Canberra Safari, at which time I expect to be sweltering in the Nullagine area in my search for gold with a metal detector!!

Cheers  
Syd McKinley

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Geraldton W.A.  
26/1/86

Please find attached, my ticket butts for Canberra Safari raffle, together with \$5 note, as well as some for Association or "Courier" funds.

Bruss Fagg of Northampton continues to have leg trouble as a result of his war service and is still in hospital in his home town, so let us all extend our best wishes to Bruss who has set a fine example by playing a leading role in R.S.L. and community affairs generally.

I hadn't seen Eric Weller for quite some time until recently when he and other members of the family happened to be in the pew in front of me at a Mass in St. Francis Xavier's Cathedral. The bearded Eric looked fighting fit and so did his bearded son Tony. They were with Eric's wife Margaret and Tony's wife Graziella and son and daughter.

Eric has retired after working for a big building company at Broome, and he and Margaret are now on a caravan trip around Australia, until June or July. I think their first main stop will be at Kununurra, and that they will then go to Alice Springs and across to New South Wales. So I'm sure they will be meeting up with some of the double-red-diamond boys (and girls!).

I called on Nip Cunningham the other day and he appears to be getting on pretty well. Nip and I had a very enjoyable night together at the Golden Anniversary celebrations of Bordwood House, the R.S.L. Headquarters at Geraldton. The subjects naturally included boxing, and the days when Nip was among W.A.'s best pugilists. And he's still pretty good on the skipping rope!

There will be numerous Australia Day celebrations at Geraldton tomorrow and Yours Truly has more than a passing interest in many of the activities. My eldest son Ross will be among those treated to an Australian Day breakfast because his birthday is on January the 26th, and I had the pleasure of compiling the submission in support of the R.S.L.'s nomination of Mrs. Betty Smith for the Geraldton/Greenough Citizen of the Year Award.

I recently had the pleasure of skipping a team in a lawns bowls carnival at Harvey and



although I was unable to catch up with Arthur Marshall, I was told that he continues to figure prominently in business affairs and that he is still playing cricket!

Apart from enjoying the bowls carnival we visited several other South-West towns and were delighted to see the way Plugger Watson's old home-town Collie has been rejuvenated by such coal-mining activities as the Muja open cut. We took photographs of the huge open cut which produces 2.1 Million tonnes of coal a year. We also saw the Collie section of the Griffin 1,000 cycle event and it brought back memories of the old Collie to Donnybrook and return cycle race (particularly the day it finished on the cycle track at the football ground when I was in the Harvey/Brunswick team which defeated the combined Collie team!).

Well, I must be off now as duty calls. Regards and best wishes to all the boys (and all the girls!).

Peter Barden

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Dover Tas.  
7/3/86

What a wonderful news media the Courier is, I always look forward to its arrival and it brings back many memories of my time with the 2/2nd and of those I served with in Timor.

In February the 2/40 Batt. held their reunion in Launceston and as usual the chaps who got through to the 2/2 in Portuguese Timor got together for a good yarn, they included Jack Rice, Bluey Miller, Dally Elmor, Swampy Marsh - haven't heard from Peter Cannon for quite a while, but we are planning a trip to his part of Australia in October this year.

Should have liked to have attended the Safari in Canberra, but other things prevented this, but hope to visit W.A. next year.

Of course I'm retired now, but am kept well occupied as Secretary of the Esperence Sub Branch R.S.L.A. and also do a lot of work for the Dover R.S.L. and Exservicemens Club.

Health wise I am pretty lucky, have some upsets at times with nerves, plus dermatitis and leg trouble but keep going. Was severely burnt in a bush fire a while back and still get reactions, from this, but it improves each day.

It was good to see the Memorial set up to Max Loveless, the chap who started it off Barry Risely forwarded quite a lot of information he had put together, which I in turn lent to the Tas. Timorise Ass. for use at their Church Memorial service for the Timorese in Hobart last year.

Whould you please note my new address. My regards to all members of the 2/2nd especially Don Turtons section, they were great to be with.

Best wished  
H.W. Price

Para Hills West S.A.  
30/12/85

On reading the December Courier was saddened to read the passing of Leo Criddle. I new Leo extremely well, he and I were in 6 section from Canungra to New Britian. As you said, a very likeable chap.

Now that 1985, the "Year of the Terrorists" is coming to a close, it had some good and bad spots.

One of the good spots was an evening held at Keith and Betty Dignum's place on December 20th. the evening was enjoyed by, Lofty and Jess Tinkle, Allan and Hazel Hollow, Dud and Audrey Topper, Frank and Muriel Shaw, Kel and Ruby Carthew, Sid and Mavis Wadey, Ron MacKay, Mark Jordon, and of course Keith and Betty our hosts. Apologies were received from, Bert and Sylvia Bache, who were moving house, Bob and Clarice Williamson.

We will on New Years Eve, commence to celebrate the 150th birthsay fo South Australia - the year ahead looks pleasant for our Jubilee and all the etc's.

during the year, Allan and Hazel Hollow, Frank and Muriel Shaw, Kel and Ruby Carthew, Mark Jordon, all met on the last Friday of the month for lunch at the Ambassadors Hotel where we spent an enjoyable hour or two!! I wish all members and families the very best wishes for 1986.

Regards  
Kel Carthew.

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### A P.S. from Kel

Could you please add this to my letter of Dec 31st.

During the weekend of January 4th I went to my niece's wedding at Mt. Gambier and during my stay I had the opportunity to go and see Bay Webber who lives in that city.

Bay looks well, with the exception of arthritis from which he suffers - he is still his friendly, happy-go-lucky, self.

I was impressed by his gardens, the vegetable at the rear of the house had enough carrots, beans, peas, potatos, onions, to feed a section for a month or more. His flower garden has some beautiful gladioli and other flowers. I spent an enjoyable 1½ hours with Bay and his wife Betty. He wishes to be remembered to number 6 section.

Kel

Editor: A little late into print Kel but will be read and enjoyed by all. thanks for the news.

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Mandurah W.A.  
18/2/86

Please find enclosed ticket butts and cheque to cover same, with a little extra to help balance the budget. Use it where needed most.

Eva and I are both keeping well, we do have our ups and downs like a lot of others, but taking it all round we are very lucky. We are kept pretty well occupied on our property doing the various chores and that helps us keep reasonably fit.

Once again thanks for that Courier I think it must be the best publication in circulation anywhere. We see a few of the Mandurah crowd occasionally, would like to see more of them, but if you don't get out yourself you can't expect to see others.

Will close Arch to save you the trouble of deciphering my scrawl! Our best wishes to those on Safari, a safe journey and a whale of a time.

Cheers and best wishes to all readers of the Courier.

Gordon and Eva Rowley

South Perth W.A.  
18/2/86

Please split the enclosed cheque between Courier and Canberra Safari.

I did not receive a book of tickets - hope the donation will help.

Best wishes for success of trip.

Kind Regards  
Jerry Hare

Editor: Jerry, thank you for your generosity and your thoughtfulness, you purchased a book of tickets at the Annual Luncheon. Best wishes from us all.

27/2/86

Dear Jack,  
Please find enclosed tickets and cheque. Balance of cheque for donation. Hope everyone going to Safari has a good time.

Best wishes to everyone  
George Bayless

P.S. Retire on 14.3.86 so should be able to get along to meetings etc, more often than in the past.

15/2/86

Dear Jack,  
Sorry I mislaid the raffle book you gave me at our commemoration service. Please purchase two books in our name and put the balance towards "Courier" or whatever.  
Please remember me to any and all unit members, particularly David Dexter. Have a great time yourselves.

Regards  
Babs and Bernie Longridge

Mandurah W.A.  
16/2/86

Dear Archie,  
Enclosed is my cheque towards Association funds.

I take this opportunity to wish members taking part in the Canberra Safari a happy time and safe return home.

Best wishes to all members.  
Terry Paul

Rivervale W.A.  
25/2/86

Once again I've been caught on the hop, hope these tickets are in time.  
We won't be making Canberra but best wishes to all who attend.  
Please find enclosed ticket money and a few extra dollars towards whatever.

Regards  
George Strickland

Swansea N.S.W.

Dear Sir,  
Enclosed please find cheque. Eric would like 2 car stickers, the balance to go to the Courier. He had a short holiday in Wallsend Hospital late last year to have his "Water works repaired" now only needs a new ticker and a couple of good lungs to make him fit for Commando's again.  
Regards to Officers and Members of the Association.

Yours sincerely,  
Eric and Joyce Chapman

Wentworth Falls N.S.W.  
1/3/86

Dear Arch,  
Greetings, and I trust all continues well with you and all other members and Courier readers.

Life here, in the mountains continues to be most enjoyable. Time seems always insufficient to do everything that the week presents. But perhaps it is my own fault for being reluctant to keep out of activities that Friedegard and I find interesting.

I am looking forward with great anticipation to seeing those of you that join the Canberra 'Safari'/walkabout. Unfortunately Friedegard and I will be unable to join in the full program, but we are planning to spend several days in Canberra to coincide with the middle of the program. No worries about accommodation, as we will be staying with friends whilst in Canberra.

I wonder how many faces will match easily with names after so many years?

Fraternal good wishes to yourself and all.  
Bill Tomasetti

Cloverdale W.A.  
13/3/86

Dear Ron,  
I reckon its about time I dropped a line to you. Except for my trip down to Mandurah I dont move around very much, always seems to be something to do at home. The main thing these days is to keep as healthy as possible, which I try to do and I hope this finds you O.K. I hope the Safari people are having a good time and I would like to say "Hello" to the ones that stayed home. Am enclosing cheque for Courier and will say Cheerio until I see you.

Doc Wheatley

Carnarvon W.A.  
28/2/86

To the boys and Editor,  
Sorry I haven't been in touch for so long now, I have been meaning to write but somehow I never seem to get around to it.

However the raffle tickets were enough to give me a jolt. Please find enclosed butts with cheque, another thing I have missed out on lately is something for that wonderful little paper the Courier, I look forward to getting it and to read the news of the boys, so I have added a bit more cash to help keep it going.

Had a surprise phone call from Allan Hallow one Friday night, that is the first time I have had contact with Allan since Timor days, it

was great to hear from him, also Paddy Kenneally called in on his way around and we had several cups of tea and something to eat, (yes, cups of tea) had a long yarn about Timor and what we did there till we were brought out early, (Allan, I and others).

Am keeping in fairly good health at the moment, a small legacy from Timor days, bit of arthritis with growing old etc., but on the whole fairly good, I retired two years ago yesterday and I wonder where the time has gone, of course they set me up to take the secretarys job at the bowling club so that probably explains where the time went.

Must away now, its stubbie time again and must not miss the ritual.

Regards to all  
Albie Friend

## ARCHIE BOWMAN - 81 YEARS YOUNG!

Most will not know the above but he served with the 2/2nd in Timor, coming up from the Koepang end. To this Colin Doig will vouch, as will the excerpts I have taken from a letter addressed to Col in reply to one he wrote Archie. Colin Grebert was in the same Unit, the 2/11th Field Company Royal Engineers, he is also a good mate of Archie's and it all started when Col let him know that Doigie was very ill.

Archie joined Col Doig's Section stationed at Malliana and from there left to get to the Portuguese doctor in Bobonaro as he was quite ill. He was given three days to live and goes on to say in his letter "I went to a Medical Officer who came from Fremantle and he knew more about tropical diseases than any doctor in the Australian Army. His name, I think, was Dr. Dunkley. He had been an M.O. in World War I in Africa and knew malaria very well. Strangley enough I have read more people were lost to malaria than to lead!!"

Archie bought a second hand typewriter about three years ago and has taught himself to type, mostly one finger. He does very well indeed for an 81 year old, which he reached in November, typing 30 letters a month. He lost his right foot on Coronation Day. As he says "while Liz was being crowned I was having my foot cut off!"

He has been in the Caloundra Nursing Home since 1981 but is partial to the "occasional flare-up" as he puts it.

He had a long war service and joined the 2nd Beach Landing Group and was one of four to land in the Celebes the night before the big landing by an American coloured division which they had camped next to at

Tarakan. Saw service in Leyte Bay to search for mines but there was no sign of any. Archie was "Mentioned in Despatches" for his work. He joined the Army on the 18th June 1940 and was discharged on the 20th DEcember 1945 with 1324 days overseas service. Some record, Archie.

After the cessation of hostilities he became an underwater explorer, as he called it, picking up mines and other nasty things that had been previously dropped at Tarakan, etc. He loved the water and swam in competition for nigh on 25 years; was in the Water Polo team that played the British, Dutch, Asians and Americans and won the McArthur Cup.

He is still on for any reunion that takes place and seems to be keeping good health. "Old soldiers never die, they just become underwater explorers!!"

Great letter Archie and thanks Col Doig for letting the Courier use part of the contents. Welcome to the "Courier Club" Archie. Good luck and God bless from us all.

the Editor

## DONATIONS

Messrs.

McKinley	Langridge
Trengrove	Rowley
Criddle	Paull
Barden	Chapman
Smith (Geordie)	Friend
Murray	Bayliss
Howell	Cullen
Hayes	Towers
Smyth (Bob)	Strickland
Burridge	Pat da Luz
Haire	Wheatley

## W.W.C.P.

Barb Palmer, our beloved Busselton girl - Barbara Palmer has been well and truly socked to leg, with the hardest punch and the worst luck that can befall a girl. Barb we understand was all fired up and ready to go on the Canberra Safari when she was taken to hospital for urgent surgery, at this time we have not been able to speak to Barb personally, but understand she is responding satisfactorily to radium etc. treatment following surgery.

Barb! we hope you can experience some consolation from the knowledge that the 2/2 to a member, are thinking of you and caring with love, affection and the highest hopes for your full recovery. We are confident we will share your friendship for a long time in the future. Good luck, little lady!

Wilf March, one time Courier Editor and Committee man, on many occasions down the years, our wise and valued member of present committee, has been through the pain barrier many times in the last (9) weeks. Wilf was struck down by a savage back ailment, low down his spine in the pelvic area. For six weeks he has kept immobile "Flat on his back" and had to take large numbers of pills but none of this medication succeeded in easing the pain. After pleading with his doctor, he was allowed to begin careful exercise and physiotherapy. Now with the aid of (2) sticks, he is enabled to take several steps, several times a day. His medical men have not as yet been able to diagnose and pin-point the trouble but one at least opined, that he could have a ruptured nerve. Wilf says "Now I am moving, I'll be right but I can't overdo thos physio!" Wilf and Lorraine had to cancel their Canberras Safari booking, due to his illness. Hope your mend-up continues from now on - Old Tiger!!

## UNIT TIES

We mentioned Unit Ties in Feb 1986 Courier - apparently a large parcel were taken to Canberra Safari, and sold like hot cakes. However (2) are still available, 1 beige, 1 grey.

## YET ANOTHER "LEAK" FROM CANBERRA!

Yes - you have got to believe it!! but this has been an important event - on a worthwhile series of events - attended by important, yes lovely people!!

The 'leak' is that - "2/2 Commando Association 1986 Canberra Safari" has been (maybe) the best ever.

Organisation, planning, accomodation, catering, programme suitability for our age group, all apparently reflecting intelligent caring and hosting by our capable resident Canberraites. Thanks Mates!!

But we mustn't here steal the thunder bilong - is it these days, executive, corporate or accord spokes persons. what I mean or what I am saying is "Wait for June 86 Courier under headings - President Speaks - Secretary Notes - Editor resumes. Thats it from us this issue.

"GE-EM" AND "EM-EM"



## JIM SMAILES - POET OF HISTORY

Jim has always been a man of many parts over many years and spent a long number of those years in the rip-roaring town of Kalgoorlie, where indeed, quite a number of our 2/2nd members hailed from. They were first class soldiers and men.

What a fine contribution to the Unit Jim made when he wrote "The Independents" a down to earth assessment of the 2/2nd Commando Squadron feats on the Island of Timor. It was written with truth, humour, emotion and

praise, it goes into posterity, as a tribute in words.

Now in the tranquility of our Darling Ranges Jim lives close to nature and is enjoying life. Back in 1980 the Unit was still part of Jim's life and he wrote, capturing the spirit of the 2/2nd in the past war years.

I will let Jim's "Keep The Old Unit Alive" speak for itself. Such wisdom.

EDITOR: Decided to give your poem the loose leaf treatment Jim.

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## KEEP THE OLD UNIT ALIVE

Remember the days down at Foster, back in the year 'forty one,  
To have failed in our duties as soldiers, would mean that our future was done.  
We were called upon daily to suffer, giving nothing less than the best,  
To prove to the world we could take it, and cared not how stiff was the test.  
Then on through those years in the Islands, the tropics that gave no release,  
The stench of New Guinea and Timor, then on to New Britain and peace.  
Those times proved the worth of each member, and welded a resolute team,  
That won the esteem of Australia, and regard from McArthur supreme.

There was a job to be done and each did it, regardless of effort or pain,  
We went hungry barefooted unshaven, pushed on through the tropical rain,  
There were nights when patrols were demanded, sleep was impossible then,  
Guard duties and tracking and listening, the ambush with rifle and Bren.  
Each grizzled and growled and grumbled, but never can it be told,  
That a man of you ever defaulted, when mates your assistance extold.  
The comradeship forged in the islands, in that struggle of terror and hate,  
That made each man value his brother, and taught him the meaning of mate.

And so with the peace came rejoicing, each man has returned to his trade,  
Let us foster the bonds of that conflict, and value the friends that we made,  
Keep alive the same spirit of mateship, that welded the unit of yore,  
The present needs all its past members, your support as you gave it before.  
Make sure that you make a donation, your committee all work without pay,  
The service and annual reunion, need helpers and effort to stay.  
The "Courier" keeps us in contact, the cost is increasing each year,  
There is copy and letters and items, all needed that it may appear.

Safarics and gatherings have value, the Anzac Day march is a must,  
With visits to hospital victims, to cheer and business entrust.  
Now time has depleted our numbers, the years are taking their toll,  
The ranks are decidedly thinner, so many have answered the Roll.  
The value of mates in the Unit, increases with passing of years,  
and time is fast closing the chapter, increasing our worries and cares,  
So let us make well of the present, and do what we can to ensure,  
That the 2nd./2nd. Commando, to the very last man will endure.

Jim Smailes...1980.