



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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

Vol. 62

AUGUST 1986

Price 1c

COMING EVENTS

ANNUAL DINNER

FRIDAY, 3RD OCTOBER
ANZAC CLUB 11.30 A.M.
FULL MUSTER PLEASE

COMMEMORATION SERVICE

SUNDAY, 16TH NOVEMBER 3 P.M.
LOVEKIN DRIVE, KINGS PARK

CHRISTMAS FUNCTION

FRIDAY, 5TH DECEMBER 11.30 A.M.
ANZAC CLUB
MEMBERS AND THEIR LADIES

COUNTRY CONVENTION AT BRIDGETOWN, OCTOBER 21st-24th, 1986.

Mr Bill Rowan-Robinson has kindly offered to organise a convention at Bridgetown this year. Arrangements are for visitors to arrive on Tuesday 21st October followed by outings on Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd and returning home on Friday 24th October.

The itinerary will be finalised by Bill on his return from an overseas holiday this month.

Accommodation is available at the Freemasons Hotel as under:—

Motel Units: \$40 double
\$22.50 single

Hotel Rooms: \$27 double (communal bathrooms)
\$15 single (communal bathrooms)

All of above rates include a continental breakfast.

Members intending to make the trip are asked to book early by ringing Bill Rowan-Robinson on (097) 61 1346 or writing to his address as shown in the address book.

1988 SAFARI — PHILLIP ISLAND

ACCOMMODATION

Proposed Reunion 2/2 Commando Association—Cowes, 1988.

Motel Type

Rooms may vary in cost and standard from \$45 per day for a double unit—some cheaper down to \$33 and some self-contained with cooking facilities to accommodate 4 persons @ \$65 per day per unit.

Self-contained Flats

These vary in cost according to accommodation, size, quality, etc. but range from \$250 to \$280 per week for 2 to 4 persons. Meals to rooms can be supplied if required in some cases. One group of units supplies B/B for \$18 per head with a reduction for longer term booking.

Caravan Park

8 caravan sites are kept for casual booking. On site caravans are available at \$20-\$25 per night or \$120-\$150 per week. Three bedroom cabins are available at daily, \$25 for 2 persons plus \$3 per person for additional occupants.

This accommodation, plus a meeting room/lounge is available within a 400 metre square. Additional accommodation is available outside this area but it is felt that the purpose of the reunion would be best served by keeping together in a compact area, similar to what was arranged at Canberra. To be certain of securing this compact service it is necessary to book at least 12 months ahead with a deposit of 10% of projected costs.

Transport

Several bus trips are proposed at approximately \$7 per head at present day prices. Local mini buses can be arranged to cater for drinkers or those without cars on visits to the Golf and Bowls Clubs. The cost would be fairly nominal at \$1-\$2 per head.

Formal Dinner

This can be arranged within the accommodation area if required, or we may travel further afield in which case an additional amount up to \$7 per head for bus travel would apply. Cost \$13 plus drinks plus bus travel if applicable.

POSSIBLE ITINERARY

Friday p.m.	Arrival
Saturday evening	Informal meal etc. Welcome.
Sunday	Free
Monday	Sports Day. Golf, Bowls etc Penguin Parade 6.30-9.00p.m.
Tuesday	Unscheduled at present
Wednesday	9a.m.-5p.m. Bus to Tidal River—Memorial Service
Thursday evening	Formal Dinner
Friday	Tour to Moss Vale Park, B.B.Q. 9a.m.-5p.m.
Saturday	Unscheduled at present
Sunday a.m.	Depart

Possibilities for free days include ferry trips to Seal Rocks, an organised Old Time Dance, a further sight seeing bus tour, fishing and boating. There is much spectacular scenery within a very short distance so participants could fill in spare time travelling by private car or mini-bus by arrangement.

Editors Note: For the early planning of all members going to Cowes—Phillip Island in 1988. This event will be a feature of every issue of the Courier from hereon, so as to keep you progressively informed.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1986 W.A. BRANCH

Our daytime approach to all functions is paying off handsomely for we had 29 members attend the A.G.M. and that is an excellent roll call. We had a great meeting chaired by President, Doug Fullarton, it was interesting and constructive.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I extend my thanks to all the Office Bearers, the members and their ladies, for making it a memorable year. Every function was very well attended and served to further cement the great camaraderie that exists within our Association.

The year culminated in the Canberra Safari which proved a tremendous success from every point of view and congratulations are due to the Canberra boys for a job well and truly done and I thank you on behalf of the Association. We will meet again in Cowes, Phillip Island, Victoria in 1988 and I entreat as many members as possible to be a part of it all.

My heartfelt thanks to all who played any part in making this year so enjoyable for us all.

Doug Fullarton
President

TREASURER'S REPORT

The audited Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31st January, 1986 was presented by Ron Kirkwood in his usual capable manner. How fortunate we are to have a person with his flair and ability who gives his all to the Association.

Colin Doig and our auditor, John Burrige, eulogised Ron's contribution over all the years, stating his Report is a highlight of our A.G.M.

Our "keeper of the cash" is one right out of the box. Our deepest thanks Ron from all members, plus our love to Gwenda who is such an important part of your efforts.

OFFICE BEARERS — 1986-87

President	Doug Fullarton
Vice President	Len Bagley
Secretary	Jack Carey
Treasurer	Ron Kirkwood
Auditor	John Burrige
Editor	Archie Campbell
Warden—Kings Park	George Fletcher
Liason Officer,	
East Timorese	Gerry Maley

General Committee

As above plus:

John Fowler
Colin Doig
Don Turton
Wilf March
Clarrie Varian
Dick Darrington
Bob Burns
Jim Smailes

COUNTRY CO-ORDINATORS

Goldfields-Esperance	Peter Campbell
Northern	Peter Borden
Midlands	Reg Harrington
Great Southern	Alf Hillman
South Coast	Robbie Rowan-Robinson
South West	Clarrie Turner
Mandurah	Joe Poynton

Thanks to Ray Aitken for his diligent contribution and quick decisions as our Returning Officer.

We all adjourned to the precincts of the Anzac Club bar and there we had ample refreshments, liquid and solid, to get everyone in the right mood to exchange reminiscences on all sorts of subjects.

It was a happy and convivial end to a fine Annual General Meeting.

**2/2ND COMMANDO ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY, 1986**

BALANCES FORWARDED AS AT 1 FEBRUARY 1985		
Working Account	593.85	
Savings Investment Account	2170.63	
Reserve Account—Town & Country WA Bldg. Soc.	1057.84	
Debentures—Town & Country WA Bldg. Soc.	<u>5658.72</u>	9481.04
INTEREST RECEIVED		
Working Account	25.83	
Savings Investment Account	217.77	
Reserve Account—Town & Country WA Bldg. Soc.	61.38	
Debentures—Town & Country WA Bldg. Soc.	<u>584.53</u>	
COURIER		
Donations	3231.60	
Printing, Postage etc	<u>less 2484.84</u>	746.76
SALES OF		
Lapel Badges		13.00
CANBERRA SAFARI SWEEP		
Receipts held awaiting forwarding to Canberra		550.00
SALE OF ASSET		
Lawn Mower—No longer required		200.00

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.

T. C. BURRISSE

\$11880.31

ANZAC DAY		
Cost of two wreaths		40.00
ASSOCIATION TIES		
Purchase of 100 ties for sale		475.00
ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES		
Petty Cash	33.00	
Rental on Box T1646	60.00	
Government charges—F.I.D. & F.D.T.	<u>7.67</u>	100.67
SUNDRIES		
Funeral Notices	10.00	
Donations: Legacy \$50		
Peter Epps Museum \$100	150.00	
Loss on Association events	400.63	
Various expenses	<u>126.60</u>	687.23
BALANCES AS AT 31 JANUARY 1986		
Working Account	826.54	
Savings Investment Account	2388.40	
Reserve Account—Town & Country		
WA Bldg. Soc.	119.22	
Debentures	<u>7243.25</u>	10577.41

\$11880.31

CHURCH SERVICE AT DUNTROON:

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Some wonderful things came out of the Canberra Safari which everyone enjoyed immensely. One particular facet is the gifted address given at the Church Service held in the Duntroun Chapel on Sunday, 16th March, 1986. This is repeated in our Courier for all to read, for within its text is some fine philosophy, messages of substance, but most of all, the thoughts contained therein are wrapped around the Unit that gave us all our identity.

A down to earth, telling, memorable address listened to avidly by all in attendance, now produced for us to keep in our treasure chest of memories.

Thank you Chaplain Rod Tippett for your well constructed and thoughtful address to members of the 2/2nd Commando Association on the occasion of their visit to Canberra.

Australia today is a country which is quite different from the country which was threatened with invasion in World War II.

Some of the changes have been small and scarcely noticeable, such as those which geologists tell us about our continent which has moved slowly northwards, a few centimetres each year, as if to emphasise our increasing proximity to the rest of the world.

Other changes have been more dramatic. Our population has doubled, but the average age has risen. We have been exposed to new cultures, new religions, new philosophies. The number of nationalities represented through migration is very large; they make life interesting as we struggle with our spaghetti, and I can't recall one player by the name of 'Smith' or 'Brown' in the Australian Socceros.

But a glance through last weeks newspapers might well make some ask whether the sacrifices of life in war were worth it. Huge drug hauls, our cities anything but Godly; corruption in high places, dole swindles, threats, over-indulgence and distressing poverty, suicides of young men second only to vehicle accidents as a cause of death. Is this the sort of Australia men and women died for? Is this what people do with hard-won freedoms? Does a soldier give his life equally for those who devalue our country, as well as for those who love it? Is it still worthwhile when in our newspapers we read parodies of religion, and the Communion in particular, as the 'Canberra Times' subjected its readers to recently? Flippancy masquerading as serious journalism, and getting some of the facts wrong! Attack pomposity and double-standards by all means; but credit where credit is due, and as truth demands. Well, may some ask whether it was all worth it!

1. Independent Company.

In preparation for this service, I have been reading the story of the Independent Company, as written by Sir Bernard Callinan. (ii) A story in which a force of a little over three hundred men, a small part of the famous 'Sparrow Force' operating in mountainous country in Timor, eventually were able to tie up two divisions of seasoned Japanese troops at a critical time in the war, when those soldiers might have been used to great effect in other spheres of action. As Neville Shute wrote in the introductory chapter of the book, "Few soldiers in history can claim to have done more than that."

As with many books about World War II, there is a certain wry humour depicted in Independent Company known to servicemen, but which others find a bit peculiar; the misunderstandings with language, Curran's narrow escape when the airfield was blown up, the reliability of 'Indian Joe's' truck, and 'Winnie the War Winner', the radio made from bits and pieces.

But there is also an almost deliberate down-playing in the descriptions of events which must have tested the abilities, ingenuities and bravery of many men. Even the most devout amongst them might never have read the words of another military leader in a different age, Joab, involved in alliances and wars back in Old Testament times; but the text is appropriate:—

"Be of good courage, and let us play
the man for our people . . . and may the
Lord do what seems to be good unto Him."

(1 Chron. 19:13)

2. Virtues in War and Peace.

War and peace bring out similar virtues. There are also casualties in each, but they are of a different kind. Many men and women find hidden reserves of strength in time of adversity; but in times of prosperity, when there appears to be no threat, many fail, and become casualties in a different battle.

Virtues such as courage, endurance and selflessness come through in the reading of the book Independent Company. Those virtues are both personal and collective, and of course can be owned by men of faith, and men who have no faith at all. But they become Christian in their expression when they are held or used on behalf of others. They are good to be held for their own

sakes; we have always felt that courage is better than cowardice . . . endurance is better than defeatism . . . selflessness is better than selfishness. But in that sense, who cares? So what? An M.B.E., and a pat on the back: these are their own reward.

But these virtues of courage, endurance and selflessness take on a different dimension when they are held for others. And they become supremely valued when they are inspired by the 'Man For Others', Jesus Christ. True courage is more than muscle; true endurance is also found in the struggle against evil, injustice or illness. Christ himself is the essence of selflessness. I doubt whether we are truly Christian until we behave valiantly for others.

"Be of good courage, and let us play
the man for our people . . . and let the
Lord do what is good in his sight."

3. A New World View.

Acting for others demands a particular view of the world in which we live. When soldiers are enlisted they make an oath or affirmation of their allegiance. The making of that oath focuses attention on the objective; that objective becomes clearer, clarified in the mind, and then a statement of loyalty is made. In the case of an Australian soldier, he makes a statement which is in line with our text. He takes upon himself the duty of acting for others.

His oath is almost a blank cheque; in fact, he may get more than he bargains for. He usually makes it when he is young, before cynicism sets in. He makes that oath not knowing what sort of crises will crop up in the future. His oath is a statement of trust in his country and in those who are in power.

Sadly that trust is not always honoured in actual events, but perhaps in a world such as ours, that is in the nature of things, because wars have both noble and ignoble beginnings, and endings. Service ought to bring gratitude; sometimes it brings cynical denial or responsibility. For those for whom the service has been given, one would expect pride, not contempt, ridicule or rejection.

But suppose the service doesn't bring with it the honour it should, isn't it still worth doing? Doesn't service have some intrinsic worth? In fact, if we are to do more than just survive in Australia, living complacently on our rich resources, we will have to play the man for the people of the world with a wider vision than we've had before. Our new-found nationalism will need to discover more than boat race victories (great as it is to win), and more than flag competitions! If we are not to further alienate the young, we will need a new doctrine of the value of each person. If we are not to add to the cynicism of the middle-aged, we need a new set of goals, a new way of living. If we are not to increase the feeling of uselessness amongst the elderly, we will need to use their wisdom, their skills in living beyond their planned obsolescence, and learn from their heroism in the battle for faith. In such ways, we will be playing the man for our people, and there is nothing surer than the fact that they are our people.

This means more than just reacting; it means responding. 'React' suggests something mechanical; 'Respond' suggests that we "project into a situation something that is unique contribution of a person . . . something creative . . . something spiritual" (iii) which goes beyond just resurrecting the old ways and values.

We find ourselves in a supremely significant age in history. We have the chance to put Christian principles into practice, a chance to lead.

"Be of good courage; and let us play
the man for our people, and for the
cities of our God; and may the Lord
do what seems to be good to Him."

VALE — MERV. RYAN

With a great depth of sadness we report the passing of a man who put up a grand fight against tremendous odds and finally, after courageously attending the Canberra Safari, Succumbed to the almost unbeatable scourge.

Merv. was an original in our formative days at Foster and was a member of 2 Section, 'A' Platoon, under Gerry McKenzie, his platoon commander, Rolf (Baldy) Baldwin. From the word go Merv. made his mark in a very competitive section, the earmarks of a fine soldier apparent from very early days, so it turned out to be.

He was tall, athletic, tough, full of humour, very much a man's man who acquitted himself in every possible situation with distinction. He was well liked by every member of the Unit and that continued into post war years.

Merv's war years were destined to be served under the yoke of the Japanese for on the night of the 19th February 1942, when 2 Section took the brunt of the Japanese landing, he was badly wounded in close contact with the enemy and that was the last we saw of him until the war ended.

The years under the Japanese were torrid indeed, that is putting it mildly, but Merv. made of the right stuff, terrible injuries and all, was still in there punching, making his presence felt, as Nippon would well know. For a short while he had Peter Alexander from 7 Section as a mate but that was only temporary. Merv's injuries could not see him moved from Singapore and Peter was sent up to the "Railway".

August 1945 saw the Japanese surrender and in its wake came the emotional reunion of families long parted. So it was with Merv. who settled back into civilian life easily for he had a tremendous partner in Dulcie, raised a family, worked hard on the wharves at Fremantle and threw in his lot with our 2/2nd Commando Association and he was an invaluable member.

He showed the same fortitude post war as he did when a P.O.W., for life was not easy. The injuries received on that fateful night in February 1942 caused untold problems and pain, but he dismissed them all with the well known Ryan grin.

Over all the years Dulcie was a tower of strength to Merv, a wonderful wife and mother, a lovely person. We send our heartfelt sympathy to Dulcie and her family and trust time will in some way heal the great void left by Merv's passing. May God give you and yours strength to face the years ahead with peace of heart and mind being yours in abundance.

We will miss Merv so very much, a well loved mate and comrade. To all with whom he had contact his memory will make these words live for they are indelibly imprinted in our hearts.

'LEST WE FORGET'

VALE — R.J. (BOB) SMITH

Members of the 2/2nd Commando Association Australia wide will mourn the passing of Bob Smith who was taken from our midst on Saturday, 28th June, 1986.

Bob joined the Unit in Dili, Timor with the first batch of reinforcements prior to the Jap landing, that certainly qualified him as an original. From there on he fought in both New Guinea and New Britain, being attached to the Engineers. They were indeed a fine section with a first class reputation for ingenuity and action.

Bob remained, from the day of joining to the day of leaving us, a great and loyal member of the 2/2nd in its every aspect. We will miss him sadly for all he was, a fine and respected comrade who loved life and helped many others to do so.

He had courage of rare quality, for his fight against adversity began many years ago when a cancer diagnosis threw out to him a challenge which he accepted, and he defied the odds. Suffering great pain, being subjected to various treatments gave Bob a new vision and slant on life itself. His greatest asset was his wife and constant companion, Joyce. Over the years of praying and hoping they performed tasks of an unbelievable nature and continued to live life to its full.

In his knowledge that a big fight was ahead of him, with suffering uppermost, he gave to so many people the confidence to face life for the length of time available to them. He had a radio session which he called "Make The Day Count". Via that medium he received calls from untold people recounting their problems of cancer, their worries, their fears, their approach to it all. This armed Bob with God given ammunition to help countless people to grasp, understand and come to terms with the inevitables.

He learned so much himself and Joyce shared the load. It gave them an inner strength which rubbed off on all with whom they had contact. Bob shared the experience, never spared himself physically. The 2/2nd Commando Association and its members became a big part of his life. He appeared at all sorts of functions, particularly Safaris, where the enjoyment of meeting old mates was obvious. Always with him for our benefit, his artistic talents of a fine painter.

Courage comes in many forms, physical, mental, and spiritual. Bob Smith had the rare combination of them all, plus the ability to see many others needed help more than he did. Through his experience he brought them solace, peace of mind, a great inner determination to live life while it lasted, to its full. The Writer is one who felt the benefit of Bob's tremendous approach. From those who had been through the mill he gleaned the experiences, the worries, the care of a loved one, the reaction of the sufferer to it all, this gave him the great wisdom he possessed.

Over all the years he collated these experiences into a helpful and spiritual softening so that what would have been a heart shattering loss to many became an understanding and enlightenment of the whole problem.

Bob Smith had it all under control. God spared him for a length of time so that he and Joyce could teach us all to "Make The Day Count".

To Joyce and the whole family goes our deep love and heartfelt sympathy. This small prayer, maybe for the first time in the Courier, is applicable to you Joyce, your family and dear old Bob.

To the Lord's mercy and protection we commit you

The Lord bless you and keep you

The Lord make his face to shine upon you

Be gracious unto you, and give you peace

Both now, and forever more.

LEST WE FORGET

HE WAS ALMOST ONE OF US!

J.W. CALLANDAR (JOHN)

Gerry and Mary were so pleased to get a phone call from CAL a couple of days after Anzac Day. He had seen "Bomber" McKenzie eating buffalo at Mindello in Damien Parer's film "Men of Timor".

CAL should have been well known to us but the Japs spoiled his routine. He was aboard H.M.A.S. Armidale en route to Timor as a Liaison Officer when she was bombed by the Japs and sank close to Timor. CAL, with 26 others, spent ten days on a raft before being picked up.

CAL and "Bomber" soldiered in the Regular Army with the B.C.O.F. in Japan and later in Australia when "Bomber" was a Company Commander in 4 R.A.R. and CAL was a Staff Officer in the Directorate of Infantry. He has now been placed on the Courier mailing list.

Welcome to the 2/2 Commando Association CAL, in the terms of the Navy, nice to have you on board.

FRED NAPIER:

Slowed down a little but still full of heart and welcomes a visit from old mates as he does not go out as much as he used to. Keep plugging along old timer, you have done a grand job over the years. God bless from us all.

HARRY SPROXTON:

Like always, continues to be positive and with Thelma at his side they take the challenge of improvement day by day. You must win for you try so hard and have for a long time. Good luck and God bless from all members of the 2/2nd.

COLIN DOIG:

Another stint in hospital for the grand old man of the 2/2nd, the leg ulcer has given him hell. Now the doctors have tried, via the veins, to get him back on deck. He looks a picture of health otherwise and Joy, of course, a constant visitor, now getting a respite from the daily ministrations. Members Australia wide wish you all the luck in the world and finally, a solution to your problem Colin. God bless you both.

W.W.C.P.

FRED GRIFFITHS:

Is going along fairly well but it is a daily battle, although with Beryl's great support life is much easier for him. Good luck to you both and God bless from us all.

DONATIONS

Alan Luby
Mrs Kingston
Bruce Poynton
Colin Criddle
Allan Chatfield
Beryl Smith
Kath Press
Cisco Coles

CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

Rhyll, Victoria,
8/5/86

Further to a discussion with David Brown and Len Bagley, who was visiting David, I am sending you a resume of accommodation, transport and other facilities for possible inclusion in the Courier. Also included is a possible itinerary, as yet incomplete, but sufficient to build on as the need and opportunity arises.

I suggest that you confer with Len in regard to a summary of the information I have supplied as it may be too long for inclusion in its entirety.

Since our return from Canberra we have had a visit from Harry Botterill, Ken Monk, Jack Fowler with their respective wives, all of whom looked over the facilities and possible activities in regard to the proposed Safari.

Harry Sargent from Eaglehawk is visiting us as from 11th May and we are hoping to organise a "get together" here with some of the local 2/2nd. At this function we hope to be able to set a firm date for the Safari but at the moment it appears that this would be the middle of March to avoid long weekends and Easter, which attract prime rates for accommodation.

We will keep you informed as things develop. We feel that the idea should be kept before members in each issue of the Courier as we have to get decisions and therefore deposits by next February, otherwise we shall have to scatter our living quarters much further afield.

Enclosed please find cheque towards Courier expenses or general funds as you deem fit.

Please pass on my best regards to the W.A. boys.

Yours sincerely,
Leith Cooper.

Editors Note:

Thanks Leith for the early information on the 1988 Phillip Island Safari, printed in its entirety in this issue of the Courier.

Broadbeach Waters, Qld.
17/3/86

Been out of communication for about three years but by courtesy of Tony Adams am very glad to again be in contact. Retired to the Gold Coast three years ago—3kms south of "Silverton" where the memorable reunion was held about five years ago—and reckon we should have done it years ago. Now keeping A1 health, although during a visit to Sydney a while back had the cor-

onary by-pass operation out of the blue. No worries now though—just like a car with a new donk.

Zona and I will be in Perth for the America's Cup and would be delighted to look up some of Doigie's crew—George Merritt, Alec Thompson, Brooker and as many more as possible and, of course, any of the unit in town at the time. For this reason could you send me an address book.

Regards to all.
Jim Smith.

EDITOR

Jim, all the boys mentioned by you are now deceased. Time has certainly flown by.

Launceston, Tasmania.

Received the Courier the other day which was very welcome, so thought I would write a few lines and enclose a cheque towards expenses. Hope this finds you well as it leaves me and the wife. We are very fortunate really, when one looks around at the plight of others.

We were in Hobart last week and had tea with Lance Bomford who is not the best really, not long ago had a trip to hospital. He sends his regards.

Very sorry to read of Bunny Anderson's death in the courier. We always got on well together.

Regards to all.
Wal (Snow) Elmore.

Seaton 5023.
29/3/86

Dear Arch,

Now that the tumult and shouting has died, and we are all back to the hum drum of our normal existence it is time for reflecting on our experiences and pleasure of the Canberra Safari.

On behalf of the S.A. Participants, I would like to express our thanks for the pleasure we experienced, and to extend to the "Dauntless Four", "Oh!" excuse me, "The Dauntless Eight" now that's better, Jim Fenwick, Tom Snowden, Don Thomas, the Royal Marine Ron Morris, and their good ladies a large vote of thanks for a job well done, and allowing us to relive some of the pleasures of Yesteryear.

When we left Canberra we detoured to Griffith, and looked up Alf Hodge and his wife Joyce, who made us very welcome for our short visit. Alf still looks like 1945, the years have dealt very kindly with him.

We left Alf and Joyce and travelled to Moama N.S.W. one of the twin towns, the other being Echuca Vic, where we booked into a Motel at Moama. Very good too.

Next day after looking around Echuca we headed for Naracoorte and onto Coonawarra to spend a couple of days with Ron Gurr who was very interested to hear of all the lads.

Ron, Betty and self spent a day in Mount Gambier shopping and sightseeing. Dropped in on Babe Webber, had a yarn Babe is pleased to get the Courier, visitors are quite rare in Mount Gambier, it being off the main drag to interstate, commuters tend to miss out a bit, as the Mount and surroundings are quite picturesque.

Well Arch will say cheers, find enclosed a donation for the Courier.

KIETH DIGNUM

Fairfield, Vic.
25/4/86

Mavis, my sister Phyllis and I would like to wish all members of the 2/2nd Commandos, their wives, widows and associates all the best of everything for the rest of 1986.

To all persons on the Canberra Safari thank you once again for your company, it was fantastic to be with you all again and add to my memory a host of good times and happy thoughts. It was great to meet the boys and wives of 6 Section.

After Canberra Mavis, Phyllis and I went to Dubbo and stayed for a fortnight with Phyllis and Frank Sharp and what beautiful people they are. We had a terrific time, went everywhere and saw everything during the day and played the pokies at night and helped to finance the extensions on all three clubs. Their son Jeffery came home while we were there and we were just one big family having a lot of fun and enjoying life to the full.

Mal Herbert, my corporal in New Guinea flew in to Melbourne last week for a meeting with National Rifle Committee. He stayed at the Travelodge and Mavis and I went out to spend a couple of hours with him. He is looking very fit. Eleanor is really looking after him. We congratulated him on winning the Order of Australia Medal for services rendered to the rifle clubs of Australia.

Mal told us that Fred Griffiths is in St. George's Hospital, 20 Pinaster Street, Joon-danna, W.A. I will be writing to him shortly and will send him some photos of the Canberra Safari with a lot of the boys from Timor and 6 Section of New Guinea.

During the Safari we got a Get Well card for Peter Piper and asked everyone to sign it.

Today Peter rang to say he had received his card and that he was delighted with the thoughts and good wishes of all at the Safari and is hoping to get to the one in 1988. He sounded well on the phone. He has a frame to help with his walking.

I was saddened by the news of Leo Griddle passing—he was a great mate and a great soldier. He was affectionately known by 6 Section as Lar-Poon (The Old One). Also Bunny Anderson—deepest sympathy to their families and loved ones.

On a brighter note I would personally like to thank the organisers and their wives for the work and effort that went into making the Canberra Safari a great success. I think everyone went there expecting so little and received so much entertainment. This combined with the meeting of old mates and buddies, their wives, widows and friends is a recipe for joy and happiness and beautiful memories. My sister Phyllis would like to thank you also.

I will now say farewell until I see you all, I hope, in Melbourne in 1988.

Fred & Mavis Broadhurst.

Box 598 G.P.O.
SYDNEY N.S.W.
25/4/86

ANZAC DAY

Another march, another year of remembering and another day of camaraderie.

We remember, with nostalgia, our fallen comrades of days long gone, who fought and died, everywhere, for a better world to bequeath it to our loved ones. In the highest heavens they now rest at peace eternally.

But we, who are left behind, linger in this sad world of today, to face an uncertain future, (forgive me if I'm wrong) for feeling that our sacrifices may have been in vain, for so few men have learnt the lessons of history, and thus are destined to repeat it.

We have not yet learnt the simple and sacred mandate: "Love your neighbour as you love yourself".

My best wishes to all and the Families. See you again and again on next ANZAC DAYS.

Pat daLuz

Rye, Victoria
1/5/86

This is just a few lines to let you know that I have received a letter from Nora Fredericks of Grafton, N.S.W. to say that Harry passed away on January 5th after a heart attack.

Apparently he had a mild attack in October, but made a good recovery and they had taken a fortnight's holiday at a nearby beach, but on their return home he took ill and within 24 hours he was gone. The doctor told her he had passed away very quickly, but if he had recovered he would have been an invalid and, as he was so active it would have been very hard on him. As I hadn't met Harry since the end of the war, we kept in touch by letters and Christmas cards, it still came as a shock, even though we know this is going to happen with increasing frequency as the years pass.

Beryl and I are keeping reasonably fit, a trip here and there to the doctor to replenish the stock of pills and potions that seem to be the curse of growing old.

Sorry we didn't make it to Canberra but health and the lack of finance made it impossible. From those who did attend we have heard it was a great success. The Commando Reunion went off very well. We met a lot of folk from interstate and a few of the 2/2nd boys, Alan Hollow and wife, his brother in law and wife, Kel Carthew, Geo. Veitch, Bill Peterson, Bernie (pardon me) Sir Bernard, Tom Nisbet, Bill Sharp. Bill is not the best of health.

Anzac Day reunion was well attended but will let Harry Botterill give the details of that in his usual report. Please give my regards to all in the West.

Sincerely,
Alec Boast.

P.S. Have just received Life Membership to the Commando Association.

Mandurah W.A.
19/5/86

Home again. 10½ weeks and 12,500 kms later, Betty and I would like to thank the organisers of the Canberra Safari for a job very well done. We enjoyed it all immensely and of course a bonus for us was the opportunity to spend so much time with Brother Fred who lives in Canberra.

After the Safari we went to the Gold Coast, via Canungra and 'those hills' for two weeks. Whilst there we met up with Bruce and Lorraine McLaren and spent a couple of happy evenings with them.

On to Maroochydore for a few days enjoying the hospitality of Bettye and George Coulson. George took us on some interesting drives and Bettye and Margaret Hooper phoned around and gathered a few Queensland members and their wives together for a barbecue picnic at Slaughter Falls in Brisbane. George drove us down and it was a super day. As usual, Fred

Bryant was the chef and did an excellent job and Phyllis's cake was a winner. Thank you all for a good day.

We had a wonderful stay with Frank & Phyllis Sharp in Dubbo. We had lots of laughs and some nice outings, including a very successful evening on the "pokies".

From N.S.W. to Victoria where we stayed a few days with David & Thais Brown on lovely Phillip Island. What a great place for the next Safari. David showed us places of interest, including the proposed accommodation venues which he and Leith Cooper are working on. We were most impressed with what they have to offer and will certainly be looking forward to returning in 1988.

A leisurely drive home in perfect weather brought our happy holiday to a safe end and our thanks again to everyone who helped to make it so happy.

A letter from Joe & Helen Poynton told us that they also enjoyed a 2/2nd barbecue at Slaughter Falls and that on Anzac Day in Brisbane Joe had the honour of being Standard Bearer when he marched with the Combined Commandos, along with seven other 2/2nd members.

Joe & Helen are still enjoying their holiday and are not expected back in Mandurah until July or August.

Best wishes to everyone.
Len Bagley.

Dee Why, N.S.W.

Courier arrived today and appears to cover the wonderful Canberra Safari—what a great reunion that was and how lucky that we were able to be part of it. Let's hope we can all be together again in 1988. Trust you Westerners all had a safe and healthy trip home.

We had our best roll up at a quarterly meeting ever a couple of weeks ago, with 13 present. This included Vince Swann who is staying with his daughter Kerry at Manly and "Doc" Gallard who we haven't seen since 1968.

Cyril Beavis is doing it a bit rough following attention to a cancer of the prostate gland and awaiting results from Laser treatment. Snow Weir is still in R.G.H. Concord and looks like a long way to go yet.

Edith is much the same, picks up one week, down the next. Joins in love and best wishes to everyone.

Enclosed is a donation for the Courier.
Regards,
Alan Luby.

Bolgart, W.A.
13/5/86

Have been trying to get myself into gear ever since the Safari to write.

Re the Safari—what a great success. It is always a great pleasure to meet up with old friends from way back.

On the way over we spent a couple of days in Wagga and went out to dinner with Keith and Noreen Waters. The old Flood is looking extremely well, still has a little bit of trouble with his foot but after finding and removing a sliver of bone it has improved a lot. He was a bit afraid of losing it before that. I'll be most disappointed if you don't make the effort to get to Phillip Island Flood.

The next one, whom I haven't seen since New Guinea was Kel Carthew—what a great thrill. The only thing that upsets me is that he looks 15 years younger than I do and I thought I was doing well. Jack Fox was another I hadn't seen since New Guinea. Other than a bit of a limp he seems to be carrying his 73 odd years extremely well. You should have seen him squirm when people were walking on the "Hallowed Parade Ground" at Duntroon.

Have been in to see Fred Griffiths at St. George's Hospital a few times. He still has the old glint in his eye, but I doubt that he could make that 60 yards before a 4 second grenade went off and drag that oxy bottle like he did when he and Flood were setting a booby trap and the grenade slipped. Keith went crook at Fred for holding him up.

Getting back to the Safari, I am quite sure that whoever was the Account/Treasurer or whatever—move over Paul Keating! It all shows what dedication can do. Also, I would like to thank you all for the friendship you showed to our friends Doris and Doug King. They were made very welcome and value the friendships they made.

We had a very good 10 days in Tasmania and enjoyed the company of Blue Miller at dinner—another long lost soul not seen since Timor.

It must be about time I dropped a cheque towards the Courier.

Regards from Dot and Reg. Harrington.

Pascoe Vale, Vic.
11/5/86

Just a few lines to let you know that I have been back to Bristol, England to see my brother Scotty once again. He is still keeping well and wishes to be remembered to all his mates and wants to donate a few bob to help with the printing of the Courier.

Scotty was plwased, in the last year, to receive letters from Jim Smailes and Steve Rogers. They were very interesting and helped him to catch up with the news and he enjoyed them very much.

All the best to the Association.

Jock Taylor.

Moonah, Tas.

I read the Courier with interest and thank you for sending same.

It is almost 8 months since Mick passed away—how the time flies.

Enclosed is a donation towards your Courier.

Please give my regards to Ray Aitken. All the best to your Association.

Yours sincerely,
Maisie Kingston.

EDITOR: Letter from the Richards to the Criddles.

Latrobe, Tas.
9/6/86

Dear Col. & Bonnie,

Sorry we missed you when you called to see us. Am glad you liked Tasmania. The weather has been kind to us this year, although we have had plenty of rain. Winter has started in earnest but we still get a fair bit of sunshine.

We enjoyed Adelaide and Victor Harbour—hadn't been to Victor Harbour before. Was going to do a spot of fishing but didn't get around to it.

While in Hobart for the Australian RSL Bowls I met quite a few WA bowlers. Some of them knew you people but names leave my head as fast as they enter. We had a great time but my bowling didn't reach very great heights.

Well pals, I trust your health is all that can be expected—the same applies to us.

All our fond regards Col. and best regards to everyone.

Tex & Briget.

12 Lavant Way,
Balga. 6061.
Phone 349 4107
22/5/86

The above will be our mailing address for the next six months approximately, after

which we will be moving into a new home in Hillarys.

Regret having missed Anzac Day but had to move house at that time.

We leave for the north-west on Saturday, 24th May by caravan and Landcruiser. Plan to do a leisurely trip for about two months and may make it as far as Darwin.

Regards to all.
John Chalwell.
Tich—9Section.

Mandurah, W.A.
1/6/86

Please find enclosed donation. Thank you very much for the Courier. We look forward to its arrival and enjoy reading it very much.

Would like to say welcome home all those folk who went to Canberra Safari '86 and trust they enjoyed every minute of time away.

All the best to all 2/2nd members and families.

Regards,
Joy & Allan Chatfield.

Yagoona, N.S.W.
3/6/86

Canberra Reunion three months to our rear. I expect the mail engendered is pouring in. You should have enough material to keep you in news for a few Couriers in advance.

Jim Fenwick, Dan Daniels, Tom Snowden and their wives did a magnificent job on that Safari. The functions, the accommodation, the leisure time all blended together to compliment each other and with due regard to our physical capabilities these days. That man for all seasons, Ron Morris, certainly made life much easier for us. He apparently retired from attending Prime Ministers to minister (no pun intended) to the wants of the ageing 2/2nd. He certainly earned his honorary membership of the 2/2nd. Grateful thanks for his efforts and good wishes for his future.

Thanks to Bernie Gallinan for organising our tour of the new Parliament House construction. We were all far better informed to assess the criticism which appeared some time later concerning the building. Our news moguls can at times be very misleading, particularly in these days when news, printed and electronic, is the monopoly of a couple of companies not adverse to pushing their own self interests.

The beverage the majority favour, like the news, is also controlled by a couple of companies, so if Alan Bond or Elders Carlton United decide the convivial jug is not to their liking in price, content or beer, it's just too bad for us. We have two alternatives apart from accepting it—give it away or switch to Coopers.

Mention of Bond brings to mind that sterling citizen of the West, his adopted State, Robert Holmes a'Court. Pity he didn't stay in South Africa. These corporate raiders and monopoly chasers aren't doing the average Australian much good borrowing huge amounts overseas to get hold of going concerns. They sure as hell are not doing much for industrial development, and some bloody fools regard them as heroes. Enough said—if I keep going they'll sue the Courier for libel and the 2/2nd can't raise billions in New York, Tokyo or London.

We had one of the best roll ups for a meeting in years yesterday. Those obituary notices in the Courier must be having an effect. Present—Alan Luby, Jack Hartley, Ron Hilliard, Mick Mannix, Cyril Beavis, "Snow" Went, Bill Hoy, Bill Coker "Doc" Gallard and Kenneally. Long time since we have seen Bill Gallard. Apart from shape, little changed. Thick head of hair, barely touched by grey. He and Drip Hillard argue just as much as they did way back in the 1940's. I'm sure some of it is a continuing story from 2/1st Medium days. We have fond memories of "Doc" bowling in our annual cricket match against Arncliffe R.S.L. which had a really first class team. The Doc bowled us to our one and only victory over the years. He took six wickets off six consecutive balls. Two hat tricks in one over. He demolished them. I can't remember whether they gave him the ball or the boot, it was a long celebration.

Dorothy trengrove has been in hospital for an operation. All well now, spending a month at her mother's recuperating. Ron & Dot are off round Australia when she is cleared by the Doc. Jack 9 Marj Peattie on their way, but only slowly leaving the north coast area. Bob Smith back in Newcastle after another bout of treatment at Prince of Wales Sydney. His usual cheerful self when I saw him in hospital. Beak and Joyce have had a rough tough road to travel the last six or seven years. They have negotiated it with cheerful courage and an example to all in adversity. "Snow" Weir back in hospital, as cynical and cheerful as ever. It takes a lot to wipe the grin from the Weir dial. Frankly, he has little to laugh or smile about. He has spent a lot of time in hospital this last twelve months or so. Medical science has done little so far to solve the problem of his leg. One doctor says a tropical ulcer, others no opinion and pathology no help. If a tropical ulcer, it's the worst I've seen (and I saw some

bad ones in Timor). "Snow" will be in hospital for a long time yet. I'm sure all wish him a full recovery in time.

Spent three days with Noel Buckman up at Stuarts Point on the mid north coast. It was a revelation. I spent four years in the same section as "Buck" and learned more about his bush lore, construction ability and general all round capabilities in three days. That bloody war must have reduced us to complete one mindedness while we were involved in it. We seemed to know little of each other's civilian background. Perhaps many of the Unit were so young there was not a great degree of working life behind them. Anyway, Buck and Marie are well and wish to be remembered to all who knew them. They have a daughter Robyn, married, in Newcastle, a son in Queensland and a boy going to school. The last will never be late—he's up at five summer and winter, a quiet boy but a great observer. Curly O'Neill is well, or was when I saw him a couple of weeks ago. He must have gone walk-about again. I have not been able to contact him by phone. With Curly it's a case of Mohamed and the mountain. To see him one must climb up to his eyrie high above Narrabeen Lakes, then sit in the sun watching the wind surfers scudding across the waters—a lovely sight. Blue cloudless sky reflected in the waters of the lake and the surrounding tree covered hills. I envy the wind surfers and wish them well in a world far removed from our youth. They have to contend with a far more complicated world than our day, and despite the affluence and material well being, alarming numbers of them are not reared or trained to handle it. As Curly and I sit and argue the point I still maintain its our generation's fault. We allowed it to happen.

Marriages running in our family. The youngest, Gerald, must have started the trend when he married in April 1985. Sean was married in Gundagai in April 1986. We had a great time—the bride's family certainly put a lot of work into the arrangements. The reception was held in the former Gundagai Theatre and there was plenty of room. For the first time in my life at any reception, everyone could push their seat back from the table without knocking those at the next table. Plenty of room to dance, gallop or walk, bend the elbow and open the vocal chords, and that's how it was. The groom off with the coat and bow tie and up went the sleeves and everyone followed the lead. The guests came from every state in the Commonwealth, mostly strangers to each other but they danced, sang, joked and laughed as if they were bosom pals from cradle days. I didn't do too badly—lasted till 2.30a.m. It closed down about 3.30a.m. and believe it or not Sean and his bride Denise locked the place up. It was a real old fashioned country wedding, country protocol was followed.

Short on speeches but plenty of action and hilarity.

Michael ran into Peter Campbell and Joe Poynton at the caravan park and asked them to come for a swim in the Murrumbidgee. I'll let Joe and Peter tell you all about it. By the time they get back to the west they will have a library of stories to tell.

Helen announced her engagement in May. Her fiance comes from Nedlands, W.A. November 1st is the wedding date in Sydney. Their future home will be in Canberra. Helen will be in the west in September attending a seminar. She's lucky the venue is Mandurah so I reckon she will be seeing many of the 2/2nd again. Wish she's take me along as a minder. I'd do a good job from a high stool in the Peninsula. Nora is well and sends here best wishes to all. I'm knocking off and not before time—a bit of exercise to keep the creaking joints mobile. Then a swim. It's a gorgeous winter day, clear blue sky and the Blue Mountains standing out high and clear in the distance.

Good luck.
Paddy Kenneally.

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