

# 2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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

**Vol. 63**

**OCTOBER 1986**

**Price 1c**

## **COMING EVENTS**

### **COMMEMORATION SERVICE**

**SUNDAY, 16TH NOVEMBER 3 P.M.  
LOVEKIN DRIVE, KINGS PARK  
FULL MUSTER PLEASE**

### **CHRISTMAS FUNCTION**

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

## **REMINDER**

### **OCTOBER 1986 COUNTRY CONVENTION BRIDGETOWN**

**Tues. 21st Oct.** Visitors arrive.  
5pm Reception by Local Shire.

**Wed. 22nd Oct.** Morning Trip to Greenbushes Tin Mine.  
and  
Whittakers Timber Mill followed by  
Barbecue Lunch.  
Remainder Day and Evening Free.

**Thurs. 23rd Oct.** Day Bus Trip to Manjimup and Pemberton  
includes  
Luncheon and Inspection Bunnings Chipmill Operation.  
Evening Convention Dinner at  
Freemasons Hotel.

**Fri. 24th Oct.** Visitors Depart.

N.B. Caravan sites are available if required.

Members intending to attend convention are asked to contact Bill Rowan-Robinson (097) 61 1346.  
For accommodation rates refer August Courier.

## 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.

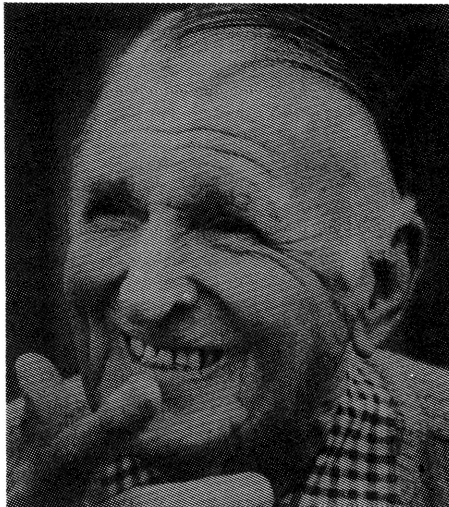
**AN UPDATE ON OUR EDITOR**

Some of our readers may not know that Archie hasn't been editing Courier for several weeks. He took off - some thought maybe on compassionate leave, but others knew he had been making plans to re-visit the "ancestral moors of the Clan Campbell", first to dally at the Edinburgh Games en route, and afterwards to visit friends in South Africa on his way back home. The Team had a card from Edinburgh where he enjoyed the contests and was then "roaming in the gloaming" in the far north of Scotland.

We all wish Archie luck and a successful visit to South Africa, followed by a safe return.

Because it is impossible, under normal circumstances, to convince Arch that he too is Courier "news" we grab this opportunity (while the cat's away, etc) to include this Western Mail article for our readers.

"GE-EM"



*ARCHIE CAMPBELL: The father of Legacy . . . all because of February 20, 1942*

**THE WESTERN MAIL, WEEKEND, JULY 26/27**

**'The father of Legacy looks back . . . to February 20, 1942'**

**HOW ONE DAY SPARKED A PASSION**

*Ambushed, for a lifetime*

By David Lague

**FEBRUARY 20, 1942 was the day which set the course for much of Archie Campbell's life.**

The 25 year old lieutenant with the Australian Army's 2/2 Independent Company in Timor's rugged mountains was waiting for 14 young soldiers from his section to return from a day's leave in Dili.

Only one came back.

The men and two other soldiers from the unit had left on a truck that morning, unaware that a Japanese invasion force had landed at Dili and Koepang.

It was some days later—when local Timorese delivered a badly wounded survivor, Private Keith Hayes—that the young officer learnt what had happened.

Against regulations, Archie Campbell kept a diary on that Timor campaign and later expanded it to a history of the elite unit.

That history recounted how he questioned the wounded soldier.

"He was a happy, outgoing youngster with tremendous vitality and personality," he said.

"But as I drew the story out, all his boyhood had gone. He was a young old man.

"It was a dreadfully emotional talk, for I choked up nearly as much as Keith. These were lads I had trained for nigh on 12 months; young, bright-eyed, alert, full of the joys of life. Today, no more.

"Listening to Keith, swathed in bandages, wrenched my heart out.

"They were on leave, they sang in the truck, the Japanese far from their minds.

□ □ □

"It was a rough track and a noisy truck. One could not hear the sound of shells in the distance.

"The truck froze completely when they were surrounded by Japanese, their first thought to fight it out. Reg Murray even tried but they were stripped of the weapons they always carried on leave.

"Out of the truck they were ordered.

"Peter Alexander, taken off the line for interrogation, went back into the truck.

"The remainder had their hands tied behind them and were ordered into a ditch, face down.

"Keith could just remember Harvey Marriot saying: 'Oh my God,' when the fire order was given.

"His next recollection was when he came to. There were the Japanese bayonetting the boys to make sure they were dead.

"He lay doggo; next thing it was his turn. Down the bayonet flashed.

"Later he came to for a second time, overcome with a terrible weakness through loss of blood.

"He started to crawl out. To do this he had to go over the bodies. He knew they were dead.

"Slowly, in great agony, in tremendous shock, he got into the cover of a rice field. Here the Timorese natives found him."

Keith Hayes survived. The bullet had missed his jugular vein on one side and the bayonet on the other.

Peter Alexander survived Changi prison camp and the Burma Road but the brutal execution made a big impact on Archie Campbell.

□ □ □

Sitting in his Sorrento home last week, the 70-year-old widower said he had decided to join Legacy after the war as a tribute to the men he had lost in that ambush and in later campaigns.

"I felt that if I was going to do any charity work then it would be Legacy, because they were looking after the wives and families of men who lost their lives," he said.

Mr Campbell was president of Legacy in Perth in 1966 and then served as secretary for 15 years.

He and his late wife, former hockey champion May Pearce, MBE, had no children but cared for many Legacy families.

This was underlined in 1984 when Perth Legacy nominated him in the Father of the Year contest, even though he had no children of his own.

He was reluctant to say how many families he had helped but eventually admitted to about 20.

"I have had wonderful friendships over the years with all the children and the widows," he said. "They still keep in contact."

"I always tell them the big thing I need to know is that they are well."

Mr Campbell is well-known in WA sporting circles.

Before the war he played league football with East Perth and after the war was a prominent radio sports broadcaster.

He called football, rowing, athletics and surfing and was chief announcer for the 1962 Commonwealth Games.

He was asked to serve on the East Perth board last year, when the club was struggling.

Last week he left for Edinburgh and the 1986 Commonwealth Games.

## EDUCITIS

### THE NAME OF THE GAME! \*

We are told that at last the creeping disease Educitis has been isolated, analysed and named. This disease is a curious form of gobble-de-gook that has spread through education institutions over several years.

In his message to the afflicted our translator warns—"It is felt that in the event that a potential educitis plague input, in the area of educational activity is unable to be effectively orchestrated towards guidelines for viable no-growth parameters, then each and every one of us will find ourselves in a negative linguistic environment which is non-conductive and counter-productive to the ongoing strategy of a positive scenario in the field of education.

For homework students had to describe a blackboard!! No marks for those who do not reach a sufficiently acceptable height.

Answer: A transportable, bilateral, quasi-vertical, atramentous, multi-height, visual aid!!

Lo and behold, soon after Mr Hawke returned from his last trip overseas we heard complimentary remarks indicating that he had become a more decisive leader!!! It was good news but somewhat wasted to gobble-de-gook by the Opposition Speaker telling us "only last week, as I understand it, he practically, all but near enough, almost decided to explore the feasibility of possibly thinking about setting up a sub-committee to advise on a potential, tentative overture to begin discussions about his agenda for a firm decision or not. (It was an important subject, or we thought so!! It remains undecided—wonder why!!

## VICTORIAN NEWS

We had a very good muster at the Anzac Day March and Reunion. The weather was inclement and just as we reached the Shrine the heavens opened up and we were drenched, but it did not dampen the enthusiasm and we all stood our ground and marched through it.

After we dried out we had an enjoyable reunion at the President Motel with the Combined Commando Association members. Those present at the March and Reunion were Bruce McLaren, Ken Monk, Norm Tillet, Don Fryer, Harry Botterill, George Kennedy, Alf Harper, John Roberts, John Southwell, Leith Cooper and his friend Ross Roberts, Baldy Baldwin, Bernie Callinan, Bill Tucker, Jack Fox, Alex Boast, Max Davies, Ray Splatt, George Veitch, Paul Costello. It was good to see Ray Splatt again. He is in god health but spends most of his time in Hawaii. George Kennedy marched with us and was looking very well. It is hard for George to make conversation but you can see by his eyes that he is very pleased to see everybody.

Leith Cooper has been doing his homework on the proposed Safari at Phillip Island. Everyone here is very enthusiastic about it.

We were very sorry to here the passing of Merv Ryan and extend our deepest sympathy to Dulcie and family.

We have just heard of the passing of Bob Smith—he put up a wonderful fight and showed great courage. We regret that he was unable to make the Canberra Safari as he was so looking forward to it. To Joyce and family our deepest sympathy and we are all thinking of you.

Harry Botterill

Re: Editor's Note to Jim Smith - page 10 August Courier.

We've discovered that our roving Editor is not perfect after all - he's human and can make mistakes the same as the rest of us. We are very happy to report that Alex Thomson is very much alive and well. Sorry, Arch.

Hightt Vic.  
1/8/86

Many thanks for \$2,000 for 1988 Safari. We hope we can make a good showing. I would never have thought of Phillip Island but Leith Cooper and Dave Brown live there and we have had a good look at the place and facilities and it would be ideal. Leith is very keen and that's half the battle.

We are all in good health here. Sorry to hear of Merv Ryan and Bob Smith—they both suffered a lot but showed great courage. Hope Col is getting well again. Give him our kind regards.

We just heard that Alan (Darby) Munro passed away on 6th April. We had not heard of him for a number of years. At one time he was very active in our Association and was President for a term.

All the best to everyone in the West.

Kindest regards,  
Harry Botterill.

## **FAREWELL TO THE MOST COURAGEOUS FIGHTER: WE KNEW, OUR BELOVED MATE—“BEAKY” SMITH**

You will recall, Vale—R.J.(Bob) Smith, in August Courier. The following eulogy presented at his funeral service has now been made available to 'Courier' and we re-print it in full. When read in conjunction with Vale and other 'family' words, readers we believe, begin to get an impression of one mans courage, as we saw it!

“Dear Joyce, Courier does not know a more succinct conclusion to this entry than to add “there goes a real man”.

“GE-EM”

## **A EULOGY TO OUR BROTHER & FRIEND ROBERT JAMES SMITH**

BORN 1923

DIED 28 JUNE 1986

O Valiant hearts who to your glory came  
Through dust of conflict and through battle flame

Tranquil you lie, your knightly virtue proved  
Your memory hallowed in the land you loved.

What more appropriate words could there be to say as we gather here this morning to say farewell to our beloved brother and friend Robert (Bob) James Smith, who as we know, departed this life on last Saturday evening.

Many of us here, particularly those of the 2/2 Commando family, first met Bob, or “Beaky” as he was popularly nicknamed, when he joined the No. 2 Australian Independent Company in Portuguese Timor, during January, 1942.

Some of our colleagues present knew him earlier than that, having been in training with him at the Tidal River Infantry Centre on Wilsons Promontory, 1941.

On joining the Unit Bob was posted to the Engineers, or Sapper section of our group, under the command of Lieut. Don Turton, who subsequently became 2 l/c. At the time of joining the unit he was barely 18 years of age. He served with the 2/2 throughout the campaigns of Timor, New Guinea and New Britain and in doing so suffered the rigours of those arduous years. Like most of us he never acquired any particular medals or awards, but as a soldier he always performed whatever duties he was required to do. No-one today could imagine the hardships of those days when malaria, dysentery, scrub typhus and vitamin deficiencies were an even greater enemy than our Japanese foes.

In recent years these have taken their toll, particularly amongst our younger members.

I think too, it is appropriate to mention that the 2/2 Commando Squadron was the only original 8th Division Unit to go through the Pacific War as a Unit, and was credited with more front line service than any Unit in the 2nd A.I.F.—a record of which we are indeed proud, particularly when we speak of people like Bob who endured it all.

Following his discharge from the Army, Bob entered the Lighthouse Service as a third generation officer, and duly became the third of his family to reach the status of Head Lighthouse Keeper. His brother Bill also achieved this distinction, and he is present with us today.

He, along with Joyce and their family were posted to many of the mostly lonely lighthouses along the N.S.W. coastline and your friends gathered here today don't need me to tell you the kind of life and the responsibilities that entailed. Some of us had the opportunity to visit them at one or another of these postings and were able to enjoy their lovely friendship and hospitality.

For those of you good friends who are not part of the 2/2 Commando family I would like to tell you something of our family bonds. Throughout the years since 1945 we have been able to keep in contact with most of our members by the holding of fairly regular reunions in various parts of Australia. Because of these, not only our members, but also our wives and families have become a close-knit nationwide community that has shared many wonderful pleasures; we have also shared many sorrows such as occasions like this when we lose a loved one. Only during last March we had a safari reunion in Canberra when our families travelled from all over the Commonwealth of Australia and New Guinea to be present.

At some of our functions we were able to muster more than 200 people, a really great effort when one considers that we have been going for more than 40 years and most of us are now approaching or have reached our three score and ten years.

I know that one of the things that kept Bob going—call it his 'guiding star' if you like, was his ambition to join with us, along with Joyce, at Canberra, and then believe it or not, to proceed around Australia by car and caravan. Unfortunately this was not to be, as only a week or so before the due date, he was stricken by what was to provide the final bout of the cancer he had fought for nearly eight years. Believe me, this was not his first encounter with pain and suffering, he was boarded out of the Lighthouse Service in 1966 because of his ill health and deteriorating condition and made a T.P.I. at a very young age.

During the early years of his illness Bob discovered that he had a flair for artistic painting. He produced many fine works of landscapes

and seascapes. Some of these are wonderful moments of places he and Joyce encountered on their trips.

Dear friends, I don't wish to prolong this service unduly, but this is a time to speak proudly of a dear friend, and as well as my own thoughts, Ron Trengrove has asked me to add some of this, which I feel express the thoughts of many of you.

Sir Walter Scott in his diary, wrote (quote) "I wish that my tongue could utter the thoughts that arise in me". Our friend and soldier valiant has gone to rest, free from pain at last. Pain that he has endured and fought for more than seven years, and with a courage that had to be seen to be believed. If the V.C. is the Hallmark of Courage, Bob won a hundred of them! If gold medals are won by determination and pure strength of purpose—there have never been enough minted for him.

As weak as I am, he made me stronger, as I witnessed his battle, as we talked, as we drove, as we laughed—and we did laugh on Safari 83 to Perth and back. I cry because we were so helpless in his spasms of pain, and we could not give him relief. His answer to me was "it helps when you are here".

As Joyce said—he always brightened up when someone from 2/2 appeared and talked for a while, called on the phone, or he received a letter. If you as an individual support a team of any kind, whether it be the Americas Cup, football, cricket, tennis or whatever, please spare a thought for Bob's team, who so valiantly helped him over more than seven long and weary years. As well as his wonderful supporting wife, Joyce, and his family, this applies also to the Oncology Teams at the Mater Hospital, Newcastle, and the Prince of Wales, Sydney, to whom he accorded the highest accolades. They have been wonderful in their care, consideration, treatment and research, in their endeavours to regain his health.

In Joyce, Bob has had a stalwart supporter, who, in spite of her own illnesses, has needed to be strong, gentle, loving and even forceful according to the whims of a patient who, although uncomplaining, had his understandably difficult times.

Many thanks, Ron for your thoughts, and I know they reflect the thoughts of many of our colleagues.

In conclusion, to Joyce and your family, may I offer you the most sincere condolences of your many friends of the 2/2 from all over Australia, whose thoughts are with you on this sad occasion, but also realising that our dear brother is at rest and out of pain. I offer too, the condolences of Pres. Arthur Littler and members of the N.S.W. Commando Association, who are unable to be with us today. Also, the officials and members of the R.S.L. Sub-Branched of which he has been a member

over the years, are represented here today, as well as his colleagues from the N.S.W. Lighthouse Service.

I offer too, the warm thanks of those people, many of them 'fellow sufferers' who Bob has been able to help by his own wonderful philosophy of 'living each day'—'day by day!'

And now, on behalf of our comrades in Service, from the R.S.L., it is fitting to repeat my opening words:—

O valiant heart who to your glory came,  
Through dust of conflict and through battle flame,

Tranquil you lie, your knightly virtue proved,

Your memory hallowed in the land you loved

The hour has come for rest. This poppy—  
an emblem of sacrifice, the symbol of a life offered in the service of one's country—is  
a link between our comrade and us who remain. We place it here in remembrance.

Would those who wish please come forward and place their poppies on the casket.

Let us pray in silence for a few moments in memory of our comrade.

'Last Post' & 'Reveille'.

Ode of Remembrance:

They shall grow not old as we that are left  
grow old,

Age shall not weary them, not the years  
condemn,

At the going down of the sun, and in the  
morning,

We will remember them.

Amen.

## **VALE—TED (LOFTY) TIMCKE**

Lofty was always quiet and unassuming but he was active with our South Australian Association right up to his passing.

During our New Guinea campaign we saw the best of his soldierly qualities showing through. A good soldier he displayed skill with weapons, dependability, quiet courage and a ready willingness to do his job. He was at his best when the going got tough!!

A natural no-nonsense and independent person. He was a valued member of our unit on service and our S.A. Association in peace. Deepest sympathy to Jess from all his old mates of the 2/2.

LEST WE FORGET

## **VALE: ALF HILLMAN**

We regret to advise of the death of Alf Hillman who passed away in the Albany Regional Hospital on the 25th August last in his 76th year.

Alf served as a corporal with A platoon in 3 section under Clarrie Turner during the Timor campaign. When the unit was reorganised at Canungra in 1943 Alf was transferred to C platoon and served in 8 section for the New Guinea campaign. He was a good soldier and did his best at all times. Alf had a cheerful disposition and was easy to get along with.

After the war he returned to his mixed farming property at Brommehill and over the years built up a quality merino flock of which he was quite proud and which won numerous trophies at the districts shows. In 1948 Alf married Elsie Porter, a widow with 5 children. Alf lived a very active life. He took a keen interest in civic affairs and served on the local shire for many years. He was also a staunch supporter of the Broomehill R.S.L. and represented his district as delegate at the Annual State R.S.L. Conventions in Perth on numerous occasions. Whenever in the city he always made a point of checking to see how the Association was getting on.

He was a loyal member of the Association and was always prepared to do what he could to help out. When we held a country convention in Katanning some years ago, Alf did a first class job assisting in the organising of the convention. He was our country vice-president for the Great Southern area for over 8 years, a position he held at the time of his death.

Alf was also a good sportsman and enjoyed his tennis, golf and later became a keen bowler.

After retiring from farm life Alf and Elsie lived in Katanning for a time but eventually settled down in Albany. Alf suffered a great loss when Elsie died in January, 1985.

In his latter years Alf had a severe hip problem, which was very painful, and needed a stick to move around but still managed to lead a fairly active life. In May of this year he was admitted to the Albany Hospital for treatment for his hip where it was found a growth had developed in the groin and this proved too much for him.

Don Turton, Jim Smailes and Jack Carey made the trip from Perth to attend the funeral and Geordi Smith came in from Denmark. Following a moving ceremony conducted by the local Baptist minister, Alfs remains were interred with his beloved Elsie.

To Alf's sisters and all members of the Porter family we extend our sincere condolences.

LEST WE FORGET

## CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

Geraldton, W.A.  
18/8/86

First of all allow me to express my sincere thanks for the confidence displayed by my re-election as Country Vice-President for the Northern Area. It is certainly a great honour to be entrusted with a position of this nature in such a great organisation.

There are not many Double-Red-Diamond types left in this area but I am able to bring you some news regarding the few remaining ones. I'm sorry to have to let you know that it's not good news concerning Bruss Fagg of Northampton. Bruss has been in and out of hospital with his bad leg, and to make matters worse, he recently burnt the same leg in an accident with a heater. The latest news is that Bruss is back in Northampton Hospital and we are all hoping that he soon recovers sufficiently to be up and about. It would be great if Bruss could be with us at our annual R.S.L. Reunion at Geraldton on September 6 because Nip Cunningham and Yours Truly always get together at this annual event. Not only will we again be having the three W.A. Armed Services Chiefs at our Reunion but also the Chief of Naval Staff in Australia, Vice-Admiral M.W. Hudson of Canberra.

I retired on July 10 after being A.B.C. Regional Journalist at Geraldton for 30 years and I had two wonderful retirement functions. The W.A. General Manager, Arthur Povah, and the State News Editor, Declan Fay, made a special trip from Perth for my A.B.C. farewell and were full of kindness during their speeches and presentations—as was the Geraldton Programme Manager, Paul Thompson. This was followed by a function at the Civic Centre in recognition of my performance in having reported Town Council meetings for 30 years. The council presented me with a set of Mayoral Centenary glasses and also a pen and pencil set. The Mayor, Phil Cooper, was in Perth as a member of the Grants Commission but sent a telegram which read: "A sudden change in a Grants Commission Policy meeting prevents me from being with you this evening. You enjoyed your many News Scoops because of the great trust people had in you to report fairly and honestly and never to break the Code of Ethics. You have left a hard path to follow. For the god of the Media I trust and hope your replacement shall see fit to copy your many strong points. It is a year or two since you and I headed the Brigades Football Club; we have both seen our sons wear the Blue and Gold, and rumour has it that '86 is the Year of the Flag."

The Mayor was Brigades President when I was Secretary and we are having a great year this year, so much so that we'll be playing in the second semi-final.

It was great to have a few noggins with Joe and Helen Poynton of Mandurah and Peter and Pat Campbell of Esperance when they were returning from what they described as a wonderful Safari at Canberra.

Eric and Margaret Weller called at our home a couple of weeks ago and were loud in their praise of the wonderful hospitality extended during Canberra Safari.

I am being kept busy since my retirement, as a result of responding to requests for assistance, and have just completed a contribution for our Bishop regarding some of the "Architectural Gems" that resulted from the work of the Architect Priest, the late Monsignor John Hawes, and also some of the interesting things about this great man with whom I was closely associated when a schoolboy at Mullewa. I provided this literary contribution in association with a booklet that is to be produced in connection with a proposed Heritage Trail.

Peter Barden

Falcon, W.A.  
3/7/86

Dear Jack

This belated note is to thank you most sincerely for your very kind co-operation with the Mandurah Shire in authorising the Commando insignia on the plaque for Arthur's grave in the Lakes Memorial Cemetery. It makes me very proud to see my dear Arthur honoured by the wonderful 2/2nd Commando Squadron in this permanent way. My grateful thanks, Jack.

It has been a traumatic time for me these last two years owing to the serious illness of my two sisters, both of whom were in my care between periods of hospitalisation. When they both seemed to be recovering they were involved in a car accident when returning from a check up with their doctor. As a result they both spent some weeks back in hospital. Happily Queenie is quite well now and back in her own home in South Perth, but Phyllis has never completely recovered from open heart surgery in January 1985.

Had it not been for the kindness and support of so many of the 2/2nd family, especially dear Jess Epps, I could not have coped alone. Visits to my home of Perth and Mandurah Commandos, the many letters and phone calls from as far away as Brisbane make me realise just how fortunate I am to be part of such a family.

Parts of my correspondence with my nephew, Neil Smith, who is in the army in Melbourne may be of interest to some members. In reply to Peter Epps' appeal for details missing from the records for the Archives, Neil wrote "I'd be pleased to help Mr. Epps in any way at all. Apart from my military contacts I am the



Secretary of the Victorian Branch of the Australian Military Historical Society." Neil's address is: Lt. Col. N. C. Smith, A.M., 262 North Road, Brighton East, 3187.

In a recent letter Neil enclosed copies of Arthur's Military Service Record. The copies are a little faint in patches, however I am able to follow the detail and have retained a copy. I thought you might like a copy for the Commando Association.

In May Neil wrote that he had attended a reception in Melbourne and met Sir Bernard Callinan. He also spoke at length with a man named Halliday (Bob, he thinks) who was with the 2/5th but know Arthur after the war. Neil said "we enjoyed a long and agreeable conversation of the type found between an old soldier and an ageing one".

During a recent visit to Perth Neil called on our close friends the Timorese family of Frank and Alzira Carvalho at Mosman Park. They were delighted to meet him and gave him the address of their relatives in Melbourne. Neil visited them and they were very pleased with his visit. Last week Frank rang to tell me how thrilled all the family was to have met Neil and they had received news of his visit to their relatives in Melbourne.

If any member of the Association would like to obtain information regarding his army records Neil would be happy to assist.

Enclosed is cheque for Association funds and Courier which I have neglected for so long—my sincere apologies.

Kind regards,  
Beryl Smith.

---

Para Hills, S.A.  
16/7/86

Enclosed is a postal note for funds towards Courier.

Having some extremely cold weather in South Australia.

Kel Carthew.

---

Sandringham, Vic.

Enclosed a little nourishment for the Courier.

Regards to all.

Peter Krause.

---

2nd Sept. 86  
30 Wrexham St.,  
Bicton 6157 W.A.

Our dear friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our friends for their kindness, beautiful flowers, cards and phone calls during our recent bereavement. Special thanks to my very dear family who were so understanding and supportive.

Naturally I miss Merv, but I thank God for the 40 years we shared, we had so much love, fun and mateship, he was a very brave man.

I must mention the Canberra Safari that was so well organised. We were both happy that we were able to make it and thoroughly enjoyed it. Especially one night which we both thought would be quiet our mistake in a few minutes people seemed to come out of the woodwork. There were so many we ran out of chairs so the floor was the next best place. My brother in law Alex who lives in Canberra and is also a Colonel in the army knocked on the door and said would I mind if he brought a mate in. I replied that was O.K. The whole of Duntroon were welcome. I looked up to welcome his mate and you could have knocked me over with a feather, his mate was my son in law Peter from Darwin just staying one night in Canberra on business. What a night, we had lots of laughs and fun and precious memories.

Next morning at 8 o'clock the phone rang and it was a distraught lady saying she hoped we were not going to make so much noise every night, she grizzled and complained and I was left speechless. Then she laughed and I knew who it was my daughter ringing from Darwin. I said a few choice words to her not repeatable.

Enclosed please find a cheque towards the Courier or whatever.

Good luck, health and best wishes.

Dulcie Ryan

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Orange, N.S.W.

At last a good intention coming to fruition by way of a belated donation toward a Courier. Good things certainly come in small parcels. The account of the Safari was a delight to read and to refresh one's memory of the various events.

The Cokers kindly phoned to let me know of Bob Smith's death—I relayed this sad news to Ted Cholerton—so, after some lengthy conversation I am able to report all well on the Coker, Cholerton and Press front—providing we of this area survive the deep freeze which has prevailed over the last few weeks. Much needed light rain falling today. I have had two trips out west lately and sad to see dusty paddocks instead of the lush green of wheat crops.

My love to all Safari folk. May we meet again before too long.

Sincerely  
Kath Press

Menora, W.A.  
21/7/86

A few belated lines on a trip I made to Adelaide for the International Plant Propagator's Society meeting at the end of May. I stayed for a few extra days to contact Dud Tapper and Allan Hollow, and can report that Audrey and Dud, Hazel and Allan are all in good form.

Dud took me down to where he used to sail from when he was fanatical about the sea. He also took me to see Bob and Clarice Williamson. This was most enjoyable as I had not seen Bob for many years and because we both served in F.E.L.O., although during that period we didn't meet. It was good fun to remember two bob an hour "danger pay" for dropping leaflets. This was quite lucrative when dropping paper from Liberators but I found it difficult to qualify for "two bobs" on the 40 minute Auster flights on Bouganville. We spent some time in the Williamson garden where fruit trees thrive and the gauve on the street side recently bore a "help yourself" sign. He certainly knows how to make his trees produce fruit. Clarice, as you probably know, is not at all well but still manages a cheery smile. She is a very brave lady.

One night a few of the boys gathered at the Dignums. I am particularly grateful to them for entertaining someone whose only claim to their hospitality was being a member of the Unit. I thoroughly enjoyed being there.

I am writing to the Tappers and Hollows but nothing said in these letters will convey how good it was to be in their company. Sometimes gratitude looks better in print. Hence this note.

Enclosed is a letter from a chap I met in early 1943 who was good enough to remember me and send swift news of the passing of our good mate Bob Smith. I have sent him a photostat of Bob's last letter to the Courier, just to show him what courage is all about.

Kind regards to you all.

Ray Aitken.

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14 Cowlshaw Street,  
Redhead. 2301.

Dear Ray,

As I met you in W.A. when I was Postal Sgt with 30 Bn, 2 Div, I thought I would let you know the bad news about Bob Smith. Most old soldiers like to know about their mates.

I remember you telling me about Doc Wheatley who was a crack shot and War Correspondent Damien Parer, etc. If I remember rightly you were a school teacher.

Bob said he thought the ship you got out of Timor on was probably the Karu.

You would no doubt know that Major Laidlaw

died a few years back. I can remember when Front Row Forward Laidlaw scored a try when Newcastle defeated the English Rugby League team at Newcastle in 1936.

I personally think the Timor Force and the American Navy kept the Japs out of W.A. and Northern Territory. We would have been in the front line if you hadn't. There were 16 U.S.A. submarines in Fremantle Harbour when our convoy Westralia, Manoora and Dutch L. Cruiser Van Tromp berthed in Fremantle in July 1942 with most of 2 Div on board. We had to go south of Tasmania in an Antarctic gale as Bas Strait was blocked with Jap mines, subs etc.

The 30 Bn. has published a book on "The History of the 30 Bn. and N.S.W. Scottish Regiment 1885-1985. It is a collector's item and costs \$80 retail now. If you know anyone who has the book, be sure and read it. The 30 Bn., 35 Bn. and 4 Bn killed nearly 2000 Japs as well as prisoners taken in New Guinea. I'm not sure if you get a mention in the W.A. section.

The 30 Bn has a good roll up on Anzac Day in Sydney and about 100 go to the reunion at Balmain League's Club.

If ever you are in N.S.W. we have a spare large room for old acquaintances like you or ex members of 30 Bn.

Regards.

Jim Hilton.

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North Ward  
Regional Hospital  
Albany W.A.  
24/7/86

This has been my address for the last two months and looks like being it for the next two or three.

My bad leg swelled up like a drum and I came in on May 1st for an x-ray and discovered that I have been walking on a shattered hip joint for 12 years without knowing. Then they found a small pocket of cancer in the groin. This had priority of treatment so now it will possibly be October before they can touch the hip. In the meantime their exploratory wound will not heal and they can't do much about that either.

I have not been able to answer a card from Col Criddle so please convey my thanks to him.

One thing about being here, I can't spend any money which helps the bank account but it gets horribly monotonous as I can't get about at all except with a frame.

Regards to all

Alf Hillman

NOTE: Alf's Valedictory is in this issue. No one knows how much he suffered without a grizzle or a frown. Several members were able to be at his funeral.

37 Arrowsmith St.,  
Camp Hill  
Brisbane. 4152  
1st Sept. 86

Dear Arch,

Greetings from the Sunshine State. First day of Spring with weather to suit, makes me almost want to go mow the lawn but so far have managed to resist the temptation. A guilty conscience however has forced me to sit down and drop a line to the Courier.

Monday of last week we locals had our two monthly barbeque at the lovely surroundings of the Sleeman complex where the swimming etc. took place during the Commonwealth Games. An excellent roll up of 25 bods ensured a good and happy event. A few visitors from the southern States augmented our numbers and very pleased we were to see them. The following were present, Max and Grace Davies, Peter McCracken, Alan and Edith Luby, Denny and June Dennis, George and Bettye Coulsen, George and Mel Mathieson, Butch and Pat Barnier, Alex and Essie (hope thats right) Veovodin, Neil and Margaret Hooper, Fred and Phil Bryant, Tony Adams, Spud Murphy, Col Grebert, Paddy Wilby, brother Alastair and yours truly. Iris Adams was busy readying for south and sickness prevented Dock McPhee and the Bandleurs from making the grade. We also had a collection of pets (which was to be my undoing), Coulsens Corgi, my Corgi and Bryants two Sydney Silkies. My Corgi plays centre-half for the local soccer team and in showing off her skills at the barbeque nosed the ball into the outfield, which just happened to be the middle of the lake. Being my ball, and my dog, I had to go in after it. Was managing okay until George Coulsen decided to give me a hand. Anybody who knows George can guess what happened next, I finished up on the broad of my back in the lake, thanks George. Not to be outdone Spud fell off a chair when he stopped talking for a couple of seconds. I think the silence frightened him. Forgot to mention, Ralph and Sheila Conley couldn't make the barbeque, I think Ralph was busy flapping his wings down from Morsby. Altogether it was a great day made that much better by seeing the folks from the south. My cold is also betting beter.

I wish to thank those who sent their best wishes to my wife Laurie and m on the occasion of our wedding on the 30th April of this year. It was quite a hectic few weeks with Ralph Conley desperately trying to get the both of us on the same aircraft to the U.S. of A. We had one seat each on aircraft two days apart which sounds like a long distance honeymoon. Thanks to some hard work, in the background, we managed to get together on the same aircraft the day after th wedding at about 24 hours notice. Spent three months in Cincinnati where Laurie has her home. Her

home is on an acreage lot complete with lofty hickory and maple trees in profusion. Lots of wild life such as squirrels, chipmonks, rabbits ground hogs, moles and birds of numerous kinds, all in the backyard. I am now an experienced grass cutter and leaf raker. The countryside is very picturesque, a mass of forests (they call them woods) and hundreds of lakes both large and small. I came home on my own and Laurie is staying over there to await the birth of her grandchild, sometime in November.

Thats about it for now. All here are more or less well except for those mentioned as being on sick parade. My family are all well and have been spoiling me since I came home, must go away for three months more often. Regards to all on the mailing list from th Brisbane members and better halves. Enclose my donation to the Courier, our lifeline.

Angus McLachlan.

St. George's. S.A.  
4/9/86

Enclosed is a donation towards the courier. I read it with interest and thank you for sending same.

All the best to your Association and "keep on keeping on".

Yours sincerely,  
Nancy Hiatt.

Busselton. W.A.

Just a note to let you know what is going down in this part of the country. Apart from the weather which is bloody terrible, everything is O.K.

Well, after a lot of years we have joined the pensioners' league and have left the Forest Department and moved to Peppermint Grove Beach which is the most beautiful spot in Australia. I can understand now why Clarrie and Grace Turner came here years ago. They both look extra well and we meet them on the walk track quite often.

Ted Loud came up from Pemberton for my send off and stayed with us overnight. He's just as ugly as ever. Wyn and I sent down to see him and Phil last weekend and had a few beers. Phil is recovering after a big hip operation—she's just the same old Phil.

Hi there. I guess if I don't finish this it will never get finished. As Alex has already told you, we have retired and moved to Peppermint Grove Beach. We have beautiful views of the sea from our windows and it is very refreshing.

We hope to see you all at Bridgetown in October and have a good chat.

We noticed in the last Courier that a Jim Smith wanted to look up a few mates. Alex's name was mentioned. Editor's comment was that all

boys were deceased. I can assure you Alex is alive and kicking.

Please find enclosed donation.

Thank you very much for Courier—we both look forward and enjoy reading it.

Until we see you all, cheerio.

Alex & Wyn Thomson.

Alex. Thanks for telling us you are still very much alive and kicking. That was a much lamented note from editor Arch (at present away in Scotland), we know he would want us to say "please forgive me for the error". A/Ed.

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18 Claines Crescent,  
Wentworth Falls,  
N.S.W. 2782

The Editor,

A brief note to send you a contribution by cheque to the Association—I have attached it hereto.

But could I also add a short text that looks very much like a commercial—but in fact is not. Some time ago a long-time friend and I agreed that I would translate into New Guinea Pidgin (Tok Pisin) a book he had written in English. The friend is currently Professor of Anthropology at Sydney University, and the book is a study of cargo cults with the title "Road belong Cargo". The book is based on field research done in the Madang area of Papua New Guinea, which—need I add—is an area in which many of the Unit campaigned in 1943-44.

The Pidgin edition (with the title "Rot bilong Kago") is, of course, intended for Papua New Guineans many of whom are literate in Pidgin but not in English. However, it occurred to me that some of the Unit who learned and used Pidgin during their service in P.N.G. may be interested in acquiring a copy, and thus having an armchair return to P.N.G. combined with a stretch of memory to see how much of the language remains on recall. (A warning—the language has changed in very many respects since the war years.)

Well, for those who may be interested, the book may be bought from:—The Institute of P.N.G. Studies, Box 1432, Boroko P.O., Papua Niu Gini. Its price is about ten kina (equivalent to about \$a15) and postage should be added.

Good luck to any triers.

Bill Tomasetti.

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Lenah Valley, Tas.  
11/8/86

I reckon it's about time I dropped a note thanking you for the continued supply of the Courier, and enclose a donation to help as you desire.

From all reports the Canberra Safari was a great success and my wife and I were very disappointed, after making the necessary bookings, we were unable to attend owing to a berevement in the family. However, Tex Richards, Ivan Brown and I were honoured to meet Sir Bernard Callinan when he was in Hobart to take part in the 40th anniversary of the Royal Australian Signals Association. We were lucky that Sir Bernard was able to spend some time with us discussing old times.

Will make every endeavour to make Phillip Island in 1988.

Regards,  
Vic Pacey.

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Yeronga, Qld.  
23/8/86

The arrival of the August Courier was a welcome event which provided a diversion from hearing the verbal flack being fired around Canberra and the nation by opposing political parties and factions in the wake of the Federal Government's Budget whenever I turned on my radio. So much for that.

The passing of Merv Ryan and Bob Smith is sad news, and, in common with all members of the 2/2nd Association, their surviving loved ones have my condolence.

Following on the Safari—a really good event—I had an enjoyable trip back to Brisbane via Armidale, Grafton and Lismore, a week of easy motoring and time to call on some relatives along the way.

At a recent social evening I re-acquainted Des. Sagar. He was one of the Koepang troops who entered Portuguese Timor with the other displaced troops . . . when plans were made to evacuate the 2/2nd Company in December, 1942. Des was one of a group assembled at Same to be on the first shipment of troops to Australia. However, on the morning we were preparing to move to the evacuation point the Japs made an unexpected attack in which Les Moule was killed and Des wounded in one leg. Four of us, Fred Sparkman, Mark Dennis, Des and myself missed the first shipment but made the second. We were indeed fortunate to have the help of several native boys who made a bamboo stretcher and carried Des to the evacuation point. Without their aid his delivery would have been very difficult for us.

After all these years, Des would like to be on your mailing list and receive the Courier. Am enclosing his address.

Pleased to have your name on our mailing list now, Des. A/Ed.

Apart from the various outings at Canberra I had the satisfaction of seeing "Winnie the War Winner" on display—also it was separated into four sections with explanatory notes. Sig.

Max Loveless must have been a genius. On my previous two visits to Canberra the set was not available for viewing.

Thanks for publishing Archie Bowman's Vale in the June Courier.

I hope Col Doig is making a good recovery.

Best regards to all.

Col Grebert.

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Para Hills West, S.A.  
25/8/86

Since all members have returned to their respective homes safely we had our Anzac Day march in Adelaide and for the first time for quite a few years the bands marched in the Parade. Normally they stand near the saluting dais and loud speakers are set up along the main street.

This year the Commando Association had a fair roll up and the Association's parade was led by Keith Dignum who was elected President of the Association in South Australia. Dudley Tapper retired after his two year stint in that position.

Bert Bache retired as Secretary/Treasurer, as he intended to travel around Australia. The new Secretary is Bill Powell, 2/3rd. Frank Shaw, 2/9th and I were elected Vice Presidents, Frank being the senior Vice President.

During the last couple of months we have been having a luncheon at the Northern Tavern, Sefton Park. This was arranged by Alan Hollow and Mark Jordan. It is a very pleasant spot and the company is pretty good and will improve again shortly when Keith Dignum starts to attend. His wife Betty attended the last one but he will be there as he is on holidays.

Since the Canberra Safari I have joined a Red Cross Sub-Branch and was elected by the members as President. I also help the Red Cross transport section in driving their vehicles for people who have suffered illnesses and are unable to travel by bus and can't afford taxis. One does not realise how well off a person is until meeting some of these people.

Today I visited Lofty Timcke in hospital—he has not been too well lately.

Yours,

Kel Carthew.

## A REPRINT FOR INFORMATION TO ALL READERS

### OFFICE OF AUSTRALIAN WAR GRAVES

The Office of Australian War Graves (hereinafter called the Office) located within the Department of Veterans' Affairs, has a dual role. The first is to maintain and care for the War Cemeteries within Australia and the Region as agents for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The second is to commemorate eligible ex-servicemen and women who have died post-war and whose deaths are accepted as being caused by war service.

The following information is intended as a guide to the services provided by the Office in respect of post-war commemorations.

#### WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Veterans eligible for official commemoration are:

- all VC winners
- those on T & PI pension at the time of death or who are granted T & PI status subsequent to their deaths
- those whose deaths have been accepted as service-related.

#### Provision of Benefits

When a Veteran becomes eligible the Office is notified by means of a "death advice" issued by the Branch Offices of the Department of Veterans' Affairs. As this procedure is automatic, there is no need for the Next-of-kin to apply for benefits. The Office will contact Next-of-kin as soon as advice of the death is received by means of a Nomination Form seeking advice on the form of commemoration preferred. No action can be taken by the Office until this advice is received.

#### Non-Eligible Veterans

In the case of a non-eligible Veteran, the Office can give permission to use the relevant service badge on a private plaque. The next-of-kin should write to the Office attaching a copy of the Veteran's discharge certificate or service details. A letter of permission will be provided which should then be sent to the plaque manufacturer with the order for the plaque.

All costs and arrangements for erecting private plaques are the responsibility of the next-of-kin.

### Services Provided

The types of commemoration available are illustrated herein.

The basis of official commemoration is equality and uniformity for all eligible Veterans and this may place some limitations on the service available as indicated below the illustrated alternatives.

The Office is only authorised to meet the costs of an official memorial. It cannot contribute to or reimburse the costs of a private memorial, or include private details on an official plaque (e.g. in the case of dual burials).

A plaque in a Garden of Remembrance is an alternative, not an additional, form of commemoration. The Gardens do not contain remains or ashes.

If a widow or other next-of-kin cannot visit a Garden of Remembrance because of distance, ill-health etc., the Office will on request provide free of charge a photograph of the Garden and the individual commemoration.

### Resealing of Graves

The Office has no objection to additional burials in an official grave provided that the grave is returned to its original condition and the plaque is unaltered. A private plaque commemorating the additional burial may be placed in the centre or at the foot of the grave. Restoration of the grave can be arranged through the Office at a current fee of \$25.00.

### Determination of Claims

In many cases of service-related deaths, eligibility (i.e. acceptance of the claim) may be established a long time after the Veteran's death, even several years later. This could mean that a private memorial has already been erected, and the official commemoration is then erected in a Garden of Remembrance. The Office is unable to offer benefits until eligibility is established.

### Maintenance of Memorials

The Office is committed to the maintenance of official commemorations in perpetuity.

The Office has staff located at the Gardens of Remembrance and War Cemeteries in the State capital cities, in Tasmania at Launceston and at Townsville, Queensland and Adelaide River, N.T. These War Cemeteries and Gardens are maintained on a daily basis.

Maintenance of official commemorations in civil cemeteries and in country War Cemeteries is carried out on regular "country runs". These are undertaken as often as resources permit, but at least once a year.

### Burial Places/Overseas Visits

The Office provides a service to families in advising on the location of the burial place of those Australians killed in both World Wars and subsequent conflicts. For those proposing to visit a War Cemetery, we are able to provide grave details, the best way to get there and in the case of overseas cemeteries who contact for further information.

### General

The Office is available at all times to assist and advise on any matters affecting the commemoration of our Veterans. Please address all enquiries to the Office of Australian War Graves, P.O. Box 21, Woden A.C.T. 2606 or ring 89 1111 and ask for War Graves.

**NOTE:** We hope the assurances that these services are automatic can be relied on! However, those intending to visit overseas graves or discuss requirements for commemoration etc., should make best use of the address given for all enquiries.

A/Ed.

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## AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

3 April, 1986

Dear Mr Luby,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of the pair of colour patches for 2/2nd Independent Cavalry (Commando) Squadron, which you recently donated here. They are a welcome addition to our relics collection.

I enclose an Incoming Receipt from our Register to formalise the donation of these items. I would appreciate it if you would sign this form: the white copy is for your record; the blue copy should be returned to the Memorial.

Thank you for donating the colour patches, and for considering the War Memorial to be the most appropriate place for their preservation.

Yours sincerely  
P. J. Burness.