



# **2/2 COMMANDO COURIER**

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## **A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**

Christmas is that special time when we celebrate the birth of our Saviour, the corner stone of our very existence and our way of life. His sacrifice and the lessons He left behind, inspired a great bond of fellowship in our everyday life.

Likewise we must make sure the men who paid the supreme sacrifice, particularly the boys of the 2/2nd, so that we could lead a full life with the happiness, joy and love of family and friends, are in our prayers and hearts during this Christmas period. They made all this possible.

The family is the very crux of life itself and the love that permeates this area can be carried outside into a world craving for something to hang on to, so that peace and goodwill towards mankind become an established fact and everyone feels the warmth of closeness and friendship.

Our 2/2nd Commando Association gives a strong lead in the welding of a group of people who love life and are prepared to share it one with the other and beyond, into the world around us, so happiness becomes a way of life for a great number of people.

May those who are incapacitated, infirm and fighting to sustain life, be a part of our Christmas prayers as we ask for a recovery to good health and God's blessing for them all.

We said our last farewells to many of our old mates during the year, and to their loved ones we offered our deep sympathy and love. May this Christmas period see them all with peace of mind and heart so they can continue living life to its full, as would be the wish of those departed.

To our members throughout Australia and those few who are overseas, in every nook and cranny, may this Christmas be one of delight to each and every one of you.

**A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL & A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Archie Campbell

President

# COMING EVENTS

## 1988 SAFARI — PHILLIP ISLAND

**COUNT DOWN TO COWES — 18TH TO 27TH MARCH  
3 MONTHS — GET ORGANISED**

**RE-READ INSTRUCTIONS FROM LEITH COOPER  
IN OCTOBER COURIER**

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## W.A. SAFARI NEWS

Members who intend flying to Melbourne for the Safari are reminded of Australian Airlines offer.

Details are:-

Departure date	— Friday 18th March, 1988.
Departure Perth time	— 7.00 a.m.
Arrival Melbourne time	— 1.20 p.m.
Return Apex Fare	— \$515

To be guaranteed a seat on this flight members are requested to pay the \$515 fare 45 days prior to the departure date which means Tuesday the 2nd February, is the latest date the fare can be paid.

Members taking this flight are asked to contact Mr. Tim Cox of Australian Airlines on 323 8426 after 1st December and provide him with details of their return trip.

Transport will be on hand at Tullamarine to take members to Phillip Island.

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## ANNUAL REUNION LUNCHEON

We remembered at the very outset our war dead, our comrades who have passed on since, with the reciting of the "ODE". Sixteen members have been called to higher duties since our last Annual Luncheon.

### LEST WE FORGET

This function was a resounding success, fifty men sat down to an excellent lunch catered for by the staff of the Anzac Club, supplemented by ample refreshments. Never have the boys been more animated in their pre-lunch reminiscences and after, it drifted on until nearly 3.30 p.m. Everyone seemed so relaxed, many sitting down to take the strain off their hard worked bodies with which the years are catching up. Despite all that their indomitable spirit shone through; it was a day to be remembered.

It was great to see old faces that, for reasons of health and distance, have been missing for a while, such as 'Ping' Anderson who has had a rough spin but still is able to smile through it

all. 'Curly' O'Neill from N.S.W., still the same as of yester-years. A little more mellow, but still with his great sense of humour and his deep regard for the boys of the 2/2nd in W.A. Keith Dignum from South Australia is on a caravan tour of W.A. and came up from Busselton to share the day with his old mates. It was good to see you all, the warmth of the welcome would leave no doubt as to the affection we have for you.

Our guests were not great in number but certainly in quality. The prestige in which we hold you makes your presence an added bonus for the 2/2nd Association.

S.A.S.R.  
Lt-Col. Terry Nolan, C.O.  
Major Andy Leahy, 2 i/c.  
W.O.1 Terry O'Farrell, R.S.M.

East Timorese  
Costa and John Martires

2/3rd Cdo Sqn.  
John Lillie

**Special Guest**

Brian Buzzard. One of the intrepid Catalina boys who flew into Timor and many other Pacific areas in the dark days.

All the above responded to the toast of 'Our Guests' expertly proposed by John Poynton, and were sincere in acknowledging their close link with the 2/2nd Commando Association and how much they appreciated the involvement.

George Bayliss handled the toast of the 'Unit & Association' with aplomb and directness, giving a succinct account of our history. Our President, Archie Campbell, responded on behalf of all members, leaving no doubt that each one who wears the Double Red Diamond shares in the total glory of the Unit and Association. He commented on how honoured we were to be affiliated with the S.A.S. Regiment and how much we owed to the East Timorese for their part in our very survival.

Apologies were received from many unable to make the luncheon by virtue of health problems and distance. Special mention is made of Henry Sproxtton, Gerry Maley, Clarrie Varian, 'Pigeon' Pierce, Bob Burns, Gerry McKenzie, Colin Criddle, Ron Dook and Roy Watson. Thanks for being with us in spirit, we all wish you speedy recoveries wherever applicable, and we missed you.

Len Bagley took over the mantle of Master of Ceremonies and filled the role very capably indeed, making everything go with a swing. Colin Doig, so long the occupier of this role, echoed these sentiments. It was wonderful to have the 'Grand Old Man' present, thanks Colin for a great contribution over the years. Your name is synonymous with every activity of the 2/2nd Commando Association.

It was a day of sharing so many things, thank you all for coming.

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## WARATAH NEWS

We were grieved to hear of Ron Kirkwood's passing, he was a good friend who put in much of his time in the interests of members of the Unit and its Association. Our sympathy is extended to his wife and family in their sad loss.

Unfortunately the first news we have had in years of George Merritt was sad. He died, so far away from his Golden West. He was a hard, tough humorous man — bad luck we lost track of him. Another loss to our ranks.

Eric Chapman passed away in Newcastle a couple of weeks ago. Alan Luby, Jack Hartley, John Went and Paddy Kenneally attended his funeral at Berrisfield, Newcastle on behalf of

the Unit. Alan Luby expressed the sympathy we felt for Joyce and her family in their loss. Eric painted and presented the N.S.W. branch with their original banner. Unfortunately, in 1953 Tom Towers was guardian and custodian after the Anzac Day march; we haven't seen Tom or the banner since! Eric replaced it with a Double Red Diamond placard which we still have!

Our Annual General Meeting was held on September 7, 1987. Election of officers as follows:

President: Alan Luby  
 Secretary/Treasurer: Jack Hartley  
 Assistant Secretary: Paddy Kenneally  
 Vice Presidents: John Went — Senior  
                                 Vice President, Ron Goodacre —  
                                 Junior Vice President, Bill Coker —  
                                 Vice President  
 Auditor: Bill Hoy  
 Committee: Fred Janvrin, Bill ('Doc')  
                                 Gallard, Ron Hilliard, Ron  
                                 Trengrave, Mick Mannix, Bill Hoy.

Life Membership tie bars were presented to Bill Hoy and Ron Goodacre. Jim Smith ex No. 5 Section was a welcome visitor down from the Gold Coast visiting his daughter. He is as lean and darned near as fit as he was 40 odd years ago, despite a double by-pass. The laugh is just as spontaneous too.

Mick Mannix is back on deck after a bout of illness, just as cheeky as ever.

Christmas party will be in conjunction with N.S.W. Commando Association, venue Paddington R.S.L., time 12 noon on 2/12/87.

Paddy Kenneally.

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## RANDOM HARVEST 2/4th COMMANDO ASSOCIATION SAFARI

The 2/4th who have been closely allied to the 2/2nd over the years held their Conference in Adelaide during September, then came on to W.A. to participate in our sunshine and for their members to have a real holiday.

They had two official functions to which members of the 2/2nd were invited. Their Dinner was held at the West Beach Lagoon Motel, Scarborough on Saturday the 3rd October and they invited Archie Campbell, President of the 2/2 Commando Association, Gerry and Mary McKenzie, Ray and Muriel Aitken, Doug and Edna Fullarton, Jean and Mick Morgan, Ernie and Verna Bingham.

Ken Markham did a splendid job of organising their programme, and was well supported by Norm Nicolay, Gordon Williams and Gordon Hart. The invitations issued were to our

members who had a close personal association with the 2/4th. It was a really enjoyable night and over 100 sat down to a beautifully catered dinner. The speeches confirmed the close relationship that exists between the two Associations.

Archie Campbell represented the 2/2 Commando Association at the wreath laying ceremony at the State War Memorial, Kings Park, on Wednesday the 7th October. It was a silent service with the Last Post and Reveille and was attended by the R.S.L. Kings Park Wardens who, as usual, performed their task with efficiency and dignity. Two Scottish Pipers added their own brand of sparkle to the march. It was extremely well attended and capably handled by the 2/4th boys. Our old friend Norm Nicolay laid the wreath.

We trust the remainder of the W.A. Safari was a big success. Certainly we turned on our best weather for the visitors. Thanks for coming and including the 2/2 Commando Association in your activities, particularly Ken Markham who so kindly looked after all present.

Good luck, God bless from the 2/2nd Commando Association.

**Bob Burns** turned up at our Committee meeting on November 10th. We all looked like stunned mullets for he was very well down in the health stakes; make no error, he still is! He has taken a punt on a new therapy and so far it is working. May our prayers be answered Bob.

Bob would like, via the Courier, to say "thank you" to the myriad of people, including our Unit members, who have given him such tremendous support. Joan joins him in this. Well done Joan from us all for your courage and confidence in Bob in the tough days.

Old East Perth breed them in the right mould Bob. God bless.

**Jack Spencer** Many will remember dear old Jack, good soldier, fine athlete, particularly in the boxing ring. He turned 80 in September, one of our oldest members.

Jack does not, nor ever did, know the meaning of 'quit'. Currently he is still working a gold show in his beloved Boulder and we all hope successfully.

Jerry Haire, your old mate, or should I say, young mate, gave us this information. Good luck old timer, best regards to you from all the 2/2nd boys. In the old classical saying Jack, "We dips our lid!"

## SINCERE THANKS

Cyril William Chaplain — to God's care, 9th September, 1987. Aged 67.

The family of the late Cyril William Chaplain wish to express their sincere thanks for your expressions of sympathy in their recent sad bereavement.

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## BELIEVE IT OR NOT

This is a Ripley situation. An anonymous member tells this story about Joe Poynton and Roy Watson.

"So taken were they with their New Guinea boy they made a pact their first born would be named after the boy, and vice versa. The New Guinean kept his promise. He named his first born Rev. Joe Poynton Plugger!!"

You be the judge as to the authenticity of this story??

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## VALE — CYRIL CHAPLIN

Word has been received from Queensland of the death of Cyril Chaplin (Chappie) late in September 1987, apparently due to a tumour on the brain.

Chappie joined the Unit from Canungra after the Timor campaign and was immediately drafted to No. 2 Section 'A' Troop. He served with great distinction throughout the New Guinea campaign. He contracted Scrub Typhus but was lucky enough to get over this dread disease and rejoin his Section.

Cyril was a top grade athlete and an outstanding Rugby League and Union player, having been taught at a top school in Brisbane.

He did not rejoin the Unit after New Guinea due to ill health and family commitments.

The Chaplin family had large pastoral properties in the Gulf country out from Cloncurry in Queensland. Chappie managed these interests after the War and later diversified to other areas around Ayr and Cairns, farming in cotton, cane, etc.

Chappie never married and his main interest in sport was racing. He owned Borehead, the winner of a Caulfield Cup and also Gypsy Kingdom which he bought as a yearling and later sold to Bart Cummings interests for \$750,000.

The Association extends sincere condolences to all of his family.

Col Doig.

## VALE TOM SNOWDEN

It is with great regret that we have to announce the death of Tom Snowden in Brisbane on 20th September, 1987. He died quietly while watching evening television. This was an extreme shock to his wife Bonnie and their family with whom they were holidaying.

Tom joined our Unit after the Timor campaign and immediately became a member of No. 4 Section, 'B' Troop, and remained with that Section until the finish of the War in New Britain. He was a most efficient soldier and was one of those especially reliable boys who would go anywhere and do anything. He was most highly regarded by his Section mates and by the whole Troop.

After the War, Tom returned to Canberra and operated in the painting trade for many years and for a long time as a business proprietor. In his later days before retirement he was employed by the Transport Department in Canberra.

Tom took a keen interest in Association affairs and was a real stalwart in the Canberra area, taking a big share of the two Safaris which were held there. He worked hard for the 'Big Safari' of 1968 and in 1986 he was one of four who so whole-heartedly ran the magnificent Safari of that year.

Tom was a really good sportsman and played top grade Aussie Rules football and for years was the administrative man behind the Manuka Club in Canberra, which spawned the famous Alex Jessalenko who, in his day, was regarded as Australia's best footballer. The recently elected coach of Swan Districts in Perth, Ed Blackaby, also originated from the Manuka Club.

Personally, I have lost a great friend who has assisted me in many ways over the years. I especially remember the 1971 Safari in Perth when all the Eastern States members came over by Trans train and those wonderful teenagers of the families gave so much to us all, with the Snowden, Kenneally, Luby families so prominent in the real enjoyment of this show.

It is a terrible blow to Tom's family for his death to occur so soon after his retirement and a blow to our Unit Association to lose such a valuable member in the prime of life. He will be missed at all our functions and there will never be another Tom Snowden.

Our sincere sympathy to Bonnie and family. Let it be said you had a great husband and father to be ever remembered.

Vale Tom Snowden, Soldier Supreme, Father and Husband outstanding, Citizen of the best type and friend to all.

Col Doig.

## VALE ERIC JOHN CHAPMAN.

It is with regret that we record the passing of Eric John Chapman of Swansea, N.S.W. on 8th September last.

Eric Served in No. 3 Section in the New Guinea and New Britain campaigns.

His cremation service was held at the Beresfield Crematorium on the 9th and was attended by a large gathering of family and friends.

There was a big group present from the Swansea Sub Branch of the R.S.L. and Club where he had served on committee for many years. For his efforts he was made a Life Member.

The 2/2 Commando Association was represented by Alan Luby, Jack Hartley, Paddy Kenneally and John Dent.

Whilst we have not had much contact with Eric over the years we know that he was well known as a signwriter in the Southern Newcastle area.

We extend our sincere condolences to Joyce and her loving family.

Alan Luby.

**W.W.C.P.**

**Clarrie Varian:** Has a real heart problem and is having a tough time, but, like the trooper he is, he gets back on the ball. Good luck Clarrie from us all — see you soon.

**Bob Burns:** This has been a long period of beating the scourge and Bob has faced up to it with courage. His doctors have tried a new cleaning up process in the suspect areas and we all pray it works for you. Good luck and God bless — you will win Bob.

**Eddie Craghill:** No change here but Jim Smailes' visit and a few photos brought out facial expressions of recognition. Jim also found out that Eddie loves chocolate, which certainly shows that if you persevere when visiting some of the boys it pays off. God bless from us all Eddie.

**Henry Sproxton:** Has been battling for a long time and the latest report is not all good, his heart runs into trouble by racing along at a rapid rate. Henry is made of stern stuff and has a great nurse in Thelma — a winning combination. God bless you both and good luck from us all.

**Bill Cooper:** No improvement in Bill's health. It is a long, hard road for him. God bless and our prayers are for you.

### **EAST TIMOR HEARING IGNITES TRAGIC MEMORY**

From JANINE PERRETT in New York

In the vast chambers of the United Nations yesterday, Mr. Iwamura Shouhachi's tearful plea for East Timorese independence stood out from the impassive political speeches.

For the last time Mr. Shouhachi was in the strife-torn nation it was as a platoon commander in the occupying Japanese army.

"In Japan I am simply one elderly citizen but I am determined never to forget the crimes Japan committed in World War II and to act on what I have learned from bitter experience," he said, breaking down into tears.

"It is painful to speak today of the sacrifices and burdens we forced upon the East Timorese, a people who had nothing to do with the war," the elderly Japanese man told the UN hearing on decolonisation.

"We ordered village chiefs to mobilise people en masse for road construction and the people, obedient to their chiefs, gathered at these construction sites to work without receiving food or compensation."

He said that after the war the Japanese Government did not pay war reparations to

East Timor because, it said, Portugal was not an allied country.

After shedding the long years of Portuguese rule in 1975, Mr. Shouhachi said the Indonesian military launched an all-out invasion which "resulted in one of the greatest acts of aggression in recent history, claiming the lives of up to one-third the population of East Timor."

Mr. Shouhachi's memories of massacre and starvation in the beleaguered nation were matched by the Fretilin representative who outlined the atrocities committed against three East Timor villages in recent years at the hands of the Indonesian occupying forces.

The head of the Fretilin overseas mission, Mr. Abilio Araujo, told the UN hearing of the case of Kialerek Mutin where the population plunged from 1593 people in August 1983 to only 570, predominantly women, today.

Editor This is a follow up to our article in the October issue.

Curtin, 2605  
1/11/87

**CANBERRA NEWS**

Enclosed is an article from the local paper on Tom Snowdon whose death was a great blow to us all.

Tom was buried on 27th October, 1987 and the Unit was represented by Alan Luby, Ron Hilliard, Jack Hartley, Snow Went, Roy & Joyce Martin, Dave Dexter, John Daniels (Danny), Bill & Coral Coker, Jim & Joan Fenwick and Ron Morris. Members of ACT Regional Commando Association were all well represented. At the cemetery all members of 2/2nd Commando Association stood together under the Commando Association banner. A wreath with the red double diamond was placed on the coffin by our President, L. Illingworth. I said a few words on behalf of the Association and Alan Luby read the 'Ode' and poppies were placed in the grave. A bugler from R.M.C. was present for the 'calls'. Tom's son Warren spoke during the service.

After the funeral the Manuka Football Club held a wake in the club rooms.

I was in Newcastle attending my sister's retirement function when I heard of Tom's death. My sister retired after forty years at the Mater Hospital.

We saw Joyce Smith during our visit. She is well and sends her love to all.

Stan & Blanche Sadler called in to see us early in October on their way back to W.A. They were well and it was a pleasant surprise to see them.

George & Bettye Coulson were also welcomed visitors a week or so earlier.

Our son Brian is still in London. He is Sales Manager for a magazine called LAM (London's Australasian Magazine) and New Australasian Express paper. These two publications are designed to help Aussie and Kiwi travellers in the U.K., especially the young ones, in locating accommodation, work, avoiding pitfalls, etc.

Regards to all.

Jim Fenwick.

### **COMMEMORATION SERVICE KINGS PARK**

ADDRESS BY ARCHIE CAMPBELL  
15/11/87

In this place of beauty, hallowed by the memory of our departed comrades, we humbly add our tribute to these men who served their country and the ideals for which they fought. But this ceremony must be more than just a tribute to their service and sacrifice. It must do something to us, something to widen our vision, revive our faith in the essential goodness of life.

Let us draw two threads, of gratitude and compassion. Gratitude not only for the heroism, courage and honour of departed comrades, but gratitude for those who returned and were able to fashion and nurture a spirit of mateship that has continued for over forty years. Compassion is our spur to meet the challenge presented by the divisive forces at work in society that break up community life and undermine any sense of national identity and common purpose. Today we face a different climate, the keynote of which is, that everyone must be free to do his own thing.

Such a goal is fine, so long as the basic values that preserve a mutual respect for the essential dignity of every single person and invest life with meaning and purpose, are observed.

Too many people live in this country today with loneliness, anxiety and despair. They are victims of a life style that feeds on selfishness, the race to security and success, or power, that breeds a callous disregard of the neighbour, and even violence.

Today Australia needs a concerted effort by all who value the spiritual realities that we come to know and respect through our heritage. The virtues of patriotism, of integrity and love of truth, the pursuit of goodness and beauty, and an unselfish concern for other people.

Today in this Grove of Remembrance are gathered the men, women and children, and families of the children who belong to our great organisation, the 2/2nd Commando

Association, to pay homage to those who passed on during the war, also to add a prayer for those who died subsequently. We have attended, not to glorify war but to say, as we all do on this day, 'thank you' to those who made our way of life possible. A message to those who have lost their loved one is to do as those gone before us would wish, continue to live life to its full, you can still make a great contribution.

Taking part with us are men from other units, thank you for joining in our Commemoration Service. To the young men of the Special Air Services Regiment who give this day of Remembrance dignity and meaning by their very presence, we say may God spare you all to continue to be a part of the 2/2nd Commando Association in all its activities. You have our affection and respect.

We are deeply indebted to the Kings Park Board for keeping our Memorial area the place of beauty that it is, a true and deserving place of honour to the memory of those who paid the supreme sacrifice.

To all present a sincere 'thank you' for sharing the most important day of our year — God bless each and every one of you.

I will conclude with that stirring poem 'In Flanders Fields' written by Lt.-Col. John McCrae who died on service as a doctor in France, then 'The Answer' by Lilliard, for both signify all we feel about our departed comrades.

**IN FLANDERS FIELDS**

In Flanders fields the poppies grow  
Between the crosses, row on row  
That mark our place, and in the sky  
The larks still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you with failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

Now something we all feel:

**THE ANSWER**

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



There is no need to write up the proceedings for the above address sums it up in its every facet, expressing the feelings of us all. We had a great Roll Call.

To round off the day the C.O. of the Special Air Services Regiment, Lt.-Col. Terry Nolan invited all present to gather at the Sergeants Mess situated in their home at Campbell Barracks, Swanbourne.

It finished off our, 'day of the year', to a nicety.

## INDEPENDENT COMPANY TIMOR DOCUMENTARY

The letter appearing below is being printed in the Courier, already Jack Carey, Hon. Sec., has sent a copy to most states.

Its contents make for interesting reading, and, one paragraph will be controversial. That is the one where Colin South was approached by the President of the 228 Regiment Association regarding a wish to make contact with the 2/2nd Commando Association.

As Colin rightly stated, this is for the Association to ultimately decide.

With this in mind we have asked the President of the Victorian Branch, Tom Nisbet, for it to be placed on the Agenda of the National Conference which will be held at Phillip Island during the 1988 Safari.

This article in total is to put all members in the picture per medium of our Courier, and, to express our thanks to Colin South for keeping members right up-to-date with the production.

The Editor.

### MEDIA WORLD Pty. Ltd.

Dear Mr. Campbell

I thought it best to give you an updated account of progress with the production of "Independent Company", our drama/documentary for SBS Television.

As you know, our film interviews in Perth were first-rate and gave me more material than I'd imagined. It was both a rewarding and enjoyable experience, which will reflect in the completed programme. I am most grateful to all in the Association for their co-operation and assistance.

Upon our return to Melbourne I held discussions with the Royal Australian Army, 3rd Military District in regard to assistance the Army is to provide during shooting of the drama sequences. These include military advisors, men for training sequences, Engineers for explosive work and the 3rd Military District Brass Band, to perform the

original music score. The Army are keen to assist and I am now involved in the final organisation of details. I filmed our interview with Sir Bernard before our trip overseas.

My first stop was Portugal, where I met up with my crew who had been on another project in Spain. I had arranged to film interviews with Maria Louisa Sousa Santos, the wife of Sousa Santos who passed away late last year. Mrs. Santos was a gracious woman with many fond memories of the 2/2, a vivid memory of life on East Timor before, during and after the war, and descriptive of the Portuguese conflict of assistance to the Australians. Her offer of a nip or two of 1948 Portuguese Port was too good to resist!

My second interview was to be with Dr. Carlos Cal Brandao, the leader of the Portuguese group who negotiated the evacuation of Portuguese from East Timor. He unfortunately passed away before we arrived. I then made contact with Portuguese television and film institute in search of archive footage.

In England, we interviewed Mike Calvert. He was in relatively good health and spirits, despite a recent heart attack, which fortunately didn't incapacitate him in any way, just slowed him down a little. He still drives, swims every week and lives out of the smog and pace of London in Sussex. One could see through the years, with the twinkle of the eye and grin of excitement, when recounting Wilsons Promontory. He, of course, passed on his best wishes to all.

Japan was far more expensive than I'd imagined. I bought two peaches at a fruitshop for \$6.50 each! A glass of fresh orange juice was \$12.00. Thank goodness we were only there for a week otherwise scurvy would have set in! A 'Blown' budget aside, the Japanese were as interested in us, as we in them. We filmed interviews, via an interpreter, with veterans of Timor. Generally the response was one of respect and honour towards their Australian foe. My specific quest for the withdrawal of the Japanese in August 1942 unfortunately has not been answered fully, but two sources of fact are still being investigated; research into the diaries of Col. Doi the Japanese Commanding Officer in Dili, and the translation of two chapters of the 228 Regiment History, dealing specifically with "the Campaign against Australian Guerrilla force in East Timor".

The 228 Regiment was based in Timor from the invasion till 6th September, 1942, when they were sent to Guadalcanal. They reached Timor after serving in Manchuria, Hong Kong and Ambon. The 1st and 3rd Battalions were based in the West, the 2nd in Dili. Of the 2nd only a handful survived Guadalcanal. Those who became P.O.W.'s still refuse, despite genuine encouragement, to join the 228 Regiment

Association. The general consensus was the troops were withdrawn under orders to be sent to Guadalcanal with the other troops, which came from West Timor and the South coast mobilized to replace the 228 from Dili. Once each force made physical contact with one another, time had run out and the entire force moved back to Dili.

I enclose the chapter dealing with the Invasion of Timor, from the Japanese Official History. I had this translated and once I have the other material translated it should give a pretty good account of the Japanese perspective.

I was approached by the President of the 228 Regiment Association in regard to their wish to make contact with the 2/2 Commando Association. It was my suggestion, that I pass on his name and address to you. There is no doubt in my mind that this is a genuine request, with a genuine motive of friendship. Naturally, this is for your Association to ultimately decide.

His name and address:

Mr. Kouichi Nakashima  
President 228 Regiment Association  
Minamihishino 460 Seto City  
Aichi Prefecture  
JAPAN

The next stage in filming is to record the pieces of the military historian Lt. Col. David Horner, a distinguished author and head of military history at the Australian National University. I am filming him at the War Memorial along with David Dexter, later this month.

The drama has been scheduled for late November, early December when the weather is warmer. The intention is to complete the programme, at least to the first edit stage, in time for a screening at Phillip Island in February, 1988.

Best wishes to all

Yours sincerely,

COLIN J. SOUTH  
PRODUCER

## CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

Joondanna, W.A.  
22/9/87

Dear Friends,

Thank you all so much for your visits to Fred, both at the Repat. Hospital and St. George's Hospital, and for all the letters.

A special thanks for your attendance at Fred's funeral and the guard of honour and the flag. It meant a great deal to me to walk up those steps with my son Max proudly wearing his Nor Force uniform and to see you there. Thank you for the Ode.

Fred was a man's man, didn't like any display or ceremony and that is why I arranged a private family funeral with only the 2/2nd present. I hope you all understand.

Last but not least, my thanks to you all for love and support to me. It helped me through a difficult time.

God bless you all.

Beryl Griffiths.

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St. George's, S.A.  
29/9/87

Enclosed is a donation towards the Courier which I always look forward to receiving.

All the best to all members and congratulations to everyone concerned for the work you must put into this publication and the effort to 'keep in touch'.

Yours sincerely,

Nancy Hiatt.

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Para Hills West, S.A.  
13/10/87

Looking back over the 1985 Couriers I came across the April 1985 issue which asked if anybody had any information on G. Watts from Tasmania. I am pretty certain he was the young soldier who was with Geoff Barclay the day Geoff drowned at Jacquinot Bay in New Britain, also a member of 6 Section.

Back to the present, I was saddened to hear of the death of Mal Herbert. I always had great respect for Mal as he was the corporal in charge of the sub-section I was with. Also Mal was a great civilian, another gentleman of the Unit has now gone. The death of Fred Griffiths is a loss to the Association, we all knew that he had been ill for the last couple of years and to the wives and families of both I extend my deepest sympathy. I would like to thank Keith



Dignum for asking his daughter to let me know of Mal's death. Very thoughtful Keith. Mark Jordan told me of the death of Fred.

Regards to all.

Kel Carthew.

Poowong East, Vic.  
20/9/87

Dear Arch and friends of the 2/2 everywhere,

I thought you would like to hear about our great overseas holiday. Left home on 8th May and flew via Sydney and Bangkok to London. Went right across Russia and in to London over the Baltic Sea and Denmark. Spent the first three days in London to get our land legs again, then on to Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire to try and track down some of Ken's ancestors.

We stayed with friends in Birmingham for three days, then flew to Dublin where we hired a car for ten days and had a really lovely time exploring Ireland. Went to Athlone first, a special place for us to see as our son Colin lives at Athlone and Ken lived there for many years before the war and also went to school there. On to Galway where we sat and waited to watch "The sun go down on Galway Bay". We drove through Connemara and down to the Cliffs of Mohu to Limerick, Tipperary and Tralee, Dingle Peninsula, Killarney and the Ring of Kerry, Blarney Castle and Youghal. We stayed overnight with Paddy Kenneally's cousin and her husband. They really were terrific people and made us very welcome. Jim showed us around and we even have a picture of the house Paddy left from to come to Australia when he was a boy. Had a look at the Waterford Crystal factory and then back to Dublin for the flight back.

We hired another car and went into Wales where we spent a week before going down to Somerset, Devon and Cornwall and across to Kent.

Said goodbye to our car at Canterbury and got the train up to Glasgow. We stayed for three weeks with our son-in-law's aunt and did a number of trips. We did a seven day tour of the Highlands and went right up to John O'Groats. The scenery is just wonderful, and we saw some heather. The weather was kind to us for most of the time.

After Scotland we had a week in Yorkshire and thoroughly enjoyed travelling around "Heriot Country". The moors, dales and villages, stone fences, etc. are just lovely. Also, the green pastures and lots of sheep and lambs.

Our next stop was Sussex where we stayed with friends for two days, then to London again to meet our daughter Elva and her 6 year old

daughter Catherine who had come from Indonesia via Germany for a U.K. holiday. It was great to see them again after almost 12 months. We had four days together before they went to Scotland and we left for Canada.

We went up over Scotland, passed by Iceland and over Greenland (we have pictures of Greenland's snow capped mountains). The first nine days of our Canadian stay were spent in Edmonton and 300 miles north at Peace River with the family Robert worked for in 1976 as a trainee with the International Agricultural Exchange Association. We stayed a night in Calgary before doing a bus tour of the Canadian Rockies. We missed the Edmonton tornado by two days and our friends there were lucky to miss it too. On the Rockies tour we visited Banff, Lake Louise, Jasper, etc., and through to Vancouver — a six day trip.

We flew from Vancouver to Los Angeles and had two days at Disneyland, "The Happiest Place on Earth". Came home via Honolulu and Fiji and arrived back on 10th August.

We thought we would have missed the wet, cold weather but it seems the winter was quite mild and the bad weather waited for us and it has been really miserable this last month. However, the sun is shining today so it looks like Spring is here at last. We are back to milking the cows again but Robert is working with us now so we can all look forward to some time off now and again.

It was nice to get home and see the family and friend and familiar countryside. We had a nice day recently when Harry and Olive Botterill brought Keith and Betty Craig up to see us. We invited Cath and John Roberts across to join us. Keith and Betty were staying with Jan in Melbourne.

When in Shrewsbury we found our way to Ruth and Glyn Wigley's at Bomere Heath — Ruth is John and Cath Roberts middle daughter, and we gave her a big surprise. Spent a very pleasant 24 hours with them and the weather was really nice, lilacs etc. all in bloom and lovely trees and countryside.

Guess that's enough about our trip but I'd recommend Disneyland and a Rockies tour to anyone. The U.K. scenery is fabulous too. We enjoyed it all.

Ken joins me with very best wishes to all.

Am enclosing a cheque for the Courier — we look forward to it and read every word. Many thanks to all the hard workers who keep it going.

Cheerio.

Margaret & Ken Monk.

Griffith 2680  
3/10/87

First of all I hope this short note finds all the boys of our renowned Company fit and well, although I guess we are all running short of years. I would like to congratulate Col Doig and all those who helped to remember and put together the book of the 2/2nd Independent Company.

I was asked by a member of the 2/5th Company, Charlie Olliffe, one of our local solicitors, if he could buy a copy of the book. He has all other books written about Independent Companies and would like this one. If there is one available please let me know and I will forward the money. If possible I would like it before Christmas.

My appreciation to all you chaps in W.A. who have worked on the Courier all these years, it certainly helps to keep us informed of the whereabouts of each other.

Wishing you all the best and all members good luck and good health.

Cheerio Arch,

Alf Hodge

EDITOR: Alf, Jack Carey will be in touch re the book. Nice to hear from you.

Mandurah 6210  
13/10/87

Sending a donation to the Courier and also notifying you of my change of address.

All the best to everyone.

Aldyth Laffer.

EDITOR: Thanks for notifying change of address. Trust you really enjoy your new environment. There is quite a 2/2nd content in Mandurah. Good luck from us all.

2 Knapton Street  
Busselton 6280  
4/11/87

I would like to purchase a copy of Colin Doig's book as my brother, Richard McKenzie was in your Squadron.

Do you know of anyone who may have a photo of Dick while in the Army — I would dearly love to have one.

Enclosed is a cheque for the Courier funds.

Yours sincerely,

Maizie Clayton

EDITOR: Thanks Maizie for your letter.

Anyone who can help in locating a photo of Dick, please send to the above address. Jack Carey, our Hon. Sec. will be in touch re the book.

Port Lincoln 5067  
3/11/87

Dear Arch & Fellas,

If I remember correctly, in Canberra a group of 7 Section had a drink together and agreed to meet again at Phillip Island and have another drink. We all signed on the back of a cheque which I left with you to hold for me. Would you please print the names in the next courier as a reminder to us all. Any of 7 Section who are not on that list I would like to see at Phillip Island, as each year we are all getting older and the costs are climbing and making it more difficult for many of us to travel very far.

At the moment I am at Marla staying with my elder daughter. Anne, the youngest one, is at Todmorden Station near Oodnadatta, not very far away as the crow flies and with a bit of luck I may see her.

My mother passed away a few weeks ago and I had to go to Clare.

I met Ross Smith and had a yarn with him. He said he would be finding it difficult to get to the Island, the wrong time of the year for him, but he hoped we all had a good time and asked me to say hello to all the lads.

Sorry to learn of Pigeon's set back. Chin up Pigeon; I'll see you at the Island and at the next one.

I knew Dig was going west for a trip. Reported in the Courier Allan Hollow and Mark Jordan were also there so South Australia was well represented.

Season's greetings to all members and their kin for a Happy and Healthy Christmas.

Enclosed cheque for Courier.

Cheers,

Shorty Stevens.

EDITOR: Shorty I have the cheque and the names are Tony Adams, Jack Carey, Max Davies, Snowy Went, Mick Mannix, Bluey Bone, George Humphreys, John Roberts, Archie Campbell and Shorty Stevens. Go round 'em up mate! Will bring the five dollar cheque with me, you might be able to cash it now!!

## STOP PRESS

Received a letter from Paddy Kenneally just too late for December Courier but will appear in February issue.

Paddy and Nora sent a card wishing all members Australia wide "Happiness and Joy for Xmas and New Year" which everyone would reciprocate.

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## DONATIONS

Dave Dexter	Len Bagley
Tom Snowden	John Hopkins
Don Turton	Bob McDonald
Doc Wheatley	John Fowler
Jack Keenahan	Dutchy Holland
Allan Hollow	Stan Payne
Tony Bowers	Bob Smyth
Ron Gurr	Curley O'Neill
Keith Dignum	Jack Hasson
Pat Da Luz	Doug Hasson
Bruce Poynton	John Burrridge
Col. Criddle	Joe Poynton
Ken Monk	Alby Martin
Jerry Haire	Don Hudson
Ray Aitken	Bernie Langridge
Harry Holder	Ralph Finklestein
John Poynton	Dusty Studdy
George Bayliss	Vince Swann
George Fletcher	Gwenda Kirkwood
Arch Campbell	Dawn Laing
Dick Darrington	(sister of Merv. Ryan)
Don Murray	Nancy Hiatt
Mick Morgan	Mrs. Laffer
Paddy Kenneally	Bob Smythe

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## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

**MALEY, G.**  
(Gerry and Dot)  
5/98 Moulden Avenue,  
Yokine. W.A. 6060

**LAFFER, Mrs. A.**  
(Aldyth)  
23 Luckhurst Drive,  
Tuart Heights,  
Mandurah. W.A. 6210

## ADDITION

**Clayton, M.**  
Maizie (Dick McKenzie's Sister)  
2 Knapton Street  
Busselton. W.A. 6280