



# 2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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## COMING EVENTS

**W.A. MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE!**

### **COUNTRY CONVENTION AT MERREDIN**

**15th - 18th September 1987**

**Proposed Itinerary as arranged by Stan Payne**

<b>Tuesday 15th September</b>	Arrive & settle in.
<b>Wednesday 16th September</b>	
<b>Morning</b>	Inspect Watsonia Gold Mine Barbecue lunch at Talgamine Rock
<b>Afternoon</b>	Visit Intensive Piggery
<b>Evening</b>	Free
<b>Thursday 17th September</b>	
<b>Morning</b>	Visit Payne Family Farm Visit old Nungarin Hotel Picnic lunch Mangowine Homestead
<b>Afternoon</b>	Visit Gypsum Lakes Inspect local industries
<b>Evening</b>	Convention Dinner
<b>Friday 18th September</b>	Visitors depart

### **Re Accommodation**

Stan has booked 15 doubles at the Olympic Motel. Cost \$26 per head includes full breakfast. Members wishing to attend are asked to notify Stan (phone 090-41 1202), 7 Todd Street, Merredin by 31st July. Accommodation is also available at other motels if required.

Merredin is about 3½ hours from Perth. Stan says wild flowers will be out in profusion and the countryside will be at its best - so **be in it!**

## 1988 SAFARI — COWES - PHILLIP ISLAND MARCH 18th - 27th

### MEMBERS ATTENDING SAFARI AS AT 16 MAY 1987

Ron & May Goodacre	Eric & Margaret Weller
Bill & Coral Coker	Dona & Vida Turton
Ted & Dianne Cholerton	Gerry & Mary McKenzie
Julie & Pat Cholerton	Col Doig
Keith and Mrs Dignum	Joy Lowden
Fred & Mavis Broadhurst	Len Bagley
Frank & Phyllis Sharp	Betty Illsley
John & Cath Roberts	Mark Jordan
Keith & Betty Craig	Alan & Hazel Hollow
Jess Epps	Arch Campbell
Kath Press	Tony & Iris Adams
Jack & Jean Fowler	Bluey & Mary Bone
Harry & Olive Botterill	Ron & Nancy Teague
Wilma Tobin	George & Gloria Smith
John & Shirley Southwell	Ron & Dorothy Trengrove
Arch & Dawn Claney	Merv Coles
Betty Devlin	Max Thornton
Roy & Joyce Martin	Neil & Marg Hooper
Bill & Eileen Sharp	"Shorty" & Anne Stevens
Dulcie Ryan	John & Gloria Poynton
Colin & Olive Hodson	Peter & Pat Campbell
Ern & Verna Bingham	Charles Pierce
George & Dot Veitch	Paddy & Nora Kenneally
Denny & June Dennis	Jim Fenwick
Ron & Nan Dook	Rom Morris
Doug & Edna Fullarton	Col Grebert
Tom & Mildred Field	Jack & Delys Carey
Kel Ruby Carthew	Tom & Bonnie Snowden
Alan Mitchell	Reg & Dot Harrington
Alan & Edith Luby	Harry & Amyce Handicott
Angus & Alistair MacIachlan	Joyce Smith
Jack & Julie Fox	Beryl Griffiths
Fred & Phyllis Bryant	Bill & Pat Tucker
Joe & Helen Poynton	Bill & Pat Peterson
Alf & Gwenda Harper	Max & Grace Davies
Max & Noreen Miller	Peter McCracken
Tony & Mrs Bowers	Stan & Barbara Payne
Jack & Marg Peattie	Mam Smith
Lionel & Elsie Newton	Ray Smith
Bob Snowdon	Jack Carmody

As well as those listed, some local members have their own or available holiday homes on the island, or near enough to travel daily.

Leith Cooper

N.B. Accommodation is still available and members who intend making the safari and have not yet sent in an application form are urged to do so.

The Safari committee intends to arrange a bus to take people from Melbourne to Cowes on Friday 18th March. This includes picking up W.A. members arriving on the 8am flight from Perth which is due at Tullamarine airport at 1.20pm.

More details of these transport arrangements will appear in the next Courier

To date only five W.A. members have indicated they will be taking advantage of the \$480 fare offer by Australian Airlines on the 8am flight from Perth on Friday 18th March. Other members who are interested are asked to contact J. Carey on 332 7050

## ANZAC DAY

### DAWN SERVICE

The early morning greeted the people with heavy rain, lowering clouds and darkness as if in keeping with the solemnity of this day of mourning for our Departed Comrades. It did not dampen the enthusiasm of the crowd in attendance and how wonderful it was to see all the children in the company of their parents happily waving miniature Australian flags. Teenagers were there in force, young, healthy and understanding of the fact it was not a day for glorification of war, but a wonderful chance to say "thank you" in their own way to the men who made our way of life possible. All this in the solitude of this beautiful park.

The rain eased for the wreath laying party, the early morning light silhouetted our fine war Memorial standing on the cliffs of King's Park, so reminiscent of Gallipoli and the men who created the "Spirit of Anzac".

It is a proud moment to be able to represent the 2/2nd Commando Squadron and pay tribute to our boys who are no more, but who, forever and a day, will still be a part of us all. May their sacrifice and that of thousands of others be a monument on which to construct a life for our young ones in a world where love should be the greatest single factor in heading them in the right direction.

We trust Anzac Day will always be a day of remembrance, a corner post on which to build a better world through the inspiration of those who have crossed to the vale beyond.

### LEST WE FORGET

This is a post script to say a sincere "thank you" to Bernie & Babs Langridge for laying the wreath on our behalf. George Fletcher and Archie Campbell could not sort one another out in the dark and drizzle so the President marched out with the wreath layers. True to our training the breach was filled and the 2/2nd double diamond wreath well and truly laid. What a grand innovation it was to have a husband and wife team to take over this honour and to create a precedent with which I thoroughly concur. Well done Bernie & Babs. Thanks George for a quick decision exercise.

### THE MARCH

The weather cleared to perfection and what an attendance we had for the march. In excess of 60 formed ranks to march behind our original 2 i/c, later to be our Company C.O., then our Force Commander, Sir Bernard Callinan, to us, Bernie.

There was a bonus as Rolf (Baldy) Baldwin came to W.A. with Bernie and we placed him immediately behind the leader, supported by Joe Poynton, one of our best decorated soldiers. Having our massive Standard Bearer, Tony Bowers, leading our Unit we were the cynosure of all eyes and received a tumultuous welcome. The *West Australian* newspaper had printed a couple of articles on the preceding days about the 2/2nd, plus the fact that a documentary was being put together and the filming of the march was to be a part of it all.

Having the T.V.V. 7 band in front of us supplying great band music saw the boys stepping out in fine style. We had one scare when Ray Aitken went down during the march, but boys sorted it out immediately and we thank the Police and St. John's Ambulance officials for their prompt assistance. When we reached the Esplanade there was good old Ray looking as though nothing had happened. He certainly is a resilient man. He saw the whole day through but did not march past the saluting dias and that was wise.

Well done boys, it was a proud day for us all. The crowd rose to show their appreciation of our wartime endeavours with vociferous applause. It was an emotional March Past with our Governor taking the salute.

Thanks to the boys of other Commando Squadrons, like 2/3rd and 2/8th who come quickly to mind, for joining us on this day. You are all ever so welcome, may your presence be felt over the years ahead

The S.A.S. Regiment was a part of our day. To honour the Fallen of this great outfit who have adopted us as their own, Colin Doig and Jack Fowler laid a wreath and represented the 2/2nd at their Dawn Service. Thanks boys for undertaking this honourable task.

### THE GET-TOGETHER

Held at the South Mess of the S.A.S. Regiment, it was time to reminisce, to celebrate and cement our kinship with this fine body of men. These modern day soldiers are tough, relentless and proud, and we are privileged to be a part them.

Thank you Terry Nolan, C.O. of the Regiment, for giving us a home, for making us feel so welcome and likewise that goes for all your troops. It was a great day in every direction, particularly the repast put on by your cooking staff. We thank them for it and those who controlled the refreshment section. Many thanks too for the O.R.'s invitation to their canteen.

Anzac day was well and truly celebrated. Our mates whom we honoured earlier in the day would have applauded such a happening.

## MEET THE VISITORS DAY

On the Sunday after Anzac Day the "Lions" hall in Mandurah was the venue for what turned out to be a magnificent function. In excess of 100 members bore testimony to this.

Our visitors were introduced by President, Archie Campbell. They were Bernie & Naomi Callinan, Rolf Baldwin and from Media World, Colin, Phillip and Steve, all from Victoria. We had a real surprise in store as dear Jess, wife of our beloved M.O., Roger Dunkley, was brought along by their son Pip and his wife Barbara. The Dunkley family were very warmly welcomed and we were delighted to see them looking so happy and radiant. May it happen again in the near future. What can one say to Joe and Helen Poynton, who catered for, and organised the luncheon so magnificently. Joe looked after the refreshment side with his usual efficiency and Helen turned on a banquet fit for a King. The way she managed it all, first preparing and cooking, then transporting it to the hall, was magic. Helen is a superb chef and organiser and we all enjoyed a top class luncheon.

People mingling readily and freely and picking up the old bonds of friendship as if it were yesterday made the day a memorable one. How nice to see "Happy" Greenhalgh from New South Wales looking not a day older. Thanks for coming old timer.

We received messages from Paddy & Nora Kenneally and Frank & Phyllis Sharp from New South Wales, Fred & Mavis Broadhurst from Victoria and Theo Adams from New Guinea. This was a thrill indeed and your thoughtfulness was really appreciated.

We wished Jess Epps a happy birthday and congratulated Stan & Barbara Payne on their recent marriage, a tying of the knot by two unit members.

Bernie Callinan presented Helen with a beautiful bouquet of roses, a token of our love and affection for one who is so much a part of the 2/2nd Commando Association.

To Helen and Joe, daughter Julie Anne and our smiling, efficient bar tender "Tiger" Lines, our heartfelt thanks for making this great day possible.

Bernie wound up proceedings with a warm and sincere few words and summed up with "I feel as though, after 45 years I am back home." What a lovely way to finish the day as he spoke for "Baldy" as well.

Thank you all the visitors for coming and giving of your time and affection which so tightly cements our wonderful Association. God bless you, and that goes for all our members who

give so freely of themselves to make such functions a real experience in mateship.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

ANZAC HOUSE 8th APRIL 1987

### President's Report:

Gentlemen,  
I would like to thank all members for their co-operation and support during my term in office. It has been an interesting and rewarding experience.

Special thanks are due to Jack Carey in his capacity of Secretary, without his guidance the post would be doubly difficult. He is a real bonus to the Association and is a first class administrator. Ron Kirkwood has been a tower of strength as our Treasurer and, despite having health problems, weighed in with his usual classy effort in the fiscal field. May your return to good health come quickly.

The Editorial team of Gerry McKenzie, Mary McKenzie, Len Bagley, Betty Illsley and Editor Archie Campbell, kept our lifeline in good order and condition and for this, my sincere thanks. George Fletcher continued in his usual vein of a very responsible Warden in charge of our King's Park Memorial area and is in the throes of having the name plaques and area identification boards renovated. Your interest is very much appreciated, George.

Our close association with the S.A.S. Regiment continued and we are indebted to the C.O., Major Terry Nolan and his boys for their whole-hearted co-operation throughout the year. To our ladies whose loyal support is the backbone of our endeavours, I say a heartfelt "thank you".

Robbie & Iris Rowan-Robinson highlighted the year with a magnificent Country Convention at Bridgetown. Such a function can only further cement the solid friendship within our Association. Thank you both for your great contribution.

Finally, to cap a year of enjoyment, Colin Doig wrote the History of the 2/2nd and did it extremely well, its wide acceptance was a tribute to Colin's efforts. Thanks old timer.

Again, to all members, my grateful thanks for your ever ready support.

Doug Fullarton

### Treasurer's Report:

Presentation of the audited Statement of Receipts and Payments year ended 31st January, 1987 was carried out by by Secretary Jack Carey in the absence of Ron Kirkwood due to illness. It testified to his outstanding ability in the handling of our financial affairs. Ron certainly kept us in good shape. In the absence through illness of our Auditor John Burridge, Colin Doig passed on John's praise of an immaculately prepared document.

It was resolved by the whole Association that a commendation be minuted eulogising the outstanding contribution Ron Kirkwood has made, not only as Treasurer, but in all other offices he has held within the Association. Here is his record:-

1947-48	Auditor
1949-50	Secretary
1951	Vice President
1958-59	President
1966-69	Secretary
1972-74	Treasurer
1981-87	Treasurer
Made a Life Member in 1967	

How can we praise such a prodigious effort by this stalwart who has given such sterling service to his beloved 2/2nd Commando Association? It is beyond words Ron. Twenty years in official capacities indicates the dedication and love of his fellow men that prompted Ron Kirkwood to serve the Association so faithfully and so well. Hail, a magnificent member.

### Office Bearers

Hereunder is the list for 1987/88.

President	Archie Campbell
Vice President	Jim Smailes
Secretary	Jack Carey
Treasurer	Jack Poynton
Courier Editorial Team	Gerry McKenzie, Len Mary McKenzie, Len Bagley, Betty Illsley, Archie Campbell, John Burridge, George Fletcher
Auditor	George Fletcher
Warden - King's Park	Gerry Maley
Liaison Officer - East Timor Association	

Committee	As above plus: Len Bagley, Wilf March, Don Thurton, Clarrie Varian, John Hopkins, John Fowler, Bob Burns, George Bayliss, Colin Doig.
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Thank you Gerry McKenzie for acting as Returning Officer.

### DOUG FULLARTON: PAST PRESIDENT

Archie Campbell, as incoming President, rose to congratulate Doug Fullarton on his first class efforts as our President. He said it would be very remiss if we did not let him know how the whole Association felt about him being our leader, and his excellent contribution over two years, despite having a few health problems.

Doug is a man of few words but in the course of economy can convey a very telling message on whatever subject is at hand. He kept everything very much alive and we continued to prosper as an Association above all others.

Edna Fullarton was a tower of strength to Doug in every direction and did not spare herself in the cause of assisting him or the Association, Edna, you have our respect, our love and our heartfelt thanks.

May the years ahead be kind to you both, with happiness and health abounding. We, the men of the 2/2nd, and the ladies, would like to record our appreciation of a job well done.

### LIFE MEMBERS

Gerry McKenzie  
Doug Fullarton pinned this prestigious medal on to the chest of "Bomber" who has given the Association such grand service over a long number of years in two states.

Everyone thought Gerry was a recipient years ago but such was not the case. In fact, it was the cause of a unique happening. Mary McKenzie, his charming wife, was made an Associate Life Member, beating Gerry to the honour by a couple of months! This also made it a dual recognition within the one family.

Doug Fullarton  
Len Bagley, our Senior Vice President, stated how delighted he was to be able to pin a Life Membership badge on Doug. He eulogised Doug's contribution over all the years, one of service and assistance in making our Association what it is today.

Congratulations "Punchy", we know the members Australia wide will applaud this very deserved recognition.

### EPSS HISTORICAL 2/2ND MUSEUM

Jess Epps had "Open House" for the Association on Sunday May 24th which was an outstanding success. She organised everything with tremendous efficiency and the seating arrangements placed everyone in close proximity enabling us all to mingle, talk, have fun, partake of sufficient refreshments to make things go with a swing.

We bought our own lunch packs for a barbeque, or whatever was the choice for lunch. The B.B.Q.'s were all conveniently set up, and, when alight, some budding chefs emerged in the process of cooking! Jess supplied the salads, some great hot dishes, plus her piece-de-resistance, rice pudding!

Morning and afternoon tea or coffee was available, going along with it, myriads of all sorts of cakes, pikelets, biscuits, you name it, Jess had it available - diets went out the window!

Archie Campbell, our President, thanked everyone for coming and making it a real family day. He paid tribute to Peter Epps for the great job he has done with the collection and preparation of the Unit history and the museum in which it is housed. We are deeply indebted to both

Peter and Jess for providing the facilities to tackle such a project and for making it all come to life.

There were a number of young Vietnamese boys and their families, friends of Peter, members of the Historical Society, plus others, members of Jess Epps hard working family and their friends, all welcomed into one happy bunch of fun loving people and Archie let them know how welcome they all were.

Then especially to dear Jess from us all, he gave her the accolade she always so thoroughly deserves when he said "She is one of the finest members of our Association and we all love her very much."

Thirty-one members paid her their personal "thank you" by being there, augmented by all other friends, making with children, a total in excess of 60. Jess Epps, it was a marvellous day, God Bless you from us all.

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## COLIN DOIG'S UNIT HISTORY

The limit has been lifted on the number of books available to each member. Order what you need.

There is certain to be a re-run of an unspecified number. so those interested in requiring extras, please order through your State Distributor as per the April Courier.

*Do it now* so all details of Col's history can be finalised. It has been a big success and this wonderful old Unit of ours goes into posterity. Just as it should be.

Make sure your family and relatives and friends share the Unit experiences, via this publication.

## NEW SOUTH WALES NEWS

It is with pleasure that I write to tell you of the wonderful success of the Mini-Safari to Young over the weekend of the 7th & 8th March when 37 of us gathered at the home of Keith & Betty Craig - not for any formality, but for the sheer pleasure of being together in the true spirit of our 2/2nd family.

The accompanying list will tell you from whence they came A.C.T., N.S.W., Vitoria and from Perth (bless her heart) our beloved Jess Epps.

No mucking about - just good old fashioned homeliness, great weather, great company, food to delight the palate and how those tongues wagged, particularly when Paddy Kenneally took the opportunity to dispose of many copies of what must be an epic in our history - the C.D. Doig History of the 2/2nd in war. Our compliments to you Col, on a long overdue achievement and a truly great production. I trust it will not be limited to a first Edition, but that we will be able to obtain further copies for our families and interested friends.

Unfortunately Keith was not as well as we would like to see him but the old Craig Spirit and humour is still there, and there was not much he didn't enjoy.

Snow Went and I were the only two who 'enjoyed' the hospitality of the Young Bowling Club on the Sunday morning 'Sick Parade'! We had mixed success - one up - one down!

We did appreciate the fact that some of the widows of our departed comrades were able to join us, and believe me girls, you will always be welcome as part of our family.

On the Sunday afternoon, Snow and I made our way to the home of Tom Pulliene, one of the originals we haven't heard of for many years. Tom and his wife raised a family of 14 children, two of whom are still attending school and doing well. He lost his wife some five years ago and we realise life has not been easy. He is now retired, living in a nice comfortable home and we will hope to see more of him in the future.

We trust everyone visiting had a safe return home and that we will be blessed to have many more gatherings in the future.

Alan Luby

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## VALE

From New South Wales we also report that on Friday, 27th February, Jim Hocking (shown in the address book as Merroo Road, Bomaderry) passed away - a lonely digger! He was buried at Nowra on 9th March with Max Bowden doing the honours in Unit representation.

Apparently Jim has been living in pensioner units in East Street, Nowra and Max has been in fairly regular contact.

With the Mini Safari at Young over the weekend it was not possible to have any additional representation.

May he rest in peace

## VICTORIAN NEWS

Seven Victorians made the trip to Keith & Betty Craig's for the mini Safari on March 6th to 8th, namely Ken & Margaret Monk, Arch & Dawn Claney, Harry & Olive Botterill and Wilma Tobin. Ken, Margaret, Harry, Olive and Wilma spent the night with Arch & Dawn at Wangaratta, then on to Young next day. The weather was great and we had a very enjoyable weekend. It was great to see Jess Epps there - a real surprise, and a good roll-up. Olive, Wilma and I went on to Cowra on the Monday to see the Japanese Gardens etc. This is a lovely town and Paddy Kenneally, whose sister lives there, was our guide and showed us around the town and gave us refreshments, then we made our way back to Wangaratta, stayed the night with Arch & Dawn again and back home next day.

We had a perfect day for our barbecue at Jock & Faye Campbell's home at Pearceedale on April 5th. The following were present - John & Cath Roberts, Leith & Marg Cooper, Mal Herbert, Harry & Olive Botterill, Wilma Tobin, Alf & Gwen Harper, Bill & Pat Tucker, Denny & June Dennis, David & Thais Brown, John & Shirley Southwell, Stan Whitford & wife, Max & Grace Davies and Peter McCracken, George & Dot Veitch, Alex & Beryl Boast, Tom Nisbet, Norm & Fran Tillet and Jack Fox. Apologies from Ken & Margaret Monk, Fred & Mavis Broadhurst, Don & Joan Fryer, Wyn & George Humphreys and Paul Costelloe.

It was nice to see Denny & June from Albury and Mal Herbert who was over from Perth for a meeting connected with the shooting people. Good to see Stan Whitford again, looking very well. Fred Broadhurst was in hospital having an operation. He is out again now and coming along nicely.

Our thanks to Jock & Faye again for making their home available. It is a beautiful setting and helps to make a great day.

We have had quite a few meetings. and plans for the 1988 Safari are going along well. I'll leave this the Leith Cooper to report on more fully.

Regards to all

Harry Botterill

## REPORT FROM JOH's COUNTRY

Words of greetings from the Sunshine State where, at present, it is raining cats & dogs. Brisbane has had more than its share of unseasonal rain whereas the Gold Coast, with a severe water shortage over the past twelve months, is enjoying the benefits of some twenty such inches during the week. They need no longer depend on the English to boost their Tourism programme.

Brother Alistair and I spent Anzac week in Sydney with mine hosts Nora & Paddy. Nora had some insane idea that I was there to take care of John Patrick, methinks I could cope better with the devil himself. Enjoyed the march through Sydney, with a pipe band up front and a slow measured tread, most suitable for we aging bow and arrow men. After the combined Commando ferry trip round the harbour Paddy took Alistair, Snowy Went and myself on a nostalgic pub crawl around the Rocks area. Enough said about the Rocks except to say that I told Nora next morning that the Anzacs should have landed on the 29th February! Spent the rest of the week drinking Paddy's beer and catching up on various members, a most enjoyable week.

Barbeque day early April saw a good roll-up at rainsoaked North Pine dam, no sugar babies in our group. Pleased to see some faces which have been absent for some time.

Present were:

Pat Barnier	Fred & Phyllis Bryant
Col Grebert	Ron & Betty Host
Neil & Margaret Hooper	
Spud Murphy	Fred & Ellen Otaway
George & Edna	(Fred remarried round
Vandeleur	last year)
Jim & Zona Smith	Paddy & Josie Wilby
Gordan & Joan Stanley	Alistair & Self

Total of 21.

Apologies from Tony Adams, down south, Ralph Cowley, up north, George Couslon, up on the roof, and George Mathieson, up to no good. All present were in spirits & enjoyed themselves as usual. We hope for a bigger roll-up for our next get-together on June 1st at Slaughter Falls. As I have again picked the day, don't hang the washing out as it is bound to rain. Forgot to add Butch Barnier in the apologies, he was up inside a diesel engine at the Royal Brisbane Hospital.

Change of address for the Courier. Ron and Betty Host: **88 Banksia St. Coolumb 4573 Phone (071) 462 020**

Thanks Col for your history of the Unit. It has jogged many a memory and made good reading along with a few fourpenny darks.

Best wishes to all Courier readers. Health restoration to all those ailing and especially to Col who we hear is back in hospital. The sick list here is a short one thank goodness. Mel & George Mathieson are still not one hundred percent but are on the mend. Heard the sad news today that Dr Ian McPhee passed away last Sunday. Tony said he had sent the news in to you so I will not expand on it.

My best wishes to you Archie and thanks a million for the volumes of work your Courier Team put into the Association.

Angus MacLachlan

## VALE — ALAN BENNETT

### "He was one of us"

The article below gives a precise resume of the heroic deeds of Captain Alan Bennett.

It was he whose tremendous sagacity, navigating ability and courage made him an indispensable unit of the 2/2nd Independent Company in its campaign against the Japanese on Portuguese Timor.

He was our lifeline in the supply situation, was a saviour to our wounded, a tremendous morale builder in our darkest hours as was his crew. Above all, "he was one of us".

Our deepest sympathy goes out to his wife and family on their very sad loss, he was a man indeed.

To Alan Bennett and all who sailed with him, God bless you. We now of the 2/2nd Commando Association, remain ever indebted.

## WORLD WAR HERO DIES

"Captain Alan Bennett, who died at his home in Shenton Park on Wednesday, became well known in the World War for piloting small ships across the Timor Sea to supply Australian commandos.

In May 1942, when the Australian forces on Timor made contact with Darwin, Capt Bennett took the patrol boat HMAS Kuru across the Timor Sea to supply the 2/2 Independent Company.

He operated the Timor ferry service with the patrol boats Kuru and Vigilant and was the only link for troops fighting in the guerilla war.

He took in medicine, ammunition and other supplies and brought out the wounded and dispatches.

During the Japanese bombing of Darwin on February 19, 1942, Capt Bennett was in command of a small harbourcraft and was credited with rescuing many men from the harbour.

In 1943 Capt Bennett was sent to Hollandia, on the north coast of New Guinea, as a harbour pilot.

At the end of the war he held the rank of lieutenant commander and was in command of HMAS Warrambool.

He was later appointed harbourmaster at Esperance and then at Geraldton.

Mr Bennett, who was 68, is survived by his wife, Mrs Norma Bennett, two sons and a daughter."

## MARRIED

Great news comes in the form of two 2/2nd members being married on the 7th April 1987:- Stan Payne and Barbara Palmer. Congratulations from us all, what a delightful surprise. May life hold everything that is good in the years ahead, with a super abundance of happiness. Good luck.

## RETURNED COURIERS

These create some problems and we wonder where the birds have flown. We need and want to keep in touch so when you move please advise us. At the moment we are looking for: Willy Wilcox, St. Mary's, N.S.W., Ted Mulcahy Darwin, N.T., and "Curly" Carlton, Recreational Hotel, North Fitzroy.

### VALE — WILLIAM (BILL) WILLIS

News has been received of the death of Bill Willis on the 27th May, 1987.

Bill was an original member of the 2nd Independent Company as a signaller. He was well known to me as the Sig with "Don" Platoon when I took over that platoon at Cablac, for his persistence and perseverance in getting messages through when the static was at its worst.

He left the Unit after the Timor Campaign, joined another, serving out the war with the unit. Bill was a very active member of the Association in its early years and was on the committee for a while. He was well remembered for his assistance at the working bees we had to help Charlie King when that member first lost his arm. Charlie introduced us to a bricklayer who with Bill's assistance did a lot of the work.

Bill used to pick up the beer for us in our early years of meetings at Monash Club, he used to get an air rifle for use in our shooting competitions held at various meetings, he was an extremely helpful member. Bill introduced his brother who had a very good voice and sang at many of our early social gatherings.

He carried on his occupation as a bricklayer for many years until ill health and age precluded this about 8 years ago.

The Association was represented at the cremation by Jack Carey, Don Turton, Gerry Maley, Keith Hayes, Jess Epps, Wilf and Lorraine March, George Fletcher and Archie Campbell. It was a very touching service.

Our sympathy goes out to his wife and family on their sad loss.

Colin Doig

### VALE — DR IAN MCPHEE

It is with sadness we record, after a tremendous battle with his health, the passing of Ian McPhee, our unit medico in the New Britain campaign.

We have been extremely fortunate with the calibre of our medical officers in the 2/2nd Commando Squadron and Ian McPhee was no exception. He performed his task very well indeed.

He distinguished himself post war as an outstanding surgeon in the medical field of Orthopedics in Brisbane, raised a talented family and showed in his fight for survival, that he had courage and tenacity galore.

His wife, Peg, was a tremendous giver of strength in all aspects of his life and in the latter years, with her ministrations, sympathy and love, gave Ian so much to hang on to.

Our sympathy and love from members Australia wide goes out to Peg and her family in their time of sorrow. May God give you his full blessings in the months ahead so that peace of mind and heart will be yours

### LEST WE FORGET

### ROSTER TO VISIT HOSPITAL PERMANENTS

Don Turton and Jim Smailes have volunteered to create a **roster system** comprising a team of two to visit the above on a periodical basis.

Support is needed in these circumstances hence the number of two. Our old mates involved are:

Eddie Craghill	Gallipoli Ward, Lemnos Hospital, Stubb Terrace, Shenton Park.
Freddie Griffiths	St. George's Nursing Home, 20 Pinaster St., Mt. Lawley.
Bill Cooper	Home of Peace, Thomas St., Subiaco.

Please forward your names to Don or Jim if you would care to catch up with these old mates and show them we do care. Old friends of their sections or platoons would be the ideal, but any member who knows them is more than welcome.

Phone numbers:

Don Turton 330 7485

Jim Smailes 293 4518

The visit will be arranged by the small sub-committee with you once names have been received.

Thanks in anticipation boys.

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## RANDOM HARVEST

Hereunder is a letter from Bernard Callinan on his arrival back home.

Kew, 3101  
29 April 1987

Dear Arch

Whilst we are here - safely home - we are still bathed in happy memories of Anzac Day 1987 and the Sunday at Mandurah.

Thank you again for your great kindness and thoughtfulness in collecting us at the airport, for the most interesting drives to and from Mandurah, and then delivering us in good time and condition again at the airport.

I, in particular, would be grateful if you would pass on my thanks for all the happy greetings from comrades in arms and their wives.

Naomi also was very moved by everyone's kindness to her, and of course she regretted that she could not move around more.

Once again we had a truly memorable and happy time "at home" again.

with all wishes

Bernard

*Editor:*

Thank you all for coming Bernie, we loved having you, Namoi and 'Baldy', giving all the lads and lasses the opportunity to renew and refresh very old friendships and to contribute fully to what was a grand day. God Bless.

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## A BAD SPIN

Sid Jones has had a run of outs and has been in and out of hospital for quite a time. You will all notice a change of address in this Courier which entailed Sid being moved to N.S.W. where he will be cared for by his brother Bob.

We are very sorry to hear, via Don Turton, of your health not being 100% and that your eyesight is failing slightly.

Keep your chin up Sid, we are looking forward to a big improvement in the near future. Our prayers are for just that.

God bless, good luck

Dear Mr Doig,

Thank you so much for the History of the 2/2 Independent Company. I do appreciate having a copy and will cherish it always.

I feel very proud and grateful that Ron was part of this gallant group. What a wonderful band of men, your friendship meaning so much to him over the years, especially now.

Please accept my cheque for the Association and may God bless you all.

Yours sincerely and with love,

Billie Eyres  
(Ron Kirkwood's sister)

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## W.W.C.P.

**Fred Griffiths** is having a real battle and showing courage galore. Reg Harrington gave us this recent news; thanks Reg for representing us all. Good luck Fred, our prayers are for a complete recovery.

**Bob Burns** After a tough spin is back in circulation and looking fit and well. Good to see you at our A.G.M. Bob. May you go from strength to strength.

**Ron Kirkwood** is putting up a tremendous battle, full of determination and courage. Gwenda is of immense support to him in every direction. Our prayers are for you both and our love goes with that. God bless.

**Harry Spoxton** still fights his problem with courage and confidence and sends his regards to all members right across Australia. Thelma gives him wonderful support, between them a win is inevitable and you deserve just that.

**John Burridge** has been hospitalised for a hernia operation but is now up and walking. Two days prior to going in he won the Plate at the Dalkeith Bowling Club, giving him a number three ranking. This no doubt has given him a great desire to get well more quickly which is the wish of us all John. Bring on the champs!

## CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

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Everton Hills  
16/4/87

Dongara W.A.  
30/4/87

Enclosed is a cheque for the Courier which we all enjoy reading.

It is pleasant to go along to the Unit barbecues and put faces to the names that I've heard about over the years.

We appreciate the good work that gets the Courier out to us. Keep up the good work.

Regards and good wishes to all

Joan Stanley

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Armada W.A.  
22/4/87

Received the book and enjoyed the contents. Col has done a good job. I would like to order another copy. If you cannot supply, please put the enclosed cheque into the funds.

I would love to come in on Anzac Day but I have lost a lot of weight and that has left me a bit on the weak side, also, having emphysema I have to have a few spells. My Doctor O'Brien often sees me coming up from the shops. Next I go to see him he tells me I was carrying plenty the other day when he saw me. I told him I limit myself to about 2 kilos and he said that's too bloody much. He was in the Army and visited us when we were at Fanta in the Ramu.

I have not sighted Charlie King for months. He was complaining about his shoulder when I last saw him.

Best regards  
George Lewis

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Mandurah W.A.  
28/4/87

As usual, tardy with the finance. Enclosed cheque for Col's book, the rest to be split between the Courier and Timor Appeal.

All's fine with us. Awaiting our seventh grandchild and keeping busy with four of the family still living at home.

Best wishes to all  
Elvie & Bill Howell

If I ever get down to writing a letter it must be because I want something.

My daughter from Shay Gap phoned and asked me to get her a copy of the History of the 2/2 Commandos. She read about it in the paper. Could you please let me know how I can get a copy and how much.

We watched the Anzac Service on T.V. but it was a very brief cover.

Edie and I are keeping reasonable health, although we don't travel about much anymore

That's all for now.

Yours faithfully  
"Blue Pendergrast"

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Dee Why N.S.W.

Just a note to enclose with copy of Commando News most recent addition.

Separately, I'm preparing a report on our Mini-Safari with the Craigs at Young on the weekend of 7th-8th March. This was a great success and I'm sure Jess will give you a full description.

Snow Went and I called in to see Tom Pulliense who has been out of contact for many years. He's quite well, living in retirement at 23 Cooks Crescent, Young, 2594. He and his wife raised a family of 14, most of whom are still in the area. His wife died some five years ago, leaving Tom with five children to raise. He still has two at home who are attending High School, so life has not been easy for him.

Also have to report that Jim Hocking who shows in the address book as Bomaderry, passed away at Nowra on Friday, 27th February. Max Bowden attended to the arrangements for burial on March 9th. Max has apparently been the only Unit member to have any contact with Jim throughout the years.

Trust all are well over there. Edith joins in greetings.

Alan Luby

P.S. George Parker is now living at 23 Dungaruba Road, Broadwater 2472

Gympie 4570  
1/5/87

Dear Secretary

I have been trying to phone Angus MacLachlan to order a copy of Col Doig's book but have not been able to raise him.

He is no doubt away and may even have been fortunate enough to join you all for the Anzac Parade, which I feel would be a very well attended one this year.

I went to the Dawn Service here which also had a big crowd in attendance and laid a wreath of flowers in memory of my husband Jack and "The Brave Men of Timor".

It is so pleasing to see the good response you have got for the Timorese appeal.

When I last wrote I was on my way to Canberra to view "Winnie the War Winner" - something I have always wanted to do.

By coincidence, one of the attendants I spoke to was one of the airmen to drop the first supplies to the men of Timor. I was sorry afterwards I had not asked his name.

When the War Museum is altered I understand there will be more about Timor than there is at present. The War Museum is certainly a wonderful place and one would need days, not hours, to see it all.

Enclosed is my cheque to cover cost for Col Doig's book. The balance is a donation to the Courier.

King Regards  
Kathleen B. Sargeant.

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22 Quinn Street  
Dubbo 2830  
3/5/87

Once more I have found time for some news for the Courier and to say "Hello" to all our good friends Australia wide. I guess many are planning for our next "Safari" at Phillip Island next March.

Phyllis and I have forwarded our deposit and if all goes well with her health we will be starters once again and am looking forward to seeing so many old friends. We have just had Fred and Mavis Broadhurst from Melbourne with us for a fortnight, what a man, not a dull moment when he is around!

Also have had a visit from Alf Hodge who I had not see since the unit broke up in Rabaul, he lives in Griffith and often sees Roy Martin, it was nice to see you, Alf. I had a nice phone call from Len Bagley and Betty on Anzac Eve wishing me a good Anzac Day and giving me the news of plans for W.A. Anzac Day with Sir Bernard and his group.

It was a glorious day here in Dubbo, not a cloud in the sky - it has been the same for over 20 years, for which we have been very grateful, as rain can ruin a march.

There were over 600 ex servicemen and women in the march, two bands, and we had uniformed contingents of the three services led by the Vietnam Veterans.

The show part was the Captain of HMAS Dubbo and some of his crew, this ship is a corvette with the Australian Navy and is named after our city.

They were guests of the RSL and Dubbo City Council for four days and their part in the Anzac service was much appreciated by the Sub-branch.

I attended the three services. A very good roll-up at the crisp, cool, clear morning dawn service, the bagpipes from the Highland Pipe Band at six a.m. in the morning made the service.

I have just completed reading Col Doig's documentary of the history of the Unit, a magnificent coverage of the exploits of the officers and the men of the Unit throughout those three campaigns, makes one feel proud of being a member. Our thanks to you Col and those who assisted you in the preparation of such a fine book of history and facts, that probably would never have been known, only for your work and the effort to put it to press.

As many of the members know, my wife is fighting a great battle similar to our late mate Bob Smith. She is very courageous and through the "Courier" I would personally like to thank the boys and their wives for the cards and good wishes they have sent to her, especially that dedicated group from Mandurah, thanks fellows.

I would also like to say thanks to the boys from Brisbane and their wives who came down to "Silverton" and had the day with Phyllis whilst she was at the Gold Coast. Thanks Freddie Bryant for the barbecue, I heard that you are still cooking as good as ever, we will all remember your apple pies at the Gold Cost "Safari".

We were all sorry that we could not make the Mini Safari at Young this year as my former Superintendant retired that weekend and I had to attend a farewell dinner to him in Sydney. I had worked with him for almost forty years.

I do hope Keith that your health is improving, and that you and Betty are making the most of life; Kath Press called in and gave us all the news and was pleased to see such a good roll up.

For all those on the sick list we wish you a speedy recovery to good health and may we see many of your smiling faces at Phillip Island next March.

Kind Regards to all  
Frank and Phyllis Sharp

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## DONATIONS

### COURIER

Mrs J. Stanley	M. Herbert
Eric Smyth	Jess Dunkley
Mal Nichols	N. Thornton
Mrs Beavis	A. Campbell
F. Sharp	C. Doig
T. Yates	John Poynton
L. Isenhood	R. Dook
W. Cowie	R. Studdy
F. Janvrin	R. Watson
H. Sproxton	G. Strickland
S. Payne	Mal Nichols
G. Holmes	Sylvia Walsh
C. Mills	F. Sharp
W. Howell	Mrs K. Sargeant
C. Sadler	Ross McKenzie
Beryl Griffiths	Dot Boyland
Elsie Wares	Billie Eyres (Ron Kirkwood's sister)

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## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

### **Turton, D.K.**

Don & Vida  
29/444 Marmion Street, Myaree, 6154  
Phone (09) 330 7485

### **McDonald, R.H.**

Robert & Betty  
82 June Road, Safety Bay, 6169  
Phone (095) 272 155

### **Jones, S.**

(Sid)  
C/- R. Jones, 78 Fox Street, Ballina, 2478

### **Dook, R.L.**

Ron & Man  
6 Arlington Drive Willetton, 6155  
Phone (09) 457 9804

### **Host, R.**

Ron & Betty  
88 Banksia Street, Coolum, 4573  
Phone (071) 462 020

### **Bateman, T.**

Tom  
6 Argyle Court, Thornlie, 6108

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## TIMOR APPEAL

Olive Thornton	G. Holmes
W. Howell	S & B Payne
Jim Smith	R. Studdy
G. Holmes	