



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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COMING EVENTS

1988 SAFARI — PHILLIP ISLAND

COUNT DOWN TO COWES

Hereunder latest news from Secretary, Leith Cooper. Digest well and act accordingly.

After several committee meetings and much discussion re finance and general organisation, we are now able to give much more definite information for intending participants in our forthcoming Safari 1988.

COST OF FUNCTIONS & ENTERTAINMENT

Attendance at all official functions, bus fares etc. would approximate \$75. **DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY NOW.** We shall collect when you arrive.

The optional entertainment as per the proposed itinerary in the April Courier (e.g. Penguin Parade, Golf, Bowls) again including bus transport, approximately \$12 to \$15 per head for all options.

TRANSPORT FROM MELBOURNE AIRPORT & SPENCER RAILWAY STATION

If sufficient travellers wish this to be provided, a bus can be arranged at a cost of **\$10 per head one way.** This bus would pick up air travellers at Tullamarine at 1.30p.m. on Friday, 18th March and at Spencer Street Railway Station at 2.00p.m. Travellers would have to arrange flights and train or bus to fit in with this proposed service.

It is suggested that interstate travellers arrange through the State Association to travel as a group and the State Secretary write to me requesting the bus service and giving a list of names of those travelling and time of arrival.

Coming Events Cont. over-

CLOTHING

Be prepared for anything! Although the weather is usually mild and fine in March, sudden cold snaps and rain are possible. Let's hope you bring warm clothing and do not need it. For the daring and young at heart (that means all of us) a swim could be possible as most accommodation is within 200 metres of the sea.

DONATIONS TO SAFARI

Some very welcome donations have been received from members and such funds will be used to assist participants in enjoying themselves at official functions. A little extra free liquid refreshment, for example, could make old bones (and tongues) perform as they did a few years ago.

The effort that many members are making to attend the Safari is to be commended and is a sure indicator of the success we anticipate. No matter how much effort the organisers put in, the spirit of the participants is what will produce a happy and productive time for all. Particular mention should be made of Charles Pierce who has booked accommodation to attend and even though he has had the misfortune to recently lose part of his good leg, will still be attending. Best of luck Charles! We look forward to seeing you in Victoria.

Leith Cooper

Hon. Secretary
Vic. 2/2 Commando Association.

ANNUAL COMMEMORATION SERVICE

SUNDAY, 15TH NOVEMBER — 3 P.M.

LOVEKIN DRIVE, KING'S PARK

FULL MUSTER PLEASE FOR THIS IMPORTANT DAY

CHRISTMAS FUNCTION

ANZAC CLUB

FRIDAY, 4TH DECEMBER — 11.30 A.M.

MEMBERS AND LADIES

MAKE THIS A CHRISTMAS PARTY TO REMEMBER

FULL MUSTER PLEASE

MERREDIN COUNTRY CONVENTION

All eyes turned towards the Eastern wheatbelt town of Merredin on Tuesday, 15th September and 31 members arrived in that fair town during the afternoon to stay at the Olympic Motel and, as always, settled down to enjoy every minute of their stay. Being immediately made Honorary Members of the Merredin Bowling Club, hospitality was dispensed and partaken of by all over quite a long period.

At hand to make sure it all happened, our host and hostess, Stan and Barbara Payne. They created a wonderful atmosphere from the outset and it lasted over the days that followed. They had performed a remarkable job of organisation, leaving no stone unturned to make the stay enjoyable and full of great mateship with which the 2/2nd is blessed.

Our sightseeing began on Wednesday morning with Stan acting as Tour Captain, supported by Colin, our very obliging and amiable bus driver who is creating a tourist business in Merredin. The interest this very old area provided was remarkable and I am sure we saw it all. It was first settled in 1895 just after the railway line had reached Southern Cross. Its name is derived from the Merritt trees from which the Aborigines cut their spears. The complete derivation is built up from the fact that the suffix 'IN' means *place of*, so we find the original of Merredin in 'Merritt-in' the place of the Merritt!. John Septimus Roe explored the area as far back as 1836 and was followed by the surveyor, Charles Hunt in 1866.

But in 1987 it was the 2/2nd who took over the district by the good offices of Stan and Barbara. We were shown over the Australian Consolidated Goldmine in Westonia, a tremendous open cut being mined in a very modern fashion. The original was the Edna May Mine created in 1911 by Jack Read. It was a real eye opener and the mine staff gave us a first class description of the whole operation.

We viewed the towns of Westonia and Burracoppin, then on our lunch stop way out in the bush with the temperature reading 31°C and all of us feeling the heat. Our picnic spot was indeed an oasis under the cool shelter of trees where tables (covered with lace tablecloths!) and chairs had been set up in a shady nook by a cool stream. Ice cold beer and cool drinks were waiting for us and the barbecues were alight and ready for action. We drank out of real glasses, used fine cutlery for our delicious lunch and drank piping hot tea out of china cups — a very unusual and enjoyable experience. We even had a portable 'loo' built by Stan's son Geoff especially for the day. It was

immediately dubbed the 'Taj Mahal'. What a magnificent piece of organisation, all done for the comfort of the 2/2nd contingent by Geoff & Sharon Payne and Bruce & Rosalie Palmer and our bus driver, Colin. Bruce had taken the day off from the bank and he and Rosalie joined us on the bus and worked like beavers when we arrived for lunch. No doubt Stan & Barbara had some fingers in the pie, but both maintained the youngsters were the prime movers, with Geoff and Sharon doing all the hard 'yakka'.

Thank you so much for what was a delightful part of the day. We thought we were at an out of doors 'Sheraton'! Geoff added to the pleasure by taking us for a guided tour of 'the wells', a climb to the top of the hill to see the massive 'split rock' caused by a hail storm on the hot rock in the middle of summer. It looked as though it had been cut by the sharpest of instruments.

Our lunch break was something to remember for it embodied the unusual and spontaneous. The rest of the day just fell into place and we all turned in early, pleasantly tired after a very full and entertaining day.

Thursday morning was a visit to the Payne farm, and what a great property we saw. It was so clean cut it looked as if it was manicured. The massive machinery housed in sheds, large storage bins sitting on cement slabs laid by Stan & Geoff, it is a tribute to those responsible for its operation, everything, including fences, so clean and neat. Many of the girls were seeing a real farm for the first time. It was a pleasant sojourn on a large property.

It was a hot day with a wind to match but again our lunchtime stop was interesting and enjoyable. An historical place, Mangowine Homestead, was the venue and it was here gold was found in 1887, the first area after the Kimberleys. The original homestead still stands and within its precincts there was an Inne, Post Office and prison cell, still with a lot of the original settings which have withstood the ravages of time.

On both days plentiful supplies of fruit were provided for our enjoyment.

Gwen Bowers was our birthday girl on Thursday and Barbara presented her with a card which we had all signed and we all sang 'For she's a jolly good fellow.' It was a very happy birthday.

The afternoon run was to Twin Rocks and the unusual water system allied to the Kalgoorlie pipeline at K'nunajin (the 'K' is silent). There is a well engineered system of pumping, a holding dam, with Twin Rocks supplying the run off, all most interesting. Stan certainly knows his territory and he produced a thoroughly enjoyable itinerary.

We visited the gypsum lakes where a somewhat 'heated' debate took place between Stan and Keith Dignum as to the merits of W.A. and S.A. gypsum, Keith claiming that ours was only salt. After an on site inspection it was agreed that the W.A. product was indeed the real thing. However, we suspect that we have not heard the last of this as Keith was seen to be taking photos and making notes and will no doubt be visiting the salt lakes on his return to South Australia.

The Convention Dinner was one of conviviality, all of us tightly tucked into the dining room saw night of togetherness in the real sense. It was one where we were all able to pay our tribute to our organisers, Stan & Barbara, along with their lovely family on both sides.

Archie Campbell, our President, presented an exquisite sheaf of flowers to Barbara and Stan. Our love to you both for making our stay such a memorable and happy occasion. God bless you for all you have done. As Archie said, when you fuse two 2/2nd people into one you get a tremendous product.

The name Merriden has taken on a new meaning, the 2/2 Commando Association can say "We were there".

Peter & Pat Campbell generously offered to host a Country Convention in Esperance in 1988. This offer was very enthusiastically accepted and, knowing Peter & Pat, we can look forward to another well organised, enjoyable time together.

Finally, thanks to the members named below who made the Convention such a happy one, particularly those who came from South Australia — Keith & Betty Dignum, Allan Hollow and Mark Jordan. Also attending the dinner were Elsie Ware's son David and a real surprise Bev & Jim Flockart, daughter and son-in-law of Beryl and our late member, Fred Griffiths. They farm in the district and Stan & Barbara Payne invited them along. We expressed our sympathy and hoped the warmth of the welcome would be some small comfort to them.

Archie Campbell, Len Bagley, John & Gloria Poynton, Wilf & Lorraine March, Stan & Barbara Payne, Reg & Dot Harrington, Peter & Pat Campbell, Tony & Gwen Bowers, George Bayliss, Clarrie & Grace Turner, Ron & Nan Dook, John & Jean Fowler, Charlie & Mavis Sadler, Jess Epps, Anne Douglas, Elsie Wares, Betty Illsley.

Apologies were received from Bernie & Babs Langridge who made it to Northam where they had car trouble and had to turn back and from Don Hudson who was too ill with flu to attend.

NOTE: As usual when the 2/2nd get together,

there was plenty of noise but George Bayliss was unable to make any because on the first day he lost his voice and was not heard from again until the morning we were leaving. However, he obviously enjoyed himself because he was always smiling.

We are pleased to report that Ron Dook dined at a very nice restaurant and left it intact (unlike his visit to the Chinese Restaurant in Busselton a couple of years ago!!) Nan had a small problem this time — apparently Ron was hurrying her along before they left home and she arrived in Merredin with lots of blouses but no slacks to go with them. Ron, ever the perfect gentleman, offered her \$5 to buy a few pairs!

COURAGE COMES IN ALL SORTS OF FORMS

Charlie (Pigeon) Pierce epitomises this to the nth degree.

Here is a tragic story which began with 'Pigeon' having a leg amputated. He stoically bore the pain, had an artificial leg fitted and hardly faltered in his stride, he took part in everything. A couple of weeks back the ultimate setback occurred, he had his other leg amputated at the knee, caused by a cut ankle while mowing a lawn. He is a sugar diabetes sufferer and the aftermath was swift, a tragedy beyond compare was his lot.

The Writer saw him in hospital sitting up and taking notice, waiting in the optical ward to be eye tested for failing sight — it was heart rending indeed. Elsie Wares was there lending him great support and this interest is just what Charlie needs. Thanks Elsie from us all for being such a morale booster and God bless you for your action.

Such a happening is heart stopping but to hear 'Pigeon' say in response to my sympathy "Not all bad, I don't have to cut my toenails!" showed me the brand of courage mankind can possess. He stated there was no wheelchair for him, he would be walking on two legs. We are all right behind you Charlie in your endeavours to do just that.

Go to it with God's blessing, our love and prayers.

VALE — GODFREY (GEORGE) MERRITT

'Bulla' Tate has advised of the death recently of George Merritt who was cremated on 31st March at Townsville in Queensland.

George had been out of communication with the Unit Association for at least 20 years. Apparently he had been in Queensland for some years and was working at the Gold Coast when we had the Safari there in 1981 but refused to take part in this function although he knew all about it. According to his wife he refused to take part in any R.S.L. matters for many many years.

George was an original member of 5 Section and was a truly outstanding soldier and most competent with all weapons. His sense of humour and sense of fun were an invigorating portion of that happy 5 Section with which he served right through the campaigns in Timor, New Guinea and New Britain.

After the war he married and went back to his home town at Balingup, dairy farming. He gave this away and rejoined the Army and was in training squad under Ray Parry in N.S.W. prior to trying to go to Korea. He was discharged before he could go away. He was last heard of on King Island in Bass Strait. That was the last we knew of him until 'Bulla' Tait advised of his demise.

George leaves a widow and a grown family of five children.

He was a real good bloke and, if anything, his own worst enemy.

I personally feel his loss in a big way and although I hadn't seen him for many years he was in my thoughts most frequently.

We extend our sincere sympathy to his widow and family.

Col. Doig.

VALE — FREDDIE GRIFFITHS

Quiet, reserved — a soldier to be trusted, relied on in any situation, honest, trustworthy, steady in a crisis — that was Freddie. I can't remember him complaining or whingeing at any time. When things were toughest Freddie would come up with (with his wry smile) "Well, you know Jerry, we're alive and getting around; things could be worse."

He had a lively, whimsical sense of humour. He never ceased to relate how at Foster on Friday (Canteen) nights he would come to my tent after closing time and gently enquire "Jerry, would you like a leak?" I'd poke my head out of the blankets to reply sleepily "No thanks Freddie." It was the reply that tickled Freddie. Had the response come from say, Bill Drage, the whole camp would have been alerted.

Ah yes, he was a great mate, a great part of the No. 6 Section. I am grateful that I could claim him my friend — may his gentle soul rest in peace.

Jerry Haire.

There was a fine roll call of members to pay a last tribute to Fred Griffiths. It was a very private funeral but completely open to members of the 2/2nd Commando Squadron which is sincerely appreciated by us all. Those in attendance:— J. Haire, J. Carey, R. Harrington, S. Payne, H. Morgan, J. Fowler, A. Campbell, D. Turton, K. Dignum (S.A.), W. March, G. Fletcher, Frank O'Niell (N.S.W.). Our ladies J. Epps, B. Payne, L. March and B. Dignum (S.A.).

Our deepest sympathy to Beryl and family on their sad loss. May time help to heal that loss and bring you all peace of mind and heart. God bless you.

A TRUE AND TOUCHING STORY

The article below is reproduced from the Perth Legacy Bulletin relating an experience which happened to one of our Legacy men while street collecting on Legacy Day. It's impact is dramatic:—

I COMPLAINED BECAUSE I HAD NO SHOES . . .

Friday, September 4th and I was rattling a tin on a street corner meditating on the peculiarities of the species, how women who are not going to cough up look at you and smile, or wave while men try to look as if they haven't seen you, or are hurrying to an urgent appointment. Gradually the tin got heavy in my arthritic hands, and my dicky knee was starting to nag and I was thinking I'd rather walk a mile than stand for ten minutes, when I saw him.

Long hair, in his early twenties and working clothes, and having trouble getting money out of his fob pocket. This was because his left hand was withered and he had no right forearm, just a hand where I have an elbow.

That's when I tried to look as if I hadn't seen him. After an age he dropped two dollars in the tin and said: — "Good luck mate, have a nice day."

. . . until I met a man who had no feet.

THE NEW ANZACS

At long last our boys from the Vietnam Campaign are being given the honour and praise due to them for their achievements and their dedication to a cause that was thrust on them by the Government of the day. They fought with discipline and courage in a war such as we never knew and emerged with honour in every direction.

Their march in Sydney on the 3rd October has been arranged so as the people of Australia can let them know their efforts and sacrifices were not in vain. This will be a tremendous morale booster to all those fine young men who so faithfully served their country. They can now so proudly bear the name "ANZACS".

The article below speaks for itself:—

LONG TAN DAY

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Ben Humphreys, said today that he is very pleased that the observance of Long Tan Day shows increasing public acknowledgement of sacrifices made by our armed forces in Vietnam.

Long Tan Day was marked in a number of locations throughout Australia, on the anniversary of the 1966 battle. In the battle 17 Australians and hundreds of Vietnamese lost their lives.

"There were very mixed feelings in Australia during the Vietnam conflict," the Minister said, "With the passage of years it is easier to distinguish between the conflict and the role played by our contingent there."

"The men who fought at Long Tan showed they possessed the courage and skills which had distinguished Australian participation in earlier wars.

"Our Vietnam veterans did the job they were given by the Australian Governments of the day. They won the friendship of their allies in Vietnam, and the respect of their enemies.

"They are entitled to the respect and admiration of their fellow Australians, for the way they did their duty and made the sacrifices their country asked of them, I am pleased that the Long Tan battle has become a focus for this kind of public recognition. I hope the annual commemoration of Long Tan gathers forces in years to come," the Minister concluded.

RANDOM HARVEST

HEARTFELT THANKS

Dear Friends,

Please accept my deep appreciation for your thoughts, prayers and letters during Ron's illness. It gave me great peace of mind to know that I had so many stalwarts ever ready to help in any way. I was very grateful for the understanding shown by you all.

Our family joins with me in expressing sincere thanks.

Gwenda Kirkwood.

George Taylor, Scotty's brother, who had become known to so many of our Association members, passed away suddenly in August 1987. George visited W.A. often and became endeared to all who knew him, both here and elsewhere in Australia. Our deepest sympathy to his family.

Rest in peace with dear old Scotty.

PAT'S GREAT HONOUR

P.J. Da Luz
G.P.O. Box 598
Sydney, N.S.W. 2001

Hon. Secretary,
2/2 Commando Association,

Enclosed is my small contribution toward our Courier with my best wishes for your continued good health extensive to all your families.

Also enclosed is a copy of the USS Submarine Service award certificate which the Yanks so kindly awarded to me.

I would like to thank you for any information which has led to the award. I shall treasure it with honour.

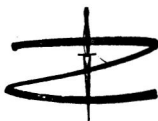
My only sorrow is that the rest of my party is not here to share the awards and decorations with me.

In silence I pray for their eternal rest and every night at 9 may God allow them to be with us.

Thanks again,

Pat.

Editor: Well done Pat, congratulations from us all. So thoroughly deserved.

**SPECIAL UNIT ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

COMPRISING WARTIME MEMBERS OF R.A.N., A.I.F., R.A.A.F., AND ALLIED FORCES IN "Z" SPECIAL UNIT, "M" SPECIAL UNIT, COAST WATCHERS, S.O.A., S.I.A., A.I.B., P.R.S., F.E.L.O., S.R.D., N.E.F.I.S., N.E.A. & 200 FLIGHT

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

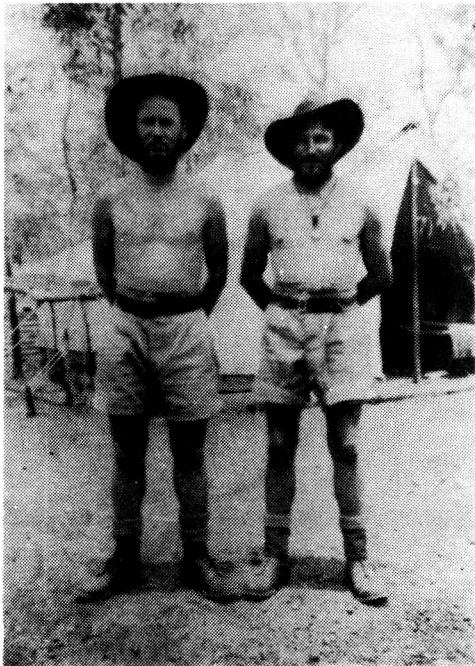
Mr. P. J. da LUZ

HAS BEEN AWARDED

THE UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II INSIGNIA, AND IS ELIGIBLE TO WEAR THIS INSIGNIA, HAVING SERVED ON ACTIVE UNITED STATES SUBMARINE OPERATIONS IN ENEMY OCCUPIED TERRITORY AND WATERS, AND THIS INSIGNIA IS GRANTED FOR HIS CONTRIBUTION IN WORLD WAR II.

I.B. Withers
Hon. Secretary.

This is for "Recognition Corner", two of our lads in the flower of their youth, name them before you read the bottom paragraph.



On the left, John Holly, killed in action in New Guinea, a tradegy, he was too young to die.

On the right, Paddy Kenneally. Yes, he was once so young and handsome.

The photo was taken at Larrimah in the Northern Territory on 19th December, 1942, on the way home from Timor.

JACK CAREY

What wonderful service this member has given to his beloved 2/2 Commando Association. He has been involved in every facet of its history in W.A., to our benefit, our stability and our record of being one of the finest Unit Associations in Australia.

We are indebted to Colin Doig for his keeping of the records that brought to light the fact that Jack has just completed an amazing 40 consecutive years on the committee of the 2/2 Commando Association in Western Australia.

Hail Jack Carey, a fine, dedicated Administrator, loved by us all. Thanks Jack for a tremendous contribution and our love to Delys for the sterling part she has played in your exceptional achievement.

W.W.C.P.

Percy Hancock is at home recovering from his second artificial hip implant. This was carried out at Fremantle Hospital late in August just 12 months after receiving his first artificial hip. Percy is making good progress and maintains he will eventually get around to playing bowls again. Good luck Percy, that's the right sort of spirit. Percy sends his best regards to all members and we all send our kind regards. God bless.

Bob Burns is having a torrid time and is in constant pain, but like the great trooper he is, keeps his chin and his spirits high in the air fighting every inch of the way. Sends his regards to all, particularly his old mates in 9 Section. Hang in there Bob old timer, we are all behind you 100%. Good luck and best wishes from us all.

Gordon Holmes has jumped right back on the ball and, via Jim Smailes, sends his best to all members. Keep the good health going Gordon and kind regards from all the boys.

A COLOURFUL TALENTED 60 YEAR OLD PLUS GETS ON WITH LIVING

Miss Vonny Helberg, an elderly lady who hails from Strahan, Tasmania contacted the Association during her recent stay in Perth. She was shown our Memorial Avenue in King's Park and was most impressed.

Miss Helberg spent several months in Koepang in 1985 and 1986 and will be in Koepang again between September and December this year. She hopes to obtain a visa to spend two weeks in Dili and if she does she will endeavour to visit the Dare Memorial which was dedicated back in 1969, and will report on its present condition.

Miss Helberg would like to see a memorial in the form of a nursing scholarship set up in West Timor in honour of members of the 2/40 Battalion and kindred units who lost their lives there in 1942. She is working to this end along with the 2/40 Battalion Association. She likes writing poetry. Here is one of her poems.

There is a race track very near the main battlefield in West Timor where overwhelmed Australians, many of them Tassies, fought so gallantly against the Japanese. So few were they that they were known as "The Sparrow Force". Last year I passed that way, sad that Australia has not provided these men with a Memorial. A race day was in progress with all the cheerful excitement of an Australian country race meeting. I said to myself "Maybe a race track is a good Memorial for Aussie Diggers . . ."

Every nation has its sounds
Which are to it most dear
And there are two sound that fall the
sweeter
On any Aussie ear!
One the drought breaking rain
Drumming down on hot tin roofs
And on a summer race day
The drum of racing hooves!
By a country track in Timor
Is where war time Aussies died
Out gunned, far, far outnumbered
Australians. Remember them with pride.

As I paused to look at the colourful scene suddenly I saw them. As clearly as if they were really there. A group of Aussie soldiers in khaki, slouch hats tilted back on their heads, eyes appraising the horses, smoking their 'fags' and discussing how they will place their bets.

Well, boys what do you fancy?
The jockeys are saddling up,
The bookies are calling the odds, boys
Struth! Its as good as the Melbourne Cup.
When Phar Lap ran liked greased
lightening.
But . . . Let's take a look at this lot.
Some are really 'no hoppers', doubt if they
even can trot!
You'll put your swag on the piebald?
Or perhaps on the nose of the bay?
You think the blacks got a chance boys?
Hold on, I fancy the grey.
Yes, you can laugh you silly galahs
he's awkward and walks like he's lame
But look at the length of his legs, boys
And the look that tells you he's game.
100 to 1 the grey . . . and I'll take it.
Yes, you lot can laugh til you bust,
But I'll bet my harp to your halo
The others won't see him for dust.
They are lining up at the barrier

Grey yawns. Struth, is he going to sleep?
They're off! Clean start and they're
racing!

Grey follows like a dog after sheep.
He's sure got the inside running
He's got the whole track to himself
But he's loping along like a camel
You boys can stop counting your wealth!
Just wait until he really gets moving,
Come on! Get moving, yer cow!
Watch him, boys just watch him,
He's making a run for it now.
The black's out in front and leading
Nose to nose are piebald and bay
But like a hot knife through butter,
Up through the pack comes the grey.
The black's falling back and failing,
The piebald's not making a try.
It's the bay and the grey together,
Come ON yer little beauty, FLY!
He's done it! I tell you he's done it!
He's a mile ahead of the bay.
Can't say if he's loping or leaping
But now aren't yer wishing yer backed
the grey?

He's got it! I tell you he's got it!
Just listen to that mighty "Hooray"
Yair, I can tell yer I know me horses
And I sure backed a winner today.

Good luck and God rest you, Bluey,
And Tas and the rest of your mates.
Sleep well by that race track in Timor
But on race day when they open the
gates

May you be there to cheer on the winner
And denounce the one "running shy"
Slouch hats tilted back on your heads,
boys
Fag in hand and a laugh in the eye!

Vonny Helberg. 1986

That is quite a talented lady. Good luck in your endeavours.

JOIN THE CLUB

This poem, sorted out by Don & Vida Turton, has hit a very right spot, something that has been experienced by many of us as we go about our daily chores. Read on and make your own self assessment! !

Just a line to say I'm living,
That I'm not amongst the dead,
Though I'm getting more forgetful,
And mixed up in the dead.

I've got used to my arthritis,
To my dentures I'm resigned,

I can cope with my bi-focals,
But ye Gods — I miss my mind.

Sometimes I can't remember,
When I'm standing by the stair,
If I should be going up for something
or have I just come down from there?

And before the fridge so often,
my mind is full of doubts,
Now did I put some food away,
Or come to take it out?

If it's not my turn to write dear,
I hope you won't get sore,
I may think that I have written,
And don't want to be a bore.

So remember I do love you,
And wish that you lived near,
And now it's time to mail this,
And say goodbye my dear.

At last I stand beside the mail box,
And my face it sure is RED,
Instead of posting this to you,
I've opened it instead.

CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

Unit 3, Dalgety St.
Dandenong, Vic.
6/8/87

I am writing to ask if you would please put me on your mailing list for the Courier. I failed to let you know when I shifted from my previous address at Ringwood so have been out of touch for a number of years. Mr Fred Broadhurst got in touch and sent me the address.

Yours sincerely,

Joy Hodgson.

Dee Why
27/7/87

For your information and perhaps for Unit archives I am enclosing some literature from the local branch of the Timorese Cultural Group which has been fairly recently developed. In company with Don & Dulcie Latimer and Arthur Stevenson 2/4, Edith & I attended a luncheon with the Group last Saturday at Fairfield. This was most enjoyable and gave us the opportunity to discuss and observe how well they have integrated into the community -but still preserve most of their traditional culture by way of songs and dances - similar to those who have settled in the West.

It was also attended by two of the older friends in the persons of Pat de Luz and Enrico Periera ex Vila Maria - his son is one of the prime

movers in their Association and a very fine young man with a lovely wife and children.

Edith & I have recently been on a 16 days coach trip with Australian Pacific ex Sydney via Riverina, Port Augusta, Ayers Rock, Alice Springs, Katherine, Kakadu, Darwin and return by air, Mt. Isa, Brisbane, Sydney. A memorable trip that I can recommend to anyone, covering a lot of ground in a short time with excellent meals and accommodation. A far cry from the last time I was through there in 1941 - the Mercedes coach was much more comfortable than the back of an army truck. There was nothing anywhere to indicate where any of our old camp sites had been, and with the influx of tourists over recent years all towns and even the smallest wayside villages have been bursting at the seams. Alice Springs, Katherine and Darwin and all substantial towns and still growing - the latter is a credit to the planners of the post Cyclone Tracey years - I would give them full marks.

On the local front I'm pleased to report all personnel well as far as I can gather.

We have some small problems with the make-up balance of funeral expenses for our late member Jim Hocking, but only requires the undertaker to provide a proper account.

We were saddened to learn of the death of Ron Kirkwood after his long battle - we know his absence will be noticeable on Committee after all the years.

Our congratulations to Arch Campbell on his election as President we know from experience that he will do a wonderful job.

Edith joins in sending our love and warm greetings to you all and we will hope to see you in only a few months time at Phillip Island.

Sincerely,

Alan Luby.

P.S. Whilst in Darwin I called in to see Arthur (Artie) Cullen who came to us from 2/3 Artillery - joined us in New Guinea.

He is still much of a loner, not very fussy about contact with or from anyone. Shorty Stevens spent some time with him in March.

He has moved recently to:

29 Tuckwell Court
Begale Street
DARWIN, 5790

— a very nice block of Pensioner Units.

Regards,

Alan.

Narrabundah, A.C.T.
24/7/87

Just a line or two to accompany a few dollars towards the Courier expenses. We are leading a fairly quiet life these days since retiring from work about six months ago.

Went up to Queensland at the beginning of May, returning home on June 14th. On the way up we had a bit of spare time in Sydney so spent three or four hours at "The Club" with Ron Hilliard - he was pretty good when we left him.

Whilst in Brisbane staying with our daughter Maureen, I contacted Neil Hopper who invited me to the Unit barbecue they have every couple of months. Due to inclement weather on the morning in question I did not make the grade. I was very sorry for this "hiccup" on learning later that it was a splendid day and they had a marvellous roll up.

Had a day with the Coulson Family and a day at "The Bar" in Brisbane with Angus and Alistair MacLachlan. Most folk up that way seem to be reasonably good health.

Our son Warren was elected to Parliament at the recent election. He now holds the N.T. Had a day with the Coulson Family and a day at "The Bar" in Brisbane with Angus and Alistair MacLachlan. Most folk up that way seem to be reasonably good health.

Our son Warren was elected to Parliament at the recent election. He now holds the N.T. seat for Labor in the House of Reps. Needless to say we are quite proud of him.

Bonnie's arthritis has been somewhat of a problem over the last couple of weeks, but I guess that is life and something we have to suffer as she has been plagued with it for the past 30 years.

It is cold, miserable and raining today - yesterday morning it was **minus 7 degrees**.

Must away now, hope all Unit members and friends are well and will see you at Cowes in March 1988.

Regards

Tom Snowdon.

Young, N.S.W.

I am having my first try out on Stan's computer and guess I will make a lot of errors before I get the hang of it.

We were with Jan & Stan & Phillip & Lorraine for about nine months then home for a short time before coming back on 18th August. While we were home I spent a lot of time in the garden, cut lawns etc and had a good general tidy up. A friend of Keith's offered to dig my vegetable garden so I accepted very smartly.

When we came down the first time we spent some few days with Arch & Dawn Claney at Wangaratta then down to Cath & John Roberts for a couple of days. They were all well, although we didn't think John was quite as well as he was saying. They then left for Darwin for six weeks to stay with their son. Cath said the humidity was not good to her but she was glad she had gone.

We missed Ken & Margaret Monk as they were leaving for overseas - they are home now. Harry & Olive Botterill are taking us up to spend the day with them next week. Ken & Margaret are not really well. Ken is due to go into hospital to have an operation. While in Canada he had an abscess in the colon and had it lanced and he now has to have it cleared up properly. We hope that all will be well with him. He is going into hospital at Nerrima South where John & Cath Roberts live, so he will have someone near.

Last time we were down we visited the Davies. Grace had been very sick with bronchitis but was improving and Max looked very well, his legs are a nuisance at times and he has to rest a lot. Peter who lost his brother recently had also had bronchitis but was quite well and they were all looking forward to a holiday as soon as everyone was well again.

Garry McLelland's father passed away recently as a result of a heart attack. Phillip and I went down to see the family - it was nice to meet them as we had all heard so much of one another and had never had the opportunity to meet. Sad in the circumstances, but unavoidable.

Keith's uncle in Parkes passed away, which was not altogether unexpected as he had an operation for bowel cancer and had a lot of trouble. It was impossible for us to drive from Melbourne to Parkes in half a day so we will see the family on the way home and continue on to Gilgandra and see Aunt Gladys and family.

In August Phil, Lorraine, Susan, Linda, Jannette, Keith and I went to see the Bolshoi Ballet and enjoyed it very much. We all came back to Janette & Stan's for dinner and invited Harry & Olive too. Had a lovely evening.

Our plans are to leave here on 30th August, have a few days with the Claney's at Wangaratta, then to Yanco to see friends we haven't seen for many months, then to Griffith to see Alf & Joy Hodge and Roy & Joyce Martin before visiting a school friend of mine at Ariah Park. It is then only 80 miles to home via Temora.

Stan leaves soon to go to Canungra to do a six week course and Jannette will bring the two children up for a time during his absence. It will be great to have them for a while,

As usual I have been very busy at home - I don't seem to have enough hours in the day now, must be getting slow or something. Keith is

very well in himself, but I am noticing that he is not able to do quite as much for himself as he used to but he never grizzles and we will surely make it to Phillip Island in March if it humanly possible. He's had two falls since we've been home. Both shook him up quite a bit but he was able to do the trip quite easily.

What about the photos in the Courier of the Mini Safari! I don't know who sent them but guess it could have been Alan Luby.

Dorothy & Ron Trengrove are well and were off to Nelson's Bay to stay with Jack & Marj. Peattie and look at photos of their trip around Australia. Joyce Smith had not been really well but was much improved. Joan Darge and John Meldrum called on us and they were well. Paddy has been to see us lately and is tip top. Talked to Ted Cholerton before we left and they are fit. Will call them on the way home from Gilgandra and will also try to see Kath Press while we are in Orange. Haven't heard from the Goodacres for a while but if they are at Canowindra when we come through it will be good to see them.

We had a great day at Monks and Cath & John Roberts were there. Monks had slides of the Roberts daughter's home and family in England which was a lovely surprise for them. A lot of laughs and chatter with friends of the 2/2nd. Of course it is always that way when any of us get together.

Best wishes Arch, and hope this finds you really well. Our best wishes to everyone in the West. Love from us, Phillip & family and Jan & family. Phillip goes to Kapooka in November. Susan has applied for a transfer to Albury. She doesn't really like city life but Albury is only about 80 miles from Wagga so she won't feel so far away from them all.

All looking forward to March next year.

God bless.

Keith & Betty Craig.

Brisbane, Qld.
20/8/87

Would you kindly arrange to have two copies of Col Doig's book sent to me. I was pleased to read in this month's Courier that Col is improved in health. Enclosed is a cheque for \$50.

By an amazing chance I have met and married an old friend from my girlhood. He's a wonderful man and companion to me and my daughter Louise who is still at home. She's a lucky person to have a caring and kind stepfather.

My best wishes to the boys - the familiar names bring back memories of young men. It's hard to believe so many years have gone by.

Kindest regards.

Dorothy Gibson (Spence).

Cloverdale, W.A.

Thanks for the good wishes, although I must put you right. I didn't fall out of the tree, just had a bad turn and finished up at the Medical Centre with **very** low blood pressure (must be getting old.) Am feeling C.K. again so will do a bit more finishing and less work.

An enclosing cheque to help fund the Courier which is a terrific effort from all of you.

Best wishes to all. Cheers & beers.

Doc Wheatley.

Maroochydore, Qld
15/9/87

Dear Jack,

George hates writing letters so he asked me to write and thank you for letting us know about Charlie Pierce.

We returned from six weeks holiday in Cape York and are now in Melbourne arranging an auction to sell my mother's home as she intends coming to Queensland to live. She has purchased the home next door to us in Maroochydore so we hope to leave Melbourne on Saturday to return home.

Please tell Charlie how concerned we are to know he is in hospital. We hope he is well very soon.

We had a wonderful holiday up north. We stayed with Jean Palm at Rockhampton, George Shiels at Bowen, Alan Soper at Townsville, visited Charlie Browne at Cairns, rang Bulla Tait at Ayre but he was busy with his crop so we didn't annoy him. We found that Dexter Fowler was ahead of us. We spent six weeks looking for him but he got away.

When we returned to Maroochydore we received news that my mother was ready to retire to Queensland. She is just a girl of 90 so we decided not to waste any time getting to Melbourne. We stayed at Kingscliffe with Max Davies, Grace & Peter, then on to Tamworth at the Peatties, over to Dubbo to check on the Sharps - Phyllis is coming to the Safari. Forgot to mention, we had lunch in Brisbane with Hoopers, then on to Canberra to check out the youngest grandson, No. 8. His name is Bryan not Henry as you would expect seeing he is the 8th grandson. Had lunch with Joan & Jim Fenwick. Have decided you can tour Australia just visiting the 2/2nd members.

Please keep us informed how Charlie is getting on. We enjoyed his visit to Queensland. He is a nice man. Give him our love.

Regards,

George & Bettye Coulson

Seaton, S. Aust.
Sept. 1987

Ron Gurr from Coonawarra, South Australia, has a severe attack of writer's cramp and gave me a donation towards the Courier.

Ron is keeping in top condition. Betty & I have been down twice this year to stay with him, so we keep in touch.

Am also including my donation for the Courier.

Keith Dignum.

Ainslie, A.C.T. 2602
5 Sept.

Dear Sir,

Please find enclosed a cheque for your association. I have been on the mailing list for the 2/2 Commando Courier for about a year now and have very much appreciated the opportunity of receiving news of members of the 2/2 whom I knew, some personally, most by reputation.

My brother, Mervyn Ryan, came to Canberra over twelve months ago with the Safari which gave me a chance to meet so many of his friends and in some small way to understand the special mateship which have bound so many together over all these years.

Mervyn died last year. Receiving the Courier provides me with one special little link with an area of his life which was very important to him.

Yours sincerely,

Dawn Laing.

Editor: So nice to hear from you and thanks for the kind donation. Kind regards to all.

VALE — MAL HERBERT

Word has come hand on the tragic death of Mal Herbert on the 27th September 1987. He died in Saudi Arabia while in transit from Europe to Australia. This was a most unexpected happening as Mal always appeared to be in excellent health.

Mal was an original member of our Unit and served for the whole of his army career in the Six Section of 'B' Troop. He finished his army career as a Corporal, having fought in the Timor, New Guinea and New Britain campaigns. It must be said that Mal was a really outstanding soldier in every capacity. His leadership was of great quality and coming from the country he was an outstanding Bushman with an uncanny sense of direction. His mates in Six Section will mourn his passing in a really big way.

On his return to civilian life, he went back to wheat and sheep farming at Nungaren and married shortly after his demobilisation. His farming ventures were more than successful and he branched out to take up a property at Borden which proved his ability as a farmer in a new area.

Probably, Mal will be best remembered for his activities in the Rifle Shooting movement. His interest was immediate after the war and along with his brothers and cousins the Nungaren Club was one of the very best in W.A. Mal won a Queens Prize in 1961, also the Duke of Edinburgh aggregate in the same year. He was among the Queens medal winners for many years and was Captain of an Australian Team at the famous Bisley Shoot in the U.K., and, coach of several Australian Teams.

His interest also took him into the Executive area and he became President of the W.A. Association and a member of the Australian Executive.

He was so eminent in the Rifle shooting sport that his name will go down with the immortals of that sport. It is coincidental that he died during the current Queens Prize Shoot in W.A.

Mal took a keen interest in our Association affairs and was one of the party who went to Timor in 1969 for the opening of the Memorial at Dare.

Vale to Mal Herbert, great soldier, great rifleman, great citizen and true family man.

We extend our most sincere condolences to his wife and family.

Lest we forget.

Col Doig

An extremely large crowd attended Mal's funeral to pay tribute to a man who was a tower of strength in the district of Mungarin in all its spheres.

Tom Prosser of the W.A. Rifle Association gave Gerry Haine Mal's proud record in the field of Rifle Shooting:

Life Member:
District: Mungarin Rifle Club.
State: W.A. Rifle Association.
Australia: National Rifle Association of Australia.

President: W.A. Rifle Association since 1983.

Order of Australia: Awarded for outstanding service to Rifle Shooting.

Our 2/2nd representation was excellent considering the short notice members received and the Herbert family was deeply appreciative of our efforts to farewell our beloved mate Mal.

To see the Unit Flag draped over the coffin, Jerry Haire and Reg Harrington acting as pall bearers in a group of men who had the honour of being a part of the activities in which Mal was involved, was an emotional sight indeed.

Our members present at the Church service and the graveside were: Gerry Haire, Reg and Pat Harrington, Stan Payne, Tom and Ilma Martin, Ray Aitken, Don Turton, Keith Dignum (S.A.), Don Hudson, Archie Campbell.

Our love goes out to a very brave Elinore Herbert and her family.

Editor: This article speaks for itself. Our deep appreciation goes to our Liaison Officer, Gerry Maley, for his wholehearted involvement.

EAST TIMORESE AT THE UNITED NATIONS

As a direct result of the 2/2 Commando Association members generous support of our call for donations, the Timorese Democratic Union (U.D.T.) was able to join with their Fretilin countrymen in New York on 13 August 1987 to present their case for the process of self-determination to the Special Committee on Decolonization of the United Nations.

The spokesperson for the U.D.T. was Joao Carrascalao who journeyed from Sydney, and he was supported by Domingos De Oliveira from Perth, Dr. Moises Do Amaral from Portugal and Dr. Paulo Pires, also from Portugal. The representatives of Fretilin included Abilio Araujo and Jose Ramon Horta. In addition, others supporting the East Timorese in condemning what they said was the Indonesian Colonization and Military occupation of East Timor were from the Catholic Institute for International Relations, the Asia Watch Committee, the Hobart East Timor Committee, Amnesty International, Tapol (the Indonesia Human Rights Campaign), the Komitee Indonesia, Iwamura Shouhachi (an ex Japanese Major who served 2½ years in Timor during the War), Raul Brito (a Portuguese member of Parliament), and the

Association for Solidarity with East Timor.

On 14 August 1987, in a press release of the Decolonization Committee, the Indonesian Committee was reported as saying, in part, "Indonesia was firmly opposed to the discussion of the political and constitutional status of East Timor by the committee or any other international forum. Decolonization having been consummated in East Timor a decade ago and its people having chosen independence through integration with Indonesia, such a discussion would clearly constitute interference in matters essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of a Member State.

"By the same token, he continued, Indonesia was consistently opposed to the granting of hearings to so-called petitioners on the question, for, far from serving any useful purpose, their testimony had never rising above "The now-all-to-familiar litany of malicious misrepresentations, slanderous insinuations and down right fabrications." He repeated much more in the same vein.

The Special Committee concluded their deliberations with a decision to continue consideration of the question of East Timor at its 1988 session.

This gave all members of the U.D.T./Fretilin delegations great heart, and they intend to enlist support throughout the world to assist with a massive presentation next year. Our friends are already planning their campaigns, and are gearing their local organisations towards fundraising activities.

You will all be happy to know that by effecting every economy possible the delegation you sponsored was able to achieve its objectives within the sum total of our East Timor appeal. It was a magnificent result.

Sadly, it appears that our hopes that one result of the petition to the Decolonization Committee would be a more humane and enlightened treatment by the Indonesians to the native East Timorese residing in their homeland, have not materialized. News of the mistreatment of relatives of the delegation to the United Nations is already being received. We have urged the persons concerned to document this information and forward it immediately to Amnesty International.

I have been asked by the President of the East Timor Association to convey to you the heartfelt gratitude of all the East Timorese People for affording them the opportunity to present their case for self-determination to the world's highest highest forum, the United Nations.

Gerry Maley,
Liaison Officer.