

# **2/2 COMMANDO COURIER**

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

**Vol. 72**

**AUGUST 1988**

**Price 1¢**

## **COUNTRY CONVENTION ESPERANCE**

**3rd/7th OCTOBER, 1988**

**CHECK WITH YOUR JUNE COURIER**

Act quickly as there are 25 bookings in already.

*BE THERE! You will have a super time*

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## **ANNUAL REUNION LUNCHEON**

Anzac Club Perth — Friday 21st October 1988

**MEN ONLY**

Refreshments from 11.30 a.m.

*JOIN YOUR MATES*

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## **ANNUAL COMMEMORATION SERVICE**

Sunday 20th November — 3.00 p.m.

LOVEKIN DRIVE, KINGS PARK

***THIS DAY DESERVES A FULL MUSTER***

**Note:** *Statement of Receipts and Expenditure Year Ended 31st January 1988 will appear in October issue. Space shortage.*

## NOTES ON ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD TUESDAY 17/5/1988

There was a good attendance of 29 members.

Jim Smailes and Keith Hayes were made Life Members, both worthy recipients.

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS 1988/89

President	Archie Campbell
Vice President	Jim Smailes
Secretary	Jack Carey
Treasurer	John Poynton
Editor	Archie Campbell
Warden	George Fletcher
Auditor	John Burrridge

### Courier Committee

Mary McKenzie  
Betty Illsley  
Gerry McKenzie  
Len Bagley

### Committee

John Burrridge  
Bob Burns  
George Bayliss  
Col Doig  
Wilf March  
Dick Darrington  
Jack Fowler

### Country Vice Presidents

Goldfield-Esperance	Peter Campbell
Northern	Peter Barden
Midlands	Reg Harrington
South Coastal	Bill Rowan-Robinson
South West	Clarrie Turner
Mandurah	Joe Poynton

It was a very good meeting.

Finances are in a very healthy condition.

Excellent report from the President.

Courier Committee keen to maintain six issues next year.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Members of the 2/2nd Commando Association.

My sincere thanks to you all for your tremendous support during my term of office, it made my task a delight and certainly a very rewarding experience.

It was a year of activity and one of involvement. The Merredin Convention in September 1987, so efficiently organised by Stan and Barbara Payne. Our deep concern for the East Timorese culminated in their being able to present their case for the process of self determination to the Decolonisation Committee of the United Nations. The cost

was underwritten by our Association and all this skilfully organised by Gerry Maley, our East Timorese Liaison Officer.

Our 'Meet the Visitors Day' held in the Lion's Hall, Mandurah, was a big success and was very well organised by Helen and Joe Poynton. In excess of 100 members were present to make our visitors feel welcome.

The Reunion Lunch and Commemoration Service are yearly commitments. Then the Christmas Luncheon gives us an opportunity to say a heartfelt 'thank you' to our ladies for all their devoted and loyal support throughout the year.

Jess Epps had an open day for all to see the 'Epps Historical 2/2nd Museum' which has been so skilfully put together by son Peter. It will remain a tribute to Jess and Peter and will be something that will take the 2nd Independent Company, later the 2/2nd Commando Squadron, into posterity. Our deep appreciation to you both for your loving care and thoughtfulness.

Our Honour Avenue in Lovekin Drive, Kings Park continues to flourish by the good graces of the Kings Park Board and the vigilant attention of George Fletcher, to whom we owe a deep debt of gratitude.

The year came to a conclusion with the 1988 Cowes, Phillip Island Safari and Reunion, so brilliantly organised by Tom Nisbet, Leith Cooper and the boys of the Victorian Branch. It was indeed a highlight, one of the best ever.

To all the state branches our gratitude for your close co-operation in all things appertaining to the efficient functioning of our Association.

Colin Doig's Unit History was wonderfully received and its impact on the Unit's finances was unbelievable. Colin, your generosity was overwhelming, showing the deep love of the 2/2nd Commando Association for whom you have worked for so long and tirelessly to make it tops in Australia. Your name is indelibly imprinted on the hearts of us all.

What can one say about the dedication of Jack Carey as Secretary, without whose guidance and efficiency a President's job would be onerous. Jack gives his all to the Association in every sphere and we owe to this member a deep debt of gratitude, not only from a President's point of view, but that of the whole Association. Thank you Jack for your devotion and your skills.

John Poynton, our Treasurer, weighed in with a superb effort and while he has the fiscal reins we will find our finances in good shape. A special thank you John from the President and all members for your keen and co-

operative approach, especially your Financial Report to the National Conference in Cowes.

The Committee who represent all the 2/2nd members deserve our special thanks for their continued and loyal support.

To the editorial team headed by Gerry McKenzie, his hard working band of helpers who produce the lifeline of the Association, Mary McKenzie, Ken Bagley, Betty Illsley and the Editor, may I, on behalf of you all, give them a hearty vote of thanks for keeping that lifeline well and truly open.

Our close association with the S.A.S. regiment continues and we are very conscious of the honour they pay us by being ever ready to support us in our activities. We wish them good luck, as we do to Lt-Col. Terry Nolan who has been transferred to a higher posting interstate. Thank you the S.A.S. Regiment.

To all members, wives and families, wherever you may be, to the widows of our old mates who have gone to the vale beyond, God bless, be of good cheer. We are one big family and to all of you may I say thank you sincerely for having me as your President for the year 1987-88. I am deeply conscious of the honour and thank you for your tremendous support.

Archie Campbell  
President

**N.S.W. BICENTENNIAL COMMANDO REUNION**

*To be held in Sydney from 7 to 11 November, 1988*

The invitation is open to ex-members of all Commando Squadrons, but this is more directly of concern to 2/2nd members. Our committee has applied the kiss principle in order that folk attending will have adequate time for convivial gatherings with old mates and their wives. We hope to be able to billet those of 2/2nd attending, if they so wish.

Frank Clark, a member of our Committee, has a bulk booking at the "Clairmont" Inn, 4 Ward Street, Rushcutters Bay. Anyone wishing to use that facility, please contact Frank direct. Anyone wishing to be billeted please advise me personally, and as soon as possible.

Alan Luby  
6/35 Richmond Avenue  
Dee Why, N.S.W. 2099.

**NEW SOUTH WALES  
COMMANDO ASSOCIATION  
NATIONAL REUNION — SYDNEY  
7-11 November 1988**

**APPLICATION FORM**

**Mon 07 Nov: 1100**

Roll Call Paddington Woolhara R.S.L. Club, Drinks and smorgasbord lunch available.

Attendance: Yes/No  
Accompanied by .....  
Deposit required per person \$15

**Tue 08 Nov: 1000**

Changing of the Guard at Victoria Barracks. Followed by tour of Barracks and Museum. Afternoon — Coach tour of Sydney's Northern Beaches to arrive at No. 1 Commando Company, George's Heights for Barbeque evening meal. Followed by display of modern day commando training and tactics demonstration.

Attendance: Yes/No  
Accompanied by .....  
Deposit required per person \$25

**Wed 09 Nov.**

**FREE DAY** — Evening: Formal Dinner at Paddington-Woolhara R.S.L. Club.

Attendance: Yes/No  
Accompanied by .....  
Deposit required per person \$20

**Thu 10 Nov.**

**UNIT DAY** — Units to organise their own activities.

**Fri 11 Nov: 0945**

Wreath laying ceremony at Commando Memorial, Martin Place

**1100**

Armistice Day ceremony at the Cenotaph. Afternoon — Coffee Cruise of Sydney Harbour.

Attendance: Yes/No  
Accompanied by .....  
Deposit required per person \$20

*Return to NSW Commando Association.  
Don Latimer, 8 Cumberland Street, Blacktown, 2148.*

Afternoon tour and return from George's Heights approx. \$19.00 per person. Coffee Cruise of Sydney Harbour approx. \$17.50 per person. Above rates still being negotiated.

\$80.00

From .....  
.....  
.....

*Recommended Accommodation:*

Clairmont Inn, 4 Ward Street, Rushcutters Bay.

Cost per room (up to 3 persons) \$90.00 per night. Deposit required \$50.

Bookings direct to: Mr Frank Clark, Swire Travel, 8 Spring Street, Sydney, 2000.

Advise with your deposit to our Sec. Don Latimer, 8 Cumberland Street, Blacktown, 2148. Phone: 622-5694.

## ADDRESS BOOK

As was suggested and agreed at the National General Meeting at Cowes, a reprint of the Address Book will be done. A sub-committee comprising Archie Campbell, John Poynton, Keith Hayes and Len Bagley was formed to get the job started.

MEMBERS please help your State Branches and notify them of any changes to your whereabouts or phone numbers.

Please make this No. 1 priority on your list of things to do — thanks.

Len Bagley

## COLIN DOIG OAM

*'For service to the welfare of veterans'*

This citation appeared in the Queen's Honours on 13/6/88 and delighted every member of the 2/2nd Commando Association.

There were other members involved in the submission, but the writer was thrilled to have been asked, as a Referee, to write a submission on behalf of the Association.

It is fitting at this time that what was written on your behalf should be published. I trust justice has been done to the thoughts of you all.

The Editor

### COLIN DOUGLAS DOIG

He was born in Wagin, Western Australia, on the 3rd March, 1912, a product of the land, he became part of it and lived close to it, in his approach to all things.

Colin's affinity with the 2/2 Commando Association had its roots in the years of war. He was an original member of the 2nd Independent Company formed in May 1941, later to assume the designation of 2/2nd Commando Squadron.

From that moment onwards his contribution to the 2/2nd was one of single purpose to which he has devoted 46 years of his life.

His service in the theatre of war was outstanding. In Timor, as a Lieutenant, then New Guinea and New Britain, rising to the rank of Captain, his excellent contribution is now history. He was, over all those years, a much respected leader and soldier in his service to the country he loves so well.

Post war he became known as the 'Father of the 2/2nd Commando Association'. Without Colin's drive, personality and faith in the founding of such an Association, to keep intact an historic Unit, we would have found it difficult to get off the ground.

He is a man amongst men, virile, forthright, keen of mind, razor sharp, small in stature, but a heavyweight in performance. Yet, deep in that heart of his he is a real 'softie', always looking for means of helping any of our unfortunates. He has been a tower of strength in a diversity of ways, while the man hours he has expended are inestimable.

Colin has done so much for the Association he committed his life to serve. He has occupied every post within its structure, given his expertise, his time, his devotion, so that in the final analysis we have an Australia-wide Association of which to be proud. He gave us something to hang on to, something to unite us all, including our wives and families, in a common bond that has lasted into this year of 1987. Along with this his ministrations have helped to settle hundreds of East Timorese who have sought refuge in Australia, and they have become first class citizens. This was only, as he put it, part of the debt we owed them.

Colin Doig has created and fathered the finest Unit Association in Australia. It produces a Courier six times a year to keep its members, as far flung as the United Kingdom, informed. By his personal efforts all the foregoing has transpired, his commitment of 42 years since the end of World War II has been undeviating and tremendously successful. No accolade can match the contribution of this man who, after being close to death's door for a long period, still serves on the Committee of his beloved Association.

Colin Doig has just finished writing 'A History of the 2nd Independent Company and 2/2nd Commando Squadron', leaving to posterity the deeds of a famous Unit of which he was an integral part. Prior to that, at the War's end, he proceeded and succeeded, to make the 2/2nd Commando Association live. This, with his wholehearted, deep and total commitment which was nothing less than magnificent!

A Campbell  
State President  
2/2 Commando Association  
of 4A Frobisher Avenue  
Sorrento, W.A. 6020



## NEW SOUTH WALES NEWS

Our quarterly meeting at Arncliffe R.S.L. on June 6th was poorly attended. We have quite a long sick list which partly accounted for loss of numbers. On the sick list, Mick Manix recovering from an eye operation, Les Eisenhood, gall bladder operation plus a long stay in Concord recovering from a break down in health. He was a sick man for quite a time but is now fully recovered and back home in Newcastle. Not often you see the 'Block Buster' laid low. Bill Gallard also had a long spell in hospital, up and about once again. Keith Craig was in hospital in Young when I saw him last but assured me he would be back home by the end of the week. It's been a long road of poor health for Keith and he is an example to many of us by the courage and patience he has when in adversity. Noel Buckman is another on the sick list. Last news I had from Marie is he has improved but a long way to go yet. We wish all these comrades a speedy recovery.

On the bright side, a baby daughter to Gay Melham, nee Devlin, so Betty has another grandchild. Congratulations to mother and grandmother and a happy life to the colleen. Bill and Coral Coker also have a new grandchild per daughter Kim — this is Kim's third. Best of luck and health to the growing clan, Bill.

Curly O'Neill headed up the north coast for warmer weather after he picked up a dose of flu which won't leave him. Apart from that he is keeping well.

Congratulations to Col Doig on his receipt of the Order of Australia, a well merited recognition of the work he has done for so many years in helping the less fortunate and the encouragement he has given to people in adversity. It was a double event for Col as he was discharged from hospital on the 12th June, with his leg wound practically healed up. Good luck from all the Cornstalkers, Col.

The N.S.W. Commando Association's National Reunion being held in Sydney from 7th to 11th November 1988 promises to be a good one. There won't be any dull moments, but plenty of happy memories. Any 2/2nd men contemplating attending should contact Don Latimer of 8 Cumberland Street, Blacktown, 2148, phone 622 5694. Oh yes, seeing this is 1988, our 200th birthday, and era of liberation, all wives and girl friends are also invited. If any man has the courage to bring both, he will more than likely be suitably decorated by either one or the other.

The Poms have two football teams out here at the present, one purporting to play Rugby Union, the other playing Rugby League. The

Rah Rahs had better go back to the home countries or better still go to New Zealand and learn how rugby is played. They are pathetic, they even made our blokes look good and, believe me, that's an achievement. The Kiwis slaughtered Wales, 52 and 54 to 2 and 9 respectively. I'm afraid unless our blokes improve they will do the same to us. The Kiwis are good, both forwards and backs. They are tough, big and fast. The rest are just big with a bit of speed here and there and non-existent in toughness. The Pom League team nearly caused an upset but not to the extent the sports writers make out. They had enough ball to win it, despite all the sports writers blah our blokes won 17 to 6. The Sydney sports clan couldn't take a team that comprised eleven Queenslanders in a squad of fifteen.

Good Luck,  
Paddy Kenneally.

## VICTORIAN NEWS No. 1

The 1988 Phillip Island National Reunion has been and gone and, looking back on it we, the Victorian Committee, hope everyone had an enjoyable time. We were blessed with perfect weather — every day fine and sunny.

Everything went off satisfactorily which made it all worthwhile for the hard working good and capable Committee and other helpers. We had such wonderful co-operation from all concerned on the Island, the Seahorse, Coachman, Kaloha, R.S.L., Bulldog Club, Jane who catered for the welcome and farewell functions, and from all reports they really enjoyed our company and we are welcome back any time.

Our trip to Wilsons Promontory for the memorial service was a good one, also the commemoration service at Cowes when Jack Fox did a great job as marshal.

The Unit dinner, the old time dance and the welcome and farewell dinners were the organised functions and we hope everyone enjoyed them.

Our thanks to Carlton & United Breweries, McWilliams Wines, Jalna Foods (the firm run by Bruce McLaren's sons Cameron and Stuart) for donations of their products, the Army for transport for our train and plane visitors to and from Cowes, No. 2 Commando Company for their assistance at the memorial service at the Promontory.

We wish every success to the South Australian boys who will be organising the 1990 reunion.

*Editor: Missed June, Harry but here it is and it still makes good reading.*

## VICTORIAN NEWS No. 2

It is with the deepest regret that we have to announce the passing of Max Davies on 16th July and we extend our sympathy to Grace and Peter and other members of the family.

The funeral service was held on 19th July at the Springvale Crematorium and the following members and wives were present: Harry and Olive Botterill, Betty Craig, Wilma Tobin, John and Cath Roberts, Ken and Margaret Monk, Alex Boast, Fred Broadhurst, Tom Nisbett, Norm Tillett, George Veitch, Paul Costelloe, Jack Renahan, Sep Wilson, Bill Tucker, with apologies from Bluey Bone, Dave Brown, Jack Fox, Sir Bernard Callinan, Leith Cooper.

Tom Nisbett gave the eulogy in a very impressive manner, outlining the services Max had given to the Unit. The Unit flag which was presented to us at Cowes was placed on the casket and all members laid poppies.

We will sadly miss Max as he has been a stalwart of the Association right through from the War and he and Grace and Peter attended every safari except the last one when Max was very ill, and we sincerely hope that Grace and Peter will still join in our activities.

Betty and Keith Craig are staying with their daughter Jan for a week. Keith had a bad fall just before they left but Olive, Wilma and I were over there for dinner with them and Keith was still very alert and quite perky.

Fred Broadhurst is quite well and going along nicely.

The R.S.L. passed a letter on to me from one of our original sig members, Bert King, who is in Tasmania and wanting to get in touch with any of our members. I have given him all the news about past and present sigs of the Unit. He would like to be included in the Address Book and placed on the mailing list for the Courier. Name and address attached.

Harry Botterill

## TIMOR DOCUMENTARY — INDEPENDENT COMPANY

This historical record of the Company is completed and Colin South, in his letter to the Association via Archie Campbell, conveys details of what is happening.

Colin is now a member of our Association and his attention to detail, acting on our behalf, is nothing short of amazing. I know, with your concurrence, I can extend to Colin our appreciation of his co-operation and positive understanding of our Association as a whole, fully exemplified by his utilising the

Australian War Memorial in Canberra as a repository for the material that will go in it to posterity.

Colin has been, and will be, more than generous to the 2/2nd Commando Association as you will see in the article below. Already in train is the opportunity for members to purchase this documentary record by means of a 'slip in' form that will come to you via the Courier.

We have always acknowledged that if you wear the Red Double Diamond insignia you share the glory. While this is cast in the Timor mould only, we all have close mates who feature in it and it is a story of the Unit as a whole, so there will be many who would like to possess a copy.

The SBS 'offer' is a generous one and will feature on a special cover the Red Double Diamond on a grey background, with the title against a magnificent photo of 'A' Platoon at Larrimah in December '42 — beards and all!!

Now read on:

21st June, 1988

Mr A Campbell  
4A Frobisher Avenue  
Sorrento W.A. 6020

Dear Archie,

No doubt you are aware our program "INDEPENDENT COMPANY" has been completed. The program is now in the hands of SBS Television who have unfortunately postponed broadcast until early 1989, as part of their series "Warriors".

A complimentary copy of the program will be forwarded to each person interviewed along with a copy of their original interview footage. These will be sent in the next few weeks. By special arrangement with SBS Television a limited number of copies at a greatly reduced price will be available to 2/2 members and friends.

Copies will only be offered to the general public (at the normal price) after the program has gone to air. All details concerning the offer will appear in the 'Courier'.

It has always been my intention to deposit all research and original material, both written and visual, with the Australian War Memorial, in Canberra. As part of this material includes correspondence and the recorded interview with yourself, I have enclosed a copyright release form which requires your signature and return to my office.

David Dexter has kindly offered to include his massive 2/2 archival material as part of this gift to the War memorial. Christopher Wray, author of Timor 1942, is also generously donating his research material. The collec-

tion will not be broken up and will remain a separate collection in its own right. It is intended that the handing over will take place in October 1988 at the Australian War Memorial.

I am placing only one restriction on the material to be held by the War Memorial; written permission must be obtained before release is given for material to be used outside the Memorial itself. This is a usual request and is intended as a safeguard against the material being used out of context, or not in the spirit in which the collection was donated. This restriction would apply for five years.

Our collection includes ten hours of filmed interviews; Australian, Portuguese, Japanese books; articles and correspondence; radio program recordings and photographs. If you feel you have material that you may wish to donate, it would be most gratefully received acknowledged and incorporated into this significant, comprehensive collection.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

Colin J South  
Producer

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## VALE MAX DAVIES

Max Davies, one of the truly great persons of our time, passed on to eternal rest on 16th July 1988.

A giant of a man physically, intellectually, and with an outstanding personality. Just how does such a mediocre pen as mine do justice to the passing of a truly great person? I can but try, with due humility.

Max first came to me and to the Unit as a refugee from 2/40th Battalion and soon showed that he was a man of true quality. The further things progressed in Timor the great qualities of this man shone forth both as a soldier and particularly as a leader. Max must have ranked amongst the highest with his leadership of a section in 'D' Platoon in that fearful area in Timor. Because of age he seemed to be precluded from obtaining a commission but if ever there was an officer ex officio it was Max Davies.

The subsequent campaigns in New Guinea and New Britain only served to extend his greatness as a soldier and leader. He and his mate Jim Griffin were two of the Unit's great benefactors and we gained immeasurably by getting their services.

Peacetime saw Max return to his avocation as a bank officer with the Victorian Savings Bank and he served in many areas as a

Manager, notably Horsham, Swan Hill, Shepparton and Stawell and his name was held in the highest possible regard in all his places of residence.

Max was the truest possible worker for the interests of ex-servicemen in every sphere but of course with special reference to his beloved 2/2nd Commando Association. His work on behalf of our Unit Association and his overall liaison with the executive officers of the Victorian Branch were outstanding.

Max, Grace and Peter McCracken were just the greatest when the interstate Safaris were being conducted. They were always number one on the scene and it was good for the eyes to see the giant frame of Max emerging from his car to greet all and sundry with a beaming smile and a hearty 'good day'.

I will leave it to the officers of the Victorian Branch to give their valedictories to this great bloke.

For me, Max was something special, as I was one of the first to have his services in Timor with the Unit and he has always remained that way.

Our sincere sympathy to dear Grace and Peter.

Goodbye mate, I'll never forget you.

Col Doig.

*EDITOR: All members of the Association would say 'Amen' to Colin's eulogy.*

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## VALE GEORGE ROY LEWIS

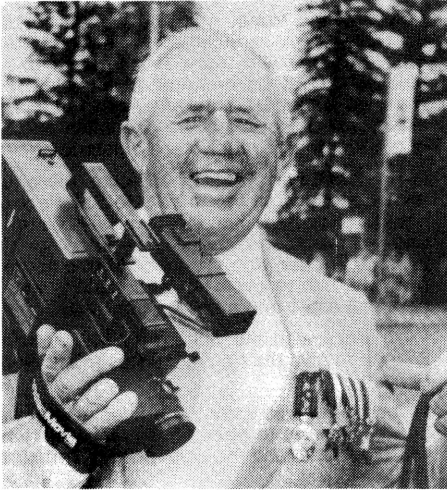
A real old timer has departed this vale of tears. The famous Welshman of 5 Section Timor, New Guinea and New Britain is no more. George died on Saturday, 28th May at home working in the garden he loved so much.

George was the very heart and soul of loyalty to everything and everyone with whom he worked. Probably the most versatile person you could ever meet. He could construct anything out of nothing. He was beloved by all who came in contact with him because of this ability to help in any way possible. Of steady, phlegmatic nature he was like the Rock of Gibraltar in the most vital of situations. A forward scout extraordinary because of his photographic memory and his desire to protect both himself and his fellow patrol men.

Before the War, a farm labourer and teamster, he migrated from Wales in the 20's in the poorest of conditions and soon was endeared to the family for whom he worked.

# BOB SMYTH'S ROGUES

WE PAY A TRIBUTE TO TWO OF OUR LATE ESTEEMED OLD MEMBERS.



Mal Herbert



John (Irish) Hopkins

**THREE**



Jack Carey



Joe Poynton

## BOB SMYTHS ROGUES GALLERY

This is a brand new feature made possible by the expert and diligent photographing by Bob Smyth of members at our Anzac Day marches.

We are going to have eight photographs in each Courier on the centre pages, and not all

from W.A. However, the idea is to introduce the 'Sandgroppers' and later on we will be calling on the other states to make their contribution. How do we look 40 years odd after the event is over? Do not deluge us just yet — we will send out the signal! Criteria —good photographs, christian names (nicknames if any) and surname attached for identification.

# GALLERY — SEQUENCE 1

*Our Leader in Timor,*

*His 2 1/2 C*



*Bernard Callinan*  
**OF BALDY'S**



*Rolf (Baldy) Baldwin*  
**BOYS**



*Roy (Plugger) Watson*



*John Fowler*

Bob has performed a tremendous task getting this off the ground with a series of magnificent photographs. Negatives will be available and photos can be purchased at a very reasonable cost which is yet to be determined.

As this gets off the ground in this August issue we trust you will enjoy something a little different.

Thanks Bob for a great contribution.

The Editor.

George saw the whole of the War out with 5 Section of our Unit and was a great N.C.O. by any standards.

After the war he returned to farm work in the Lake Grace area and then moved to South Australia where he married and took up a small holding. He later returned to W.A. where he resumed farm management and retired some 20 years ago.

It is with extreme regret we have to say good-bye to this lovable quiet character.

We extend our sincere sympathy to his widow Dorothy and other family members.

Col Doig

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## VALE SID JONES

The man with the monkey has gone to his well earned rest. Sid Jones was a really outstanding character with a very shrewd sense of humour.

Sid joined the 2/2nd from 2/40th Battalion in Timor. He had been the Postal Corporal with that Battalion. Sid was best known with the 'H' Force at the east end of Timor and for his ownership of a small Marmoset monkey of the most mischievous nature. He managed to get this animal back to Australia in his shirt when we were evacuated from Timor but it was eventually confiscated and transferred to Townsville Zoo.

After Timor Sid returned to Tasmania and finished the War in that area. Later in life, in retirement, he went to the Gold Coast in Queensland and we caught up with him at the Safari there in 1981 when he was his usual jovial self.

Good-bye old timer, it was a pleasure to know you.

Col Doig

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Clarrie Varian has had a rough passage for a long time but this article, which appeared in The West Australian newspaper is giving him a brand new lease on life. You deserve it Clarrie for you have been determined over a long time, to get back on the ball. Well done, good luck from all members.

## Heartburn given a new meaning

A RADICAL medical technique has given a whole new meaning to the term "heartburn" for Victoria Park man Clarrie Varian.

The 68-year-old has literally had part of his heart burnt out to rid him of an abnormal heart rhythm.

The procedure, carried out at Royal Perth Hospital, is believed to be the first of its kind used anywhere in the world to treat his particular condition.

And ask the former bus driver what it has meant to him and he will answer: "Everything."

Instead of being confined to home because he could barely walk from his bed to the door, he is now a regular visitor to the local shops.

"A few years ago I didn't think I'd ever get much further than my front gate," he said yesterday.

The procedure, which took place a year ago, involved the use of radio frequency energy which was delivered to his heart via a catheter.

Mr Varian was conscious as he watched cardiologists position the wire in his ventricle to deliver a high frequency electric current to burn the damaged part of the heart.

Now RPH cardiologists are happy to claim the surgery a success and a medical paper on the technique is expected to be released internationally within a few months.

Today, Mr Varian bears only a small scar on his right arm where the wires entered his body and a handful of computer print-outs, a reminder of his heart's erratic rhythm patterns.

Before the surgery he was plagued with life-threatening rhythm disturbances after suffering a heart attack in 1968.

When other options were exhausted the RPH team decided to use the radio frequency energy.

"I was happy to leave it to the experts because they knew best," Mr Varian said.

"Now I owe them everything."

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## 5 MD ARMY HOLIDAY RESORT MANDURAH

We have been advised by the Australian Army 5MD that the Army Amenities Fund has purchased six holiday units in Mandurah and these units are available to all ex-servicemen. Three units have accommodation for six and three have accommodation for eight persons.

Each unit is fully furnished self-contained flat with all kitchenware, cooking facilities and bedding provided. You need only to bring linen, towels, tea towels, toiletries and food. Extras provided with each unit are colour television, gas barbecue and bicycles.



The tariffs are:

6 berth units \$110 per week.  
8 berth units \$130 per week.  
6 berth units casual rate \$22 per night.  
8 berth units casual rate \$26 per night.

Brochures and application forms are available from:

Coord Section  
HQ 5th Military District  
Swan Barracks  
Francis Street  
PERTH W.A. 6000  
Phone: (09) 328 0532

or

The Manager  
Mr. J.M. Spence  
90 Foreshore Drive  
SINGLETON W.A. 6211  
Phone: (09) 537 1086

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## Thank you letter to all

P. Sharp  
22 Quinn Street  
Dubbo 2830

Dear Archie,  
Thank you for your letter and kindness shown to me during my illness and please thank all those lovely people who went to Phillip Island for their cards and get well wishes sent to me during my stay at Lithgow. Frank said it was a very good Safari and I was very pleased you all had a wonderful time.

Re my health, no worse, some days better than others.

We had a visit from the Wellers on their way to Darwin — they certainly like travelling. Alan and Edith Luby came from Sydney in the XPT train a few months ago. I thought that was a very kind thing to do.

Fred Broadhurst had a rough spin. He is home and getting better. I do hope he will come up for a holiday soon, he said he would as soon as he is well enough to travel. He is a funny man with all his yarns.

Keep well and thank you for everything.

Yours sincerely,

Phyllis Sharp

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## 'SKEETA' BAGNALL

He was a member of 7 Section in Timor under Lt. Archie Campbell and was badly wounded at Dare.

Little has been heard, and hardly anything seen of 'Skeeta' over the years. He was a great little soldier and had plenty of what it takes, suffered a lot with his leg which had the muscle shot away.

Quite a few boys, including the Writer, would love to catch up with him if he is still on deck. If anyone can throw some light on his whereabouts would they contact the Writer in W.A. or Harry Botterill in Victoria.

The Editor

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## Thank you message to all

George Albert Humphreys  
Passed away 11th March, 1988  
Aged 69 years

Together, the Humphreys family wish to thank you for your kind thoughts and messages of condolence.

Your thoughtfulness and prayers were deeply appreciated and will always be remembered.

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## Thank you message to all

Dear Arch,  
I have never met you but to me you are always "Arch Campbell" — I have read so much about all of you in books and papers that George had that all the names are very familiar to me. Thank you so much for being at George's funeral on the 4th June. I think you men looked wonderful that day — so proud to be there for an old mate. I am so grateful to all of you.

My thanks also for sending the Legacy people out to see me. They are being very helpful. At first I thought I could not stay here on my own but a lot of problems have been solved and now I feel confident that I can stay. I have caring neighbours and the 'Extended Care' people are being helpful, so will stay as long as I can cope. I am 82 and can't do many things these days that I used to do — I wish I could. However, I think I will manage.

George went suddenly — I found him lying in the garden. He looked so peaceful it must have been instantly.

Sincerely

Dorothy Lewis

## RANDOM HARVEST

14A Norman Street  
Bently 6102

Members & Friends of 2/2nd Commando Association

Dear Friends,  
Thank you for your attendance at the Cemetery to farewell John. Your support was indeed appreciated on such a sad occasion.

Through the efforts of your association and Legacy I now have the status of 'War Widow' and receive benefits accordingly. It is a great relief to me to have that finalised and my thanks to all responsible.

No doubt you will be pleased to know I'm applying to have a plaque installed in the Garden of Remembrance at Karrakatta for our dear John.

I hope to see some of John's mates and friends as time goes by. In the meantime keep well and God Bless all.

My thanks for posting me the Courier. I'm enclosing a small cheque to help with expenses of same.

Yours faithfully,  
Betty Hopkins

## QUEEN'S HONOURS 13/6/88

TOM HUNGERFORD has been honoured by the Queen in the Honours List recently released.

Tom was an outstanding soldier in the 2/8th Commando Squadron and, because there are only a few of them in W.A., has always closely related to the 2/2nd, quite a few of whom, including the Writer, are old mates of his.

Well done Tom, your journalistic talents are well known to all in W.A. and across Australia. Your contribution to the literary scene has been a substantial one and you have a very high ranking in the field you love so well. Your honour has been thoroughly earned and richly deserved.

On behalf of all members of the 2/2nd Commando Association, your W.A. home, heartiest congratulations Tom Hungerford, one of us.

TERRY O'FARRELL, R.S.M., S.A.S. REGIMENT has been honoured by the Queen and no one more thoroughly deserved the accolade.

You have been a good friend to the 2/2nd Commando Association and we heartily applaud your well deserved honour. Well done Terry, it could not have happened to a more dedicated soldier.

Congratulations from all members. We will drink your health on the next appropriate occasion.

## W.W.C.P.

COLIN DOIG has returned to hospital, this time the Hollywood Repat Hospital, with the same old leg problem, and at the time of writing his condition is improving. Col has spent an unbelievable time hospitalised and must be the most amenable patient in W.A. Good luck from us all old timer, and a prayer that this time success will be yours. STOP PRESS. Col has been discharged and looks great.

HARRY SPROXTON is still in there punching and his condition has improved quite a bit. Thelma weighs in with tremendous support and Harry alone would know the therapeutic value of her loving ministrations. All members are behind you Harry, in your hard fight to gain a reasonable health standard. Good luck and God bless.

NEIL SCOTT is still battling against a heap of odds and is full of optimism. You have the courage Neil and we all have the prayers. Good luck and God bless.

WILF MARCH is on the road to recovery and with Lorraine taking care of him will soon be back to full walking capacity. Good luck and best wishes for a speedy recovery. God bless.  
Good News. Wilf is home well and truly on the move — a great recovery.

ERNIE BINGHAM. There have been many enquiries about Ernie's health, proof of his popularity. Well, the news is first class — he is right back on the ball, fighting fit and that is a dangerous situation for Ernie to be in, as well we all know. Verna and the family have been through a traumatic time but your love and devotion have helped Ernie's recovery. God bless you and good luck from us all.



## CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

W.F.C. Pierce  
4 Hedditch Street  
South Hedland 6722

I must thank Leith and Marg. Cooper for sending me two copies of the front page of the Phillip Island 'Sun'. The girl who took the photo promised to send me a few copies but they have not turned up yet so don't think they will now.

What a marvellous Safari it was, made all the more so with wonderful help I received from a lot of good mates and their lovely wives. I won't mention names but those involved will know who I mean and I wish to thank them very sincerely as it really meant so much to me so thank you one and all for helping me have an unforgettable time.

All the very best.

Pidgin

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N. Mullins  
15 Fitzgerald Road  
Morley 6062

Enclosed is a donation for the Courier.

Congratulations to everyone for a wonderful Safari.

I would like to thank all the people who looked after me and made my stay at Phillip Island so nice.

Hope everyone had a safe trip home.

Regards to all.

Nellie Mullins

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John and Cath Roberts  
P.O. Box 132  
Neerim South, Vic 3831

Dear Friends,

Well the shouting and the tumult of the 1988 Safari is over. How wonderful it was to see all of our friends once again. One does not notice the grey hair or slower footsteps in the genuine smiles and greeting. Sad to notice so many familiar faces missing this time but nice to meet new ones attending for the first time. I hope they make it to the 1990 wherever that may be.

What a time we all had. Good accommodation, good friends, not too strenuous and perfect weather. What more could we need. My thanks to the Committee for their tremendous efforts especially Leith Cooper and Dave Brown. My special thanks must go to marj Cooper and Thais Brown for their 'superwoman' efforts in acting as secretaries

to their husbands and adding the 'nice' touches to the function.

I daresay others will be writing on this subject so will say no more.

The death of George Humphreys saddened the Roberts family. He was always 'Uncle Pancho' to our children and they were quite grown up before they even knew his name was George. One event that brightened up the day of Pancho's funeral was a telephone call from Lyle Litchfield at Maree — after 40 odd years. He would have been a starter for the safari but they are having a bad drought at present and he and Lois were unable to get away. Lovely speaking to him though.

Max Davies now out of hospital and progressing well. John called at the hospital to see him after the Anzac Day March but was to have returned home next day. Spoke to Freddie Broadhurst by 'phone last week. He also is progressing and is doing all the right things — either that or he answers to wife Mavis.

No. 1 son's general store and licensed grocery store is going well although he had a setback recently. The store was robbed — safe taken as well as a few cigarettes and bottles of good whiskey taken. No damage was done, thank goodness — they only picked the best whiskey and apparently their own brand of cigarettes so he got out of it lightly.

No. 1 daughter's third child due in November. Sue still at University but has deferred a couple of subjects this year so as not to make things too hectic.

Ruth well and truly back in England after Jane's wedding in Fremantle last January. Says that it all seems like a dream now.

Jane busy as usual at the Cockburn Child Centre. States that now she is married to a Western Australian, she is one now.

Twin brother Craig is hard to get hold of these days. Although he still lives in Darwin is currently stationed in Jabaru. As John says, at least he is still in Australia.

Spoke to Win Humphreys on the 'phone yesterday. She is well and coping with all the business which is the aftermath of a traumatic time. Hopes to stay with her brother in Darwin in June, then will go and stay with another brother in Canada during next September.

Well folks, that's it. John and I sincerely hope that those of you who are on the 'sick list' are improving and we send our warmest regards to one and all.

John and Cath Roberts.

Peter Barden  
2 Dampier Street  
Geraldton 6530

First of all let me express pleasure that you saw fit to re-elect me Northern Area Vice-President at the Annual Meeting in May. It is certainly an honour to hold such an important position in such an illustrious organisation so please accept the attached donation for use in any way you think fit.

Secondly, allow me to join in the hearty congratulations that have been extended to Col Doig on having been awarded the OAM (Medal of the Order of Australia) in the Queen's Birthday Honours, in recognition of outstanding service to the welfare of veterans. A more appropriate recipient it would be impossible to find, and nobody knows more than members of the 2/2nd Commando Association the great work that Col has done over such a lengthy period.

I would like, on behalf of my sister Betty, to say a big thank you to all those who attended the funeral of her husband John Hopkins, better known to most of us as Irish, and also our Association President, Arch Campbell, and others for their tribute at the graveside. It was heart-warming to the bereaved to hear the eulogies involving Irish that were extended at the funeral Mass by my brother Monsignor John Barden of Geraldton, and Father O'Flaherty of Mullewa, formerly of Morawa where this Irish priest got to know "Irish" well when he was working for Western Mining. Also many thanks for the help, given to Betty in connection with the widow's pension arrangements.

April 22, 1988, was a big day at Geraldton because it was on that day that the Proclamation declaring Geraldton a City was read out by Queen Elizabeth the 2nd. This gracious lady also officially opened extensions to our Civic Centre (a building she had officially opened in march 1963) and also the new Community Centre. It is obvious that the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh have a warm place in their hearts for Geraldton as it was their third visit. Our economy depends to a great extent on our agricultural and fishing industries and I'm delighted to report that both are currently experiencing good seasons.

Yours Truly is on the Publicity Committee for the Golden Jubilee celebrations of St. Francis Xavier's Cathedral — one of the architectural gems of the late Monsignor John Hawes. It was my pleasure to provide a feature news item for the "Geraldton Guardian" newspaper regarding the installation of four brilliantly-hued stained-glass windows in the Cathedral dome. The cost of the Four Evangelists' Windows — \$20,000 — has been covered by a

bequest made to the Cathedral a couple of years ago.

It was on August 28th, 1938, that the completed building of Saint Francis Xavier Cathedral was opened in an impressive ceremony. The Blessing ceremony was carried out by the third Bishop of Geraldton, the late James Patrick O'Collins. However, as a consecration ceremony has never taken place, the Consecration of the Cathedral will be performed by the Bishop of Geraldton, Bishop Barry James Hickey, during the Golden Jubilee celebrations on Tuesday, August 30, at 6pm. The programme also includes a Parish Mass on Sunday, August 28, at 9.30am, and a Concert of Sacred Music by the late Don Moreno of New Norcia on Monday, August 29, and 8pm.

A special guest for the Golden Jubilee celebrations will be the Bishop of Nassau in the Bahamas, Bishop Lawrence Burke. It was in that Diocese that the late Monsignor Hawes operated as the Hermit of Cat Island after having served the vast Geraldton Diocese for 24 years and being responsible for the architecture of the Geraldton Cathedral and other edifices and also both the architecture and the actual building of such structures as the Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel at Mullewa.

I again marched with Nip Cunningham on Anzac Day which again proved to be highly successful with more than 600 marchers taking part in the main parade, including about 120 ex-service personnel, as well as RAN personnel from HMAS Swan and HMAS Geraldton, Army Reserve members, the Geraldton City Band, the Caledonian Pipe Band and various youth groups. Forty wreaths were laid by representatives of various organisations at Birdwood House memorial where an inspiring address was given by Commander John Newman of HMAS Swan. He said that as a nation they had been told that there was no clear threat to Australia. However, Commander Newman said that while the threat may be difficult to define in military terms, they should not doubt that the threat existed. It existed in the challenges to those traditions, ceremonies and forms of behaviour that they hold dear. It existed in the acceptance of mediocrity and dishonesty in society. Commander Newman said it was important that the youth of Australia understood the price of freedom because, irrespective of their country or origin, their faith and their background, it was they who would be required to sustain the "Spirit of Anzac".

Although he did not march, well-preserved 92-year-old Ted Dodds of Port Macquarie, New South Wales, attended our Anzac Day ceremony. Ted joined up from Geraldton 73

years ago (in 1915) and served with the 51st and 11th Australian Infantry Battalions. Asked the reason for his return to Geraldton, this sprightly nonagenarian replied with a smile: "I came for a wedding — but not mine!"

Nip was proud of the fine photographs that 11 year old grandson Bradley Johnson took on Anzac Day, including those showing Nip swinging his arm in fine style and those at Birdwood House Memorial including one that featured Nip and daughter Jan Johnson and young friend Tania. Nip was proudly wearing his 2/2nd necktie. Although he has been experiencing leg trouble, Nip generally enjoys good health and will celebrate his 76th birthday on July 2.

Kind regards and best wishes to all the 2/2nd boys and their families.

25/6/88

Peter Barden

W.F. Krause  
4/91 Beach Road  
Sandringham 3191

A little bit of nourishment for the Courier.

Regards to all.

Peter Krause

EDITOR: Thanks Peter. Shortest letter sent, but biggest heart.  
Good luck from all the boys.

R. Morris  
53 Hilder Street  
Weston 2611

Herewith cheque being payment for book and donation to the Courier.

We have so far had a very mild winter with the snow on the mountains now just slush and it is colder today.

Sincerely,  
Ron Morris, JP.

Mavis Harris  
121 Lakin Street  
Bateau Bay 2261

Enclosed is a cheque on behalf of the memory of my late husband, 'Bluey' Harris.

It is good to see, after all these years, that interest has been kept up in all States with the wonderful cameraderie that has existed from war time.

I have been lucky that in my sickness, 16 years ago I met an old soldier who has contributed to my welfare, being my minder, nurse, driver, cook, wheelchair attendant when I go out, and has a close affiliation with

the 2/2nd. He is Jack Cheetham who, after being with the 7 Div. Sigs went to Japan with the 67 Inf. Bn. but didn't know 'Bluey'. Later he served as Section Leader to Charlie Anderson in Korea and was in Malaysia when Charlie was ambushed and killed. I met him when he was a member of Arncliffe R.S.L. in 1971.

We have a 3 bedroom house and any 2/2nd members passing through Gosford we would like you to give us a call — 043 341565. We also have a nice bowling club down the road.

Mavis Harris

P.S. Jack had to write this for me.

E.A. Field  
715 Pacific Highway  
Narara 2250

Thank you for letting me know that you sent my letter re Safari and video on to Leith Cooper. Running time of tape is approximately two hours. It is mainly of Cowes Safari but the portion at the end was taken by movie camera at the Perth 1970 Safari and transferred on to a video tape. We have sent a copy to Jim Smailes and you could possibly tape portions that you feel are most important and newsworthy.

Shall look forward to news in future Couriers and also hope to be with you on next Safari with my wife.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Field

M.H. Jones  
RSD 211A W/Kentish Road  
Sheffield 7306

A few lines to change my address and tell you of my move to Tasmania. Arrived here November and bought a house late December in Sheffield, a farming district about 20 minutes from Devonport. Margery and I have certainly changed our life style as we are living on 3 acres with 180° views and the nearest neighbour about half a mile away. The house faces a famous Tassie landmark, Mt. Roland (about three miles away) and every day it changes its face, brought about by the cloud formations. Very soon it will have snow on it but am not worried about the cold as the house is well insulated and has a very good wood heater.

I will probably be in hospital in about three or four weeks for an operation to insert a tube to take the place of my diseased kidneys (5% left) and then the fun begins. I will have to change a dialysis bag every six hours (½ hour) 24 hours a day and the prospect is not pleasant and makes it difficult fitting in social activities. However, I am suffering nausea

every day and sometimes can't eat so am hoping that the operation will at least halt this situation. On the positive side, I have a very caring wife and also quite a number of Christian friends who are very supportive.

I felt a bit down on Anzac Day as a stranger here and did not attend for the first time in many years. I missed the Sydney boys but God willing and depending on how I handle the ongoing treatment, I am aiming to attend the Combined Commando Safari in Sydney in November and later the South Australian Safari. I'll finish on this happy note and pray that God will keep everybody fit and well in spite of the advancing years.

Cheers,

Merv. Jones

*EDITOR: Best of good luck during your operation and a speedy recovery when it is all over. God bless and all the best from Members Australia-wide and our love to Margery.*

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T.A.G. Hungerford  
Lot 10 Amherst Road  
Canning Vale 6155

Dear Jack

My very warm thanks for your letter and congratulations tendered therein. It certainly was a proud moment for me but the great bulk of the pleasure I get from it is that it has given so much satisfaction to my friends and also that it honours all writers through me. By and large, they don't get much recognition.

Would you please pass on my appreciation of this letter of yours to the members of the Committee and to members generally of the Association. I appreciate it very deeply.

Yours sincerely,

T.A.G. Hungerford

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## DONATIONS

Mavis Harris, Betty Hopkins, Jess Epps, Nellie Mullins, Gwenda Kirkwood, Beryl Griffiths, Ron Morris, Jim Fenwick, Peter Krause, Peter Borden, Paul Costelloe, Colin Knight, Dud Tapper, Mick Morgan, Robbie Rowan-Robinson, Ray Parry, Ron Dook, Bernie Langridge, Harry Holder, Doug Fullarton, Alan Luby.

John Poynton on leave — may have missed a few — be in next issue.

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

HERD, E.  
(Eric & Lorraine)  
Unit 2, Grevillea Units  
Hemingway Place  
Iluka 2460

JONES, M.H.  
(Merv & Marge)  
RSD 211/A West Kentish Road  
Sheffield  
Tasmania 7306

HALSE, L.  
Les  
23 Phillip Grove  
Kalamunda 6076

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## NEW ADDRESS

Mrs M. Harris  
Mavis  
121 Lakin Street  
Bateau Bay 2261  
Phone 043 341565

PARNHAM, T.  
(Tom)  
P.O. Box  
Latham 6616

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## ALTERATION

COSTELLOE, Paul  
Victoria  
Add 'E' to Costello

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## DELETE — DECEASED

JONES, Sid  
Queensland

LEWIS, George  
Western Australia

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## ADDITION TO ADDRESS BOOK

H.E.KING  
Bert  
27 Kardinia Crescent  
West Ulverstone 7315

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