



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

Registered by Australian Post Publication No. WAS 0270 — Category "A"

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

Vol. 74

DECEMBER 1988

Price 1c



A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Xmas 1988 climaxes a year that has been full of wonderful friendship for all the members of the 2/2nd Commando Association. The Cowes-Phillip Island Safari welded this magnificent Unit Association into, if it was possible, an even closer group. More of us are seeking the company of each other to share the happiness and warmth of friendship that is available to us via our Safari's, and mini get-to-gethers, which take place in each state.

Particularly at this time spare a thought for our widows who are so much a part of all our activities. May this festive season bring them the happiness they deserve and alleviate the loneliness that they feel.

Xmas is the time of the year for families to share the love and affection in the special way they feel for each other. It is very right too for us to give thanks for the birth of our Saviour who closely protects us all and makes life so very enjoyable, and, whose birthday creates such happiness on every Xmas Day right across the world.

May it be a time where our prayers go out for those less fortunate than ourselves, that the maimed and infirm will find relief to enjoy Xmas, that the New Year will bring hope for a return to good health.

May it bring to this world a respite from the wars and hatred that predominate and a speedy return to that priceless Xmas Message, **"Peace on Earth and Goodwill to all men."** This would assure the future of our children and their children's children, it would provide a world worth living in, free of horror, and full of that wonderful four letter word, **"LOVE!"**

To all members Australia wide, or whatever part of the world they are in at this time, plus members of their family, all of whom are an integral part of the 2/2nd Commando Association, I wish you most sincerely:

A Merry Xmas and a New Year full of happiness. God bless you all.

Archie Campbell,
President.



COMING EVENTS

BAROSSA SAFARI 1990

16th - 26th MARCH

NOTE: Keep your Couriers containing information on this prime Association function where you can find them. Starting with October 88, so as you can follow developments regarding accommodation, prices, etc.

Direct contact with O. K. (Keith) Dignum, 24 Selkirk Avenue, Seaton, S.A. 5023, phone (08) 356 2137, and as early as possible is a definite

requirement, to give Keith and his small, but very active committee, ample lead time.

Read on for current news:

More info for the Barossa, we have put on hold the Nuriootpa Caravan Park "B" section, which has the cabins and the vans together, also the Top of the Valley Motel and the Vine Hotel, Motel. By 1990 all the rooms in the hotel will be altered to motel type rooms.

We are using the age old democratic method, first up best dressed, so get your deposits in. We are asking for \$50.00 deposit which is for accommodation only.

At present we have bookings from Victoria, N.S.W. and Queensland.

When you are budgeting for the safari, remember prices are quoted for 1988 only, and there will be an increase, we will give you a firm price at a later date.

We stress again, those who have vans, bring them, the vans and cabins are together in "B" section.

The Top of the Valley Motel is ½ klm from the park in Murray Street, and the Vine Hotel, Motel, a further ½ klm still in Murray Street, which is the main street.

As you know Dud Tapper is in hospital, he is our horizontal committee member, from his position he sees things from a different angle, that helps.

He is still very interested in the planning, and puts his 2 bobs worth in.

To visit Dud is quite a pleasure, he is handling his affliction extremely well, and enjoys visitors.

Not being chauvinists we have invited the girls to attend our meetings, to agree with our decisions, and organise the supper. Marilyn is our unpaid and hard to get on with typist. The main reason we have her for typing, her typewriter spells better than mine.

Cheers,
Keith Dignum.

DO IT NOW!

almost waterless situation, getting their water from the heavy dews falling on the scant foliage. He fed a fish to an eagle on the wing and told us that this eagle appears from nowhere whenever the boat is visiting the islands and people never cease to wonder at the intelligence of this sea bird of prey. The sea was lively, to say the least, and most of us were soaked but the skill of Don manoeuvring his boat between the islands and nosing close in to get an excellent view of each island was appreciated by everyone and the trip was voted an outstanding success.

On Wednesday we enjoyed a coach trip to Cape Le Grand National Park and beauty spots between. The park is within the Recherche Archipelago named by Chevalier D'Entrecasteaux, the French mariner, in 1792, after his exploration vessel 'La Recherche' (The Researcher). It consists of 16,000 hectares of rugged, scrubby, windswept land bounded by brilliantly white, sandy beaches such as Lucky Bay which is a safe haven for boats, being nearly island locked, and ideal for swimmers and fishermen, with its emerald green water. Rock Formations in the park are most unusual, patterned by the wind and rain over the ages. The top of a mountain which is high as Ayers Rock is known as Frenchman's Peak because of its resemblance to the peak of a Frenchman's cap, can be seen from all all angles and was used as a navigational aid by explorers in the early days.

From Cape Le Grand we proceeded to the Campbell farm where we were greeted by the Campbell family, with son John playing a welcome on the bagpipes. The entire family had worked to make this day a great success, supported by Neil and Margaret Hooper, Helen and Joe Poynton and any member of 2 Section, 'A' Platoon who wanted to help. It was a team effort of some proportion which produced a repast second to none, with ample refreshments to keep the enthusiasm alive. Peter gave us a humorous, educational and very entertaining run down on the history of the property. This man certainly knows his country. Pat supported him, filling in the gaps and adding colour to the formation of their beloved property "Yonga Downs."

Archie Campbell conveyed the thanks of the 2/2nd Commando Association for the exciting Country Convention so well organised by Peter, Pat and their family. He welcomed Tom Starceвич, V.C., an outstanding World War II soldier, and his brother Ivan. They have, by virtue of marriage, integrated with the Campbell stock and there is no doubt about the quality of future generations. He thanked all concerned for the wonderful barbecue lunch, John for the warm Scottish welcome. He extended our love and affection to Peter and Pat and told them how much we appreciated the opportunity of seeing Esperance at close hand.

ESPERANCE COUNTRY CONVENTION 3rd - 7th OCTOBER, 1988

From the day Peter and Pat Campbell invited us to Esperance for the 1988 Country Convention it was going to be a big success—and so it was.

Sixty five Association members descended on Esperance by car, caravan, plane and bus to support Peter and Pat who have always been grand supporters of the Association. From the first get-together on Monday afternoon the scene was set for three days of laughter, fun and togetherness which has become part and parcel of our Association. There has never been a Unit Association quite like ours.

Tuesday was a fine day but with a cool strong breeze and a choppy sea for our tour of quite a few of the islands of the Recherche Archipelago. We headed out to sea on board the M.V. Cape Le Grand, a sturdy tug piloted by Don MacKenzie, a first class mariner. His running commentary on the islands and what they contain in the way of bird and animal life and sea creatures was educational and humorous and he showed us seals, Cape Barren Geese, wild goats that thrive on an

On Thursday morning we visited The Lookout west of the town, where we enjoyed a commanding 360deg view of Esperance and its environs. It was a view of breathtaking beauty with the 160 islands of the Recherche Archipelago outlined in a shimmering blue sea. Our next treat was the magnificent coastal scenery of the western beaches where the sand is so fine and white and swimming and surfing areas abound, the swimming areas sparkling light and dark green in the morning sun — most inviting. The Pink Lake was displaying its best dress and is certainly an intriguing sight. Next stop was Baker's 'Born Free' Wildlife Park and wildflower display. Here we saw a large collection of animals, Australian parrots and a wide variety of other beautiful birds, with the quail species running free everywhere. There were fresh and dried local wild flowers and an orchid display defying description. So much to see, equal to anything anywhere.

To wind up the Esperance Convention we sat down to a well catered dinner in a private room at the Pier Hotel. Neil Hooper did a fine job as Master of Ceremonies with sincerity, humour and a relaxed manner, helping the night go with a swing.

Len Bagley conveyed our thanks to Neil with his usual aplomb and mentioned possible venues for the 1989 Country Convention.

On behalf of the ladies Helen Poynton presented Pat with a token of our love and affection, with a short, very sincere speech.

In making a presentation to Peter, Archie Campbell eulogised Peter for the contribution he had made to ensure that everything went like clockwork and everyone had a wonderful time. On behalf of all present he thanked Peter, Pat and their family for a most enjoyable Country Convention.

Peter and Pat responded in their own inimitable style with sincerity, some emotion and a message of how much the Association means to them. It has been a big part of their lives.

Good things come to an end and next morning it was time to turn home wards, still thinking of the Campbell's hospitality and the good time all had enjoyed.

God bless you, Peter, Pat and family. Your 2/2nd mates give you our love and thanks for a memorable stay.

The President, Alan Luby, gave his report on the doings over the past twelve months. A copy of this report will be forwarded to the W.A. Branch in due course.

The following executive officers were elected:

President:	Alan Luby (unopposed)
Snr Vice Pres:	Ron Goodacre
Jnr Vice Pres:	Col Holley
Vice President:	Bill Coker
Sec.-Treasurer:	Jack Hartley
Assist. Secretary:	Paddy Kenneally

Committee: Ron Hilliard, Stan Dowman, John Went, Mick Mannix, Bill Gallard, Fred Janvrin.

Auditor: Bill Hoy

Treasurer Jack Hartley gave the following details of our financial position:

Commonwealth Bank Savings Account	\$156.10
N.S.W. Building Society Account	691.07
Cash Balance	<u>\$847.17</u>

Social functions during the year were limited. Our Christmas get-together held in conjunction with the N.S.W. Commando Association Christmas luncheon at Paddington RSL. Some members believe we should still hold our own get-together, as these days, apart from quarterly meetings, it is our only outing where members, wives and families meet, which is important, as more of us seem to take that trip across the river Styx.

Our sympathy goes out to the families of the many members we have lost in the last twelve months, so many fine men whose friendship and company we enjoyed through the years, from our young manhood to our old age. We cherish their deeds and memory.

Our sympathy to Jack Fowler and family in their sad bereavement. Jean was well known to all of us, respected and admired by all who had the good fortune to know her.

I attended a Mass to celebrate the silver jubilee of the ordination of two Timorese priests, held at Patrician Brothers College in Fairfield. A big contingent of Timorese present. The 2/4th was represented by Arthur Stevenson and Gordon Hart. Michelle Turner, grand-daughter of ex 2/40 Bn. man, Pte A. W. Hickman, who served with us in Timor, was so impressed by the stories he told her of Timor and its people that she is writing a book on their recent history.

N.S.W. NEWS

The Annual General Meeting was held on 5th September, 1988. Present were Alan Luby, Jack Hartley, Stan Dowman, Bill Coker, John Went, Ron Goodacre, Col Holley, Paddy Kenneally. Apologies from Ron Hilliard, Mick Mannix, Bill Hoy.

A RETURN TO GOROKA

While Theo Adams was down to see Expo he conned me into going up to Goroka with him. Alastair and I went up for a three weeks stay. Theo runs an accommodation lodge on the outskirts of Goroka and that is where we took up residence.

I did not have the pleasure of visiting Goroka during the War, spent the time in hospital, con. camps and staging camps, so could not compare it with the present day Goroka. Having said that, I can still say you would not know present day Goroka. I have no idea of the population size, I don't think anybody has, but it must run to 10,000 or more.

Theo took us up to where the Unit had camped, which is now a large Teachers Training College catering for all areas of P.N.G. The airport is in the centre of the town and you can virtually step out of the plane into the shopping centre.

Favourite pastime seems to be drinking — anyone who can't knock over a dozen stubbies a day is not worth his salt. I was never so happy to see Swan 9%, it saved the day for me.

One of the drinking fraternity took us for a run up to Hagen, a distance of 130 kms. The road to Hagen is good to fair to bloody terrible. It crosses the range at 8,100 feet and we missed some of the scenery because of travelling through cloud for quite some time. As you can imagine, it was very mountainous until we entered the Hagen valley. Hagen is bigger than Goroka with more industry. The valley supports many coffee and tea plantations. The Goroka valley is mainly coffee.

The Goroka Show was on while we were there and that alone was worth seeing. Some 3,000 warriors from Lord know how many tribes invaded the showgrounds for the weekend. In fact, most of them were there days before and kept us awake at night as they practised their chants, probably lubricated by cartons of warm beer. Alastair suffered more than most as someone knocked off his wallet at the weekend.

A few days later we were taken down to Lae for an overnight stay. Lae is 300 kms by road from Goroka and it is a good road broken up in spots. The Markham valley was extremely hot and the car air-conditioning was not working. Lots of cattle and pig farms in the Markham. Lae is quite large, a good looking town but hot and sticky, another good drinking town. The riots took place there a few days before we visited and many shops were boarded up with five play. Visited the war cemetery and was impressed. The airstrip is still at Lae, looks in good condition, but is used only by the Army. The airport for Lae is at Markham some 30 kms up the valley.

Our best day was when we hired a helicopter and did a one hour twenty minutes flight to the Ramu. Left the airport and flew across to Bena which consists of only a few small villages. The old Bena strip is clearly visible but is now a gigantic market garden. We then carried on up to the Bena gap, dodging cotton wool clouds and sliding up the sheer sides of the

mountains. Passed 'through' the gap at about 7,000 feet and down into the Ramu valley. At Dumpu you can just see the outline of the airstrip and there are a few bits and pieces of biscuit bombers lying around. Upstream of old Dumpu are large sugar plantations.

We then went up to Shaggy Ridge, hard to tell which ridge is which as there are about seven of them all the same steep sided with a plateau about two metres wide at the top. I find it hard to believe we climbed hills like those when we did our bit up there. I guess being young and silly does have something going for it.

We then journeyed downstream to Faita, our old home. All there is at Faita is the remains of the Liberator bomber and a Lightning fighter. The Ramu river was a surprise to see. The season has been pretty dry and from the air I would say you could walk across the river. A broad river bed with about six narrow streams flowing along it.

From Faita we took off up hill to go through the Goroka gap and back to the airport. Cloud cover was fairly heavy and we flew up narrow valleys dodging round clouds looking for the hole we could get through. Finally reached the top of the ridge at 8,000 feet only to be met by a solid wall of cloud. Turned back and went downhill again dodging cloud. We finally saw a blue hole which appeared to be about 10 cms in diameter so we started climbing up another valley towards it. Finally made the ridge at 8,500 feet and there ahead of us, in the distance, was the Goroka strip.

Wherever we went the mountain scenery was glorious and very rugged. After seeing it Alastair reckoned he was glad his war was fought down on the coast.

A most enjoyable stay. The weather was fine, 24deg to 26deg and two-blanket nights. The company was very good though very wet inside. Nice place for a holiday but wouldn't like to live there. We spent overnight in Moresby on the way up. I think I prefer the Moresby we had during the War.

Before we left Goroka Theo put a chalk mark on the wall to signify the fact he had finally talked somebody into going back into our old stamping ground. Don't know when he will get a second chalk mark up there.

Arrived home in time to mow the lawn and weed the garden. What a let-down.

Regards to all.

Angus.

EDITOR: Great letter Angus, what a thrill for you and Alastair and how kind of Theo to extend the invitation. Thanks for letting us share your adventure.

ANNUAL REUNION LUNCHEON

Held in Anzac Club on Friday, 21st October, this was a first class function with a fine roll call of 45 members.

Len Bagley passed on greetings from Jack Hartley wishing us a successful and enjoyable day.

How grand it was to see faces that have been missing for a long time. Don Young and Peter Alexander were warmly welcomed, likewise Henry Sproxtton whose health, fortunately, is improving, and Ernie Bingham who has recovered from a long illness. Don and Peter had not been seen by many of us for nigh on 40 years. Great to see you all back amongst us.

As Toastmaster, Len Bagley made the luncheon go with a swing. It was a masterly effort Len and we all appreciated your performance from the time you introduced our guests until the luncheon concluded.

Major Joe Urquhart represented the S.A.S.R., Tom Hungerford the 2/8th and 'Tiger' Lines the 2/5th Commando Squadrons. Don Turton ably proposed the toast which was received with enthusiasm and the visitors all responded. We were so pleased to have you in our midst—you are always very welcome.

Unfortunately, because of other commitments, our Timorese guests tendered an apology but Don made mention of our warm feelings for them. They were missed by us all.

Colin Doig gave the toast of the 'Unit and Association' in his own inimitable style, praising the work done by Jack Carey and Jack Hartley who have given such devoted service for over 40 years, and others who have contributed so much to our Association.

The response by President Archie Campbell included a run-down on the work of dear old Tom Murray and other stalwarts who breathed life into our beloved Association back in its infancy. He said all members make the Association what it is by their acceptance of each other and the close attachment that has existed over the years. It makes for a great Association, which this surely is.

After an enjoyable luncheon it was time for reminiscing, talking to old mates and generally enjoying the whole show. The fun and laughter emanating from every corner of the room was full testimony to a wonderful Annual Reunion Luncheon. Thank you all members for making it such a splendid function. Thanks also to those of our dear ladies who acted as skipper for the day. You are sure part of a great team—what would we do without you.

CAN YOU HELP?

How is your memory bank regarding the happenings in Dili-Timor, prior to the Japs landing?

B. T. C. (Bruce) Smith, Gerry McKenzie's 2 Section, 'A' Platoon is looking for help on information re a French, single handed sailor, Alain Gerbault, who was buried in Timor the day after we landed from Koepang.

Eric Vibart, the French historian and journalist, is undertaking research into the mystery surrounding the last days of the above sailor, or the recovery of papers that were on his yacht lying off anchor in Dili harbour at the time of his death. A Norwegian Cutter — black double ended — length 10.50m (34'5").

Bruce addressed his letter to Don Turton, who along with other officers, got to know Dave Ross, who was at that time Australian Consul in Dili, Portugese Timor, very well.

For your edification Bruce, David Ross is now deceased, but maybe somewhere in the Consulate archives in Canberra, some history may be available, via resumes, of his period in Dili-Timor?

No doubt Eric Vibart has contacted the Portugese Government in Portugal, Lisbon, naming the then Governor of Portugese Timor in Dili, Lourenco da Aquilar, who may still be living, or at least some other senior person who was there at the time.

The fate of his boat may also be tracked from these two sources for we landed at Dili on the 12th December, 1941, the Japanese did not invade Timor until 19th February, 1942. Am sure in that span of time the yacht would have become the possession of Australia, the Portugese, or the Dutch, who occupied Dili; one Colonel Van Straaten was in charge. Could not see it left floating there all that time, am sure it would have been beached or claimed by one of the above?

Certainly the 2/2nd Independent Company had no dealings re the apparently un-named boat, nor was it used in any manner of form — (1) to escape, (2) used as a supply ship; (3) nor was it in the harbour when the Japs landed.

Part of this Bruce is my personal observations, some other of the officers, or the men for that matter, with great retentive memories, may be able to help you. The address of B. T. C. Smith (Bruce) is:

40 Moroney Street,
Barnsdale, Victoria 3875.

If you can help please contact Bruce direct. Nice to hear from you Bruce via Don. All the boys wish you the very best.

Archie Campbell,
Editor.

SKEETA REMEMBERS!

Dear Arch,

Received your letter and the book. I've read it and re-read it and am on to my third try. Quite an absorbing piece of writing. A lot of the people I remember but others I can't. I don't know if that is a lack of knowledge or plain senility?

How does one write after 46 years?

I did see "Bunny" at Wagga about 1954. He was the Manager of the Wagga Hotel which is now a motel. He wanted me to stay the night New Year's Eve 1954 but he lived at the pub and I lived at Cootamundra 70 miles away. Anyhow, he had a 'sickie' then poured me on to a train. Luckily it went the right way. Paddy Kenneally wrote and said he's gone. I was doing a job in his area at Gosford. What a person.

I've often wondered about Willie Wilcox, Norm Parker and Keith Hayes. They wouldn't be much older than I am.

I suppose we've all had a hard bit at times. I lost my wife in 1979 and married again. I believe you had the same trouble some time back. Watching the hockey at the Olympics I often remember little snippets you used to tell me when your wife was Captain of the Green and Gold.

As time goes by I'll probably pick up where some of the lads (old men now) are.

I've been turned out to grass for the last 18 months and I don't like it, although I play a lot of bowls which is good, do some fishing and have friends in the racing game so we all get together and try and tell the most lies.

Went with the 2/33 Bn. for a couple of jaunts to New Guinea and then to Balikpapan. Then, believe it or not, went from there with the 65th Bn. to Japan with BCOF. It saved using any money later on going on a cruise.

I finished my apprenticeship under the army scheme and worked as a boilermaker from then until I retired.

Somewhere along the line it must cost for books etc. for the Association so when you get around to it just tote up the bill and I will gladly respond.

Sorrento sounds like a sea resort or close to the water. Is it?

You look after yourself.

Skeeeeta Bagnall.

Answers: 1, Norm Parker deceased; 2, Presenta Tuan; 3, Yes — 300 yards.

A LETTER FROM BETTY CRAIG

Dear Everyone,

It is so long since I wrote to the Courier that I am nearly ashamed to put our thoughts down on paper, but I hope I can tell you some of the things that have been happening in our neck of the woods.

Our family are all very well, Phillip as most of you know is now at Kapooka, Wagga, training recruits. Lorraine is working in the bookshop at the Advanced College of Education. Susan is going to Sydney to work, Karen is working at Expo in Security, and Linda is still at school. Phillip has had 4 passing out parades, and I have been able to go over to each one, and have enjoyed them all. Everyone seems to have something different about it.

Janette along with Donna and Marc came up for 7 weeks, when Keith ws so ill, and we all had some decisions to make, and was a great help to us both. We loved having them, and of course there is no one like Grandpa with Donna and Marc. Stan came up for the last 2 weeks, and they went to Newcastle to see his folk, and then back here before they homeward went. Stan has accepted a position with 'Fairey', an Optic firm in Adelaide, and will commence there in January next year. It will be a little further away, but they have not really been happy in Melbourne. Their home is on a very busy highway, and Stan always said his job was a dead end job in the Army Office in Melbourne. He could not understand why they would send him to America to learn all he could about laser, computer etc. and let him teach for a few months, and then send him to Office work. If they apply for discharge now and have a job, the Army send them for a month to work in their job before their discharge comes through, so that if they do not like the job they have chosen they can stay on in the Army. It is a much better idea, as they may not lose quite so many men, if they have chosen the wrong job. Now we have to wait and see what happens. Donna went to school while they were here, and loved it too, which was good. Marc went to Child Care one morning each week, and loved having someone to play with.

Keith was very ill in July of this year, having infections in the stomach, bladder and bowel, and at one time we didn't know how it would all go. However, with his spirit and acceptance of whatever happens, he pulled through very well. He is quite a bit weaker than he was at Phillip Island, but he is very bright and cheerful, and of course he never grizzles about what has happened, so it makes it so much easier for us all. I am sure that I would 'scream' at times, but he doesn't, so we are very lucky. After about 5 weeks in Hospital, two Doctors

advised that we could not manage with the lifting any more and Keith is now a patient at Mt. St. Joseph's Home. He is in Bethany Ward, which is a long building, with 2 bedded rooms. A long verandah in right beside his bed, glassed in, and carpeted, and he can sit there for his meals or read, or stay in bed if he wishes. It is all very very nice, and they are really wonderful to them up there. We bought a T.V. with a remote control and he can push a button and turn it on or off, loud or soft, change stations as he wishes. He has been able to watch the Olympics, sports he enjoys, news and a few favourite programmes he likes. Keith's speech is slow, but clear 99% of the time, but he cannot do anything really for himself, and really needs the 24 hour nursing. We have had no luck with the Pension Review from Veteran Affairs, I have re-applied for another review, and at present Mr. Peter Kelly, Advocate from R.S.L. Canberra, is dealing with his case. He wants to know if they had ear trouble in N.G. and N.B. Keith said leeches, etc. and of course the usual itches, but can't remember if he ever had any tablets etc. for this. We have also had from National Library a screed on Spinocerebellar degeneration. His claim was refused under section 9 of the Entitlement Act. In their reasons, on page 2 they state that the Veteran attended the hearing. (Jim Fenwick and I attended, and Keith was in the wheel chair, and of course became very upset. I still feel that when this happened they hurried it up, because they wanted to get us out — Keith especially, from the interview.) Said he was a good soldier, served for 3½ years, mostly overseas, etc. etc. That he had been thoroughly investigated in 1954 at Concord, which we have always disputed, but no organic cause was found for the disease known as functional diarrhoea. This he has had all his life and of course it is worse now as he gets worse with the spinocerebellar. They say he developed spinocerebellar in 1985, but we have claimed that he had the disease back as far as 1948 to our knowledge in a slight form, as even then occasionally he would fall at times, and of course in the last few years it has become very noticeable. Then on page 6 of their refusal they write that in their opinion does not raise a reasonable hypothesis connecting the veteran's death with service rendered. I'm afraid I blew my top then. I now have a 'phone conference on 4th November, and they tell me that if they think it is worthwhile they will bring the case about June, 1989. It will then be 4½ years since we made application. I have now applied for Legal Aid, if I need to take it to Court. I guess it is pig headedness on my part, but I'm so mad about it all.

We also have a M.G. Alan Morrison, a Commissioner, Repat. Commission, who is working for Commandos in N.S.W. looking

into his case. Local Member for Gilmore John Sharp, and Allan Luby has been in touch with a Dr. Barrett who now lives in Sydney who first treated Keith when he came out of the Army, so I don't know if it will all do any good, but we can only hope I suppose. I just feel that they are treating so many of the Returned Men like dirt. It is not just for Keith that I am keeping going, but maybe it might help someone else at some time. We applied 8½ weeks ago for a single pension for Keith, just a few days before he was transferred to Mt. St. Joseph's, and still can get nowhere. So it cost \$249.60 per fortnight to have him there, and his pension is \$200.10. So far I have been able to manage paying the rest, but that can't go on forever, but at the present I feel like going out and getting a job, then I guess they will stop the pension altogether. I have come to the conclusion that their right hand doesn't know what their left is doing.

Sorry about my grizzles, as you can see I get worked up about it all. We have some wonderful people in the 2/2 Association, and they have kept in touch with us and visited us here as well. Arch and Dawn Claney came up from Wangaretta for a couple of days, and Jack and Marj Peattie came from Tamworth for 3 days. We had a great time, and we were able to bring Keith home here for the day which was wonderful. Paddy has been up, and Ted, Di, Julie and Pat Cholerton are coming over soon for the day. They are away at the moment. Others keep in touch by 'phone. Kath Press rang last night and is very well and sends her regards to all. Ron and marj Goodacre have rung from Sydney and will be coming over for a day or two when they come to Canowindra. Allan and Paddy also keep in touch.

Our family have been wonderful and Phillip will come whenever he can, as it is only 100 miles from Wagga. He usually does all the little jobs I am unable to do when he arrives, and works like a badger while he is here. So far I have been able to keep Keith's garden going, although I have had to get rid of the roses and a few shrubs. It takes me a fair while to do the mowing, but I get through it all, and I have a young couple next door who badly wanted a vegetable garden, so they now do mine and I can pick whatever I like out of it. All I have to do is water it when they are away. Easy work. Keith and I had a sprinkle system put in when he first became ill and was unable to do too much, and that made it easier for me.

BOB SMYTH'S ROGUES GALLERY — SEQUENCE 3



Percy Hancock



Bob MacDonald



Arthur Marshall



Ralph Finklestein



Don Murray



Clarrie Varian

We have decided that we are going to make a date for the **'MINI SAFARI'** at **YOUNG, 10, 11, 12th MARCH, 1989**. So all you folk put it down in your Diary, or put it on the Calendar, and we hope to see as many as possible turn up.

Let me know if you are coming, so I can cater. We have booked the Services Club for the Dinner, commencing at 6.45pm. Saturday, to be followed by a Dance. Good music, and dances like we used to do. I am sure you will all enjoy that too. 8-12 midnight.

The Young Caravan Park, Zouch Street (063) 82 2190.

The Cherry Blossom Motel, Zouch Street (063) 82 1699.

The Colonial Motel, Zouch Street (063) 82 2822.

The above are all 1 block from 43 Edwards Street.

Town House Motor Inn, Zouch Street (063) 82 1366, 3 blocks from above.

Friday Dinner at Craig's, from approx 6.30pm.

Saturday Lunch, Bar-B-Q from noon.

Dinner at Services' Club at 6.45pm, 6.15 meet at 'Club Bowlers Lounge.'

Sunday Lunch, Bar-B-Q from noon.

Sunday Evening Meal, Craig's.

Monday, anyone for lunch, morning tea, etc!!!

(Bring your name badges, especially for the Dance.)

(The Caravan Park have on-site vans, van sites, and a couple of cabins). On site vans you need your own linen and blankets, plus tea towels.

This year I have been able to fit in a few of the more important balls at Young and in the District. I trained the Debs for the Guide Ball again, and have been ordered to do it again next year. It is something I would like to give away, but I find that it is a great pick-up at times, and it is lovely to see them all turn out so well on the night. The Guide Ball was very successful and I presented the debs to the Governor of N.S.W. and his wife Lady Rowlands. They were a delight to have as our Guests, and enjoyed themselves very much. Altogether a wonderful weekend with our guests.

I have also been taking Dancing Lessons again, each Monday night. A present time we have 3 to 38 coming to learn, so are having a lot of fun as well as teaching someone else to join in and have as much fun as we do ourselves. This year also we have learnt a lot of the newer 'New Vogue' and they have been interesting, but I still like all the older Old Time, and have just as much pleasure from dancing them.

Joan Darge and John Meldrum came up a couple of times during the year. They came for the Guide Ball and Joan did a Video of it, and it was great to have. She also took a video of the last Mini Safari at Young, and I have a copy of both, but no video, at present, but I guess I might get one in the future. Also have a video of Phillip taking his first March Out Parade. That also is very good.

When Joan and John came the second time Keith was in hospital and one day after seeing him we went for a tour of the district, and went out and had a look at the landra Castle, at Greenethorpe. They didn't believe me when I first said, we would go out to the Castle, but were only sorry they hadn't taken the Video. However, we will go again one day and be sure to take it. We then went on to Grenfell for afternoon tea, and to see the craft shops, which were very good, and then home via a detour.

We had a lovely few days together, and I had a card from Joan a few days ago to say all was well with her family, and she was hoping to be up to see us soon.

Keith and I were staying with Janette and Stan in Melbourne, when Harry rang us to tell us of the passing of Max Davies, and it was a privilege to have been able to attend his funeral. Harry and Olive picked me up and also Wilma Tobin, and afterwards they all came back to see Keith, and stay for dinner with us. We had a very nice evening together, and it was good for Keith to have been able to meet up with them again, as we had all had such a wonderful time at Phillip Island. The Safari was a great credit to the Victorian Members, and we enjoyed it all. We had Leith Cooper call to see us on his way to Expo. Keith was in hospital at

Last week-end I drove to Gilgandra to see Keith's Aunt, who was a first World War Bride. She celebrated her 90th birthday, and we gave her an open day at her home. We had about 100 folk call for morning tea, lunch, or afternoon, and then had 38 grandchildren and great grandchildren and the immediate family for a Bar-B-Q, in the evening. It was great, but we were tired afterwards, but not Auntie, she sat up and enjoyed every minute. It was just lovely to see, and it made us all feel good. Just about the time that Keith became so ill, I was to go to Queensland, to see an old lady at Roma, who was also 90, and then spend some time with George and Bette Coulson, and Fred and Phyl Bryant, and also take in a little bit of Expo, but I was unable to leave Keith at the time, but never mind maybe I will be able to get away later next year.

the time, but we were able to go early in the morning to see him.

As I came back from Gilgandra early this week, I called on Frank Sharp. Frank said Phyllis was not too well, but that he was taking her to Lithgow for a fortnight the following day, to stay with her sisters. Frank was going on to Sydney to the Commando Outings. Also said Freddie Broadhurst was coming up to stay with him, and that a few folk were coming from Western Australia. I do hope they all have a wonderful time.

We see and hear quite often from Jim and Joan Fenwick, and Jim has been a great help whenever I need some advice and help in whatever we have to do. Jim and Joan were to go to Melbourne for a get-together with some Army friends, and also to see Joan's sister, who had not been really well. Their family are all well, and I guess Canberra at this time of the year will be a picture with all the Spring Blossoms. It is always beautiful, but I still like the autumn colours as they always seem to be so colourful everywhere.

We do hope that all the folk in the West are keeping well, and those who have been off colour are keeping their pecker up and improving all the time.

Our very best wishes to everyone everywhere, and may we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Bright and Healthy New Year.

This year I am afraid I will not have the time to write to so many of our friends, so I hope this will tell you all that we are thinking of you all and wishing you the best.

Kind Regards, and Thank You to all for their help, friendship and good wishes to us especially over this last few months.

Sincerely,
Betty Craig.

EDITOR: Thanks for all your news, your myriad of friends across Australia will appreciate and be so sympathetic with your problems. Keith is a courageous person, his wife is similar. Good luck, God bless from us all.

COL DOIG'S UNIT HISTORY

**BOOKS STILL AVAILABLE
\$20 PLUS POSTAGE
CONTACT JACK CAREY**

TIMOR DOCUMENTARY SPECIAL OFFER

The loose leaf in this December issue of the Courier contains the above.

It is self explanatory and will be a great keepsake.

Just follow the instructions.

The video cover is a full photo of 'A' Platoon taken in Larrimah.

PRESENTATION OF COLIN DOIG'S BOOK TO PRIME MINISTER R. G. HAWKE

Minister for
Defence Science and Personnel
Parliament House, Canberra, A.C.T. 2600

18th October, 1988

Mr. J. D. T. Daniels,
21 Mackinalty Street,
Scullin, A.C.T. 2614.

Dear Mr. Daniels,

Thank you for your letter advising me of the book written by Mr Colin Doig about the wartime experiences of the 2/2 Australian Commando Squadron during World War II.

My office has been trying to contact you by phone, however, without success. I would be most grateful if you could phone Margaret O'Rourke at my parliament House office to arrange a time for you to come in and give me the book. I will then make arrangements to present the book personally to the Prime Minister.

Yours sincerely,
Ros Kelly.

P.S. Meeting has been arranged for handing over Col's book. As you can see it has been a long time and pressure put on certain people to get this far. Will try to get photographs and send same to you. Meeting at Parliament House 3.30pm on 2nd November, 1988. — Dan Daniels.

EDITOR: Thanks Dan for all your trouble, am sure the Prime Minister will enjoy reading the history of the 2/2nd Commando Squadron.

THANK YOU LETTER

The Special Air Service Regiment
Campbell Barracks, Swanbourne,
Western Australia, 6010

31st October, 1988

President,
2/2 Commando Association,
Box T11646,
GPO Perth, WA 6001.

Dear Arch,

A short note to thank you and the members of the 2/2 Commando Association for the good company and an enjoyable lunch on the 21st October, 1988.

It was good to see and feel the camaraderie that exists among the men of the 2/2 Commando Company. The bond that was created by adversity and hardship is still very

evident after more than forty years and is something that you can all be very proud of.

I thank you all for the pleasure of being in your company and wish the Association all the best for the future.

Yours sincerely,
Joe Urquhart (Major).

VALE RON (BABE) TEAGUE

On the 11th October, 1988, while having an early morning swim with his wife Nance, Ron (Babe) Teague passed away during a massive heart attack. It is always said "a good way to go" and it is, but whatever way we go, it is sad to lose a companion, a relation, a friend, a person one knew, and so it is to me with a distinct memory of Ron around June 1942 at Hata Balica, which has been brought to mind at the mention of, or seeing a picture of Simpson and his Donkey of Anzac fame.

We were told by our Timora Eyes and Ears that an Australian and cuda (horse) were approaching from Ainaro. I for one went down the track to meet him. Around a corner, coming up a steep slope (when wasn't one coming up a steep slope?) was, with a little imagination, Simpson and Laden Donkey. The load being carried by a poor labouring horse was a long heavy box on one side and a box or two of ammunition on the other side. The tired, weary Australian was 'Babe' Teague doing a delivery, one of many he had made to sections like ours. As it turned out, the Bren gun he had brought was for me. As much as I treasured this weapon, I treasured more the pleasure he gave us all that night with his magnificent singing voice — it was something to hear, in a setting so perfect for such a performance. Those who remember Hata Balico kindly or unkindly will remember the bowl-like situation — almost a perfect operatic scene. The Posto had open decks or sun areas nearly all round, surrounded by heavy white cement and stone balustrades, steep sloping sides impossible to climb and the one at the rear went almost straight down for hundreds of feet to a river in the making, the whole being completely surrounded by steep rocky escarpments leading to exits. What an amphitheatre for Babe's voice and singers like Billy Hoy and, if memory is on track, Doyle.

At a later date Ron came to our Section, so needless to say, he sang to us in many good situations, but never in a ready made musical setting such as Hata Balico. A baby faced boy with a magnificent voice, who continued to entertain us on Anzac days in the late 40's and on Safaris since Queensland 1981, etc. etc.

I, for one, will miss Ron (Babe) Teague. Lest we forget.

Ron Trengove.

FAREWELL TO BABE TEAGUE

If there is anything good about farewelling a friend to his last resting place, to those who are left, it is to see so many comrades turn up, especially when they live away from where the majority are living. Ron (Babe) Teague would have been so pleased to know so many Double Diamonds made the effort, even though he and Nance had made as great a trip to be with Joyce Smith, in the hope it makes a little difference for those who stay a little longer. To Joyce Smith's sorrow, problems familywise, made it impossible for her to attempt to be there — also another D.D. man, Jim Cullen, for a different reason, but the attendance for Ron was heart warming to see, from slightly less than 100 miles to the best part of 600 miles by Denny and June Dennis — a little closer by "Snowy" Went, Ron Trengove and the following a little closer still: Double Diamonds George (Hap) Greenhalgh, Tommy Yates, Russ Blanch, Ron Orr and Col Knight. Alan Luby could not get away owing to a close family bereavement, Jack Hartley was also in a situation he could not leave and as I could not raise Jack Peattie, I decided I had tried without enough time to organise more, but for those who would like to have gone and didn't, we stood there for you and the Unit and ourselves.

I hope the family of Ron and Nance Teague felt a little better for seeing so many Double Diamonds in person representing the 2/2 Ind. Coy, farewelling our comrade and friend on his way. The final word about Ron from us and for his family, was quietly and magnificently presented by George (Hap) Greenhalgh. Thanks Hap.

Sincerely,
Ron Trengove.

W.W.C.P.

JIM SMAILES, our Vice-President, had a heart attack just prior to our Country Convention at Esperance and is confined to light duties. Jim is making progress, like all the Kalgoorlie mining fraternity, he is a very durable person. God bless and good luck from us all old timer, be great to see you back in action ere long. *Stop Press for Jim — he is back and coming good.*

JOHN FOWLER, who broke a bone in his ankle during our sojourn at Esperance and had to see the local doctor, was loss-de-combat and had to be driven home by the Harrington's. John drove Colin Doig and Jim Louden to Esperance so a quick decision exercise saw the tremendous spirit of co-operation within our Association come to the fore, involving Joe and Helen Poynton, Roy Watson and our good

friend 'Tiger' Lines — if I have missed anyone, my apologies. With the quick ministrations by Peter and Pat Campbell, John was on the right track to recovery and the last check he was coming along very nicely. Good luck John for an early and complete recovery. Thanks to all the people who so readily helped in a crisis situation.

GEORGE FLETCHER, was hospitalised for surgery on a growth in the nose area. He was not in very long but unfortunately is due to go back for a further check in another suspect area. George is a tremendous worker for the Association in all spheres, get better quickly George, we sure need you — God bless.

DUDLEY TAPPER is having a battle with his health we have heard on the grapevine. We trust old timer you come out on top so as we can share a lot of fun at the South Australian Safari. Good luck, God bless from all members right across Australia.

PERCY HANCOCK has had quite a spell in hospital but is now out and back home. Percy has had a tough spin for quite a while so here's hoping the worst is now behind you. Good luck from all members and best wishes for a speedy return to A1 health.

MERV JONES is still having a real battle and is under treatment on the dialysis machine. Trust old timer this form of therapy brings a positive result. All the boys, and girls, are in there plugging for your full recovery. With Marge alongside you turning the corner to A1 health is a certainty. God bless, and love to you both.

REPORT ON MERV and MARGERY JONES

A report for the "Courier" about my visit to Margery and Mervyn Jones of Sheffield, Tasmania.

I flew from Perth to Melbourne on 31st October, 1988, caught the ferry that evening to Devonport where next morning to my great delight both Margery and Mervyn met me and he drove home as well. He had spent about 6 weeks in Launceston Hospital and had only been home about 10 days. They live just outside the town in a beautiful comfortable home with magnificent views of mountains and farms, with family close by and kind and caring neighbours.

As you know, Mervyn has suffered kidney failure and is now on peritoneal dialysis which involves meticulous attention to hygiene four times a day. Each session takes about ¾ of an hour and the final one of the day is the worst as he is tired and so is Margery. She is a great support, but the illness has taken its toll on both of them. However, I feel sure once they adjust to the daily routine and plan their lives

around it, things will be easier. I certainly hope so and if wishes could help they have my best.

We went to Burnie where Mervyn saw his Special, and Deloraine for a Craft Fair. Each trip was planned to fit in the 4-5 hour span between dialysis. Mervyn even had the chance to hit about 40 golf balls when Margery and I went to Devonport. One of the many attractions of Tasmania is the short distance between towns and cities, so reminiscent of England. I greatly enjoyed my week with my dear friends Margery and Mervyn. Had a couple of days in Hobart with friends before flying to Melbourne for a family reunion. Came home by coach 16 days after leaving home, tired but happy after meeting friends and cousins.

Christmas Greetings to you all and the very best for 1989.

Sincerely,
Beryl Griffiths.

EDITOR: Thanks so much Beryl.

COMMEMORATION SERVICE KINGS PARK SUNDAY, 20th NOVEMBER

On a glorious spring day the members of the 2/2 Commando Association gathered in strength to pay homage to our war dead in a ceremony that had, as it should be, dignity, emotion, sincerity and pride.

All this was enhanced by our modern day counterparts, the men of the Special Air Services Regiment, whose mounting of a 'Catafalque Party' with precision and bearing makes our ceremony outstanding. On your behalf we offer to this fine Regiment our thanks and appreciation for their spontaneous acceptance of participation each year at this time. They are true friends and further showed it by an open invitation to their mess after proceedings concluded.

The President's address was given and covered the ground of the depth of feeling we have for our deceased mates. It appears below.

Then the names of our departed were read, "The Ode" was given, then "Two Minutes Silence" to reflect on what their sacrifice meant to us. There was time also to think of the black hosts who serviced us in all spheres and what their contribution meant to our survival.

Our boys marched with a bearing reminiscent of their young days. The disciplines they acquired have never left them, and, the affection for their mates of long ago, is still deeply felt.

Our widows were with us, they are a big part of us, may time treat them generously and kindly.

Thanks to all who attended and make it such a memorable day.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Members of the 2/2nd Commando Association, our families, our widows and our friends. Men of the Special Air Services Regiment who by their co-operation make this Commemoration Service to our Departed Comrades, something really special. Thank you all for coming to take part in a service so dear to our hearts, an action that brings us so very close to those whose life was stilled at war, and, to those who have since died.

Forty three years have elapsed since the cessation of hostilities and still we gather at this dedicated and sacred site to commemorate the loss of those whose memory makes this year pilgrimage a part of our lives. Our section of Honour Avenue in Lovekin Drive is the symbol of the deep affection we feel for those who gave their lives that we may continue to live life to its full. Greater love hath no man than he lay down his life for a friend.

We all envisaged their sacrifice was the medium to end all wars and give our children the opportunity to live a peaceful and happy life, but instead, wars continue right throughout the world to the detriment of every single person.

On a total basis, love of our fellow man has taken a battering, the world has become an unsafe place to live, drug orientation has affected lives right across the spectrum, diseases with cures unknown have caused severe loss of life, many children are at risk on a daily basis.

We know that war is not an answer, but they have escalated throughout the world. Horror and tremendous loss of life, via the sophisticated weapons available and by mans ability to pollute the world by his own actions, has seen a deterioration of our way of life without a positive answer in sight.

Today, as we stand in this hallowed grove to pay homage to our Departed Comrades, such things seem so far away, it is peaceful, lovely, a place to contemplate, to pray to God for a turn around of the world to an era of "Love Thy Neighbour."

These men who look from the vale beyond, our mates of yesterday, would applaud the grand family atmosphere created by the 2/2nd Commando Association, the love and affection that makes it what it is. They would know, wish and trust, that such an atmosphere created by the men of their grand old Unit and their families, would rub off on the world beyond and bring that near lost ingredient, love, to the whole situation for the betterment of mankind.

The sacrifice of these men has not been in vain, for world wide, people are beginning to realise war and its aftermath leads only to a negative result. The world is a grand place in itself, pollution belongs to those who populate it and

abuse its beauties.

Within the precincts of this area of Kings Park, a small plot of ground held in reverence by we members, our families and our widows, of the 2/2nd Commando Association, lies the answer to many of the world's problems. Appreciation of sacrifice, dedicating oneself to maintain a way of life that rubs off on others. Showing that love and affection has a positive result.

This is a manifest in our Association right across Australia, it is our method of showing people everywhere there is a way of life full of love and happiness given to us by those who paid the supreme sacrifice, that we might live to create a better world for those around us.

In conclusion we put forward a shortened version of a pledge to our mates with great and lasting sincerity.

"Fear not that you have died for naught, we will not break faith with you who be, on many a field."

CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

Peter Barden,
2 Dampier Street,
Geraldton 6530

Nip Cunningham is one of the few remaining Geraldtonians who have the honour to wear the double red diamond insignia. At the annual reunion dinner of Geraldton City Sub-Branch of the RSL, when it was Nip's turn to announce his name and Unit he received additional applause when he declared —

**"The Hush Hush we were known as
Men who kept their word,
Men who spoke by action
And were seldom seen or heard."**

Vietnam and Korean veterans were particularly appreciative of Nip's rendition of this 2/2nd motto.

As Sub-Branch PRO I once again had the honour of proposing the toast to the RSL Women's Auxiliary which this year received the Country Cup for the 23rd time as the outstanding country Auxiliary of the year. Life Membership was awarded to Auxiliary Secretary, Edith Rogers whose mother, Auxiliary President Tryphena Ashplant, is also a Life Member.

Geraldton City Sub-Branch of the RSL is held in such high esteem that high ranking Armed Services representatives once again took part in the annual dinner as a tribute to an organisation which has won the Colonel Collett Cup on 22 occasions as the outstanding country Sub-Branch of the year (yes, our Auxiliary is one in front of us).

The Golden Jubilee celebrations of St. Francis Xavier's Cathedral proved to be an outstanding success and drew large crowds from near and far. Great interest was taken in an historical exhibition held at Queen's Park Theatre, featuring photos and architectural drawings associated with the late Monsignor John Hawes and education facilities of this vast Geraldton Diocese of more than 1.5 million square kilometres, the biggest Catholic Diocese in the world. Tom and Mary Foster were among the huge congregation at the Consecration Mass conducted by our Bishop Barry Hickey in the presence of more than 70 Bishops and Priests.

A favourable season is being experienced in our mid west region, which is great news because the economy of the City of Geraldton depends to a great extent on the rural situation.

Kind regards and best wishes to all Double Diamond boys and their families.

Peter.

Nina Grachan,
15 Banksia Court,
Mulgrave 3170

At the moment I am holidaying in your beautiful state. I know little of Perth, only staying briefly overnight en route to my son and family in South Hedland.

Enclosed is my donation to new address book, or whatever your choice.

I read with relish The Courier, feeling I know many of you personally. It is many years since meeting with interstate members, many of whom I knew in earlier years. We have all grown slightly older, but the heart and spirit is always there. Sadly the ranks are thinning, but as those of the great 2/2 pass to a more peaceful world, the links tighten. I really feel no Unit in Australia has such 'Golden Links' as the 2/2 Commando Squadron.

Being a non-driver it is not possible for me to participate in Victoria's activities. I am one of Fred Broadhurst's adoptees but still doing a little part time work. Most festive occasions I regretfully decline.

I read with interest that Bert King is now living in Tasmania. At the time of my marriage to Alf, Bert was the only member in Victoria — Unit having moved on to Canungra — and he did us the honour of attending as Best Man. Have pondered frequently re his whereabouts.

Must confess to being a fan of superwoman Jess Epps. How does she cram so much energy into one body? There are so many wonderful people in the Association.

My very best wishes to all, especially those

who have recently lost a dear one, also those who at the moment are not enjoying good health.

Sincerely,
Nina.

EDITOR: Thanks for your lovely letter Nina. Best wishes from us all.

R. D. Campbell,
RSD 5880,
Old Sale Road,
Brandy Creek,
via Warragul 3820

After much trial and many tribulations we are finally in occupation of our latest residence — the house and surrounds (of about two acres) on an old dairy farm.

The T & T mentioned concerns a hungry vendor and indifferent solicitors on both sides, however, all is now in order and all we have to do is get stuck into the place and see if we can, in time, produce something along the lines of our last abode. We are surrounded by rolling green hills and the wind can be a little strong at times. The very rich chocolate soil grows almost anything but to my mind it should be used for making glue.

Enclosed is a small donation for the Courier.

The very best to all.

Jock.

L Thompson,
Post Office,
Wannamal 6505

Dear Jack,

Thanks for your short note. Sorry, impossible to come down Friday — it's mail day and I don't finish until 11.30am. This happens every Tuesday and Friday.

Remember me to the boys.

Enclosed is a donation for the Courier.

We are still in good health. 🍀

All the best.

Lew Thompson.

D. Lewis,
106 South West Highway,
Armadale 6112

Thank you for continuing to send the Courier. I love reading about everyone, but it is sad to read that so many have had ill health. The years don't deal kindly with us older ones!! The August Courier came on my birthday which I thought was a lovely birthday present — it really made my day.

I appreciated what Colin Doig wrote about George. He was always exactly as Colin described him, always kind and ready to lend a helping hand to anyone who needed it. I don't know how he knew how to make things but if anything needed doing around the house or in the garden he always knew how to do it. I would only have to say I'd like this or that and in no time he'd made it for me. He was so patient and his work always perfect. Everyone used to comment on that. I would like to thank Colin Doig for what he wrote. I hope his health will improve — I know he has had a lot of ill health. Lovely that he was awarded the O.A.M.

They tell me that I am coping quite well on my own. I feel one has to — you can't rely on others to do everything for you, although I do have very kind neighbours and friends who help with things I can't do myself. I try to keep the garden. Enclosed is a donation towards the Courier.

Keep well and God bless.

Yours sincerely,
Dorothy Lewis.

Tom Martin,
22 Chancery Lane,
Alexander Heights 6064

Dear Jack,

Would you kindly mail me two of Col Doig's books to the above address. The cheque enclosed to pay for same, and the rest going to the Courier or where most needed.

Still look forward to each Courier which is a great credit to those who get it 'on the road.' Thank you.

These days I spend my time growing orchids as a hobby (a very slow hobby), plus I have a few birds which is interesting. I also play a bit of golf (not too well) and like to go to the cricket. My health is greatly improved since I had open heart surgery, so I am one of the lucky ones.

Hope you are enjoying good health.

Regards,
Tom Martin.

EDITOR: Good to hear from you Tom, all boys send their regards.

9/11 Mermaid Avenue,
Mermaid Beach,
Queensland 4218

3rd November, 88

It's five years today since Wilbur Wallis passed away and he is missed very much, his children still find it very hard to handle, they lost such a dear father and friend.

We all enjoyed Col Doig's Unit History, we searched for a little mention of Bill. Life has

been good to me and I have lots of happy times to look back on. I enjoy the Courier so much and Bill's family are so proud their dad was a 2/2nd Commando.

As I spent a lot of time in the U.K. I forgot to send you a little something for the Courier which I had forwarded on to me in the U.K.

Think we are home to stay now, getting too old to carry suitcases. Hope all your social events are a success, they sound good. Keep up the good work.

Yours in friendship,
Daphne Gibbing (Wallis).

EDITOR: Thank you Daphne for your note and your kind enclosure for the Courier. In Colin's Book you will find Wilbur's name in 8 Section 'C' Platoon under Lieutenant Ray Cole. Where they appear in action Wilbur would have been. He was a good soldier. Glad you have found happiness again. Kind regards from us all in the 2/2nd.

H. E. King,
27 Kardinia Crescent,
West Ulverstone 7315

The Editor,

Greetings! Please accept this letter as an application to be placed on your mailing list.

I hope the years have been kind to you and your fellow members and that most of the Unit are still in the vertical position.

I will gladly subscribe to the funds of the Courier and in particular would be happy to obtain a copy of Jim Smailes poem. Could this please be arranged?

With all best wishes.

Bert King (ex Sig Section).

N.B. Are you still wary of the approaching moonlight?

EDITOR: Jim Smailes poem is now only available from the individual and would need to be photostated. Can send you my copy as long as I get it back. Please advise.

Latham W.A. 6616

A line to Ash if you could please send two of Col Doig's Unit History Books. Am enclosing cheque to cover books and postage, money over to go towards Courier or whatever.

We have leased our farm for 3 yers, so should soon be able to get out and have a look around.

All going well, both Peg and myself hope to be starters for the Barossa Safari in 1990.

With best wishes to all members.

Kindest regards,
Ted Monk.

R. Griffiths,
2 Wandoo Court,
36 Wandoo Street,
Leeton 2705

Many thanks for Col Doig's book. It brought back many memories as I joined up with "D" Platoon when it was first formed and stopped with them until we were withdrawn on the Dutch destroyer. Our officer was Cam Rodd but of course I saw quite a bit of Col Doig. He seemed to be everywhere.

Being from N.S.W. I was one of the first to return with Major Laidlaw after leave from Canungra. Unfortunately I spent three months in hospital and got back three days before the Company embarked for New Guinea. I was supposed to go back to my trade in the army. When leaving Canungra I was in the truck with a lot the boys setting out for New Guinea and they did not seem very happy about the camp at Canungra. There was a W.O.1 watching (I think they called him "Wimpy") and they let out a yell — "You can stick Canungra up you ----." It didn't matter as they were well on their way!!

Enclosed is a cheque for another copy of Col's book for a niece of mine who lives in Darwin and would like to be put on the mailing list for the Courier. Her late husband was 8th Div. and was caught in Malaya but got back. She also knows some of the Timorese in Darwin.

Kind regards,
Reg.

L. Bomford,
40 Tolosa Street,
Glenorchy,
Tasmania 7010

I should have penned a few lines many months ago but have had to put quite a time into Report so have got behind with my letter writing.

You missed me out with the lost Courier but Dern Anning lent me his. It was good to see Archie Campbell and Ron Dook's faces again, they are not quite as good looking as they were 45 years ago, but it is good to see them smiling. Keep it up fellows.

Sorry to say Tas Douglas 2/40th passed away some months ago. Tas, with Mick Kingston, joined Capt. Laidlaw's team. I doubt some of the chaps remember Tas for what he was. Tas knew no fear and his great sense of humour when things were going bad was always good for the morale of his mates. I certainly have lost a good mate by his passing on.

Am enclosing a few dollars for the Courier.

Kind regards to all.

Yours sincerely,
Lance Bomford.

EDITOR: Great to hear from you Lance, been a long time. Sorry about the Courier, am posting you one to hang on to. Quite a few of the boys remember Tas Douglas, sorry to hear he passed on. We send our sympathy to his loved ones. Ron Dook sends his kind regards, so do I. Archie C.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

KING, C.
(Charlie and Mary)
Lot 5 Dowell Close,
Bedfordale 6112.
Phone (09) 399 3935

CAMPBELL, R. D.
(Jock and Faye)
R.S.D. 5880,
Old Sale Road,
Brandy Creek via Warragul 3820.

BOMFORD, L.
(Lance)
40 Telosa Street,
Glenorchy 7010.
Phone (002) 72 4953

CORRECTION

HILL, L.
(Les)
532 Main Road,
Montrose 7010.

ADDITIONS

DODGE, C.
(Charlie)
Lot 15/41 Lenham Place,
Armadale 6112.
Phone (09) 399 4354

SOUTH, C. J.
(Colin)
Media World,
P.O. Box 214,
Fitzroy 3065.
Phone (03) 417 4888

2/289 Wakaden Street,

Griffith 2680
27 October, 88

Enclosed is my address that you requested for the new Address Book, also a couple of dollars for the book and what else!

There has certainly been some changes re addresses, chaps moving from place to place, others going to the great beyond where our address would always be the same!

It was good news to hear that Col Doig has been recognised for his work to Servicemen and charities over many years. I offer my congratulations to him.

The idea of photos in the Courier is a good idea, but time has certainly made a change, all the same the buggers are still good looking, also intelligent, that made the unit what it was.

I get around in low gear these days, knee problems, I go into Concord about the end of November for a knee replacement. I went down on the 2nd October to have it done after being all prepared and waiting, it was cancelled. Short of spare parts, hope they have them in next time!

Cheerio, best wishes to all the boys.

Alf Hodge.

P.S. For the Address Book:

Alf and Joyce Hodge,
2/289 Wakaden Street,
Griffiths N.S.W. 2680
Phone (069) 62 3961

DONATIONS TO COURIER

John Fowler, Bruce Poynton, (Mrs) Nina Grachan, (Mrs) Elsie Ware, R. D. (Jock) Campbell, (Mrs) Dorothy Lewis, Lew Thompson, Gerry Maley, Col Criddle, Stan Sadler, Charlie Sadler, Col Doig, Ray Aitken, Ernie Bingham, Don Murray, Ossie Pomroy, Jerry Haire, Charlie Dodge, Les Hills, Ted Monk, Lance Bomford, Ron Trengove, (Mrs) Daphne Gibbling, Alf Hodge.