



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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Vol. 70

February 1988

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To: The Secretary & Members of the
2/2nd Commando Association

*Christmas Greetings
& all good wishes for a very
happy New Year*

from

The Commanding Officer & Staff
of
The Special Air Service Regiment

WE ARE THE PILGRIMS, MASTER: WE SHALL GO
ALWAYS A LITTLE FURTHER: IT MAY BE
BEYOND THAT LAST BLUE MOUNTAIN BARRED WITH SNOW
ACROSS THAT ANGRY OR THAT GLIMMERING SEA.

James Elroy Flecker

COURIER PUBLICATION SPECIAL NOTICE

THE ENTIRE COURIER COMMITTEE WILL
BE ATTENDING THE 1988 SAFARI.
THEREFORE THE NEXT PUBLICATION WILL BE
JUNE 1988

THE EDITOR.

COLIN DOIG'S UNIT HISTORY

JUST A FEW COPIES AVAILABLE
FIRST IN BEST DRESSED.
CONTACT JACK CAREY

**IMPORTANT: FINAL SAFARI INSTRUCTIONS PAGE 2
COMING EVENTS FOLLOW THIS**

SAFARI — NOTICE PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

2/2 COMMANDO ASSOCIATION VICTORIA

8 Hilltop Cres.
RHYLL 3923.
January, 1988

Dear Safari Traveller,

Herewith further information re the Safari, in case you should leave home prior to receiving the February Courier.

Some accommodation is still available in all options but possibly at a short distance from the centre of operations.

Those booked into "On Site" vans need to bring their own towels, bed linen and pillows. Sleeping bags would be very suitable. Individual notification of this will be sent where applicable.

Those travelling by plane should select a flight to arrive at Tullamarine (Melb. Airport) at approximately 1.30 p.m. on Friday, 18th March; we hope to arrange transport to pick up these travellers at 2 p.m.

Those travelling by train or bus (interstate) arrive 8-9 a.m. and should put their luggage in the cloak room at Spencer Street Railway Station as the transport from the airport will pick them up at approximately 2.30 p.m. and take them to Phillip Island. The bus pick up point is close to the cloak room at Spencer Street Railway Station.

Return transport on Monday, 28th March will be available. To avail yourself of our transport you **MUST WRITE TO ME** informing me of mode of transport and time of arrival. The bus to Phillip Island will only be available on Friday p.m. 18th March and the return trip on Monday a.m. 28th March. Public transport by Vic Rail is available at other times and dates but requires waiting and changing of trains and buses. In packing, don't forget sporting gear for golf, bowls or even just drinking shoes.

An information van will be sited at the entrance to Kaloha Caravan Park, on the corner of Chapel and Steele Streets, Cowes. All participants are advised to report there to receive information sheets, name tags etc. and to be conducted to your accommodation by our classy guides. To assist you in finding your way, signs will be placed at strategic intersections.

Official Functions and Entertainment:

The total cost of the welcome, the bus journey to the Cairn at Tidal River, the official dinner and old time dance and musical and the farewell buffet should total approximately \$80. We hope to collect for these official functions on the day you arrive.

Looking forward to seeing you in March '88.

Leith Cooper,
Hon. Secretary.

IMPORTANT LATE NOTICE

In extreme emergency, members requiring transport to Cowes on Saturday, 19th March are asked to ring Tom Nisbet on 857 5336 by no later than 2p.m. on that day.

COMING EVENTS

ANZAC DAY: IS ON MONDAY, 25th APRIL

Dawn service assemble Kings Park 5.40 a.m.

March: Same place in the Terrace.

Be there by 9.45 a.m. with medals up.

March starts 10 a.m.

After the march we will be the guests of the S.A.S. Regiment at Campbell Barracks, Swanbourne.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held at Anzac House on Tuesday, 17th May, 1988, commencing at 11 a.m. Meeting will be followed by a light snack and refreshments.

Be sure to come along and support your association.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

This was a most enjoyable function for about fifty of our members to say 'thank you' to our ladies for all they have done and meant to us throughout the year. The ladies were, as usual, smartly dressed and certainly lent dignity to the occasion.

It was an 11.30 a.m. start and from that moment the room, decked out by the R.S.L. with all the trimmings of Christmas became alive and animated. It remained that way until 3.00 p.m. when, reluctantly, after exchanging Christmas and New Year greetings, most wended their way homewards, enveloped by a warm feeling of friendship, while others stayed on to further usher in Christmas!

Len Bagley, as Master of Ceremonies, with well chosen words, welcomed all present with special mention of R.S.M., W.O.1 Terry O'Farrell representing the S.A.S. Regiment, and his charming wife Maria.

Archie Campbell, our President, praised the ladies for their involvement in our activities, their devotion, their company and affection. How fortunate we are and how well our partners have been chosen has been borne out by the solidity and stable partnerships that have endured over the years. How good it was to see many of our widows. A special welcome to them for our 2/2nd Commando Association is always home to them. This can only be rounded off with the greatest Christmas present of all to our ladies when we say "We love you very much".

Members of the 2/2nd Commando Association are one big happy family and like all families they are supportive in times of strife and have a deep affection one for the other when it is most needed.

Thank you all for coming and making this day an outstanding one in our calendar of events. God bless you, may it be the happiest Christmas possible with 1988 a wonderful year in every way.

Jess Epps, who has been such a grand worker for our Association over a long period of time, responded on behalf of the ladies. Her succinct reply was full of feeling as she thanked everyone for coming and wished all members "A Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year".

EDITOR: The article appearing below is most unusual indeed. It is based on the area of signals, Timor, and "Winnie the War Winner". The heading certainly indicates the myriad of "Chance" happenings depicted. Colin South unearthed this in his close attention to detail re the Timor documentary and past it on to Bernard Callinan. Bernie forwarded it to the Courier team who quickly decided it was ideal for publication. Thank you, Colin and Bernie for your thoughtfulness.
Read on . . .

CHANCE TAKES A HAND

by

BRIGADIER J. D. HONEYSET, OBE

Chance plays an important part in all our lives — both good chance and bad chance. When

Dame Chance, as she is known, decides to intervene in one way or another, it is usually a wave of her wand and then off she flies away.

It is not often that she bestows her good fortune on anyone or any group time and time again, as if, in spite of all adversity, she was determined that her benefactors would profit by her intercession.

I have in mind a particular situation leading to the events which took place in a bush setting some 17 kms south of Darwin on the night of April 18, 1942. I remember clearly those events which both preceded and followed that night.

I refer to what has been subsequently known as the story of "Winnie the War Winner" from her conception to her baptism and confirmation.

I played little part in these events except as an on-looker but do recall this particular night and the subsequent nights quite vividly.

I will begin the story at the start of 1941 when the 8th Division was located near Sydney and then Bathurst during its early formation. I was a junior member of the staff of the Chief Signals Officer at Victoria Barracks, Sydney. One of my tasks was liaison between the 8th Divisional Signals Headquarters, Headquarters Eastern Command, the Ordnance Depot and the manufacturers in order to try and speed up the availability of much needed signal equipment.

This job gave me an opportunity to meet a number of signals officers at the unit.

Subsequently, Japan entered the war and the 8th Division embarked for Singapore and to parts known then as the Dutch East Indies.

A small detachment called Sparrow Force was sent to the Timor/Ambon area and included the 2/2 Independent Company, and parts of the 2/1 Fortress Signals Section and 8th Divisional Signals.

These units had a vital but then unknown role to play.

On February 19, 1942, some 15,000 Japanese troops landed at Dilli on Portuguese Timor, where they were opposed by a small Australian force of about 400 men. On the following day, which also co-incided with a rapid relocation of our Darwin communications facilities following the first Japanese air raid of that city, communication with Timor was lost. Little hope was held for the safety of the Australian troops.

It was of interest to note at the time that Darwin as radio control, had two out stations — one at Katherine and the other at Dilli. The Timor call sign was YCF at that time, although soon after both frequencies and call signs remained fixed and did not change each day.

The skill and determination of the signals personnel of Sparrow Force have been told many times before — how they scrounged parts under the very noses of the Japanese, how they built "Winnie" and of their trials, tests and failures.

In Darwin, the Headquarters, complete with Signals, had moved to an area called Noonamah Siding — previously a ration dump, about 17 kms to the south. Shortly after, N.T. Force Signals was being established and reinforcements were arriving daily.

At 2200 hours on April 19, just one month after the bombing of Darwin, I was walking off my

evening meal of "goldfish" and de-weevilled rice when I stopped at one of the radio vehicles which was about to close down its daily schedule with the L. of C. Signals at Katherine.

The vehicle in question was a three ton stores van covered with wire mesh and with full air conditioning, including the thousands and thousands of insects which, trapped by the lights, were becoming air borne, now that the wet season was almost finished.

I had decided that some improvements were necessary to at least keep the insects out of the operator's — what was called tea, looked like coffee and tasted of condensed milk.

As the operator saw I wanted to speak to him, he did not turn off the equipment. Suddenly, there was a faint but undulating signal which was repeated at a speed which even I could read:

YCF...YCF...YCF...

Having not been in Darwin before the invasion of Timor, this was a meaningless signal to me, but to the operator, whom Dame Chance had decreed would operate that night and who had been in Darwin for some time, evoked the expression, "It bloody well can't be!" Then turning to me he said, "It's Sparrow Force".

I told him to acknowledge and pass on no other information.

I then did what any other junior captain would do — went and got the Colonel.

The Colonel who was also new to the area was sceptical, had a half full glass of gin and water in his hand and was trying to achieve maximum benefit from his last bit of rapidly melting ice.

As there was no reply to the operator's acknowledgement, after about two hours calling we gave up for the night and the Colonel went back to his, what was now warm gin.

Next morning, a meeting of the experts considered that as no recent information had been heard from Sparrow Force, there was a chance that they were alive and still out of the clutches of the Japanese. Furthermore, since the relocation of our station, the aerials were perhaps not quite beamed towards Timor. We further considered that it could, of course be the Japanese trying to obtain some information from an unwary Australian operator.

While the episode was restricted to those of the signals unit and the Headquarters who needed to know, 2200 hours on April 20 saw

more activity, more lights, more insects and more mugs of tea (including the insects) and the whole area reeking with citronella, fly tox or any other kind of insect repellent which could be obtained.

The radio station at Katherine had been advised earlier on the day to keep off the air at all costs but to listen and report after 2200 hours.

It was considered the additional distance they were located from Timor may have had some beneficial ionospheric advantages.

We closed the formal transmission with Katherine at 2200 hours, quickly changed aerials and waited.

Sure enough, there it was again:

YCF...YCF...YCF...

The signals went on for so long, or so it seemed. The signal varied so much in strength and, at one stage, got so weak, that I was certain the power supply, whatever it was, would run out before we could reply.

At last the AR and then our report of R3, followed by his R5.

In the tradition of the Signals Corps, we were 'through', but with whom?

It was by Chance again that I had met and remembered one of the officers who had been with 8th Divisional Signals in Sydney had also been in Timor. I knew his wife's name and remembered his home address.

To my question "Is George there?", the reply was "Yes". To my question as to his wife's name, the correct answer was given and to the question "where is she now?" — "Raymond terrace", confirmed what we had all been hoping.

His next transmission was the offering of two priority messages which we accepted; two messages which had obviously been prepared, confident of the fact that contact would be made. The messages received and acknowledged, advice was given that transmission should close for the night and a further schedule was arranged for the same time the following day.

The messages, being in cypher, were despatched with the utmost haste to the cypher room. However, by early morning there had been no luck whatsoever. They were not in a cypher which we were using, but one cypher officer — I think he was in Katherine because they too had been able to take a copy, said it looked like a Playfair code and it would help if we could obtain the key word.

The only alternative course was to refer the messages to Melbourne with a suitable report and wait the outcome. At this stage, there was no other land telephone so the slow process was begun.

If it was a Playfair code, which is a polygram substitution or a substitute of two letters at a time, it would have the following characteristics:

- Messages would contain an even number of letters and they did;
- Only 25 letters would be represented with one, usually 'J', missing. This is because a box of 5x5 letters is used. There was no 'J' in the message.
- As the message is encyphered in pairs of letters, no pair will be a double letter. There were not any;
- There can be repeated dequences in the cypher message at irregular intervals. There were.

A Playfair code forms its 5x5 box by use of a key word — each letter being used once followed by the remaining of the alphabet excepting 'J'.

Next night therefore, in the absence of any solution from Army Headquarters in Melbourne, it was decided to try and obtain at least a clue.

Communication was re-established without much difficulty and authentication was made through the courtesy of the name of somebody else's wife.

When we asked for a clue in connection with the code word for the messages, the men of Sparrow Force must have been expecting such a request for back came:

YCF... Young was it...AR.

Who was Young? What was he?

When was he it — whatever it was.

This chant was taken up around the camp backed by an orchestration of the old petrol generators long passed their 2200 bed time and the ever present hum of the thousands of insects.

Occasionally, a vehicle would pass on the adjacent main road which led south to civilisation leaving in its wake clouds of talcum fine dust which took ages to settle and eventually coated everything which stood still.

Soldiers who were not performers in this particular episode were trying to get to sleep in the hot airless night.

Many of them were required to be on duty before the sun rose.

In desperation, one of the cypher officers yelled out "Oh who the bloody hell was Young?"

Out of the bush came the answer — festooned with expletives "The Fortress Commander — now shut up, turn off the lights and let me get to sleep". These words were spoken by a cook, who, by Chance, was within earshot and, by Chance again, was located in Darwin when Colonel Young was the Fortress Commander.

So ended a remarkable series of coincidences, set up by Dame Chance, which resulted in the ultimate rescue of many of the soldiers from the original Sparrow Force. This rescue was in time for them to play a further part in the fight against the Japanese which resulted in ultimate victory.

However, the story of their rediscovery did not end with the breaking of the cypher. Once this was done, we had a number of messages listing urgent requirements to continue their fight in Timor against the Japanese. From boots, ammunition, food, medical supplies and a host of Ordnance supplies and, of course, a more reliable radio to replace "Winnie, the War Winner".

Sparrow Force remained on the island of Timor until the end of 1942, making its presence felt on the Japanese.

It is fitting perhaps to conclude this episode by mentioning the part that Signals played in their final withdrawal and return to Australia.

We were, of course, aware of the Japanese interest in the radio link to Darwin. The Japanese had already felt the effects of the ammunition which had been sent over but, in their usual style, had claimed that the Imperial Army had inflicted numerous casualties on the Australians — far more in fact than had ever been landed on Timor over a year before.

Because we were aware of this Japanese knowledge, arrangements were made to fit a transmitter, similar to the one that Sparrow Force was now using, on to a small ship which left Darwin and finally berthed in a secluded spot in the mangroves of Timor.

For some weeks after the Royal Australian Navy had evacuated Sparrow Force, the dummy transmitter complete with a small operating crew continued its usual schedules to Darwin, then silently, one moonless night in the middle of the monsoon season, it scurried back to Darwin.

In fact, it got back to Darwin in time to hear the last extravagant claim by the Japanese of yet more casualties inflicted on the Australians in Timor.

This story has been told many times — of the bravery, determination and the knowledge of those men of Sparrow Force which resulted in their ultimate rescue from Timor.

The part which Dame Chance played in this operation has never really been told. She'd play her part and most successfully.

Perhaps she has played other parts in other similar situations, both in war and peace. Who knows, she may be at work at this very time. She never takes a holiday, and is not limited to a 35 hour week.

VICTORIAN NEWS

Our thanks to Jock and Faye Campbell for the very enjoyable day we had at their property at Pearcedale on Sunday, 1/11/87. It was a very hot day but in the lovely setting of Jock's place we were under the shady trees. Present were Tom Nisbet, Harry and Olive Botterill, Wilma Tobin, John and Cath Roberts, Ken and Margaret Monk, Alex and Beryl Boast, Bill and Pat Tucker, John and Shirley Southwell, Don and Joan Fryer, Leith and Marj Cooper, David and Thais Brown, Norm and Fran Tillett, Jack Fox. Apologies from Fred and Mavis Broadhurst, George and Dot Veitch, Bluey and Mary Bone. Nice to see Don and Joan Fryer from Wangaratta both looking very well. This is the first time George and Dot Veitch have missed one of our functions — they are ever reliable but George got a virus and had to give up.

George (Pancho) Humphreys is in hospital in Geelong at present. He is a great fighter and we all wish him well. Alf Harper and Baldy have called in to see him and Bill and Eileen Sharp live nearby and keep in touch.

We were all very sorry to hear of the passing of Mal Herbert and Tom Snowdon and we pass on our sympathy to their families.

Harry Botterill

EDITOR

Because of an early dateline for the December Courier, Victorian News was just too late. Now here it is, better late than never.

On Wednesday, 2nd December we had Christmas dinner at the Paterson River Golf Club and it was a most enjoyable day. The Club put on a good smorgasbord lunch with plenty to eat,

good company and lots to talk about. The following were present — Fred and Mavis Broadhurst and Fred's sister, Marg and Leith Cooper, Jack and Julie Fox, Norm and Fran Tillett, Harry Botterill, Bill Tucker, Max Davies, John and Cath Roberts, Jack Renehan, Ken and Margaret Monk, Jock and Faye Campbell, David and Thais Brown, Alex and Beryl Boast, George Veitch. Apologies were received from Tom Nisbet, Olive Botterill, Wilma Tobin and Pat Tucker. Fred had contacted most of the widows but they were unable to attend.

I am sorry to report that George Kennedy passed away on 12th December from a massive heart attack. He had been an in-patient at the Heatherton Centre for about 11 years with his diabetic trouble which had affected his speech for the last few years. He knew the 2/2 members who visited him and at times was more clear in his speech. He could read well and was getting the Courier, and I gave him a copy of the Unit History earlier in the year and his eyes lit up and he said he would treasure it. At his funeral the following Unit members were present — Sep and Nonie Wilson, Harry Botterill, Fred Broadhurst, Tom Nisbet, Norm Tillett, George Veitch, John Southwell, Alex and Beryl Boast. Our deepest sympathy to George's brother Frank and his wife. Frank has looked after George for years and had taken him to the Anzac Day March for the last few years, where George marched with his mates of the 2/2nd. We all think you are the best Frank.

On Christmas Day we had a phone call from Theo Adams from Goroka, New Guinea. He and his family are keeping very well.

I hope everyone had an enjoyable Christmas and wish you all a happy and healthy New Year and look forward to seeing those who are making the Safari in March.

Harry Botterill

CARD FROM MICHAEL CALVERT

I read Colin Doig's book on the Timor Campaign with enormous interest, pleasure and admiration.

Please pass on my best wishes to 2/2nd Independent (Commando) Company veterans.

I have recounted what I know of your exploits throughout the World when I have lectured and taught Guerilla Warfare, Para Military Warfare and Special Operations and have given it as a fine example in tying down large numbers of the enemy by a small, highly trained, courageous force with initiative and drive.

Sorry I couldn't visit you when I was last in Australia two or three years ago but I ran out of money.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Calvert
Brigadier

ex 7th Inf. Training Centre
Foster
Wilsons Promontory 1941

RANDOM HARVEST GREETINGS FROM NEW GUINEA

Wishing you all the blessings of Christmas and a New Year filled with happiness.

A time to think of one's good friends and mates, not that it doesn't happen all the year round.

Will not be able to make Phillip Island as am going down to Brisbane in January and August.

Enclosed something for the Association kitty.

Kindest regards

Theo Adams

EDITOR: Theo, all members would heartily reciprocate your greetings and thoughts. God bless.

A TRAGIC PASSING

It is with deep sadness we say farewell to a very lovely lady who passed away on Boxing Day — Beverley Nisbet, wife of our esteemed member, Tom Nisbet.

What can one say of a loss which happened far too soon. Beverley's road has been a rough one for some time and now, tragically and suddenly she has left us all grieving the loss of a dear friend.

Tom, we all offer you our deepest sympathy and our prayers in your time of grief. Keep your chin up. We know you as a resilient man and we're sure you will go on living life, which is what Beverley would desire you to do.

God bless and may the days and months ahead bring you peace of mind and heart to ease the loss of a wonderful partner and pal.

COURAGE PERSONIFIED

Frank and Phyllis Sharp sent a card wishing all members A Merry Christmas and all the best of luck during 1988, which we all reciprocate.

Times are hard in the Sharp family and the

1988 Safari looks as though it will miss these two great members, Phyllis with her charm and Frank with his friendliness and humour.

Phyllis has a real fight on her hands but is facing everything courageously and philosophically. Our prayers are for a miracle to happen, and rest assured both of you, we are there in spirit and with love at the time you need support so much. God bless you in all things.

A W.A. VISIT

John and Cath Roberts have returned home after spending most of a very mild January in W.A. Reason for the visit was to attend the wedding of their daughter Jane who was married on the 9th January. John and Cath had time to meet up with a few members as Jess Epps did the honours and took them for a run to Mandurah where they met up with Joe, Helen, Len and Betty, plus others.

John also visited the hospital to see his old mate "Irish" Hopkins on two occasions; John and Irish were members of 7 Section. They had a great chat on the first visit but on the second occasion Irish was very ill.

John and Cath are looking forward to meeting up again with the W.A. mob at the Safari.

W.W.C.P.

Charlie (Pidgin) Pierce is mobile again, having mastered, to a degree, walking with two artificial legs, an achievement full of courage, perseverance and determination to make things happen. He recently left for his home in Port Hedland but will be back for further therapy and assures us he will be in Phillip Island at Safari time. If, as he says so forthrightly "Some bugger will carry my case!"

Well done Charlie, best wishes for 1988. Be like Felix the Cat, just keep on walking!

Harry Sproxton had a very unpleasant experience when a duodenal ulcer, which he didn't know he had, burst. Harry lost a lot of blood and for a few days he was a very sick man. He is back home again now and is picking up slowly. Harry lost about 4 kilos because of his illness and is finding it hard to put on weight again. Father Don Sproxton takes over the Wongan Hills parish this month. Don is a keen tennis player and enjoys a round of golf. Stan Sadler please take note!

Colin Doig continues to fight his leg ulcer on a daily basis and is just barely staying in front. He remains full of beans, full of knowledge, has reminiscences galore and is always first to

make contact with any member who has had his share of misfortune with an appropriate message

They do not come any tougher than "Doigie", his first thought always his beloved 2/2nd and its members. May 1988 bring you a return to A1 health. We wish you and Joy, who has shared the burden, a really wonderful New Year. God Bless.

Bernie (Boomer) Giles is being admitted to Royal Perth Hospital on 9th January to have an urgent operation on the 11th. We wish "Boomer" tons of luck and trust we can give a positive report prior to our February Courier being published.

Jim Veall is not at all well and has been in Whyalla Hospital for quite a spell. He is now at home, has put on some weight already and is happy about that. Best wishes Jim from all members for a complete and speedy recovery in 1988.

Thanks to Keith Dignum for supplying this news. It makes life on the Courier so much easier to get such unsolicited information on any of our members.

Keith Craig has not had an easy time but always bounces back full of fight and determination to overcome any problem.

Clarrie Varian has had a long run of outs but he keeps persisting with his heart problem. A number of by-passes sees him back in circulation once more, full of optimism, attending meetings. He sure is an enthusiast. Good luck, God bless, may 1988 see you right back on the ball. Clarrie has been a staunch member for many years and was made a Life Member of the Association in 1971.

SICK PARADE

Ernie Bingham has been in St. Anne's Hospital undergoing tests for a stomach problem. Ernie is as tough as old boots and no doubt will be back home again shortly. Good luck "Bing" from all members.

VALE

ERNIE NICHOLLS

It is our sad duty to report the death of another member. Ernie Nicholls died early in November, 1987, at Albany.

Ernie joined our Unit as a reinforcement from Canungra in 1943 and became a member of 3 Section 'A' Troop with which he served until the War ended.

After demobilisation he was employed by the

Albany Town Council and, I believe, served out his time with that Authority.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Ernie's relatives.

Col. Doig

VALE NORM PARKER

Norm Parker, one of the 5 surviving members of the original 7 Section passed away on Boxing Day 26th December, '87.

Norm was a very young man when he joined the unit at Wilson's Promontory, 17 years of age. He was a quiet lad not over robust, but had plenty of what it takes which he displayed in his training and certainly when in action. He served in Timor for the duration of that campaign and was an integral part of 7 Section during their sojourn on that island as part of the 2/2nd Independent Company; for a brief period attached to "C" Platoon H.Q.'s. This took toll of Norm's health and he was down graded and never rejoined the unit.

The writer is not familiar with his activities from 1943 onwards.

He lived in Sydney and Melbourne post war and had health troubles for quite a period, but, with his quiet determination and courage he weathered the early setbacks; his demise was due to cancer of the liver.

Norm never took an active interest in the 2/2nd Commando Association as he was busy building his life, for being so young on enlistment there was quite a bit to do and he did it very successfully.

To his wife, Sheila, and family our deepest sympathy, you have been a wonderful support to Norm over all the years.

God bless you in all things and our love to you.

'Lest We Forget.'

(7 Section 'C' Platoon)

VALE GEORGE KENNEDY

All were saddened to hear of the loss of our old mate on the 12th December, '87 for over all the years since the inception of the 2/2nd Independent Company, George has been a part of the whole picture right to the beaches of Rabaul in 1945.

His service with the Signals Section in Timor saw him a part of that great outfit responsible for our survival by regaining contact with Australia. George went on to serve in New Guinea and New Britain with distinction, a dedicated and fine soldier.

He was an active member of our 2/2nd Commando Association for many years carrying on his attachment to the unit into a peacetime situation, even when suffering from severe diabetes.

The contribution of George Brian Kennedy to the 2/2nd Independent Company, 2/2nd Commando Squadron and 2/2nd Commando Association was highly significant and we will all miss this outstanding personality.

George was quietly laid to rest in the Springvale Cemetery after a cremation service in the presence of his family, many old friends and his long time 2/2nd mates.

To his family we extend our deepest sympathy and trust time will ease the burden of their loss.

'Lest We Forget'

(Thanks to Sep Wilson for the details.)

VALE JOHN P. (IRISH) HOPKINS

On the 24th January, 1988 there passed to the highest reward one, John (Irish) Hopkins, a great man in every possible way. His Irish good humour, tough but gentle nature, regard for his fellowmen, made him the sheerest of pleasures to know. The world is a poorer place because of his passing.

Irish joined our Unit from Canungra in 1943 and served with us in New Guinea and New Britain in 7 Section. He proved to be a top grade soldier and a great mate to all. His boxing ability was one of his great attributes.

On return to civilian life he was a true knock-about earning a living anyway possible, from barman to rouseabout, although the Murchison area and doing the odd professional boxing stint were predominant.

He married a lovely widow in Betty Barden who had a small family to which Irish became the truest of true fathers and was adored by them all. In his later life he turned to the mining game and was a 'powder monkey' for Western Mining at their iron ore plant near Morawa, later with the same firm a timber expert at Kambalda. He retired to live in Bentley.

Wherever Irish lived he took the keenest interest in R.S.L. affairs and was President of the

sub-branches at both Morawa and Kambalda. His sporting interests were mainly centred on the horse sports and he was a keen punter. When he came to the city he always managed to get together with our association and on retirement became a committeeman and was still on the committee at the time of his passing.

Irish was one of my very very true mates and I have to admit to passing quite a few tears on hearing of his earthly departure. The very sincere sympathy of us all goes out to Betty and her family and also to our great member, Peter Borden, his brother-in-law.

Goodbye dear "Irish" we will truly miss your Irish good humour.

Colin Doig.

EDITOR:

The large crowd at the graveside was testimony to the popularity of Irish and gave great support to Betty and the family, particularly the roll up of 2/2nd members:— Len Bagley, Betty Illsley, Peter Barden, George Bayliss, Tony Bowers, Bob Burns, Archie Campbell, Jack Carey, Jess Epps, George Fletcher, John Fowler, Charlie Gorton, Jerry Haire, Jack and Norma Hasson, Dutchy and Jean Holland, Don Hudson, Tiger Lyons, Gerry Maley, Wilf and Lorraine March, Ted Monk, Alby Martin, Joe Paynton, Fred Sparkman, Don Turton, Jack Wicks.

The burial service was conducted by Father Barden brother-in-law of Irish, with all the Barden family present to support sister Betty. Irish Hopkins' sister, Bernadette, from County Mayo in Ireland, was present but arrived unfortunately too late to see him.

She is a charming lass, one of the nine Hopkins children, six boys and three girls, we bid her a warm welcome indeed. It was sad meeting her under the circumstances but she was, through tear filled eyes, cheery and brimming with personality. All the boys who met her were indeed impressed.

Bye now Irish, the little people will take care of your family on both sides. Rest in Peace.

Lest We Forget

CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

Joy Denman
Unit 2, Dolomite Court
3 Bowra Avenue
WOODLANDS 6018

Just a note to advise my change of address. Yes, I have at last sold my old home and moved

into an apartment; Am very happy here.

Enclosed is a donation towards the Courier.

All the very best for Christmas.

Joy Denman

M. Davies
3 Marchington Avenue
MORNINGTON 3931

11/11/87

Greetings,

Just a few lines to forward a cutting from the Canberra paper about our old mate Tom Snowdon. I thought you may be able to use it or pass it on to Peter Epps for his history section.

We are just home from our annual trek north during Melbourne's winter but I'm afraid this year wasn't our best effort. Grace picked up a virus in Canberra (lots of funny things happen there) and just could not shake it off; four attacks in three months culminating in a trip to hospital in Sydney. She has a blood disorder and has had numerous tests all negative so far. We are now waiting for our doctor to come up with some answers.

In Brisbane we were lucky enough to catch one of their barbecues. Among those present were Tony & Iris Adams, Fred & Phyl Bryant, Ralph & Sheila Conley, George & Bettye Coulson, Neil & Margaret Hooper, Angus & Alistair MacLachlan, Spud Murphy, Mrs Gordon Stanley and George & Edna Vandeleur. Gee I hope I haven't missed anyone. If I have please read Don Turton's poem and forgive. We had a great day, Freddy doing his usual mighty job on the barbecue. Thanks girls and boys.

Time was in short supply in Sydney with three visiting times to the hospital, but I did catch up with Ron Trengove who lives fairly close to Grace's sister where I was staying. Ron & Dorothy were great, visiting Grace and keeping the flowers up. Thanks mates.

I phoned Win Humphreys yesterday to see how George was getting on. He had a slight stroke and was in hospital but was expected home soon. Although the health is not the best his spirit is still as good as ever. We wish him all the best.

As far as the Safari is concerned I'm afraid I haven't been any help but am sure Tom Nisbet and his merry band have things well in hand.

Please give my kind regards to The Bomber, Sprocky, Col and all the others whose health is not the best, and please keep up the good work with the Courier. It is indeed our lifeline.

Well folks, it is my turn for mess orderly so had better wind this up. Looking forward to seeing you all in March.

Max Davies

P. Merritt
P.O. Box 464
AYR 4807

My apologies for not writing sooner, But I have found this is the first time I can sit and write about George without tears.

George & I were married for 38 years — a lifetime — and the hole in my life, as you can imagine, is immense.

Our family of two boys and three girls have been a solace to me, especially Margaret who came down from Sapphire, Central Queensland, when George had the first heart attack and has been with me ever since. Margaret and her husband Peter and daughter Tracie have bought a house near me so I won't be all alone.

If you see Len Bagley give him my kind regards. He was George's best mate and he and his parents were so good to me when George and I were first married, me being a Victorian.

The book of the 2/2nd Independent Company is very interesting and gives some insight into what happened on Timor, which George would never discuss.

He would never go to the Anzac Day parade because he could never talk about the war. He would sit in his bar and have his own private remembrance.

George was an excellent father and the children would always come home to see dad. He is sadly missed by his family and me but we have beautiful memories of a beautiful man.

I have just been granted War Widow status which I think recognises what the 2/2nd went through rather than for my benefit.

A plaque for George is to be placed in the Remembrance Garden in Brisbane.

Kind regards

Peggy Merritt

J. Chapman
5 Francis Street
SWANSEA 2281

Enclosed is a cheque for the Courier. Eric always looked forward to receiving his copy and would want me to continue supporting it.

Also enclosed is a programme from the Second Reunion Dinner and two photos which may be useful for the History Book.

The Sydney boys have been very kind to me, first by coming up to Eric's funeral and also in their help to give information to Legacy to assist me to get the War Widow's pension. Thank you all.

I wish all members, their wives and families "Seasons Greetings".

Yours faithfully

(Vera) Joyce Chapman

O. K. Dignum
24 Selkirk Avenue
Seaton 5023
26/11/87

Well we are back in the land of "The Free and the Brave" where we mine our Gypsum and scrape our salt off the lakes and the Border Guards don't steal your honey and sell it to the next South Aussie heading east.

We had a very uneventful trip home, three very hot days coming across the big paddock.

Now we are home and have had time to reflect, we want to thank all the 2/2nd mob and friends we were fortunate to meet, for a terrific time. Will not attempt to name any in case some are overlooked and that will never do, or the next time we meet could be in big trouble.

Those we didn't catch up with, there is a chance to rectify that at Phillip Island in 1988.

The books I picked up from Col Doig are all in the hands of the appreciative buyers. Am enclosing a cheque for them, and once again thanks for a terrific time.

See you all in 1988.

Keith Dignum

B. Smyth
128 Dalkeith Road
Nedlands 6009
15/11/87

Enclosed are prints and negatives of last Anzac Day. The prints are coded to the negatives. Also enclosed is some wherewithal to supplement initial costs of reproduction in the Courier. Because of 'over-run' with a new camera (technical term meaning the photographer stuffed it up) I blanked 4 shots including Col Doig. Another was a close up of my thumb.

Though sad in retrospect it was great to capture such a good shot of Mal Herbert in his most characteristic expression. A tremendous fellow sadly missed.

"41 Years After" When at school together our daughter Susan's closest friend was a Japanese girl Yuki, the daughter of a then Perth based executive of a Japanese Trading Co. She became a much loved frequent visitor to our home. Recently Susan was bridesmaid at Yuki's wedding to a well known Perth member of Bondy's support team for the big Challenge.

Last month a 70th birthday coincided with a departure from business to do some of the things the other fellas have been doing for years. Top marks to our local authorities who have provided bike paths all around the Swan river. My wife Margaret and self frequently use them any time from 5.30 a.m. She is sad to read of so many of our members and their wives suffering ill health. While accepting that most is unavoidable the slowing down of life is accelerated if one does not exercise the lungs, muscles and joints.

Re family. Margaret keeps active in the garden (even has her own light lawn mower for a small patch in the back garden!) Also a few afternoons a week at Claremont Australian Affair, an Oz souvenir retailer.

Son Brad 28, Sales Division of a national Real Estate Group. Sue 26, Secretary to Engineering Consultants. Rich 25, managing the family water hole in Kalgoorlie. All living out and fancy free.

It was great to catch up with Curly O'Neil again and reminisce on that star studded spectacular — "The Invasion of Watum Island" (Rabaul) in company with Dick Crossing and Bruce Smith. Frank claims it was a poor reward for our initiative in crossing 7 miles of ocean in a sinking rubber aircraft dinghy and taking a short cut through a mine field home, for the Bull to then take away his only stripe. (4 wet butts and no souvenirs!)

My best wishes to all members.

Bob Smyth

J. P. Kenneally
28 Wilkins Street
Yagoona 2199

The Big Wet has departed and the sun is shining on Sydney once again. The northern beaches and the outer western suburbs took the brunt of the damage. An estimated eleven inches of rain fell in the Pittwater Palm Beach area in a little over 48 hours. A lot of property damage but no loss of life thank God.

Nora and I are back in Sydney after a good trip and stay in Alice Springs to see our first Grandchild. Sean & Denise did the honours and presented us with a red haired blue eyed grand daughter, Bridie Theresa. Nora Theresa had the time of her life wheeling Bridie around in her pram. It will take Denise months to unspoil her.

In the last 18 months Sean has licked his area of rock and red dust into lawn and terraced landscaping and native shrubs. There was little for me to do apart from about 4,000 miles of bumping round outback Northern Territory. Almost got as far as Hall's Creek on one trip across the Tanami Desert. Desert somewhat a misnomer, spinifex covered, stunted scrub and ants nests. Travelling along you become the radius point of a huge circle no matter which way you look. The sky is just a huge domed circle resting on a flat horizon. Those flat horizons have not received any decent rains for almost three years. All over the Territory the cattle men are having a tough time. Even up in the Top End the wet seasons have been well below normal.

Helen phoned me in Alice with the sad news of Tom Snowdon's sudden death. Our sympathy to Bonnie and her family in their sad loss. Tom came to the 2/2nd in New Guinea shortly after we arrived there in June 1943. He and several other men were reinforcements for some of the other Independent Companies who had returned to Australia. Their loss was our great gain. We acquired Tom, George Patterson, Ross Smith, Eddie Rowe, Mick Devlin, Allan Stewart, Keith Wilson and several more. Bill Holly, Bill Cheverton and Bill Brown were killed in action at Faita in August 1943, so Tom and George Patterson came to 4 Section. Tom saw the New Guinea campaign through with us, went on to New Britain and was still with the Section when the Unit was finally disbanded in Rabaul early 1946. Tom was not only a first class soldier, he was a first class man in all aspects of his life. Good humoured, tolerant, and a good mixer, he made friends and he kept them. He was a man who could be relied on no matter how hard or tough the going was. The wit flowed and the laughs were many when Tom, Drip Hilliard, Roy Martin and Keith Dignum were debating. They enlivened many a tedious hour for the Section.

During the Canberra Safari Tom was a tower of strength to his fellow organisers. He manned the information centre for hours each day, answering queries and helping visitors. He and Bonnie attended every Safari. May you rest in peace Tom and God grant the rewards you deserve. Your comrades appreciated you and we miss you.

Jean English's father, Tom Burne, passed away on 1st November at the age of 93. He served with the first AIF on Gallipoli where he

was wounded, sent back to Australia for discharge and immediately joined up again, picked up his old Battalion in France and saw it through to the end. He was an original member of the St. George Rugby League team when they came into the Sydney competition in 1921, and their half back until he retired in 1926. A life member and one of the two survivors of the original team. Our sympathy to Jean, Pauline and Greg. Tom certainly had a long and varied life and he didn't sit about regretting any of it.

A Happy and Joyous Christmas to all our members and their families. May 1988, our Bicentennial year, be one of happiness, good health and contentment for all of us.

Good luck and God bless.

Paddy Kenneally

N. Hasson
112A Lawrence Street
Bedford 6052

Thank you for our Christmas luncheon. It was enjoyed by all who attended I'm sure. A few regular faces were missing and I sincerely hope they are well.

We ladies very much like being involved and it was suggested that a mid year luncheon would be nice. I have taken it upon myself to put this suggestion to you.

May 1988 be a good year for us all.

Sincerely

Norma Hasson

I. Beavis
23 Rosebery Street
Heathcote 2233

Enclosed a small contribution to the running cost of the Courier which I so enjoy reading.

The comradeship between members from all states is truly to be commended.

Compliments of the season to all and may 1988 prove to be a healthy and happy year.

Sincerely yours

Ivy Beavis

W. Petersen
Poverty Ridge
Fish Creek 3959

There is an age old saying "It's an ill wind that doesn't do some good" and there is a terrible gale blowing here today so here's to a bit of correspondence.

How are things with you Arch? Top class I hope. Our crew are all well, thank goodness.

Saw Bernie, Baldy and Freddie Broadhurst at Tidal River last Sunday week at our annual pilgrimage to the Cairn. They were all well and said they had not heard of any of the mob being on the sick list — let's hope it stays that way.

Had a visit from Gerry Slade and wife Nancy recently. They were over from Tassie having a trip around. Gerry said he has been out of touch with the Unit but would like to be on the mailing list for the Courier. Gave him the previous issue. They showed quite a bit of interest in the coming reunion at Phillip Island and hope to attend. Their address is G. Slade, 29 Monash Avenue, Lenah Valley, Hobart, Tasmania 7008.

The weather man tells us it is 30° in Perth today. At the moment it is 15° here and the forecast says it will be a little better tomorrow but we should have an improvement before the weekend as it usually takes a few days for your weather to reach us.

A happy and holy Christmas to all our members and families.

Faithfully yours

Bill and Pat Petersen

K. G. Wilson
1/198 Booker Bay Road
Booker Bay 2257

Greetings to all 2/2nd members and their families, and as it is too late to wish you all the best for the festive season, I wish you all good health in the years to come.

I retired in November and moved to a unit on the central coast of N.S.W. The property has an absolute waterfront and our unit is about 60 yards from the beach. Hired a boat last week and had a ball — caught plenty of good size flathead and whiting. I intend to buy a boat later on to get the full benefit of our position. My wife Mina and I used to belong to East Hills Golf Club and have now been accepted into the Everglades Country Club. We will make full use of this Club in the new year, so any of you golfing types coming this way, please look us up — and of course any other 'types'.

I received my copy of Col Doig's book from Paddy and thought it was excellent. Always enjoy the Courier and would not like to miss out on receiving same, as it is nice to read of the old mates and what they are doing. Enclosed is a donation towards the Courier.

Cheerio for now.

Keith G. Wilson ex 8 Section

(Not to be confused with my old mate Keith (Horse) Wilson ex 9 Section.)

A. Hodge
29 Gordon Avenue
Griffith 2680

Thanks very much for the book which I received a couple of days ago. Enclosed is a cheque for same plus some for the Courier or whatever. Charlie Olliffe was quite pleased to receive the book. He has a collection of all Independent books that have been written. He was in the 2/5 Independent Company and is one of our local legal eagles, was also a guest speaker at one of our Anzac services about five years ago.

It is sad to hear of so many of our chaps passing on, and not always the old ones.

I would like to congratulate Col and his colleagues who contributed to the book — their memories are A1. I also appreciate the work you chaps in W.A. do to keep our Courier going. Without it we would all have been lost as to what was happening.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and happy, healthy New Year.

Kind regards

Alf and Joyce Hodge

R. Archer
36 Soudan Street
Toowong 4066

Attended our local Christmas Party yesterday, with representation from our Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast — 27 present and correct. Neil Hooper organised it at the Albion Park Race Course restaurant. A very happy function with lots of plans for the Phillip Island Safari.

All the best for Christmas and 1988 to all you boys and your families.

Cheers and Beers

Ron Archer

F. O'Neill
85 Woorara Road
North Narrabeen 2101

Returning from Switzerland late in 1987 I had occasion to stop over in Perth to see relatives. They are the ones who had seen the error of their eastern ways and gone to live in the west.

Thus I was able to fulfill a long held ambition to see the 2/2nd on its home ground. The experience was magnificent. I have always regarded the west as the heart of the Unit and, believe me, that heart still beats warmly and strongly. I will not single out any of those I met because I felt I equated with each of you. Physical changes apart, to me you were the same as when I last saw you in Timor, New Guinea or New Britain. Your good ladies did you great credit. The ceremonies I attended were a tribute to your organisation and goodwill. I felt privileged to take part.

You endure in great style; may you continue to do so. The nicest compliment I can pay is to tell you that after all these years you made me feel that I had come home at last.

Curly O'Neill

J. Darge
P.O. Box 222
Kingsgrove 2208

The enclosed cheque is a donation toward the Courier, may it continue for many years.

I have changed my postal address to a mail box for several reasons. Mainly, when I travel around as often as I do, it is always a worry that the collection of my mail will be forgotten. I hope to sell my home in the new year and have no idea where I will live, so for the time being my address will be as above.

I wish you Arch and your band of helpers a Happy Christmas and a Healthy Prosperous New Year.

Joan Darge

Ron Trengove
46 Hillcrest Avenue
Mona Vale 2103

Well, everyone seems to have had a rough year, including yours truly, suffering a slight stroke but with no ill effects except talking for a few days as if I had a mouthfull of ball bearings. The doctor said I would have to talk more even when I was on my own. Dorothy said that was the last straw and if I said any more she was on her way. Can't understand that — everyone knows I am a man of few words!

Have been reading our Christmas cards from 2/2 and my other family. Each card tells a little about some one who has been there, done that, seen this, doing, going, hope to, will do, won't do, or is thinking about it, visiting, seeing, talking to, and so we get an overall picture of our friends.

The Monks seem to be amongst winners of the year by visiting the home of the Blarney and if no one else envies them, well I do.

The Max Davies clan had a poor year as Grace was determined not to lose the wog she picked up in Canberra on their way north, as usual. She stayed in one or two health resorts while the men in her life rigidly took their daily prescription of medicine, only for the purpose of keeping at bay the wog that kept them company as far back as Manly Hospital. Anyway, after a few days in there Max and Peter, in a round Lager Table conference (decided, as a last resort to get in touch with me and, after three visits from Dorothy and me Grace was declared fit. I believe the doctor said she must have had a shock because she was well enough to travel. I think there's a story there somewhere.

I believe Frank O'Neil was once again over in the old countries. The Monks were lucky they missed him.

Paddy was up around the Alice, spreading the word no doubt.

Denny and June Dennis were up and down — Melbourne, Tasmania, Melbourne, Queensland, Albury, Queensland, home for Christmas, exhausted but happy.

Joyce Smith, not having a good year, hopes to pick up, probably when she hears of trout fishing exploits after the Safari. She is going to lend me Bob's trout rod.

Jack Peattie had a spell in a Tamworth health joint, accommodation perfect, company superb. Wasn't allowed out as they had removed some old inner tubes in his legs. Marj clocked up some flying time in the old blue bus going up to see him.

Jess had her usual full year, dashing across the Nullabor and back early in the year. The grass grows well wherever she goes as she moves so fast she doesn't cast a shadow.

I expect Reg. and Dot Harrington to give a contribution to Telecom on Christmas day. They are so used to giving of themselves, one more won't hurt.

Say Goodbye Ron.

See you on "Safari".

A. and J. Chatfield
59 Coolibah Avenue
Mandurah 6210

Enclosed is a donation for the Courier.

Our kindest regards to all our friends. Hope the coming Safari will be a happy and successful event for all those fortunate enough to attend.

Wishing good health and happiness for 1988.

Fondest regards,

Joy and Allan Chatfield

53 Hilder Street
Weston, Canberra
A.C.T. 2611

When I joined the Commando Association in Canberra little did I think my joining would mean so much to me. Only my wife knows how honoured I was to become President of our Branch and it gave me outstanding pleasure to join with the 'few' especially Jim Fenwick, in organising the Safari to Canberra. What a great time we had, the memories will live on forever. Jim and I have become close friends and although we do not live in each others' pockets we both know that we are always 'there' for each other. Everyone should have friends like Jim and Joan Fenwick.

I am now looking forward to the Safari at Port Phillip Bay in March. Jim and I will be travelling down together, having left our ladies in Canberra. Let us hope the weather is kind to us, we will all supply the fellowship and comradeship needed to make this yet another outstanding event.

See you there

Sincerely

Ron Morris

1 Hillview Avenue
Rye 3941
12/1/88

I have just received a letter from Sheila Parker, Norm Parkers' wife, to say that he had passed away on Boxing Day 26/12/87. They were originally from N.S.W. But moved down to Frankston, Victoria, about six years ago.

Norm had a pretty big operation some years ago and Sheila said that he had never really recovered from it. As the family were back in N.S.W. Norm got homesick and just before Christmas put their house up for auction, sold and moved back to N.S.W. The move took a lot out of both of them.

Norm complained of chest pains, saw a specialist who diagnosed terminal cancer of the liver. The doctor let him come home for Christmas to be with his family which was what Norm wanted.

At least he had Christmas with the family.

Regards to all

Alec D. Boost

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

DENMAN, Mrs. J.
(Joy)
Unit 2, Dolomite Court
3 Bowra Avenue
Woodlands 6018
Phone (09) 446 6140

KIRKWOOD, Mrs. G.
(Gwenda)
4/43 Mary Street
Como 6152
Phone (09) 313 1018

DARGE, Mrs. J.
(Joan)
P.O. Box 222
Kingsgrove 2208

WILSON, K. G.
(Keith and Mina)
1/198 Booker Bay Road
Booker Bay 2257

DARRINGTON, R. D.
(Dick)
151 Koondoola Avenue
Koondoola 6064
Phone (09) 342 8032

PARKER Mrs. Sheila
13 Palmdale Place
North Avoca, N.S.W. 2260

ADDITIONS

SLADE, G.
(Gerry and Nancy)
29 Monash Avenue
Lenah Valley
Hobart 7008

DELETIONS

CHAPMAN, C. (Deceased)
34 Kent Street
ASCOT 4007

KENNEDY, G. (Deceased)
Kingston Medical Centre
Warrigal Road
Cheltenham 3192

KINGSTON, Mrs. W.
7 Burgess Avenue
Moonah 7009

DONATIONS

Keith Wilson
Joan Darge
D. H. Stevens (Shorty)
R. N. Smyth (Bob)
J. P. & N. T. Kenneally (Paddy)
John Chalwell
John Hopkins
Allan and Joy Chatfield
Arch Campbell
Charlie Gorton
George Fletcher
Col Doig
Don Turton
Ron Dook
Col Criddle
Wilf and Lorraine March
Warwick Tobin
Vera Chapman
Theo Adams
Joy Denman
Mrs. Moore
Alf Hodge
R. E. Archer
Cyril Beavis

STOP PRESS:

- (1) To advise that Stan King and Les Anderson have passed to the vale beyond.
- (2) Letter from Angus Maclachlan received containing Queensland news. Just too late for the 'Courier'. Thanks Angus.