



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. 71

JUNE 1988

Price 1c

COMING EVENTS

COUNTRY CONVENTION ESPERANCE — 3rd/7th OCTOBER, 1988

Peter and Pat Campbell have kindly arranged the following itinerary for the Convention:

- Monday, 3rd October:** Arrive Esperance. Book in Pier Hotel.
- Tuesday, 4th October:** Boat trip to Woody Island.
Lunch on the island.
- Wednesday, 5th October:** Bus trip to Cape Le Grande, Lucky Bay, then on to Campbell's farm for a barbecue.
- Thursday, 6th October:** Bus drive in the morning to view local scenery.
Afternoon free.
Dinner at Pier Hotel in the evening to wind up the Convention.
- Friday, 7th October:** Visitors depart.

Pat and Peter have booked 17 doubles and 2 singles at the Pier Hotel. Accommodation is \$40 per double, \$30 per single, plus breakfast \$7 per head. Four rooms are on the ground floor. The rest are upstairs. Members are advised to write or phone the Campbells at 30 Castletown Quay, Esperance, 6450, phone (090) 71 2836 and reserve a booking. All bookings to be confirmed by 1st September, 1988.

Esperance is 721 km (450 miles) from Perth and is an 8 hour trip by car. Bus and train travel are also available. It has been suggested that car travel could be arranged on a share basis.

BOOK EARLY. IT WILL BE A GREAT WEEK.

MID YEAR SOCIAL WITH OUR LADIES

**TUESDAY, 26th JULY, AT ANZAC CLUB
PRE LUNCHEON DRINKS FROM 11.30 A.M.
BUFFET LUNCHEON AT 12.30 P.M.**

**Remember the date and come along
for an enjoyable day.**

2/2nd SAFARI 1988 — COWES, PHILLIP ISLAND

Friday, March 18th saw members of the 2/2nd Commando Association arriving from all states of Australia. They came from remote areas and from the west to the east coast. Whatever their state of health, their afflictions, they came in numbers to make sure that the 1988 Safari, so well organised by the Victorians, would be a huge success.

As the years roll by, emotions are harder to contain and reunions of old and dear friends are full of emotion, giving ample proof that our Unit friendships never die, all they need is this spark to set them in motion.

Saturday, March 19th. The Official Welcome at the Bulldog Football and Social Club was jam packed with members. Our Victorian Hosts did a grand job of organising this function and a delicious meal, supplemented by ample refreshments, was enjoyed by all.

The Victorian President, Tom Nisbet, welcomed members, friends, and the following official guests:

Peter Reith MHR — Flinders Electorate — Shadow Attorney General; Stan Gates — President, Phillip Island Shire; Jack Webster — President, Phillip Island RSL and his wife May; Les Glover — Secretary, Phillip Island RSL and his wife Pat.

On behalf of all members, Archie Campbell thanked Tom and the Victorian boys for a wonderful start to our Safari. He thanked members for coming so enthusiastically from far and wide. It was indeed a fine tribute to our Victorian hosts.

Then came "talking time" — what reminiscences came to hand, what emotional scenes as we met members not seen for many years. The 1988 Safari at Cowes, Phillip Island had started with a real bang, and many were the toasts to old and dear friends.

This function ended all too soon but it heralded ten days of great fun and a further cementing of old and precious friendships. Thank you Victoria for this chance to make our 2/2 Commando Association come to life so vividly as a family unit.

Sunday, March 20th. A day of rest on which everyone could do their own thing, with walks, barbecues, etc. Some even went fishing, and thereby hangs a tale. David Brown arranged a fishing trip for anyone interested and two boatloads set off from the Newhaven Yacht Club. On board with David were Don Turton, Joe Poynton, Peter Campbell and Len Bagley. While negotiating a narrow channel

at very low tide between the Yacht Club and the open sea, David was drifting. The result was "everyone overboard" into the icy water to push David's boat off the sandbank. This was an easy task for our Commandoes and soon they were on their way, heading for some exciting fishing in Bass Strait. Alas, this was not to be as Len, being an observant type, noticed water gushing from the engine cowling. There followed a very tense few minutes (which seemed like hours) as David made a radio call for assistance. This call was answered promptly and there was a happy ending when the intrepid fishermen were towed back safe and sound, if a little damp (wet tails and no fish) to David's where the ladies were waiting with hot and cold drinks which were enjoyed by all as the story of their adventure was related. Thais produced a sumptuous lunch and everyone enjoyed the rest of the day. Alan Luby and Neil Hooper had a pleasant, uneventful day on the other boat and we were led to believe that Neil caught the only fish of the day, a four footer which, as the day progressed, turned out to be a one foot tiddler!

Monday, March 21st. At 11 a.m. there was a meeting with the staff of the Phillip Island Shire. Tom Nisbet led the delegation consisting of Leith Cooper, Norm Tillett, Alan Luby, Jack Carey and Archie Campbell. At the end of this enjoyable sojourn Archie Campbell presented a 2/2nd plaque to the Shire in appreciation of their support. When a reciprocal plaque was presented by Stan Gates, Archie passed the gavel to Tom by asking him to accept and retain it as a memento of the 2/2nd Victorian Branch and their ability to organise such an excellent Reunion.

When Shorty Stevens won a side of lamb in the R.S.L. sweep he asked Joe and Helen Poynton to put on a barbecue for his beloved 7 Section and other invited guests. Helen did her usual grand job with the culinary division and Joe his similar quiet job with the dispensing of liquid refreshments. Who else could be chef but Freddie Bryant who made a wonderful job of cooking the lamb. Freddie, you never lose your touch. Thanks Shorty for sharing your prize so unselfishly, you were responsible for a couple of hours of delightful mateship.

This afternoon the ferry to Seal Rocks was crowded with members who enjoyed watching a very unusual sight of thousands of seals appearing in a mighty colony and the cameras were clicking to capture this rare scene. The trip around portion of West-ernport Bay was interesting and scenic, certainly a trip to remember.

This evening saw two coach loads of us head off for the famous Penguin Parade. The viewing area looked like a queue for a Grand

Final at the M.C.G., plus a Japanese invasion! A mighty complex is being built and will run into millions. This parade is unique but the penguin numbers were small, little groups heading for their burrows in the scrub. They are quite cute but their stature of one foot tall makes it difficult to pick them up in the subdued lighting. They tumble out of the waves, shake themselves, form up in groups and march off to their rendezvous. One wonders what they think of all the thousands of humans going through all sorts of motions to indicate they have spotted them. They have an age span of 8 to 10 years with a few registering up to 21 years. The wildlife people measure them, tag them, protect them, and they have been found as far down as Victor Harbour in South Australia. Last year 300 were taken by foxes and more are being taken by voracious seabirds.

Tuesday, March 22nd. A day for everyone to do their own thing. One of the nice things about the itinerary was the time allowed to do things leisurely, to have time with each other in small or large groups. Members took full advantage of these days which are now certainly a standard ingredient for future Safaris.

Wednesday, March 23rd. This was the day we had all come to share the very pivot of our Safari, the Unit Association Reunion Dinner, held in the banquet hall of the Continental Hotel with 168 in attendance. The weather was fine and sunny and the ladies looked beautiful in their frocks and the men were dressed nicely indeed to complement their partners.

Tom Nisbet was Chairman of the day and what a classical job he did. Everything went with a swing and the function, lasting three hours, was enjoyed immensely by us all.

The highlight was the toast "The Unit" proposed by Rolf (Baldy) Baldwin. He declared he was no public speaker, but by the end of a concise, heartfelt and emotional address, Baldy, beloved by us all, had endeared himself to the entire gathering with his sincerity and beautifully thought out toast.

Who else but our leader, Sir Bernard Callihan, Bernie as he is called more affectionately by us, could be chosen to respond, and how nice it was to see dear Naomi at his side. Bernie returned to the scene of our birth at Wilson's Promontory, tracked the formation of the 2nd Independent Company through its training to its ultimate active role. The verbal picture was a strong one, indicative of his inspiration when leading the Company, then the Force. Thanks Bernie, it was educational to the ladies and guests, and a track back through memory lane for the boys.

Alan Luby handled the toast to "Absent Friends" in a first class manner and elaborated on the names that came forward in the apology section, paid our respects to those who are no more, the East Timorese people, the Portugese, and the Fuzzy Wuzzys angels of New Guinea and New Britain. Thanks Alan for a thoughtful toast.

The response to a toast given earlier by Tom Nisbet "Welcome, our Guests and Members" was efficiently handled by Captain Keith Perriman of the 2nd Commando Company, Melbourne (Reserve).

Our guests were:— Jack and Regina Martin — President, Combined Commando Association; Ron Scott — Secretary, Combined Commando Association; Colin South — Producer, Media World P/L; Chris and Clare Wray — Solicitor — Son of Harry Wray, a member of 2nd Ind. Coy. Author of "Timor 1942"; Joe and Kathleen Gonclaves — Social Welfare worker for Timorese Association, Victoria; Captain Keith Perriman — 2nd Commando Company, Melbourne (Reserve).

Archie Campbell handled an unusual occasion very well in putting to all members the proposition, recommended by the Executive, that "Two of our guests be made Honorary Members of the 2/2nd Commando Association". Colin South of Media World, who is producing the documentary "Independent Company", has been part of us for a long time, and Christopher Wray, son of our late member, Harry Wray, who compiled and published a very fine book on the Timor Campaign, "Timor 1942". The contribution by both these, now members, certainly deserved the recognition given to them by a unanimous and animated resolution of all 2/2 Commando Association members. Welcome to you both.

The National Reunion Dinner programme was beautifully produced and generously donated to the Association by Perce Sitch, a good friend of Tom Nisbet. To you, Percy, we send out heartfelt thanks for adding that extra tone to our gathering.

The Continental Hotel produced a sumptuous repast, nicely served by their staff of co-operative young ladies.

The function came to an end too quickly but all members were loud in their praise of the excellent organisation by the competent team of Victorian members who spared no effort to make the day go with such smoothness.

Thursday, March 24th was a rest easy day so that we could recharge the batteries for the Old Time Dance and Musical Evening in the Parish Hall, and what a huge success it was. We took our own liquor and a lovely supper was served at our tables and a foot tapping

band supplied the music. All of this was organised by "Bluey" Bone, supported by Ken Monk. The piece-de-resistance was Thais Brown's tap dancing solo which wowed the audience. Beautifully and daringly dressed, but supremely dignified, she went through her gentle and intricate routine with the poise and class of the veteran she is in the tap dancing area. After thunderous applause Thais delighted us with an encore, assisted by David, her sound effects man. Thank you both for the grand entertainment.

Friday, March 25th saw three coach loads of us on the road to Wilson's Promontory for our Commemoration Service at the Memorial Cairn of the Independent Companies at Tidal River. It was a glorious day and the scenery en route was delightful and there were dazzling areas on the run into Tidal River. The scenes and panoramas were magnificent. I venture to say the views are among the best in the world, enhanced by the brilliant sunshine and the clarity of the atmosphere.

The day was full of nostalgia as the boys tried to picture the scene as it was 47 years ago. First our Officer and N.C.O. Cadre Camp at Darby Chalet on the river of the same name, today reclaimed by the forest, only the river remains, and Mt. Hunter still looms menacingly in the background. Our first home under the shadow of Mt. Oberon was hard to place, but Lilly Pilly Gully gave us a clue. The sentinel Oberon still towers majestically above the old camp site throwing out its challenge to "come and climb me!"

The barbecue luncheon and liquid refreshments were enjoyed in an area built for the Wilson's Promontory tourists on the site of the old camp utilised by the New Zealand Independent Company, adjacent to Tidal River, a very comfortable spot with mountains on one side and the sea on the other. After lunch we geared up for our Commemoration Service. Jack Fox was in charge and did a grand job. A Catafalque Party mounted by the young members of the 2nd Commando Company lent great dignity to the occasion and we thank them for their co-operation. President Archie Campbell laid the wreath, gave the address and recited the Ode. This was followed by the Last Post, Reveille, and the placing of poppies on the Memorial. The Catafalque Party moved off and dismissed to the spontaneous applause of all present, and it was time to wend our way back to Cowes.

Let Archie Campbell's address convey to you what the day was all about:—

"Today is a very historical occasion for all members of the 2/2nd, it marks a return to the scene of our birth place and the formation of a Unit that rates second to none in all its endeavours, both in war and in peace.

Wilson's Promontory has a certain nostalgia for many of us for within its precincts was established the 2nd Independent Company, later the 2/2nd Commando Squadron, to which each and every one of us became a proud member of a unique family.

The areas of war in which we fought differed, Timor, New Guinea, New Britain, but always the prime and motivating factor was the double red diamond. If you wore the badge, you shared the glory.

Today, standing on the hearth of the 2/2nd family home we thank God this Unit was ours, that we served as brothers in the prime of our young lives and emerged mature men with a deep respect one for the other. We moved back into a peacetime situation and in so doing we retained our family background and preceded to carry it into the task of forming, Australia-wide, the 2/2nd Commando Association which has flourished into one of the best of its kind in the country and includes the men of war, their wives and families. All this had its origin at this hallowed ground on which this Cairn was built and from which emanated a magnificent series of Independent Companies. We have returned as a 2/2nd family to pay homage to our boys who fell in the days of war, yes, and those who have since died. They made all this possible and our way of life belongs to their sacrifice made to keep our country free.

What else could happen but to make this pilgrimage to this shrine, to this place of beauty, to this place which gave us our infant nurture, now the ability to show our magnificent ladies who have supported us in peace as in war, the cradle to which we all belong.

God has spared us all to be present at this Commemoration Service so beautifully organised by our hosts, the boys of the Victorian section of our Association. In silence we pay our respects to a noble host who now serve him so well. We miss them and our love is deeper than ever for those who graced our ranks and today are no more. The whole family grieve the loss, miss you deeply, rest in peace our brothers of the 2/2nd Commando Squadron."

Colin South, producer of the documentary "Independent Company" came from Melbourne to show us an unedited preview of the film. It was extremely interesting and when completed will appear as a class T.V. presentation of the 2/2nd activities in Timor. Thanks Colin from your fellow members.

Saturday, March 26th. The National Conference was well chaired by Tom Nisbet with the talented Secretary, Leith Cooper, taking notes. It was a free flowing meeting with active participation and control of the situations from the chair, to finish in a reasonable time.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. This was to cover an approach made to our Association, via Colin South when he was in Japan, by Mr. Kouichi Nakashima, President of the peace time Association of the 228 Regiment which was based on Timor at the time of our wartime operations there, to see if we would like to make contact with them.

As this was a very personal issue it was resolved by a secret ballot based on a YES or NO answer. **Result:** An overwhelming NO vote.

2. **Safari Reunion.** This was covered for the next two or four years. South Australia was chosen as our host in 1990 and the venue suggested by Keith Dignum was the Barossa Valley.

New South Wales had first choice but declined because there is a Combined Commando Reunion in Sydney in November, 1988. They were allotted the 1992 Safari.

South Australia will make a grand job of it and with our support, as they are small in numbers. Good luck to the "Croweaters".

3. **Financial Situation.** On the advice, research and recommendations made by John Poynton, Treasurer of the national purse, in his report to the W.A. Association, we will continue our operations unchanged, but with an increase for those who run future Safaris. Because each state is autonomous they will administer the disbursement of their own funds. Thank you John Poynton for a realistic approach to our current finances.

4. **Our Courier.** Gerry McKenzie, Chairman of the Courier Production Team gave a run down on future activities. We will continue with six copies a year until the need is felt for a change. The team is:— Gerry McKenzie, Mary McKenzie, Archie Campbell, Len Bagley and Betty Illsley who does the typing.

Len Bagley gave support to Gerry and related to members just how vital a part is played by Gerry's wife, Mary, in keeping the address system up to date. This was received with spontaneous applause which Mary thoroughly deserves.

5. **General Business.** Len Bagley proposed the printing of an updated Address Book. The Chairman suggested that each state form a committee to be responsible for the collection of current addresses and phone numbers to be forwarded to W.A. Branch as soon as possible. Will ALL members please co-operate.

Archie Campbell thanked Tom Nisbet as head of the team, Leith Cooper for his diligent and energetic work as Secretary, plus all the boys who had weighed in with

their invaluable contributions. Speaking on behalf of us all Archie asked us to show our appreciation by acclamation, to which there was a deafening response.

The meeting closed.

It was a day for individuals to move about saying au revoir to friends, for Sunday was to be the official farewell.

Sunday, March 27, the final day of our Reunion and we joined members of the Phillip Island R.S.L. in a Memorial Service at their Cenotaph. Never have the boys marched or drilled so well. The men from all over Australia worked as one. Jack Fox as Marshall carried the whole ceremony through with an efficiency that rubbed off on us all. Norm Tillett carried the Unit flag like a veteran. He deserved that honour as he had put a lot of work into the Safari, particularly on the catering side. The flag became the proud property of the Victorian Branch, a presentation from the 2/2nd Australia-wide, and fabricated in its entirety in Western Australia.

The Memorial Service ran very smoothly. Archie Campbell laid a wreath and gave the address shown hereunder. We sang "Land of Hope & Glory", the reading of the "Ode" followed, the Bugler played the "Last Post", we stood in silence in memory of our departed comrades, and listened to "Reveille". Then came "The Recessional" (God of our Fathers known of old), "God Save the Queen" and in conclusion "Advance Australia Fair". "Babe" Teague, with his fine voice, led the signing of the hymns and anthems.

It was a short but moving service. Here is the Address given by Archie Campbell:—

"What a delight it is to be joined with the men of the Phillip Island R.S.L. in this Memorial Service at their Cenotaph situated in such a magnificent position. Truly a fitting place to pay homage to our fallen comrades, both from Cowes and our Unit, the 2/2nd Commando Squadron.

We welcome the opportunity likewise to say "thank-you" to the Phillip Island R.S.L. for their close co-operation and hospitality which I know our mates beyond the vale would applaud, and to the people of Cowes for their acceptance of us.

We are not assembled here to glorify war, our fervent hope is that there will be no more such situations. To honour our comrades in this manner gives the younger people the chance to know that those men in the flower of their youth sacrificed so much so that future generations could be free to do their own thing, lead a full life, to appreciate the country we live in which is the best in the world, to remember that people are the most important ingredient in their lives.

If we are kind, gentle, understanding, firm in the right places, flexible in our attitudes and give the most important facet of all freely, the best four letter word in the dictionary, love, then our future will be rosy and bright indeed.

God spared us to lead normal lives, we lived with those departed, they were our mates, we had a great affinity, loyalty, honesty and deep affection for each other. They would be the first to say "live life to its full, do not look back over your shoulder, look after the wife and kids, make life worth living for everyone, show us we have not died for naught."

We must answer this positively and we say, expressed in part only "Fear not you have died for naught, the torch you threw to us we caught, we will not break faith with you who lie on many a field." This appeal goes to the young, in fact to us all.

The children of today are tomorrow's leaders, the youngsters, taken all in all, are magnificent. Give them a challenge and they will rise to it as we did when we were young. Make home the environment it should be for them, give them something to hang on to, we will reap the resultant benefit tenfold. Australia will remain a great place to live, to be proud of, to take our place as a nation who leads in the field of encouraging youngsters to be responsible citizens.

Our departed comrades, many long gone, will look down from the heavens, applaud our efforts and say "How wonderful, our sacrifice was not in vain, we are content, we will rest in peace."

In the evening our official farewell was held at the Bulldogs Football and Social Club where we were made to feel very welcome.

Tom Nisbet thanked the President of the Club for the tremendous contribution they made to help us ensure that our Safari fired perfectly. The President, in his response, wished us a safe trip home, good luck in the future and invited us to come again.

Tom thanked the President of the Phillip Island R.S.L. Jack Webster, and Secretary, Les Glover, for opening up to the 2/2nd Commando Association their well appointed Club, with its extensive collection of interesting war memorabilia. Tom added that he hoped we had boosted the coffers of the Club!

Jack replied in humorous vein and assured us we were top paying customers and a great crowd to have about the place. He told us that a warm welcome awaits us if we ever come to Cowes again.

Tom wound up by thanking his Victorian team for their efforts in getting the Safari

under way and maintaining the momentum right through to the end.

Archie Campbell had the pleasurable task of thanking our hosts on behalf of us all and he eulogised the input by Tom and all the Victorian members who contributed to a Safari rated as one of the best ever.

Dot Harrington spoke beautifully on behalf of our ladies and expressed how much the ladies appreciated their involvement in a great Safari. She gave special thanks to all those who made this great event possible. Well spoken Dot, we were all proud of you.

All members contributed to a "thank you" fund and presentations were made as follows:—

Presented to

Tom Nisbet
Leith and Marg. Cooper
David and Thais Brown
Norm and Fran Tillett
Harry and Olive Botterill
Bill and Pat Tucker
Jack and Julie Fox
John and Cath Roberts
Bluey and Mary Bone
Ken and Margaret Monk
Alex Boast

By

Archie Campbell
Alan Luby
Angus MacLachlan
Keith Dignum
Len Bagley
Max Miller
Jim Fenwick
Paddy Kenneally
Jack Carey
Neil Hooper
Jack Carey

Jess Epps made the presentations to the ladies and who better, as a very long serving member, loved by us all.

So the time came to part, it was Auld Lang Syne until 1990. It was an emotional time and strong men had tears in their eyes, as did the ladies, as everyone gripped hands firmly. For our vintage two years is a long way ahead.

Next morning we were gone, heading for our respective homes.

God bless you all, may each and everyone continue to have good health in the two years ahead, to re-assemble at the 1990 Safari in South Australia.

Fred Broadhurst's happy smiling face was missed by us all and we were so sorry that he was confined to hospital for the duration of the Safari he had worked for and looked forward to attending. However, everywhere we went in Cowes we were reminded of him because of the double red diamonds he had made to guide us into Cowes and to our accommodation. Everyone in Cowes knew we were there — it was indeed a double red diamond town for ten days, which proves that Fred doesn't have to arrive in a police car with the siren blaring (remember Canberra?) to make his presence felt. We know what a lot of work was put into those double red diamonds and they were greatly appreciated. Thank you Fred.

CHARLIE (PIDGIN) PIERCE

This photo and write up appeared in the Phillip Island Sun and speaks for itself. "Pidgin" was a real celebrity and handled his disability with great determination and fortitude to see the Reunion through to the end.

He won't let his mates down

ON SUNDAY, members of the 2/2 Commando Squadron got together for their annual parade along the Esplanade of Cowes.

The Spirit of cameraderie of which this unit is justifiably proud, is no more evident than in an old digger like Charlie Pierce.

Charlie had travelled from Port Hedland, in Western Australia, to be with his mates. And he marched right alongside them, even though he has lost both legs.

"I've flown more than 4500 km to come over here and see everyone," he said.

Charlie has suffered from diabetes for some time. Two years ago he lost his right leg after dropping a piece of steel on his foot.

"Ten days later, my little toe went black, and they (doctors) told me they would have to take the toe off", Charlie said.

"I ended up losing my leg."

Little things

A year later, Charlie was mowing his lawn when he cut his ankle.

"Ten days later, that leg was gone too," he said.

Charlie, a 65-year-old bachelor, is a gutsy little character, who enjoys reminiscing old war stories, and doesn't think his disability is a problem.

"My life is mostly the same. It's just the little things that make the difference," Charlie said.

"I can still drive a car and do most of the things I used to."

Charlie said he had an experience in last year's Anzac Day parade in Perth which he would never forget.

"I was marching along, when my mate, who was marching next to me, collapsed," said Charlie.

"I swung around to have a look at him and see if he was all right, and my leg fell off.

"I hope it won't happen again, although we all thought it was pretty funny at the time," he laughed.



Charlie Pierce, with two false legs, marched in the 2/2nd Commando Unit parade on Sunday on the Esplanade in Cowes.

We were made very welcome at the Phillip Island R.S.L. Club and it became a happy meeting place for all members. Each day at 6 p.m. all present are required to stand and face the Honour Roll while the Ode is said and two minutes silence observed in memory of fallen comrades. Len Bagley considered it an honour to be asked by President Jack Webster to say the Ode on one occasion.

Everyone took home happy memories of time spent at this Club with mates, old and new and of the friendly barman, Warren Rowe, who looked after us so well.

DONATIONS TO COURIER

Bernard Callinan
W.H. Tobin
K. Wilson
G.A. & J.M. Chatfield
Jerry Haire
H.C. Grebert
G. Hart
Gwenda Kirkwood
K. Sargeant
G.R. & N.G. Slade
R.C.T. Richards
N.B. Elmore
Dulcie Guy
C. Holley
S. & B.I. Sadler
J.C. Poynton

Alf Harper
Mark Jordan
K.M. Press
D. Stevens
Gordon Stanley
John Fowler
Les P. Halse
Alf Hodge
Terry Paul
Col Criddle
M.L. Wheatley
Peter Campbell
N. Mullins
Eric Weller
Harry Sproxtton
Tex Richards

ANZAC DAY 1988

Our Vice President, Jim Smailes, assisted by George Fletcher, laid a wreath on behalf of the Association at an impressive Dawn Service ceremony at Kings Park War Memorial.

Bob Smyth represented the Association at the S.A.S. Regiment Dawn Service at Campbell Barracks, where he laid a wreath to honour the S.A.S. Regiment's fallen.

In sunny autumn conditions 34 of our members ably led by George Fletcher, our Warden, took part in the march and the traditional service on the Esplanade. After the march Past we adjourned to the South Mess at Campbell Barracks as guests of the S.A.S. where we had a very pleasant time and enjoyed a "5 star" luncheon. Our thanks go to Andy Leahy and his staff for turning on such a great show.

Although our numbers were down due to illness and the absence of some members (including Arch Campbell) in the eastern states, it was good to see country members in Tom Foster (mention wool prices and Tom's face lights up), Arthur Marshall, Vince Swann, Stan Payne and Ernie Bingham on parade. Ernie is coming good after a lengthy illness. John Burrige (on crutches), Gerry Maley, Ray Aitken and Alby Martin joined in after the march — all look well. Bernie Callinan turned up from out of the blue, took part in the march and appeared to enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of the Mess. He looks really well.

Others on parade were Jerry Haire, Les Halse, Ron Dook, Bernie Langridge, John Poynton, Bob Burns, Len Bagley, George Bayliss, Dick Darrington, Doug Fullarton, Harry Holder, Percy Hancock, Spriggy McDonald, Don Murray, Mick Morgan, Terry Paull, Gordon Rowley, Fred Sparkman, Dusty Studdy, Doc Wheatley, Don Smyth and Jack Carey. Apologies were received from Col Doig, Reg Harrington, Gerry McKenzie, Don Hudson, Roy Watson and Colin Criddle.

VICTORIAN NEWS

Have to report the passing of George "Pancho" Humphreys on March 11th. The funeral was held on March 16th at the old church in Preston where George went as a boy and the Masonic Lodge that George was in participated in the service. Another service was held at the Fawcner Crematorium where Tom Nisbet gave the Eulogy to George, and the boys laid poppies.

Present were:— Bernie Callinan, Tom Nisbet, Tony Adams, Sep Wilson, Harry and Olive Botterill, George and Dot Veitch, Mavis Broadhurst, John and Cath Roberts, Shorty Stevens, Frank Sharp, Leith and Marg. Cooper, Bill and Eileen Sharp, Dave Brown, Blue and Mary Bone. Apologies from Jack Fox, Norm Tillett, Ken and Margaret Monk and Bill Tucker.

Quite a few visited Fred Broadhurst in Heidelberg Hospital after the service. Poor Fred has had a bad trot with heart surgery and complications. He is home again and coming along slowly. Max Davies has been very ill and finally had to go to Alfred Hospital for an aorta operation. Olive and I visited him when he was still in intensive care and he was a sick boy. Grace and Peter brought him home from hospital today and I have just spoken to him on the phone. He has to take it easy for a few months but is coming along nicely and sends his regards to everybody.

Anzac Day was fine and mild — our numbers were down this year but this seemed a general trend with all the Commando Companies. After the march we had dinner at the Manhattan Centre in St. Kilda Road. Present were Harry Botterill, Ken Monk, John Roberts, Don Fryer, Norm Tillett, Tom Nisbet, Rolf "Baldy" Baldwin, Leith Cooper and his mate Russell Roberts of 2/32nd Bn, John Southwell, Jack Fox, Alex and Beryl Boast, Max Davis, 2/1st Commando Sqn, Paul Costello, Bill Tucker. Apologies from George Veitch who was not feeling very well, and Bernie Callinan who was in Perth, and Fred Broadhurst who hoped to be there but was not up to it. We met Win Humphreys in town before the march — she was marching with the W.A.A.F. and looking very well.

HODGE, A.

Alf and Joyce
2/289 Wakaden Street
Griffith 2680
Phone (069) 623961.

KING, Mrs S.E.

Sheilah
76 Bennett Street
Lake Grace 6353.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

J. McLAUGHLIN

Jim
3B Brahe Place
Padbury 6025.
Phone (09) 307 4921.

COOPER, L.N.R.

Post Code should read 3923.

SLADE, G.

Gerry and Nancy
29 Monash Avenue
Lenah Valley 7008.

WATTS, G.

Gordon
Flemington Street
Glenorchy 7010.

HILL, L.

Les
Main Road
Montrose 7010.

VALE STAN KING

It is with regret that we have to record the death of Stan King at Lake Grace on 5th February 1988, after a long period of bad health.

Stan was an original member of 3 Section, "A" Platoon and survived the campaign in Timor. He transferred to the Transport Section for the New Guinea campaign. He did not rejoin after New Guinea.

On demobilisation Stan went to a farming career, firstly at Williams and later at Lake King. As with all cockies after the war, there were many periods of vicissitude and it was a very grinding operation.

In the early days of our Annual Reunion Dinners, Stan was always a starter and would stay in the city for a while. He used to also patronise Country Week Cricket.

The Association has not seen a great deal of Stan over the past 20 years but his health has not been very good.

It is remarkable that Stan and his good mate "Ping" Anderson should die within days of each other.

Our sincere sympathy to his wife Sheila and family on their sad loss.

Col Doig.

VALE LES "PING" ANDERSON

February 3rd, 1988 saw the passing of yet another of our members, Les Anderson, after a prolonged illness which had him practically housebound for a long time.

"Ping" was an original member of our Unit, being in 3 Section with Clarrie Turner in Timor where he served with great distinction. He joined the Transport Section on its formation prior to the New Guinea campaign and was in the thick of everything. When the Transport Section was disbanded after New Guinea, Les returned to 3 Section and served in New Britain and it was from this section that he was eventually demobbed.

Les Anderson originally hailed from Kalgoorlie where he returned after the War to become a self-employed painter, along with his brother. He later plied his trade in the metropolitan area and then worked on the wharf where he eventually became a machine operator on the bulk cargo ships. He retired from this situation and went onto a small property at Northampton for a while before coming to live at Falcon near Mandurah.

"Ping" took a keen interest in everything to do with the Association, especially in the area

of Kings Park where he and his three sons did a lot of the basic work to get the area into the condition it is now in.

"Ping" was a great friend of a lot of people, a great soldier, a good father and generally a great bloke. He did a lot of good turns that he didn't hang a sign on.

I personally will miss him in a big way.

We send our sincere sympathy to the three boys and Margie.

Col. Doig.

Editor: There was a big crowd at the Fremantle Cemetery Crematorium to farewell Les and an excellent roll up of 2/2nd members, a real tribute to the popularity of "Ping". Those attending were Dulcie Ryan, Jess Epps, Joy Loudon, Betty Illsley, Len Bagley, Tony Bowers, Archie Campbell, Jack Carey, John and Olive Chalwell, George Fletcher, John Fowler, Charlie Gorton, Percy Hancock, Reg Harrington, Jack and Norma Hasson, Keith Hayes, Dutchy and Jean Holland, Bill Howell, Don Hudson, Bernie Langridge, Alby Martin, Mick Morgan, Joe and Helen Poynton, Gordon and Eva Rowley, Don Turton, Roy Watson, Col Doig, "Tiger" Lines and Noel Turner.

VALE GEORGE ALBERT HUMPHREYS

George (Pancho) Albert Humphreys passed away on 11th March 1988.

George joined the 2/2nd as a general reinforcement from the 57/60th Battalion in 1943 and after training at Canungra, served in New Guinea and New Britain until his discharge in 1946.

He returned to his old occupation in the textile industry and for a period was self-employed as a builder. Later, he was to continue in various areas of the building industry until retirement.

During this period he joined the Masonic Lodge and held this interest until the end.

After the death of his first wife, Wenda, he brought up two children, a son and a daughter.

Later he was to meet and marry Win who proved to be a tower of strength to him during their marriage, especially during the past two years when illness overtook him. Despite long travelling distances, Win visited him daily for the last six months after he was hospitalised.

Bowling was another interest he took up after retirement and after moving to Port Arlington, although not in the best of health, continued

with the Masons and bowling, helping out in any area that was asked of him.

George always showed a great interest in the Association and looked forward to each Safari. Unfortunately, Canberra was to be his last.

Over the years, he was a tireless worker in helping out those in need, whether it be "putting in a screw or mowing a lawn". Nothing was too much trouble.

The esteem in which this "quiet achiever" had been held throughout his life was borne out by the crowded church at his memorial service. Representatives from his Sunday School days, Masons, bowlers, 2/2 members and numerous friends.

What can one really say about such a person who is no longer with us, I have lost a valued friend who was like a brother.

So long old mate.

John Roberts

RANDOM HARVEST

JIMMY VEAL wrote a letter to Don Turton during Novemebr 1987 and it is worth publishing because of its content and the bonus of Don and the Writer seeing him on his way to the Reunion at Phillip Island. He looks fine, much thinner, but, Jim, you can't put weight on thoroughbreds!

After leaving the Unit, Jim served in Morati, Tarakan and Balikpapan as an Engineer and had quite an experience among booby traps, land mines and 250 lb bombs, with some very narrow squeaks.

Good seeing you, Jim. God bless and good luck.

BARBECUE AT SLAUGHTER FALLS.

The Queensland boys meet on a very regular basis and their latest get together gave Archie Campbell who was returning to Perth after visiting Expo, and Jess Epps who paid a surprise visit on her return from New Zealand, the chance to say cheerio to approximately 22 who attended. It was nice to run into Clarrie and Grace Turner's daughter.

Freddie Bryant was the chef and did his usual great job — the food was magnificent, the liquid refreshments issue matched the warm day and the venue could not have been better.

The Queenslanders certainly are enthusiastic members of our Association. Thanks for the warmth of your welcome.

N.S.W. COMMANDO ASSOCIATION APPEAL

One of our members is trying to qualify for a Service Related Disability Pension. His complaint is stomach ulcers. Recognition for this complaint has not been granted by Veterans Affairs as attributable to his war service.

This is an appeal for help from any member of any Company who developed stomach ulcers due to war service, and who are in receipt of one:— A service related disability pension for stomach ulcers or two:— Have gained recognition for stomach ulcers from Veterans Affairs. ♠

Please contact:—

Don Latimer,
8 Cumberland Street,
Blacktown,
New South Wales. 2148.

W.W.C.P.

NEIL SCOTT is still having a battle after his big operation but is full of confidence and facing up to his problems with a smile and a message of good luck to everyone. God bless Neil.

COLIN DOIG has good news after a very long stretch in hospital. He is coming out on the weekend of 21-22 May. A new treatment is working wonders and we all trust Colin you have turned the corner that never seemed to come. You battled like you always do and deserve to win the fight. Good luck from us all.

HENRY SPROXTON is so much better in every way and that is great to hear. A real bonus for you and Thelma and all wish that it continues. You have had more than your fair share of problems. Well done and God bless.

ERNIE BINGHAM is another on the good news front. Like the fighter he is, and with good health his aim, he is really on the way to achieving that. He has had tremendous support from Verna and that has helped no end. Our best love to you both.

WILF MARCH has had a long wait but is now in Hollywood Repatriation Hospital to have a knee operation on May 19th. Wilf and Lorraine will be happy that at last things are happening. We will keep members posted on his progress, via the Courier. Best of good luck Wilf.

COLIN CRIDDLE has had a setback, he is troubled with a blood pressure problem which we are sure he will beat. No doubt Bonnie's ministrations will, as always, be a great help. All the best from all members and keep your chins up.

CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

*S. Sadler
PO Box 24
Wongan Hills 6603.*

Enclosed is a cheque to cover the cost of another copy of Col Doig's history of the 2/2nd — any over to Unit funds.

The season has treated Wongan reasonably well again and Peter had good crops of wheat and lupins. I don't take much part in the farm work now, just the odd job man. Shifting sheep and cleaning troughs, feeding cattle and a few other minor jobs keep me busy for a few hours, then I go off home to Wongan.

Wool prices are sky high, which is a bit of a boost to the income although the farm is not carrying a lot of sheep at the moment. Peter is a crop and cattle man.

Blanche and I went around Australia by car and caravan last year and thoroughly enjoyed it. We were away for five months and looked up a few of the old mates on the way down the east coast. Alan Soper at Townsville looks fit and well. Bulla and Jean Tait at Ayr took us for a tour of the irrigation area along the Burdekin River, over their farm and entertained us to tea. They have a very nice sugar farm, all irrigated and still do all the toil themselves. I gave Basher Adams a ring in Brisbane. Happy Greenhalgh was our next contact at Maclean and he took us for a drive around the tourist attractions and had a quick tea with us at the Caravan Park before going off to a bowling club meeting. He is alert and well as always.

My old mate Ron Orr, 8 Section, was next. I hadn't seen him for 43 years, but we kept in touch every Christmas. We had a lovely few days with Ron and May at their beach house at "Wooli" and were quite sad to leave them. I told Ron he should knock off work and bring May over to visit W.A. I hope he will do that.

Next we visited Bill and Beryl Walsh at Kempsey. Bill and I were in 8 Section in New Guinea and ploughed through much together. We were delighted to hear that he had won a million in Lotto a few days previously and we were invited back to share a couple of bottles of champagne. That we did with much pleasure.

It was from Bill that I heard of Harry Handicott being awarded a B.E.M. for his long and conscientious service as a lighthouse keeper and for his courtesy and help to the visiting public.

Next stop was Port Macquarie where Harry and Amyce called in to the caravan park,

took us for a drive and showed us around the beautiful scenic Port Macquarie area. Harry spent a large part of his youth there and knows the place like the back of his hand. Next day we called at their retirement house above Wauchope, a lovely rural area.

In Sydney we called on Mavis Harris, widow of my old friend Blue, late of the 2/2, who died many years ago. Unfortunately Mavis has Parkinsons Disease and is physically handicapped but she is lucky to have her friend Jack who is a great help to her. They were in the throes of moving house. Had sold out at Lane Cove and were moving to Gateau Bay out from Gosford. Best of luck to them.

We stayed overnight in Goulburn where we went to the RSL Club for drinks and tea and then got caught up in a random breath test which I passed, thank goodness. Blanche wasn't looking forward to driving 5,000 kilometres back home.

In Canberra we paid a short visit to Jim and Joan Fenwick who were happy and well. Then on around the coast through Melbourne, Geelong, Mt. Gambier, Adelaide and Port Lincoln where I tried to get in touch with Shorty Stevens but unfortunately he was in Adelaide.

We arrived back home in the middle of November to find everything spick and span. The house was clean and tidy, the lawns cut and garden neat and weed free, thanks to Peter and Kathy and Margaret and Chas Edmonds. I think they were glad to have their children minders back. Blanche and I certainly appreciated it.

I see by the local paper that Father Don Sproxtton has taken up his duties in Wongan. I will make myself known to him shortly.

Regards and best wishes to all.

Stan Sadler.

*S.E. King
76 Bennett Street
Lake Grace 6353.*

Dear Mr Carey,

Thank you for your letter re Stan. Sorry I have taken so long to reply but to be honest, I got sick of the sight of forms, paper and pen, although I'm glad to say everything is just about finalised now.

Please convey my thanks to all members of the Association.

Yours faithfully,

Sheilah King.

*F. Broadhurst
140 Christmas Street
Fairfield 3078.*

From the 3rd to 5th January this year I was getting a burning in the chest as if I had just drunk a cup of boiling water, and my breathing was very short. Thinking this was an infection of the lungs I bought some cough mixture. On the 6th January I was in real trouble — if I lay down I couldn't breathe at all. My son Garry drove me to Alexander Hospital where I was kept for two days while they treated me with tablets.

I was told to have, as soon as possible, a Cardiac Catheterisation which is a catheter in the main artery inserted in the groin and following the fuel lines in and around the heart. Result — 95% blockage on one line and 25% on another. When the doctor told me that if I didn't have the operation at once I would have three weeks to live I told him in that case I would have two weeks in March and one week in December. I found I had a doctor with no sense of humour whatsoever.

I had the operation on 25th February and the by-pass went well. While in intensive care that night my left lung collapsed and the next day they found a flake off the old artery had got into the blood stream and given me a mild stroke down the left side. I had in my mind there was still plenty of time to shake all this off and get to the Safari. On 11th March I was feeling fit and a last minute check up on the echo sounder found two blood clots on the heart and I was put on a drip, so I was going to miss the start but perhaps I would see the Unit Dinner and all those happy faces but alas, the day before that event I got a blockage of the bowel so, a drip in the other arm and no food or water for eight days. I went into hospital at 95kg and was now down to 85kg and was thinking if I hadn't given my wedding suit to the Salvos I could have worn it to the dance as I was sure I would be out by then, but this was not to be — it would have to be the last day. I was discharged from hospital on 12th April.

Frank Sharp came back to stay at my place until the 4th April. I had a two day leave from hospital and it was great to see his happy smiling face again.

Quite a few called in to see me before the Safari and some on the way home to South Australia.

Mavis took a lot of photos and from all accounts everyone had a wonderful time and I would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts and concern, get well cards and messages. The doctors were all amazed at my recovery but I can tell you now, a 2/2nd Safari is one hell of an inspiration to get up and walk. Thank you again and will see you

all in South Australia where the little old wine makers hang out.

Yours sincerely,

Fred and Mavis Broadhurst.

P.S. I'm not using the Courier to tell you about my operation but to tell you of the symptoms leading up to the operation. There was no pain other than the burning sensation and shortness of breath. They tell me that when the heart malfunctions it does not get rid of the body fluid, this builds up around the heart and lungs and puts the heart under stress. So, if you are feeling a bit seedy go and see your doctor now and I will see you at the next Safari.

Broady

*W.J. Elmore
19 Cadorna Street
Launceston 7250.*

Thank you for so promptly replacing book — "express service". Jack Rice and I have both found the book very interesting as so much was familiar and of course it jogged the memory. I'm inclined to forget a little but life is catching up and when one looks around we have a lot to be thankful for.

If there are still any badges I would like one.

Regards to all.

Wal (Snow) Elmore.

*C.G. Holley
21 Ashcroft Street
Ermington 2115.*

A few lines to express my high regard for a wonderful job of keeping the Courier going out to everyone. Also a few dollars to help with expenses.

Not far from me is a R.A.C.S. Centre and Barracks which has been updated and called "Timor Barracks" in honour and memory of the Sigs who were in Timor. In the last Courier there was an article by an officer who was in Darwin at the time messages were received from Timor. An interesting bit of reading about the Sigs, so I took it up to the Barracks and they were very pleased to receive it.

Will be going up to Expo in Brisbane in a few months so will look a few of the boys up.

I read that Curly O'Neill was in the West. It's a wonder he didn't hire a boat and try to row out to Cocos Island!

To those who are on the sick list, my regards and get well soon.

Sincerely,

Col. Holley.

G. Stanley
30 Francisea Street
Everton Hills 4053.

Enclosed is a donation to help the much appreciated Courier.

Very best wishes to all, especially those who are battling bad health. Joan and I are both O.K., just getting older.

On a recent trip to Singapore and Malaysia with Qantas the Captain announced that we would be flying over Dili, Timor en route. When I told him the 2/2 was in Dili in 1942 he invited me to the cockpit for the approach and flyover. Visibility was good, but as we were six miles up one could not read the street signs, I spent a very pleasant 40 minutes discussing and looking for features on the island. Of course you can see both sides of the island at the same time from that height. It made my day.

Very best wishes to all for the future.

Gordon and Joan Stanley.

J. Fox
47 Rowans Road
Highett 3190

Recently I was down at Cowes with three mates from the St. Kilda Football Social Club who wanted a guided tour of Phillip Island. We called at the R.S.L. for a few beers and President Jack Webster was there and got quite a surprise. He said they were just talking about us and the 2/2nd visit, in fact he said the blokes hadn't stopped talking about our visit. He also stated that next time we are there we will be walking on the new 2/2nd floor coverings.

Anzac Day went off well here, weather similar to Cowes. I didn't march but attended the Reunion luncheon. All our fellows at the luncheon were also at Cowes.

We are having our finalization Safari meeting on May 2nd to ensure the necessary "thank you's" are sent and to clear all financial matters.

Cheers.
Jack.

G. Hart
16 Colwell Street
Kingsgrove 2208.

Trust all is well in the West and that you are enjoying 1988.

I've enclosed a N.S.W. newsletter which has a report of the 2/4th 1987 Western Safari. We certainly had a marvellous time in W.A. and it was grand seeing quite a few old faces that I hadn't seen for 40 odd years. Thanks for the nice write up in the December Courier, it was much appreciated.

Enclosed is a small cheque towards the production costs of your Courier. I read it with great interest as quite a few of the names are very familiar to me and it's good to hear about them.

I see a fair bit of Alan Luby, Paddy Kenneally and Jack Hartley as all are on our committee over here.

With kind regards.
Gordon Hart.

A. Hodge
2/289 Wakaden Street
Griffith 2680.

I guess by this time you are all back from the Safari and I hope it was as successful as all others.

It is sad to hear of so many of our boys passing on to the great beyond, our numbers are certainly dwindling down.

Please note my change of address, as above. It is quite close to town, close to pub, T.A.B. and bowls, and best of all no lawns or garden, only pot plants. It is small but big enough for a cup of tea whenever any of you boys pass by.

Regards to everyone, wishing you all good health and good luck. Joyce sends her best wishes.

Enclosed is a cheque for Courier or Address Book.

Alf Hodge.

K.B. Sargeant
25 Thomas Street
Gympie 4570

It has been a while since I wrote to you but it's never too late to wish one and all a Happy and Healthy 1988, and to hope that you had a wonderful Safari to Phillip Island.

I have just become a grandmother for the second time. My only regret is that Jack did not live to see his grandchildren. However, I am sure they will be very proud of him when they grow up.

I was very pleased recently to receive a copy of "Chance Takes a Hand" and pleased also that you too had received a copy and were able to publish it in the Courier. As you can guess, my family and I are always interested in anything to do with Timor and, of course, more so with anything to do with "Winnie". One can truly say for all concerned "Thank God for Winnie".

I enjoy reading the Courier but am saddened to see so many of your mates passing on. Enclosed is a donation for the Courier.

My regards to all members.

Sincerely,
Kathleen B. Sargeant.

*E. Weller
136 Kempton Street
Bluff Point 6530*

A few lines to congratulate our Victorians on the wonderful time we had at Cowes and to thank them for their hospitality. We had a wonderful time in your state which is very pretty, but a little cool for our liking, being used to the heat. You have lovely beaches even though I don't think it would ever get hot enough for me to sample them.

We have been shown a wonderful time everywhere we have been and would like to thank John and Cath Roberts, Ken and Margaret Monk and Bluey and Mary Bone for looking after us so grandly in their town. We have seen so much our minds boggle. When we are home again we will remember and relive this for ever.

We would also like to say thank you to Jack Keenahan for his kindness and the mushrooms were super.

We came over the mountain this morning to Mittagong — a beautiful drive and scarey. We saw the beautiful Fitzgerald Falls and our second lyrebird, so we are very happy and forgive the cold and wet. Tomorrow we go to Bass Hill and will do Sydney by train and bus.

We are enclosing a donation for the Courier.

Eric and Margaret.

*6 Henry Street
Pt. Pirie 5540.*

Dear Don

I am really writing this from Whyalla Hospital but hope to leave in the near future with a little luck. The reason I am here is that my Pirie doctor handed me over to the visiting consultant who flies himself across the Gulf (Spencer) on his weekly visits; it's about 25 miles across at this point and 104 by road through Pt. Augusta. It has been fortunate really because nobody knows me here and I have been in no condition to carry on conversation with casual acquaintances. I get on well with the Doc. who has a sense of humour and has a willing guinea pig in me for experimentation with all the latest in drugs. He describes my medication at the moment as the "Blunderbuss" approach. I have lost about 23 kilos in 14 months but at the moment I am stable at 45kgs so life certainly wasn't meant to be easy, especially when you are just a bag of bones.

I am camped by a floor to ceiling window on the 5th or top floor of the hospital and have a magnificent view of many miles of Spencer Gulf including Whyalla Harbour and wharves with the hospital park and gardens in the foreground. Max brought my binoculars with him

when he came at the weekend, so when I am not writing letters! Or reading, I wistfully gaze at the blue waters and wish that Max and I were out there in our boat picking up our quota of whiting as we did last year.

Old age can be pretty vicious to some people as I've witnessed over the last few years and you don't have to travel far to find people who are worse than yourself. When Audrey died I don't think I could have carried on at all if I hadn't had Max to live with because living under confinement doesn't appeal to me in any way at all.

The Courier keeps me in au fait with what goes on with all the old Unit members, but I am no correspondent and never was, even when I had no ageing hand to blame.

After the war I led a pretty hectic life — involved in union and sport administration but came to appreciate solitude more and more — hence the interest in fishing — so I think I understand people like the old Gerry Green — one of the finest persons I ever met. Don't tell him that, he might get a swelled head which wouldn't help much at his age.

Jess Epps usually calls in on her frequent interstate trips (she sure gets around) and fills me in on the finer details of those I remember so well from the old days.

I would certainly welcome a visit from you if I am still on deck by then; March seems light years away at the moment but you never know and I certainly envy your physical ability now that I've lost mine.

Thanks for your interest and kind regards and remember me to all

Jim Veal

*T. Richards
12 Bradshaw Street
Latrobe 7307.*

Thanks for your prompt service with the book. Am enclosing a cheque and the balance can go to the Courier.

We have been O.K. although we all get our off days. Bridget and I are going to Ireland in June. She has one brother in London and two in Ireland.

Merv Jones is close at hand and called on me one Saturday but I was away bowling. Haven't seen him since.

Regards to all — glad to have anyone call on us.

Cheers, pals.

Tex Richards.

*Frank Sharp
Dubbo*

Hello Folks, I do hope that you have all recovered from the "Safari" and have settled back to every day living once again.

Well, what another wonderful "Safari", the type we enjoy as we are getting older. The friendship, the yarns and parties together with barbecues at various spots I feel bring us closer together.

We did appreciate the wonderful organisation arranged for us by those Victorian boys, namely Leith Cooper, John Roberts, Harry Botteril. The lovely friendship and hospitality extended to us interstate by David and Thai Brown at their home. Thanks again to another great stalwart of the unit who carries out his duties in such a happy and pleasant manner, his speeches and the way he delivers them brings many a smile. Many thanks, Tom Nesbit for your friendship and organisation.

I was upset that my great mate Fred Broadhurst could not make it after all the work he put into making it a great "Safari". He and Mavis and Phyllis and I had this "Safari" arranged ever since the one in Canberra.

Fred and I have been very closely associated ever since our war days and our two wives have joined in that wonderful and happy friendship with us.

I was fortunate enough to have a week with Fred after the "Safari" before returning back to N.S.W. He is still the same old "Broady" even though he suffered.

He did appreciate so many of the boys dropping in to see him at Heidelberg Repat. Hospital. He had a yarn for all of them, even to the doctors, sisters and nurses. I saw a few red faces. Anyhow, Fred, we do hope that you will soon be fighting fit and more and that you will be all ready to join us at the Barossa Valley in 1990.

We have had Eric and Margaret Weller from Geraldton staying in Dubbo for a week at the City Caravan Park. They are touring the top part of Australia by caravan.

I had them out for several games of bowls and we wined and dined at several nice spots during their stay.

I also received a surprise phone call at 6.30 a.m. one morning. It was Jess Epps passing through on her way to Brisbane. The coach stopped at Dubbo for breakfast and Jess phoned to see how Phyllis was. Thanks, Jess, for your kind thoughts.

I would personally like to thank all those nice ladies who forwarded cards and good wishes to my wife while I was at the "Safari". She was so thrilled to receive them and to be thought of. Thank you, Ladies.

I was privileged to be in Melbourne and able to attend the funeral of our good mate George "Pancho" Humphreys. It was a very impressive service at the church and the crematorium and showed the high esteem in which George was held by so many organisations.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Winnie and the family in their loss of a good husband and father. May he rest in peace after his long illness and suffering.

To all our good friends who are on the sick list, I wish you all the very best and do hope you will soon be back to good health again.

A little thought for the day for our sick members: A smile. A smile costs nothing but it creates much. It enriches those who receive it without impoverishing those who gives. It happens in a flash and the memory of it sometimes lasts forever. None are so rich that they can get along without it and none are so poor but are richer for a smile. It creates happiness in the home, fosters goodwill in a business and is the countersign of friends. It is rest to the weary, daylight to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad and nature's best antidote for trouble. It cannot be bought, begged, borrowed or stolen for it is given away. And if it ever happens that some people should be too tired to give you a smile, why not leave one of yours. For nobody needs a smile so much as those who have none to give.

Bye for now, thanks for all your friendship at the "Safari".

Kindest regards to all,
Frank Sharp

P.S. Thanks once again to the Victorian Boys for a great effort.

Editor: This poem, written by our Unit "Poet Laureate" Jim Smailes, was specially written for our Phillip Island - Cowes Reunion. Thank you, Jim, for such a contribution.

OUR PART IN HISTORY

By Jim Smailes, 1988

Australia fair, let us unite, in Nineteen Eighty Eight,
Two hundred years of high resolve, and humbly celebrate,
That hardy race from Britain came, twelve thousand miles of foam,
To occupy this Southern Land, and claim it for their home.
Each generation gave its best, and battled nature's odds,
Distance, fires, floods and drought, the vengeance of the gods.

There were those who mapped the coast line, those who scaled the range,
Those who traced the rivers run, and those who crossed the plains,
Those that cleared back the bush, and planted fruit and vines,
And those who searched the great outback, and opened up the mines.
Then mighty cities they did build, and joined with roads and reel,
And all within one hundred years, were linked with rails of steel.

These people settled many towns, and founded six great States,
Then later forged a Commonwealth, to weld one nation great,
Our gold and silver drew the throng, who later tilled the land,
The timber, meat, our wool and wheat, created great demand,
This natural wealth and open space, made us a valued prize,
Thus hungry nations to our North, cast South their greedy eyes.

So to our generation fell, the greatest task of all,
To stem the Japanese advance, to seize this nation small,
Our brother Allies too were pressed, to cope with Sea and Air,
But through the islands to our north, we more than did our share.
From Timor to New Guinea, the Islands East and South,
Our forces stretched a thin green line, to keep invaders out.

Our three Divisions were recalled, but this took ships and time,
So smaller Units were deployed, to try to hold the line,
These Units trained in jungle grim, were men of great resource,
Who sabotaged and turned them back, the pride of Nippon's force.
And one of these fought three campaigns, in mountainous terrain,
The Second Second Commando Group, from Tidal River trained.

On through those years in the islands, the jungle that gave no release,
From Timor and tropic New Guinea, then on to New Britain and peace,
Those times proved the worth of each member, and welded a resolute team,
That won the esteem of Australia, and regard from McArthur supreme,
The comradeship forged in the islands, the struggle of terror and hate,
That made each man value his brother, and taught him the meaning of mate.

There is much that is not written, much that is not told,
Of many deeds of valour, of encounters fierce and bold,
The lonely graves in jungle, on hills and gullies deep,
Speak of courage crowned by sacrifice, and they their secrets keep,
There are tales of grit and hardship, and of duty nobly done,
To make their contribution, that this struggle should be won.

The history of beginnings small, through islands far away,
Then back to Peace and post war years, and going strong today,
The friendships made can yet recall, respect and mateship true,
Of those who paid in life and health, and those who saw it through.
What other Units can produce, three volumes to recount,
Like Charlie Wray and Callinan, and Doigie's grand account?

For us who gather here today, on lovely Phillip Isle,
Remembering yet the men we knew, let's pause and spend a while,
Keep alive that great spirit of Oneness, this Association rare,
Of members, wives and widows, none other can compare.
The "Courier" keeps us in contact, with copies throughout the year,
With articles, items and letters, from members far and near.

Time is depleting our numbers, the years are taking their toll,
The ranks are decidedly thinner, so many have answered the Roll,
The value of mates in the Unit, increases with passing of years,
Time is fast closing the chapter, increasing our worries and cares,
So let us make well of the present, and do all we can to ensure,
That the Second Second Commando, to the very last man will endure.

So have a yarn and drink a toast, and clasp the hand again,
Of those who speak the language, and sing the old refrain,
Thus we could go on and on, the time is going fast,
We've had a splendid meeting, but it need not be the last,
So let us meet again next year, with every man attendant,
And toast the finest Unit yet, "The Second Independent".