



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. 75

FEBRUARY 1989

Price 1c

COMING EVENTS

MINI SAFARI AT YOUNG N.S.W.

10, 11, 12 MARCH, 1989

For details please refer to December 1988 Courier

ANZAC DAY, TUESDAY, 25 APRIL

DAWN SERVICE AT KINGS PARK

9.45 AM: Assemble at the usual place in the Terrace

10.00 AM: MARCH OFF

Please note new venue for our get-together after the service:

AIRWAYS HOTEL
195 ADELAIDE TERRACE, PERTH

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, 9TH MAY at 11 A.M.

at ANZAC CLUB

The meeting will be followed by refreshments

PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THE ABOVE DATES

COMING EVENTS

BAROSSA SAFARI 1990

The itinerary planning is practically completed and will be forwarded in time for printing in the April Courier, just a couple of loose ends to be tied up.

DEPOSITS FOR ACCOMMODATION: It is essential that deposits are in by the end of February 1989.

All en-suite cabins have gone and the normal cabins are filling fast.

Everyone wants an en-suite cabin, blaming the infirmities of old age on the nightly excursions. Well, the furthest cabin is only 60 paces (50 yards) from the amenities block, so it would pay those affected that way to start training for a 50 yard dash in the dark through an obstacle course.

The Caravan Park will be the centre of action, we have taken over 'B' Section which includes the cabins and caravan sites which are well grassed and shaded and there are five electric barbecues we can use. There are butcher shops in the town so meat will not be a problem.

The Top of the Valley Motel is filling fast.

The Vine Inn Hotel/Motel still has plenty of rooms, but 12 of them are upstairs.

Motel rooms have tea, coffee and toast making facilities only and no cooking is allowed.

The Top of the Valley Motel has an outside barbecue under cover, with tables and chairs.

The two hotels in the town, besides serving other meals, also serve a light lunch. The Angus Park Hotel \$2.00, the Vine Inn \$2.50, today's prices (very good). Also, there are several food outlets — snack bar, pizza shop, chicken take-aways and a Chinese. The shopping centre is quite good.

The Medical Clinic in Memorial Avenue is walking distance from the Caravan Park and Motels.

It is essential that we have the names of your wives or best girl friends, we need them for the name tags. This info will be kept confidential (all the same Government promises).

GET YOUR DEPOSITS IN

Members who will be arriving by plane, train or coach and will be requiring transport from Adelaide to Nuriootpa are requested to advise Keith Dignum, 24 Selkirk Avenue, Seaton, phone (08) 356 2137. A mini bus will be available on the 16th March 1990 and departure time will be advised in future Couriers.

BAROSSA SAFARI Roll Call as at 11.1.89

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Shorty Stevens
Mark Jordan
Kel and Ruby Carthew
Keith and Betty Dignum

VICTORIA

Fred and Mavis Broadhurst
Phyllis Broadhurst
Bluey and Mary Bone
Win Humphreys and daughter
Leith and Marg Cooper

NEW SOUTH WALES

Paddy and Nora Kenneally
Frank Sharp
Jack and Maria Hartley
Harry and Amyce Handicott
Alan and Edith Luby
Jack and Rita Keenahan
Betty Craig
Denny and June Dennis

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Len Bagley
Betty Illsley
Wilf and Lorraine March
Les and Edna Halse
Elsie Wares
Dot Boyland
Beryl Griffiths
Joe and Helen Poynton
Reg and Dot Harrington
Col and Norma Harrington
Arch Campbell
Dulcie Ryan
Peter and Pat Campbell

TASMANIA

Gerald and Nancy Slade
Gordon Watts

A.C.T.

Jim and Joan Fenwick

QUEENSLAND

Tony and Iris Adams
Angus and Alistair MacLachlan

LADIES CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

One of our best functions held in the Anzac Club, with 56 members in attendance and a number of apologies received.

Starting time was 11.30am but the early birds started arriving at 11am and by 11.15am we had 30 ready to go, so what did we do — we opened the bar!! A smart move by Jack Carey. Our ladies looked charming and the boys

scrub up pretty well when the occasion demands, and this was certainly the occasion. Everyone moved from one group to another and the talking, laughter and fun emanating from every group was something to behold. Certainly the early start was appreciated by everyone.

The smorgasbord luncheon which was thoroughly enjoyed by all was beautifully prepared and presented by the catering division of the Anzac Club and the girls who looked after us did so with efficiency and friendliness.

Len Bagley welcomed members and visitors with his usual aplomb and brevity so that everyone had time to continue talking to old and dear friends. He introduced Major Jim Wallace, C.O. of the S.A.S. Regiment and apologised for Sergeant Major Terry O'Farrell who had been called to Cairns. Len also told us of Terry's promotion to the rank of Captain.

Jim Wallace addressed the gathering with enthusiasm, saying how the S.A.S. appreciate being our counterparts and how proud they are of our war time record. He assured us that we are welcome at any time at their Barracks and told us that the S.A.S.R. are trying to get our Double Red Diamond incorporated into their colours. If that happens, what a great tribute and thrill it will be to all members of the 2/2nd Commando Association. Jim wished us all a merry Christmas and good luck for 1989. Thank you Jim for coming.

Len made special mention of the presence of Sid McKinley whom we had not seen for a long time. He looked a little lean but fit as a fiddle. We all enjoyed seeing you Sid.

Len also drew our attention to the fact that Clarrie and Grace Turner and Alex and Wyn Thomson had travelled from Busselton, catching the 'Australind' train from Bunbury early in the morning and doing the return trip in the late afternoon — a great effort which was appreciated by us all. A bonus for Grace and Wyn was the opportunity to do some Christmas shopping in the city, which they obviously enjoyed.

Our President, Archie Campbell, spoke in glowing terms of what the ladies mean to us and how much they have contributed to the Association, helping to make it what it is by their support of their menfolk and the widows of our deceased mates by their presence at all our functions. They have helped cement it into the finest Unit Association in Australia.

Archie wished a speedy recovery to those on the sick list, a relief of suffering to the infirm and best wishes for a happy Christmas and super 1989 to members everywhere.

John Poynton, in his usual witty manner, thanked Len for doing a good job as Master of Ceremonies.

Everyone voted it a real Super Day, and they are now looking forward to the mid-winter function.

N.S.W. BICENTENNIAL COMMANDO REUNION

In November 1988 Betty and I drove overland to attend the National Reunion. Our three days on the Nullabor were uneventful, if somewhat uncomfortable due to temperatures of 40°, 55° and 44°. On the fourth day, another scorcher, we were happy to arrive in Broken Hill where we were warmly welcomed by Lionel and Elsie Newton and ushered into their cool, cool home. We spent two days enjoying their wonderful hospitality and being shown the many interesting areas of Broken Hill before moving on to Dubbo for an overnight stay with the Sharps. Here we were greeted with another warm welcome by Frank, Phyllis and son Geoffrey, and we were thrilled to find Phyllis full of beans and looking very well. A short but happy time together and next morning we were off on the last leg to Fairfield and Jack and Maria Hartley who had very kindly offered us accommodation in their home where we were again made to feel most welcome. They had invited Snow Went, Helen, Bill and Betty Hoy over and we enjoyed a pleasant evening together. We cannot thank Jack and Maria enough for their hospitality — they made our stay an absolute pleasure from start to finish and when it was time to leave a week later we felt as if we were parting from family.

We are now looking forward to seeing all these good people at Nuriootpa in 1990.

Roll call at Paddington/Woolahra RSL Club next morning was the start of a happy, busy week and it was good to catch up with friends not seen for some time and I was especially pleased to meet up with Don and Dulcie Latimer after many years. The 2/2nd boys, although small in numbers, certainly made their presence felt and there was much light hearted talk, laughter and swapping of yarns for the rest of the day as we got the Reunion on its merry way.

Next day, the Changing of the Guard on the parade ground of Victoria Barracks was impressive, followed by an interesting guided tour of the Barracks, during which we met and had a talk with Gordon Hill, ex 2 i/c S.A.S.R. Swanbourne, and now promoted to Lt-Col.

In the afternoon we enjoyed a coach tour of the beautiful northern beaches and a barbecue at George's Heights, after which No. 1 Commando Company treated us to a display of modern day commando training and tactics.

On Wednesday evening the formal dinner, which attracted more than 200 people, was thoroughly enjoyed by all who partook of a

delicious meal amid excellent company in beautiful surroundings. A credit to the organisers. The following Double Red Diamond members and their ladies appreciated the opportunity to sit down together and enjoy this special occasion: Alan and Edith Luby and daughter Peta, Jack and Maria Hartley, Paddy and Nora Kenneally, Bill and Coral Coker, Alan and Hazel Hollow, Angus and Aia stair MacLachlan, Theo Adams, Frank Sharp, Ray Cole and Len and Betty. Alan introduced Brigadier John Hooper, Secretary to the Governor of N.S.W. and his very charming wife, Lorelei, who joined us at the Red Double Diamond table.

Thursday was Unit Day and the 2/2nd organisers had chosen to picnic at Lane Cove National Park — what an excellent choice. A truly beautiful park and the spot selected for our picnic was by a lake with a paddle wheel boat, excellent barbecue facilities and many friendly birds (feathered type). Add to this a bunch of happy individuals, good food and refreshments and it couldn't help but be a success. The lucky ones who attended were: Alan and Edith Luby, Paddy and Nora Kenneally, Bill and Coral Coker, Alan and Hazel Hollow, Angus and Alastair MacLachlan, Ron and Dorothy Trengove, Denny and June Dennis, Ron and Marje Goodacre, Frank Sharp and his sister-in-law, Jack Hartley, Theo Adams (who generously presented everyone with packs of New Guinea coffee which is delicious), Curly O'Neill, Mick Mannix, Ron Hilliard, Col. Holly, Alan Addison, Betty Devlin, June Bennett and Len and Betty.

As Jack had the job of driving us into the city each day, we decided that on Friday we would all go by train so that Jack could have a rest, relax and enjoy — and he did. We also had a ride on the monorail and saw Sydney town from a different angle, interesting and unusual to be racing past offices etc. at first floor level.

The Armistice Day ceremony at the Cenotaph was preceded by a wreath laying ceremony at the Commando Memorial Seat in Martin Place, quite a moving experience. Both services were impressive and well attended.

The weather in the afternoon was perfect for the cruise around the beautiful Sydney Harbour, after which the 2/2nd party, ably led by Paddy Kenneally, adjourned to the Gallipoli Club for a few farewell drinks together. As we all strolled from the Quay to the Club we were delighted to listen to Paddy's reminiscences of his boyhood in his beloved Rocks area. His knowledge of the entire waterfront area is vast. We would like to have had a day with him down there — he is so interesting and speaks fluently on this subject so close to his heart.

Our sojourn at the Gallipoli Club was, of course, happy and noisy and a fitting conclusion to a first class week together.

On our way home we were treated to more hospitality when we had a day and two nights as guests of Mark Jordan who looked after us very well. He took us out to the Barossa Valley to show us what we can look forward to when the 1990 Safari comes around and, believe me, it really is something to look forward to. Beautiful country, many interesting places to see and plenty to do. We really appreciated this trip with Mark as he took us to Nuriootpa where we were able to have a look over the available accommodation all of which is excellent. The motels are centrally situated on the main street, a pleasant walk from the Caravan and Tourist Park which is the best of its kind I've seen anywhere, well laid out, plenty of shady trees and amenity blocks second to none. Mark introduced us to the manager and his wife who obviously take great pride in the park and keep it in tip top condition. If you are toying with the idea of going to Nuriootpa in 1990, do get in touch with the organisers and make your bookings now. It will help them to help you have a wonderful Safari.

That's all for now, except to wish you all a healthy, happy 1989.

Len Bagley

VICTORIAN NEWS — JANUARY 1989

We had a very good attendance at our Christmas dinner held at the Paterson River Country Club on December 13th, and everyone had an enjoyable day. The following attended — Bill, Pat and Nancy Peterson, Ken and Margaret Monk, Arch and Dawn Claney, Alec and Beryl Boast, Don and Joan Fryer, Fred and Mavis Broadhurst and Phyllis, George and Dot Robinson, Bluey and Mary Bone, George Veitch, Paul Costelloe, Peter Krause, John Renehan, John and Cath Roberts, Bill Tucker, David and Thais Brown, Faye and Jock Campbell, Jack and Julie Fox, Colin South, Tom Nisbet, Leith and Marg Cooper, Bernie Callinan, Wyn Humphreys, Wilma Tobin, Harry and Olive Botterill. Apologies were received from Norm Tillet, Grace Davies, Alf and Gwenda Harper, Baldy, Dud Tapper, Stan Whitford, Mick Wellings, Sep and Monie Wilson, Bill and Eileen Sharp, Glad Curran, Chris Wray and wife.

Grace Davies is not in the best of health and is having various tests. She sends her regards to all. We hope she'll be better soon. Alf Harper is having back trouble and finds it hard to sit for any time, can't play golf but says he'll be playing again when he gets over the back trouble. Best of luck Alf. Norm Tillet was away in Adelaide and sends his regards. Wyn Humphreys saw Basher Adams in Brisbane

recently and he sent his regards to all. Happy Greenhalgh was staying with his sister Alma in Melbourne over Christmas. They came out to lunch with us and Happy was looking good — it's always nice to see him.

Ken and Margaret Monk, Olive, Wilma and I are going to Young for the mini safari in March. Betty does a wonderful job of organising it and we always enjoy it and we're looking forward to seeing Keith.

That's the news for now and I wish everyone a very happy and healthy new year.

Harry Botterill

CHARLIE DODGE — A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE

It is my intention to write an account of the events involving Ted Potts and myself subsequent to the dispersal of those troops which had gathered at Atamboea under the command of Brigadier Veale. By the time I have completed the exercise it will probably be the size of a small book. As I am no great shakes as a writer there will be little chance of getting the story published, but it might be useful for inclusion with any memorabilia of our Unit held by the Association. In the meantime I would appreciate having this missive included in the Courier. It gives me the opportunity to send greetings to members with whom I served in Timor.

Upon retirement in 1985 I found myself thinking more and more of those days, and when I saw an article in the *'West Australian'* regarding the publication of Colin Doig's History of the 2/2nd, I immediately rang Colin and obtained a copy. I found the story quite enthralling, as most of the events described were not known to me.

The following may be of interest to those members not aware of the unusual circumstances which led to the capture of Ted Potts and myself.

While our Unit was in Koepang before departure to Dili, Ted and I witnessed the unfortunate accident leading to the death of Driver R. Swift. We proceeded to Dili with the rest of the Unit and I was with H.Q. Section 'A' Platoon, at Cactus Flat when I received the order to return to Koepang to give evidence at the inquiry into the accident. Ted received the same order.

This was some time in late January 1942, and within a couple of days of our arrival the Japs launched their first air attacks on Koepang. These attacks continued daily and finally the enquiry was postponed indefinitely. Lt. Colin Doig, Ted and I were ordered to rejoin the Unit in Dili. We proceeded by truck through some

spectacular scenery and arrived at Atapoepoe on the coast near the Portuguese border. We were supposed to be picked up by a small boat but as it was late evening the boat was not expected until the next day. We were provided with accommodation by a Dutch Sergeant in charge of a small company of native troops.

In the early hours of the following mornings we were awakened by a very agitated Dutch Sergeant with the news that the Japs had landed in Dili. This information ruled out any chance of the boat coming to pick us up, so we hot footed back to Koepang. We only got as far as Jamplong and found our route barred by Japanese parachutists. Our adventures from Jamplong to Atamboea have been recounted by Colin in his history of the Unit.

When Brigadier Veale gave the order 'every man for himself' our little party heading for the north coast consisted of Sgt. Don Woolley and Pte Blue Hampstead both of 2/40th Battalion, Gunner Fred Berry of the British Anti Aircraft Battery, Ted Potts and myself of the 2/2nd. We did secure a boat of sorts, and duly put to sea. We never did reach another island and, after drifting and paddling for some sixteen hours, we were captured by a Jap submarine. At the time we were close enough to what I assume was the island of Alor, to distinguish clearly the white beach and background of coconut palms. Another two hours and we could have reached the shore.

We spent two days and nights on the sub, arriving eventually in a harbour containing what looked to us like the whole Japanese navy. Here we were transferred to a hospital ship and imprisoned in a padded cell, of all things. Our destination was the port of Macassar in the Celebes. Macassar was a Jap naval garrison with a P.O.W. camp holding about 2500 prisoners.

In this camp we 'joined' the British Navy, as being the only Australians, we were confined with survivors of the Battle of the Java Sea from British ships HMS Exeter, HMS Encounter and HMS Stronghold. There were many Dutch prisoners and about 300 American sailors. From this point the real nightmare begins and will be described in full in the complete account I intend to write. As far as I know, no-one has written of the P.O.W. camp at Macassar, in fact most people are not aware that it existed, although Lord Russell devoted one chapter to it in his book *'The Knights of Bushido.'*

My best wishes to all members.

Charlie

EDITOR: Thanks Charlie, it makes for very interesting reading. Many of us have wondered what happened to you — now we know and others can share your experience.

BOB SMYTH'S ROGUES GALLERY — SEQUENCE 4



Colin Doig



Ray Aitken



Ernie Bingham



Jerry Haire



Gerry Maley



Happy Greenhalgh

CO-OPERATION NEEDED PLEASE!

Peter Epps,
P.O. Box 39,
Hillarys, W.A. 6025
22nd Nov., 1988

Dear Arch,

I have now sent three folders to each state with the first five hundred names of the Units Nominal Roll on my computer. I have approx 300 more almost ready to send, but will wait until I receive the first lot back before sending them.

The idea of the folders is for the members in each state to make corrections and fill in additional information as I've come to a standstill.

I've spent a considerable amount of my spare time over the past 4 years trying to compile the Nominal Roll of YOUR Unit, and if the members aren't willing to help me then I'm afraid the Nominal Roll will stay at it's present unfinished state.

I've asked the members in each state to help me complete the details in the folders and would like you to place this letter in the "Courier," so that all members hopefully will keep a look-out for the folders each time they get together.

I know that I constantly keep saying that the Nominal Roll is very important, but as a military historian I know just how important it will be in the future for generations to come.

Yours sincerely,
Peter Epps

EDITOR: Could the states please help Peter in his efforts to establish a Unit Nominal Roll by acting on the above letter. His efforts on our behalf to establish a history of the Unit deserves full co-operation. Thanks in anticipation, do it now.

PRIVATE and CONFIDENTIAL SEE INSERT THIS ISSUE

We thank Perth Legacy for supplying us with these forms for distribution via the Courier.

All male members will make an easier passage for their widows if they adhere to the instructions.

They cover a wide range of details that could alleviate a lot of heartaches and searching, so give them your close attention.

EDITOR

VALE WILLIAM G. (Billy) COOPER

After a very long illness Billy Cooper passed peacefully away on 18th December, 1988. Bill suffered a severe stroke quite a few years ago, which left him partially paralysed and with loss of speech. He bore his troubles manfully despite his inability to communicate too well.

Bill Cooper joined the 2nd Independent Coy as an original of 3 Section with Clarrie Turner's mob. He was a most delightful and cheeky character, always ready with a smile and a joke, his good humour the sort required in a Unit such as ours. An excellent soldier and thoroughly good performer. He continued with the Unit until the finish.

After demobilisation he returned, firstly to his trade as a baker but tied of that and turned to plastering. After quite a long stint at that trade he joined the Swan Brewery and was with it until the Brewery went to Canning Vale and he opted to retire. It was soon after this that ill health caught up with him and laid him low.

Bill took a keen interest in Association affairs for a good many years and helped in a big way when we had our annual reunion dinners at the Shenton Park RSL Hall. He resided in the area and was instrumental in obtaining this venue for us.

He was a loving husband and father and a really good citizen.

The Association regrets the passing of another good little bloke who was a true pleasure to know.

Goodbye dear Billy, you have gone where all good soldiers go.

Col Doig

NEWS RELEASE AFFECTING WAR VETERANS

Ben Humphreys, Minister for Veteran Affairs, released the following statement on the 14th August, 1988:

"There is to be Integration of Repatriation General Hospitals into the State Health Care Systems."

There is quite a disparity of thinking on this subject and all moves should be carefully monitored. It is near enough to be a 'fait accompli' by the Government, but enough lead time has been given prior to implementation. The 1st July, 1995 is the date nominated for the integration to take place. It could easily happen prior to that! However, there is enough time for our Australian Commando Association to gather the thoughts of all states.

On this subject we should speak as one voice

via the Australian Commando Association with which we are fully affiliated and they have our confidence in whatever direction they act.

Think a united front is better than a piecemeal approach, but if any member gets a chance to add his support for an assurance from the Government not to make the "Transfer of the Repatriation General Hospitals to the State Health Systems" until the veterans community in each state is satisfied there will be no reduction in standards of health, nor loss of priority in admission to hospitals, go in to bat by all means. We certainly will, as an Association, whenever the matter is raised in this state.

Meantime, let us add our weight wherever possible to make sure our War Veterans are adequately catered for.

A. Campbell,
Editor and President

CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR GREETINGS

On behalf of all members we thank the following for their good wishes:

SAM FULLBROOK from the U.S.A. where he has just finished an Exhibition in "The Gallery Spree," Soho, New York.

JIM WALLACE, C.O. and ALL RANKS of the SPECIAL AIR SERVICES REGIMENT.

BEN HUMPHREYS, M.P., Minister for Veteran Affairs.

FRANK and PHYLLIS SHARP

PADDY and NORAH KENNEALLY

KATHLEEN B. SARGEANT

DULCIE GAY

ALDYTH LAFFER

GEORGE PARKER

THEO ADAMS

HUMOUR From DON and VIDA TURTON THREE CORRECT

The teacher at a small country school addressed his pupils "Children, I am about to give you some famous quotations. I want you to tell me who made them and where. The first of you to answer correctly three times can have the rest of the day off. Now, the first quotation is 'Give us the tools and we will finish the job.'"

Little Ali, who was black as the ace of spades said: "Please Sir, that would be Sir Winston Churchill in London, on 9th February, 1941."

"That's very good," said the teacher, "now who said 'Thank God, I have done my duty?'"

Ali's hand again flew up and he answered: "Sir, that would be Admiral Lord Nelson at the Battle of Trafalgar, October 21, 1805."

"My word Ali, you know your quotations," said the teacher as he strolled up the aisle in the young lad's direction.

It was at this point the teacher noticed Ali had the Oxford Book of Famous Quotations open on his desk. The teacher was more than somewhat shocked and inadvertently uttered: "You've been cheating, you little black bastard."

Quick as a flash Ali replied: "Mike Gattung, English tour of Pakistan 1987, now can I have the rest of the day off, Sir?"

THE SPIRIT OF MATESHIP

THE EDITOR: Had a letter from Norm Tillett and I know that he will not mind my making the contents available to all 2/2nd members. It is a very touching letter indeed displaying the strength, spirit and character of Dudley Tapper and the genuine affection of his 2 2nd mates. Read on:

Rosebud,
Victoria.
23/1/89

Dear Arch,

Nice to have an excuse to write to you, trust you are fit and well. Fran and I are about to make our last move, we hope, having recently sold our house. In a general family re-shuffle, we and my youngest son Paul, have sold our homes and pitched in for a nice property not far from here and our next move will be in a box! **(See change of address this Courier.)**

While in Adelaide just before Xmas I visited Dud Tapper at the Mary Potter Hospice. This is one gutsy fellow, cool, calm and reconciled to the inevitable, at peace with himself and the world and I am very honoured to have had a long association with him.

Arch, I can't praise Keith Dignum too much, he visits Dud every second night, they just sit and say little, other times converse on mutual topics. But to have an old friend near by, or at your side, is about as comforting as could be wished for.

I rang Dig three or four days ago to see how things are going as the anticipated time factor has been exceeded. Dud a little worse, and Dig says Dud is getting a little impatient. Very sad. Rang Tom Nisbet to report on Dud.

Tom is well and reported our Xmas get-together a success. I missed out as I was in Adelaide.

Well Arch, all the best to self and best regards to anyone you meet. Hope to see you in S.A., March 1990.

Best regards from Fran and self.

Norm Tillett.

W.W.C.P.

GEORGE FLETCHER has to go back into hospital on the 2nd February. He is made of the right stuff and takes it all in his stride and we hope this time his treatment comes to a successful conclusion. Joan is a great back-stop in George's current problem. Good luck, God bless from us all.

JIM SMAILES has a recurrence of heart trouble but is making progress. He is a real fighter and our Vice-President will be back on the ball ere long. That is our wish Jim, and with Marion's close attention we're sure you will be back in circulation soon. Best wishes from us all.

DOUG FULLARTON is still undergoing exploratory work in the vicinity of the heart and has a couple more visits to the specialist in front of him. Assures me he is feeling fine, so much so that Edna, who has been a tower of strength, has to put a leg rope on him! Good luck to you both, 1989 could see you right back to the A1 area, Doug. God bless from all members.

DUD TAPPER continues his stern fight against some real odds, like the plucky fellow he is. All members are in there pitching for you Dud and all send their love to you and Audrey. Good luck and God bless.

GERRY MALEY has made a brief sojourn in Hollywood Hospital for exploratory reasons and we trust all is O.K. You have been a very courageous person over the years Gerry, am sure you will get over the top of any minor setback. With the support of Dot you will be on deck in quick time. God bless, best wishes from us all.

EAST TIMORESE NEWS

An Ecumenical service was held at the Church of Christ the King, Beaconsfield, W.A. on Sunday, 11th December in honour of the thousands of Timorese people who suffered and died as a result of the Indonesian annexation of East Timor on 7th December, 1975. A Memorial Mass held at 11am was followed by a buffet luncheon in the church hall. After the luncheon a service was conducted by Father Fernandes, the East Timorese parish priest. Following opening prayers, Gordon McIntosh,

a former senator and good friend of the Timorese, Father Brian Gore and Father Fernandes spoke on the plight of the Timorese people. All three stressed the great injustices endured by the Timorese during the past thirteen years and called for a better deal for these unfortunate people. Father Fernandes said that although living conditions had improved in East Timor in some provinces, the people in general were most unhappy under Indonesian rule. Following more prayers and readings, a two minutes silence concluded the meeting at 2pm. There were about 80 people present, mainly Timorese. The Association was represented by Jack and Delys Carey. Father Fernandes hopes to hold a similar service in December, 1989.

CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

G. Hamilton-Smith,
Denmark

Enclosed is a cheque for the Courier.

My health is fair, although I'm having trouble with my legs. Had one operation but it didn't do much good. They tell me it's bad circulation.

My regards to the boys — don't see many of them these days.

Yours faithfully,
Geordie

A THANK YOU MESSAGE

Nancy Teague and the family of the late Ronald William Teague have expressed grateful appreciation to members of the 2/2nd Commando Association (W.A. Branch) for their kind expression of sympathy.

J. P. Kenneally,
28 Wilkins Street,
Yagoona 2199

The festive season will soon be upon us. The first Santa Claus of 1988 hit the streets the other day, followed by a horde of wide eyed youngsters, busily thinking up their Christmas wishes. Good luck to them. They can hardly be blamed for thinking Christmas means "getting." Alas and alack, the stable at Bethlehem is well and truly buried in a frenzied spate of advertising, a mountain of self indulgence. Our affluent society goes holus bolus into debt, thus proving the advertisers right, even if there is an enormous question mark after the Q.E.D.

Combined Commando Association Reunion went well, a good crowd representing all companies and all states, enjoyed five hectic

days. I will bet that it took far more than five days to recuperate. I think Len Bagley will give you a factual briefing on the event. Angus and Alastair MacLachlan represented the Sunshine State. Now that Joh has moved into the background, travel between Queensland and Australia has become much easier.

Unfortunately for Sir Joh he is billed to move back into the foreground shortly when he will be sitting for a most important examination before Professor Fitzgerald. If he is to graduate I'm afraid he will have to find a better answer than "don't you worry about that now." In fact, the "worry" is all Sir Joh's now. A most intriguing play being enacted up north. Reading the script would have kept Billie Shakespeare in material for fifty years. Speaking of Shakespeare, Russ Hinze could have played Bottom perfectly.

Attended a different kind of reunion recently. Saint Patrick's old boys, Mass at Saint Patrick's Church, followed by breakfast at the Gallipoli Club. Looking around the tables my mind went back to the late 1920's. I saw again the laughing, tough, good natured boys I made friends with when we came from Ireland in 1927. The friendships have survived to this day. I've always loved Millers Point and The Rocks area and its inhabitants. It was a great place to live and grow up in. It has seen the history of white settlement from its very beginnings and has always been racy, colourful and interesting. Its days are numbered. Hideous concrete and glass skyscrapers are taking over. They will be offices, apartments and ritzy hotels. People who live in that type of accommodation are not noted for the families they produce. Children are often an encumbrance in that atmosphere. The family homes are being condemned and pulled down, the families moved out to the far outer areas in the west. Pyrmont, Ultimo and Woolloomooloo will suffer a similar fate. The old waterfront area will no longer have families of playing, squabbling, laughing kids, the place will die. Skyscrapers are a poor substitute for the vigorous family life that once thrived there.

Nora back home again after a short spell in hospital for a leg operation. The rest of the family all fit and well.

The death of "Babe" Teague came as a shock. All of us have memories of Babe. He was a great morale booster when things were not all that good for us. He used his beautiful voice to good purpose, taking our minds off our immediate trials and tribulations. Our sympathy to his wife Nancy in her sad loss.

Angus MacLachlan asked me to chase up Sam Fullbrook's address. Getting on to Sam is quite a job. He has three addresses so I'll send him a Christmas card and ask him to give us a Christmas present in the form of his most permanent address. He most certainly has

taken a big step up in the world from the days when were supposedly only worth six bob a day. Three addresses in two continents, a little hard to keep up with.

A joyful and merry Christmas to all members and may the new year bring a continued run of good health and happiness. God bless.

Enclosed is a donation for the Courier.

Paddy Kenneally.

R Harrington,
P.O. Box 35,
Bolgart 6568

Having got word through my nephew in Kalgoorlie that Jack Spencer wasn't all that bonny healthwise, I decided to go and see him. My brother who is an old prospector from way back made the trip with me. I first called on Jack Sheehan who filled me in on the situation to some degree, then I picked up Tim, my nephew and we went out to Jack's camp, some 20 odd miles out, and found that health-wise he had picked up considerably, although he would probably turn the scales around the six stone only, and his skin would blunt a butcher's knife but generally he is still the same old guy. At least, as same as you can be with around the 82 birthdays gone by. During the time he was sick, the payment on his lease became due and of course he wasn't in the condition to get in and fix it up. In the meantime there is the avaricious speculator who flicks his computer around, finds that the lease has run out so smartly jumps the claim, even though the old chap is living on the place.

As soon as I got home from Kalgoorlie I took Ken, as he knows the ropes, and went to Mineral House with the idea that if it hadn't already been registered in the new name we might be able to get a stay on it and perhaps do something about it, but we were too late. There are just no morals left in this world. I feel broken hearted to have to send word back that there is nothing I can do. I understand he is going to be allowed to live there still, and believe me, it is no palace, but the fact of it is that it is not his and he is pretty independent about this sort of thing. However, there we are, and to think that old guy fought, and fought bravely for the likes of the bastard who did that to him. I feel sick about the whole thing.

Jack Sheehan is still as sharp as a tack but badly hampered by a couple of knees that don't want to function well. His daughter is going to be staying with him so he will be able to keep a check on the old chap out in the bush. Tim, my nephew, is with the Education Department and takes parties of school kids out in the bush to various mining operations and has taken two parties out to Jack's. Jack loves to tell them all about mining and the

bush. Tim will keep an eye on him also, so hopefully all will settle down.

Had a note from Fred Broadhurst to say that Charlie Browne has come out of the woodwork. If you see him again Fred, tell him that if he gets to the west and doesn't contact me he will be in more danger than when he went with me on a patrol to see whether there were still any Japs in that camp at Kulau.

Christmas is approaching so I take this opportunity of wishing all members all the best for 1989. Looking forward to seeing everyone in the Barossa valley in 1990.

Regards,
Reg Harrington

EDITOR: Thanks Reg for what you did for Jack — he would be thrilled about your very human approach.

G. E. Pendergrast,
29 Dodd Street,
Dongara 6525

Re the "test of memory." I believe the Japs came into the War on 8.12.41.

We left Darwin on 12.12.41 and would have landed at Koepang about 14 or 15.12.41. The Sapper Section stayed with stores in Koepang and moved on to Dili a few days later. We were camped with the stores at the wharf. I don't remember seeing the yacht there at any time, only a Jap boat which had been made unserviceable. We removed from this boat pumps which we hoped we could use later.

I tender this as it may prompt someone else's memory.

Enclosed is a donation for the Courier.

Yours faithfully,
"Blue"

A. Moore
10 Poplar Street,
Dwellingup 6213

A few lines to wish all a happy Christmas and enclose a little donation to the Courier.

Would it be possible to have the Courier addressed to me as it is still in John's name. Thank you for sending it, I really enjoy reading it.

Best wishes to all.

Alma Moore

K. Sargeant,
25 Thomas Street,
Gympie 4570

Am running late with my Christmas greetings

but do hope everyone enjoyed the Festive Season.

Although having a loving family and very good friends, I still find Christmas a little sad, not having Jack to share it with me. So many of us are in the same position I know, and so we all put on a brave face to help see us through.

1988 was quite a year here in the sunshine state. Expo brought lots of visitors from the south and I was able to enjoy seeing it with my sister and her husband from Flinders. It was quite an experience and people from everywhere were all so friendly, it is something one will remember forever.

After a very dry spell of weather we have been given the best Christmas present one could wish for. Lawns that were brown are now lovely and green again and I'm sure the farmers are all elated.

Sad to say your numbers were sadly depleted during the year. I guess it is inevitable in our age group, but I sincerely hope those remaining will be blessed with good health and I hope you will all continue to share the wonderful bond you have forged over the years.

I wish you all the best for a healthy new year.

Enclosed is a donation towards the Courier.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Sargeant

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