

2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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Vol. 79

OCTOBER 1989

Price 1c

COMING EVENTS

ANNUAL REUNION LUNCHEON ANZAC CLUB FRIDAY OCTOBER 20th MEN ONLY

REFRESHMENTS FROM 11.30am — MAKE IT A GOOD ROLL UP

ANNUAL COMMEMORATION SERVICE LOVEKIN DRIVE KINGS PARK

SUNDAY 19th NOVEMBER, 3.00pm

LET US HAVE A FULL MUSTER FOR THIS IMPORTANT DAY

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL Anzac Club, Perth **Friday, 1st December, 1989**

Refreshments from 11.00 a.m.

BAROSSA SAFARI 16 - 26 MARCH, 1990

ACCOMMODATION as it stands now, and firm prices —

Top Of The Valley Motel: 15 rooms @ \$54 per double — all taken. 1 room @ \$68 per double — taken. 2 rooms available: 1 @ \$68 per double; 1 @ \$90, an executive suite (family) with own kitchen. Top class. Extra person \$14. Includes a Continental breakfast.

Vine Inn: All rooms taken @ \$54 per double.

Nuriootpa Tourist/Caravan Park: Ensuite Cabins @ \$34 per double, extra person \$2 — consists of double bed and three bunks. Cabins @ \$22 per double, extra person \$2 — consists of double bed and four bunks. On site vans \$120 for 10 days plus park fees — approximately 8 vans available. Acres of powered van sites.

Jack Carey is organising the times of arrival from the West to Adelaide, so we can organise to get people to Nuriootpa. Good work Jack. Members from the other states, do your homework on your arrival dates and times and leave the rest up to us, but we must know.

PROPOSED ITINERARY

Friday 16th: Arrival.

Saturday 17th: Free day. Welcome and buffet in the evening.

Sunday 18th: Free day.

Monday 19th: Bus tour of the Valley and cold lunch.

Tuesday 20th: Conducted tour and lunch at Roseworthy Agriculture College.

Wednesday 21st: Memorial Service and lunch at Keswick Barracks.

Thursday 22nd: Luncheon at the Vine Hotel.

Friday 23rd: Free day. Old style dance in the evening.

Saturday 24th: Free day.

Sunday 25th: Free day. Farewell buffet in the evening. Drawing of the Raffle.

Monday 26th: Departure.

COST: \$120.00.

The following information is provided to assist West Australian members travelling to Adelaide for the Safari.

| BY AIR | Dep Perth | Arr Adel. |
|---------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| | Friday, 16th March | |
| Ansett | 6.00am | 11.25am |
| | 12 noon | 4.10pm |
| Aust Airlines | 1.00pm | 5.10pm |

| RETURN | Dep Adel. | Arr Perth |
|---------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| | Monday, 26th March | |
| Ansett | 10.30am | 12.15pm |
| | 6.00pm | 7.45pm |
| Aust Airlines | 9.00am | 10.45am |
| | 6.30pm | 8.15pm |

FARES: Apex, \$507 return. Economy, \$780 return.

If sufficient members are interested, it is proposed to take a cover for twelve seats at Apex rates on the 12 noon flight by Ansett.

By Coach:

Deluxe (322 7877) depart Perth Wednesday, 14 March 7.00pm, arrive Adelaide Friday, 16 March, 6.45am. Depart Thursday 15 March, 8.00am, arrive Friday, 16 March, 8.00pm.

Greyhound (478 1122) depart Perth Wednesday, 14 March, 6.15, arrive Adelaide Friday 16 March, 6.45am. Depart Thursday, 15 March, 8.00am, arrive Friday, 16 March, 7.00pm.

Return:

Deluxe — depart Adelaide Monday, 26 March, 8.30am, arrive Perth Tuesday 27 March, 4.30pm. Depart Monday, 26 March, 9.45pm, arrive Wednesday, 28 March, 6.30am.

Greyhound — depart Monday 26 March, 8.30am, arrive Tuesday, 27 March, 5.00pm. Depart Monday, 26 March, 9.00pm, arrive Wednesday, 28 March, 6.00am.

By Train:

Westrail (326 2222) — depart Perth Wednesday, 14 March, 9.00pm, arrive Adelaide Friday, 16 March, 12.25pm.

Return:

Depart Adelaide, Tuesday, 27 March, 4.45pm, arrive Perth Thursday, 29 March, 7.00am.

SIT UP FARE \$250 return. Meals available from buffet car are additional.

An economy fare including sleeper and meals is available for pensioners at \$482 return.

Members are advised to make their travelling arrangements as soon as possible.

As the organising committee in South Australia intend to provide transport from Adelaide to Nuriootpa on Friday, 16 March, they will need to be advised of arrival times in Adelaide. Further details will be made available in a later Courier.

GERALDTON COUNTRY CONVENTION

On Monday, September 18th, a strong contingent headed from Perth by Westrail coach to Geraldton which certainly lived up to its name "Sunshine City." We were met by Peter Barden and his enthusiastic team who transported our luggage while we enjoyed a leisurely stroll to the Ocean Centre Hotel. With luggage quickly deposited in our rooms we adjourned to the 'Windows Bar' (it had been a long dry trip) to meet up with other members who had arrived from near and far, and so began another Country Convention of the usual 2/2nd quality. Those in attendance were: Peter and Joan Barden, Tom and Mary Foster, Eric and Margaret Weller, 'Bluey' and Edith Prendergast, Nip Cunningham, Archie Campbell, Don and Vida Turton, Gerry and Mary McKenzie, Len Bagley, Betty Illsley, Col Doig, Joy Loudon, John and Gloria Poynton, Jack Carey, Clarrie and Grace Turner, Alex and Win Thomson, Dulcie Ryan, Elsie Wares, Dot Boyland, Dick Darrington, Tony and Gwen Bowers, Roy Watson, Barbara Goddard, Les and Edna Halse, Stan and Blanche Sadler, Charlie and Mavis Sadler, Bernie and Babs Langridge, Robbie Rowan-Robinson, Stan and Barbara Payne, Gordon Holmes, George Bayliss, Reg and Dot Harrington, Jack Fowler, Bob and Betty McDonald, Bruss Fagg, and Mark Jordan all the way from South Australia.

The itinerary arranged by the Geraldton team was interesting indeed, and we all looked forward to what it had to offer.

On Tuesday morning 41 of us boarded the bus which was to take us to Kalbarri, one of Western Australia's most popular holiday resorts, 166 kms north of Geraldton. The drive through wildflower country was made more enjoyable as Peter Barden gave us a non stop commentary on the merits and background history of Geraldton, Northampton and Kalbarri. Peter knows and loves Geraldton and the surrounding areas so well and we all benefited from his knowledge.

Kalbarri is situated at the mouth of the Murchison River where the calm waters of the estuary are ideal for swimming, fishing and all water sports. We enjoyed the beauty of this lovely tourist town for a while before visiting the very attractive 'Rainbow Jungle and Tropical Bird Park.' The collection of birds was a real eye-opener and the layout for viewing a masterpiece of planning. Our next stop was Red Bluff, a ruggedly beautiful spot where the sea pounds away on the rockface of the headland and, over millions of years, this has given an appearance of a delicate nature, with strips etched out and appearing as long red ribbons. While we were enjoying this

fascinating scenery, the Geraldton ladies were setting out a delicious picnic lunch for our enjoyment. Tom and Mary Foster arrived in their 4WD vehicle and when Tom opened up the back, hey presto, the mobile bar was open, with cold drinks to suit all tastes.

With thirsts quenched and hearty appetites satisfied, we were on our way to the gorge area of 'The Loop' in the magnificent Murchison River Gorge, a most remarkable land feature which covers 80 kms of rugged grandeur. Fantastic scenery and steep climbing makes it a challenging area and, while some of the more intrepid old Commandos took up the challenge, the less adventurous members appreciated Tom's decision to again open the bar, which was also greatly appreciated by the explorers on their return. It was time to head back to Geraldton after a day as enjoyable as one could wish for and it was agreed that Peter and his team had done a fine job.

We called in to Northampton to say hello to 80 year old Bruss Fagg who was delighted to see so many of his old mates and it was good to find him in good spirits, feeling fit and looking forward to joining us at the Convention dinner later in the week.

Peter had arranged an interesting morning for us on Wednesday, starting with a guided tour of the Civic Centre by the Mayor, Mrs Faye Simpson, the first lady to be elected Mayor of the City of Geraldton, which was proclaimed a City by Queen Elizabeth during her 1988 visit. The Queen opened the original Civic Centre in 1963 and, during her 1988 visit she opened extensions to the Centre. We were welcomed by Mayor Simpson who took us on an interesting, instructive tour of the administrative area and Council Chambers. The Library is more impressive, as good as one would see anywhere, and the Chief Librarian, Pat Gallaher, gave an informative talk and answered our questions in a charming manner.

We strolled through beautifully manicured gardens to the Queens Park Theatre, pausing on the way to admire a quaint amphitheatre styled in Greek fashion with tiered seating and a neat brick stage. This is used extensively during the warmer months.

The interior of the theatre is superb and we went backstage to get a performers' eye view of the seating which is comfort personified. Our tour was over all too soon and Archie Campbell presented a copy of Col Doig's Unit History to Mayor Faye Simpson, to be placed in the Library as a token of our gratitude for the hospitality shown to us by the people of Geraldton.

We moved across the road to view the magnificent St. Francis Xavier Roman Catholic Cathedral where we met Monsignor John

Barden, brother of Peter, who described the history of the Church very fluently indeed. Monsignor John Howes was the architect of this wonderful place of worship, the interior with the unusually beautiful leadlight coloured windows an outstanding feature. John Howes has left his mark of ability, not only in Geraldton but was also the architect and builder of other churches in the region, including the lovely Mullewa Church of our Lady of Mount Carmel and its associated buildings. Jack Carey thanked Monsignor John Barden for his kindness in giving us the history of the Cathedral and stressed that such a building of quality would be standing fair and proud in a hundred years time.

We then proceeded to the maritime Museum containing the history and artefacts relevant to the discovery in 1963 of the Dutch sailing vessel, "Batavia" which sank in the Abrolhos Islands during 1829. We met Max Cramer who was the first person to dive on the wreck in 1963 and he gave us a stirring, humorous, first class account of the happenings when he and his diver mates brought ancient history to life. Max is a colourful character, very well known, not only in Geraldton but throughout Australia, for his exploits in diving and securing cannons, coins and all things relevant to the Dutch shipping era of the 1600's, which now form the background of this fascinating Museum. It was a wonderful stopover, so educational because of the knowledge and ability to impart it, of Max Cramer, diver supreme.

On Thursday morning we were taken to Tom and Mary Foster's property 'Huntswell' at Allanooka, about 70 kms south of Geraldton. Once again Peter, who had done such a fine job as organiser of the Geraldton working team, regaled us with the history of the area we traversed. Peter established a great reputation in Geraldton as a very co-operative and fair minded journalist during his 30 years with the ABC and he certainly has a fund of knowledge.

On arrival at 'Huntswell,' Tom boarded the bus and guided us to the oil drilling activities of Barrack Energy Ltd. En route we learned the history of the Foster efforts in establishing their fine holding and how the oil industry came into being at Mt. Horner. 'Huntswell' is in fine condition and is a credit to Tom and his family who have established it from the original bushland to the magnificent property it is today.

Tom introduced us to Ken Bull, Production Manager for Barrack Energy Ltd., and so began a most interesting and informative tour. We saw a drilling rig in action with the 'roughnecks' working at top pace, the non-stop 'bean' pumps dotted all around Mt. Horner, the tank farm where the crude oil is stored for transport to BP, Kwinana. We

learned that Mt. Horner is capable of producing in excess of 500 barrels (42 gallons to the barrel) of oil per day, the tenth largest on shore producing field in Australia. Proven reserves and probable recoverable reserves are estimated to be not less than 2.8 million barrels.

It was an eye opener for us all and we thank Tom for the opportunity and Ken Bull for a great introduction to oil drilling and a perfect commentary on how it is achieved. If Ken is typical of the younger generation of engineers, then the oil industry is in good hands.

Back to the homestead where a terrific barbecue lunch awaited us, cooked to perfection by Tom's sons, with all the trimmings provided by the ladies, and the usual cold refreshments. We were spoilt indeed by the Foster hospitality and our thanks were duly conveyed by Bernie Langridge.

As it was Dot Harrington's birthday, Mary produced a beautifully decorated birthday cake, much to Dot's surprise and pleasure.

After lunch Tom took all the farmers on a tour of his property and they were deeply impressed by the layout, the growth of the crops and Tom's resume on how it all happened. A shower or two of rain soaked a few of us but the delight of seeing something created from nothing so efficiently countered any discomfort of a soaking.

We headed back to Geraldton full of bonhomie, and a few other things, in good time to make ready for the farewell dinner in the evening. The day had not yet ended.

By 7pm the 'Window Bar' was filling rapidly with members and their ladies in happy anticipation of an evening together to wind up this most enjoyable Country Convention. After pre-dinner drinks we moved into the nicely set up dining area.

Len Bagley as Master of Ceremonies then commenced the formal segment of the evening by calling on the Northern Vice President, Peter Barden, who welcomed the visitors and read apologies from Mick and Jean Morgan (and on behalf of us all expressed the wish that Mick will enjoy a speedy recovery after major surgery this week) Doug and Edna Fullarton, Iris Rowan-Robinson, Jess Epps, Beryl Griffiths and Pidgeon Pierce. The Ode was given by our President, Archie Campbell. The Toast to the Queen was presented by Bluey Prendergast. Peter Barden said Grace and then we chose our meals from a beautifully presented variety of good food which was thoroughly enjoyed as we talked over the events of the week and reminisced about days gone by.

After the repast the Master of Ceremonies called on Tom Foster to propose the toast of the Unit and the Association which Tom

handled with aplomb. The toast was responded to by Archie Campbell in his usual fluent, sincere manner.

The toast to absent friends was proposed in a light hearted, amusing fashion by our Treasurer, John Poynton who also mentioned the job being well done by the Courier team. These remarks were ably responded to by the leader of the team, Gerry McKenzie.

Robbie Rowan-Robinson thanked the organisers and helpers for the grand job they had done and handed over to Dot Harrington who presented the Geraldton ladies with a token of our appreciation.

Len Bagley mentioned that one of our ladies was born at the Geraldton Police Station where her father was stationed, 71 years ago last Monday, that lady being our dear Mary McKenzie.

There has been interest shown in holding a 'Country' Convention in the metropolitan area and Robbie Rowan-Robinson suggested Fremantle as a possible venue. This will be looked into by the Committee and reported on in a future Courier.

John Poynton conveyed our thanks to Len Bagley for doing a sterling job as Master of Ceremonies.

Thus ended yet another successful Country Convention which was enjoyed in perfect weather. We have always been blessed with beautiful weather, no matter where or when the function is held.

Next morning was the parting of the ways —some homeward bound, others to continue holidaying.

NSW NEWS

Maybe a bit belated but nevertheless good news in that we had 16 members on parade for Anzac Day, plus our three regular visitors who, over many years, have become part of our contingent. Also present were my daughter, Peta and Deidre Ward, daughter of our late member Ron 'Babe' Teague.

Weather on the day was the worst we could remember since 1950 when the march was washed out, but we were fortunate enough to complete the route and scuttle off to a handy waterhole without getting wet.

After fortifying ourselves and reminiscing for a time, most of us made our way to Circular Quay where we joined the fellows from the other squadrons on the ferry 'Lady McKell.' In spite of the weather we enjoyed a good reunion and appreciate the fact that so many of our mates came in from the country when so many locals were missing.

Those who attended — Alan Luby, Peta Luby, Jack Hartley, Allan Addison, Bill Hoy, Mick

Mannix, Bill Coker, Ron Goodacre, Ron Trengove, Jack Peattie, Tom Fidle, Tony Yeates, Bill Tomasetti, John (Snow) Went, Ray Cole, Ken Glover, Ray Whitely, Alan Gray (friend of A. Luby), Harry Handicott, Pat de Luz, Deidre Ward (Teague).

Jack Martin (2/3) was holidaying at Hervey Bay, Queensland during April. On Anzac Day he attended the Dawn Service and laid a wreath on behalf of 1, 2 and 3 Independent Companies on the 'Z' Force Commando Memorial. Thanks Jack.

Whilst there Jack met a Lt. Pearson of 5 Squadron and a Cpl Clive Dalp who claimed to have been 2/2. I don't recall the name, nor does he show on any list. Maybe someone else can remember him.

We learned last week of the death of Rita Tierney, wife of our member, Tom. I have tried, unsuccessfully, to contact Tom by phone. We learnt the news too late for anyone to attend the funeral. May she Rest in Peace.

On 19th July I was one of a group who assembled for lunch at the Mandarin Court, Sydney, at the invitation of Pat de Luz to welcome Jose Pires who was on a family visit from Perth. Last time I met Jose was at the Turton barbecue during the 1983 Sandgroper Safari.

Those present were Jose Pires, his brother Manuel and his lovely daughter, Milena, youngest son Jose Jnr, Pat de Luz, Dick Withers, Sec. 'Z' Association, Arthur Stevenson 2/4 and 'Z', and Alan Luby. Apology from Robert Cheves, U.S. Consul. Many thanks Pat for the opportunity to greet friends in such convivial surroundings and 'Steve' for the 'Vino de Porto.'

My Edith has had two spells in hospital this year in an endeavour to clear up her bronchial problem and we are pleased that she is finally showing some fairly positive results and have high hopes that it will be a lasting improvement.

Best wishes to everyone.

Alan Luby.

EDITOR: *Thanks Alan for your news, especially re Pat de Luz. We are all very pleased to know that Edith is on the road to recovery.*

QUEENSLAND NEWS

Just a few snippets of Queensland news. I think I have lost the job of picking our barbecue days. We had a barbecue on the 7th August and it was a glorious day. George Vandeleur picked the day in my absence and, as I have a strike rate of about nine rainy days out of ten, we might just leave it to George in

the future. Present on the day were Tony and Iris Adams, Fred and Phyllis Bryant, Ralph and Sheila Conley, George and Edna Vandeleur, Butch and Pat Barnier, Neil and Margaret Hooper, brother Alastair, myself and friend. It was Iris's 21st birthday so a nice cake was the order of the day. Fred, as usual, supplied us with our meal cooked to a tee.

George and Betty Coulson are at present in England visiting their new grandchild. George thought he had better see it before it was old enough to be frightened by the sight of him. We had a day for them before they departed for England. George Vandeleur celebrated it by catching himself a flathead, not sure now whether it was 3½ kilos or 3½ feet long. By the time we had a peek at it, it had been in the deep freeze a couple of days and had taken on the shape of a boomerang. It was said that George tried to give it away three times but it kept coming back to him. The Coulsons are due back in our fair land in about three weeks.

Sick List:

Alex Veovodin has been in Greenslopes for a knee operation. This is the second knee to be done and Alex said he is glad he is not a horse as there would be two more to go. Will be in plaster for seven or eight weeks. Seems the doctors are happy with the job.

George and Mel Mathieson are still having problems with their health and should be surely due for a change of luck.

Brother Alastair spent a few weeks in Greenslopes diagnosed as a diabetes sufferer. The worst news for him was he had to lay off that stuff he helped to produce for about 30 years, our golden drop of Fourx.

That's about it apart from the usual gathering of winter ills that grab us oldies occasionally.

Enclosed are some photos for the Rogues Gallery.

Regards to all.

Angus Maclachlan.

EDITOR: *Thanks Angus for your newsy letter. Photos for Rogues Gallery ideal.*

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NEWS

Ron Mackey is back on deck making good progress, but limited in what he can do at this stage.

Bert Bache, not slipping backwards, still has more check ups to be done. He sounds good, but admits he hasn't got as much money or as many worries as Alan Bond.

Kel Carthew has won the 5AD (one of our radio stations) Achievers Award for his work with the Red Cross over the years. He was

presented with a 9ct gold stick pin to wear on his coat, and his name is put into the barrel and if drawn out the prize is \$1000 to go to his favourite charity. Wouldn't be hard to work that one out.

TOP TIMORESE MEET 2/2nd EXECUTIVE

EDITORS NOTE: *This took place on the 12th September at the Anzac Club. President Archie Campbell had to leave prior to the meeting but the more than able Jerry Haire, vice President, filled the gap admirably.*

Ray Aitken kindly attended and his overall appreciation of the meeting is registered below. Colin Doig affirmed Ray's interpretation.

Thank you Ray for dissecting the pertinent points and putting them into a logical analysis.

Thank you Paulo Pires and Domingos Oliviera for your courtesy in sharing your knowledge in such a friendly and forthright manner. We are very conscious of your cause, our love for the Timorese people remains constant.

The Executive Meeting on the 12th September was addressed by Mr Paulo Pires, the Chairman of the U.D.T. Political Commission in Lisbon (Ray Aitken also attended). Mr Pires has taken part in the international debate on the East Timor question at the United Nations Decolonisation Committee. Although our guest is not fluent in English, our good friend Domingos Oliviera proved an efficient interpreter.

As a result of the address and subsequent questions, we were able to establish the following:

1. Armed resistance still persists in East Timor. There are several hundred armed guerrillas.
2. The Indonesians have established control in most of the main centres, both coastal and inland.
3. The opinion of Mr Pires and his colleagues, the indigenous people are treated as second class citizens in their own country.
4. Expatriate Timorese in Portugal and Australia still believe that self determination is possible for East Timor.
5. They believe that continued pressure on Indonesia by the United Nations is their best hope for the future.
6. The bulk of the Timorese population, having resisted christianity for almost five centuries has now welcomed conversion. Eighty per cent of the population are now

Catholics. The motivation for this religious upsurge appears largely political as a counter to Islam.

7. The military in East Timor has trebled in strength in preparation for the projected visit by the Pope.
8. Expatriate Timorese still feel let down by the lack of Australian support at United Nations.
9. No distinction is made between political parties in approaching U.N.O. This support comes from both U.D.T. and Fretilin.
10. It remains committed to the fight for the right to independence and the future of East Timorese Government is seen as democratic and multi-party.

We were able to convey to Mr Pires our views in the matter:

1. We see no future in armed resistance.
2. We are not hopeful of change.
3. We share his disappointment with the attitudes of our own government.
4. We have no political influence in our own country. This is as much a factor of the age of our members as anything else.
5. We do not see U.N.O. as a very potent factor, but are prepared to continue to hope for some change in political forms for a future East Timor. For this reason, while we cannot commit Association funds in future, we will continue to encourage individual members to consider support.
6. Mr Pires was assured of the Association's continued good wishes and close friendship with all Timorese.

While the above may seem a pretty cold-blooded type of reporting, the address and following questions took place in a setting of great good fellowship. Some of the credit for this must go to Domingos who broke down any lengthy philosophical or political statements to their bare logical bones. It was obvious that our visitor was quite at home. He did not flinch when Doig suggested that the Pope's visit and the recent conversions would have little political impact — (That is not quite how he said it). Nor did he take umbrage when Aitken said that it was ironic that members had been addressed by two Timorese political leaders, relatives from the small town of Turisca, i.e. the leader of Fretilin in 1975 and of U.D.T. in 1989.

One thing Mr Pires said which should make us proud, was that not since leaving his island had he felt so close to Timor than in our company. Indeed he showed some considerable emotion in saying it.

Paulo thanked us for receiving him and our vice president, Jerry Haire, thanked him for his sincerity and frankness and wished him well in his future efforts.

PAT DE LUZ AN HONOUR WELL AND TRULY MERITED

Our good friend and member, Pat de Luz, was recently knighted by the President of the Republic of Portugal, when he was awarded the Portuguese Military Cross, as an Officer in the Order of Liberty (with Rosette).

The award was made for his efforts against the Japanese invaders of Timor, his assistance to the Australian troops of No. 2 and 4 Independent Companies, and also as a member of 'Z' Force.

On behalf of the President, the presentation of the award was made by the Portuguese Minister for the Portuguese Community, Dr. Corrieira de Jesus in the presence of the Portuguese Ambassador, the Consul-General and Vice-Consul at a ceremony in the Woollongong Town Hall on 10th June which is the Portuguese National Day. The Investiture was attended by more than 500 members of the Portuguese, Timorese and Australian community, including the Mayor of Woollongong, Ald. F. Arkell and Federal MP, R. Connor.

With due modesty Pat insists that the award reflects a team effort, and that he is merely the recipient on behalf of many people, especially those who gave their lives defending the liberty of their country, both Timorese and Australians.

Congratulations Pat, we are proud for you.

A MESSAGE FROM COLIN DOIG

I would like to express my thanks to Peter Alexander for the recounting of his experiences as a Prisoner of War. The two episodes in the Courier were wonderful reading and the best account of personal P.O.W. treatment I have read. Written with a high degree of feeling and, amazingly, with humour, which must have been difficult at the time of his exposure to the Japs.

Thanks also to Arch Campbell as Editor for presenting these experiences in the Courier and so allowing all readers the unique chance to know of Peter's doings as a P.O.W.

May I suggest to all those who have a copy of the 'History of the 2/2nd' to place those copies of the Courier containing the Alexander story in their volume and so keep this story as part of the Unit History.

Col Doig.

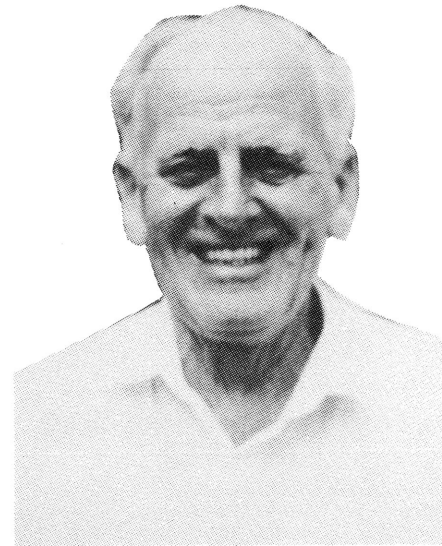
BOB SMYTH'S ROGUES GALLERY — SEQUENCE 8



Gerry McKenzie



Don Young



George Sheils



Alan Soper



'Lucky' J. Goodhew



Stan Sadler



Reg Harrington



Bernie Langridge

A MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY

Our sympathy goes out in a large measure to Bob Williamson of South Australia on the sad loss of his wife Clarice who passed to the vale beyond after a tremendous battle over a number of years.

Despite her health problems which she faced with courage, grit and determination, Clarice always had a ready smile for everyone and continued to live life to the full, always considerate of other people.

Bob was the perfect partner, thoughtful, kind, understanding, mindful of all that Clarice needed to maintain her health. They lived life close to God so that when Clarice was called to a higher place it all happened with a minimum of fuss.

We will miss you Clarice and may the thoughts of us all be a real help to you Bob in the months ahead.

God bless, and love from us all.

W.W.C.P.

BOB BURNS is putting a great fight in his endeavours to win back his health. Has lost a lot of weight but never fails to bring forth that infectious smile of his. Joan is giving him tremendous support. They have always been a great team. God bless from all of us.

JACK WICKS is getting back on an even keel and a great gesture by George Timms has helped no end. George goes about helping in his usual quiet way. He picked Jack up and took him north for a trip into the warm climate. What better cure than an old and thoughtful mate and a bit of good old sunshine. Well done George. Am sure Jack will show the benefit and Hazel will be truly grateful. Good luck.

GEORGE FLETCHER is still a way from 100% but he is a real stoic, just keeps on plugging, trying to make each day a step closer to A1 health. Get better quickly George — we miss you a lot. Cheers and God bless.

HARRY SPROXTON has suffered a set back and will be subject to x-rays because of his close contact with asbestos during his working life. Harry does not deserve any further problem, nor does Thelma, they have had their share. Take care, good luck, may the results be a big all clear.

SHORTY STEVENS and **BERT BACHE**, both South Australian boys are reported to have had a rough spin. Shorty is a tough old campaigner, as we all know, and he will be back on deck. Bert has been through the mill but is making good progress.

Thanks to Keith Dignun and Mark Jordan for keeping us informed.

DOUG FULLARTON is still having a battle with his old 'ticker' but is being expertly and confidently looked after by Edna. How can such a great pair miss getting a positive result! God bless from all the 2/2nd.

MICK MORGAN was rushed to Fremantle Hospital on Saturday, 16th September. His problem was in the aorta system. After three days of tests he was operated on by two specialists. He was cut from neck to groin and had a Dacron tube inserted, then into intensive care for three days, now in a ward and progressing favourably, the doctors are delighted.

Stop Press! Mick could be home by Sunday, 1st October, but will have to take things easy for a while. Good luck Mick, best wishes for a speedy recovery, plus love to Jean who did such a great job in the morale division, along with daughter Jan. This from all members Australia wide.

THE DAY BROOME WAS BOMBED

There was a light-hearted spirit in the town of Broome on the north-west coast of Western Australia on the morning of March 3rd, 1942. This sleeping pearling town, remote from the cities and populace of Australia, was nevertheless, a haven to the refugees from the invasion flood of the Japanese in the Dutch East Indies.

Flying boats and big planes had been landing at Broome for several days bringing with them military and naval personnel of the Allied powers, Dutch Government Officials and their women and children from doomed Java. For a brief period the town had assumed the importance of an international airport and the very limited accommodation was sorely taxed.

On this fateful morning there were 14 large flying boats riding the sparkling waters of Roebuck Bay and many large planes, including Flying Fortresses and Liberators, on the Broome 'drome a mile from the town. At one stage there were 21 planes on the 'drome. The flying boats were refuelled overnight — the very fact that made them burn so fiercely when attacked.

Radio conversations carried on by these planes approaching Broome regarding airport facilities and requesting directional signals had, no doubt, been picked up by the Japs, appraising them of the sudden importance of Broome. One of their aircraft, a twin-engined reconnaissance machine, had made a leisurely survey of Broome on March 2nd.

Some of the flying boats could have moved off early in the morning of the 3rd with their

passengers, but were still on the water at 10 a.m. The fact that most of the Dutch boats were undergoing running repairs contributed to that delay.

In any case, the women and children were unfortunately already aboard the aircraft and it was that fact which made the Japanese raid on what were purely military objects the tragedy it was.

Suddenly, out of the clear sky came the sound of approaching aircraft and within seconds belly-tanked Japanese Zeros plunged to low level across aerodrome and bay. Machine-gun bullets and cannon shell changed the scene with incredible rapidity, to one of indescribable horror. The watchers on the jetty stood transfixed as the aircraft burst into sheets of flame.

Through the pall of drifting smoke, the crackle of fire and explosions could be heard the screams of wounded women and children, many of them hopelessly trapped in the blazing aircraft. Many took to the shark-infested waters, were picked up or struggled ashore.

Scenes at the aerodrome were almost as tragic and terrifying. All the flying boats and six large aircraft ashore, including two Flying Fortresses and two Liberators were destroyed.

Although the actual loss was never determined, it has been estimated that about 40 people were killed and many more wounded. Many instances of heroism and desperate courage were witnessed during the hectic minutes.

A heart-rending task faced the residents of Broome after the smoke cleared from the Bay. The women and children had been the chief sufferers. Bodies were washed up on the beach for days afterwards and in the midst of harrowing scenes as Dutchmen sought their wives and children, the wounded were dressed at the Broome hospital. An atmosphere of great uneasiness lay over the town and there was talk of evacuation.

Businesses were closed and residents departed. However, organisation made order out of the confusion. The women and children were evacuated as it was decided that Broome was important only as an R.A.A.F. refuelling station.

For a very brief period on that fateful day in March, 1942, another Australian town experienced all the horrors and savagery of war. The Japanese had struck at Darwin less than a fortnight earlier, inflicting heavy casualties.

Editor: *Something not too many people know about, particularly the boys overseas. Our thanks to Melbourne Legacy Club.*

The following appeared recently in a Brisbane newspaper:

SAM FULLBROOK loves a contradiction. Give him a bit of landscape to paint and he'll turn it on its head, put fish in trees and paint koalas wearing distinctly human features.

Describe him as a rural artist — seeing he not only paints the bush and its denizens but has lived in it most of his 67 years — and he'll tell you he's "a Sydney boy, a city boy at heart."

When Australia's most controversial Archibald Prize winner turns up wearing a suit, you know he's being true to unpredictable form.

Fullbrook, who now lives in Ohio, U.S., with his second wife, American Mary Jane, is back on a flying visit to Brisbane to hang his latest show at Philip Bacon Galleries.

Ohio may have more polish than Oakey, where Fullbrook still owns a 36ha property, but luckily none of it has rubbed off on his gritty Australian sense of the ridiculous.

"I love being contrary, love poking fun at people and their expectations about art," he says.

"See this suit? Italian cut, right? Beautiful cloth. See all this hand sewing inside (heads turn in the gallery as the nuggety Fullbrook peels off his jacket and turns it inside out). "Well, it was really made in China. Peoples' Republic, right? Just shows. Everyone thinks Italian suits are only made in Italy. I love it, but I'm just a lair."

Fullbrook's grizzled features light up with pleasure. Another social shibboleth hits the dust. He can't help his sense of humour even though it costs him.

"A bit of fun won't sell pictures. Oh, no! People who buy pictures usually have more money than sense and they're always frightened you're poking fun at them," he says. "They're scared, on guard. Most people with money feel it's a serious business."

This probably explains why Philip Bacon has discreetly retitled two satirical portraits, Model 1 and Model 2. Fullbrook calls them "Mrs Park Avenue" and "Miss Madison."

"They're sharp monied ladies — committee women like we've got in the art scene here. More money than sense," he says.

"If you're asking a lot of money for art you can't put fun into it. People who buy their art from serious galleries want serious art. Humour belongs to the age of the battler and battling's got precious little to do with the art business these days. There's no humour in making money, is there? There might be pleasure, when your stocks and shares go up. Humour's done me a lot of harm. I've never made a lot of money out of it, that's for sure. I still owe

money on nearly everything I own, but I've had a good time.

No wonder Philip Bacon tells Fullbrook he's not to say a word to the buyers when they arrive. Fullbrook's philosophy is unlikely to endear him to the serious money crowd who'll happily pay five figure sums for him as an "established" name. Established maybe, Establishment never. "Not a word!" says Bacon, mock sternly.

Living in America has convinced Fullbrook Australia is an hysterical country, in a non-humorous sense.

"You can see it in the football hysteria, especially in Queensland," he says. "That's what they take note of in art, too. They think the chinks are going to come down and rape all the women. That's what comes of having half a dozen whites living in the middle of Asia.

"It's deeply ingrained in the money-making Australian. The richer they are the more insecure they are."

Fullbrook's sense of humour translates in his paintings in a palette where a high translucent colour equals emotion. Norman Behan's comment that Fullbrook is a "walking encyclopaedia of colour" is as true of his latest 1988 paintings as it is of works from the Sixties, and the characteristic Fullbrook combination of cobalt blue and flesh pink remains a keynote.

The flesh pink is decidedly sensual, but Fullbrook claims he recognises the veiled sexual motifs only after he's painted them.

"Look at that! It's quite indecent, pornographic. I'm almost embarrassed by it," he says of a **very** female-looking Bondi Christmas tree.

"Don't take any notice of the titles Philip gives 'em. If I called 'em what I thought they were, no one would ever buy them!"

CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

J. P. Kenneally
28 Wilkins St
Yagoona 2199

Agés plus since I last wrote. I was up in New Guinea and climbed around plenty of mountains from the Ramu to Dengelagu, and to the top of Mt. Wilhelm. Just got it in before some wog (I believe malaria) hit me. On arrival back in Sydney I finished up in hospital, weighing all of 8½ stone. The pathologists nearly drained me of blood, testing the cause. Their opinion — not malaria or any of the social diseases, including aids, or any other malady

they could identify. My own diagnosis I believe was correct from the word go. I'd had enough experience of it.

Nora and I have been in the Northern Territory for six weeks. We were not unhappy at leaving Sydney and are not overjoyed at returning. Despite all the prattlings of its beauty and advantages, Sydney is not the greatest place to live in these days. That, however, in varying degrees, is true of any one of our State Capitals.

Nora had one of the most enjoyable and relaxing holidays in years, six weeks of Bridie's company, walking and taking her all over the place in a stroller. She wheeled her into Alice Springs one day and I was carted along to hump the cargo home. I reckon she pushed that stroller a good ten kilometres, did her shopping and was back in the house in three hours.

I had six weeks of wandering the Territory, over into the East Kimberleys twice, an area of Australia I love, not only for its wild beauty, but for its history as well. Patsy Durack would find a greatly changed country these days. Some changes for the better, others not quite so. I'm glad I won't be around when the so called developers move in, en masse. One sure way to destroy the beauty of any area is to let the developer loose.

Despite all talk of environmental studies and safeguards, it all takes second place to the quick accumulation of as many dollars as possible for the least outlay. I've seen what's happened to our central coast.

Went out to a couple of open cut gold mines, one east of Pine Creek, the other west along the road to the Daly River. They shift enormous cubic metres of country, gigantic Euclids transporting 20 tonnes of spoil to the operating plant. One huge crater was down 60 metres and they estimate it will go down a further 60. If my informant was correct, the ore is averaging about two grammes per tonne and the ore is yielding one million dollars of gold per week. When I looked around at the labour force required to run the place I thought men are becoming superfluous. A bloody robot will rule the world yet.

The Army moving into the top end in force, medical, transport, armoured units engineers. The last named have been in for some time, clearing camp sites and tracks. The infantry still to appear. So far different from when the 2/2nd moved north 48 years ago. All wearing sun glasses, jungle greens and, I'm afraid, carrying much more flesh on their frames than the lean toughness of the Aussies 50 years back. However, as I haven't seen the infantry, artillery and little of the engineers, it's unfair to make comparisons. The blokes manning the helicopters are something else again. The

S.A.S will be amongst those present, plus about a couple of thousand Yanks.

It will be a miniature war, spread over thousands of square miles, the Territory, mainly top end, across through the east and west Kimberleys to the Pilbara. I reckon there will be some strays, Yanks and Aussies scratching their heads. It's inevitable over such a huge area and the numbers taking part.

I was greatly interested in the accounts of Charlie Dodge and Peter Alexander on their capture and subsequent lives as Prisoners of War. Charlie somewhat unique, a soldier made prisoner by the commander of a submarine within a couple of hours sailing in at least temporary safety — a bit unlucky. Peter, on the other hand, enormously fortunate that he didn't share the same fate as his companions. Thanks Peter, I'll make sure I'm last in line for everything after that. I was hoping that Charlie and Peter would write further accounts of their captivity and elaborate more on life as Prisoners of War. In my opinion no Division suffered anything like the hardships or casualties that the 8th Division endured during their 3½ years of captivity, it was practically a sentence to death. No chance to escape, not because of personal risk, but of the reprisals Japanese would inflict on their imprisoned comrades. I'm sure the surviving men of the 8th must take great comfort seeing their country being sold to their late captors, in our eternal quest of dollars.

Met Tom Snowden's son Warren who is the Member for the Northern Territory in the present Government. Whilst Parliament is in recess he is back in his Electorate. It's akin to knocking off work to carry bricks. With half a million square miles and a sparse and scattered population, it must be a nightmare keeping in contact with Electors and their problems. The local Shows provide an opportunity, as they are well attended by all from near and far, so it means attending the Shows at each centre.

Twice in Alice Springs I have received sad news concerning the Snowden family, Tom's death almost two years ago and this time the sad loss suffered by Maureen and her husband in the death of their only child, a boy, named after his grandfather. All our sympathy goes out to Maureen and her husband. There's a brand new Tom Snowden now. Warren's wife, Elizabeth, presented him with a baby boy, Thomas J. Snowden, so Tom will live on in another grandson.

Went to the top of the McDonald Ranges one day, west of the gap. Actually a steep hairpin bend road to the radio towers, after that by guess and by God along the top, rough and rugged as the road to Heaven, but worth it. The most magnificent view of Alice Springs and all the country for miles around. There's a

Trig Point on top of Mt. Gillen, two brass plates inserted on the supporting cairn. One said something about a helicopter pilot with a name I couldn't decipher. However, no difficulty in the second brass plate. Here it is — "The marriage of Ron Collins and Pauline Berry was celebrated at this spot on January the 6th 1986. The Celebrant was Mrs Jeanette Barnes. Also present were Ron Murray, Angelina Berry, Julie Sorrensen and Julie Berry." I thought, cripes they went to a lot of trouble to wed, as I cast my mind over the track or lack of track behind me. I learned later that they landed by helicopter. I reckon the materials to build the cairn came the same way. Written in on the mortar deck when it was wet is 'Chippy Miller 1980' so I reckon Chippy must have been the constructor and a good job he made of it, from stone on the spot, and mortar.

'Squirt' Johnson (Army name, being under age in those days) correct moniker Merv. Clarke, is by now in Timor with his brother. 'Squirt' was not sure whom or where he would see or visit, a lot depending on the authorities.

'Curly' O'Neill could be in Switzerland for all I know. I wrote to him but although he earned his living as a journalist he is the worst correspondent you'd meet in a year's travel. He is still surviving and keeping reasonably well, seeing he smokes like a chimney and takes no exercise in winter — he loathes cold weather. We argue, discuss, and pull apart, but he and a typewriter I cannot get together, more's the pity as he has a talent and ability going to waste.

Best wishes to all members of the 2/2nd and their families, may happiness and good health be their constant companions. God bless.

Paddy Kenneally.

J. Scott
6 Duke St
Bentley 6102

Enclosed is a small donation towards the expenses of the Courier. I do appreciate receiving each issue of the magazine and keeping up with the various activities within the group. I always read the Courier when Neil received it and so many of the members' names became very familiar to me over the years.

I do wish all members good health and happiness and may the remainder of the year be kind to them in every way.

Kind regards to all.

Joan Scott.

H. Handicott
Redbank Rd
Wauchope 2446

Am miles behind with a letter to the Courier but think the 'wet' has lasted too long. It may be finishing now — we've had two weeks fine but the sun only has to go behind a cloud and the ground is wet.

I enjoyed Anzac Day with the boys at the new watering hole and later on the ferry. Didn't stay till the end as Amyce and I came down from Newcastle by train for the day.

Spoke with Joyce Smith while in Newcastle —she's OK and looking forward to South Australia in March.

Some of the 1st and 2/3 Commandos held their third reunion last weekend at Port Macquarie about 20 kms away. Any local Commandos were also welcome and it was my privilege to represent the 2/2nd. Bill Walsh went over but could not stay. He gave me a donation to forward with my bit so it's all together on the one cheque which is enclosed.

The family are enjoying reading Col's book.

We are keeping our fingers crossed and hoping all goes well for our visit to the Barossa next March.

One day in the future "when we get old" we hope to move to a unit in the Newcastle area. One son, a Marine Engineer, lives there so will see a bit more of him and a chance to see more of the Unit boys in Sydney. With the \$2 or \$3 return by train it's a day's outing.

Cheers, and all keep as well as you can.

Best regards.

Harry and Amyce.

P. Campbell
30 Castletown Quays
Esperance 6450

We will not be going to the Geraldton Convention as stated in the Courier. We would dearly love to be with you all but have been away for four months so it is time we did some work. The very best to the organisers and we will be thinking of you all enjoying yourselves.

We had 12 days at Exmouth on the way home and met Joe and Helen Poynton and Reg and Dot Harrington. It is nice having good friends you can just meet and feel you have been with them for ages.

Met Jess Epps at Midland — she looks very well.

Esperance was nearly washed away while we were travelling — roads washed out and lots of water over farms, causing tremendous damage.

Our son John has taken over Fraser Range Station just out of Norseman, so we will be travelling back to our old home ground. Peter and I are looking forward to it as it is nice to know we have a home in Esperance to come home to.

Enclosed is a cheque for what ever.

Regards to all.

Pat and Peter.

B. T. C. Smith
32 Moroney St
Bairnsdale 3875

Because I do not expect to be residing at 42 Moroney Street much longer, I would like the Courier to be addressed to my son Graham, at 32 Moroney Street, who will see that I get it.

On August 18 I was 66 years old and, after three heart attacks in 18 months, the last three years ago, I plan to resume single handed sailing, after a 10 years lapse. Next year I hope to visit Tonga, Western Samoa and the Cook Islands. I might even be lucky enough to make W.A.

I have always believed that a man should go out doing that which he likes most, if possible, and not sacrifice quality of life for longevity.

Enclosed is a donation for the Courier. Would you oblige me by forwarding a copy of Col Doig's book, not forgetting to include the cost.

I do plan to keep in touch.

Kindest regards and best wishes.

Bruce.

A. D. Stevenson
PO Box 768
Darlinghurst 2010

Enclosed is a contribution to the cost of the Courier. Thanks for keeping it coming.

Good luck to all members.

Steve.

J. Keenahan
34 Duncan St
Huskisson 2540

Long overdue as usual, but not to worry. Am still anchored at the above fishing village and don't travel away from here very often. Always look forward to the update on how all the Unit cobbars are doing and sometimes saddened to read so and so has passed away.

Rita and I have booked for the Barossa Safari — let's hope the weather stays as good as our last get-together at Phillip Island. At the local

RSL I met up with Malcolm and May Lindsay. He served with the Unit and requests the Courier be sent to him. His address is enclosed.

That's about it, am enclosing a donation for the Courier and will see you all in South Australia.

Jack.

B. C. Poynton
2 Lygon St
Sth Caulfield 3162

Enclosed is a cheque to help in the printing of the Courier.

Kind regards to all members and good luck.

Bruce.

T. Adams
PO Box 1
Goroka P.N.G.

Dear Courier Team, Betty Illsley, Mary McKenzie, Arch Campbell, Gerry McKenzie and Len Bagley.

What a nice thought to include a little note in my Courier, and to you Len, thanks for the mid year Christmas card letter.

Keith Dignum told me he had enough of mountains and would not be interested (like most of us) to do a Kenneally tour.

The Bougainville crisis is giving most of us the willies, think they don't like hurting their own, the situation should have been cleared up months ago.

Received a nice informative letter from Betty Craig with cuttings of the Young Mini Safari taken from the local paper.

The supplement to this letter is for Treasurer John Poynton. I can't spend that money up here.

Only six months to Nuriootpa — will see you all there.

Kind regards to all.

Theo.

S. R. Marsh
17 McGough St
Glenorchy 7010

Enclosed is a donation for the Courier.

I was one of the 2/40 Battalion chaps who got away when the Battalion surrendered on Timor and worked our way up to Portuguese Timor, meeting up with the 2/2nd and remaining with them until taken off in December 1942. As far as I remember, I was

with a Lt. Rodd at one stage.

After returning to Tasmania we were drafted into the 2/12 Battalion and saw service in New Guinea, Moratai and the landing on the beaches at Balikpapan, Borneo.

I always look forward to reading the Courier and recognise quite a few names of chaps in the 2/2nd.

Best wishes to all.

Syd (Swampy).

L. N. Hills
532 Main Road
Montrose 7010

Having found my way as a member of the 2/2nd some months ago, I am at a loss to find I

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Mrs D. Laing
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ADDITION

LINDSAY, M.
Malcolm and May
3 Roper St
Vincentia 2540

HILLS, L. N.
Les
532 Main Rd
Montrose 7010

haven't received a Courier since February 1989. I often see Gordon Watts and Gerald Slade and have read their copies. Am enclosing some cash to help out a little as I realise the costs involved re postage etc. Please keep it going.

I would really like to attend the Barossa Safari next March to meet you all again, but don't have the best of health.

I wonder if any of our members can fill me in on this. In early August 1977 I was travelling south through the Gold Coast, towing a caravan when I came up behind another caravan with a full map of Australia painted across the rear with our double diamond colour patch painted in the centre. By the route marked on the map it had come from Perth up round the top end. I tried to attract the attention of the driver but he or she burned me off at a set of lights. Tried to catch up but it was hopeless in the traffic. Would be interested to know who it was as I probably would remember him.

I can't recall which Section I was in except that it was with Kevin Curran (who has passed away I believe). I joined the 2/2nd at Strathpine, north of Brisbane a few months before we left for New Britain.

I wish you all the best and especially at the Safari.

Les Hills.

EDITOR: *Sorry about the Courier mix up Les. It has been attended to and you will receive your Couriers from now on.*

M. Wheatley
253 Fulham Street
Cloverdale 6105

Dear Arch,

Hope this finds you in the pink of health and enjoying the good things, like a beer occasionally.

Had a trip to hospital for a hernia operation. Just about OK now and had a couple of weeks fishing at Onslow. A good place for fishing and I really got stuck into the schnapper. The only thing against it is the long trip out to the far islands and the drilling rigs where the best fishing is, still a very good trip.

Am enclosing a cheque for the Unit funds and say hello to all the boys and their wives. Will see you at the Reunion.

Cheers.

Doc.
