



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

That time of the year has slipped around once again!

For many of us, now greying around the temples, we must start claiming them as bonus years which allow us once more to celebrate with our loved ones this joyous occasion of Christmas. Happiness we know must be the cardinal theme of the occasion but high in priority too must come thanksgiving.

Luckily for most of us we have sorted out our lives and now have a warm home to live in and three meals a day. There are, however, a growing number of our families finding loneliness and the sorrow that comes with sickness, loss of employment within their midst which could make this Christmas far from a happy one.

Therefore, as President of this happy and proud Association, I ask you to spread your good cheer, love and friendship far and wide. Let us endeavour to reach members we may sometimes miss.

Thank you all and I wish you —

A HAPPY and MERRY CHRISTMAS

VALE BILL HOY

The many friends of Billy Hoy were deeply saddened by his death on the 7th August in Liverpool Hospital after a long illness.

Bill joined the Unit in New Guinea and served in 8 Section for the duration. He was a fine soldier and carried out his duties in a cheerful and conscientious manner and was very well liked and respected by all who knew him.

After the war Bill worked for Hastings Deering in the diesel engineering department, where he became a foreman and was probably the leading expert on diesel engines in Australia. Even after he retired he used to get phone calls seeking his help in solving problems in the industry.

Bill had more than his fair share of health problems over many years, beginning with being injured in a serious train smash in the early fifties, then his bout with cancer some 20 years ago and finally a painful illness which lasted many months. Throughout it all Bill remained the super optimist, never complaining when he was in great pain and distress, always cheerful and maintaining a wonderful sense of humour.

Bill loved his many friends and rarely missed an Association meeting for many years. He had served as a committee member and Auditor for our branch for a long period and was made a Life Member some years ago.

His passing has been a double tragedy for Betty as it is only a few short months since she and Bill lost their only daughter Debbie. To you Betty we extend all our love and sympathy and our hopes for your future happiness.

The funeral service at Lippington Lawn Cemetery was attended by Bill Coker, Mick Mannix, Snow Went, Ron Goodacre, Tom O'Brien, Ray Whitely, Tom and Mildred Field, Jack and Maria Hartley.

Jack Hartley

VALE COLIN KNIGHT

Colin's passing took a while to filter through, hence the Vale is a little belated. At the loss of one of our mates it is a time of sympathy and feeling for one who served with us and who was liked by us all.

Colin was a member of 8 Section 'C' Platoon in New Guinea under Campbell Rodd. In New Britain he moved into 7 Section 'C' Platoon under Kevin Curran. Colin served with distinction in both campaigns and was a fine soldier.

Association members who attended his funeral were Jim Cullen, Tom Yates and

'Happy' Greenhalgh. Ron Orr sent his apology as he could not be present owing to sickness. The Epilogue was given by Russ Blanch.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Col's wife Shirley and her family. God bless, and love from us all.

Archie Campbell

The following is a copy of a newspaper clipping sent to us by Shirley Knight:

COLIN JOHN KNIGHT 24/5/19 to 29/7/90

We wish to sincerely THANK friends, relatives for flowers, cards, phone calls and prayers following our sad loss of a wonderful husband, father, father-in-law and Poppy. A special thanks to Rev. Ralph Eglington, Rev. Stan Redden and the Casa Blanca Motel, also Russ Blanch for the epilogue and 2/2 Commando mates for their kindness. Please accept this as our personal thanks. Shirley Knight, Karen Worthington and family, July Foreman and family.

May he rest in peace at Bexhill Cemetery.

VALE MERV JONES

Recently I had a phone call from Merv who, as you are all aware, had a crippling internal problem and spent most of his days under treatment. I think we both derived benefit from our talk and it gave us a greater understanding about life in general. To go on living, to keep the spirit alive, to have sympathy with others in distressed situations. To believe, to pray for help, accept words of comfort from mates, making the pain a little easier to bear. When one of our 2/2nd members is in pain it hurts, so pray Merv, and thanks for the phone call.

What you have read was written by me six weeks before Merv passed away. I did not soldier with him as many of you did, and enjoyed his company on and off the field. I did get to appreciate him on a memorable trip on the 'Indian Pacific' when his charming wife Marge had us in fits about the Master of Diets and Descending Beds!!

Over the years I got very close to Merv. Every Anzac Day he would take me, and those who were staying at our home to the March, making the day so much more pleasant for us all.

All members were saddened by the passing of Merv Jones. He was a fine soldier and served the 2/2nd Commando Squadron with distinction. In post war years he displayed a vital personality and was super fit.

When we all met, as we do all over Australia, the stories and experiences all came out and those who were very close to him will feel a sense of loss as I do, with a hope that what he found in Tassie helped ease his suffering.

From me, if there is a life hereafter you Merv have some good company waiting for the next patrol.

Our deepest sympathy and love goes out to Marge. May the months ahead bring her peace of mind and heart.

This is a tribute on behalf of all members who held you in high regard. Rest contented, Vale Merv Jones.

Lest We Forget

Ron Trengove

OUR TRIBUTE TO JOY LOUDEN

We were deeply saddened by the passing of Joy on Monday, 22nd October, after a period of ill health. Our sincere sympathy goes to Colin Doig and Joy's family on their sad loss.

Joy and Colin had been together for 21 years and they were a wonderful support to each other. Both were deeply involved in Association activities and, when Colin struck that long and bad patch with his leg, Joy proved to be a tower of strength.

Colin will miss Joy sadly and she will remain to us a real lady of value, with the ability to get on with people. On your behalf I say to Colin that we loved her as one of us. God rest her soul.

Archie Campbell

TO PETER and PAT CAMPBELL

We has a Unit had great respect for your brother Neil who passed away in September. Neil was a first class man and may his family get some satisfaction from the feelings of members of the 2/2nd who knew him. May he rest in peace.

Lest We Forget

Mick Holland

FREMANTLE CONVENTION

What an opening stanza! Monday, 17th September 1990, arrivals from all corners of the state. As merry a bunch as you would ever see. The Sadlers four, Stan, Blanche, Charlie and Mavis from Wongan Hills, Reg and Dot

Harrington from Bogart, Clarrie and Grace Turner from Capel, Stan and Barbara Payne from Merredin, Eric and Margaret Weller from Geraldton, Peter and Pat Campbell, Vince Swann, Jim McLaughlin from Esperance, Angus and Win MacLachlan all the way from Queensland, add the gang from Mandurah and there is truly trouble brewing for Don and Vida Turton who are in charge of proceedings.

Sighted Tony Bowers talking to Peter Campbell, a true David and Goliath, Joe and Helen Poynton, Wattie and Barbara obviously enjoying proceedings, Huddie, as always in gregarious mood, Bill and Elvie Howell (Bill smiling like a cow in a cabbage patch), Len Bagley who never seemed to sit down, Betty Illsley enjoying happy talk with Jean and Mick Morgan and Gwen Bowers having her ear bashed by Col Doig. All the time the Jewish piano playing a golden tune — looks like being the convention to beat all conventions if this tempo keeps up.

The Trade Winds Hotel-Motel is top grade as far as accommodation is concerned with units so big you could do a set of the Lancers in the bathrooms!

Day 2 — Tuesday, 18th. The weather was a little on the murky side but the spirits were high even if some of the heads were on the dull side. A minor hiccup when we were assembling to board the bus, a certain gentleman from the country had decided to take a walk and was betrayed by Fremantle's well know ability to bamboozle visitors. After a short delay he was found and restored to his good wife amid much loud ribald comment from all. Len and Betty, who had been busy collecting from everyone on the bus for the outing, were surprised to find that instead of arriving at our first stop a short distance away, we were back where we started from — outside the motel!

We were joined today by Wilf and Lorraine March, Bernie and Babs Langridge, Beryl Griffiths, Elsie Wares, Colin and Bonnie Criddle, Percy Hancock, Jack Carey that maestro of proceedings, with Delys and a little later by Jess Epps who had been to the airport to pick up Alan and Hazel Hollow from South Australia.

First stop the Fremantle War Memorial on Monument Hill for a panoramic view of the City, then on to the Council Chambers where we were met by the Mayor's beautiful secretary. Then followed the Mayoral Reception led by the Mayor of Fremantle, Councillor Catalina who, in his welcoming speech extolled the virtues of the Unit and Association and specially our ability to stick together. He made strong reference to the late Dr Roger Dunkley who was our RMO and very much a citizen of Fremantle as were his

illustrious mother and step-father, Sir Frank and Lady Gibson.

Jack Carey gave a brief reminiscence of his early childhood at the Fremantle Town Hall, then Col Doig presented the Mayor with a copy of the Unit History, also extolling the great work of Dr Roger Dunkley. President Don Turton thanked the mayor for the hospitality extended to our Association and gave a little history of his family's connection with Fremantle.

This was followed by morning tea and a conducted tour of the restored Fremantle Town Hall.

Then it was onwards for a good look at the building of the replica of the "Endeavour," well handled by the P.R. man with a highly captive audience. This is a marvellous project but it is just as well Capt Cook had the original "Endeavour" built and available when his project first started, because going on the progress at present the French would have had Australia long before Cook got out of the blocks.

Next stop for lunch and refreshments at Cicerello's. What a unique performance. The cunning Jack Carey had arranged for two entertainers, Kelly and his mate, to be engaged ex the opposition, Lombardo's. What an excellent pair they turned out to be, versatile on two or three instruments and Kelly a wizard with fast "one line jokes." This really got the gang moving, with Mick Morgan in his element leading the singing of a heap of old time songs, with a great finale of "Maori Battalions." The meal handled by Cicerello's catering lady, Betty, was indeed excellent and real good value for ocean food. We were able to also celebrate Margaret Weller's birthday — no years mentioned, of course.

After that great performance we anti climaxed at the Fremantle Port Authority building where a magnificent view of the harbour and surrounds was seen from the viewing floor at about the ninth level. It really showed the character of the older restored Fremantle buildings in all their glory.

Back to the Trade Winds where a really appreciative group enjoyed another evening of togetherness.

Day 3. Wednesday dawned full of promise with early blue sky and all looked good for a great day at Stirling Naval Depot on Garden Island.

To see the amount of food offloaded from Jack Carey's car showed the amount of work done by Jack and Delys on behalf of our gastric requirements. A monumental job which again showed the organisational capacity of this couple. We were joined by John and Joan Burridge, Arch Campbell, Jack

and Hazel Wicks, John and Gloria Poynton.

We were joined along the way by 'Spriggy' McDonald, Don Murray, Bernie and Babs Langridge, Gordon and Eva Rowley. It was here that Jupiter Pluvius turned on the taps. Things were very murky but worse was to come. On arrival at the sentry gates we found we were not officially OK to go beyond. This was the start of a monumental 'stuff up' despite all the preparatory work put in by Jack Carey and Don Turton to avoid just this sort of bungling. Apparently some Navy P.R. person forgot to tell anyone of our potential visit. After a long wait at the gates and the passing both ways of much traffic including a "Dial-a-Bus," the word got through and we were permitted to go on our way. Someone must have "Dialed-a-Prayer!"

The rain made any outside activities impossible. The two matelots set to guide us had been pressed into service at the last minute and had but a minute knowledge of such guidance. However, we did manage to see most of the installations and get a comprehension of the magnitude of this base. We were impressed with the memorial dedicated to "Z" Force who trained on Garden Island.

Then it was back to the Senior Sailors' Mess to partake of the huge variety of meat and salads provided by Jack, followed by the biggest lamingtons in captivity. A big plus was the price of the amber fluid, just \$4 a jug or 80 cents a handle. The more you drank the more you saved!

We departed at 3pm and some returned to the Trade Winds while others accepted an invitation from Don to enjoy a Happy Hour at his yacht club.

Day 4 — River Trip. A great trip to the outer harbour to see the sights and all the things that have happened to Fremantle before, during and after the America's Cup in 1987, a truly spectacular tour. Lunch which was served on board, was about as nice as could be imagined, chicken, salad etc, wine, coffee, tea and sweets — a very satisfying repast. Then up the river to Perth, viewing all the mansions that have arisen in recent years and the towering skyline of modern Perth from the magnificence of the Swan River. All in all, a nice renewal of what is Perth and its environs as against our knowledge of yesteryear. This trip was very good value.

Farewell Dinner. This very bight function was held in the evening at the Willagee Hotel. The catering was nothing short of marvellous, the hot foods well prepared and salads in glorious array, followed by delicious sweets.

Len Bagley at his top as M.C. kept proceedings going apace. President Don Turton

welcomed all the guests and extolled the great roll up of country folk. After the Loyal Toast, John Poynton proposed the Toast to the Unit and Association in his usual capable manner, interspersed with a topical joke or two.

On behalf of the country members present Clarrie Turner thanked the organisers for the opportunity to get together with friends from near and far under such pleasant circumstances.

Col Doig asked for a vote of thanks to the organisers, Don and Vida Turton, Jack and Delys Carey and Len Bagley.

We had one special guest in the person of Len Vickrage, an ex Navy chap who seemed to also thoroughly enjoy proceedings.

Like all good things the evening came to a close at about 11pm and was voted as something special.

So another great Country, or should it be Country/Metro Convention came to an end with friendships rekindled during four magnificent days. May there be many more such delightful functions. Thank you ladies for being so beautifully turned out for this auspicious occasion.

To round off this most enjoyable Convention, Don and Vida kindly invited us to spend the following Sunday with them at their Keysbrook property. The invitation was eagerly accepted and approximately 50 people headed for the Keysbrook hills, including 18 Mandurah Two-Two's who chartered a bus.

The weather was balmy, the countryside was green and the early wildflower were most colourful. Much work has been done on the property and everyone enjoyed the guided tours conducted by Don and friends in their 4 wheel drive vehicles. The fresh country air produced hearty appetites which did justice to the magnificent barbecue provided by Don.

A good time was had by all and our thanks to Don and Vida for their generous hospitality.

It was good to see Dulcie Ryan enjoying the outing and recovering well after a knee replacement operation.

ANNUAL REUNION LUNCHEON

This 'men only' function was held in the Lions Club Hall in Mandurah on Friday, 19th October.

Helen Poynton took care of the catering in her usual capable manner and was assisted on the day by Eva Rowley, Elvie Howell, Dot Maley, Betty Illsley and Julie-Anne Jackman who is Helen and Joe's daughter. Our thanks to

Helen for a luncheon of quality, and yes, quantity. It was a super effort.

Bill Howell was in charge of liquid refreshments which were ably dispensed by 'Tiger' Lines in his genial style.

Members from the metropolitan area arrived by chartered coach and were given a hearty welcome by the Mandurah hosts. The day was full of warmth and mateship and it was great to see Ray Cole who was over from Sydney visiting his sister.

Don Murray proposed the toast to "The Association" as follows:

"When I was honoured by being asked to propose this toast I thought at first that it would be fairly easy, then I thought that it may be difficult, then I thought that I had better look up my dictionary to see what an Association was, and I came up with this . . . 'An Association is an organisation of people with a common purpose, and having a formal structure.' Now that is not wrong, but to me does not seem anything like our Association. Our Association is one of a kind. Born during the war almost 50 years ago with the help of some of our parents and friends acting as mid-wives, the Association was handed over to us to nurture and develop.

After almost five years of service, high excitement, tense action, loneliness and boredom (well, some anyway) we were already a very closely knit band of people, which now was to include parents, wives and soon-to-be wives and friends. And so this Association grew and grew, friendships became closer, respect grew stronger and mateship became cemented within us and love — yes love — grew amongst us. Our wives need not become perturbed here, because the love was collective, not individual. We became a family, a very close family, and I am sure you will agree with me that the passing of so many of our mates over the years has bonded us together closer and closer. Without becoming morbid, because we are gathered together today to enjoy ourselves, we do remember our family members who are no longer with us.

We who are left are charged with ensuring that our family stays together for many more years to come. To watch over our members, help where we can if needed, encourage when and where we can and console when we are needed.

Gentlemen "THE ASSOCIATION"

We all take our hats off to that understanding group who set our Association on its way. To Tom Murray and his merry band we will be eternally grateful. It was fitting that his son Don should propose such a toast.

BOB SMYTH'S ROGUES GALLERY — SEQUENCE 14



Denny Dennis



Bill Walsh



Peter Krause



Max Miller



Tony Adams



Ron Goodacre



Bill Coker



Jim Fenwick

Don was thanked on behalf of us all by our President, Don Turton.

Wilf March handled the toast to "Our Guests" with aplomb. Our guests were Major Leigh Alver and R.S.M. Jim Willshire of the S.A.S. Regiment, and Paddy King, son of Charlie.

Wilf welcomed our Army counterparts, saying how fortunate we are that they acknowledge our Association in such a positive manner. He mentioned that we were all delighted to have the son of a member with us and that the sons of more members should be encouraged to participate in future functions.

Our guests were given a warm welcome by all present.

In response Major Leigh Alver said how delighted they were to be present and how closely our ties were linked. He urged us to keep them that way for they have such an affinity with our Association. On behalf of all guests he thanked us for our hospitality.

Colin Doig was next with a toast to "Our Lady Helpers." He paid tribute to Helen and her team with well chosen words, conveying to them how much we appreciated their part in making the day such a success and complimented Helen on her efficient handling of the catering.

Helen responded with a simple "Thank you all very much."

Bernie Langridge acknowledged Len Bagley's effort as M.C. as outstanding, voicing the opinion of us all.

Departure time came all too soon, and so ended another marvellous day. We are indeed one big happy family.

COMMEMORATION SERVICE

Approximately 120 people attended, including widows, family members and children. From the interest shown by so many young people, it is apparent that we will have a group to carry the torch for us in the years ahead.

Forty nine years have elapsed since the formation of the 2nd Independent Company, later to be named the 2/2 Commando Squadron. Many fine young men within the Unit laid down their lives for their country. Today, in the precincts of our Lovekin Drive Memorial area, we paid homage to those men and those who have since died. This certainly is hallowed ground, so beautifully looked after by the Kings Park Board and our Warden, George Fletcher.

The men of the Special Air Service Regiment provided the well drilled Catafalque Party which so enhances the dignity of the occasion. We are indebted to Lt-Col. Jim Wallace and his men for their continued support and their hospitality in the Sergeant's Mess at Campbell Barracks later in the afternoon.

Forty members were on parade and, under the command of John Poynton they marched with precision and drew sustained applause from all present.

Our President, Don Turton, handled the service and the poignant reading of the names of our 'Fallen Comrades' with his usual aplomb. His very fine and thoughtful address is appended:

Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls, Valued Friends from the S.A.S., Fellow Members, it is my privilege to welcome you once again to this beautiful area allotted to us many years ago to be our living memorial to the memories of those fifty two boys we knew as Our Army Mates.

Not only do we bow our heads in solemn reverence to those who gave their lives in war but also to those who have now left us but who gave so freely of their comradeship for so long. I feel as the years pass by we are finding that attendance at this commemoration service is becoming much more of a personal must! Whether it be that family duties have eased or whether it be that we as individuals just feel a stronger common bond drawing us together, a bond which demands that we who have not suffered the great loss of a close relative, now feel we can and want to help cheer and comfort those who have. And that is I think the strength of our Association. That is why I know those boys whose names are on those trees and those recorded in our history would be happy indeed to know their loved ones at least are not forgotten but remembered at all times.

Today one feels quite helpless when viewing the enormity of our Nation's troubles. There are the so called experts who have got our wonderful country into such a mess by leaving the high flyers and the paper shufflers so uncontrolled for so long. But we must all shoulder some of the responsibility. Without doubt we know basically it comes down to greed. There are times, as we all know, when we must stand in front of the mirror and ask ourselves, did those boys die in vain? Did we do as much as we could have, to make it a better country?

That is the past! The question now is can we help to make amends?

True, our veteran status with age and health reduces our effectiveness but our experiences

in life at least must allow us to help quietly within our home environment by example. Our children and grandchildren may need our help and guidance in consideration for others. We can help them to once again look to our Flag with Pride. To point to the duties they owe to our Nation in National Service. They may learn what we have learend, the great value of good mates.

It is not too late to endeavour to talk with greater strength through our own authority, the R.S.L. To assist them with all the power we can mass to stop this gross stupidity of selling the wonderful country we fought for to nations where no reciprocal consideration is given. Leasehold maybe but never freehold.

We have seen to our sorrow where poor leadership had lead us and other nations of the world, now as never before we need exceptional leaders. Not only is it necessary to face the enemy from without but far more difficult the threat of the enemy from within. And that leads us to the greatest peril of all, the Terrorist!

Thankfully we have a force trained to meet the challenge, the S.A.S. but it is wicked that we have to watch fine young men represented here in uniform, many with young families, who may have to risk their lives at any moment with no declaration of war to warn them but because, as in most cases, some religious fanatic wishes to bring his fight to our shores and so gain martyrdom.

But this unit the S.A.S. is only a small unit nationally. It is the only unit, as we well know, which could handle the borders of N.G. or the jungles or islands close to, should the call come. What then becomes of our Anti Terrorist force? We have been told recently that permanent forces are to be reduced because of economy and so it is essential that we must stand up and be counted, to lend pressure where we can, to have more, many more, militia units similar in training to the S.A.S. to offer a challenge to our youth who cry boredom on our streets.

Orders to the Generals come from the Parliament, our strength is at the ballot box, our voice is with the R.S.L. and only until we have done what we, as individuals know we should do, can we look down that honour avenue and say to our old mates we are trying to see your life wasn't given in vain.

Perhaps I have said enough of our worries for today; I must now thank all you wonderful people who have assembled here to pay your simple homage to those lads who gave their all for us who still survive. And to the widows and relatives of those of our unit who have passed on to greater service since the end of hostilities, I would like to say we mourn with you.

Let me draw your attention to the year 1991 which will be the 50th Anniversary of our foundation as a unit and this we hope to celebrate in a most thanks giving manner when the time arrives.

My most grateful thanks to those members of the S.A.S. Regiment who have given of their time to parade the Catafalque Party for today's service. This certainly adds a lustre to what is a most solemn occasion. Thank you boys so much for your wonderful effort.

EDITOR: *Although Jerry Haire has passed on, his ability with words is a living testimony. He hid many of his illustrious lights behind a bushel — that of an unassuming nature.*

The following tribute was written about Reg Harrington on his 70th birthday, as part of a family presentation in the form of an album "This Is Your Live" beautifully put together by son Laurie.

Jerry loved his fellow-men and this is a gracious pen picture of one he knew so well.

Not everything that comes out of a war is a bad thing. Take mateship, friendship if you like, for instance — a special type of friendship which is born and fostered, cemented in danger and supported by loyalty of the highest order. As a member of the 2/2nd Commando Independent Company I met Reg Harrington and soldiered with him for twelve months on Timor.

Reg was an outstanding soldier — courageous to the point of fanaticism, as fit as could be, stock full of initiative and loyal to his mates to the last drop of blood he'd be prepared to shed if called on. I write this way because for the twelve months we spent on that Jap infested island I campaigned most of the time with Reg. It was then I learnt to appreciate his wonderful qualities: it was then I came to know him not only as a competent soldier, an outstanding member of No. 6 Section, B Platoon, but as a loyal friend.

I recall two incidents from among many to illustrate what I'm driving at. On one occasion we were O'Pipping Dili from an "oomah" high up in the hills surrounding the town. We had moved out from Remexio, our base headquarters shared with No. 4 Section, B Platoon, for a week's duty on the outpost to check on all Jap moves.

Three of us — Reg, Freddy Griffiths and I — took shifts using the glasses to check on the enemy movements below, ship or plane arrivals, that sort of thing. Our time slot was regulated from my watch which was hanging on a bamboo upright. Suddenly, one morning, we saw a group of Japs moving up from

below. We assumed there would be another group coming along the track behind us so we moved out smartly hoping not to run into trouble. A little way down the track I suddenly remembered I'd left my watch behind. Too late now — but Reg wanted, right or wrong, to go back and get it. To face such danger would have been suicidal but by golly I had the dickens of a job to stop the impetuous Irishman from rushing back to the oomah. You see, he was ready to face impossible odds to save my watch!

Incident No. 2: We hurried off down the track prepared, if necessary, to face an oncoming party. Some half mile on we set up an ambush in case we were followed. It was not a good position and after a while I moved out across the narrow track and up the hill on the opposite side about ten yards up in an open position so that I could see in both directions. I'd scarcely settled when a party of Japs (50 or so) came along from behind us.

I was completely without cover and would have been an open book if any one of the passing troop glanced my way. But the Japs were intent on "eyes front" and I was unobserved. About to move down, I settled motionless, for a second Jap party was now advancing, still from behind. Once again I was lucky in not being spotted and when I finally hopped down and rejoined Reg, his eyes were bulging and he was almost frothing at the mouth. He'd heard the Jap movement and wondered where I was but the finger was on his Tommy Gun and he would have rushed into action even if he had had to face the whole Jap army!!

Ah yes he was a great support.

To turn from Reg's aggressive, fearless attitude and turning to his work as a cook; he was docile, friendly, a man with the interests and tastes of his "subjects" at heart. His ingenuity knew no bounds. In several places in my diary I have noted that from very few, small ingredients he managed to turn out an appetising and satisfying "mucan." This was particularly true at Betano where for a brief period under the patronage of Chefe Jao Batista we revelled in a small supply of bananas and some buffalo (caro) meat. This was right into Reg's hands. He manufactured some beaut "dossies" as we called them — a near approach to pancakes, I suppose. But whether he was excelling as a "dossie" maker or presenting an enticing roast from buffalo meat, Reg was a wonder cook. (I hope I'm not giving you a secret Dot: it's probably not news to you.)

After the war our friendship continued. Norine (R.I.P.) and I met Dot and were asked to their farm for a few days. A return visit to us followed. At one stage Reg deposited a huge load of mallee roots over our back fence —

enough fire-power to last us a couple of winters. At another time Reg brought young Laurie to see us, a robust youngster who investigated our back yard. As a country lad he was moved to pity at the appearance of our chooks — held prisoner behind wire-netting. So he opened the gate and set them free. Why shouldn't they run round as his father's did back home? The chooks enjoyed the green and tasty beans.

An important side of Reg's nature which I must refer to was his humour. A cheery smile, a happy chuckle were never far off. He found especial fun talking with the "creados." They would rock and roll with laughter while Tuan Reg joked with them.

And so the years have moved along to this point. Thank you, Reg and Dot, from the bottom of my heart for a lovely, enduring friendship. Congratulations, Reg on reaching this ripe old age: I'm delighted I've lasted to have been about to wish you well. May God bless you and Dot and keep you both and your family.

I regret I won't make the party. Best wishes, may you see many, many more birthdays.

N.S.W. NEWS

The September quarterly meeting of the N.S.W. Branch was held at the Arncliffe R.S.L. Club on the 3rd and the following members were in attendance: Alan Luby, Jack Hartley, Bill Coker, Ron Goodacre, John Went and Ron Hilliard. Apologies were received from Ron Trengove, Paddy Kenneally and Col Hilly.

Due to the lengthy discussion about the 50th Anniversary Dinner we decided that all office bearers and committee would remain the same for the coming year.

I regret to report the passing of Bill Hoy, one of our most esteemed members, and I have written more about it in a tribute to a fine person.

Jack Hartley

Congratulations to Norm and Fran Tillet who, after all these years have forsaken that Southern State and moved into the Premier State. Welcome to the Bowls World! We hope the transition will be easy and there are no language problems!!

Let me know if you have any problems with Immigration — Al. Will fix it.

Best wishes,

Alan Luby (not Grasby!)

At last we have a Secretary for the NSW Commando Association as a replacement for Don Latimer who moved to Inverell last year. Vince O'Leary volunteered and was appointed at the Association meeting on 3rd September.

We welcome him and wish him a long and happy term of office, and assure him of our support and co-operation.

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Dear Arch,

Jack Carey has been very helpful as usual in maintaining phone contact and, except for the bad news calls, I'm always pleased to hear from him. Have advised him verbally of a change in plans for the Jubilee Dinner next year.

We ran into accommodation problems at Coffs Harbour and, with the agreement of the Queensland members, have decided to transfer the dinner to Port Macquarie where we have a better choice of motels etc.

Edith shows some improvement after our six weeks trip to the Gold Coast. You wouldn't recognise that area to what it was ten years ago, and still massive developments either in progress or planned.

Spent most of our time at Tugun, with a couple of trips to Brisbane where George and Mel Mathieson again proved to be lovely hosts. One day we enjoyed a BBQ at the MacLachlans' home and met up with several locals. We had phone contacts with others but also a few misses. Same thing along the track, we were able to see some but not all. I trust those we missed will appreciate the fact that it's impossible to contact everyone.

We hope you are feeling much better in yourself — I know you were drawing on the 'inner fortitude' at Nuriootpa.

For your information Ron Orr had a stroke some months ago and, whilst under tests, showed up as a diabetic. Bill Walsh did the same when he suffered a fractured skull. Have we ever had any result back from the survey conducted throughout the Unit, or from Vet. Affairs some years ago?

Keith Craig's AAT on 26th, Jack Peattie, Ron Goodacre and self appearing. Let Jack Carey and Col know I received some useful maps from Air Niugini. As you would gather from photo in the Courier, Keith is not good.

Marj Goodacre's mother passed away in September in the middle of her one hundred and first year. She was buried at Pine Grove Cemetery, Rooty Hill on 12th September following a packed church Requiem Mass. Her husband pre-deceased her last November at the age of 96. Our sincere condolences go out to Ron and Marje at this time.

Trust the Fremantle Convention was a wonderful success.

Our warm regards and best wishes to President Don and all members, and again our fervent wish that your personal health has greatly improved.

Edith joins in sending love and best wishes to you and all our friends of 2/2.

Sincerely,
Alan

CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

230 Trafalgar St
Annandale 2038

Dear Archie,

Thank you very much for sending me the August Courier. I will treasure it always. I had already appreciated Don's words on Jerry, but Col. Doig's tribute really took the cake!

I appreciated very much all the support I received from members of the 2/2 whilst I was in Perth, especially yourself, Don and Keith Hayes. I also received a lovely letter from Paddy Kenneally.

Hope this finds you well, and thanks again for your support.

Mary Haire

B. Smith
97 Spinaway Pde
Falcon 6210

Dear Jack,

Enclosing my donation for the very worthy Courier and for any other use you wish.

Am keeping well these days but age has slowed me to a walk.

Regards to all.

Beryl.

B. Callinan
111 Sackville St
Kew 3101

Dear Archie,

I hope all goes well with you. Naomi and I are as well as age will allow and so we have little to complain about.

We were away for six weeks during May and June. We visited a son and his family on Long Island, New York. We went the long way around through Europe and back across the Pacific. We put down at only a few places in between — the hassle of getting in and out of our ports and hotels has become too great.

You are doing a marvellous job with the Courier and it was that which prompted this letter, so have sent you some support.

Bernard

G. I. Green
25B Seaforth Rd
Safety Bay 6169

Dear Jack,

Once again I let the side down by not turning up for your picnic day at Garden Island. At least I'm consistent, as I have been doing that for many years now. Don't know what's the matter with me, perhaps I should see a 'shrink'?

Enclosed is a cheque toward whatever. I admire the way the same few keep the show going, goodness knows what would happen to the world if there were not people like you.

Regards to Delys, hope you are all well.

Gerry

Major L. C. Alver
The S.A.S. Regiment
Campbell Barracks
Swanbourne 6010

Mr J. Carey
Secretary
2/2nd Commando Association

Dear Jack,

A note of thanks for a most enjoyable day as your guest at the Association luncheon on Friday, 19th October, 1990.

It was a privilege to join with such esteemed company and to enjoy such first class hospitality. The conversation and interest by your members in our Special Jones 6-day was most pleasing and reminded me of the legacy you have handed on to our Regiment.

I have passed on your Association's best

wishes to our Commanding Officer, Colonel Jim Wallace who was most disappointed that he was unable to attend.

May I wish your Association all the best for the future.

Warm regards.

Leigh Alver

David W. Elliott
Edmund Barton Chambers
Level 44 MLC Centre
Sydney 2000

Mr J. Carey
Secretary
2/2 Commando Association

Dear Sir,

Thank you very much for forwarding me a copy of 'The History of the Second Independent Company' by Colin Doig. During the course of my association with Mrs Craig I had the opportunity to read this publication and was captivated by the quiet heroism of these young Australians. My interest was confirmed when I met several of Mr Craig's mates at the Administrative Appeals Tribunal Hearing.

Please find enclosed my cheque by way of donation to your Association.

Yours faithfully,
David W. Elliott

J. S. Battye Library of
West Australian History

Dear Mr Carey,

Thank you very much for sending us two copies of The Independents, by Jim Smailes. It is a lovely book, a fascinating way of presenting a history of the Unit, and will be a welcome addition to our collection. Your kindness in thinking of us is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,
George Cowcher
Librarian: Monographs

O. K. Dignum
25 Selkirk Avenue
Seaton 5023

Dear Arch,

The Barossa Safari now seems eons ago, as it recedes into the past. Did it really happen? To me it just appears in my memory of lots of warm pleasant memories of incidents that happened a long time ago during the Barossa Safari and well beyond that.

The Victorian 50th is starting to loom up now. As yet not many from South Australia are going. Bert and Sylvia Bache, Betty and I are the only certainties. More may come forward as the time draws near.

Am pleased to hear Don Turton has stepped into the shoes of the Presidency. W.A. seems to have no problem in finding good men when needed. The Association can think itself very fortunate.

The boys in South Australia seem to be going OK. You would have seen Allan Hollow at the Fremantle Convention. Kel Carthew has had a couple of slight heart playups. He had to report to the Repat Hospital to have tests. He will have to watch himself now.

Keith Blomeley, the chap who helped us in our organising of the Safari, and was presented with a Double Diamond badge, would like to go on the mailing list. Have enclosed his address. He was in the RAN.

Look after yourself Arch.

Regards,
Keith

H. W. Price
Huon Highway
Dover 7117

What a wonderful media the Courier is. I keeps us well informed of old mates plus good info on aspects of life.

Those of us from the 2/40th who joined up with the 2/2nd in Timor are a close knit bunch and when we see each other we always go back to our Timor days.

See a lot of Syd Marsh and his wife Joan. Syd loaned me Col Doig's book — what a great effort — and now I am keen to purchase a copy.

Called to see Lance Bomford in St. Annes Rest Home in Hobart. Although not in the best of health he is the same happy "Bomber" and of course we had a good old yarn.

Life has been pretty good to me, have the usual disabilities, legs, back and dermatitis being the biggest problems. Fill in my time with the RSLA, Legacy and Dover RSL and Ex-Servicemen's Club and was very proud to be made a Life Member of the RSLA last year and to receive an Australia Day Citizen Award this year.

Bob Symth's 'Rogue's Gallery' is something I always look for. Some don't change a lot while others have altered, but we all do in some way with age.

Am enclosing a cheque for one of Col Doig's books and the rest can go to Courier as a donation.

Keep up the good work with the Courier.

Regards to all.
Bert Price

B. Hopkins
14A Norman Street
Bentley 6102

My thanks and appreciation for the Courier, received as usual. Donation enclosed.

Haven't seen any of the members or wives for quite some time but hope to do so in the near future. Had a short holiday at Geraldton recently and saw Peter and Joan and a few more members of the family. Nice to get together again.

Have just returned from a ten day break at the Legacy Camp at Busselton, which I enjoyed immensely. During my stay we visited lots of places in the south west I hadn't seen before. All very interesting — lovely scenery, wonderful beaches, wild flowers and shrubs.

Please give my regards to all.

Sincerely,
Berry

M. Wheatley
266 Fulham St
Cloverdale 6105

Dear Jack,

Hope this finds you keeping well.

Am slowly getting the house the way I want it. There is always some alteration needed when you change houses.

The way this country is going to the pack makes me wonder whether we should have an Open Season on all the politicians or round them up and send them to the war! (If it starts). Anyway Jack, don't hand in any weapons, you may need them.

Enclosed is a cheque for the Courier.

All the best to you and Delys and regards to all.

Doc.

H. Botterill
19 Baldwin Street
Highett 3190

Dear Jack,

Many thanks for your letter re Jim Smalle's poems. Had a chat to Tom and decided that we could probably get 100 copies — we are having a meeting at the end of this month when we can discuss it with the Committee.

Tom seemed to enjoy his trip to Timor. He met up with his Creado, Rupino and his family and

said they were all well — he thinks the people seem to be doing quite well, better fed and clothed and educated, but really couldn't make a judgement on such a short trip.

Olive and I are quite well and enjoying life. Wilma is going along nicely — she celebrated her 70th birthday recently. Ken and Margaret Monk, Olive and I were invited to a surprise party given by Gillian and Warwick.

That's all for now Jack — our love to you, Del and family.

Kindest regards,
Harry

W.W.C.P.

JACK HARTLEY has had a heart attack and is to have an operation in October. Good luck from us all Jack. No one deserves a full recovery more than you. Our love to Maria.

FRANK SHARP has had a heart problem but is coming along very nicely and taking things quietly. Good luck Frank, best wishes from us all.

TONY BOWERS recently had an operation on his back. He is out and about and delighted as it was a success. Best wishes Tony for a complete recovery.

KEL CARTHEW is another subject of heart troubles. Trust all is well Kel and best wishes for a fully recovery.

HENRY SPROXTON who has had a bad time recently has improved quite a bit. He and Thelma were at Kings Park for the Commemoration Service. They are a lovely couple and what a great nurse Thelma has proved to be over the years. Great to see you both. God bless.

ALBIE FRIEND, ALBIE MARTIN and ERIC THORNANDER have all had a spell in hospital recently. Good news. They are all out and on the road to recovery. Well done boys, keep it up. Kindest regards from all of us.

DONATIONS

Bernard Callinan, Nina Grachan, Eric Weller, Tony Bowers, Col Criddle, Bob McDonald, Arch Campbell, Gerry Green, Doc Wheatley, Beryl Smith, Bill Howell, Gerry McKenzie, Paddy Kenneally, Betty Hopkins, Alex Thomson, D. W. Elliott, Mark Jordan, Syd McKinley, Patsy Thatcher, Colin Knight, Clarrie Turner, Ernie Bingham, Lew Thompson, Harry Sproxton, Swampy Marsh, May Mansfield, Charlie Sadler, Stan Sadler.

“SPECIAL and SECRET”

Recently the Association received a copy of a new book “Special and Secret” by John Laffin, per courtesy of the publishers, Lesley McKay Pty. Ltd.

The exploits of the Unit's Timor Campaign figure prominently in the book which also contains some excellent photographic scenes, including the now famous photo of 'A' Platoon After Timor taken at Larrimah in December 1942.

This book would be a good choice for a Christmas gift for the grand-children and is recommended. It is available at most book shops.

CHANGES OF ADDRESSES AND ADDITIONS

Mr E. K. Blomeley
69/62 Corcoran Drive
West Lakes 5021

Mr E. Evans
112 Westfield St
Maddington 6109

Mrs A. London
3/140 Surrey Rd
Rivervale 6103

Mrs M. Mansfield
Unit 1, Sunshine Park
Brady Rd
Lesmurdie 6076

Mr D. Latimer
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39 King St
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067 22 5643
