

# **2/2 COMMANDO COURIER**

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Address all Association Correspondence to: Box T1646, G.P.O. Perth 6001

**Vol. 81**

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**Price 1c**

## ***COMING EVENTS***

### **ANZAC DAY, WEDNESDAY 25th APRIL**

Assemble at usual place in the Terrace by 9.30am.

**Please note that the assembly and march off times have been brought forward by 30 minutes to cater for the larger numbers participating in the 75th Anniversary of the Gallipoli landing.**

**The get-together after the parade will be held at one of our old haunts The Knutsford Arms at the top end of Fitzgerald Street, commencing at 12.30pm.**

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### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

TUESDAY, 22nd MAY

This important meeting which is at the Anzac Club commences at 11am. Refreshments and snacks to follow.

### **MID YEAR SOCIAL**

FRIDAY, 6th JULY AT THE ANZAC CLUB

Social commences at 11am

*Roll up Hail - Rain or Shine.*

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### **BAROSSA SAFARI NEWS PAGE 2**

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## 1990 BAROSSA SAFARI 16th - 26th MARCH

### FINAL INSTRUCTIONS AND NEWS

Cabin dwellers please note bedding is available for the reasonable fee of \$8 per set for the duration of the Safari, so there is no need to bring your own bedding unless you wish to do so. Visitors requiring bedding are asked to contact Keith Dignum as soon as possible.

Members attending the Safari are asked to bring along their song books issued at the last Safari.

Thirty one members are travelling on a chartered bus which is leaving Perth early on Wednesday 14th March and which is due at Nuriootpa at about 5pm on Friday, 16th March. There are still a few seats available for any late starters.

#### 16.3.90 Arrival Day — A Barbecue

We will put on a barbecue around 5.00pm - 6.00pm, there will be minimal charge. This will save the tired members having to worry about the evening meal. We suggest, if possible, bring a mug for the tea and coffee, that will assist us.

#### 18.3.90 Fishing Competition

To be held 10.00am to 12.00 noon at the lake. The Caravan Park has stocked the lake with Trout, Red Fins and 1 Carp. Some of these fish are tagged and are worth prizes.

We will also have prizes for the largest (length) fish and the most caught. After measuring the fish, return them to the water.

So don't forget to bring your fishing gear — rods and handlines. Nets are barred.

#### Accommodation

For those who wish to come, but have left it too late, don't worry, we can still pack a few more in. We have 1 cabin and 2 motel rooms vacant and we can arrange with 3 men to share with males and 1 women to share with a female.

#### The Barossa Valley

The Barossa is made up of 3 main towns, forming a triangle, with Nuriootpa and Tanunda forming the base and Angaston the apex. Each of these towns are approximately 6km apart.

Nuriootpa has a population of 3,200, a large shopping centre, 2 supermarkets, 2 butchers, 2 bakers, 2 hotels (counter lunches), 2 chemists, hairdressers, cafes, take-aways, tea-rooms, 1 hour photographic service, and churches to suit all tastes.

Tanunda population 2,856, more German heritage, good shopping centre.

Angaston population 1,823, municipal centre, good shopping centre.

#### Bus Service from Adelaide to Nuriootpa

All interstate buses pull into 101 Franklin Street, Adelaide. The Central Bus Terminus.

The bus service from Adelaide to Nuriootpa leaves 101 Franklin Street 3 times a day Monday to Friday — 9.00am, 1.00pm and 5.45pm. Saturday, 2 services — 2.15pm and 5.45pm. Sunday, 1 service at 5.45pm.

The cost is \$6.15 to Nuriootpa, users pay, the distance is 74km, time for the journey 1.45 hours to 2.00 hours.

Members arriving by the Barossa Service — ask the driver to drop them off at the Caravan Park. We will have a guide stationed at the entrance and will direct you to our office to book in, we will then get you and your luggage back to your respective motels.

#### The Final Roll Call — Booked in After 10.9.89

Tony and Gwen Bowers, Ralph and Eve Finklestein, Mervin and Marge Jesse, Max Thornton, Roy Watson, Theo Adams and 2 daughters (Lisa and Thea Adams), Lionel and Elsie Newton, Litch and Louise Litchfield, Peter Kause, Ray Aitken, Barbara Goddard.

#### Commuting One or More Days

Bob Williamson, Audrey and Brenton Tapper, Howard Marks, Ron and Hazel Morris.

On arrival at Nuriootpa, all members to report to **OUR OFFICE** in the caravan park.

Guides will be available to direct you to the office and back to your respective Hotel and Motel.

#### RAFFLE BOOKS

An announcement to the Eastern Staters who have not as yet returned their raffle books, make sure those who are coming to the safari bring them along.

Those who will not be attending the safari get them in now.

Under S.A. Lottery Laws all books must be accounted for.

O. K. DIGNUM  
24 Selkirk Avenue  
Seaton, SA 5023  
Phone (08) 356 2137

### COURIER NOTE

Next issue will be June. This is because many members will not be back until well into April including the Courier Team. **EDITOR.**

## A SAD HAPPENING

Phyllis Bryant, loved wife of our esteemed member Freddie, passed away on the 24th January, 1990, and will be sadly missed by all members of the 2/2nd Commando Association Australia wide. She was indeed a lovely lady.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Freddie on his sad loss. Rest assured old timer our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Gold bless, may he give to you in the months ahead, peace of mind and heart.

## A HORRIBLE THOUGHT

Irrespective of the findings of the experts, the following seems to be the stark facts facing you and me:

Population of Australia	16,100,000
People 65 years and older	5,810,000
Balance left over to do the work	10,290,000
People of 18 years or younger	5,300,000
Balance left over to do the work	4,990,000
People working for the Govt	1,100,000
Balance left over to do the work	3,890,000
People in the armed forces	50,000
Balance left over to do the work	3,840,000
People in State & Council offices	1,300,000
Balance left over to do the work	2,540,000
People in hospitals	500,000
Balance left over to do the work	2,040,000
Spivs and others who won't work	1,990,000
Balance left over to do the work	50,000
People in goal	49,998
Balance left over to do the work	2

and you'd better pull your socks up, for I'm fed up with running this country alone.

## THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL

### A PRIVATE PATIENT SCHEME FOR VETERANS

1. Veterans and war widows will have access as private patients to public hospitals to the level of 'twin share' accommodation.
2. Where public hospitals cannot meet veterans and war widows immediate clinical needs "preferred" private hospital is one with which the Commonwealth hopes to negotiate special rates for fees, and it is expected that "preferred" status will be negotiated with the vast majority of private hospitals. It is anticipated admission to a private hospital will need prior approval by the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

3. If public hospitals or "preferred" private hospitals cannot meet immediate clinical need, treatment for veterans and war widows will be made available at any private hospital at Departmental expense. This again will require prior approval from the Department.

Should "preferred" private hospital accommodation be available to meet immediate clinical need, veterans and war widows may nevertheless still elect to be treated at another private hospital of their choice, but they may be required to meet any difference in fees charged between the "preferred" rate of fees and those charged by the private hospital of choice.

4. The Commonwealth will also seek continued access to beds in former Repatriation hospitals for the treatment of veterans and war widows who for whatever reason would prefer to be treated in that hospital.

## A PROBLEM IN TIMOR MUSEUMS AND ART GALLERIES OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

28 October, 1989

Dear Mr Carey,

I have recently returned from Dili following up on an earlier visit in April where I have been carrying out research of an historical nature.

As I had never been to see the 2/2nds Memorial of appreciation to the Timorese people at Fatunabe (Dare) I made a special effort to go and see it. I inspected the memorial which has been badly neglected and interfered with and badly needs restoration.

The walls are cracked and chipped and some stone and grouting has fallen out. The water inlet to the pool has been replaced by a pipe only and the floor to the pool is so badly cracked, (through subsidence I believe), that it no longer holds water. Grass and weeds everywhere give an added appearance of neglect.

You possibly know that the original plaque was removed years ago and has been replaced with a less sophisticated one. On the side of the memorial facing the valley and the city of Dili two structures have been constructed which now obscure the beautiful view. In addition, during the war or subsequent occupation by Indonesia military, plaques have been placed on the roof and wall indicating the presence of the famous Siliwangi regiment and the Korps Marinier.

From discussions with Arsenio Horta and others it appears the cost to repair the memorial would be in the order of some \$10,000. From further discussions with local

people I understand that the buildings offending can and will be removed and all assistance will be given in the restoration of the site and for later protection.

I have enclosed some photos of the memorial which may be of use to you. I have not yet taken the matter up officially but I have spoken to Sir Bernard Callinan about it and was referred to you.

I visit Timor every two to three months and would be happy to undertake any services you might like me to do and I expect to return there within the next couple of months.

I hope that this letter is of use to you and that I may not have duplicated work you have already done.

I have lived in Darwin for nearly forty years and am a Life Member of the R.S.L. hence my interest.

Yours sincerely,

P. G. Spillett, A.M.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *This has spurred a real effort by the W.A. Committee on behalf of those 2/2nd members right across Australia. A special sub-committee has been formed to investigate the whole issue and quite a bit of ground work has been done.*

*We are getting quite a lot of support from Peter Spillett and we trust that a real solution can be found for something near to our heart. We will keep you posted!*

## CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

The first day of summer threw a great deal of light on this function which turned out to be wonderful in every aspect. Sixty eight attended and walked into a room full of Christmas atmosphere — the Anzac Club had done us proud.

Everyone who qualified received a brand new address book so expertly put together by a fine team effort from Len and Gavin Bagley, Betty Illsley, Keith and Val Hayes, along with a friend of Keith who put it into book form. We received great co-operation from Peter Epps in arranging delivery of the books all over Australia. In some cases members on the eastern seaboard had their books before members in W.A. We are indebted to Peter for his prompt and expert handling of a difficult area.

Mandurah members came in force. Dutchy Holland arranged the hire of a mini-bus which transported 17 of them direct to the Anzac Club and with four other members travelling by car it was almost a 100% effort from our southern group. Eric Weller from Geraldton covered a lot of ground to attend.

There was the usual animated conversation while everyone enjoyed pre-luncheon refreshments, followed by a first class buffet lunch and our thanks go to the Anzac Club's friendly staff who helped to make the day such a success.

In his own inimitable style our MC, Len Bagley, covered apologies, messages of good wishes, a run down on the address book production and gave a lively welcome to all members.

President Archie Campbell announced that Harry Holder was to be presented with an Honorary Life Membership of our Association and was pleased to call on Colin Doig to do the honours because of his long standing friendship with Harry. Colin recounted what a great asset Harry has been to the 2/2nd and praised his wife Maisie. He referred in affectionate terms to Harry's father Bill, and his mother, both of whom contributed to the stability that the Association acquired and has maintained to this day. As Colin pinned on the Life Membership badge so thoroughly deserved by Harry, there was warm and sustained applause.

Harry's reply showed the depth of feeling and love he has for the 2/2nd as he tracked back to the early years of our formation, and gave us a greater insight into the roots from which we sprang. We thank Harry, Maisie, Harry's Dad and Mum from the bottom of our hearts for being part of our history. Harry's final words said everything. "I will wear the badge with deep pride."

Two who weighed in with a fine contribution were Jack Carey who organised the function and John Poynton who guided us through the financial side in his usual expert manner.

Archie Campbell wound up proceedings by wishing everyone a very happy Christmas and tons of happiness and good luck as we go into the new decade of the 90's. Likewise, the continuation of the camaraderie and friendship that exists within our organisation. He thanked the ladies for their loyal and continued support. God bless them.

He concluded by wishing members and their families everywhere health and happiness for Christmas and New Year and well and truly into the decade of the 90's.

## VICTORIAN NEWS

On the 8th November we had a pleasant get-together at Jock and Faye Campbell's new place at Brandy Creek to meet Charlie Brown and his friend Betty Matton who are doing a trip around Australia. Jock and Faye have put a lot of hard work into getting their new place into shape and it is looking very nice.



We had a very good roll up at a barbecue organised by Norm and Fran Tillet at their lovely home in nice surroundings at Somerville. A very enjoyable day and our thanks to Norm and Fran for their hospitality.

Our Christmas luncheon on Monday, 11th December at the Paterson River Country Club was arranged by Jack Fox who is a life member. Present were John and Cath Roberts, Ken and Margaret Monk, Paul Costelloe, John and Shirley Southwell, Peter Krause, Fred and Mavis and Phyllis Broadhurst, Leith and Marg Cooper, Jack and Julie Fox, Harry and Olive Botterill, George and Dot Veitch, Sep and Nonie Wilson, George and Dot Robinson, Nina Grachan, Blue and Mary Bone, Bernie Callinan, Norm and Fran Tillet, Tom Nisbet, Alex and Beryl Boast, Glad Curran, Bill Tucker, Jack Renehan, Alf and Gwenda Harper. Apologies were received from Jock and Faye Campbell, Arch and Dawn Clane, Mick Wellings, Bill and Eileen Sharp, David and Thais Brown, Rolf Baldwin, Don and Joan Fryer, Wilma Tobin, Grace Davies, Peter McCracken, Peg Beer, Nancy Mildren. It was a very good roll up and nice to see the country people travelling down for this luncheon and we were well looked after by the staff of the Country Club.

I take this opportunity to wish everyone a very healthy and prosperous 1990 — looking forward to seeing those going to the Barossa Valley Safari.

Harry Botterill

## SUNSHINE STATE NEWS

Seasons Greetings from the Sunshine State.

Another year almost gone and our merry band in this neck of the wood, somewhat battered but still intact. Our sick parade is looking fairly good. Either that or nobody is letting on. So it is a pleasure not to have to call a serious sick parade.

Pleased to see our new address books arrive. My old one was beginning to look like the little black book my brother used to carry in his heyday.

In my correspondence corner have had phone calls with Bill Connell. Bill does not travel far from home these days so he is not seen at our barbecues. Allan Mitchell's eyes are not treating him kindly and he cannot do any night driving. As he lives in Caloundra we do not see him at our do's. Mrs Dorothy Gibson — for those who wonder who Dorothy is, she was the widow of our late original C.O. Allen Spence. Remarried and recently returned from a trip on the Murray River. Dorothy sounds as if she enjoys life very much and I enjoyed talking to her. Letter from Dick

Dorham in answer to a query I put to him. Dick tells me his hands are very bad and he finds it difficult to write. Letter and card from Kathleen Sargeant putting a couple of queries to me for a change. Good to hear from her.

We had our Christmas get-together on the 6th December at Silks, Albion Park Raceway. As usual I made a pig of myself with oysters and prawns. Big Neil Hooper was not far behind me or perhaps way ahead of me as I was too busy eating to notice how many times he went to the trough. Tony and Iris Adams arrived home from Japan in time for the 'do.' Their son is working in Japan and they had some five weeks or so (I think) over there sampling the local hospitality. Had a most enjoyable day and was pleased to see some of those on recent sick parades able to front up. The only thing missing was George Coulson forgot to bring down his other six photo albums of his trip to U.K. Bettye won't let us get away from that.

Present were Tony and Iris Adams, Ron Archer, Butch and Pat Barnier, Fred, Phyl and Peter Bryant, George and Bettye Coulson, Neil and Margaret Hooper, Ron and Betty Host and sister, Angus and Alastair MacLachlan, Win Dunstan, George and Mel Mathieson, Gordon and Joan Stanley, George and Edna Vandeleur, Alec and Esse Veovodin. Apologies from Ralph and Sheila Conley, in Vanuatu for the week, Murvin Murphy whose wife does not enjoy good health. Also from Bettye Coulson's mother who said she didn't like the way George drove their new car. George looked strange running round with a small 35mm camera instead of that big video camera we always used to try and dodge. George told me he took a backward step in U.K. and dropped his video. I think he had it poked through the fence at Buck Palace and they took it off him.

Fred Bryant's number two son is in intensive care recovering from a by-pass operation. He threw a scare into the family a few weeks ago when he had a heart attack and it was deemed necessary to get him into hospital fairly quickly for his operation. Indications are that he is coming through it well. Phyl still has problems with her eyes.

George and Edna Vandeleur are shifting house this month and moving up to the Sunshine Coast in the hopes of catching all the fish which eluded George Coulson.

George and Mel Mathieson are looking better than I have seen them for some time. George still does not like to see a set of stairs in front of him.

Nothing left now but to wish one and all the very best for Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Angus MacLachlan.

**EDITOR:** Dick Dorham has given us information re HARRY PETRIE who passed away 9th October 1989, Army No. NX82292, Unit 2/6th Commando Squadron.

Thanks Dick.

## THREE SCORE YEARS AND TEN

On the 10th December Reg Harrington's family gave him a surprise 70th birthday party at his daughter Barbara's place at Coondle, and the theme was "This is your life." Many surprising stories were told.

The biggest surprise was the arrival of Keith and Doreen Watters from Wagga Wagga, N.S.W. Keith is a double diamond boy from Reg's Section. Also present were the Sadler boys and their wives, Jess Epps and the Hassons.

Unfortunately Reg had just spent a couple of days in Northam Hospital. Yes, the result of old age!!! but he will survive. This did not stop him enjoying a couple of ales and a super barbecue lunch. It must have given him great pleasure to have all his family and friends around him. Dot says its the first secret she has kept from him in their 40 odd years together.

**EDITOR:** *Our thanks to Jack Hasson for the above story.*

## THANKS

May I first of all wish one and all the very best for 1990 and may you be blessed with good health, happiness and prosperity.

Secondly, may I thank you one and all from all over Australia for your lovely thoughts and sympathy extended to me and my family in the loss of my dear wife. Phyllis loved our Association and the wonderful friends she made at our safaris. She only missed one in 22 years, that being Phillip Island, due to her failing health. She was always pleased to see someone from the 2/2 passing through from interstate or our own NSW members. I felt so proud at her funeral service to see so many of our boys, their wives and widows from NSW among the crowd of almost 400 people.

No wonder we were such a fine Unit when you see how close knit we are still today, 45 years since hostilities and that hand of friendship is still present when any member suffers the loss of a dear one or is stricken with ill health.

I would like to pay tribute to my wonderful mate Fred Broadhurst who was with me right

until almost the end and made a special trip to Dubbo to see Phyllis before her passing. He made two trips in six months and his presence and jokes always cheered her up. Thank you Freddie.

To Betty Craig, Jess Epps and all those good ladies who made Phyllis so happy at the "Young Safari," thanks again, as that was her last social event and she made every effort to go as she knew time was running very short.

I am looking forward to seeing you all in March at the Safari.

To one and all, thank you once again for your lovely thoughts and kindness to me, they are memories I will never forget.

Bye for now.

Frank Sharp.

## CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

J. P. Kenneally  
28 Wilkins Street  
Yagoona 2199

A mere month left before Christmas, the usual rush. We vowed it would be different next year, about thirty years ago, and its still the same old rush.

As you know, Phyllis Sharp died after a long illness which she endured with courage, cheerfulness and good humour. In fact, while she was still capable to do so, she attended to all matters pertaining to daily living. Phyllis was buried in her home town, Lithgow and many came from various parts of the state to pay their respects to a dear friend, the church was full. The Unit was well represented, Alan and Edith Luby, Bill and Coral Coker, Ron Trengove, Jack Hartley, John Went, Paddy Kenneally, Betty Craig made the long trip from Young and Kath Press came from Orange. Our sympathy is extended to Frank and his family in their sad loss.

Sam Fullbrook and his wife Mary Jane attended our annual meeting. Sam acted as Returning Officer, presiding over the election of officers. His wife, a charming lady, accepts Sam as he is, as he was, and as he more than likely always will be, very little changed in appearance or manner since he was a six bob a day digger. One thing has changed, his financial position, he must have acquired a bundle of legal tender to purchase the real estate he owns. A studio in Darlinghurst, a horse property in Queensland and three residences in Columbus Ohio. I wish the good Lord had given me the ability to paint or play tennis or golf instead of the ability to swing a pick and shovel for endless hours, and not

even a speck of gold in the pan. Good luck and congratulations Sam.

The Unit Christmas party was held on Sunday, November 26th with Ron Goodacre acting as mine host and providing the venue. Nora had to represent me as I'd already made arrangements to make a weekend retreat at Mount Carmel Monastery, Minto, so while everybody else was chewing bullock and drinking beer, I was pondering 73 years behind me, God only knows how many ahead, plus a great big question mark, can I change or be changed, or do I need to be. Alas and alack, I'll leave it to someone else to solve.

You Aussie Rules fans should have enjoyed the fare dished up by Hawthorn and Geelong in the Melbourne grand final. Geelong a little unlucky, however they made much of their misfortune themselves, playing too much hand ball close to their goal posts. I reckon it cost them the game. It was most certainly a thriller.

The Rugby League grand final in Sydney was also a thriller, one of the best in years. Canberra deservedly won, they were the better team, even though they were behind for 78½ minutes of the game. They equalled the score then, and were too strong for Balmain in the extra twenty minutes of play. The Rugby Union, well! I know they're amateurs, however they don't have to be so amateurish in their play. It wouldn't be a bad idea if they copied the Kiwis. It was a very poor grand final — Randwick took it out once again.

All the best to members everywhere, a merry Christmas and may 1990 be a year of happiness and good health.

Paddy.

---

Keith and Betty Craig  
Box 234  
Young 2594

Am very late this time and the letter will be short but hope you will all forgive me for that. Hope everyone had a very happy Christmas and best wishes for a bright and healthy new year.

Keith looks well but he becomes weaker all the time. He isn't speaking as plainly now and we are finding it harder to understand what he is saying. He is very well looked after and I tell him he is spoilt. Everyone stops and talks to him and he reads a lot and watches T.V. especially sport, travel documentaries etc. I go up each day and give him his lunch and the meals are excellent. On Christmas Day I went up and had my meal with him and we had all the trimmings. Often have a meal with him. HESSIE CLARK comes up with me four or five times a week and we help any of the other

patients who need it and altogether it is a very happy place.

Last August I went into hospital and had the tops of four toes taken off so I was hobbling around with a while. They are great now and I have been back dancing and teaching dancing this last six weeks, so you can't keep a good person down, or so they say. Other than having hay fever I have been very well.

Last March we held the Mini Safari here at Young and a great time was had by all. Jack Fowler and Jess Epps came from Perth and we had folk from Queensland, Victoria, A.C.T. and all over N.S.W. Theo Adams rang from New Guinea and sent us coffee with Paddy. After the official dinner we had an old time dance band which everyone enjoyed. At home on the Friday and Sunday evenings after the meals we sang all the old tunes we knew so well. Marj Cooper played for us on the Sunday and I don't think any one wanted to go home.

Keith and I celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary on the 11th June and a few close friends joined us for a meal. We took Keith out in his wheel chair and he enjoyed our day.

Last year I only trained one group of debs for the Police Ball. It was very good and Joan Darge took a video of it all and we had great fun and many laughs watching it.

John Fowler sent us a good video of their trip from Perth to Young and back.

At present we are trying out a computer with a print out. If Keith can manage it, will see if Vet Affairs have one to loan us.

Best wishes to everyone and we hope 1990 will be happy and healthy for us all and if Keith is well enough I hope to see many of you at Safari in South Australia in March.

Bye for now.

Betty Craig.

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R. Griffiths  
2/36 Wandoo Street  
Leeton 2705

Enclosed is a cheque for the Courier. Reading the Courier gives me much pleasure as many of the articles bring back old memories. Being one of the 2/40 from Dutch Timor I was at Champlong at the time of the Jap landing. The article written by one of the boys who was with Col Doig at Champlong at that time was of much interest to me. My first job with Sparrow Force, which I joined in Sydney, was 2 I/C of the field bakery to keep all you blokes in bread. First in Darwin for couple of months, then Penfoi and finally Champlong. In the first Jap raid on Penfoi the Japs dived on the

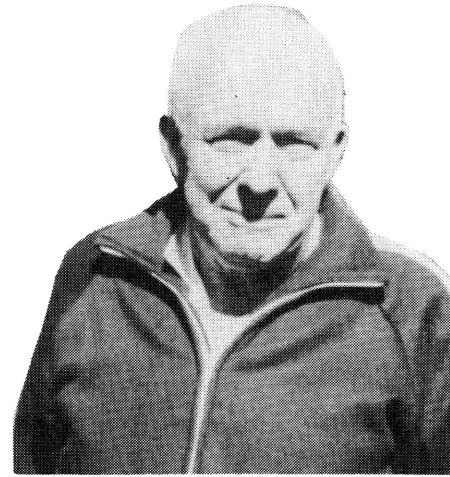
# BOB SMYTH'S ROGUES GALLERY — SEQUENCE 10



*David Dexter*



*Eric Smyth*



*Gordon Stanley*



*Ron Host*

'Lest We Forget.'



*Mal Herbert*



*John (Irish) Hopkins*



*Max Davies*



*Ron Kirkwood*

bakehouse and, with bullets flying everywhere that was my first lesson.

My next job was truck driving which was no trouble as I had my own truck in civvy life, so we ended up at Atambova. I did two trips to Atapupu, then my next job was to take the wireless set out in the bush to try and contact Australia. I was a corporal and what I could not understand was there were no officers or sergeants there, only someone trying to work the set. All he got was a lot of loud noises. Then I was told it was to be destroyed and this disgusted me. If I had been in charge that was the last thing I would have done; just imagine what Loveless and his crew would have given for that wireless!

Then the three days walk to Macassar. As all the trucks were blown up we had to carry our supplies. Half way there we were told to discard our rifles and ammo as it was more important to carry supplies. I had heard the rumour that when we got to Macassar it was to be every man for himself. If you had grown up in the bush like I had you would know to keep your rifle, so I kept rifle, ammo and my mosquito net. Walking along heavily laden the officer said to me "Do you intend to eat your rifle?" I replied: "No, but I will eat what I can get with it." So, I always got a feed and never got malaria fever. I always considered the mosquito just as big an enemy as the Jap.

At Macassar supplies were quickly divided and it was every man for himself. This was a stupid idea and I told the officers so. Then one officer — it may have been Capt Arnold — gave us what information he had. My complaint was that we boys had been working our guts out and had no information about the Island. I didn't know the 2/2nd existed, or anything about Portuguese Timor. He told us the only boats available were log canoes. On the side of the Island closest to Australia the prevailing wind was against us. Capt Read said to us "from now on your guess is as good as mine" so that was it.

Our party consisted of my Sgt-Major from our bake house — he was a cook at Hotel Australia so he was good — and Judge Rutherford from the R.A.P. with supplies which were useful. Also we had two rifles, two lots of ammo and two mosquito nets, so we settled down to a quiet life to build up our strength. About three weeks later, on visiting the coast where a couple of our officers were camped, I found one officer sitting behind a desk with his cap on and looking important. He said "Corporal, you are under Army orders again and have to join the 2/2nd which is holding out in Portuguese Timor." Our A.A.S.C. Unit was together again at Beco on the coast of Portuguese Timor. This consisted of 1 Captain, 2 Lieuts, 4 Sergeants and I was the only Cpl as our other Cpl was caught by the

Japs. After about a week Lieut Scott told me to be ready next morning to take six men up to join the 2/2nd. This suited me fine as I had been running long enough. Now I would get a chance to have a shot at the Jap. That started about nine months with the 2/2nd, which is a long story so will close, wishing you all a merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Yours sincerely,  
Reg.

---

G. Smith  
37 Shaw Crescent  
Muswellbrook 2333

Returned from a four month trip through Queensland towing our van, and there waiting for us were the August and October Couriers. I do deem it a great honour to have been placed on your mailing list. When Gloria and I attended the 1982 Reunion in Perth with Nance and Babe Teague we first met quite a number of your members. We met up again with these people at Canberra and Phillip Island and feel quite a close bond by reading news of them in the Courier.

We look forward to the Barossa Safari where we will again meet up with these new friends, although at the same time it will be sad for us to be there without our old mates and travelling companions.

We wish all members good health and happiness for the festive season.

Enclosed is a cheque which may help with postage and printing costs.

Yours very sincerely,  
George.

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A. MacLachlan  
37 Arrowsmith Street  
Camp Hill 4152

So many letters these days carry sad news. Sorry to hear of the passing away of Geordie Smith and Bob Burns. Being a four section man I knew Geordie well and always appreciated his very dry sense of humour. Did not know Bob well but still have a feeling of sadness at his departure.

Harry Petrie. Have tried all my avenues but came up against a blank wall. Have no contacts in Mackay, or even close to, and nobody in Brisbane area can place Harry. Sorry about that.

Will drop a line to the Courier after our Christmas 'do' with the news from this neck of the woods.

Best wishes,  
Angus.

A. Hodge  
2/289 Wakaden Street  
Griffith 2680

Thinking back I've realised it's time I sent another couple of dollars to help with the Courier which we all look forward to. I congratulate all you chaps who have worked so long to keep us all informed of how most of us live, that is of course if we write often enough.

We were sorry to hear that Phyllis Sharp died recently.

Had a call from Betty Craig. Keith is still battling along, knows what's going on and loves to watch T.V.

I'm walking around much better since I had a new knee just on twelve months ago.

My regards to all the boys and I wish you all a merry Christmas and happy and healthy new year.

Cheerio, good luck and best wishes.

Alf.

S. King  
76 Bennett Street  
Lake Grace 6353

Hi folks, just a short note to wish one and all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous new year. I hope it will be trumps.

Enclosed is a small donation towards the Courier or whatever. I'm sorry I have been very remiss about it.

Here's hoping this finds all well as it leaves me at present.

Yours sincerely,  
Sheila.

D. Anning  
12 Barratt Street  
Glenorchy 7010

Enclosed is a donation towards the cost of the Courier which I have been receiving regularly and reading with a great deal of pleasure.

Thank you for the address book which I received via Vic Pacey. Thanks also to Vic.

Good luck and a merry Christmas to you all.  
Durn.

D. Dexter  
48 Froggatt Street  
Turner ACT 2601

Dear Archie,

Both of us are humbly grateful for your generous thoughts and prayers which have helped greatly in this convalescent period.

Recovery is steady as she goes. My hope is that, just as the clearing up Col's ulcer led to an improvement in his general health, so this little affair will do the same for mine. I have a marvellous supervisor in Freda.

Funny thing, I was reading the October Courier in Calvary just before being wheeled away for the job, and Mick's operation was on my confused mind as I went under. I remember thinking that if they put a tube that size in me it would start at the big toe and emerge at the top of the head, but of course mine was a take away. We were delighted to learn from your letter that Mick is making a good recovery and we look forward to hearing better news of my old 'china' Doug and the others in WWCP.

While in hospital a big mate who had a similar sort of operation a few years back came in and started questioning me about my pants — did I have them with me, would they be too big now, how did I keep them up. Naturally I began to regard him with an anxious and queer look until he said "I suppose you're going to use a belt when you leave hospital?" The very thought made me wince — a difficult thing to do at that stage. So, off he went and found the braces which he'd used after his op. Thanks to him I'm now once again a member of the braces brigade and intend to stay that way.

The Courier maintains its high standard and I was impressed with the lucid report on the Geraldton trip. A contribution is enclosed.

Well Archie, as you can see, I haven't any great thoughts at the moment so will sign off after thanking you and the Unit, not forgetting Don who rang Freda, for your good wishes.

All the best to you all.  
David and Freda.

Twy Smyth  
23 Maryllia Rd  
Busselton 6280

We were disappointed not to have joined everyone at Geraldton for the reunion, especially as it is our old stamping ground. We had committed ourselves to a long stint in out back Pilbara among the rocks, some of which may have been in our heads.

We would both like to wish everyone a happy 1990 (a bit late for Christmas 89) and hope to catch up with some. There's always a welcome sign on our Busselton door.

Thanks for sending on the new address book.

We keep well and busy, Eric still wrapped up in sailing and his vegies and, as you see, I am busy being his scribe and secretary.

Enclosed is a donation to the very worthy



Courier and a photo for Bob Smyth's excellent Rogues Gallery.

Our very best wishes.

Eric and Twy.

---

11/7 Park Road  
7 Park Road  
Midvale 6056

Thank you for the address book.

I am writing for Lewis as he has just come out of hospital — has been off colour since early in October so did not get to the luncheon. He has not been able to get to his beloved bowls and is at the moment more or less confined to barracks.

Lewis has been wanting to make a donation to the Association so I take this opportunity of enclosing a cheque.

Would welcome anyone for a chat.

Sincerely,  
Una Thompson.

**EDITOR:** *So sorry to hear about Lew's indisposition Una, but glad to know he is back home again. Am sure you and your family will have tons of good luck in the 90's. Lew, get better quickly, it will be great to see you. Best wishes from all members.*

---

A. Moore  
10 Poplar Street  
Dwellingup 6213

Enclosed is a donation for the Courier. Thanks for keeping it coming, I enjoy reading it very much.

Best wishes to all.

Alma Moore.

---

**EXTRACT FROM A LETTER  
TO COLIN DOIG**

G. Shiels  
PO Box 374  
Bowen 4805

We both keep good health fortunately, and are kept busy in retirement. All the family are well and the grand children also. Margo gets to see them more often that I do as I seem hard to shift. I have become involved in RSL, Legacy, Shaw Association and other organisations that seem to need a Secretary. I do Secretary for five organisations as well as a member of others and I do not seem to have much spare time. Also sneak time off to go fishing and crabbing and Margo and I grow about 5-600 rose bushes in the spare time.

We both fully enjoy the Courier.

We go to Townsville once a month and stay with Alan Soper and his good wife Jewell. We mean to stop in Ayr to see Bulla and Jean but always seem short of time. Alan and Jewell are both well and keep busy with their family.

It was wonderful to meet up with Col Hodson and Ernie Bingham when they were last up here. Alan really organised it well.

I have read your book and need a copy so am enclosing a cheque to cover costs and residue to go to funds.

We are both hoping to go to Barossa but hopes are not brightening at the moment.

I have a lot of stories to tell (genuine ones) when we meet again. I am pleased your health has improved.

Best wishes to all.

George and Margo.

---

R. Morris  
53 Hilder Street  
Weston, A.C.T. 2611

My kind regards and best wishes for 1990 to all members and their wives.

I hope to see you all at the Barossa Safari in March but this event clashes with the 2/5th Reunion to be held in Canberra at that time. Mick Sheenan, President of the Commando Association, is organising it with my help.

Enclosed is a donation towards the cost of the Courier.

Sincerely  
Ron.

---

W. J. Elmore  
19 Cadorna Street  
Launceston 7250

Thought I'd best put pen to paper and let you know I'm still in the land of the living. Pleased to say we are both well, and that's a lot to be thankful for when one looks around, as we are getting longer in the tooth.

Saw Lance Bomford recently and he is still battling on.

We did the sentimental trip up the centre last year to show Isabel the Red Centre but at that time it was the Green Centre. Whilst at Alice I met George Bayliss and we had quite a yarn. We didn't meet up again after leaving Alice, more's the pity, but I have his address as we hope to go west this winter if all goes well with our health. We have booked on the boat for the beginning of May.

We had hoped to come over for the Barossa Reunion but with the pilots' strike the boat booked out we have had to give it a miss.

Hope this finds you all in good health.

Enclosed is a donation for the Courier which I look forward to receiving.

Regards to all.

Wal and Isabel.

---

F. Sharp  
22 Quinn Street  
Dubbo 2830

Dear Arch,

Enclosed is a donation to the Courier and I would like to thank all my good mates, their wives and our widows for the love and friendship I have received from all over Australia since poor Phyllis passed away. I have over 200 sympathy cards to answer. It is magnificent to think of the esteem in which she was held by so many.

Am hoping to see you in March. I am going to Melbourne and Fred Broadhurst and I will drive over to the Safari.

All the very best for now and thank you once again for your lettergram from the Association. It makes me feel very proud to have such good friends.

Kindest regards,  
Frank.

---

B. F. McLaren  
13A Grange Road  
Kew 3101

Dear Arch,

Belated Christmas greetings to all members of the 2/2.

After some 17 years of living between Melbourne and Surfers Paradise, we have finally settled back in dear old Melbourne, in the suburb of Kew, where I was born and grew up. You may recall the days long ago when you recruited some of the 2/2 boys, including myself, to paint a Legacy home on the corner of Burke and Cotham Roads, Kew. Our new home is about two drop kicks and a stab pass away from there.

During the last three years of living in Surfers I was invited to join the Gold Coast Legacy Club and, during that period I enjoyed helping many of the Legacy widows and can now appreciate your years of love and devotion as a Legatee. I have taken leave of absence for a period of time, and if my health continues without the many problems I had during 1989, I hope to rejoin a Club close to home. On the Gold Coast we had only some 50 active members out of say 75, to attend the problems of about 1700 war widows.

Lorraine and I are hoping to join the Safari in the Barossa Valley in March, all going well healthwise.

Best wishes to you Arch, and your wonderful Committee. You work so hard in keeping our Unit alive.

Yours sincerely  
Bruce.

---

12 Hunter Rd  
Mosman 2088  
11.1.1990

Dear Arch,

Thank you very much for sending me copies of your 2/2 "Commando Courier."

I enjoy reading very much as it keeps me up to date on developments of your 2/2 Unit and Western Australia. It also brings back memories when some names are mentioned, as I trained at the Prom with most of your Officers' and NCOs' who attended the first Cadre Course there.

In your December issue, I read of the death of George Hamilton-Smith and I was wondering if he was any relation to major Martin Hamilton-Smith who was the recent O.C. of No. 1 Commando Coy (Army Reserve) during the period 1986-1988. This Unit is stationed at Georges Heights, Sydney. I believe Martin Hamilton-Smith originally came from South Australia.

Gwenda and I attended the Victorian Commando Association pilgrimage to Wilsons Promontary last November, which brought back many memories, I don't think it looked so forbidding as it did just on 50 years ago. (Maybe that was because I did not have to walk or run everywhere this time.)

Also saw Smoky Dawson (who was an instructor at Canungra at the time we were seconded there) for the first time since 1944. He advised me that he later saw service with 'Z' Special Unit in North Borneo.

Hope you are keeping well and give my regards to all 2/2 Members.

Yours,  
Arthur Littler

P.S. Have enclosed cheque to help with postage.

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**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Thanks for your letter Arthur. Do not know off hand if there is any relationship between George Hamilton-Smith and Major Martin Hamilton-Smith. Will find out and advise you. Regards from all members.



**IMPORTANT: Please be sure to cut out and paste in your new Address Book the following changes of address and additions which have occurred since the book was issued.**

BURNS, Mrs J.  
Joan  
64 Hilton Cres  
Maddington 6109  
(09) 459 8498

EPPS, Mr P.  
Peter  
P.O. Box 39  
Hillarys 6025  
(09) 401 7584

FAGG, Mr F. C.  
Bruss  
P.O. Box 386  
Northampton 6535  
(099) 34 1271

FITZGERALD, Mr E.  
Dick  
5/44 Sholl Street  
Mandurah 6210

HAMILTON-SMITH, Mrs J.  
Joan  
C/- Post Office  
Denmark 6333

JARVIS, S. C.  
Syd  
24/51 Alexander Dr  
Mt Lawley 6050

KING, Mr C.  
Charlie and Mary  
64 Sth West Hwy  
Armadale 6112  
(09) 399 3935

LOUD, E.  
Ted and Phyl  
Moonya Lodge  
Ipsom Street  
Manjimup 6258

McPHEE, P.  
Percy  
1 McCabe Street  
Nth Fremantle 6159

PENGLASE, J. C.  
John and Elsie  
538 Gibson Way  
Hopetoun 6348

POW, Mrs J.  
Jean  
22/1 Bardon Place  
Maylands 6051  
(Sister of Jack Spencer)

PRENDERGAST, G. E.  
Blue and Edith  
29 Dodd Street  
Dongara 6525

SPENCER, J.  
Jack  
P.O. Box 2078  
Boulder 6432

STUDDY, R.  
'Dusty'  
P.O. Box 112  
Bayswater 6053

THOMPSON, L. W. P.  
Lew and Una  
1/7 Park Road  
Midvale 6056  
(09) 250 1759

WELLER, E.  
Eric and Margaret  
136 Kempton St  
Bluff Point 6530  
(099) 23 1253

LATIMER, D.  
Don and Dulcie  
39 King Street  
Inverell 2360

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

TEAGUE, Mrs N.  
Nance  
C/- Mrs D. Ward  
115 Church St  
Croydon 2132

WALSH, Mr W.  
Bill and Beryl  
150 North St  
West Kempsey 2440

SMITH, B. T. C.  
Bruce  
32 Moroney St  
Bairnsdale 3875

ARCHER, R. E. L.  
Ron  
36 Soudan St  
Toowong 4066  
(07) 870 8177

CONNELL, W. J.  
17 Sturt Street  
Cleveland 4163  
(07) 286 3804

GIBSON, Mrs D.  
Dorothy  
15 Astolat St  
Yeronga 4104  
(07) 848 5586

SHIELS, G.  
George and Margo  
P.O. Box 374  
Bowen 4805  
(077) 85 1265

VANDELEUR, G.  
George and Edna  
5 Redgum St  
Nth Buderim 4556  
(071) 45 5786

BOMFORD, L.  
Lance  
40 Tolosa St  
Glenorchy 7010  
(002) 72 4953

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

LAING, Mrs D.  
Dawn  
29 Harris St  
Hackett 2602

McLAREN, Mr B. F.  
Bruce and Lorraine  
13A Grange Road  
Kew 3101  
(03) 817 4425

## DELETION

PETRIE, H.  
Harry  
3 Weir St  
Mackay 4740