



# **2/2 COMMANDO COURIER**

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## **COMING EVENTS JUBILEE LUNCHEON MEMBERS and LADIES**

**THURSDAY, 10th OCTOBER, 1991  
JOAN WATTERS COMMUNITY CENTRE  
JERSEY STREET, WEMBLEY  
PLEASE REFER TO SLIP SHEET IN THIS ISSUE**

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## **COMMEMORATION SERVICE LOVEKIN DRIVE, KINGS PARK SUNDAY, 17th NOVEMBER AT 3PM LEST WE FORGET**

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## SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY EDITORIAL

### OUR BELOVED UNIT HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY

Congratulations on this the 50th Anniversary celebration of our formation as a Unit, first as the 2/2nd Independent Company, and ultimately the 2/2 Commando Squadron, post war the 2/2 Commando Association of Australia.

The above is indeed a significant milestone and it is fitting that we should celebrate in true 2/2nd spirit across the length and breadth of our country.

This is not to single out the individuals who have been shining lights from DAY 1 to this half century of vital activity, in war, then peace. Suffice to say, without the contribution of these special people in all states, we would not have survived to celebrate such an illustrious occasion. This gives rise to a motto we all share — **'If you wear the colour patch, you share the glory.'**

Born in the depths of Wilsons Promontory in Victoria on the 11th July 1941, serving in the campaigns of Timor, New Guinea and New Britain, our beloved 2/2nd carved a niche in the War History of our nation. This, by putting in a tremendous record of service, loyalty, discipline, courage, endurance and a team spirit second to none. To have been the longest serving unit in the A.I.F. in terms of days at the front, was a remarkable contribution.

It was not achieved without the sad loss of our great mates and it was their sacrifice which prompted, when the war was over and done with, the birth of what has become a lifeline for us all, the 2/2nd Commando Association. It has become a true family in every sense of the word, has welded and knit us into an ex Army Association that has no peer anywhere.

For this we pay homage to a dedicated group, fathers, mothers, families, wives sweethearts and other grand helpers who kept a real fire burning by their superb support in the dark days of the war. When peace arrived they handed over a princely sum of money that set the scene for what became something dear to our hearts — the 2/2nd Commando Association! The spirit of its formation was captured in every state of Australia, today it stands as a monument to the wonderful groups of people who gave us the opportunity to bring it to life. God bless them.

Our minds slip back to the men who trained us so well, to our magnificent families and women who waited, to our mates who paid the

supreme sacrifice that we might have the opportunity to lead a full life. They would wish us with great gusto **'Happy Birthday.'**

So, right across Australia we are celebrating this auspicious occasion, as usual, in true family style, above all, with love in our hearts for each other.

**Archie Campbell**

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### VALE JACK BARRETT

Word has come to hand of the death of Jack Barrett at Cessnock, NSW.

Jack joined the Unit from Canungra in 1943 and was a member of No. 1 Section 'A' Troop. He served with the Unit in both New Guinea and New Britain.

I well remember Jack while in charge of 'A' Troop, he was one of those unforgettable characters who had been a real knock-about, especially in outback NSW and Queensland. He had apparently worked at all sorts of jobs on stations and in country towns and lived the life of a nomad. He once said to me "Col, once you drink that bore water you are a swaggie for life. Next thing you are walking the roads with a swag on your back, a dog on your heels and a billy full of pups." Quite the most descriptive version I ever heard of the true outback knock-about.

What ever happened to Jack post war I just don't know except I remember receiving a couple of letters from him many years ago while Editor of the Courier.

Well, he has now joined his old contemporary, Jim Griffin, as the last of our true Bushies. Goodbye my old mate Jack.

Col Doig

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### VALE GEORGE MATHIESON

It is with a great deal of regret and sorrow that we record the death on 20th June of our 2/2 brother, George Robertson Mathieson of MacGregor, Queensland. Tony Adams was kind enough to ask me to write this eulogy because of our long and close personal friendship with George, Mel and their family, especially during our period of living in Grafton.

Tony advised that the Chapel was packed to capacity for the service preceding the cremation. As well as family and close friends, there were representatives from Sunnybank RSL Sub-Branch, members and ladies from Mt. Gravatt Bowls Club. Representing the 2/2 Commando Association were Tony and Iris Adams, 'Butch' and Pat Barnier, Ralph and

Sheila Ronley, George and Bettye Coulson, Neil and Margaret Hooper, George and Edna Vandeleur, Ron Archer, Murvin 'Spud' Murphy, Angus MacLachlan's daughter Ann and brother Alistair.

George joined the 2/2 Commando Squadron at 'Shrapnel Gully' in the vicinity of the Jackson Airfield, Port Moresby and served with the Unit throughout New Guinea and New Britain. As in post-war civilian life, George did his job as a soldier quietly and efficiently. He was a ceiling and wall plasterer by trade, working at Grafton and Brisbane until ill health forced his early retirement some years ago.

George is survived by his lovely wife, Mel, sister Chris, daughters Lynette and Sue, their husbands Bruce and Peter and four grandchildren whom he adored.

Over the years Edith and I shared many experiences with George and Mel — mostly happy, but there were sad occasions too.

George was a dour Scot with a wry sense of humour. He was a clean living, loving, caring family man who shared a love of life with all with whom he came in contact. He was a gentleman in ever sense of the word.

He was our Friend.

Alan Luby

## VALE JAMES PALISTER SMAILES

On the 9th July, 1991 passed to eternal rest one of the really great gentlemen in the person of Jim Smailes. Jim was a big man both physically and mentally and had capacities unknown to many people. He was, among other things, a poet of renown. His *'The Independents'* will be forever a memorial to his power to bring to life with clever doggerel the epic Timor Campaign.

Jim was 75 years of age when he passed away with a severe heart attack. He had suffered with heart trouble for quite a while, along with other debilitating sicknesses such as diabetes and a spinal problem of great magnitude. He was granted a TPI pension some considerable time ago.

Jim joined our Unit as an original and served with 8 Section under John Burrridge and saw out all that terrible Timor Campaign. He was 'B' classed on return and went back to his home town of Karragullen but the climate was no good for his bone condition and he was selected to do a C.R.T.S. Course in mining at the Kalgoorlie School of Mines. Firstly he had to qualify by obtaining a Leaving Certificate

which he did by part time study and working the mines to keep his wife and family. He successfully went on to complete a Mining Diploma in 1951. This Diploma was No. 51 and the School of Mines had been operating for 50 years so it shows how many are called but few are chosen.

After graduating Jim went firstly to Laverton in the gold mining business, then to Guyra in New South Wales in the antimony game then a stint in the Northern Territory with uranium. Afterwards he was in Malaya with tin mining, so you will see he had a very varied mining engineering career.

Jim's health was gradually deteriorating and he was forced to take less arduous work and for many years did surveying and engineering for the Main Roads Department on many stretches of country roads where accidents had been prevalent.

At all times Jim took a keen interest in Association affairs and in the early formative years was a steady contributor to the Commando Courier, with all types of interesting subjects.

Once he had settled down in the metropolitan area he served on the Committee for many years and was Vice President for a couple of years. As a matter of fact it was hoped he would have been our President in 1991 but his health prevented him achieving this distinction. He was made a Life Member of the Association in 1988.

It was decided to repeat that Epic Poem *'The Independents'* in 1990 and Jim financed this venture to a large degree and was a major seller of this little booklet. If you want to remember dear Jim Smailes then get a copy or two of this booklet to give to your grand children to remind them of a truly great bloke.

We extend to widow Marion and children Vince, John and Anne our most sincere sympathy in the loss of a great husband and father.

Once again I have lost a dear friend. Vale Big Jim, good soldier, great engineer, sincere family and citizen.

The cremation was held at Karrakatta on Friday, 12th July and was attended by the following members and their ladies: Ray Aitken, Len Bagley, George Bayliss, Tony and Gwen Bowers, John Burrridge, Jack and Delys Carey, Colin Criddle, Ron Dook, George Fletcher, Keith and Val Hayes, Betty Illsley, Wilf and Lorraine March, Gerry McKenzie, Jim McLaughlin, Ted Monk, Stan Payne, John Poynton, Steve Rogers, Eric Smyth, Bob Smyth, Dusty Studdy, Don Turton, Merv Wheatley, Jack Wicks, John Roberts (Victoria).

Col Doig

Vince Smailes, Jim's son, has asked me to convey to all members of the Association the family's sincere thanks for the cards received and condolences offered following Jim's passing. The good attendance by members and their ladies at Jim's funeral service was a great source of comfort and support for the family.

Jack Carey

## VALE KEITH CRAIG

This is just my personal tribute to Keith Craig who was a member of my No. 5 Section in New Guinea. Keith was a fine soldier and a remarkable rifle shot and was always cool in a tough situation. He looked every inch a soldier with his upright bearing and his quiet, efficient manner.

Keith had a terrible time over the past 14 years, with a vicious debilitating illness and he carried on with fortitude. As I was in N.S.W. for the Jubilee celebrations I was able to attend his funeral at Young, and extend my sympathy to wife Betty and his two children.

A much more copious Vale will be forwarded by the N.S.W. Branch.

Col Doig

**It is with much sadness that we have to advise of the passing of one of our most loved and respected ladies, Beryl Griffiths. The Association was well represented at Beryl's funeral service on July 12th, 1991.**

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION — W.A.

On July 11th a grand 50th Anniversary party was enjoyed by West Australian members, wives, sons, daughters and friends and two most welcome interstate visitors, John and Cath Roberts. Eighty one happy people from near and far literally **Came to the Party**, and there were 25 apologies.

Archie Campbell and Colin Doig phoned from Port Macquarie with good wishes for a happy day and reported that 124 were expected to enjoy the N.S.W. anniversary function that evening.

Len Bagley, as Chairman, kept formalities to a minimum. In the absence of Bernie Langridge, visiting family in Queensland, Vice-President Ted Monk proposed the important toast to the Unit/Association in fine style.

Jack Carey spoke of coming events and explained travel arrangements for the 1992 Safari at Port Macquarie.

Joe Burridge thanked Jack and praised him for the work he has done for the Association for so many years. Joe's remarks were enthusiastically supported by all present.

The Anzac Club catering staff excelled themselves and we were served a delicious meal, after which everyone moved around making the most of the opportunity to have a little time with as many as possible.

As usual it was over all too soon and we went on our various ways with more happy memories to reflect on and share with our mates. A day that will certainly be remembered by all as very special.

It is hoped that the second stage of our 50th Anniversary celebrations on October 10th will receive the same support. You can rest assured that this day will be just as special.

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**THE RAISING OF No. 2 AUSTRALIAN INDEPENDENT COMPANY A.I.F.  
(Later 2/2 Aust. Commando Squadron)**

**11th July, 1941 at Wilsons Promontory**

Celebrated by NSW, Queensland and ACT Branches at Port Macquarie R.S.L. Club with a Remembrance Service and Jubilee Dinner on the 11th July, 1991.

The attendance of 102 members and 14 visitors was excellent. It was extremely well organised by Alan Luby, supported by members OF N.S.W., Qld and the A.C.T.

Because of a biting wind the Remembrance Service was held in the spacious R.S.L. Club and we are indebted to this Club for their hospitality, and also to Janette Hyde, a very competent Functions Manager. As O.C. Parade, Tony Adams handled the change of venue with great aplomb, under what could have been difficult circumstances. Alan Luby laid the wreath, Tony Adams recited The Ode and the R.S.L. supplied the playing of the Last Post and Reveille. Five young cadets from the 208th Hastings Valley Cadet Unit acted as a Catafalque Party.

The Jubilee Dinner was a real highlight, the catering and decor, including the Unit flag, was indeed a credit to the Club. It augers well for the Safari to be held in Port Macquarie in March, 1992. Ron Trengove was a very efficient Master of Ceremonies and kept the evening going with a swing.

The Toast List was — REMEMBRANCE Archie Campbell, GRACE Harry Handicott, LOYAL TOAST Jim Fenwick, WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS AND MEMBERS Alan Luby. Alan welcomed everyone with great warmth and said how delighted he was with the attendance. A special welcome was given to Mr R. Woodlands, Mayor of Hastings and Mrs Woodlands, Mr. L. Hoare, Chairman of Board of Directors Port Macquarie R.S.L. Club and Mrs Hoare. Alan paid a special tribute to his wife Edith for her support. Thanks from us all to Alan and Edith for their untiring efforts. THE UNIT Tom Nisbet gave a resume of how the Independent Company designation first came into being via the British Army in 1939-40. Later, with expert instruction and the blessing of Australian Army Headquarters, their Australian counterparts took up the role in the depths of Wilsons Promontory. They were to play a remarkable role in the War History of Australia, particularly our own No. 2 Independent Company. We had several changes of name, next it was 2/2 Independent Company, then 2/2 Commando Squadron and post war the 2/2 Commando Association of Australia. RESPONSE Colin Doig, patriarch of our Association, handled this fluently in his inimitable style with a stroll down memory lane both in the active area of our involvement in the Pacific War and in the formation of our Association. It was interesting and emotional to hear how the Unit survived the war, being the longest serving unit in the A.I.F. in terms of days at the front, and then became one of the best ex-Army organisations in Australia. ABSENT FRIENDS was very ably presented by Ralph Conley who covered every facet of this important toast. RESPONSE TO THE WELCOME OF OUR GUESTS by Mr R. Woodlands was sincere and forceful and, on behalf of all guests he thanked Alan for the invitation. He assured all present and others who intend coming to Port Macquarie for the 1992 Safari of a very warm welcome.

*SPECIAL NOTE:* It was great to have the company of Dorothy Gibson, widow of our original O.C., the late Major Alan Spence, her daughters and grand daughter.

To close a memorable evening three Life Memberships were presented by Jack Hartley to Theo Adams from Goroka, New Guinea, Harry Handicott and Jack Peattie. Jack, who has been a stalwart in the N.S.W. Branch for many years, eulogised the support given by these three members and thanked them for their sterling efforts.

This celebration was a memorable phase of our Association history. Victoria combined with South Australia and Tasmania to hold a similar function. Western Australia had a

special function on the 11th July and will hold a Jubilee Dinner in Perth on the 10th October.

Happy birthday to a mighty Unit and one of the finest ex servicemen's organisations in Australia.

Archie Campbell.

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The following were in attendance:

**N.S.W.:** Andy and Helen Beveridge, Russ Blanch, Max Bowden, Ted and Diane Cholerton and family, Bill and Coral Coker, Cisco Coles, Jim and Beryl Cullen, Betty Devlin, Alan and Jean Dixon, Doug and Shirley Dixon, Happy Greenhalgh, Harry and Amyce Handicott, Gordon Hart (2/4th), Jack and Maria Hartley and family, Eric and Lorraine Herd, Ron Hilliard, Col and Val Holly, Des Isenhood, Les and Gloria Isenhood, Fred Janvrin and wife, Paddy and Nora Kenneally, Alan and Edith Luby, Mick Mannix, curly O'Neill, Ron Orr, Jack and Marg. Peattie, Frank and Judy Sharp, Joyce Smith, Bill and Freda Tomasetti, Ron and Dot Trengove, Bill and Beryl Walsh, Snowy and Helen Went, Tom Yates.

**QUEENSLAND:** Tony and Iris Adams, Col and Jeanette Andrew, Ron Archer, Fred Bryant, Ralph and Sheila Conley, George and Bettye Coulson, Dorothy Gibson (was Spence) with daughters and grand daughter, Neil and Margaret Hooper, Spud Murphy, George and Edna Vandeleur, Alistair MacLachlan.

**VICTORIA:** Tom Nisbet, Fred and Mavis Broadhurst.

**ACT:** Jim and Joan Fenwick.

**W.A.:** Arch Campbell, Col Doig.

**TASMANIA:** Tex and Bridget Richards.

**NEW GUINEA:** Theo Adams.

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## Attendance at Port Macquarie Jubilee Celebration

By Col Doig

Left Perth per favour Jack and Delys Carey. Plane one hour late, departed 5.30pm, arrived Sydney at 11.40pm and met by Paddy Kenneally, and in the words of immortal Pepys 'so to bed' at 12.45am. Torn out of bed at 6am to prepare for trip to Young for funeral of the late Keith Craig. Driven through steady rain the whole 250 miles by Jack Hartley arriving at Young at 12 noon. Went for relief at RSL Club

and who should we run into in toilet, the one and only Tom Nisbet who had arrived ex Melbourne. Lunch at RSL Club and then into the Presbyterian Church for service. Very much the VIP treatment for 2/2nd types, front row of pews in church and a long and impressive Memorial Service. Guard of Honour by 2/2 and RSL outside church then onwards in incessant rain to grave side with what may be termed an umbrella conducted service. Return to Church Hall for refreshments, then a rapid departure for Sydney, still pouring with rain, visibility practically NIL. Arrived Sydney 9pm and so to bed.

Tuesday, departure for Port Macquarie at 9.45am, still in steady rain. This is really quite a trip. To Newcastle through vast granite cuttings at places 50 feet high, most impressive. Then, as the country opens up, great vistas of hill and dale which carry on for miles. The final 100 miles through some of the best forest country that could be imagined, very reminiscent of the Warburtons in Victoria and the south west of W.A. grandeur at its very best. A trip that has to be done on the ground and not by air. Still bloody raining when Port Macquarie looms up and then the round-about country. Some engineer with circular thinking must have had all his birthdays at once. You get giddy by the time you get to the centre of this beautiful town. Arrived about 5pm, booked in to excellent accommodation at Port Macquarie Motel, caught up once again with Tom Nisbet and Fred Broadhurst, and so to bed.

Wednesday, July 10th at Port Macquarie still cold and damp with people straggling in all day. Had a nice tour of the town and near approaches per favour Tom Nisbet and then a really quiet day meeting the new arrivals. There is no doubt this will be a great venue for the 1991 Safari with summer weather, plenty to do and see, but also very compact. A barbecue of a different nature held in the Bistro of the Port Macquarie Hotel, a huge gas barbecue with a couple of chefs knocking great T-bone and other steaks into shape. Mine required another bloke on the other end to do real business. A most pleasant evening and a chance to meet a bundle of very nice people. During the day paid a visit to RSL Club which is quite a massive place with bundles of pokies for those wishing to indulge, good food, excellent service and everything you could possibly want.

Thursday, July 11th, weather started a bit better but still overcast and cold. As the day rolled on the crowd really started to arrive, mostly those from the far north of N.S.W. Promises to be a record and the dinner should be a beauty. The events of this day are covered by Arch Campbell elsewhere in this issue.

Friday, July 12th saw the departure of a large number of participants and this included Col Doig and his hosts Paddy and Nora Kenneally. The weather decided to be friendly and this was a perfect day. The journey to Sydney was achieved in six hours and gave me a great opportunity to appreciate the marvellous scenery. This will be appreciated by any who take a bus trip to the 1992 Safari. There is not a solitary mile of tedium, with vast areas of State Forest and also in the area near Sydney the colossal cuttings to built a magnificent highway.

Saturday, July 13th spent with Paddy and Nora at home, mostly arguing with Paddy on every subject under the sun and of course reliving the war years of 50 years ago.

It has been a wonderful 50th Jubilee celebration and everyone was in great form.

A final thought for those who are going to Port Macquarie in 1992, the Port Macquarie Motel/Hotel is a wonderful spot. The units are marvellous. Meals in the Bistro which is very close handy are reasonable, for instance cooked breakfast at \$4 - \$5 and Continental about \$3.50.

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## VICTORIAN NEWS

We had a very pleasant day at Tom Nisbet's place on 3rd March to help Col Doig celebrate his birthday. Present were Tom Nisbet, Ken Monk, Bill Tucker, Peter Krause, John Southwell, Bernie Callinan, Fred Broadhurst, Bert Dowsett, Paul Costelloe, Mam Smith, Colin South, Jack Fox, Harry Botterill — and of course Col Doig, Our thanks to Tom who put on very nice food and drinks.

Anzac day has come and gone again. The weather was fine, we had a good march and our usual luncheon at a motel in St Kilda, organised by the Combined Commando Association. Present — Tom Nisbet, Harry Botterill, Leith Cooper, Bill Tucker, Bruce McLaren, Ken Monk, Don Freyer, Baldy Baldwin, Alf Harper, George Veitch, John Southwell, Norm Tillet, Alex Boast, Jack Fox. Apologies from Bernie Callinan and Paul Costelloe.

Baldy had been to see Bernie in the Mercy Hospital where he had had a quadruple by-pass. Baldy said he looked just the same as ever and has since reported further that Bernie is now out of hospital with a clean bill of health. Can't keep a good man down — all the best to Bernie from all of us.

A reminder to all Victorian members that I still have copies of Jim Smiles poems available.

Harry Botterill.

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## CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

**Lionel and Elsie Newton**  
274 Kaolin St  
Broken Hill 2880

Have been meaning to write since the Barossa Safari — it was a very happy occasion and we are now looking forward to the Port Macquarie Safari next year.

We have had a busy time since Christmas — trips to Adelaide, Sydney and Melbourne. We are hoping to go north again next month but we now have a dog which will be a problem. He is a pup and loves digging up the lawn etc, so we will probably have to board him out for a few months.

We both enjoy the Courier and this prompts the enclosed donation.

Regards to all.

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**Lt-Col. J. J. A. Wallace AM**  
6 Slim Rd  
Camberley Surrey U.K.

Have just received your letter of 8th April which was probably meant for my successor Lt-Col Duncan Lewis. However, I'm sure Bob and John would have been expected at the Anzac Service and the Regiment would be proud of their attendance.

As you can see, I'm now well away from the sunny climes of Perth, but I would like to pass my very best wishes for a memorable 50th Anniversary to the members of the 2/2nd and their wives. The spirit that saw you all through such testing times so magnificently in World War II is every evident in the Association and you all deserve a momentous year of celebration.

I remain a firm friend of the Association. Yours sincerely.

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**Max Miller**  
156 Wilson St  
Burnie 7320

It's time to write a few lines as I have not written since before the Barossa Safari. It was another success story and it is a great pleasure to attend these functions. As Keith Dignum wrote in his letter, Noreen and I arrived home on the 8th April only to be told by the Burnie Hospital that I had to return to Adelaide Hospital on 15th April to have an aorta valve replacement and while I was there I also had a by-pass for good measure.

Noreen and I were very pleased to see Keith and Betty as we didn't know anyone in Adelaide.

We attended the 50th Anniversary at Phillip Island and had a great time and are now looking forward to Port Macquarie.

Enclosed is a cheque to cover the cost of Col Doig's book and a donation to the Courier.

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**Paul Costelloe**  
25 Sunburst St  
Nth Balwyn 3104

Enclosed is a donation to the Courier.

Am just getting over a bout of pleurisy — am rearing to go but my doctor says "another week indoors please."

The football is a great entertainment and I do look forward to the TV replays at the weekends. It looks as if the Eagles may take the flag. If that happens Victoria's credit rating will plummet!!

The Courier is a great credit to the team — the standard never varies and it is always excellent reading.

Kind regards.

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**Paddy Kenneally**  
28 Wilkins St  
Yagoona 2199

Anzac Day arrived, our numbers were down. Jack Hartley and Ron Trengove were missing, both indisposed, however both are back on decaq again. We miss our mini reunion preceding the main reunion on the ferry. How we have changed over the years — a mini reunion at Hastings Deering, then up to Good Chap St, Surry Hills where Alfredo and Ruby laid on the hospitality before we proceeded to Arncliffe RSL to sit, talk, sing and drink until about 2am on the 26th. Cripes, we can barely last until 4pm these days!

As usual I finished up on the Rocks (not literally — the area). This Anzac Day I had a minder, whether planned or accidental I know not. Gerald joined us on the ferry, did the Rocks tour with me and landed me safely home at midnight. I had a great time — no responsibilities, just enjoyed the hospitality and let the troubled world drift by.

Another loss to our ranks here in NSW. Tom Fields passed away and was buried on 20th May. Tom was in A.A.S.C. in Koepang and came through with the men from the Dutch end. Like the majority of those men he did not return to the 2/2nd. He was a regular attendant on Anzac Day, coming down from the central

coast to join us for the day. Alan Luby, Ron Trengove, Snow Went and Curly O'Neill represented the Unit at the funeral. There was a very big contingent of his neighbours and friends from the Gosford area. Tom was well known there and played a part in, and supported many local activities. His departure will be felt and his presence missed by many people, including the 2/2nd. Our sincere sympathy is extended to his widow and family.

NSW won the Rugby League State of Origin recently. They proved the better swimmers with three minutes to go. O'Connor converted the try which gave us a 14-12 win. It was a torrid, fast, controversial game which could have gone either way. The third game on June 12th should be a beauty as it is one win each now. The best Rugby League in the world, NSW vs Queensland. Tests against England, New Zealand and France are tame compared to the origin games.

Our grandson Christopher Padraig was in the news in Canberra. There he was in the vanguard of a protest against the closure of a school and the development of the school ground area. His mother will wheel that 'gosoan' into strife. I'll bet his Irish forebears were doing handsprings in their graves. 'A fine boy, agin the government, and only eight months old.' Don't know how his English forebears feel about it. One result, the Canberra Government in danger of falling because of its school closure policy. Just ponder, it takes nine Parliaments to run this country. We must be the dumbest 17,000,000 people on the face of the earth. About time we stopped skiting and did a bit of thinking.

This is the tail end of letters to Bob Hawke, Gareth Evans, Warren Snowdon, Laurie Ferguson and Janet Powell, all dealing with Timor and our total lack of interest in the fate of East Timor since 1975. I expect some results from Warren Snowdon (Tom's son) Laurie Ferguson and Janet Powell. Evans and Hawke would probably have to contact the White House, seeing the U.S. as well as Australia played a large part in the Indonesian act of invasion in December 1975.

Michael will be going to Ireland at the end of July for a holiday. Nora is organising the Kelly Clan now. He shouldn't have any shortage of company — between the Kellys and the Kenneallys he must be just about related to everyone in Youghal, three times removed, as they say over there. Wouldn't mind being along myself. However, the big 'do' is on in Port Macquarie in July.

Saw Curly O'Neill recently, he is in reasonable health and sends best wishes to all. Of course Curly earned his crust as a journalist, and he was a good one. He is the bane of my life, all that ability sitting up there overlooking

Narrabeen Lakes and the hills beyond, a beautiful view from a sun drenched deck, a typewriter and all that goes with it and that bloke sits there, talks on any subject under the sun, but nary a key will he tap. It's a sinful neglect of talent.

Merv Clark ('Squirt' Johnson in Timor days and under age) and his brother are heading for Carnarvon in Western Australia. They reckon it will make good winter quarters. If any of our blokes are wintering up around there, they may run into them. Merv was a good man and our loss when he left our Unit for an Infantry Bn in Canungra in 1943. A bit of tact and understanding and he would have been a 2/2 man until 1945. He was, and still is, a quietly determined man. He and Curly have been mates from barefoot boyhood days in the paradise that was Narrabeen.

All the family well. Denise and Brydee will be down from Alice Springs towards the end of July. It will suit Nora and myself fine. We will probably go to the Territory in August — a few family birthdays to attend to first, then the wide open spaces. I always love going to the Territory, another world altogether.

The cook has just returned so I'll take off and post the mail. Lunch will be ready by the time I get back.

Good luck and may God bless and keep us all for many a day yet.

**Peter Barden  
2 Dampier St  
Geraldton 6530**

First of all let me heartily congratulate Bernie Langridge on his elevation to the Presidency of our great organisation and also other stalwarts on the wonderful work they are doing for an Association that is second to none.

As re-elected Northern Country Vice President, it was a delight to receive a phone call from a double-red-diamond type I hadn't had a yarn with for years — Bernie (Boomer) Giles of Mullewa. In my capacity as RSL PRO I was able to give him some contact phone numbers in association with his increased pension endeavours. Bernie was in the building industry at Port Hedland for about 20 years before moving to Mullewa in November 1989, and had a double by-pass operation in Perth about three years ago. I hope to catch up with Bernie and his wife Pat when I visit Mullewa for bowls or footie.

Joan and I had a yarn with Eric and Margaret Weller who, like us, are delighted that our farming friends have been receiving some



long awaited rain, even if it interferes with one of our favourite sports — bowls. Eric and I marched together on Anzac Day and were part of a trio that included the only Freeman of the City of Geraldton, Bill Cunningham, Nip's brother. Bill subsequently took part in the 50th Anniversary Pilgrimage to Greece and Crete where he became a POW of the Germans as a member of the 2/11th Bn.

Many thanks Jack for lending me your copy of the 'Independent Company' video. You and the other boys who had the privilege of successfully waging a continuous campaign of harassment against an estimated force of 12,000 Japanese are certainly deserving of the highest praise.

Have just had some great news. A call from Allan Ellis, President of Geraldton City RSL Sub-Branch began "Your effort has paid off!" To me as Public Relations Officer this meant that we had won the Collett Cup for the 23rd time as the country Sub-Branch with the most meritorious service of the year.

Best wishes to all the boys — and girls.

**Mal Nichols**  
2/18 Elsie St  
Waterman 6020

Enclosed is a cheque for the Courier or whatever.

My new address as from January 1992 will be 59 Seacrest Drive, Sorrento 6020.

All the best.

**Tom Pulleine**  
23 Cook Cresc  
Young 2594

Enclosed is a cheque for Courier etc.

Recently I welcomed my 38th grandchild into the world and for the first time in years have found all catching pens empty.

Things have been quiet in my corner of the woods lately, and the Courier is a most welcome guest in my house.

Thanks Col for leaving my name out of that book of yours. I was an original No. 1 Section with Dave Dexter. I was the one with Gordon Hislop who went back for the supplies. An interesting thing about the exercise was that all the goods were hidden by the natives in case the Japs discovered them — they were frightened of reprisals. They hid the goods all over the place, even a few pounds of sugar. I honestly believe that they took nothing. However, we had to wait all day with natives coming and going with supplies. It was a nerve

wracking day, not knowing whether or not the Japs had been informed of our presence. However, we loaded up and travelled all night under cover of darkness. I believe another name was left out of the book — his name was Sullivan. Terry Paull should remember him as Sully and I helped Terry back to the rendezvous. Terry's feet were red raw, he'd got sand in his boots. Sully was a terrific shot as he got two turkeys with two shots, the only food the patrol had, being two days late back to the rendezvous.

Enough of my ramblings, rageards to all and may God bless.

**Roy and Joyce Martin**  
P.O. Box 353  
Griffiths 2680

Enclosed is a cheque to cover cost of the photographic supplement to Col Doig's History of the Unit, and a donation to the Courier.

It was wonderful to enjoy Col Doig's company at the Victorian 50th Anniversary celebrations. Would love to be going to Perth to be with you all but my good wife has to go to Air Force 50th Anniversary celebrations at Deniliquin NSW about the same time, but hope to see you all next March at Port Macquarie Safari.

Do hope you are all in good health — we are both A1. Regards to all members and their good wives — do hope you all have a wonderful celebration on the 11th July. We will be thinking of you.

Regards.

**Bruss Fagg**  
P.O. Box 386  
Northampton 6535

A few lines to let you know I'm still alive and not feeling too bad, although age is catching up (82 last January). Have to use a stick to get around but still manage to drive down town to get my stores and a couple of beers now and again. My old 1962 model Falcon ute still gets me around, no trouble to start, so two old timers together.

Am enclosing a cheque to help the Courier along, the **Best Unit Paper Printed** and will you please send me a copy of Jim Smailes Poems. All the best to everybody.

*On behalf of the Courier Team, thanks for your compliment Burss. — Ed.*

**Boomer and Pat Giles**  
**P.O. Box 128**  
**Mullewa 6630**

Hi, here we are still in the land of living, plenty of rain and buckets of lovely mushrooms. Bernie still pottering around, not as agile but gets there. Still having health problems.

Am enclosing a photo of Bernie and Charlie Pierce for Rogues Gallery, taken in Hedland before we left.

Really look forward to Courier, thanks for wonderful news in it. Will be down for the 50th, that's for sure.

Regards to all.

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**Elsie Wares**  
**6/76 York St**  
**Tuart Hill 6060**

It is a long time since I sent a contribution for Courier, so please accept the donation enclosed. It is so sad to read so may 'Vale' notices in each Courier but I suppose it is a fact of life we must all face. I am so grateful that I seem to keep in reasonable health and I hope to keep that way as long as possible.

My greatest interest is still in the theatrical world, and I have just received a new part in a play to be performed at the Stirling Theatre in late August. That will be my second part this year and I have also appeared, briefly, in a couple of TV commercials. The latter are great fun to make! So, all in all, there's life in the old girl yet.

Am starting to look forward to the Safari at Port Macquarie and have made my booking. I also look forward to seeing everybody at the July luncheon which, God willing, I will be attending.

All the best.

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**Leslie Poidevin**  
**9 St Albans Drive**  
**Burnside 5066**

I was sorry to hear of Col Doig's illness, as reported in the June Courier, and hope by now he has a solid grip once more on that fading thread.

Please accept the enclosed towards the cost of my Courier.

Kind regards.

---

**Kathleen Sargeant**  
**25 Thomas St**  
**Gympie 4570**

Being Secretary of our branch of War Widows in Gympie, I attended the Anzac Day Dawn Service. As usual, I placed a sheaf of flowers on our Memorial Gates in memory of my late husband, Lt. J. H. Sargeant and the 'Brave Men of Timor.'

After the service I went to the RSL Club and was pleased when a friend introduced me to a veteran who had served in Timor while Jack was there. No doubt some of you may remember him. His name is Arnie Francis. He was an engineer and was one of the men who met up with the 2/2nd after journeying from Keopang. As you can guess, we had a great old chin wag, reminiscing about Timor.

I am always pleased to receive the Courier and found your story of 'The Father of the Dawn Service' in the April issue very interesting.

I guess you will all be looking forward to celebrating your 50th Anniversary on July 11th. I'll be thinking of you on that day.

Enclosed is a donation to the Courier.

Best wishes to all.

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**Wyn and Alex Thomson**  
**P.O. Box 145 Capel 6271**

Just writing to say we can't make it for the mid-year luncheon. Our grandson is having an operation that day and we feel we should be with our daughter at this time. We send our apologies and regards to everyone.

Clarrie and Grace were in a car accident recently. Grace is O.K. but Claffie spent some time in Hospital with broken ribs etc. He is recovering slowly and they are now staying with their son in Roleystone for a few weeks.

We have also had news of Norma Hasson. I often wonder why these things happen to the nicest people. Alex and I are both well. The weather has been very cold and wet and the wind gets to me.

Enclosed is a cheque for Courier or whatever.

I sent for, and got the book 'Special and Secret' — it's very good.

Once again, our humble apologies.

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**Angus MacLachlan**  
**37 Arrowsmith St**  
**Camp Hill 4152**

Greetings once more from the Sunshine State. Usually, when I use those words, it is in conjunction with buckets of rain. This time is no different. We have now had a few weeks of steady, heavy or light rain, as the case may be. We needed it, but not quite so much now.

Anzac Day marches in Brisbane seem to be getting bigger attendances every year. This year we had enough men in uniform to defend the Brisbane line. Combined Commandos were boosted by a reunion of the 8th Squadron. As they called it, their first and their last reunion. Think how much we would have missed had we adopted that attitude. There were about seventy 8th boys marching. The 2nd was represented by A. Mitchell, R. Archer, M. Murphy, B. Barnier, Theo Adams, A. MacLachlan. They have shortened the route of the march the last few years, making it much easier for those of us too stubborn to climb aboard a jeep.

Had a pleasant surprise last week with a visit by Betty Craig and friend and Jim and Joan

Fenwick. Betty won a week for two at the Gold Coast and brought her friend Phyllis with her. The Fenwicks were here for their new grandchild. We held a barbecue at home for the southerners, which the rainy weather failed to mar. Present were George and Bettye Coulson, George and Edna Vandeleur, Butch and Pat Barnier, George and Mel Mathieson, Neil and Margaret Hooper, Angus and Win MacLachlan, Murvin Murphy, Ron Archer, Alastair MacLachlan plus Jim and Joan Fenwick, Betty Craig and her friend Phyllis. Apologies from Ralph and Sheila Conley (pre-committed), Tony and Iris Adams who were in Japan. Our chief cook, Fred Bryant, was missing as he is, at present, residing in Sydney with his son Peter.

The state of health of our group seems to be reasonably static. We all have our problems but, be they great or small, don't seem to be on any increase. We are all slowing down somewhat and have given away any thought of trying to make the 'State of Origin' team. Most of us are looking forward to July and Port Macquarie.

Best regards to all of you out there, from the Queensland connection.



**Mildred Field and Family  
715 Pacific Highway  
Narara 2250**

To all members 2/2 Commando Association.

This is to say thank you to all members and families who attended Tom's funeral on May 20th. I was so pleased to see you all and the guard of honour you took part in. I tried to speak to you all, and would have liked to talk more but I realise you had a long trip. You made me feel so proud of you all and Tom would have been glad so many of you came to share the occasion with us.

I would like to know the name and address of the man who was in Timor with Tom. I did speak to him and would liked to have spoken to him again.

Enclosed is a cheque to help toward cost of Commando News which I hope you will continue to send.

Thank you.

I'm sending some information that might be of interest.

While I was in the Army at Lambton N.S.W. I went to the cinema and part of the programme was a documentary on the 2/2nd, their time in Timor and their eventual evacuation and return to Australia — a re-enactment, I presume, of what did happen. I wonder if you have, or could get a copy of this film for your archives. I should be very interested to hear.

As for Tom! He was born on 8th April, 1917, the first baby born in Coledale Hospital, just before it was officially opened. His father, Francis, was killed on the railway line when Tom was 11 months old and, being the youngest of seven, times were hard for all the family. He grew up during the depression and, as a young man, joined the militia, later transferring to the A.I.F. where he was with the A.A.S.C. (Sparrow Force) when he went to Timor and was associated with the 2/2nd. These men were like family to him and always held a special place in his heart from the time we went to Christmas barbecues at John and Joan Darge's at Kingsgrove until he passed away. He loved them all, but his special mate was Bill Hoy.

From his discharge until this year he attended Anzac Day marches wherever we were. This year he watched it on television.

It was during his discharge leave that we met and four months later Mildred Harvey became Mildred Field. We had four children, all living. His wife and family were his life and he was a loving, caring father.

Tom's attitude during his last three months was wonderful. He accepted what was happening, said he'd fight to the end, take each day as it came and make the most of it

—and he did. His concern was more for me and the children. He wanted us all to carry on as we would if he were here, and we are trying to do so. I do miss him so, but was happy to see so may of his mates in the guard of honour with the T.P.I., and thank you one and all.

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## THE 2/2ND COMMANDO NEWSLETTER AND COMMANDO COURIER

It was in the very early days that it was realised that, with members spread throughout Australia and also widely spread within the State, some form of communication would be required to keep members informed and bring news of importance to each and every member.

In early 1947 a meeting was held at Monash House, at which a Queensland member 'Bulla' Tait was present and amid general discussion he suggested that a duplicated newsletter should be instituted and sent to all members whose addresses were known. Col Doig was General Secretary at the time and he volunteered to get this Newsletter idea off the ground.

Luckily for the Association Col was employed at the Dept of Labour and National Service and his boss was the late Tom Murray, the President of our Welfare Association and well and truly in the Association's corner. The first news sheets were written by Col Doig, typed by Lily Davies, a niece of one of our deceased members, Dick McKenzie. It was no trouble to get the stencils and paper via the Department but there was no duplicator available within the building. So, arrangements were made to take the stencil to the GPO building and the messenger to the State Deputy Post Master General, a Mr Job, would run them off on the PMG machine. Now, Mr Job's little niche was just outside the 'Big Boys' office and he used to also do the duplicating for the main office of the PMG. The output was very considerable and therefore a couple of reams of paper was hardly missed on this monthly basis. The method continued for quite some time and with postage only one half penny per item for second class mail, it was not a very costly exercise for our fledgling organisation. At that time the complete mailing list was some 500 members. Obsolete foolscap envelopes were scrounged from the Department's store and overprinted with a rubber stamp to obliterate the original printed headline. The addressing was quite a long and arduous task, mostly achieved in 'gash' time in the Department. The original news sheets contained all the news the Editor could scrounge regarding the lads, including marriages and births taken from the

daily newspapers, also the coming events, meeting notes and of course letters from the gang and the doings of anybody contacted during the month.

The Editor was Col Doig and he was assisted by Keith Hayes who, at that time, was employed at E. C. Stott & Co. who had the Remington Typewriter and Gestetner Duplicator Agency. Keith was one of their salesmen and also an expert with all things pertaining to duplication.

After about a dozen copies it was decided to spruce the Newsletter up as the current one looked a bit dead and mundane. It was decided to put it together a bit like the format of the Sydney Bulletin of that era. A series of headings was devised comprising 'Editorial,' 'Committee Comment,' 'West Australian Whisperings,' 'Victorian Vocal Venturings,' 'New South Wales Wanderings' and 'Random Harvest.' A set of suitable little cartoons was made to head each feature and these were done by a young aspiring cartoonist called Brian Davis who also was employed at Dept of Labour and National Service. Keith Hayes, with his expertise came up with these headings on a photographic duplicating machine quite new at the time, and the new Newsletter was off and running. By this time Col Doig was in a fortunate position as far as typing was concerned because as well as Lily Davies, Mick Calcutt's niece, Pat McCracken, was also employed at the Department and she was a truly outstanding typist, so the Newsletter went on to bigger and better things. Even the addresses were now being duplicated by Keith Hayes and it was only a matter of gumming these to the envelopes. Can assure readers that writing 500-600 addresses long hand every month was quite a chore, especially with such long addresses as Williamstown Road, Williamstown, Victoria as just a sample.

At all times subject matter for Editorials was a bit on the difficult side. As our Association was non-political and non-sectarian, the field was very limited as far as the Editor was concerned. A whinge about the lack of mail from members was about all that the long suffering Editor could achieve.

Despite all the various shortcomings this Newsletter was the real catalyst in putting this Association really on the road to its great success. The old adage that Great Oaks grow from Small Acorns really proved to be correct in this connection. In all, fifty Newsletters were sent out at the rate of twelve per annum from 1947, and these were eagerly accepted by members all over Australia.

Many and varied were the events recounted in these fifty editions, from meeting notes to coming events, the main news really being of

the various lads encountered during the month and of course those marriages and births. Births were certainly the really big news of those first four years as not many of our members were married before at least the return from Timor in 1943 so our boys were very big providers to the Baby Boom of the late 1940s and early 1950s. At that stage deaths were not in any way a concern as few of the lads were to pass away in our early years as an Association.

Probably one of the top troubles was getting the addresses of members as they were inclined to scatter in all directions as employment called and keeping an eye on them was as bad as trying to count chickens.

Too much credit cannot be given to the beneficial value of these initial Newsletters and they were practically costless except for postage which, as previously stated, was only one half penny per item. As a matter of fact it was the lifting of postage to one penny per item which saw the demise of the Newsletter and the birth of the 2/2nd Commando Courier. When postage rates for second class mail were doubled from one half penny to one penny per article it was deemed necessary to review the method of our distribution of the publication. Once again, through the efforts of Tom Murray who seemed to know the workings of the GPO inside out, we were put in contact with a Mr Williams who was in charge of publications and newspaper despatch at the GPO. He advised that it was possible to obtain bulk postage rate for publications registered with the Post Office for various purposes and that a publication such as our Newsletter, if re-vamped as a printed periodical, could qualify for bulk postage which would be a very significant saving for us. However, it would be necessary to set up the publication in a different manner.

Once again it was Keith Hayes who provided the solution. He created a small periodical of 12 pages from folded foolscap, printed (or I should say typed) in columns. After some discussion it was to be named the '2/2nd Commando courier.' This initial paper was duplicated by Keith at his work place. It had to be posed in the normal way until we could get it accepted by the GPO for transmission through the post as a periodical. A copy was submitted to Mr Williams in his capacity as officer in charge of these publications. We were advised that if it were printed by a firm of publishers such as a printing works and duly priced as for sale it would be accepted and qualify for bulk postage rates.

The next step was a real beauty. Bill Epps was then employed at the 'Swan Express' newsprinting works at Midland Junction. He was their linotype operator and also very

much a member of our committee. We required a quote for the printing of what was to be our infant publication. Bill took the matter up with the proprietor who said he would be pleased to quote but would want to know the time factor in setting up and then printing the paper. It was decided between Bill and his boss to time the initial operation so a price could be put on the exact time taken to linotype the material. Bill asked the Editor, Col Doig, to give him the necessary material double spaced from the typewriter so it could be very rapidly read. The resultant exercise arrived at the price of under ten pounds per issue of 500 copies. This was accepted by the GPO for bulk postage and was priced for publication purposes at one penny per issue. (It remains at 1 cent per issue to this day).

Bulk postage for 500 copies amounted to seventeen shillings and sixpence per issue so, for under ten pounds per issue we had our new newspaper as a going concern. As a matter of cold fact, the total cost of initial issues of the Courier, including postage, was nine pounds, three shillings and ninepence per issue of 500, under five pence per copy.

The wrappers still had to be hand addressed and this job still fell to Editor Col Doig, but the actual wrapping and posting was done by Bill Epps and wife Jess.

For many years twelve copies per year were despatched throughout Australia and they varied from eight to sixteen pages per issue.

Swan Express was to remain our publisher from 1951 until well into the 1970s when it was closed down.

There is not the slightest doubt that it was firstly the Newsletter and then its successor the 2/2nd Commando Courier that has been the means of the Association keeping together and expanding into the wonderful organisation it is today.

After a couple of years an addressing machine was obtained very cheaply and the late Mick Calcutt, with his contacts at the State Engineering Works was able to have certain parts fabricated to put this machine into working order. Then the necessary stencils were purchased and cut by the honorary typists at the Dept of Labour and National Service and we were then in the business of printing the wrappers. It was still that great firm Bill and Jess Epps who handled the wrapping and posting of the Courier.

This wonderful old machine kept going in business until 1976 when wear and tear over long years saw the end of its usefulness. A new machine was purchased during the period that Alec (Scotty) Wares was Editor and served its purpose once again for a number of years until modern technology caught up and now the wrappers are produced by outside

people and it is just as well because the Post Office continues to demand more and more matter permanently inscribed on the wrappers. Nowadays the whole Courier production is in the hands of an Editorial Committee who put the material together, place it in the hands of the Printer and then wrap and despatch the paper. The Post Office demands that it be put together in the most strict post code order and this is quite a task. Postage per issue is in the nature of \$143 for 417 copies — a far cry from the bulk postage of 17/6d per issue in 1950.

Since the Newsletter and 2/2nd Commando Courier went into production in April 1947 (Issue No. 1 of Newsletter) until February 1991, 328 issues have been despatched which, judged by any standards, is a remarkable effort. Col Doig was the original Editor of the Newsletter and the Courier from April 1947 until 1952. Wilf March took over in 1953 and served as Editor until 1957 except for a brief period in 1955 when John Burrridge did a stint for a year. Col Doig took over in 1958 and served in that capacity until 1975 when Alec (Scotty) Wares became Editor and he went until 1980. Then an Editorial Committee was elected with Arch Campbell as Editor in Chief, assisted by Gerry and Mary McKenzie, Len Bagley and Betty Illsley. The McKenzies retired from the Committee in 1989 and Arch, Len and Betty have continued the good work since that date.

Each of the Editors has had his own style in framing the format of the journal and each has been singularly successful. It is really quite an onerous job and entails a good deal of time to compile a really readable Courier. The current method of handling the duties by a Committee is a most successful method. Arch acts as Editor with Betty as typist/Sub-Editor and Len providing the printing expertise and labourer extraordinaire.

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## REPATRIATION GENERAL HOSPITALS FREE CALLS

CONCORD, NSW	008-463-918
HEIDELBERG, Victoria	008-134-864
GREENSLOPES, Queensland	008-773-711
DAW PARK, South Australia	008-888-493
HOLLYWOOD, Western Aust.	008-018-808
HOBART, Tasmania	008-011-480

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## SEVEN EAST PERTH BROTHERS IN THE A.I.F.

### Football Field to Sterner Game of War

Few families can boast a finer record for war service than that of Mr and Mrs Ted Fitzgerald of Gladstone Street, East Perth. Parents of eleven children, they have seven sons serving in the A.I.F. and four daughters, one of whom was recently rejected for the A.W.A.S.

Mr Fitzgerald senior is a reject from the African and World War I, and was for 16 years employed at the Broken Hill Proprietary. With two bars and six stars on her brooch 'Mrs Fitz' is justified in feeling that she is no slacker.

Veterans among the boys are Corporals Bill (for 15 years caretaker at the Trades Hall) and Paddy. Both are members of the 2/28th, have four years service to their credit and to date have escaped unscathed insofar as injuries are concerned.

Followers of League football will doubtless recall the many brilliant performances put up by the pair while associated with the old Perth side.

After service in the Middle East — where they figured in the famous siege of Tobruk — they were transferred to New Guinea and it was here that Bill contacted malaria, was invalided home, and had a sojourn in the Northam hospital. Paddy is again on the 'trek to Tokyo' after a spell from the jungle and Japs.

Next in point of service is Jack who was a conspicuous performer for East Perth in the Metropolitan Juniors. He has been in the army three years, and while with the 2/28th was taken prisoner at Ruin Ridge. His last letter was written from Italy in August 1943 and only arrived here three months ago. His family are hopeful that he was among a batch of prisoners who escaped at the time of the invasion of the Italian mainland and later reached territory which had come under control of the Allies.

Another boy, Tommy, is attached to a commando unit. After spending 12 months in **Timor** he was for a similar period in **New Guinea** and while in **Ramu Valley** unluckily missed contacting Bill and Paddy who chanced to be in the vicinity at the time.

One of the first to enlist when war broke out, and rejected twice later Ted, the eldest of the

septette, finally succeeded in joining up, and is somewhere in northern areas with a mobile bath unit. Jimmy, the youngest, is with the 16th Bn. He captained the St Patrick's boys' football team and was with the Cameron Highlanders before entering the A.I.F. Still to get 'the key of the door' he has been in khaki for three years.

Hailing from the fields, where he played with Mines Rovers, Jerry, when last heard of, was in northern Australia with an ambulance unit. A son-in-law is also attached to an ambulance unit and saw service in the Middle East.

A truly remarkable record, of which anyone might well feel proud.

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*The above article appeared in a Perth newspaper during World War II.*

## ATTENTION W.A. MEMBERS

A cover for 30 seats has been made with Australian Airlines for members intending to go to the Port Macquarie Safari in March, 1992.

The flight will leave Perth on Thursday, 12th March at 11.55pm and, after a stopover at Melbourne, is due to arrive in Sydney at 7.30am Sydney time. A 5-star coach will meet the plane to take members to Port Macquarie, a trip of approximately 5 hours. The decision to use the bus is for economical reasons. The bus fare is \$35 each way compared to \$120 each way by air, a difference of \$170.

The return trip to Perth leaves Sydney at 7.00pm on Monday, 23rd March and is due in at Perth at 10.00pm Perth time. The return air fare is \$560 but it is possible that a cut rate may be on offer during August which members could take advantage of.

Members intending to travel as a party group are asked to contact J. Carey (09) 332 7050 without delay.

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## DONATIONS

Bruce Smith, Kath Sargeant, Max Miller, Paul Costelloe, Gwenda Kirkwood, Lionel Newton, Mal Nichols, Tom Pulleine, Elsie Wares, Allan Hollow, Bruss Fagg, Alex and Win Thomson, Roy and Joyce Martin, Mildred Field, Les Poidevin, Fay Sharpe, Alan Chatfield, John Fowler, Bill Rowan-Robinson, Dick Darrington, Bernie Giles, Henry Sproxton, Colin Criddle, Ray Aitken, Jack Wicks, Dusty Studdy, Ron Dook, Joan Burns, Russ Blanch.

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## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

BLANCH, Mr R. F.  
Russ  
27 Lismore Road  
Bangalow 2479  
(066) 87 1448

## ALTERATION

CAREY, Mr J. W.  
Jack and Delys  
13 Stoddart Way  
Bateman 6150  
(09) 332 7050

AUSTRALIA POST  
GPO Box 1777Q  
Melbourne 3001

Dear Mr Carey

Thank you for your letter of 29 May, 1991 requesting a stamp to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 2/2 Independent Company's Timor Campaign.

Unfortunately, we are unable to meet your request as the 1992 issue programme is already fully committed. As a matter of interest, five war time anniversaries will be commemorated; the bombing of Darwin, the Coral Sea battle, the battle of Milne Bay, El Alamein and the recapture of Kokoda.

While a stamp issue is not possible, we do appreciate that there is considerable public interest in the fine war effort of the 2/2 Independent Company, and are sympathetic to your request for philatelic commemoration. We have therefore investigated other means of honouring this anniversary and I have pleasure in informing you that it is our intention to issue a pre-stamped envelope for the 2/2 Independent Company's Timor Campaign. Only eight commemorative pre-stamped envelopes are issued each year, and they provide an attractive and collectible form of philatelic commemoration.

Thank you for sending the poem by Jim Smiles, which we have greatly enjoyed reading. I expect you will be contacted shortly by a research officer from the Philatelic Group, to take up your kind offer of assistance with photos of Timor.

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# **JUBILEE**

# **LUNCHEON**

To mark the 50th Anniversary of the raising of the Unit, the Association is holding a Jubilee Luncheon for members and their ladies at the:

**Joan Watters Community Centre, Wembley  
on Thursday, 10th October, 1991  
as from 11am**

To assist with catering arrangements will you please advise if you will be attending by either ringing the Secretary, J. Carey on (09) 332 7050 or returning this form before 30th September, 1991 to:

**2/2 Commando Association  
Box T1646 GPO, Perth 6001**

Name(s):.....

(Please Print)

Signed:.....

***This is a very special occasion so  
DON'T MISS IT!!***