



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

As President of the W.A. Commando Association, it is my privilege and joy to write a Christmas message to all readers of the Courier.

At this time we think particularly of "T'other Siders" whom we do not see as frequently as those on "This Side."

It is also a time when the Association members think of those who are not in the best of health, whether they be in hospital or doing their best to cope with their disabilities at home. They have our special thoughts and prayers.

It is two thousand years since Jesus Christ came to show the world how to avoid conflict and live in harmony with each other. There is no doubt His teachings, if practised, are the answer. To have survived convivially, as an Association, for so long, surely is evidence we have practised many of those teachings.

It is also a time when the ladies deserve special mention for their loyalty and support. Their hours spent over stoves and sinks preparing the feast are, I am sure, done with their minds full of loving thoughts for those who will partake with them on Christmas Day.

The writing of Christmas cards, wrapping of presents for so many, as in our case grand children and the wider family members. These are all loving thoughts put into loving actions. This is the true spirit of Christmas.

Many of us have, in some small way, helped the less fortunate children in other lands and we think of them with sorrow but also with hope.

Wishing you all a Very Merry Christmas and happy reunions with families and friends, but above all that greatest prize, "Good Health."

COMING EVENTS

1992 SAFARI UPDATE

Since my last Surat the following additional bookings have come in:

Breakwall Carapark: Denny and June Dennis, Eric and Margaret Weller, Mac and Patsy Thatcher.

Port Mac. Hotel/Motel: Jim McLaughlin and friend, Nina Grachan. Motel fully booked. Some hotel rooms.

River Motel: G. Greenhalgh, Russ Blanch.

Central Views: Tom and Jean Yates (from P.M. Motel), Jim and Beryl Cullen, Ernie and Verna Campbell. That's Full House.

'Handy Harry' is scouting for more similar accommodation in as close proximity as possible, but I doubt that we can come up with the same price range.

COSTINGS:

In regard to Functions costings, the best we can come up with is as follows:

Day 2 Evening Buffet \$15. Day 4 Dinner \$25.
Day 6 River Cruise and BBQ \$20. Day 8 Coast Trip and Lunch \$25. Day 9 Evening \$15. Day 10 BBQ \$10.

On the Free Days, for those interested in doing Mini Tours to see local attractions, both Avis and Budget have Mini Buses available for rental at \$80 or \$90 per day. By doing it this way, I feel that we can cater for all tastes.

50TH ANNIVERSARY JUBILEE DINNER W.A. BRANCH

10 OCTOBER, 1991

These celebrations have taken place Australia-wide with huge success. Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania on Phillip Island, N.S.W., Queensland and A.C.T. at Port Macquarie, then W.A. in Perth.

When first raised, the No. 2 Australian Independent Company was predominantly West Australian and this state has had a big impact on our Unit in both war and peace.

Joan Watters Community Centre Hall was filled with 150 happy, fun loving members and ladies to celebrate this important anniversary. There were many emotional reunions with friends not seen in years, proving how closely knit we are as an Association that has endured throughout the post war years. This was a special day that will go down in posterity as a hallmark of tremendous mateship for both

men and women, spanning five decades. Pray God it will continue for many years to come.

Remembrance. This toast was proposed by Archie Campbell who expressed the thoughts of us all: *'It is fitting that on such an occasion we should pay homage to our deceased comrades, those who died on active service, those who subsequently passed to the vale beyond. Their sacrifice has given us all the opportunity to lead a full and meaningful life.*

We are doubly blessed that among those present are the widows of our departed comrades, and very close relatives of our boys so tragically lost on Timor. They are all now part of the family of the 2/2nd Commando Association.'

Archie then presented the 'Ode of Remembrance.'

The Loyal Toast was ably handled by our Senior Vice President, Ted Monk.

Grace was said by Wilf March before we partook of the bountiful food superbly presented by caterer Daphne Boag and her staff.

Welcome — Our Guests and Members. This toast was proposed with sincerity and humour by Len Bagley as he welcomed members and the following guests: Capt Terry O'Farrell of the S.A.S. Regiment, Costa and Domingos de Oliveira representing the Timorese, Peter and Sue Epps. Peter is founder and curator of our museum. Len gave a special welcome to interstate members Paddy Kenneally from New South Wales and Neil and Margaret Hooper from Queensland, and over fifty members and their wives from country areas.

Terry O'Farrell suitably replied on behalf of the guests.

The Unit. Bernie Langridge, our President, proposed this toast with great sincerity, as follows: 'My toast is a dual one to the Unit and the Association. Despite a feeling of awe I am most humble and proud and so very privileged to have this opportunity.'

In Northam Camp 50 years ago one could say the Unit was conceived, and after a very short gestation period was born at Wilson's Promontory where individuals were posted to sub-sections, sections and platoons, and so the Unit became an entity.

Back to Northam for a moment. Most of us had volunteered in what was perhaps the darkest period of World War II. British Forces were pushed out of Europe. On most fronts there seemed to be a stalemate. This period was spoken of as the 'Phoney War,' nothing seemed to be happening. After having volunteered for service outside Australia, impatient young men, some partly trained found themselves confined to the boring

routine of training camps in Australia. All this suddenly changed when volunteers were called to join what was spoken of, almost secretively, as the 'Hush-Hush.' Those successful at this interview were promptly dispatched to Wilson's Promontory where the unit was formed, trained and moulded into a very fit fighting unit. New friendships were made and mateships started which grew and bound us together for life.

To recapture the mood in Northam at the time, and to honour the late Jim Smailes who, if time had not run out for him, would be your President today, I will read three verses of his poetical history '**The Independents**':—

We left old Northam full of hope, we were the very cream,

Selected from so many and held in high esteem.

The Hush Hush' we were known as, men who keep their word,

Men who speak by action, are seldom seen or heard.

Of course we volunteered and scorned on those who stayed,

The world would soon forget them, our name would never fade.

Old Northam camp was out of date, not good enough for us,

With too much work and marching with too much talk and fuss.

Why over there in Foster there's no fatigues and things,

You learn to do a man's job and they wait on you like kings.

It's the best camp in Australia, you can get out every night,

Just walk straight out and see the town, itself a glorious sight.

Each man must be unmarried and under thirty years,

With no responsibilities, no family ties or cares.

We had to be adventurous and stick on to the last,

The pay would be much higher and promotion very fast.

They stuffed us with these promises, we believed the bloody lot,

So thus we were selected by Lieutenant Colonel Scott.

WHAT MADE THE UNIT UNIQUE. The Unit was made up of a full cross-section of the Australian community from brilliant engineers, university graduates, school teachers, farmers and gold miners. It had a high percentage of rugged, independent individuals and these characteristics rubbed off on to those not so favoured in this regard. These factors and independent thinking of some of the senior officers in hiding stores and medical supplies and refusing numerous surrender appeals when conventional military

thinking, under the circumstances may have done otherwise. As well as a wonderful relationship between officers and men, we had outstanding medical officers.

Approximately 21 months after our formation we were in Canungra Jungle Training Camp, preparing for the New Guinea Campaign. We were reinforced with the finest bunch of officers and men one could wish for. In my opinion we were a better Unit when we sailed for New Guinea than we were when we left for Timor. We sure needed those good men as I consider the patrolling was worse there and we were on a much shorter lead in as much as we were more directly under higher command in day to day operations.

Our next embarkation was to New Britain where we were when hostilities ceased. 12 months in Timor, 16 months in New Guinea, 4 months in New Britain. So concluded the front line service of the small in number Unit but big in performance — a proud record indeed.

I am sure many of us feel we have been a lucky Unit. We could have been formed 30 months earlier or 3 months later and sent off to some other destination. Whilst we are proud of our own efforts we pay tribute to other small units and individuals who gave outstanding service to their country. We are so well able to understand their hardships. To conclude this Unit Toast I will read a paragraph from Col's book **The 2/2nd Independent History**:—

I don't think there was any show in the AIF who tried harder, worked with utter zeal than we did. We were very well trained and we can cast our eyes back to Wilson's Promontory for the basics that stood us in such good stead. We were top grade soldiers and we got very little recognition from the powers that be. We had the proud record of the longest time against the enemy in combat than any other unit in the Australian Army.

Ladies and Gentlemen, that is my Toast to the Unit.

We must now toast the Association which has been our link between each other since the disbandment of the Unit after the war, which has enabled such functions as this to be organised.

Whilst still in New Britain a number of Unit members decided to form a Unit Association. We knew there was already a welfare association in W.A. providing us with parcels, etc.

On arriving home we found the Welfare Association active and financial, thanks to parents and friends, particularly the late Tom Murray, Don's father, and some others. We were encouraged to use the funds and continue the Association in some form. As with our military campaign, there were some

energetic and capable people with outstanding visions and leadership qualities who took up the challenge. The task of locating ex members of the Unit who had spread to the four corners of the land seemed well nigh impossible but was achieved eventually.

In early 1947 Col Doig who was General Secretary at the time volunteered to get the Newsletter idea off the ground. He was our news gatherer, Editor, Editorial Writer for so many years and later wrote the Valedictory of almost all our deceased members.

Whilst the origin of the Association is interesting, its achievements as an information medium and its capacity to organise many functions each year, thereby holding the members together, is far more important. Over the last 45 years there have been very many dedicated helpers in various ways to get this wonderful publication out to members on a regular basis. When we drink the toast to the Association, I am sure we will do so with great appreciation for the publication team of the Courier, without which there would be no Association.

Response — Colin Doig

What a picture Colin created when he covered the full history of the three campaigns. He nominated Timor as the most significant contribution, it was a cruel campaign. Fearsome mountain conditions, lack of food over long periods, fighting against great odds in the numbers game, with communications non-existent at one stage. We established an historic reputation for taking part in a unique campaign that set precedents for future operations of its kind. It was hailed as remarkable by Churchill when he said *'They alone of all the troops in the Pacific did not surrender.'* We were serviced by a black host who were our eyes, ears and safety valve and we owe those black angels our lives.

New Guinea was a different set of rules with equally as hard, if not harder terrain than Timor. Higher mountains, swifter rivers and mud did not daunt the Squadron in its fine performance as a long range patrolling group, giving front and flank protection to the Divisions and supplying them with vital information. They kept their proud record intact, if you wore the colour patch you shared the glory.

New Britain was a travesty of many things. Committing a unit to an area where at the drop of a hat they could be over-run by thousands of Japanese ensconced in Rabaul. The men patrolled long and hard but red tape bound them from exerting their usual fighting qualities and this campaign fizzled out. It saw the disintegration of a second to none Unit, the longest serving one in the AIF in terms of

days at the front. A magnificent record and how proud we are of it. The final episode was nothing short of a sell out by the powers that be.

The formation of the Association became a rallying point and proved the capacity the men had to succeed. It is night on 50 years since the Association was formed.

Absent Friends in the capable hands of Bill Rowan-Robinson, received the treatment this important toast deserves.

The Ladies. This toast expertly handled by Don Turton who eulogised the part our ladies have played. They have been the heart and soul of our Association and inspired the menfold to keep the old comradeship alive. We owe them a debt of gratitude and love them for their positive contribution which has helped to make our Association the finest in the country.

Toastmaster Don Murray. Who better than Jack Carey to propose this toast. Don did a grand job keeping things going with a swing. Sincere, humorous, free flowing handling of the Toasts showed him to be a master of the craft. An enjoyable performance by the son of the founder of our Association, Tom Murray, who would have been proud to realise here was a chip off the old block.

Response to the Ladies Toast was made by one of our 'Leading Ladies' Helen Poynton, with grace and charm. No wonder we survive when a person like Helen is among our prime movers.

Our thanks to all the foregoing for a job well done.

The Surprise of the Day. Special Presentations to Col Doig and Jack Carey. Ray Aitken read an excellent narration he had compiled and our President handed to these two stalwarts beautifully inscribed plaques. Their dual contribution would be unsurpassed anywhere, their dedication, inspiration and impact for over 45 years has seen the Association shine as a tribute to their respective abilities. The presentation went to them with the **love** of all members.

Thanks to all those who proposed the Toasts and thank you all for coming to make this 50th anniversary of our formation an outstanding success. We had a grand menu, ample refreshments, tons of fun and camaraderie that is always a part of our get-togethers.

To complete the day some nostalgic music by Sylvia Walsh and her musical friends, was an appropriate Auld Lang Syne.

Archie Campbell

Those in attendance were: Ray Aitken, Peter Alexander, Len Bagley, Betty Illsley, Gordon and Chloe Barnes, George Bayliss, Tony and Gwen Bowers and Anne Green, Dot Boyland, Joan Burns, Joan and John Burridge, Archie Campbell, Peter and Pat Campbell, Jack Carey, John and Olive Chalwell, Joy Chatfield, Colin and Bonnie Criddle, Dick Darrington, Colin Doig, Ron and Nan Dook, Jess Epps, Ern and Marie Evans, Milton and Muriel Evans, Ralph and Eve Finklestein, Tom and Mary Foster, John Fowler, George Fletcher, Doug and Edna Fullarton, Gerry and Lal Green, Charlie Gorton, Les and Edna Halse, Reg, Dot, Laurie and Terry Harrington, Keith and Val Hayes, Mick and Jean Holland, Neil and Margaret Hooper, Betty Hopkins, Bill and Elvie Howell, Don Hudson, Nellie Mullins, Fred Humphrey, Paddy Kenneally, Charlie, Mary and Paddy King, Gwenda Kirkwood, Bernie and Babs Langridge, John and Margaret Lillie (2/3rd), Jim Lines (2/5th), Gerry and Dot Maley, May Mansfield, Wilf and Lorraine March, Tom and Ilma Martin, Don and Dawn May, Arthur and Audrey Marshall, Ted and Peg Monk, Mick and Jean Morgan, Eric Mackenroth (Qld), Ron and Enid McAlpine (2/5th), Bob McDonald, Jim McLaughlin, Don and Ida Murray, Mal and Verna Nichols, Ray Parry, Terry and Ivy Paull, Stan and Barbara Payne, Joe and Helen Poynton, Blue and Edith Prendergast, Bill and Iris Rowan-Robinson, Gordon and Eva Rowley, Dulcie Ryan, Charlie and Mavis Sadler, Stan and Blanche Sadler, Bob Smyth, Eric and Twy Smyth, Ross and Beth Shenn, Henry and Thelma Sproxtion, George and Colleen Strickland, Dusty Studdy, Vince Swann, Reg and Joan Tatam, Eric Thornander, Lew Thompson, George and Nancy Timms, Don and Vida Turton, Clarrie and Grace Turner, Elsie Wares, Roy Watson, Sylvia Walsh, Merv Wheatley, Jack and Hazel Wicks, and our guests, Capt. Terry O'Farrell, S.A.S. Regiment, Peter and Sue Epps, Costa and Domingos De Oliveira representing the Timorese.

Apologies were received from: Lieut-Col. Duncan Lewis, C.O. S.A.S.R., W.O.I., R.S.M., Jim Willshire, S.A.S.R., John and Gloria Poynton, Beryl Smith, Ernie and Verna Bingham, Col and Olive Hodson, Gerry and Mary McKenzie, Joy Denman, Ted Loud, Jack Penglase, Betty McDonald, Delys Carey, Allan Chatfield, Laurie and Grace Tapper, Margaret Smyth, Jack and Norma Hasson, Syd McKinley, Tom Towers, Albie Friend, Eric and Margaret Weller, Keith McEachern, Don Young, Barbara Goddard.

Best wishes for a happy 50th Anniversary Dinner were received from: Alan Luby on behalf of NSW members, Tom Nisbet on behalf of Victorian members, Keith Dignum

on behalf of South Australian members, and Bernie Callinan

Such a function needs a lot of planning and hard work and we are apt to lose sight of the willing helpers who suport the main players. Many were involved, working long and hard, names that come readily to mind are Colin Doig, Jack and Delys Carey, Don Turton, Bernie and Babs Langridge, Keith Hayes, Helen Poynton. Also we acknowledge and thank the following for the co-operation they gave the organisers: Harry and Thelma Sproxtion, John Fowler and that super handy man George Fletcher. If anyone has been missed, my humble apologies.

The cast required to get such a show on the road was a versatile one indeed. On behalf of all members sincere thanks to all for a sterling job. Our 50th ASnniversary was a great success.

Archie Champbell

COMMEMORATION SERVICE

This was held in our Lovekin Drive Memorial Avenue which looked a picutre, organised, as usual, by our hard working Warden, George Fletcher.

This most important day in our calendar year was attended by 140 people including 32 from Mandurah and a number of children and teenagers. Also in this number were the family of Jack Spencer, a highly respected member of the 2/2nd who passed away two weeks ago. Jack's 92 year old sister and two of the young nephews placed flowers on our memorial.

Once again we had close co-operation from the Special Air Services Regiment with a Catafalque Party under the command of Sgt. David Busher. Thank you gentlemen for adding solemnity and dignity to the occasion.

Our President, Bernie Langridge, welcomed those in attendance and gave a fine oration which appears below.

Thirty seven men went on parade, six were unable to because of mobility problems. A roll call of 43 was a fine effort. They marched with enthusiasm and drew applause from all present. Their 'eyes right' to our President, with Sgt Busher taking the salute, showed a glimpse of old disciplines.

An invitation to the S.A.S.R. Sergeants Mess for refreshments was accepted and during this enjoyable visit Colin Doig presented copies of our Unit History and Jim Smailes poems to Sgt Busher for use in the Sergeants Mess and Bernie Langridge then presented a

photo of 'A' Platoon taken in Larrimah after the Timor Campaign, while Jack Carey supplied the story behind it and suggested that on the third Sunday of November each year members of the S.A.S.R. should drink a toast to the 2/2nd. Sgt Busher, with the authority of the Regimental Sergeant Major, assured us this would happen and thanked the 2/2nd Commando Association for something they would always treasure and which would show the S.A.S.R. to be our modern counterparts. This further cemented a warm and lasting relationship with these splendid young soldiers.

Lest We Forget

The President's oration:

Ladies and gentlemen, our much loved and valued young people, friends and supporters from S.A.S. and Association members.

It is a great honour for me to welcome you all to this very special area where we assemble annually to pay homage to the 50 warriors of the 2/2 Commando Squadron who fell in battle in the cause of defending their beloved country.

This is our special day when we all come to this hallowed place as a tribute to our war heroes. It is even more special today as we pass the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the 2/2 Independent Company in which those we have come to honour today served so proudly. In the surrounds of this Memorial there have been some wonderful tributes paid to our fallen comrades by past Presidents of the Association. Moving addresses, aimed at bringing condolences to the bereaved of years gone by. Advice, hope and encouragement to our young people.

Many are the silent vows made here today to honour their sacrifices by trying to make this a better country. Many are the good intentions of all of us, as we stand in silence, in this hallowed area with heads bowed in reverence.

As the name of each one on our honour roll is announced, a vivid mental picture of the late owner of the name and his special personality will come to the minds of many of us and with it thoughts of sadness that he was not spared to live a life of his choice, as we who are here today have been.

We also remember with deep sorrow those who returned from battle with us but have since been called to their ultimate rest. In many cases their lives, lived with some degree of discomfort, shortened because of physical and mental stresses endured during their front line experiences.

In this commemoration service, though their names are not appended to trees, nor their

names announced in our honour roll, we include former mates whom we left in Northam and elsewhere, became prisoners of war and lost their lives under horrifying circumstances. Those who survived went through tremendous hardship and suffering far beyond our own experiences, thus proving the amazing resilience of the human spirit.

Unfortunately, winning wars does not automatically ensure eternal peace and security. In fact, almost the exact opposite is the case. We have tarried for too long in a dream state, believing something can come from nothing. "The price of freedom is eternal vigilance."

I am sure many of us are concerned that the Governments of the last few years have not only lost direction and purpose but have failed to practise a cardinal law — there are no free meals, they are either paid for out of wealth accumulated in the past or are to be paid for some time in the future.

In a country as large and young as ours, with a population as small, no young, able bodied man should be fed out of the nation's reserves. For this blatant failure in managing the economic and social issues of our country, the Government must take full blame. We could be the clever country if we had clever leaders. Also of concern to many of us is that the proven establishment is being constantly questioned. Changes contemplated with unproven systems, why can't our present flag be honoured as loyally as some other flag, or is that it is not to be honoured, that makes the change attractive.

Regretfully, the views for change are held by many influential people in high administrative positions. For many years there has been a trend away from the concept that a citizen owes something to his country. We hear too much about the rights of the individual and not enough about the rights of our country. We all come into this world as a liability — albeit an essential one — we should strive to leave it having discharged that liability.

On behalf of those assembled here today I would like to sincerely thank our S.A.S. friends for so willingly coming along to assist with the commemoration service and providing the catafalque party, further enhancing the solemnity and dignity of the service, thus glorifying the deaths of our former mates. We are proud to be associated with the S.A.S. Regiment, its training and aims are of the highest order. Its role in maintaining peace could be similar to the role given to 2/2 Commando Squadron, only ever so much more sophisticated. Its training much more prolonged, detailed and tough. Out of this training will develop a friendship which will unite you in all circumstances and last a life time. Your role in this world can only be

imagined, it is sure to be hazardous. We commend your motivation and wish you luck. I believe friendship is one of the great bonding relationships of the human race, it can be shared with so many at the one time, in so many degrees of intensity, from a few casual meetings over a life time, to ongoing daily encounters. It only needs sincerity on both sides to survive.

To our young people our message is, we have great faith in you, keep on striving for perfection, nothing less will keep you in front in this competitive world. Be fair in your dealings with other people. Live within the laws of the land. Many changes will be needed during your lives, bring these about with reasoned arguments. Grow to love your work. Be enthusiastic, it will bring boundless energy and happiness to your work places and homes. There is not substitute for it. It was the main ingredient in building our country. Perhaps above all, strive to be known for your integrity, without which businesses can't function permanently. Governments became a chaotic mess and ruin the whole administrative system. Even two people cannot live together for any length of time.

I mention again, this is the 50th anniversary of the formation in 1941 of the 2/2 Independent Company. While we are all assembled here, obviously 50 years later, viewing this lovely avenue of memorial trees in Lovekin Drive, a brief look back as to how all this came about would, I am sure, be of interest to many.

In 1947 the Association was advised that trees in Lovekin Drive would be made available to commemorate deceased soldiers of the 2/2 Unit. The Civil Service branch of the R.S.L., who were the wardens for the trees in Kings Park, agreed to the request by the 2/2 Commando Association to provide trees in a composite area for this purpose. The necessary application forms for each deceased soldier were completed. The plaques had to be cast and inscribed 'Dedicated for his Unit' and cost one pound, equal to \$2.00.

The dedication of the whole area was conducted in 1949 by the then Archbishop of Perth and both Anglican and Roman Catholic and other church dignitaries. The dedication of this particular area, on behalf of the Association, was attended by Col Doig and the late Ron Kirkwood.

We hope after the present members of the Association have all gone, some of our descendants will gather here and hold a simple commemoration service on the third Sunday in November each year.

Since writing my address the shocking shooting episode in Timor has devastated many of us. We remember with shame how

our Government practically ignored the Indonesian invasion of East Timor. It is sad that world opinion is only stirred into (at this stage) verbal condemnation after so many have been killed so cruelly. I would like our service of remembrance to include those Timorese who fell in the struggle for freedom just as our own brothers did nearly fifty years ago.

Finally, I would like to thank Association members, their wives and descendants and their friends for such strong representation here today. Particular thanks to Association members who have so willingly helped with the preparation of the site. Special thanks to our Park Area Warden, George Fletcher who, as always, has our Lovekin Drive Memorial and its precincts in such tip top order.

We have been kindly invited to join the S.A.S. at their Barracks for a drink.

VALE VICTOR CHARLES PACEY (TX5455)

It is with great regret we have to advise of the passing of our dear mate Vic Pacey on 15 September, 1991.

Vic was very much an original member of the then 2nd Independent Coy, later to be known as the 2/2nd Commando Squadron, joining as a trained signaller on Wilson's Promontory.

My experience with Vic was in 'Don' Platoon in Timor and he was a real Rock of Gibraltar as far as I was concerned. He was completely unflappable and nothing managed to panic him. If it was necessary to rapidly change position owing to enemy pressure, Vic would serenely and efficiently pack up his sets, load them on the ponies, remove to the next location, set up again and be ready to work in the least possible time. Also, his patience and perseverance when radio conditions were at their most atrocious and the electric static would send others berserk Vic would be there with the headphones on getting what he could in the way of messages. It had to be seen to be appreciated. He was always so easy to get on with, no temperament, and carried on with a grin and a cheery word in the most extreme circumstances. One in a million I reckon. His service in New Guinea was always of the same high standard and as such he held the rank of sergeant.

After the War Vic returned to Hobart and his wife Esma and young daughter Gaye. Another daughter, Janette, was born in 1947. Vic joined the Hydro Electric Commission in

1947 and worked in the Head Office in Hobart for 31 years until his retirement. He was a purchasing officer with the Commission.

Vic was a man with many hobbies and pastimes, taking a keen interest in his garden, was most keen on country trips, hunting, fishing and had a deep love of all sports, especially football and horse racing. His special interest was in pacing and he was a long term member of the Hobart Pacing Club. For many years he was a pigeon fancier and we, understand he bred some outstanding racing stock, having some of the best birds in the Apple Isle.

He was a great father, a most loving husband and had a long list of long term friends. He was a member of the Lenah Valley R.S.L. and also a keen member of our Association and a regular correspondent to the Courier.

We extend our most sincere sympathy to wife Esma, daughters Gaye and Janelle and their families.

Vic Pacey was a great bloke, a great soldier and signaller and it was my pleasure to be able to call him mate.

I am deeply indebted to Vic's daughter, Mrs Gaye Geer, for providing me with much of the above information, especially regarding Vic's post-war life. Thank you Gaye for such a beautiful letter.

Col Doig

VALE JACK PERCIVAL SPENCER

Once again it is our sad task to advise of the death of another of our dear comrades, Jack Spencer, who passed away on the 7th November 1991.

Jack was a thorough little gentleman who had battled his way through life, but always had a cheerful smile and a happy greeting for everyone.

In his youth Jack was a first class athlete, a top grade bike rider and an outstanding light weight boxer. His early life was spent at Collie where he worked in the mines and played all forms of sport, excelling in bike riding and boxing in which he was a most fearsome contestant, both in and out of the ring. In his later years he kept himself active prospecting all around the Kalgoorlie-Boulder area and for some time was connected with Jack Sheehan on his small holding in the Kalgoorlie area.

Jack was an original member of No. 6 Section with Lt. Ken Mackintosh and was held in the highest regard by all members of that Section.

He served throughout Timor and left the Unit after that Campaign due, I think, to his age.

Jack was well remembered for an occasion while we were residing at Wavell Camp. While on leave in Adelaide he was assailed by three toughs who thought to do him over and grab his money. Jack had other ideas and backed up to a brick wall and proceeded to defend himself against odds of three to one. His brilliant evasive movements had his opponents clouting the brick wall and they soon decided they had caught a tiger in his lair and took to their heels with Jack unmarked.

Jack will be missed because of his cheerful disposition. He was 85 years of age.

Our sincere sympathy to his loved ones.

Col Doig

VALE HERBERT EDGAR KING

Passed away in the Daw Park Military Hospital, Adelaide.

Bert served with the Signals Section in Timor and New Guinea. He was VX 56821.

His movements after leaving the 2/2nd were a period in 'Z' Special Force with the rank of Sergeant and later in FELO, then a stint in the Nudgee College, Brisbane. This was as far as he could be traced on the Army side.

After the war he lived in Tasmania, married and there are two children. The marriage broke up and he moved back to the mainland. He secured a top job with Telecom, which he later vacated and drifted around the cattle country in Queensland and the Northern Territory, house painting, mustering, boundary riding, on various stations.

Bert was his own man, quite reticent, but in recent times wrote some very interesting letters and seemed to enjoy that method of communication. Albie Martin was high on his mailing list and his letter in Correspondence Corner makes interesting reading.

Keith and Betty Dignum, Bob Williamson and Lyle Litchfield visited Bert regularly in his twilight years and made life a lot more pleasant for him. He had a rough spin and his passing was a blessed relief.

Archie Campbell with thanks to a number of people for their help.

VALE**NORMA ANNE HASSON**

A lovely lady has gone to rest after a long and debilitating illness. Norma passed away on Saturday, 9th November, 1991.

Norma was very well known and highly regarded in our Unit Association. She was very much involved in most of the functions in which the ladies took part. During her travels around Australia with husband Jack she became very well known to many of our Eastern States members. She will be sadly missed.

Our sincere sympathy to Jack and their wonderful family, including those ten grand children.

Vale Norma Hasson, a truly grand person.

Col Doig

N.S.W. NEWS

The N.S.W. Commando Association Xmas Luncheon was well attended and we were represented by Bill and Coral Coker, Paddy and Nora Kenneally, Alan and Edith Luby, Mick Mannix, Ray Cole and friend Jack Warner who served some time on the ex Dutch Training Ship "Sourabaya." After the Dutch surrender he went to England and joined the R.A.F.

Events in East Timor last week have caused a great flurry of interest and outrage, and may be the final straw to activate the Australian Government to take a stand.

My phone call to Jack Carey last night indicates we are thinking along the same lines, as are our friends from 2/4th. Squadron, with whom I am in close touch.

I have prepared a strongly worded letter to the Prime Minister and others, and Les Tropman is also directing one through the Australian Commando Association.

The local Timorese Association is organising a Memorial Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral at 1000 hours, on Saturday, 7th December, which will be followed by a Protest Rally along Hyde Park and Macquarie Street.

We were sorry to learn of the recent death of Jack Spencer and Norma Hasson, and extend our condolences to all relatives.

Best wishes to all for Xmas and New Year.

Sincerely, Alan Luby.

VICTORIAN NEWS**Land Rights Issue**

TO: Mr Ron Hamilton,
President Commando Association

FROM: 2/2 Commando Association

Sir,

Recently it was announced through the media that it was the intention of the State/Federal Government to hand over the custody of Wilson's Promontory to the Aboriginal Land Rights organisation.

Whilst some individual members of the 2/2 Commando Association hold contrary views, our Association, in principle, does not oppose the proposal, subject to certain conditions which we would like to see included in any formal document covering the passing over of Wilson's Promontory to the custody of the Aboriginal Land Rights organisation.

Accordingly, the 2/2 Commando Association respectfully requests that the Commando Association (Victoria) as the parent body makes representations to the appropriate authorities to ensure that in the event of the custody of Wilson's Promontory being handed over to the Aboriginal Land Rights organisation, the following conditions are formally included in any arrangement.

1. With reasonable notice the Commando Association (Victoria) and the unit associations which form the parent body should have access to Wilson's Promontory and Tidal River memorial in accordance with our usual remembrance services and this should also apply to unit associations and its members.
2. The Memorial Cairn and its surrounds, should remain as is at present.
3. The right to remove the Memorial Cairn should that ever be decided by the Commando Association (Victoria).
4. In general it should be recognised that Wilson's Promontory was a unique and integral part of the history of Independent Companies and is an important location in the background of the formation, training and subsequent service of these units.

There may be other conditions which should be addressed and included.

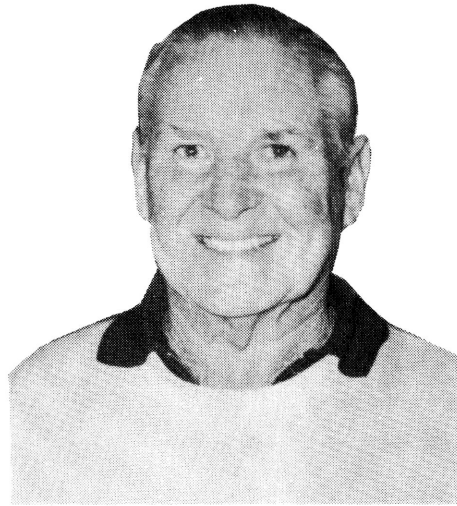
So that I can report back to my unit association I would appreciate advice on developments and progress on this matter.

F.C. Broadhurst
2/2 Commando Association
14 October, 1991

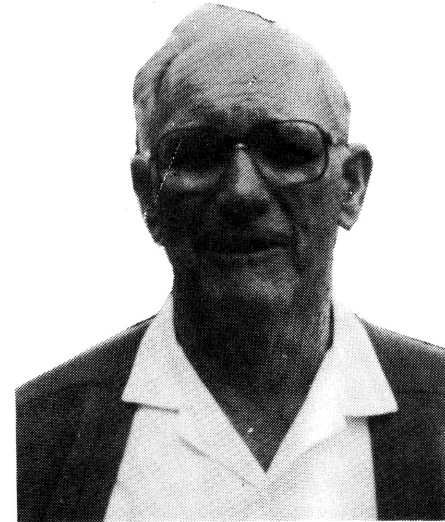
BOB SMYTH'S ROGUES GALLERY — SEQUENCE 19



Ted Cholerton



Mick Mannix



Harry Handicott



Les Isenhood



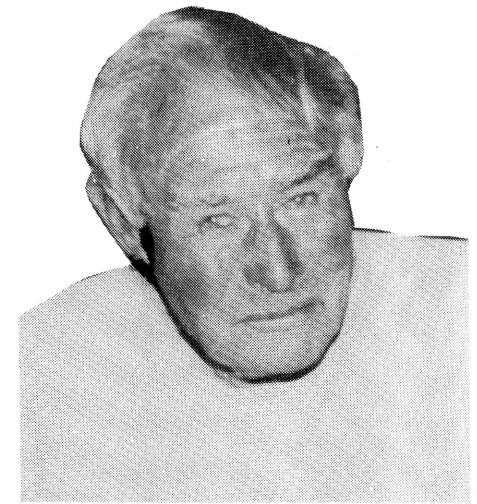
Theo Adams



Rus Blanch



Jack Spencer



Jack Sheehan

CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

**Albert Martin,
232 Ninth Avenue,
Inglewood 6052**

The death of Bert King at Adelaide was prompted me to re-read some of the letters I have received from him in recent years. After a collective reading enjoying his easy conversational style of writing I have to confess that I still know very little about Bert and the whys and wherefores of his life style. What I do know is that I welcomed his letters and I do believe that Bert enjoyed writing, not just to me, but communicating in general with his friends.

It all started something like this: During leave after Timor, Alf Grachan married Nina in Melbourne. Bert stood up for Alf at the wedding and Nina has corresponded with Bert from that day. I exchanged occasional letters with Nina and she mentioned me in her letters to Bert. Messages were exchanged with Nina in the middle until one day one of us sent a greeting direct and that was the start of a fairly regular correspondence.

Our letters were about little things. I probably 'went on' a bit about house and garden. Bert did not have a house and garden but he could work up a good head of steam writing about the wilderness, about the ranges and creeks, horses and birds. He liked to write about his friends and how he enjoyed meeting with others — Sep and Monica Wilson, the Dignums, Bob Williamson, Alan Hollow, Eric Weller and Lyle Litchfield who is in the Quorn district too.

I will miss his letters and remember with pleasure his capacity to make interesting reading of the not so important daily happenings of life.

With Bert King in mind I was able to take a solitary early morning walk, just me and the birds, down Lovekin Drive, Kings Park. It was a glorious day, with the sounds and smells of the bush at very best, and an opportunity to just sit and think a bit on the host of wonderful friendships of fifty years standing. Bert King would have loved to do just that.

May he rest in peace.

**Dave Dexter
48 Froggatt Street
Turner ACT 2601**

This brief note is an attempt to snap up a couple of Jim Smailes 'The Independents.' A cheque for the requisite amount is enclosed, as is a donation to the Courier.

It's exhausting to contemplate the amount of work the editorial group puts into the production of the Courier. From this distance it all seems most skilled and efficient, as does the Association itself, spiced as it is with meetings and safaris. I'd love to get to the Port Macquarie Safari but am pretty well bound to the spot with chemotherapy. I was on the way to the Phillip Island show but ended up in the Alfred instead.

I admire the way you all keep plugging. Keep the good work going.

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

Sydney at its worst climatically, a howling westerly wind, hot and searing after its journey across hundreds of miles of drought stricken country. We only suffer the discomfort, the man on the land faces total ruin. Business people in the country towns faring little better because of the drought and high unemployment. God pity all of them. The moguls of high finance interested only in recouping the dollars they lost in their frenzy to expend millions on failed entrepreneurs.

I arrived back in Sydney 15.10.91, overweight, over tired, following a week of good fellowship, too much tucker and maybe just a glass or two over the eight, of coloured water. A week to remember, albeit somewhat hazy here and there.

Jack Carey ferried me from Perth Airport to Col Doig's outpost, Colin kept me out of trouble for the next three days, Jack Fowler providing the transport. I remained healthy, even did a bit of work.

11.00 am on the 10th the action commenced, the troops poured in, and the keg poured out. As usual, the West did it right. The nourishment flowed abundantly, the silent became talkative, the loquacious more so, memories drifted back through the tide of time, aches and pains forgotten. The men of the 2/2nd are back in Northam, raw recruits, heading across the Nullabor to a place called Wilson's Promontory, cold, wet, bleak and mountainous, entirely different from anything they knew in the Golden West. Doesn't worry them, they are young, fit and eager, two time volunteers, first the AIF, secondly for this mysterious 'hush hush' — that was 1941. In 1991 they joke and laugh about that 'hush hush' game, stripped down to essentials, you marched more than the infantry, blew up more than the engineers, built more than the pioneers, and didn't worry about transport, even if the Unit had a transport section it had no bloody wheels, and a self qualified

mechanic. There was no extra pay and for much of its history, a steady diet of nothing, unless the native gardens provided otherwise. 'Twas grand to look back over those fifty years as you sipped a beer, and talked to old comrades.

Time to sit and attack the 'kai,' each Section at its own table. Arch Campbell gave the Ode of Remembrance and we thought of the men who died on the 'drome outside Dili, and along the mountain tracks of Timor and New Guinea, the tragic deaths in New Britain, so close to the war's end, and the men who have passed on since the cessation of hostilities. They are long dead, many of them. However, Arch brought them back in memory to each man in that room, each of us remembered Section mates whose memories recur in our minds down through the years.

Ted Monk attended to the Loyal Toast, Her Majesty, God bless her, may even have heard the rafters ring in Buckingham Palace.

Wilf March attended to Grace. The good Lord's hearing was sorely taxed. Of course, being multi denominational, no version was dominant.

Len Bagley gave the toast to guests and members. This requires much discretion, not all guests see eye to eye with individual members. Roughly half the guests wore kilts, or to be correct, apart from the male guests present, the other sex were practically half the gathering. Congratulations Len, you displayed a high degree of Jesuitical eloquence — you had to, for the sake of survival.

Bernie Langridge gave us the Unit for his toast. By this time its members had been imbibing for about three hours, consequently there would be about eighty different versions of the Unit's history and segments thereof. Bernie had the job of making it true for all and he did it admirably. Just as well, as Col Doig rose in response. The 2/2nd is the Doig's infant, he has seen it grow from nappies to virile youth and on into grizzled old age and woe betide anyone who falsifies or denigrates its history. There was no rebuke coming from the master.

Bill Rowan Robinson proposed the toast of Absent Friends. These fall into two categories, those who could have attended but wouldn't and those who would have attended but couldn't. Bill wished all of them well.

Of course, since Germaine Greer took up cudgels on behalf of our down-trodden females, we males tread the path of life warily. Hence the Ladies were toasted twice, once as visitors and then as ladies. Don Turton did a brilliant job, each lady present was left in no

doubt that she was special, and so they are. Speciality covers a vast area of human endeavour.

The Toastmaster, Don Murray, must have spent much of his life in pubs and clubs. He regaled us with a fund of humorous stories between toasts.

Helen Poynton wasn't slow either, between table and microphone she forgot the response she wished to give on behalf of the Ladies, so she told a joke and while we roared with laughter Helen put a good response together. Sure the ladies do it naturally (quick thinking I'm talking about). Eve set the trend long ago in the Garden of Eden and man has been earning his bread and butter by the sweat of his brow ever since, while the intelligent section of the human race tells him how clever he is. You didn't let the fair sex down Helen.

Congratulations to Col Doig and Jack Carey on their 'Gold Membership,' both have worked untiringly for the Association. Without their efforts and the members who have worked with them, we would not have had an Association or a Jubilee Diner.

It was a great day, a fitting celebration by members of the foundation of the Unit that made them unique in war, and bestowed on them a sense of comradeship that has endured for fifty years.

I'm submitting my name for the Centenary Jubilee. I'm not quite sure which venue will be selected, as long as we are all present I'll leave the venue to the good Lord.

My thanks to all who made my stay pleasant and enjoyable, particularly Col Doig, Jack Fowler, Joe and Helen Poynton, all the Mandurah 2-2s, Jack Carey and the Committee.

Paddy

P.S.

I've been reading the October issue of the Courier where Ray Splatt mentions that Herbert Edgar King died at Daw Park Military Hospital on 20th July, 1991. I'm sure Keith Dignum will have passed on some of Bert's history since he settled in South Australia. Dig was a regular visitor when Bert was a hospital patient in Adelaide.

I remember Bert quite well in Timor, a tall, pale faced Sig, he spent a period of time in Hata Hudu with 4 Section. To my knowledge he was not a 'B' Platoon Sig. He was a very sick man at that time, with little energy. I always thought he was a Victorian. Nostalgically he would mention restaurants in Melbourne and the good meals he had there, his memory no doubt jogged by the shortage of food we

suffered in Hata Hudu at that time. Dig told me he was a Tasmanian and now Ray Splatt mentions Nudgee College Brisbane as his Alma Mata (Cyril Chaplain also attended that College).

He obviously joined up in Victoria, being a VX number. place of birth? He certainly moved around, his last place of residence being Quorn in South Australia. He wrote a long letter to the Courier some months ago. I don't know of any family. I reckon Dig knows more about the man than any of us. He must have had more than his fair share of ups and downs. He was a sick man when I first met him in 1941 and a sick man when I next heard of him in 1991. He is now at peace and may God keep him in His special care.

Paddy

B.F. Dennis
614 Sackville Street
Albury 2640

Tis a while since I put pen to paper, I wish I could get enthusiasm like Paddy K.

Have been out of circulation for a while, a couple of heart attacks, then an angiogram at Melbourne Repat. Finally into Austin Hospital, Melbourne and had a triple by-pass. Anybody who says it does not hurt to cough is a bloody liar. Anyway, I must report now that I am capable of blowing a whistle and have declared a starter for Port Macquarie in March, 1992.

Enclosed is cheque for Courier funds.

Thanks to all those good friends who rang or wrote or called during my incapacity.

Wishing all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Denny

Jack Penglase
538 Gibson Way
Hopetoun 6348

I'm sorry we are unable to be with you for the Anniversary Dinner. My son John has brought me home from Hollywood Hospital after five weeks and two operations, one for my eyes and one for removal of cysts. Have been flown down twice this year by the Royal Flying Doctor Service so am looking for better days ahead.

May you all have a wonderful anniversary. I will be thinking of you.

Doc Wheatley
266 Fulham Street
Cloverdale 6105

Had a beaut day recently when I went along to a Back to Jarrahdale day, as I had my orchard and garden on the outskirts of Jarrahdale for 17 years. I met a lot of old friends. Someone said they were expecting 7,000 people. Westrail took a lot up but the roads and bush were packed with cars.

Bunnings set up the log chopping and it was good to see the champs in action. The rain held off and the beer was good and everyone seemed to be really enjoying themselves. So much for our so-called depression.

Am enclosing a donation. Regards to all.

Joe Bramich
RMB 5830 Princetown Road
Timboon 3268

Dear Col,

Guess you will be surprised to get this letter as I was to receive a copy of the Courier from Arch. Please thank him for sending it. Maybe you won't remember me and of course one couldn't blame you as 50 years is a long time. I was one of the 2/40 joined up with your Unit. The late Max Davies was in charge of our Section until Johnny Rose was put in charge. I caught up with Max about 12 months before he died and spent a few hours with him and wife Grace at their home.

I remember you when we were in Koepang and I was in D Company. Other sections we were involved with at different times were Clarrie Turner's and Gerry Green's. After leaving the Unit at Canungra with six other 2/40 chaps I went back to Tasmania and joined a motorised unit. The late Jack Chisholm was C.O. That Unit came over to Seymour in Victoria but was then disbanded. We 40th chaps were sent to the 12th Bn on the Queensland Tablelands. I had an elder brother a sergeant in the 7th Div. A.S.C. and he claimed me. Went with that Unit to the Ramu Valley, New Guinea and finished up in Borneo where we were when the war came to an end. I attend the A.S.C. reunion each Anzac Eve and stay in Melbourne for the Anzac Day March. Have also been to a couple of the 2/40th reunions back in Tasmania.

After my discharge in 1946 I worked as a driver in the PMG in Tasmania, got itchy feet and came to Victoria. Worked in the timber business, met my wife June, swept her off her feet and married her 44 years ago. We have one son and two daughters. Our son took over

and the other lives at Fern Vale, Queensland with her family. We go up each year for two or three months to get away from the cold weather here.

A mate of mine from the A.S.C., Des Wooding, lives at 90 Birkdale Street, Floreat Park knows some of the 2/2 fellows — you may be one of them.

I found the Courier very interesting — helped me to remember a lot of names I had forgotten. Very sorry to see so many of the names of those who have passed on.

Regards to Clarrie and Gerry and any other of your members who may remember me.

Betty Hopkins
14A Norman Street
Bentley 6102

What a delight to share such a wonderful day at the Jubilee celebration. Thank you one and all for a most enjoyable time.

Regards to all, hope to see you soon.

Enclosed is a cheque towards Courier Expenses.

Ross Shenn
130 West Coast Terrace
Trigg 6029

My wife Beth and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all concerned for a most enjoyable Jubilee Dinner. The meal was great and the company most entertaining.

We hope to see you all at a future function.

Enclosed is a donation for the Courier.

Sincerely,

Lance Bomford
C/- St Anne's Rest Home
142 Davey Street
Hobart 7000

Thought it time I penned you a few lines to let you know I'm still on deck.

I was sorry to hear Vic Pacey passed away. I believe he was ill for some time and although I have had no contact with him of late, I expect you all know what a good soldier he was.

Wally and Isobel Elmore called to see me last week after touring around Australia for two months and they are well and happy. I believe they called in to see you at your last meeting in Perth. Wally has been a great friend to me over the past fifty years.

Hope Archie Campbell and Ron Dook are in good health, and I send my regards to everybody. I expect some are like me, not in the best of health, but remember a rusty hinge hangs a long time!!

Enclosed is a donation to the Courier.

Betty Craig
P.O. Box 234
Young 2594

I have been very remiss in not writing over the last two years and can only say that I did not have time to sit down very often. I spent most of my spare time with Keith at the hospital. Over the last twelve months we could see that Keith was slowly deteriorating and of course this was very distressing to everyone. However, never once did he complain and he kept his sense of humour until the end. We are all very proud of the way he carried his burden.

During the last fourteen years that Keith was so ill I appreciated the visits of members and their wives who came so often to visit us. Our family have always been wonderfully supportive and a great comfort to me. We presented one of Keith's favourite paintings to the hospital as a 'thank you' for the special care he received over three years.

Stan and Janette moved to Adelaide when he retired from the Army and are now living in Hope Valley and are very happy. Stan had the misfortune to be made redundant, worked at anything he could find for some time and is now doing very well for himself in a very demanding position in a consultancy. Donna is 9, Marc is 7 and they are both very tall.

Phillip and Lorraine have just bought a home in Wodonga, they have always lived in an army home until now. Phillip is W.O. at his Latchford Apprentice School and is to go to Singleton next year for his R.S.M. Their eldest girl Susan is to be married in Wagga Wagga in January. Donna will be junior bridesmaid and Marc will be page boy. They are very excited and will be over for a holiday with me before we go to Wagga Wagga for the wedding. Karen, their second daughter, now lives in Brisbane and Linda, the youngest is a Cadet Chef in the Air Force.

Soon after Keith's passing Janette and I drove back to Adelaide, the long way because of floods, via Griffith, Goolgowie and Hay. I had intended to stay about a fortnight but went down with a couple of bad infections which put me back for another seven weeks. I was able to meet up with many 2/2nd members and Janette and I had the privilege of attending the 50th Anniversary luncheon. We had a lovely time and were thrilled to be

included in this special day. I also spent some time with my sister Helen. Helen and Conrad live at the Rectory at St Martin's Church where Conrad is the Rector. My nephew Richard took me for quite a few trips up around the hills and I saw some beautiful scenery. I came home to Young via Victoria, called on friends at Ararat, then up through Avoca, Maryborough, Bendigo, Shepparton and Wangaratta where I stayed a couple of days with Arch and Dawn Claney which was really good. Then a few days with Phillip and Lorraine in Wodonga.

Have been playing a lot of bowls and enjoying it very much and each Friday night I go out to dinner with a group of bowlers.

Am hoping to go to Sydney by train on 1st December for the N.S.W. Christmas barbecue.

I hope this finds everyone well, and I hope you will all forgive me if I do not send Christmas cards this year. I do not feel like writing at this time as I have written nearly 300 letters and still have a few to do.

May you all have a very Happy and Holy Christmas and a Healthy, Happy New Year.

Hope to see you all at Port Macquarie in March. Jess Epps, Kath Press and I are booked into a unit and looking forward to our time together.

Love and best wishes from Young to you wherever you are in Australia.

Betty Craig

Eric and Twy Smyth
23 Maryllia Road
Busselton 6280

We are still talking about the splendid gathering for the 50th Anniversary luncheon. We compliment all those responsible for the superb organisation and especially the little touches that gave it that extra 'something.' It was great to meet up with old friends and share past experiences.

We don't often go to Perth for trips unrelated to family matters but I was really pleased that this year Eric went to both the Anzac Day march and the luncheon. Now that sailing has commenced again in Busselton, I doubt if even the members of our family will be draw cards.

Best wishes.

Syd McKinley
49 Nairn Road
Coodanup 6210

I'm a shocker when it comes to putting pen to paper — intended writing after reading Tony Adams letter re Dick Burton in the August '90 Courier, and again following Bert King's February '91 letter.

I knew Dick (the black stump) well in New Guinea and New Britain, and after discharge often visited his home and family at Swanbourne. Strangely enough, his step-brother Les and I used to knock around together pre-war. In mid-1948 Dick, Les, my brother Clarrie and I sailed to Darwin on the M.V. Koolinda and, though almost broke, we had a ball on the trip. We worked at various jobs around Darwin and it was during this time that Dick met and married Joan and we other three were all at the wedding. I'd like to add to Bert's summation of Dick and say what a helluva good bloke he was, a real comedian and generous to a fault.

In my pursuit of gold I'm away from home quite a lot and so miss most of the Unit functions. I apologise for that and am glad of the lifeline the Courier extends to blokes like me — it's wonderful.

I hope Joan reads this and perhaps even remembers me?

Enclosed is a donation for whatever.

Best regards to all.

George Smith
37 Shaw Crescent
Muswellbrook 2333

This very special year for members of the 2/2nd is fast drawing to a close. Once again Gloria and I thank members most sincerely for their friendship and wish everyone good health and happiness for Christmas, and may 1992 be very kind to all.

Looking forward to Port Macquarie Safari and hope all wanting to attend are able to make it.

Enclosed is a cheque toward the Courier which is so important to all.

Sincerely,

Stan and Barbara Payne
PO Box 351
Merredin 6415

Am enclosing a photo of Jack Spencer taken last August. Stan is going up to Kalgoorlie to Jack's funeral tomorrow.

Last August we spent several weeks roaming through the old mining areas from Coolgardie

our farm and lives five miles away, one daughter lives in Pakenham with her family up through Menzies, Leonora, Wiluna and lots of places in between where at one time thousands of people lived and now scarcely a sign of those multitudes ever having been there. What courage those men and women had!

We recently did a ten day stint at Northampton. Stan visited Bruss Fagg most days and we visited Tom and Mary Foster and on our way home had lunch at Bolgart with Reg and Dot Harrington.

Regards to all.

W.B. Tucker
32 Tupball Street
Tocumwal 2714

Have just moved in to my new home on the N.S.W. side of our mighty Murray River. It was a hectic experience as most of my gear was spread around and I had just got back from three months overseas. I was a passenger on a German container ship which took 54 days to get to U.K., calling at ports in the Far East, Suez and the Mediterranean. Then spent four weeks in Britain and Europe. Got back broke but I still might make Port Macquarie.

Greetings to all, and its open house here.

A thank you from Betty Craig

To the Members of the 2/2 and their wives and families who made the journey to Young to be with us at the funeral service for the late Keith Craig, accept my sincere thanks.

Phillip, Janette and I were thrilled to think so many were able to come and be with us on such a drizzly, cold day. Lorraine, Stan and the grand children, Susan, Linda, Donna and Marc, Keith's brother and his wife and my sisters, Valerie and Shirley and our friends from Young were impressed with the loving concern you showed for Keith in his passing and for us as his family. The comradeship and concern was there for all to see, along with the caring for our future.

As Members, wives and families, we share in this fellowship, but to receive the 'feed back' from so many here at Young 'they came from so far.'

Yes, we are so proud, and Gentlemen and Ladies, thank you all, you were superb.

INDEPENDENT TRUST FUND

Your attention is drawn to the two letters in the October issue of the Courier from Bro. Ephrem Santos of STM-DON BOSCO, Fatumaka East Timor, with accompanying photos of students at the Trade School in that area.

This concerns the forwarding of an Electrical Trade Journal monthly to this Trade School. The evident appreciation of the staff and students of the receipt of this small offering (\$96 per annum) shows what can be done in a small way for the Timorese Community and students in this troubled Island.

With this in view, and to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the 2nd Independent Coy, it is proposed that a Trust Fund be established, to be known as the Independent Trust Fund, to further such objectives as set out below:

OBJECTIVE: To assist the youth of East Timor in the areas of Education, Agriculture and Sport by the provision of funds to provide for these objectives.

DURATION OF TRUST: Such Trust to be for an operative period of 5 years.

CONTRIBUTIONS: Members, widows and friends of the Association to contribute on a voluntary basis for the full 5 year period the sum of \$50 per annum or part thereof in amounts of \$10, \$20, \$30 or \$40, or any amount in excess desired.

ADMINISTRATION OF TRUST: Three Trustees to be appointed, with power to co-opt. Recommend that this Fund be administered from W.A. Trustees to ask members and interested parties for ideas for the usage of such Trust funds.

In proposing the setting up of this Trust Fund it is expected that many members will wish to have a part of what could be a worthwhile effort to assist those deserving people in East Timor.

It is suggested that this is a small but significant FINAL effort that our members can undertake as a gesture of good will to our good friends in East Timor.

VETERANS' AFFAIRS now offers a HOME VISITING SERVICE

To help the housebound and inform with enquiries on all benefits.

To arrange a home visit telephone 425 8358.

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DONATIONS

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CHANGES OF ADDRESS

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Lot 7 Margaret Rd
Hovea 6071 ✓

MAY, Mr D.
Don and Dawn
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Mt Pleasant 6153
(09) 364 6721 ✓

NICHOLS, Mr M.
Mal and Verna
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THORNANDER, Mr E.
Eric
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City Beach 6015
(09) 385 8556 ✓

BRAMICH, Mr R. A.
Joe
RMB 5830
Prinetown Rd
Timboon 3268 ✓

CRAIG, Mrs B.
Betty
43 Edwards St
(PO Box 234)
Young 2594
(063) 82 1895 ✓

TUCKER, Mr W. B.
Bill
32 Tuppal St
Tocumwal 2714
(058) 74 2170 ✓

W.W.C.P.

We are all very happy to hear the good news from Angus MacLachlan that he is recovering well from his recent operation. All the best Angus from members Australia wide.