

2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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Vol. 87

FEBRUARY 1991

Price 1c

COMING EVENTS

50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

VICTORIA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, TASMANIA

Cowes, Phillip Island, Victoria
5th, 6th and 7th March, 1991

Refer August 1990 Courier for details

ANZAC DAY, THURSDAY 25th APRIL

Assemble on St George's Terrace by 9.00am

Details will appear in the April Courier

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, 14th May at Anzac Club at 11.00am

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

NSW, QUEENSLAND, CAPITAL TERRITORY

Port Macquarie RSL Club
Thursday, 11th July, 1991 at 7.00pm

Nissen Hut Functions Room

MID-YEAR SOCIAL

Thursday, 11th July at Anzac Club at 11.00am

More about this in the April Courier

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL AT ANZAC CLUB PERTH

This was indeed a special day when 67 members, wives and friends gathered in a festive mood to enjoy each others company. The Mandurah 2-2's arrived by bus nice and early so that they wouldn't miss anything and among those we haven't seen for a long time were Nan Dook and Dulcie Ryan, both looking well, Joy Denman and sister Merle, Marj Anderson, Pat Giles, Charlie and Joyce Gorton, Sylvia Walsh, Ted and Peg Monk. Welcome visitors were Paddy King, son of Charlie and Mary, and Tony Bowers' daughter Anne.

Apologies and best wishes to all for the Festive Season were received from Leuit-Col. Jim Wallace, Stan and Barbara Goddard, Gwenda Kirkwood, Joan Burns, Peter and Sue Epps, Wilf and Lorraine March, Charlie Dodge, Joy and Allan Chatfield, Jean and Mick Holland, Maisie and Harry Holder.

Col Doig recalled that Sylvia Walsh, who played the piano for us today, was also present at the first gathering of the Association at Leederville many years ago and he voiced the thoughts of us all when he said that Christmas is a time for families to be together and there is no better family than the members of the 2/2nd. We meet because we love each other and this applies to men as well as ladies.

A delicious lunch was preceded by the saying of a charming old English Grace by Elsie Wares.

The hours flew by, as is always the case when old friends meet, and in no time at all we had to say our fond farewells and look forward to our next get together.

SEASONS GREETINGS

We received a number of these and thank the following for their kind thoughts:

President and Commissioners of the Repatriation Commission, Canberra

State President, Members of State Executive and Staff of the Returned Services League of Australia (WA Branch)

Dulcie Gay
 Alan and Edith Luby
 Aldyth Laffer
 Harry and Olive Botterill
 Joyce Chapman
 Theo Adams
 Gladys Curran
 Roy and Joyce Martin
 Ben Humphrey, Minister for Veteran Affairs
 Pat de Luz

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NEWS

We here are very static, and any news is latched on to avidly.

Bert King ex Tassie, now living at Quorn north east of Port Augusta, and claimed by Quorntonians to be the gateway to the Flinders. Bert is in the Repat Hospital, Daws Road. He is the fittest looking patient there, must be the food. Medical could be OK but none of the patients have died of starvation yet. Bob Williamson, Alan Hollow and I have visited him and will keep in touch.

Betty and I went down to the south east and stayed with Ron Gurr last November. Called in on Bay and Betty Webber. They have had more than their share of bad luck. Bay had a fall and fractured his hip and Betty has been in hospital very ill. She was back home when I called. Ron Gurr is keeping well, quite happy with his retirement. He wants to be remembered to the 4 Section chaps.

The rest of the S.A. chaps are going OK. Shorty Stevens is still not enjoying the best of health.

The temperature today is 42° or 107.6° — that's hot!

Regards to all.

Keith Dignum

N.S.W. NEWS

On Wednesday, 5 December, a party lunch organised by Pat de Luz was held at the Mandarin Club, Sydney, mainly to honour a visit by our esteemed Sir Bernard Callinan from Melbourne. Present were: Pat de Luz, Eduardo Oliviero (Portuguese Vice Consul), Manuel Pires, Salustiano Rosa, Michelle Turner, Gordon Hart, Dan O'Connor and Arthur Stevenson 2/4th, Bob Pinkerton 'Z' Force Association, Alan Luby and Paddy Kenneally 2/2nd.

It was a most enjoyable gathering and a delightful meal. Pat is always a very Happy Host and derives great pleasure from occasions such as this. Unfortunately his wife Linda does not enjoy very good health.

Pleased to say that Bernie looks, and says he feels, ever so much better than when we saw him last. Lady Naomi suffers from a very painful form of arthritis and was unable to join us.

JUBILEE DINNER, PORT MACQUARIE, 11th JULY, 1991: Attenders: Fred Bryant, Bill and Coral Coker, Ron and Marje Goodacre, Alan and Edith Luby, Harry and Amyce Handicott, Ted and Diane Cholerton, Mick Mannix, Jim and Joan Fenwick, Ron Archer, Theo Adams,

Murvin Murphy, George and Edna Vandeleur, Col Doig, Tom Nisbet, Cisco Coles and his mate Max, Butch and Pat Barnier, George and Betty Coulson, Alistair, Angus and Wyn MacLachlan, Betty Devlin, George and Gloria Smith.

MARCH MEETING at Arncliffe RSL Club, Monday, 4th March at 1100 hrs. Come and join us.

ANZAC DAY Thursday, 25th April. Wreath laying at Commando Memorial, Commando Square, Martin Place, Sydney. Parade at 0830 hrs. Widows and families welcome.

For the march, assemble at Elizabeth Street near Hunter Street from 0915. Reunion after march with Commando Association on board S.T.A. ferry from 12 noon. \$20 ticket includes food and drinks. It's a great day — be in it.

Alan Luby, President.

VICTORIAN NEWS

The Combined Commandos held their 50th Anniversary at Tidal River on Sunday, 19 November — it was a nice sunny day and they had a very good roll up.

The No. 2 Commando boys put on a parachute jump into the water off the beach and were picked up by boats.

The following 2/2nd members were present: Sir Bernard Callinan, who gave the address, Rolf Baldwin, Jack and Julie Fox, George Veitch, Ken and Margaret Monk, Harry and Olive Botterill and Wilma Tobin, Fred Broadhurst, Bill and Pat Petersen, Alex and Beryl Boast.

On Monday, 3 December we held our Christmas luncheon at the Paterson River Country Club and had a very good day with our best roll up yet. Bruce and Faye Smith (from Wodonga), Harry and Olive Botterill, John and Cath Roberts, Leith and Marg Cooper, Jack and Julie Fox, Ted and Dorothy Bourke, Bruce and Lorraine McLaren, George and Dot Veitch, Ken and Margaret Monk, Norm and Fran Tillett, Jock and Faye Campbell, Bert and Joyce Dowsett, Bill and Pat Petersen, John and Shirley Southwell, Fred, Mavis and Phyllis Broadhurst and Kylie, Jack Renehan, Sep Wilson, Nina Grachan, Glad Curran, Tom Nisbet, Paul Costelloe, with apologies from Sir Bernard and Lady Callinan (in Sydney) Arch and Dawn Claney, Mick Wellings, Bruce and Erica Poynton, Chris Wray, Bluey and Mary Bone, Wilma Tobin, George and Dot Robinson, Alex and Beryl Boast, Grace Davies, Peter McCracken, Bill Tucker.

Beryl Boast is recovering from a heart attack and we wish her the very best for a quick recovery.

Grace Davies was also on the sick list and we wish her all the best for a good recovery.

I have received Jim Smailes book of poems from the west. It is a very good book, well presented and would be a good gift to family and friends. If any Victorian or Tasmanian members are interested, get in touch with me and I will send copies. The price is \$4 per copy, \$10 for 2 copies, \$20 for 6 copies and a special offer of \$30 for 10 copies.

This is my lost copy for this year and I wish everybody a very meaningful Christmas and a very happy and prosperous New Year.

Harry Botterill

S.A.S.R. COMMUNICATIONS

Lieutenant Colonel J. J. A. Wallace AM
The Special Air Service Regiment
Campbell Barracks, Swanbourne
30th November, 1990

Dear Mr Carey,

Just a note to say how sorry I am that I could not be at your function this year. I am, in fact, at a lunch with Colonel Chris Roberts who many of you know, who is on his farewell visit to the regiment as the Commander Special Forces.

Please pass my best wishes to your members and their ladies. We are very proud to be able to claim a link with the men of the 2/2nd and should we be called upon, the knowledge of your deeds will be a large part of our motivation to acquit ourselves well.

I've thoroughly enjoyed meeting you all from time to time over my three years in command and assure you of the Regiment's continued support for you.

All the best for Christmas and the New Year.

Good Soldiering.

Jim Wallace

Sergeant Wayne Carroll
3 Squadron
Special Air Service Regiment
Campbell Barracks, Swanbourne
26th November, 1990

Dear Mr Carey,

After having conducted the Catafalque Party for your Association on 18th November, 1990 I thought that I would like to write to you myself.

The other soldiers and I who made up the Catafalque Party, were extremely happy at the end of the day. You and your members not only received us warmly at Kings Park as we arrived but very soon made us feel that we were a part of your group. This and then your members' interesting and enjoyable company at the Sergeants Mess SASR afterwards, had us all keen to attend further functions with your Association in the future.

Please pass on my thanks for a great afternoon to the other members.

Regards.

Wayne Carroll

A VERY GENEROUS GESTURE

11th December, 1990

Dear Arch,

This is to wish all members the Seasons Greetings, and in particular good health or at least improved health.

Today was the Christmas Luncheon for the locals. There were sixteen present including four from Maroochydhore and we all had a very good time, but Angus will give you a full report. There also looks as if there will be a good Queensland roll up for July next year at Port Macquarie.

Enclosed is a donation. I'm sure you'll agree Arch that these donations are primarily to help mates in need and this is meant for that purpose. However, if there is any thing over would like it to be used to assist (if need be) members and/or widows to attend the 1992 safari, understood to be at Port Macquarie. It may mean the difference between their coming and not coming.

I'm sorry that I've been such a poor safari attender in the past but as I think you know I'm still a practicing Valuer and Travel Agent, so in a sense I'm still serving! However, I have made a start and booked for next July at Port Macquarie — have made a start! The original formation of 2/2 is very important to me.

Yours very sincerely,
Ron Archer

CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

P. Barden
2 Dampier Street
Geraldton 6530

Hearty congratulations to all concerned with the special November issue of the Courier. It

was so full of interest that I'm sure all members would have read every word. Paddy Kenneally, you should have been a journalist, your 'Paddy Returns to Timor' story deserves an A1 grading. Tom Nisbet, your 'Timor Revisited' contribution was also thought provoking.

I have apologised to Peter Epps for not having provided information for the Unit Nominal Roll and have sent him the required details and a photo in uniform. Have also sent him Nip Cunningham's details and a photo of Nip and Jack Spencer of gold mining renown, taken in Barrack Street, Perth when on leave from Timor.

Nip and I were on parade together on Remembrance Day and took part in the Pilgrimage to the War Cemetery and the general cemetery where we placed poppy-bearing white crosses on the graves of servicemen and ex-servicemen. We also attended the Diggers Dinner where I had the pleasure of thanking the RSL Women's Auxiliary for this annual gesture.

Our poppy street appeal raised a record \$3367 and it was my pleasure to give the 'Flanders Field' story to listeners on both local radio stations.

Jim Smailes sent me a copy of his unique and remarkable Narrative Poem, written while on service in Timor. I will do my best to publicise it as widely as possible, also bearing in mind that our great Association will benefit from the sales.

Best wishes to all the boys — and girls!
Peter

L. J. Bomford
142 Davey Street
Hobart 7001

It was great to read about the return of Paddy Kenneally and Tom Nisbet to Timor. How did they do it at their age!! It brought back many memories of the places we went through.

I have had a visit from the widow of the late Arthur Hickman who was a member of the 2/40th and the 2/2nd. She would like to have the Courier sent to her in future.

I am enclosing a cheque for a copy of Jim Smailes poems and a donation to the Courier.

The staff at St Anne's Nursing Home are looking after me very well.

Wishing all a Happy Christmas and Bright New Year.

Lance

C/- Post Office
Quorn 5433

H. E. King
Quorn Caravan Park
Quorn 5433

Dear Editor,

DICK BURTON

I have waited until this late date before making any comment on the letter of T. B. Adams in the August Courier re Dick Burton because I believed that some other comments by a more able correspondent would appear before now.

What Tony Adams said re service in Timor, New Guinea and New Britain is correct and the fact that Dick's name does not appear in Col's book is inexplicable and inexcusable. The manning lists supplied to Col lack a little, and this is not the fault of Colin. For instance, I do not appear to have been in New Guinea. An A. E. King is listed as a 'reo sig.'

I think Tony Adams will recall Dick, he was a slim, dark complexioned lad who never shirked or whinged and is the bloke who refused to be evacuated to AGH from Fanta after being 'kissed' by three bullets as his patrol crossed a dry creek whilst returning from patrol. The story from his mates is that Dick nailed the gunner who wounded him. Although he was never promoted to Bren-gunner No. 1, he was, in our ('C' Pln) opinion second only to the great Jack Maley of 'A' Pln. I spent over two years with Dick. Harry Sproton and Jack Wicks were others who did so also. I think Dick would have been a natural to take the Bren if Tom O'Brien hadn't done so. Tom was good too, just ask Johnny Roberts!

Dick's widow can be proud of Dick's record.

Bert King

EDITOR'S NOTE: *You are quite right Bert, in your description of the late Dick Burton. He was a member of the original 9 Section under Lt. Ray Cole, 'C' Platoon. His name appears in that category on page 249, Appendix 1 of Col Doig's Unit History on Timor. His name does not appear in the New Guinea, New Britain campaigns but he certainly served in both. He was a bright, likeable young man who served the 2/2nd faithfully and well in all directions. He was a fine soldier over the duration of our three campaigns and was deeply respected by all his mates as a man with toughness and courage.*

Thanks for your response to Tony Adams letter, this is what makes the Courier worth while and brings history up to date.

Kind regards from us all Bert, and thanks for your interesting letters.

Archie Campbell

Dear Arch,

THE FAMOUS TEROWIE SHEEP

Thanks to the foresight of Jack Carey I was delighted to receive, quite unexpectedly, a copy of Jim's 'The Independents.' Having had (and lost) a copy of the original publication it is great to be in possession of this one.

The reason that prompts this letter is this: as a resident of Quorn I cross the railway line we travelled that October day in 1941 en route Terowie to Alice Springs about six times daily and never fail to see, in imagination the sight the 2 A.I.C. must have presented as we lined up for our cut lunches. Some of the elderly citizens remember our colour patch that day, the day Paddy Knight forked over 50/- for that sheep.

It is about that sheep that I write, and even now, as I read what Jim had to say about it, it brings tears to my eyes. What did happen was that at Terowie that evening a few of the Company walked into the township, found no cafe or grog, spent some time at the Mechanics Institute watching the locals playing on the only billiard table. They were very nervous civvies I can tell you — for no cause. My mate Alf Grachan produced a bottle of ale which gave all of us just one swallow and we turned back for camp at the Showgrounds. Fully dark and cold by now, we made our first transgression by building a roaring fire out of rotted building material abandoned donkeys years earlier. That was meant to be our one and only sin but would you believe, this much discussed and written about sheep decided to join in too! Uninvited, unsought and unexpected! The result is history of course. The belief that the butchering and breaking up was done with a pocket knife is not wholly correct, although I have no doubt some of the blokes hacked it in this way. In Adelaide the Company had authorised us to purchase sheath knives at regimental expense and my knife was passed around a fair bit. We barbecued along in good, quite style (remember, we were all sober) enjoyed the feed and returned to the Showground in good military order and conduct.

When that copper asked for 50/- we damned near fainted, you could buy a sheep anywhere in Australia those days for 4 or 5 shillings —but not in Terowie! Nobody can accuse me of being a dobber when I say that of those few who were there that night I can place quite a few of 4 Section, Paddy Knight, Eric Mitchell, Bob Ewan, Bill Holly and his mate (Hoffey?), Alf Grachan and myself. All these have marched on of course, but Editor, I wonder if

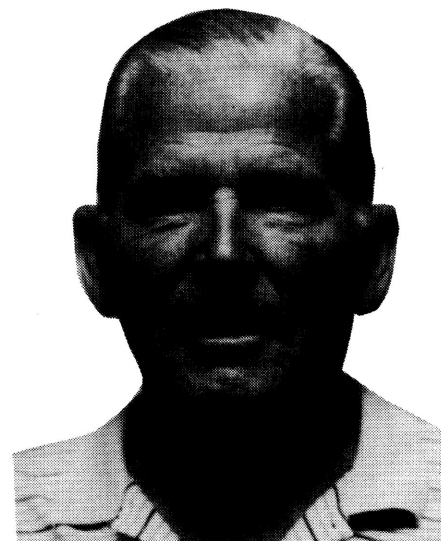
BOB SMYTH'S ROGUES GALLERY — SEQUENCE 15



Harry Botterill



Tom Nisbet



Jack Fox



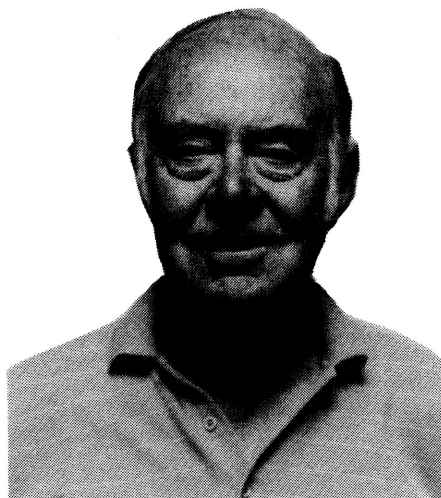
Ken Monk



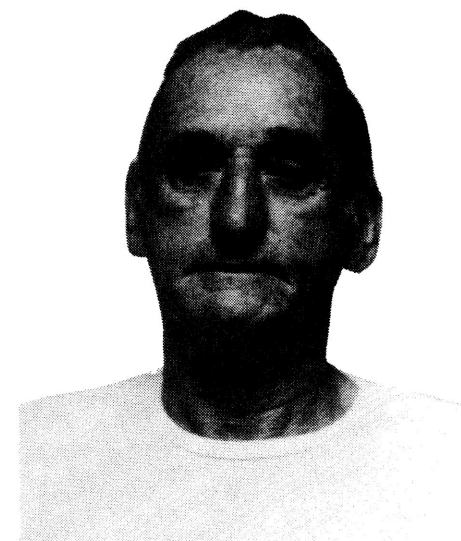
Paddy Kennealy



Lyle Litchfield



Lionel Newton



Roy Martin

any survivors of that night would let me know through the pages of your Courier?

It is Jim's account of that night and the disappearance of the poultry at Banka 'now from the path we'd strayed again' that really grabs me.

I will conclude now Arch, wishing you all, your executive and members a Happy Christmas, all you wish for yourselves.

Bert King

H. E. King
Quorn 5433

This new found habit of writing to the Courier is going to die a sudden death at the completion of this letter; this business is a bit beyond me but Paddy Kenneally's letter in the special of November has prompted me to weigh in with some information that I know will be of interest to the few survivors who knew 'Joe' of Hato-Huda. His full and correct name was Jose da Silva Marcos and he was related not to the Governor of Timor but to the Governor of Goa in the then Portuguese India. Joe was always a good and generous friend to all Australians and his position as Posto in that area was a God send to us. Unfortunately for him he was junior (in rank only) to the Commandante of Suro Province who was based in Ainaro. Unfortunately because of the dislike and jealousy of this area commandant. A lot of the hurdles we Aussies encountered at Ainaro sprang from this bloke's hatred of Joe and because of our obvious goodwill and gratitude to Joe.

Sir B.J., in his 'Independent Company' expresses his annoyance and rage at the fact that a young and fit Portuguese had been evacuated from Timor. Eric Weller and I are hopeful that B.J. was not alluding to Joe — he had more than 100% for us, the Japs had a price on his head, he was liable to be ordered to report to Dili by his Suro Commandante —and he had spent all of his cash in the Australian cause. I will never forget the sad day that he ordered all of those beautiful horses of his to be led out one at a time as he shot them with my rifle. He did not even have any ammunition for his Porto Army issue weapons! He wept like a child when it came to the turn of the mighty Samir (snake). Every Aussie will remember that horse!

In early 1946 my employer in Sydney was commissioned to make an inventory and valuation of the property of the Brazilian Consul who was about to be relieved of service in Australia and return to Brazil. There

was no such thing as a Portuguese Consul in those days — all affairs for Lisbon were handled by the Brazilian staff on behalf of Portugal. The Brazilian chief was a Dr. Labhorino who, when mentioned of Timor etc. came up in discussion, became a good friend indeed. He remembered Joe, Joe's courtship of Brandalina (of Atsabe) and Joe's stay at Kirribilli.

He went further for me, within two weeks he had traced Joe to Portugal and thence to Goa where he was in service, presumably under his uncle the Governor. The address I wrote to was in Goa but there was never any reply, that is, if he ever received it.

A point of interest also ties in the naming of Hato-Hudo. The spelling and pronunciation of Hato-Hudu is in the Tetum and means 'the place on the hill.' The alternative spelling and pronunciation very often encountered of Hato-Uda is in the Mombai and means 'the hill place.' A place of beauty and generosity needlessly razed and ruined. The photos in B.J.'s book say it all.

That's the lot, a Merry Christmas and a great 1991 to each and every one of the Association.

Bert

G. & G. Smith
37 Shaw Crescent
Muswellbrook 2333

Having taken the long way home from the memorable and friendly Barossa Valley Safari through W.A., the N.T. and Queensland, we only arrived home on 26th October. What a wonderful country Australia is. We were unfortunate to miss Reg and Dot Harrington as our paths must have crossed while we were at Exmouth in June. We spent a few very happy days with Stan and Blanche Sadler, meeting their fine family.

Once again we wish to express our gratitude to the members of your Association who have shown us such wonderful friendship. We would like our phone number (065) 43 3864 added to the Address Book and hope that any members coming our way will have time to call on us.

We wish all members a healthy and happy Christmas and may 1991 be very kind to all.

Enclosed is a donation to the Courier, or whatever.

Yours very sincerely.

George and Gloria

B. Devlin
181 Pennant Pde
Epping 2121

On reading the Courier I noticed an article on sugar diabetes. Frank contracted diabetes about six weeks before he died. There were no symptoms until he was pretty well advanced. I know he didn't have it when he was young. Maybe another name on your list will be of some help.

I would like to wish everybody a happy and prosperous New Year and the best of health.

Looking forward to our reunion at Port Macquarie and the big one this year.

Betty

A. Moore
10 Poplar St
Dwellingup 6213

Many thanks for sending the Courier to us over the past 12 months. Am enclosing a donation and wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Regards to all.

Alma

G. Slade
29 Monash Ave
Lenah Valley
Tasmania 7008

After many years I have at last sat down to put pen to paper.

My first contact with a 2/2nd mate, since the end of the war, was in September 1987 when my wife and I called on Bill and Pat Petersen at Fish Creek. Very happy reunion, chatted for hours about old times. Bill was kind enough to forward my name and address on to you and I have been very pleased to receive the Courier ever since and to keep up with all the news. Greatly appreciated.

We attended the 1988 Safari on Phillip Island and enjoyed every minute of it. It was great to meet so many of my old mates, their wives and friends.

Regret I had to cancel out of the Barossa Safari. Nancy had an operation in February and then had to have daily treatment for nine weeks. All is well.

My mate Gordon Watts relayed all the news to me — seems you certainly had a great time. May not be able to make Victoria 1991 50th Anniversary, but hope to attend Safari 1992.

Have seen Bill and Pat twice since Barossa. They came to Tassie with son Matthew in

January 1989. We had a wonderful time together, then we called on them in September 1989 — great to see them again. While they were here in 1989 we had a get-together with Vic Pacey, Gordon Watts, the late Les Hills and myself, together with our wives. A few photos were taken and forwarded on to the Courier and made Bob Smyth's Rogues Gallery, sequence 12.

Gordon and I often play in the RSL lawn bowls days and often talk on the telephone.

Nancy plays bowls with Mrs Edna Hickman, widow of the late Arthur Walter Hickman, TX2597, 2/40th Battalion — Timor 1942, who returned to Australia with 2/2nd unit. I loaned her all the Couriers I have, photos and details of Safari 1988. She was thrilled and found much pleasure and interest in reading it all. In turn she loaned me a resume her grand daughter in Sydney is researching. In it mention is made of a note dated 27th May 1942, from Jim Cullen, NX44893, 2/2nd Company, telling her he had seen 'Art' who was well. Thought I would pass on this information — it may be of interest to some of the lads.

Enclosing a donation for the very worthy Courier and for any other use you wish. Also enclosing a donation from Gordon Watts and his best wishes to all for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Nancy and I take this opportunity to say hello and wish one and all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

Regards.

Gerald

EDITORS NOTE: *Sorry to advise the death of Les Hill who passed away on the 3rd December, 1990. Les joined the 2/2nd from the Koepang end — he was a member of the 2/40th. Our deepest sympathy to his family.*

Thanks Gerald for your newsy letter, it is very welcome indeed.

M. A. M. Smith
P.O. Box 156
Fitzroy 3065

Herewith a cheque for six copies of 'The Independents' and a donation to the Courier. I've been very fortunate as far as health is concerned, just a few odd aches and pains that we can class as the fringe benefits of old age. Otherwise everything is O.K.

Cheerio.

Maurie

Mrs P. Anning
12 Barrett St
Glenorchy 7010

I was very pleased to receive Vol. 84 and 85 of your publication. Durn was very pleased to receive his copies and to read all about his old friends and comrades. I felt very proud, though sad, to read the remarks made of him in the Courier. As you probably are aware, after he came home from Timor he joined the 2/12th and went to New Guinea and then to Queensland before he was demobilised.

I would like the copies to be continued as the events have been discussed in our home many times over the last 47 years. Am enclosing a donation for the Courier.

Yours sincerely,
Pat Anning

A. Luby
6/35 Richmond Ave
Dee Why 2099

We had a very pleasant Christmas BBQ at Goodacres. Present were Ron and Marjorie Goodacre, Alan and Edith Luby, Bill and Coral Coker, Jim and Joan Fenwick, Ron and Dorothy Trengove, Ray and Dianna Cole, Snow Went and friend Helen, Mick Mannix, Paddy Kenneally, June Bennett, Betty Devlin. Betty Craig phoned to apologise and to report that she is on the improve after her gall operation. Keith continues to deteriorate, unfortunately.

L/Col. John Winterflood M.C. 2/3 Cdo passed away on November 28th after a long illness. Also, Mary, wife of Bill Powell, Secretary of South Australian Association, collapsed and died in Melbourne after attending the recent commemoration service.

Thanks to the Courier 'Staff' for our Jubilee Dinner notices. They are starting to come in already.

All the best.
Alan

Mrs J. Scott
6 Duke St
Bentley 6102

Enclosed is a donation to the Courier which I enjoy receiving very much and I thank you for same.

I would like to wish all members and their families a truly Happy Christmas and may the New Year be kind to everyone in every way.

Kind regards to all.
Joan Scott

T. Cholerton
16 Wirraway Ave
Evans Head 2473

Just a quick note to let you have our new address.

Moving was the usual traumatic experience, even though we had unpacked as little as possible when we moved from Carcoar to Ballina. We are happy with our new house which has turned out very well and was worth waiting for.

Looking forward to dinner at Port Macquarie in July.

Regards and Seasons Greetings to all.
Sincerely,
Ted and Di

G. Wilcox
32 Australia Ave
Umina Beach 2257

Thank you for sending me the Courier. Ern always enjoyed reading it although never got around to keeping in touch. I am finding it very hard to come to terms with the fact that he is no longer with me — 45 years together and we had it all. He was a wonderful husband and father.

I am enclosing a small donation — keep up the good work.
Gloria

AN HISTORIC FLASH BACK

By Editor A. Campbell

The controversial article appended, sent in by Ray Cole of Sydney, seemed to coincide with a book I have just read — 'Trying To Be Sailors' by John Leggoe, first published in 1983. It contains a graphic description of how the Navy serviced our Timor operation and the lengths to which they went so that we could be lifted off the island. The men, vessels and equipment they lost, the devotion to duty and heroism of the men involved was unbelievable.

The Navy was magnificent and it has taken all these years for the story to be told and it is an amazing story.

This article published in the Sydney Sun-Herald, on the 4th November, 1990, gives some idea of the mammoth task involved. John Leggoe's book gives a graphic and accurate picture of the happenings to small and large craft alike. Pages 34 to 64 cover the story and it certainly is gripping in its intensity.

The author was born in York, Western Australia and is now living in retirement at Cottesloe.

The loss of the Armidale

MR FRANK WALKER gives an unbalanced account of the circumstances leading to the loss of HMAS Armidale (S-H, 21/10) and is most unjust to the memory of Commodore C. J. Pope. I was a lieutenant on Commodore Pope's staff at the time and I was consulted by Mr Walker last year when he was researching his book, a copy of which he has sent me.

I take issue with Mr Walker on the two major points in his article:

(a) That the decision to order Armidale and Kuru to return to Betano on December 1, 1942, was "tragically wrong" having regard to the known danger of air attack.

(b) That the reason Ordinary Seaman Sheehan was not awarded a VC was that it would have focused attention on the circumstances of Armidale's sinking.

With regard to the first point Mr Walker states in his book, though not in the article, that corvettes of the same class as Castlemaine and Armidale "had a most impressive record against bombing attacks . . . in and around Singapore and Java" and "around New Guinea." Commodore Pope was, of course, aware of this and, by the time, 9.50 am on December 1, that he signalled his decision that Armidale and Kuru should return to Betano, he also knew that several bombing attacks on Castlemaine and Armidale on the previous day and one on Castlemaine that morning had caused no damage to either ship.

Commodore Pope of course knew that HM Ships Repulse and Prince of Wales had been sunk by Japanese torpedo bombers flying from aircraft carriers. What he did not know, and had no reason to suspect, was that although there were no Japanese aircraft carriers anywhere near Timor in November-December 1942, some torpedo bombers had been moved to a shore base in Timor. The successful attack on Armidale by these aircraft was the first and, I believe, the only, occasion on which this type of aircraft was flown from Timor against ships operating from Darwin.

I am certain that had Commodore Pope had any reason to suspect that torpedo bombers were based in Timor he would not have ordered Armidale and Kuru to return to Betano, nor would he have made the signal, which never reached Armidale, the wording of which Mr Walker criticises so strongly. Mr Walker is being wise after the event.

I do not accept Mr Walker's view that Ordinary Seaman Sheehan, for whose great bravery I have the highest admiration, was wrongly denied a VC by the Australian Naval Board. Mr Walker knows that the Victoria Cross is the only decoration which can be awarded posthumously for an act of conspicuous gallantry in action, in performing which the person is killed.

He may not, however, be aware that frequently the award of a posthumous Mention in Dispatches recognises the fact that the act was of such great bravery that it may have been considered for a VC but, for some reason, did not quite make it.

During WWII the final recommendation to the King for the award of a Victoria Cross was made by a special committee in the United Kingdom, not by any Australian authority. This is probably still the procedure.

W. D. H. GRAHAM
Rear Admiral (Retd)
Pearce, ACT.

THE TWO-TWO SHOW AT MANDURAH and THEREAFTER

By COL. DOIG

The recently formed Two-Two band at Mandurah held its fourth get-together on 19th November, 1990 at the home of Bernie and Babs Langridge with some thirty people present. Helen Poynton in the chair handled it with the aplomb of Maggie Thatcher at her best (prior to resignation of course). Much of interest to the group was discussed, mainly the subsidisation of bus travel to attend Association functions in the metropolitan area, and the fund raising required for these activities. Although of only recent origin, this energetic group has already accumulated a healthy bank balance, their main source of funds being raffles for donated prizes.

The business of the day completed and it was then a conducted tour of Bernie's amazing domicile. The huge orchard fenced in with bird wire was a scene of wonderment to everyone and the nursery of plants, especially fruit and nut trees being prepared by Bernie was another area of amazement.

The luncheon was a 'Bring Your Own' affair and the gang appeared to have all that was necessary to satisfy the appetites, both with food and drinks.

A most enjoyable day was had by all and for

me it was a wonderful opportunity to see this terrific group enjoy a pleasant, most satisfactory day of fund raising. With the present situation regarding social drinking and driving, the idea of hiring buses to get together for social functions has so much to commend it. Carry on you good people.

On Tuesday 20th, Bernie took charge of John Fowler and myself to give us a day of outstanding pleasure, education and downright amazement. Starting out at 6.15am from Pleasant Grove, we headed for Boyanup in the vicinity of Bernie's old property to see a home being constructed by Professor Bob Laurence and his wife Theresa. What is so unique about this home is that it is practically underground. A sand hill has been excavated and the home built in this excavation of 'sausage like' bags of concrete (9 sand, 1 cement) specially saturated in a mixture of water and chemicals and then these bags about 15" long by 6" broad by 4" deep are laid one upon the other and they bond together in a quite waterproof way. Each one of these myriad bags was constructed by Theresa. The house is about 36 squares which makes it big by any standards. There is an atrium in the centre with the most unique roof which opens like an inverted umbrella or petals of a flower, the whole thing engineered by Bob Laurence. We were given a great tour of this large and unique dwelling by the owners and although much remains to finish the project, it will be something really special when completed.

We then headed for Bridgetown and an orchard property owned by Rodney Atherton, a protege of Bernie Langridge. This orchard is being completely remodelled to plans made by Rod and Bernie and most of the old apple trees have been replaced by the new varieties now becoming most popular with the local market and will be much in demand when the overseas markets start to re-open to the Australian product. A couple of the varieties have been propagated here in Western Australia by the Department of Agriculture and show outstanding characteristics and bring handsome prices on the local market. We saw trees from one to six years old budded by these two experts and all looked in terrific heart. The stone fruit orchard has also been recycled and again we saw wonderful new varieties which will tickle the palates of W.A. people. It was good to see these hard working fair dinkum Aussies going along the road to what we hope will be a great success.

The next stop on this truly remarkable day was the Emu Farm of Emu Tech Coy at Harvey, managed by our own Arthur Marshall. We were greeted by the two Marshall boys employed on the farm and wife Audrey who manages the restaurant and keeps an eye on

the Jewish pianos. Then the one and only Arthur arrived from a business trip to Bunbury and proceeded to take over and really put us in the picture.

The whole story is quite remarkable, especially as told by Arthur. Apparently in the early stages the Marshalls were purely spectators of this project and somehow got dragged into the show through a land deal. This proved to be something of a 'con trick' and the Marshalls were forced into a position of defending their land deal by getting into the project which not only took in their land but their liquid assets and then their managerial skills and sheer manpower, with the whole family working to try and make the project a success and save their hard earned dough.

While being driven around the project by Arthur we were able to see the amazing inventive genius of this truly remarkable man. Firstly, a new incubator for the emu eggs, which simplifies the turning of the eggs (a twice daily affair) from a matter of six hours per day by the old method to a matter of seconds by his new incubator on which he has the patents. Then the watering systems around the many breeding pens done with halved motor tyres cemented into position and so placed at a corner that four pens are watered with one trough. These troughs are supplied by a system that is automatic, coming from a pond with the pump solar powered. This again is truly remarkable, the energy supplied by one solar cell about three feet square and costs practically nothing to run and maintain, after installation.

Currently this emu farm has around 1800 birds and it is hoped to extend this to about 8000 when fully developed. There are many aspects to an emu farm, the bird providing meat, skin, oil and feathers. Easily the most lucrative is the emu oil which has a ready market for all sorts of medicinal purposes, then the meat is in great demand as a gourmet meat in high class restaurants. The leather is also in high demand but is not as lucrative as the other products. A demand for emu feathers is slowly coming about and then the eggs which do not hatch are in great demand after being blown for etching and other decorative uses, so you see the only thing not being used is the mating call of the cock bird.

John Fowler and I were most indebted to Bernie and Babs Langridge for being our hosts and for running us around and then to Bob and Theresa Laurence at Boyanup, Rodney Atherton and family at Donnybrook and last but certainly not least, to Arthur Marshall and family at Harvey for the great day we had. May we have many more such days.

EDITOR'S NOTE

JIM SMAILES POEMS

These are still in great demand so hurry and get your copies. The following article appeared in the Kojonup newspaper:

"THE INDEPENDENTS"

By Jim Smalles

This unique and remarkable Narrative Poem, together with the cartoons by Paul Rigby in a neat small booklet, has been reprinted recently along with a few additional poems by the same author. The main story is about the selection and training of one of Australia's top Commando Companies which was isolated behind enemy lines on the island of Portuguese Timor throughout 1942. It was composed and written during this ordeal and deals with the everyday life of men cut off from Australia without radio contact, and against a fanatical Japanese army of often 100 to one.

Two very clever signallers built a radio in a kerosine tin and made contact with Darwin, which led to their eventual evacuation and return home.

Three local Kojonup men took part in this epic story of survival, and many younger people are interested in this little known story of those crucial few months when the Japanese Army stood poised to invade Australia.

This is a chance to obtain this rare story, particularly in verse, and will be of outstanding souvenir value for children and grandchildren. It can be obtained locally at the Kojonup Fashion House for \$5 each.

The foreward is by a Senior Officer of the Unit, then known as The Second Independent Company. This unit went on to also serve in New Guinea and New Britain before peace came in 1945. They were known as the Double Red Diamonds, and live on today as an active ex-service organisation of survivors, wives and widows of the 300 original members. The local men were Tony Bowers, George Timms and Gordon Holmes. Jim Smalles' further connection with Kojonup is through his daughter Anne, now Mrs Terry Myers.

Money obtained from sales of this book goes into helping 2nd/2nd Commando Association maintain contact with each other via reunions and when the group can no longer have reunions funds will be used to maintain an historical record of the unit.

"BLACK SUNDAY" 16TH APRIL, 1944

An American author, Mike Claryn, is writing a book on the role of the American aircraft during World War II. He has very little information regarding Black Sunday, 16th April, 1944, when 50 U.S. planes crashed into mountains in New Guinea in thick fog in an area occupied by the 2/2nd. Some of the 2/2nd boys were sent out to look for survivors.

If anyone has any information about Black Sunday, please contact:

**ALEX PERRIN
RMB 2769
AMEYS TRACK
FOSTER VIC. 3960**

Alex Perrin is gathering information for the author and would appreciate your assistance.

This request was received from Fred Broadhurst.

W.W.C.P.

BOOMER GILES has had a spell in hospital but is now out and about and feeling a whole lot better. Good luck and may your health be A1 in 1991.

CHARLIE DODGE is not very well at all and is battling with the scourge of cancer. You are a tough citizen Charlie and all members are behind you with their wishes for a recovery. Good luck, God bless from us all.

ALBY FRIEND is battling with a heart problem. Knowing his determination and courage, we are sure he will come out on top. Best wishes from all members.

HARRY SPROXTON looks and is the best he has been for a long time. This he deserves for he has fought tooth and nail for such a happening. Well done Harry, likewise Thelma who gives him such great support. Our love to you both.

DONATIONS TO COURIER

Les Halse, Charlie Mills, Bert Price, Stan Sadler, Charlie Sadler, Maurice Smith, Lance Bomford, Bill Sharp, Warwick Tobin, George Smith, Pat Anning, Ray Splatt, Don Hudson, Gordon Rowley, Mick Morgan, Dick Darrington, Ray Aitken, Ron Dook, Charlie Gorton, Harry Sproxton, Arch Campbell, Harry Holder, B. T. C. Smith, Ron Archer, Dawn Laing.

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