



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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

Vol. 94

APRIL 1992

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COMING EVENTS

ANZAC DAY

SATURDAY APRIL 25, 1992

- 9.00 am Assemble at usual place on St Georges Terrace
- 9.45 am Fall in.
- 10.00 am March off.
- 12.30 pm Get-together Airways Hotel, 195 Adelaide Terrace.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**TUESDAY, 12th MAY AT 11am
AT ANZAC CLUB**

Don't miss this important meeting.
Refreshments and snacks to follow.

NORMA HASSON SOCIAL

FRIDAY, 3rd JULY at ANZAC CLUB

**REFRESHMENTS FROM 11am
LUNCHEON AT 12.30pm**

Looking forward to seeing you there.

NEW FORMAT FOR ANZAC DAY PARADE

Instead of marching on to The Esplanade through the entrance from the William Street off-ramp, the parade will continue marching in to Riverside Drive and be reviewed by the Governor. After the review the parade will turn into Barrack Street and march on to The Esplanade for the Commemorative Service. When the service ends the Governor will depart and the parade will be dismissed.

1994 SAFARI — WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The choice of venue between Fremantle and Busselton went to the vote at the general meeting held at Port Macquarie and the south west town of Busselton was chosen. W.A. Branch will be responsible for the organisation.

1996 SAFARI

Queensland Branch readily accepted the challenge and responsibility of hosting this Safari.

PRE-STAMPED ENVELOPE

This special issue to mark the 50th anniversary of the Unit's Timor Campaign has been well received and is in great demand. Members who have yet to obtain envelopes are advised to do so without delay as the issue is selling out fast.

VALE DAVID ST. ALBANS DEXTER

It is with extreme sorrow that I have to announce the death of David Dexter on Sunday, 15th March, 1992 after a long and debilitating illness. David was 75 years of age.

Dave Dexter was one of the real personalities of the 2/2 Commando Squadron, a brilliant and courageous soldier, a most pleasant and lovable personality who endeared himself to the troops in the whole of the Squadron. The world and Australia is much the poorer for the passing of such a valuable citizen.

David was the son of an Anglican Minister (in the age before they were priests). Always a brilliant student, he was educated at Geelong Grammar School and Melbourne University and graduated with a Bachelors Degree with

Honours in History. Pre war he was a teacher at Geelong Grammar School and was then employed in the Dept of External Affairs, later to be called Foreign Affairs.

Soon after enlistment in the A.I.F. he became caught up in the 'Hush Hush' training on Wilsons Promontory and was part of Capt Frederick Chapman's field craft wing and was a most proficient Sergeant Instructor.

On the formation of the 2nd Independent Company, Dave was commissioned and became O.C. No. 1 Section 'A' Platoon. After training on Wilsons Promontory and the onward movements through Adelaide, Katherine and eventually Timor, David was to show his outstanding leadership qualities and on the promotion of Capt. Baldwin to 2 i/c Company David took command of 'A' Platoon and brilliantly led to the finish of the arduous Timor Campaign. After re-formation at Canungra he continued to command 'A' Platoon and his platoon was first into action in New Guinea. Once again he served with great distinction and was severely wounded in one of the actions in the Ramu Valley. About half way through the New Guinea Campaign David was selected to go as an instructor at the O.C.T.U. at Woodville in South Australia. This appointment did not suit David and he promptly joined 'Z' Force and had command of the Northern Section which included Timor.

He left 'A' Force and rejoined the 2/2nd Command Squadron, as it was now designated, at Strathpine, this time to command 'B' Troop. He took his Troop to New Britain and later was promoted 2 i/c of the Unit when Capt Don Turton went to command the Training Squadron at Canungra.

It was not long before Dave went to the Tactical School at Beenleigh and was promoted to Major and commanded the 4th Squadron at the tail end of the Borneo Campaign.

Upon demobilisation David rejoined the Dept of External Affairs and made rapid promotion and served overseas at many stations, finally as Senior Counsellor at New Delhi. On return to Australia he was to become Registrar of the National University at Canberra.

In the meantime David had been selected to write a Volume of the Official War History of the Army in World War II. This Volume 'The New Guinea Offensive' was completed after taking one year leave of absence after his return to Australia from India. This was a most significant history as it told of Australian victories against the Japanese in a very trying period of the bitter Jungle War in New Guinea.

His role as Registrar A.N.U. also was one of great purpose when the University was

reaching true international status. David was then appointed as Senior Secretary of the Universities Commission when this was first formed. He served firstly under Senator John Gorton.

Illness forced early retirement but his indomitable will forced him to continue to work on a voluntary basis for the National War Memorial. His services were always available to that body when ever specialist advice was required.

Despite his absences from Australia and his busy schedule of duties, David always took a keen interest in Association affairs and was a true member of our great Association.

So passes a truly great and memorable character whose efforts have provided the Australian community with much to remember. His editorship of that Official History Volume will ensure his name is preserved for posterity.

The 2/2 Commando Association has lost a truly memorable character and many of us have had a true friend taken from us.

David was the loving husband of Freda and loving father of his family. He was a great citizen of his chosen city, Canberra, and a pillar of any society.

Our most sincere sympathy to Freda and family and may time heal the wound of the passing of a loved one.

Vale David St. Alban Dexter, a mate true and a soldier supreme.

Col Doig

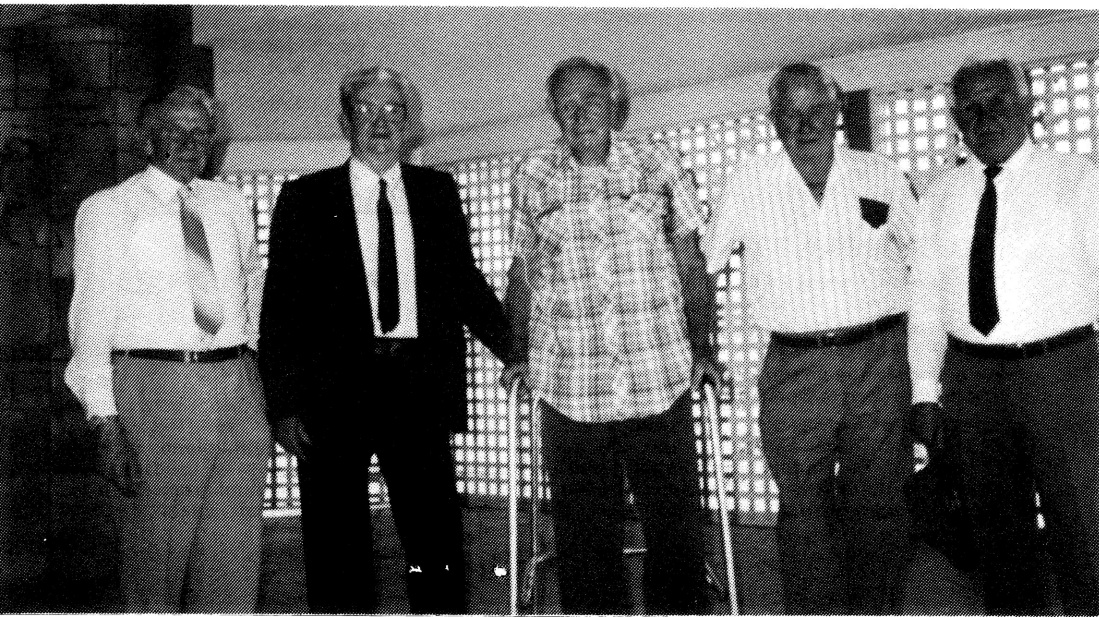
Snow Elmore has kindly written in from Tassie to advise of the passing of Lance Bomford (ex 2/40th) on 1st March last. A Vale for Lance will appear in the June Courier.

Tribute to a Mate

Jack Spencer was a much esteemed member of the 2/2 Commando Squadron in war time and as a member of the 2/2 Commando Association post war. His passing saw a large attendance of the Spencer family at our Commemoration Service in Kings Park — a moving gesture.

The photograph below, kindly sent to us by Jack's niece June Pow, shows, left to right, Vince Swann, Eric Thornander, Jack Sheehan, Stan Payne, Peter Campbell who represented the Association at Jack's funeral in Kalgoorlie. Between them they travelled hundreds of kilometres to pay their respects. To you men, a special thanks from us all for your endeavours. They made sure one of our old original members, Jack Sheehan, was a part of the representing team, and doesn't he look fine! Over the years Jack has been an integral part of life in Kalgoorlie. Early he operated the world famous 'two-up school' and was a real identity on the Goldfields. Later, his son took over, so the Sheehan name remained a by-word and 'two up' a real tourist attraction.

Archie Campbell



VALE LES ISENHOOD

We regret to announce that Les Isenhood passed away on the 20th February last.

Les, who lived most of his life in the Newcastle district, came from a big family of 8 boys and 5 girls. In his earlier days he was a fine sportsman, and played Rugby League for the Central League, South Newcastle and Cardiff Clubs. A 'pocket' Hercules, his power and speed made him a formidable winger and a hard man to stop once he had possession of the ball. Later, Les proved to be a decided asset in the Unit's Rugby team which enjoyed much success in its army encounters.

Les joined the Unit in New Guinea and served in that campaign with the sappers. In New Britain he served in No. 1 Section. Les was a good soldier and was well respected by his mates.

In civvy life Les worked as a storeman with the Collie Engineers at Carrington, a suburb of Newcastle. He continued in this capacity with other companies in the area and later was employed in the Education Department in Newcastle until his retirement. Les was very active in church affairs associated with the St. Thomas Church of England in Cardiff. Unfortunately, ill health plagued him in his later years thus curtailing a very active life, a tribulation which he bore with great fortitude.

Andy Beveridge, Cisco Coles, Snow Went and Paddy Kenneally represented our Association at his funeral at Newcastle on Monday, 24th February. The Minister conducting the service, who had been a close friend of the family for over 25 years, stressed the devotion, love and close ties of the family and the fine example Les and Gloria had always given their four daughters.

To his widow Gloria, daughters Vicki, Dianne, Gail, Leonie and all the Isenhood family, we extend our sincere condolences on their sad loss. **Les We Forget.**

Paddy Kenneally

The responsibility of the Trustees is to preserve the integrity of the Fund and its distribution during its life of 5 years, terminating 31st December, 1997.

The objective is to assist Timorese children in East Timor. The trustees require to identify the most worthy and practical areas. Categories targeted are principally Education, Agriculture and Sport.

Distribution Suggestion

A list of names and contact detail is being compiled for those persons who could be invited to submit recommendations for fund distribution. Also essentially the method to ensure safe receipt of benefit.

Acknowledgements to Paddy Kenneally who recommended Medical Supplies. Considerable merit, but our plans could be prejudiced by Indo Administration, suspicious that we could be supporting subversive groups.

Mission schools would appear a logical channel.

Donations

All individual donations will be listed in the Courier. Anonymous donors could specify a nom de plume for publication. Please show whether for (a) a first and final donation, or (b) the first of four to follow.

Taxation Deduction

Following his enquiry John Poynton advises unfortunately "NO."

Correspondence

Please address to:

**The Chairman
Independent Trust Fund
Box T1646 GPO
Perth W.A. 6001**

Thank you for your donations and suggestions.

**Bob Smyth
Chairman**

INDEPENDENT TRUST FUND

The 50th Anniversary of the formation of our Unit is a significant occasion to recognise a race of people who were incredibly loyal to those of our members who served on Timor.

We acknowledge and thank all contributions to date for receipts which exceed \$5700.

I am pleased to advise that John Burrridge and Ross Shenn have agreed to join me as Trustees of the Independent Trust Fund. Thanks to John Poynton, Treasurer to the Trust and John Burrridge as Auditor.

PORT MACQUARIE NATIONAL SAFARI — 13TH-23RD MARCH, 1992

The opening day saw people arriving from all points of the compass, including New Guinea. They came by bus, train, plane, car and caravan. Thirty West Aussies used the 'Red Eye Special' midnight flight from Perth via Melbourne, Sydney, then coach to Port

Macquarie, a 16 hour jaunt without sleep. The effort made by all to be there was proof positive that "age does not weary them."

Welcome Barbecue — Friday 13th

The N.S.W. boys put on a great show with ample food, refreshments and warmth of welcome which most certainly put the show on the road to success. May the warmth and affection of the welcome ever be a hallmark of our 2/2 Commando Association.

Buffet Tea — Saturday 14th

This was held in the Port Macquarie R.S.L. Club where we gathered for pre-buffet drinks after which 172 happy people sat down to a beautiful meal. This was a bumper start to our Safari activities.

Remembrance Service — Port Macquarie Cenotaph — Monday 16th

This service was dedicated to the memory of our FALLEN COMRADES and deceased members and those who served in Timor or New Guinea or New Britain, and the other ARMS AND SERVICES which supported the Unit in its operations.

The march to the Cenotaph saw the boys turn in a super effort. The television coverage supported this. Old soldiers never die, they just march better each year!! We were well supported by the HASTINGS DISTRICT PIPE BAND.

Order of proceedings was:

- (1) Wreath laying by President, Alan Luby, Alderman J. Barrett, Mayor, and others.
- (2) Address by Tom Nisbet.
- (3) Last Post — Ode to the Fallen — Reveille.
- (4) National Anthem.

A Catafalque Party of boys and girls of the 208 CADET UNIT, led by O.C. Alison Deegenars did a good job and received a round of applause as they marched from their posts.

We had the full support of the Police Force and the people of Port Macquarie who gave us a rousing welcome which was a great morale booster.

The OFFICIAL LUNCHEON at the R.S.L. Club was attended by 200 members and guests who sat down at the beautifully adorned tables to enjoy a superb repast provided by the catering staff of the Club.

The TOAST LIST — Remembrance, Arch Campbell, Grace, Harry Handicott, Loyal Toast, Max Miller. Welcome to Guests and Members, Alan Luby. The Unit, Tom Nisbet. Response, Colin Doig. Absent Friends, Ralph Conley. Response to Guests and Members, Alderman John Barrett, Mayor of the Municipality of Hastings. Toastmaster, Ron Trengove.

PRESENTATION OF LIFE MEMBERSHIP BADGES

N.S.W.: Frank O'Neill, Frank Sharp, Jack Keenahan, Col Holley, Roy Martin, Ted Cholerton.

Queensland: Neil Hooper, George Vandeleur.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

We are indebted to the prime mover and organiser of this function, Mrs Janette Hyde, Functions Co-ordinator for the Port Macquarie R.S.L. Club. She did a grand job and a presentation was made to her on our behalf by Alan Luby.

Cruise on the Hastings River —

Wednesday 18th

The day was fine for the trip to a bird sanctuary up river. The boat was fully loaded with a carefree band of the 2/2nd, all intent on enjoying the excellent scenery the glorious Hastings River has to offer. The well drilled crew of the good ship 'Port Venture' dispensed hospitality and friendliness from start to finish. Our barbecue lunch at the sanctuary was all anyone could ask for and we even won the battle of the mosquitoes when we were provided with spray to quell the invaders!

During the scenic trip home we traversed the canal settlements with their lovely homes. THE PORT certainly has a lot to offer us, with this river cruise an outstanding attraction.

Coach Trip around the coast to Laurieton — Friday 20th

Three large, very comfortable coaches took us for a great scenic drive to Laurieton, a neat and tidy town adjacent to the Camden Haven River. On the way we called in to Lake Cathie Bowling Club where we were treated to a first class morning tea of scones, jam and cream and other goodies. We all enjoyed meeting many of the friendly members of the club who looked after us and made our visit such a happy one.

We then travelled through a few fine pieces of real estate with some beautiful homes and ocean scenes of rare beauty. On arrival at Laurieton we explored the locality to the mouth of the Camden Haven River at Dunbogan. Thence to the fine complex of the Laurieton Service Club to partake of the refreshments and a beautifully presented seafood luncheon. Such was the hospitality that we stayed a while longer than planned and missed a visit to the town of Wauchope. However, we did go to the peak of the North Brother Mountain, part of the Great Dividing Range. What a vista of beauty opened up to us, it was a panorama with unsurpassed views of Laurieton and the coast line way back to Port Macquarie, while on the other side the well known town of Taree was visible. This majestic view alone was worth the coach trip. A tired and happy group voted it a superb day.

Saturday 21st

A free day. A few were guests at the Port Macquarie Bowling Club and enjoyed an entertaining and lively afternoon.

Racing fans were catered for by the Taree Race Club which held a meeting at Port Macquarie race course. We were given the honour of having a race named Timor Handicap. Some came away with pockets a little heavier but in the main not too much damage was done and the generosity of the Taree Race Club and the warmth of their welcome was appreciated by everyone.

In the evening we were treated to another great buffet tea at the R.S.L. Club, after which Alan Luby invited Colin Doig to compere the presentation segment for those men and women who had made an outstanding contribution to the organising of the Safari. They left no stone unturned in their endeavours to cater for the tastes of all and what a grand job they did. Colin called on two of our ladies, long time stalwarts of the Association, Jess Epps and Dot Harrington to make the presentations to Edith Luby, Amyce Handicott, Marj Peattie, Betty Craig, Marg. Cooper, Dorothy Trengove and Maria Hartley (received by Jack). Then it was the turn of Len Bagley, a long time tireless worker for the Association and Theo Adams, a strong supporter of the Association all the way from New Guinea, to make presentations to Alan Luby (Leader of the Force), Harry Handicott, Jack Hartley, Jack Peattie, Leith Cooper, Ron Trengove. A special presentation was made to Todd Roods, a Director of the Port Macquarie R.S.L., for the invaluable assistance and advice he gave to the Safari organisers. His help was greatly appreciated by all who attended the Safari.

Colin Doig wound up this delightful part of the evening by thanking all who contributed, with his usual well chosen words.

Elsie Wares thanked the Association on behalf of the widows with her usual charm and sincerity.

Farewell Barbecue — Sunday 22nd

Continual rain this morning threw plans for an evening barbecue in the caravan park out of gear. Not to be deterred, Alan Luby contacted Todd Roods, a Director of the R.S.L. Club, who solved the problem by making the Hibbard Sports Centre available to us from 4pm to 7pm and also providing the R.S.L. Club bus to get us there and back. Todd and Greg Wilcocks, the Operations Manager of the Club proved to be a tower of strength and nothing was too much trouble for them. The Sports Centre was an ideal venue for our barbecue and Derek Napier, the Bar Manager and his staff dispensed friendly and competent service at the Bar. We were made to feel most

welcome — a fine gesture, typical of the hospitality showered upon us by the people of the Port.

The time for farewells came all too soon and of course members became a little emotional. The love of a family is a wonderful thing and this Association is truly one big family. God bless you all, may you be spared to visit Perth in 1994, there to pick up the threads of mateship in a true bond of friendship.

Au Revoir dear friends, may life treat you all very kindly.

Archie Campbell

SAFARI HIGHLIGHTS

The Organisers

The Safari team, led by Alan Luby, turned in an effort of high quality. You all did us proud. You not only sold the Safari to us but made the town of Port Macquarie one of the "will ye no come back again" towns. Our thanks to you all for a first class presentation of Safari 1992.

Port Macquarie R.S.L. Club

This became home to us for ten days and what a time they gave us. Nothing was too much trouble. Their hospitality, great venue, efficient and courteous house staff and catering division were instrumental in making our Safari the huge success it was. To you all, our thanks — your contribution was a highlight.

Charlie (Pidgin) Pierce

What a gutsy performance Charlie turned in to be with us, coming all the way from Port Hedland, W.A. He travelled by plane, coach and wheel chair and it was a lesson to us all in grit, fortitude and patience, displaying Charlie's affection for the Association and its members. We salute you old timer and also your lovely friend Helen Dickson and her son Clinton who were responsible for helping you to make the trip. Thank you Helen — you are now a real part of us.

Theo Adams

All the way from the New Guinea highlands of Goroka. His personality is infectious, his presence very much appreciated. We thank him for undertaking the long haul and also for his generous gift of a packet of New Guinea coffee for everyone. Our love to Theo's wife and family who were unable to be present.

Our Ladies

This dedicated group join their menfolk in great support of our every function, lend a hand wherever necessary and are a real leaning post for those who are a little fragile. We love them the more for their interest and loyalty. May the years treat them kindly.

Family Groups and Friends

It was great to see the King and Cholerton families, friends of the Association members, joining us in all our activities. This family interest points to a continuation in the future of our Association. We welcome you all with great warmth.

Long Time No See

It was good to see one of the old originals, Jack Stafford and his wife Helen who joined us for the Hastings River cruise.

Russ Blanche — although he was at the 50th Anniversary in July, this was his first attendance at a Safari. Good to see you Russ, keep coming.

It was a pleasant surprise to catch up with Sam Fullbrook and his wife at the Official Luncheon.

Curly O'Neill is another old mate we don't see too often and it was a pleasure to have him along.

Amyce Handicott

This talented and lovely lady worked for long hours making the serviette rings with the red double diamond displayed, and a card with pressed flowers as a welcome gift to all the ladies.

Patsy and Max Thatcher were two from Victoria who experienced their first Safari. Patsy is writing a thesis on the Timorese people and has been deeply involved with them. Recently she and Max visited East Timor to get further background and understanding of the whole situation. They are charming people who entered into the spirit of all our functions.

Embassy of Portugal, Canberra

Mr G.W.L. Tropman
Hon Sec/Treasurer
Australian Commando Association
16 Albert St
Ingleburn NSW 2565

On behalf of the Ambassador of Portugal, called on duty in Lisbon, I would like to thank you very much, Sir, for the care and interest the Australian Commando Association has expressed on behalf of the people of East Timor and their right to live in peace in their own country according to their wishes.

Your readiness to act on behalf of the East Timorese was received with great appreciation. As your gesture becomes known in East Timor, it will certainly provide comfort for those who, still at odds with the delinquency of a foreign ruler, will have proof that old friends in Australia still care about them and will not allow their plight and

suffering to be concealed from public attention.

Let me express to your Sir, on behalf of my Ambassador and myself, our deepest appreciation for your feelings and for the interest the former members of Commando Squadrons and Special Units have dedicated to this noble cause.

Yours sincerely,

Joao Perestrelo Cavaco
Charge d'Affaires a.i.

Colonel P.D. Gibbons, AM,
Royal Military College
Duntroon A.C.T.

Dear Mr Carey,

Thank you for your letter responding to my article in the 'Listening Post' regarding the 'Munja Fighting Patrol.'

To date I have received some valuable information about the patrol from both ex members and others familiar with Major Mitchell's unit 3 Australian Guerilla Warfare Group. Your letter has provided yet another piece to the jigsaw which now nears completion.

I appreciate your efforts in assisting me to 're-create' the patrol. Should anything regarding the patrol come to light I would welcome the information. I shall be informing people of how the patrol went on its completion, through the 'Listening Post' amongst others.

Regards

Doug Gibbons

CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

S. Marsh
17 McGough Street
Glenorchy 7010

I will be pleased to be part of the Trust Fund.

Bert Price, Joan and I attended a Memorial Service at the Cenotaph for the East Timorese people. Bert gave a very good talk on the experience in East Timor.

Met up with Denny Dennis while he was in Hobart. He and June are not in the best of health.

Enclosed is a donation towards the Courier.

Regards to all.

Syd

BOB SMYTH'S ROGUES GALLERY — SEQUENCE 21



Eric Herd



Andy Beveridge



John ("Snow") Went



Max Bowden



George Strickland



Peter Campbell



Don May



Gerry Green

A. MacLachlan
37 Arrowsmith Street
Camp Hill 4152

Better late than never, I guess. Should have forwarded the Sunshine State's seasons greetings before this. We wish our large family all over Australia all they wish themselves.

We had our Christmas breakup early in December. Thanks to Ralph and Sheila Conley for the venue. Inclement weather stopped us from parading around the pool which gave us more time for eating. Thanks to Neil and Margaret Hooper for the prawns, they were the best I have tasted for many a long year. Thanks to all the ladies for making it a most enjoyable day. Present were Ralph and Sheila Conley, Neil and Margaret Hooper, Butch and Pat Barnier, George and Bettye Coulson, Tony and Iris Adams, Col and Jeanette Andrews, Ron Archer, Mel Mathieson, Alex and Esse Veovodin, Dorothy and Gordon Gibson, Murvin Murphy, Angus, Win and Alastair MacLachlan. Apologies — George and Edna Vandeleur, Gordon and Joan Stanely, Betty Host.

Nothing changes much on the home front. Droughts and floods throughout our fair state. I think the weather has decided to be in the same state as everything else in the country. Let's hope 1992 is a much better year.

Sick Parade, apart from minor ailments, is on the small side. We have Alan Soper in hospital in Brisbane, having radium treatment. Talked to Alan today and he is his usual cheerful self. Says he will be lining up in March at Port Macquarie. Yours truly is making slow but sure progress. Doc tells me, from blood tests, that everything that should go up is going up and likewise for everything that should be going down. Doc said it was the best birthday present he could give me.

That's all for now. Looking forward to March for the big gathering.

Best wishes to all.

Angus

K. Carthew
18 Brixton Road
Elizabeth North 5113

Please find enclosed a cheque being for a copy of the Pictorial Supplement.

Have sent a list of names of 6 Section to Fred Broadhurst at his request.

Regards

Kel

Mrs F. Willis
23 Gardiner Street
Belmont 6104

A few lines to inform you of my change of address. My husband was Bill Willis who left us, sadly, nearly five years ago.

Many thanks for forwarding the Courier to me. Enclosed is a donation.

Yours sincerely

Flo Willis

W.J. Connell
17 Stuart Street
Cleveland 4163

Just a few lines after all these years. I don't do much these days and that includes letter writing and yet I wrote nearly every day whilst in the army.

Am enclosing a cheque for a copy of the Pictorial Supplement and a donation. I enjoyed Col's book.

Sorry to hear about Ron Goodacre. Hope I can go as suddenly. I knew him well and had spoken to him by phone only a few months ago. His sister lives a few streets from me.

Hope I'm forgiven for leaving this letter so long. I would still be pleased to see any of you at my home, one or two at a time. You are always welcome.

Best regards.

Bill

Mrs E. Sharp
2 San Fernando Avenue
Portarlinton 3223

Am writing to order a Pictorial Supplement and enclosing cheque to cover same — use the rest as you see fit.

Wonderful news re Bill's eyes — the grafts were successful and he can come out of the grey mist and 'see the world' again, read the paper etc. With sight restored his health has improved to the stage that he can manage to water the garden, admittedly in stages, but nevertheless, a great improvement. He sends greetings and best wishes to all.

Many thanks to Jack Carey who sent Bill "The Independents." The gesture is appreciated and Bill enjoyed me reading it out and can now enjoy it from time to time.

Best wishes to all.

Eileen

Mrs M. Davies
491/31 Williams Road
Nedlands 6009

Dear Mr Carey,

Would you convey my sincere thanks to the President and members of the 2/2 Commando Association of Australia for their kind letter.

Ivan was dedicated to the work he was doing, and I feel proud that he was so highly regarded and able to achieve so much for War Widows and Veterans.

Thank you again.

Yours sincerely,

Mercy Davies

K.G. Wilson
1/198 Booker Bay Road
Booker Bay 2257

Dear Col,

I wish to notify you that my name was omitted from the manning list as shown in your marvellous 'History of the 2/2 Independent Company.' It was understandable as I made the second Keith Wilson in the Unit. I joined the Unit at Strathpine and served until the Unit was disbanded in New Britain.

My particulars: NX77745 Keith Graham Wilson — I was in 8 Section. Thomas Keith Wilson was in 9 Section. He used Keith.

Could you please arrange for me to receive a copy of the Pictorial Supplement. Am enclosing cheque to cover same, with the balance to go to Unit funds.

Best wishes and will see you soon.

Keith

J.E. Fenwick
71 Morgan Crescent
Curtin 2605

The last address I had for Jim Smith was 17/50 Hooker Bvd, Mermaid Waters 4218.

Have been looking forward to the Safari but am now a doubtful starter. Like many others I have had a few heart attacks over the years and am now on a strict diet to lose weight prior to a by-pass operation at Royal Prince Alfred, Sydney. If all goes well next week I should be on my target weight. Maybe I will make the Safari but am not holding my breath.

At least we have two new grand daughters so I can practice my nursing abilities.

My regards to all.

Jim

R.G. Snowden
4 Nilmar Avenue
Wodonga 3690

Warmest greetings to all W.A. members. I haven't very much news but have an awful guilty feeling that it is a long time since I sent any money towards the Courier so am enclosing a cheque. Like all ex 2/2nd members I look forward to receiving this great little paper at regular intervals.

Bruce Smith is living in Wodonga now and I run into him occasionally. He doesn't stand still for long but is usually away on a marathon bike ride or some such activity. Perhaps that's why he looks so fit and well.

I am retired and keeping good health so guess I am lucky.

As I said, not much news, but I hope the cheque helps to keep the printing press rolling.

Bob

Mrs J. Scott
6 Duke Street
Bentley 6102

Enclosed is a cheque towards the Independent Trust Fund. This is a very worthwhile project and I trust it will meet with great success.

I wish all members and their families a happy and healthy 1992, especially remembering all those who are hospitalised or ill in any way. May they soon be well.

Yours sincerely,

Joan

W.J. Elmore
19 Cadorna Street
Launceston 7250

A few lines to let you know we are still in the land of the living, only just, what with band aids and medication, but we have nothing to complain about.

Have seen a lot of Lance Bomford lately and his health is not the best.

We are celebrating the 50 years on the 22nd February, a special one, so hope everything goes off O.K. We have planted a gum tree near the Cenotaph as a growing memorial and it will be blessed on the Sunday morning.

My regards to all.

Wal and Isabel

Mrs J. Pow
22/1 Bardon Place
Maylands 6051

Dear Col,

On behalf of my family I wish to thank you for the eulogy you put in the December Courier for my late Uncle Jack Spencer.

Jack was a much loved member of our family and I and my sons made regular trips throughout the year to his camp at Balagundi to see how he was going. We understood his love of the bush and it was a great experience for us to holiday there with him and be at one with nature — to us he had the secret of life. Both my sons grew up to be good experienced bushmen and it was Jack who taught them their bushcraft and for this they are eternally gratefully as they take their families for trips into the bush whenever possible.

Last week my sons and I went out to Balagundi to his camp with his ashes as we knew that was where his spirit would be and we placed a memorial plaque on the gimlet tree which had given him shade for the past twenty years or more with the following caption:

*"The windlass stands idle,
 The bucket hangs limp"*

In loving memory of
JACK SPENCER
 1907 - 1991

Late 2/2nd Commandos
 Last of the old time prospectors

'Fly with the birds Jack!'

His devoted family the Pows.

The tree on which we placed the plaque was a huge gimlet and Jack used to place water in tins for the birds and early morning and late evening there would come hundreds of twenty eights, mulga parrots and other birds to drink.

Thank you once again. I enclose my donation cheque.

Sincerely,

June

A. Thomson
P.O. Box 145
Capel 6271

Hope everyone is well as we are.

Could we please have a copy of Pictorial Supplement. Have enclosed payment for same as well as a donation for the Courier.

Regards to all members and families.

Yours truly

Wyn and Alex

J. & A. Chatfield
59 Coolibah Avenue
Mandurah 6210

Please find enclosed a donation for the Association.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for the Courier. We realise the work that goes into this high standard publication, the lifeline of such a wonderful Association. Many thanks to all helpers, especially Len, Betty and Gavin.

Allan and I are fortunate to be going to Port Macquarie and we are really looking forward to saying hello to old friends as well as new.

Thank you for everything. Wishing all good health and happiness.

Yours truly,

Joy and Allan

S. Parker
63 Tyndale Street
Mittagong 2575

Enclosed is my first contribution to the Independent Trust Fund. I'm sure Norm would be pleased as I am to know of this scheme and that, as Australians, we acknowledge our indebtedness to the Timorese people. At least they are not forgotten by the 2/2nds!

I was appalled by the massacre at Dili but so glad that Four Corners made a documentary about it. It is to be hoped the Indonesian Government will be sensitive to such publicity and that persistent outside pressure will cause them to change their policy regarding Timor.

Regards to all.

Sheila

P. Dunkley
10 Edith Road
Safety Bay 6169

Please find enclosed my cheque for \$250 being contribution to the Independent Trust Fund for the full five year period. We are grateful that we have the opportunity of contributing to this project.

May I offer sincere congratulations to all members of the Association on its 50th anniversary. May I say, also, that the 2/2 Commando Association has, through its members, and the Courier, provided comfort, support and love to all associated with it.

My mother, Jess, turns 92 in a few days time and is enjoying good health. She invariably refers to the men of 2 A.I.C. as 'those

handsome young men who went to Timor with your father! Well, I'm certainly not brave enough to tell her she's wrong!!

All is well with Barbara and me, Barb still teaching Physical Education at Rockingham Senior High School and I'm still at B.H.P. Our boys seem to be getting it all together, Hamish in the mining and exploration field, operating in the Kalgoorlie area, and Jock studying at Geraldton T.A.F.E.

Barb and I had three months in Canada and the U.S. recently, which we enjoyed immensely, great scenery, great people and we loved it all — but how happy and proud we are to be Oz!

Again, congratulations to the Association — in war time the activities of the Unit were legendary and in time of peace, it has set a wonderful example.

My best wishes to you all.

Pip

W. Tobin
PO Box 311
Camberwell 3124

My mother is looking forward to Port Macquarie a great deal.

A donation for the Courier is enclosed. Thank you for the forms in regard to the Timor Trust Fund. I'm investigating ways of finding further finance for such a worthy cause.

I trust 1992 will be a happy and healthy year for all the wonderful people who are directly and/or indirectly associated with the 2/2 Commando Association.

Warwick

R. Harrington
Box 35
Bolgart 6568

Please accept our cheque in relation to the Independent Trust Fund. I don't doubt there will be a substantial fund achieved and feel the idea is most worthy.

We are preparing for the trip east, picking up Pat and Peter Campbell then taking a leisurely trip over, the four of us in our Landcruiser with the idea of doing a bit of sight-seeing after the Safari and getting back in April.

Kind regards.

Reg

R.E.L. Archer
36 Soudan Street
Toowong 4066

It is thought that the attached would be of interest to members and probably not known to many. The second part of chapter 10 gives details as to WHY the Japanese never intended to invade Australia.

I have written to the publishers of "HMAS ARMIDALE THE SHIP THAT HAD TO DIE" and have their authority to publish the attached provided, and I quote: *"All we ask is that the publications concerned acknowledge that the extract is from the book and that it is available from Kingfisher Press, PO Box 71, Budgewoi NSW 2262 at a cost of \$20 plus \$5 for packaging and postage."*

This week I visited Alan Soper, presently in a private hospital in Brisbane. Frankly, he 'looks 100%' — a go man go' type — still talks about the great time he had at Phillip Island.

All the best to all members — cheers.

Ron

"HMAS Armidale The Ship That Had To Die"

(Part of Chapter Ten)

Despite all the heroism, all the hardships, all the sacrifices and all the casualties, the supreme irony of the entire Timor operation is that it was quite unnecessary. The Australians fighting on Timor and the men in the ships and planes supplying them believed that at best they were keeping a foothold in Timor so the Allies could eventually retake it from the Japanese; at the very least they were preventing the Japanese from using it as a base from which to invade Australia. On both counts they were wrong.

While the Armidale men were struggling to survive and the soldiers ashore in Timor were fighting a desperate rear guard action, a committee of senior officers was meeting in Australia preparing a plan for the recapture of Timor, called "Madrigal." The plan was prepared for the Chiefs of Staff following a request from the Advisory War Council. The plan they drew up was in two phases. The first envisaged a landing at Koepang, and the second was to use that as a base to capture the rest of Timor some time between April and October 1943. The minimal naval forces needed, according to "Madrigal," were one battleship, three aircraft carriers, eight heavy cruisers, two light cruisers, 22 destroyers, six LSI's (Landing Ships Infantry), six troopships and six cargo ships — quite a mark-up on two corvettes. It would also need three infantry divisions and substantial air cover — also quite an advance on two independent companies and a few Hudson and Beaufighters.

When the Australian Commander-in-Chief, General Thomas Blamey, learned of the Advisory War Council's request, he wrote on the terms of reference: "Many years of training have produced in me a dislike of profanity in writing. This alone prevents me from giving my complete opinion of this imbecility." Later, in a memorandum to the Secretary of Defence, dated December 19, 1942, he said: "I have no hesitation in saying that the preparation of the scheme for the capture of Timor is, at the present juncture, a pure waste of time."

General Macarthur took one look at the plan and on January 25, 1943, said politely but firmly that he did not have such resources to retake Timor. The Japanese had control of the seas in that area and an airborne attack was out of the question. Any plans for retaking Timor, he said, were of necessity a long-range project. It was for this reason that it was decided to pull the remaining Australians out of Timor. By February 10, 1943, the last of the Australians had been evacuated, except for a small intelligence unit.

(NOTE: On the second count the Japanese never intended to invade Australia — from Timor, New Guinea or anywhere else).

**65 Upward Street
Leichardt NSW 2040**

19th February, 1992

Dear 2/2nders,

Well fifty years ago today the Japs landed on you and took on more than they bargained for!

With all the WW2 50th anniversaries going on I thought readers may like to know of one marked in Tasmania, **17TH DEC 1941**, when yourselves "invaded" the neutral territory of Portuguese Timor. I was in Hobart visiting relatives for Xmas '91 and there was a very moving wreath-laying ceremony at the Cenotaph. A bishop and various politicians (including Michael Hodgeman) were there and spoke, as I did myself, but the show was stolen by Bert Price, a 2/40th bloke who had nearly all of us in tears.

In one of those odd coincidences of which life is full, 17th December is also my grandfather's birthday and afterwards my mother, grandmother (his widow) and my daughter visited his grave (he died in 1968) at nearby Carnelian Bay. He'd been a 2/40th "Kupanger" who'd trudged over to you in the east in February '42 and stayed til December, Arthur Hickman (TX2597), a very quiet reliable man, nearly bald after Timor, but with a big red beard! Knowing him had been one of the best things in my childhood, and I'm forever

grateful to his mates and to the Timorese for having kept him alive.

While in Tassie it was a pleasure to see Lance Bomford again (a mate of my grandfather "Art"). He's pretty thin and has to spend a while a day breathing oxygen, but his eyes are bright and he's good company. St Annes is a cheerful place, he has some good mates there and nearby family and friends.

On 7th December '91 here in Sydney we also had a gathering and the Timorese (many of the women here were kids whose parents helped you in '42) were so pleased to be joined by Australian veterans (Alan Luby, Jack Hartley and Paddy Kenneally were there as well as some 2/4th blokes). It being the anniversary of Pearl Harbour, as well as their invasion by Indonesia, made it certainly a day for grief! The Cathedral service was very moving. Young Timorese read the prayers with broad Australian accents. Then afterwards a silent procession of thousands dressed in black through the Xmas shopping crowds of Saturday Sydney may have made a few people pause to think.

The book I've been plodding away at for the last few years ("Timor Lest/e") will be out in June, it's an oral history concentrating mainly on what the Timorese have been through in the past fifty years, but there are also some lively accounts of incident and action by some of yourselves, 2/40th, 2/4th and "Z" blokes. An ABC series ("Australia and East Timor: A Debt To Repay") based on it, recently won the Human Rights Award for radio documentary.

Usually I read friends or my grandmother's copy of the "Courier" but really should subscribe myself so now I'm writing to you I'll include payment and a request for subscription.

Yours sincerely,

Michele Turner

DONATIONS

Wilf March, J. Pow (Jack Spencer), Bruce Poynton, Beryl Smith, Bill Connell (Qld), Dorothy Gibson, Vince Walsh, Bob Snowden, Alex Thomson, Flo Willis, Peter Mantle, Gwenda Kirkwood, George Veitch, Michele Turner, Charlie King, Keith Wilson, Allan Chatfield, Mal Lindsay, Bill Sharp, Kath Press, Keith and Nola Wilson, Cisco Coles, Mark Jordan, Alf Harper, Ralph Conley, Alastair MacLachlan, George Shiels, Keith Blomeley, Jack Hartley, George Coulson, Arch Claney.

The following was written by a Griffith High School student:

*I saw a kid marchin', with medals on his chest,
He marched alongside Diggers, marching six
abreast,
He knew that it was Anzac Day — he walked
along with pride
He did his best to keep in step with Diggers by
his side.*

*And when the march was over, the kid was
rather tired
A Digger said: 'Whose medals son!' to which
the kid replied
'They belong to daddy but he did not come
back
He died up in New Guinea on a lonely jungle
track.'*

*The kid looked rather sad then and a tear came
to his eye
The Digger said 'Don't cry my son and I will tell
you why
Your daddy marched with us today — all the
bloomin' way
We Diggers know that he was there — it's like
that on Anzac Day.'*

*The kid looked rather puzzled and didn't
understand
But the Digger went on talking and started to
wave his hand
'For this great land we live in there's a price we
have to pay
And for this thing called freedom the Diggers
had to pay.'*

*'For we all love fun and merriment in the
country where we live
The price was that some soldier his precious
life must give
For you to go to school my lad, and worship
God at will
Someone had to pay the price so the Diggers
paid the bill.'*

*'Your daddy died for us my son — for all things
good and true
I wonder if you can understand the things I've
said to you.'
The kid looked up at the Digger — just for a
little while
And with a changed expression said, with a
lovely smile:*

*'I know my daddy marched here today — this,
our Anzac Day
I know he did — I know he did — all the
bloomin' way ...'*

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

LANGRIDGE, Mr B. C.
Bernie and Babs
18 Pleasant grove Circle
Mandurah 6210
New phone number 582 2166

WALSH, Mr V. A.
Vince
1/67 St Paul's St
Randwick 2031
(02) 399 5998

MACKEY, Mr R. A.
Retirement Village
96 Bowker St
Warradale 5046

SMITH, Mr J. R.
Jim
17/50 Hooker Bvd
Mermaid Waters 4218

WILLIS, Mrs F.
23 Gardiner St
Belmont 6104

HERD, Mr E.
Eric and Lorraine
2 Grevillea Units
Hemingway Place
Iluka 2460
(066) 46 6436

SICK PARADE

Keith Dignum has a leg problem and will be hospitalised on the 23rd April. Unfortunately he and Betty had to miss the Safari. We all wish you the best Keith and trust the operation brings you back to A1 mobility.

Joe Poynton has had an artificial knee joint replacement in his right leg and will be in Hollywood for a few weeks. Joe is not looking forward to the knee bending therapy coming up and reckons bending the elbow is a far more pleasant pastime.

Laurie Tapper is laid up in the Shenton Park Annexe with a severe circulation problem in his left leg. He is likely to be there for some time.

Doc Wheatley has caught the Ross River Virus which is trimming him up no end.

Our popular Queensland members, **Angus MacLachlan** and **Alan Soper** are showing great courage and spirit in their battle against cancer. Our thoughts and prayers are with Angus, Alan and their families in their time of trial.

ADDITIONS

TURNER, Mrs M.
Michele
65 Upward St
Leichardt 2040
(02) 560 0682

MacLACHLAN, A.
Alastair
151 Nursery Rd
Holland Park 4121

The above information will enable you to keep your address books up to date. It takes only a few minutes every two months to insert the changes and additions and saves considerable time when you wish to communicate with other members.
