



# 2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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

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Price 1c

## COMING EVENTS

### COUNTRY CONVENTION — WONGAN HILLS

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, September 18-20th

#### Accommodation Details

Wongan Hills Hotel: Double or Twin \$34.00 per day  
Single \$22.50 per day

Bookings 096-711 022 — Penne or Peter Treleaven  
(Mention Stan Sadler's name for these special prices)

#### Wongan Hills Caravan Park

Private Facilities \$13 per day

Ordinary Sites \$11 per day

(All including power)

Bookings 096-711 009 — Karen Buller

#### ITINERARY

##### Friday

Travel to Wongan 6pm — Casserole Tea at Stan & Blanches Sadler's home.

##### Saturday

10am Bus stour of Wongan and Hills to the west

Light luncheon at Charles & Mavis Sadler's home

Afternoon free

Evening — Dinner at the Wongan Hills Hotel.

##### Sunday

11am Travel to Don & Chris Sadler's farm for barbecue and refreshments.

Evening meal in Wongan. Counter meal available at Hotel.

Own arrangements.

##### Monday

Travel home

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#### MENS ANNUAL DINNER

11.00am Friday October 16th

at Lions Club Hall, Park Road, Mandurah.

BE THERE TO ENJOY SOME SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY!

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**VALE 'BRUSS' FAGG — SOLDIER & CITIZEN**

Northampton citizen Frederick Cecil Fagg, whose motto was obviously 'Service in peace time as in war time' passed away in the local hospital on June 14, 1992.

Affectionately known as 'Bruss' because of a Christmas dinner conversation on a farm in the Binnu area that involved the picking of Bussell sprouts on the family farm in England, he had celebrated his 83rd birthday on January 20.

Born in Kent in 1909, 'Bruss' migrated from England 64 years ago at the age of 19 and served in Timor with the 2nd Independent Company. It is impossible to over-emphasise the Unit's achievement against the Japanese in Timor in 1941-42 and 'Bruss' never flinched in his endeavours aimed at due recognition of the wonderful support the Company received from the Timorese. Even in the final stage of his life, he used the hospital phone in an attempt to obtain news media support for the current plight of the Timorese.

Returning to Northampton after the War, 'Bruss' served as President Secretary and Treasurer of the local Sub-Branch of the RSL and was inundated with congratulations when awarded Life Membership of the League. He played a leading role in the establishment of the Memorial Hall and Pioneer Lodge and also served on the Hospital Board.

Predeceased by his wife Joyce in August 1972, he was in charge of the Water Supply at Northampton prior to his retirement.

Despite his ever troublesome right leg, caused by tropical ulcers that began in Timor, 'Bruss' always had a cheery word when renewing old acquaintances — especially if they were members of his old army unit.

His funeral was held at Northampton on June 18, with a service in the Anglican Church where the Rev. Peter Harris gave a heart-warming eulogy extolling the many virtues of 'Bruss'. Tom Fosster, who served in Timor with 'Bruss' paid the following tribute:

*WX10825 BRUSS FAGG. I feel humbled and privileged on this solemn occasion to represent his wartime unit, the 2/2 Commando Squadron, whose members convey, through me, their condolences to his bereaved family and relations. I have only known 'Bruss' Fagg the Soldier, although his excellent community efforts over the post-war years are well recorded.*

*To share extreme adversity with someone is a unique opportunity to observe human nature at its limits. We, as a unit, had this privilege and came to know him as a reliable comrade in arms courageous, with a selfless sense of duty, always willing to do more than his share no matter the cost. Where else would you expect to find the 'Bruss' Fagg that you knew, at the time of national peril, other than confronting the enemy and pulling his weight in helping to change what was regarded as Australia's darkest hour into what history has recorded as one of Australia's finest hours. He was*

*a true ANZAC of the highest tradition and will be sadly missed. Well done 'Bruss'. Rest in peace old mate.*

The Rev. Peter Harris also conducted the service at the graveside where the RSL section involving the Remembrance Poppy was in the capable hands of President Doug Gordon.

**PETER BARDEN**

**T. Adams Box 1 Goroka P.N.G.**

We, and especially our family, have lost and will miss very much that special man Angus.

Angus was always there to meet us on arrival in Brisbane, volunteering accommodation and all kinds of assistance.

The funeral service was well attended by many relatives and friends. The 2/2 was represented by Tony & Iris Adams, Col. & Jeanette Andrew, Ron Archer, Butch & Pat Barnier, Fred Bryant, Ralph & Sheila Conley, George & Bettye Coulson, Neil & Margaret Hooper, Spud Murphy, Fred & Ellen Otway, Gordon & Joad Stanley, George & Edna Vandeleur and one other could be Paddy Wilby but not sure.

Angus took part in the Brisbane Anzac March in a wheelchair, it was something he had to do. Only nine days later he was in a bigger parade above. I flew down on the day after being phoned by Win. She is a wonderful woman and made our mate very happy the last few years.

The following eulogy was composed and read by Angus' daughter, Anne.

Ralph Conley spoke on behalf of the unit and we placed poppies on the casket which was draped with his favourite flag.

Kind regards to all.

**Theo.**

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*For a man who could successfully argue that black was white, one of his most notable sayings was "I was born at a very young age".*

*Angus was surely born with a laugh rather than a cry. He was the youngest of six sons and a daughter to Walter and Margaret.*

*As a boy he always believed he was the same age and size as the rest of the family — this led him into a lot of trouble as he was the one who always volunteered to do the most dangerous pranks just so he wouldn't be left out. Parachuting from a great height with just a sheet in his hands to break his fall is one example of his mischievous activities.*

*He must have been the boy destined to put laughter lines and grey hairs on any mother. One never to stand up to his Mum, he would still do what he wanted, such as wearing the most hated school shoes as far as an unseen part of the street and then hiding them under a tree to collect on his way home. Thus he made Mum happy and also was able to stay bare footed.*

*His teachers must have had the patience of a saint*

when faced with a young lad who thought football was more important than sitting for scholarship. It was at school that he also upset the young girls — especially one called Win Bridge — by rubbing his bare feet up and down the floor boards.

He was a freedom loving lad who enjoyed the great outdoors and not conforming to regimented rules. Even during the war years he was to follow this mode of life. He has numerous friends who could recount the scraps he got into, the fun he enjoyed and the way he would ignore pain that would lay most of us low.

In 1945, he had the courage to ask for the hand of Lois Clare in Marriage and as he would say, he also took the rest of her. It was a marriage full of love, laughter and lots of discussions. Two daughters, Janette and Ann, were born to this happy couple.

Angus was a very family oriented man and became highly involved with any of his daughters' interests. So loved was he by kids in the street it was usual for one lad to ask Lois if "Mr Mac" could come out to play. This love of children was to continue with his four grandchildren — Kylie, Anita, Robert and Judith who loved nothing better than to play with Granddad.

His working life war varied and he would make even the most mundane tasks enjoyable.

He was a sign-writer, painter and customs officer. Not many people could say they had dived into the Brisbane river in their underclothes to rescue an unloved, drunken sailor - all part of the job was his comment.

After 37 very happy years, Angus lost his wife after a relatively short illness. He was a great strength to his whole family in this time. In his grief he was able to give great support to all those around him.

In 1988, Angus attended the 60th anniversary of the Rainworth State School — his old hunting ground. He obviously was still hunting as a certain "young" lady caught his eye. This lady was to become the next love of his life and her name was Winifred Dunstan (nee Bridge).

Not to be outdone by his earlier life — he took her on a date to meet the family of his elder daughter. A nice romantic night cruise up the river during Expo. Unfortunately, it ended up with Win standing in the Brisbane River up to her waist holding onto the boat. Thankfully win could see he had improved since his teenage days and she stayed around.

Once again he had to buck up the courage to propose and on June 30, 1990 he and Win had the most wonderful family wedding you could ever imagine.

Not only did he take on a new wife but two new daughters, two sons-in-law, and six grandchildren. In the short time they had together, Win and Angus shared a lifetime of love and happiness.

A new family bond was made in this time — there

weren't the Maclachlan and Dunstan girls — but "our" girls.

The family has many fond memories of this time even though Angus was ill or in pain for most of it. Parties and fun would be held round his bed and he was in top form.

The last few months were difficult for the family seeing a very energetic man become one who was dependent on others for nearly every task. Through all of this, right to the very end, he had his sense on humor, his quick wit and love for those around him.

Angus was a man to know and love.

As a father he gave his daughters the benefit of his sense of humour in the way he brought them up. They always knew they could count on him to say he was on night shift if it was something important they wanted him to attend — just to get them to bite. Needless to say he managed most times and then was the greatest supporter in whatever the girls were doing.

He always looked at his daughters as his little girls and they were never too big to sit on his lap and share their worries.

As much as he loved his sons-in-law, he did not make it easy for them when it came to their asking for his daughters in marriage, but they managed to have their fun with him — letting him fall out of the fishing boat in Moreton Bay — his biggest worry was would they rescue him from yet another watery problem.

The love and pride he felt in his family was never hidden — it was expressed in words, looks and deeds. The love he gave as a Dad was never questioned and has always been returned. Never will their love for him die.

As a Grandfather he was always there to watch the children achieve and to encourage them when they didn't quite reach their goals. he was a great listener and confidant, never was anything to trivial if they wanted to share it with him.

The patience he had with his little and not so little people had to be seen to be believed. He would blissfully allow the children to set his hair and chest-hair in rollers and never miss a beat in conversation with the adults around him.

He was very special to his Grandchildren and always found time for them. They remember with love the wonderful memories of their times together. He was a figure head for the children to look up to and he is part of what the Grandchildren are today.

Although they would have liked to spend more time with him — the time together was quality time. There are still many unasked questions his Grandchildren would have loved to discuss with him but they ran out of time.

Angus loved his Grandchildren dearly and likewise they loved him.

Angus' time with Lorraine's family was only a few short weeks, yet in that time they really knew him. As Lorraine says 'It takes a special sort of person to earn our love in such a very short time.'

*Annette was asked what it was like to have a Step-father. Four years ago a new man came into the extended Dunstan family's life. From the start he managed to fill the house with laughter and to entertain the children with his crazy stories. Angus had a very interesting life or a vivid imagination. As Annette's family got to know him more they realised there was more to this man than a sense of humour. In June 1990, Angus became a Step-father and Annette soon realised his capacity to love them all.*

*His love for his first wife, Lois, was obvious but in no way did it diminish his love for Win.*

*He always encouraged Annette to remember her Dad, Alan, and never asked that he take Alan's place, rather he moulded everyone into a new family — complete with old memories and new memories being formed.*

*In answer to the question, 'What is it like to be a Stepdaughter?' Annette says she doesn't know. Angus was and will always be her beloved DAD. As a Husband, Angus was a loving, caring person. Angus and Win's time together, though short, was one of laughter, love and full happiness....a memory to keep forever.*

*All of us give thanks to the Lord to giving us the privilege to know and to love a very special man.*

## QUEENSLAND NEWS

We have to sadly advise the loss of three members and the widow of another.

Jim Foot who had lived in Prosperpine for some time passed away on 13th July. Colin Grebert (originally 2/11 Fd. RAE Koepang) was cremated on 29th June after a long illness. Mel Mathieson, widow of George Mathieson, was farewelled at a service at Mt. Gravatt Crematorium on July 1st. Alan Soper passed away on 18th July after a long span of ill health.

Murvin (Spud) Murphy represented the Unit at Col. Greber's service because we were not advised quickly of his passing and their members of our Group had commitments on that day.

Neil & Margaret Hooper, Ron Archer, Butch & Pat Barnier, Sheila Conley and Alastair MacLachlan attended the service for Mel. Unfortunately I was out of town.

A barbecue and recce for accommodation, facilities etc. for the 1996 Safari in Queensland was enjoyed at Maroochydore/Mooloolaba (north of Brisbane) on the Sunshine Coast on Monday, 29th June. George Coulson and George Vandeleur live in the area.

We were careful to consider the ageing process (add 4 years) effects! We are sure all members will be happy with our final decision in due course. More about that later.

A great day was had by all, including George & Bettye Coulson, Butch & Pat Barnier, George & Edna Vandeleur, Tony & Iris Adams, Neil & Margaret Hooper, Ron Archer, Win MacLachlan,

Alastair MacLachlan, Ralph & Sheila Conley. After a gourmet morning tea hosted by the Coulsons at their attractive waterfront home at Maroochydore, we looked at various possible venues for the Safari. Then on George's local knowledge advice we partook of the most enjoyable meal of fish and chips from the Bat Harbour (fresh from the trawler) helped down with the odd glass of amber fluid etc. All in all a happy day together, albeit missing our old friends.

Cheers for now and our best wishes to all from the Queensland contingent.

Ralph Conley

## VICTORIAN NEWS

We had very nice weather on Anzac Day and the following were on deck, either marching or at the Combined Commando reunion after the march — Harry Botterill, Bruce McLaren, Ken Monk, Alf Harper, John Southwell, Fred Broadhurst, Jack Fox, Alex Boast, Tom Nisbet, Rolf (Baldy) Daldwin. Quite a few faces missing, Bernie Callinan not in the best of health and we wish him all the best and hope he improves. John Roberts attended the Anzac Service at Lakes Entrance where he met Bluey Bone. Happy Greenhalgh has been down in Melbourne visiting his sister Alma who is not enjoying the best of health. Happy stayed a couple of days with us and we took him up to visit Ken and Margaret Monk at Poowong East. Margaret invited John & Cath Roberts, Bill & Pat Petersen and Jock Campbell to luncheon to make Hap welcome. Thanks very much Margaret, you made it a great day, even if the weather was very bleak. Happy enjoyed it immensely and was pleasantly surprised to meet the others. It was the first time he had seen this part of Victoria and was very impressed.

Johnny Southwell has just had an operation to remove a bowel cancer. He is still not feeling 100% but said it appears to have been successful so we all wish you well Johnny and hope to see you on deck soon.

The committee has arranged a 4-day visit to Tocumwal NSW, July 6-9 and we hope we get a good roll up. Bill Tucker who resides at Tocumwal, and Leith Cooper and Tom Nisbet have put quite a bit of effort into this.

Regards to all.

Harry Botterill

## NORTHERN NEWSLETTER

In response to the Special Notice in the June Courier I respectfully suggest that those of us who have been honoured with Life Membership of our wonderful organisation make an annual donation of \$50 each. This would help overcome the growing difficulties associated with producing what is undoubtedly a unique publication — unique because of the Australia-wide contributions by those

who were proud to wear the double red diamond colour patch. My contribution is attached.

Tom Foster, Eric Weller and I visited Northampton to attend the funeral of Bruss Fagg and I must say the Bruss would have been proud of the wonderful way the 2/2nd, the RSL and the community generally, responded to his final farewell. It was our privilege to be among the pall bearers and we were sorry that Bluey Prendergast was unable to be with us because of ill health and I'm sure everyone will join me in extending best wishes to Blue and wife Edith. Relatives of Bruss and representatives of community organisations were full of praise for the eulogy delivered by Tom Foster.

As I knew that some years ago Bruss had been property man for the Northampton Football Club, it was interesting to learn that he had played League soccer for Arsenal before migrating from England, and that he also played soccer for Northampton many years ago.

Bruss' wife Joyce was Bill Drage's sister, so there are many relatives mourning his loss. Other 2/2nd members who came from the Northampton district included Joe Brand, Bert Burgess & Tom Foster.

Tom was manager of 'Willigulli' farm when he enlisted. He recalled taking part in an exhibition boxing bout against middle or light-heavyweight champion Reg Layton to help the Red Cross. Being only a welterweight he reminded Reg that it was only an exhibition engagement but Reg eventually forgot and let go what Tom described as the equivalent of the kick from a mule. Not to be outdone, Tom retaliated with a barrage of well directed hits which he discovered some time later had broken three of Layton's ribs.

Hearty congratulations to all who accepted office to the AGM and also to John Poynton and Tony Bowers on the Life Memberships.

**Peter Barden**  
Northern Vice President

## NORMA HASSON SOCIAL

This was a big success with 53 people present. Originally known as the Mid-Year Social, as suggested by the late Norma Hasson, the Committee decided that it should now be known as the Norma Hasson Social to commemorate her contribution to the activities of the Association.

The Hasson family, Jack, Ken and Kaye attended and a delightful gesture was the presentation of an orchid corsage by Kaye to each lady present. This was a lovely thought which was appreciated by everyone.

It was cold and wet outside but inside the Anzac Club was warm and everyone was in a party mood. As usual the catering staff provided sumptuous meal and refreshments for our enjoyment.

## BETTY ILLSLEY Associate Life Member

At a recent Committee meeting Wilf March recommended that Betty should be awarded an Associate Life Membership and this was endorsed by the Committee. Archie Campbell expressed appreciation to Betty for her contribution over a long period. He outlined her activities from the day Len Bagley introduced her to the Association. Her presence at all our functions, including the Australia-wide Safaris, saw her quickly endear herself to members with her quiet charm and readiness to be of assistance.

Betty became the linch pin of the Courier Committee with her typing and general know-how, deciphering illegible letters and notes of the Courier Editor!! Our magazine has become one of the best of its kind in Australia via Betty's input, supported by Len with his printing knowledge after years with WA Newspapers. As well as her dedication to the Association she also gave support to Colin Doig in his production of our Unit History. She has done so much for so many of our members and she wears her heart on her sleeve for the 2/2nd. She loves the Association and we love you Betty for all the things that make you an outstanding member. To be awarded this honour is indeed a deserved tribute from us all.

The ladies of our Association have breathed life into our activities and they are an integral part of us and we love them the more for their involvement. Betty joins an illustrious group.

Archie handed over to the President, Bernie Langridge, who also spoke of Betty's value to our Association and presented her with the Life Membership Badge. The prolonged acclamation spelt out the message — 'Well done Betty'.

## ELSIE WARES Engagement

A surprise announcement was made, which brought a happy, resounding response from all present 'Elsie Wares & Mark Jordan are engaged'. This put the seal on an extremely happy day. An ecstatic Elsie was a little emotional in responding to all the good wishes for a long and happy life with Mark. God bless, may the years ahead bring much happiness to you both here in WA.

The Mandurah 2/2s were well represented, in spite of winter ailments. They came in their chartered coach, picking up members en route who would not have been present otherwise. A fine gesture and much appreciated.

A great day was enjoyed by all as the room exuded the warmth of companionship we have for each other. Norma Hasson would look down with pride on the function named in her honour.

**Archie Campbell**

## CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

**Mrs D. Boyland**  
17 Draycott Street  
Karrinyup 6018

I would like to express my grateful thanks to all members who made my trip to Port Macquarie so enjoyable, especially the men who were every ready to help me, wherever steps or stairs were encountered. It was great meeting many old friends again.

Keep the Safaris going as long as possible. The are enjoyed by all who take part in them. Best of luck for Busselton in 1994.

Enclosed is a donation towards funds.

Thankyou all and good health.

Sincerely, Dorothy.

**M. Wheatley**  
266 Fulham Street  
Cloverdale 6105

Have had a rotten trot of late. It started a month or so before Christmas, all my joints seized up and were really painful. The doctor put me in Hollywood Hospital for about 12 days and they treated me for Ross River virus. Am still an out-patient and they have put me on steroids. Am coming good slowly, but don't get about much.

Re the Trust Fund, I am enclosing a cheque for the five years, hoping it may help out.

Cheerio for now, all the best.

**Doc**

**S.R. Marsh**  
17 McGough Street  
Glenorchy 7010

Enclosed is a donation for the courier and money for the 2/2 badge I received. Will send my first \$50 for the Trust Fund next letter.

One of the happiest days of my life would be to go back to Timor and meet up with the Creados who gave us so much help in those hard times. Regards to all 2/2 men and their families.

'Swampy'

**G. Stanley**  
30 Francisca Street  
Everton Hills 4053

Enclosed is a cheque for the Courier.

The Brisbane and near north coast contingent all looked fit and well at the unit barbecue on May 11th. We were all feeling the loss of Angus MacLachlan after his funeral four days before, but the unit bond seems stronger than ever.

Best wishes to all.

**Gordon & Joan**

**Mrs N. Teague**  
Unit 50 Cardinal Freeman Village  
Clissold Street  
Ashfield 2131

I do like reading the Courier, but unfortunately cannot now attend any functions.

Please accept the enclosed cheque for the 5 year period to assist in any way the folk who assisted our men in Timor.

**Nancy**

**J. Hartley**  
62 Palmerston Road  
Fairfield West 2165

Have been back up to Port Macquarie and Kempsey looking for a property for my two boys David and Andrew. We saw some lovely homes but they wanted a few acres so I think they have finally settled on a 10 acre place with a nice home. I'm toying with the idea of selling out here and going north myself. We now have a 10 lane highway past our front door, two lanes on each side of the road and a six lane bridge down the middle. The noise is pretty bad and with four cars in the family its a bit dangerous getting in and out of the place.

We are all saddened by the passing of Angus MacLachlan. What wonderful spirit he showed. Tom O'Brien has lost his power of speech altogether and can only move around with a walking frame. Mick Mannix has made a good recovery and everyone else is still plugging along.

Maria was tickled with the beautiful pottery bowl you sent her and thanks everyone for thinking of her.

Kind regards to all the sandgroppers.

**Jack**

**R. Finkelstein**  
317/130 Cressell Road  
Dianella 6062

After each of our dinners, get-togethers, marches or whatever, I always feel what a terrific bunch of fellows we're all associated with. It's also worth commenting on how sorry I am for those who can't make it, and especially for those who can and don't make the effort.

To meet up with the greatest group of fellows was in fact a great thrill for me at Port Macquarie. Hospitality and brotherly love just oozed. Col Doig's words truly expressed our sentiments 'We are a family, not a unit!'

I must also tell how overwhelmed I was a Port Macquarie when, out of the blue, I was grasped and hugged by an elderly gentlement who I hadn't seen in 40 years. 'God, it's good to see you Finky.' One would look hard while the slow punchy cogs cranked to life. Suddenly a whoop would fill the air as one recognised a skinny kid hidden within

the cocoon of 40 years of good life; and so it went on.

Bulla Tait, a fantastic guy, was the lucky blighter to get me as a room mate. We both shared the privilege of assisting Pidge, a man who showed us the true and wonderful spirit that abounds in our unit. Jack Hartley and Snowy Went carried me all the way in a delightful game of lawn bowls. Every event, ranging from the first barbecue on day one, through to the final farewell when our bus pulled out, was a wonderful success and a marvellous tribute to the organisers. Thankyou to all concerned and now we look expectantly to the Busselton Safari with the hope that it will match the fantastic success of Port macquarie.

Yours sincerely,

**Ralph**

*Editor: Thanks Ralph. You have put the right emphasis in the right places, and have stated how we all feel!*

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**Mrs J. Chapman**  
**5 Francis Street**  
**Swansea 2281**

Enclosed is cheque towards expenses for the Courier.

Trust all members and their families are enjoying the best of health, as I am at present.

Best wishes to all.

**(Vera) Joyce Chapman**

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**R. Harrington**  
**Exmouth**

Have just received a bundle of mail, including the courier, from home which gave me the incentive to drop a line.

We are back at Exmouth, having spent 11 days at Cape Leveque, a real paradise. fishing in our little boats was reasonable, but we went out a couple of times in a charter boat and did pretty well. Peter will have a story to tell, having hooked a fish, probable 2ft long, but we can only make an estimate as al he ended up with was the head. Those sharks are lazy — they wait until you catch the fish and then they help themselves.

We are heading to Cardabia tomorrow for about three weeks, then back here when we will camp out at the National Park for 28 days and then head for home. By that time most of the cold weather will have gone and we will have to face up to the realities of life. Mind you, it is a terrible chore we have to do, keeping the tourist industry healthy.

We are hoping to meet the Sadlers here when we return and no doubt one of the items of discussion will be the Wongan Convention. We are hopinbg to make it a happy occasion. There is not

a lot to offer in the bush other than hospitality and I'm sure that won't be lacking.

We are travelling with the best of company in Peter & Pat. We'll miss Joe & Hellen at Cardabia which incidentally is a Station just jout of Coral Bay. Hope Joe gets back on his feet again soon.

It is always sad to hear of the passing of our mates. I suppose the fact of life is that the years are passing and no one is indestructible. it is sad to read the sick list. Keep plugging on Ron. Dot said she would write. I would hate it if I had to make all the conversation when we meet again.

An enclosing a donation for the Courier. It is too valuable to jeopardise through lack of funds.

Looking forward to Wongan Hills in Sptember.

Regards.

**Reg.**

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**R. Wilson**  
**26 Nocol Street**  
**Highett 3190**

Enclosed is a cheque for the Courier, also some memorabilia regarding 'Voyager' which will no doubt bring back nostalgic memories to those who waited on the beach that night 52 years ago.

My regards to all the boys. Monica and I are keeping well, except that I have developed emphysema.

Sincerely,

**Sep**

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**F. Sharp**  
**11 Stonehaven Ave**  
**Dubbo 2830**

How are all you good folks after the Safari. I do hope you all had a safe trip home and have settle down to normal life once again. Once more we enjoyed a wonderful reunion, meeting all our good friends from the various states and seeing the 'oldies' looking so well.

It was good to see Theo Adams with us this time and looking so good after his by-pass. We always enjoy your company Theo and your contributions to the Association.

Our grateful thanks to Alan Luby and his team of volunteers who made the Safari the success it was, and thank you fellows and ladies for your assistance and friendly service.

I feel that it would be amiss if we did not give a special thanks to Harry Handicott who was right on the spot at Wauchope to carry out Alan's ideas and suggestions on our behalf.

The RSL Club at Port Macquarie excelled themselves to make our visit a memorable one — nothing was too much trouble and we were grateful for their hospitality.

My old mate Fred Broadhurst certainly kept us entertained with his stories and jokes and I saw several of our ladies with blushed cheeks. How Tom Nisbet drives and listens to Fred beats me, it was so good of them to bring one of our widows, Nina Grachan, with them.

We were also delighted to have the presence of such a large gathering of widows with us — keep coming ladies, we love your company.

Fortunately the weather was kind to us and we only had rain on the final day but that did not spoil the farewell function as the RSL Club allowed us the use of their sporting club facilities.

We have lost two fine members of our Unit with the sad passing of Dave Dexter and Angus MacLachlan. We offer our deepest sympathy to their families. Both were great soldiers and their presence will be sadly missed by all of us.

When Judy and I returned to Dubbo we were saddened by the death of our next door neighbour John North who was a good mate of Dave Dexter. He was ex Navy and he and Dave were in hospital together in Sydney in beds alongside each other and both had the same operations. Dave asked John if he knew Frank Sharp in Dubbo and John said 'I should, he is my next door neighbour and I am his solicitor'. Both died of the same complaint within two days of each other — what a coincidence.

We had a very good Anzac Day in Dubbo. It is taken very seriously and is always attended by a big crowd.

I would like any members passing through Dubbo to call and see us at our new address, as above. The phone number is still 068 82 1493.

Cheerio for now, good health and happiness to all. Hoping to be with you all once again in 1994. Kindest regards.

**Frank & Judy**

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**Mrs D. Lewis**  
**106 South West H'way**  
**Armada 6112**

My apologies for not writing before this. It must be two years since my last letter and a lot has happened in those two years.

First of all I had trouble with George's friend who was supposed to buy the house from me, I got a Legacy solicitor to sort things out. He was marvellous and confirmed what I had suspected — the man and his wife were trying to get the place for nothing. Now everything is back in my name and all is well once again. Needless to say I do not see these people now. I consider it a joke really because they thought that I was in my eighties I was too stupid to know what they were doing — they went to no end of trouble to get me to do as they wanted and I just upset all their plans. They were getting a divorce and we made things very

difficult for them — they had told their solicitors many lies. The old saying still applies 'who needs enemies when you have friends like this'. How true.

Eighteen months ago someone broke into the house in the middle of the night — lucky I was awake and heard him. He got out very quickly when he realised I was awake and nothing was taken. It was a nasty experience.

Then I developed an ulcer and have not really been all that well. I can't get about as much as I would like to but have Silver Chain to help in the house, friends do my shopping and I have a young chap to help with the garden. He is very good, will do anything, repairs, painting, etc. I am fortunate to have so many caring people around me. I often wonder what I have done to deserve their kindness and love.

Enclosed is a donation for the Courier — I know everything has gone up in price and it must cost plenty to publish and post the Courier everywhere. I look forward to it. Even though I don't know so many personally I know of them and look forward to their letters and any news about them.

Since Dud Tapper died I have been writing to his wife Audrey and we have become really good friends. We had met once years ago and as we are both keen on our gardens we have plenty to write about.

I thought the commemoration envelopes were very good. People I have sent them to have all been most interested, even the children have asked about your time on Timor. Hopefully it will not be forgotten that you saved Australia from invasion. Sad that so many are no longer with us.

I met Charlie Dodge once — I used to see this man walking past every evening while I was watering the front garden. One evening he came in and told me who he was. I enjoyed talking to him but did not see him again and was not surprised to see that he had passed on.

Did Howard Marks live at Mannum in South Australia when he was about 7 or 8 years old? My parents rented a house from people named Marks. They had two sons, Len and Howard. I would have been about 1916. When I saw Howard Marks' photo in Rogues Gallery I wondered if it was the same person.

Best wishes to all. Yours sincerely,

**Dorothy**

*Editor: Howard Marks address is c/- Post Office, Loxton, 5333  
 Perhaps you would care to write to him.*

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**R. Williamson**  
**2 Goldsworthy Crescent**  
**Glennel North 5045**

Cheque for Courier enclosed. Keep up the good work, the Courier is always appreciated.

Not much to report. Keeping well. Regards to all.  
**Bob**



**Mrs P. Brown**  
26 Scaddan Street  
Wembley 6014

Thank you for sending me the Courier. I appreciate it and am enclosing a donation.

Yours truly,

**Phyl**

---

**B. McLaren**  
13A Grange Road  
Kew 3101

Enclosed is a cheque towards production and handling charges of our wonderful 2/2 Courier. Keep up the good work.

Regards,

**B. McLaren**

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**Mrs N. Grachan**  
15 Banksia Crt  
Mulgrave 3170

My pleasure to enclose \$50, being part contribution to the independent Trust Fund. Sincerely trust anticipated goal will be achieved — a most worthy cause. My husband Alf always spoke of his creado Antonio with immense pride and warmth.

Also a separate donation for the courier. What would life be without it? So informative and, more important, bonding. Such a wonderful way of 'keeping in touch'.

Now that the excitement of Port Macquarie is tucked away in yet another chest of happy, emotional and enriching memories, we must look forward to 1994. I pray we will all share the blessing of Good Health until meeting with dear friends once again.

My fondest regards to all and god bless.

**Nina**

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**W. Tobin**  
PO Box 311  
Camberwell 3124

At present you are sending copies of the Courier to me at the above address. To help save cost please delete this subscription and I shall read my mother's copy.

Thanks.

**Warwick Tobin**

*Editor: Thanks for your consideration Warwick. Much appreciated.*

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**40 Ninabah Street**  
**Howrah 7018**

I am writing on behalf of our mother, Mrs Esma Pacey (widow of the late C V Pacey) who is still in hospital, and to whom you have been kind enough to send copies of the Commando Courier at the 9 Brushy Creek Road address.

My mother is anxious that we send a donation to the Courier and she sincerely wants to thank you for forwarding the magazine to her. She will not be returning to the above address.

As much as she appreciates your courtesy in sending the Courier, she now suggests that perhaps her copy could go to another person as she cannot remember the people in the magazine. So please cancel her copy.

She encloses a donation for the Commando Courier.

Yours sincerely

**Mrs Gaye Geer**

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**St Joseph's Hostel**  
20 Thirza Street,  
New Town 7008

Dear Mr Bagley

Thank you for your letter and the copy of the 2/2nd Commando Courier. It was good to see Lance's photograph in the 'Rogues Gallery'. I am sure he would have loved it.

I never cease to be deeply moved when I see the great comradeship and the care and concern you 2/2nd Commandos show to each other. I see it often in Dan Daniels. It was because of Dan that I first visited Lance.

Wouldn't life be wonderful if more people cared as you Commando men do.

Again thank you for taking the trouble to write and send the Courier. I feel I know so many of the 2/2nd through Sunny and Dan Daniels.

God bless you all. Keep up the good work

Yours sincerely,

**S M Cyril SSJ**

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*Editor: Sr. Cyril is Dan Daniel's sister-in-law. Lance Bomford's photo and a letter from Dan appeared in the June Courier.*

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**Mrs B. Flockart**  
Box 22 Merredin 6415  
(Daughter of Beryl & Fred Griffiths)

Over the years since I first became aware of the 2/2 Commandos — and that is over 40 years — I have found that in almost every facet of my life, I have been involved with, and beneficially influenced by, a member or members of your great organisation. I find this rather special, so have written a shortened account of how you have appeared to me.

I am sure my experience is not unique ... undoubtedly many other sons, daughters and friends of the 2/2nd will have similar stories to tell.

Best wishes to you all.

**Bev Flockart**

## A Salute to the 2/2 Commando Association

*A week or so ago I watched yet another Anzac Day service and parade of TV from perth. It aroused in me, as always, an admiration for the veterans who attended all services, be they in capital cities or the many country towns in australia.*

*I though about the many reunions which had been held over the country, by many groups of ex-service personnel. and wondered if there were many groups as strong as that of the 2/2nd Commandos.*

*Do you realise just what a ripple effect your strong Association has had on the lives of your families?*

*I did not know, when my Mother married Fred Griffiths, three years after my own father had died, how much my life would be influenced by contacts with your association.*

*Up still then, my sister Glenys, and I, were two little girls still at primary school, adjusting as children do, to not having a Daddy, Mother working week days and Grandma coming to live with us temporarily.*

*Freddie came quietly into our home, and after some adjusting on all our parts we settled into the new path that our lives were to take.*

*We knew nothing about him initially except that he was a lead miner, had been to the war and been part of a special army group. Besides a step father, we gained new grandparents, and aunties and uncles who were special to us, each in their own way.*

*Freddie proved to be kind and gentle, but there was a quiet strength and determination about him. We thought it would be advisable to be on our best behaviour so as not to*

*test out his spanking arm.*

*He was a whizz at any card game we liked to nominate. He would sit there while we tried our best to beat him, but I can't recall a time when we ended up in front at the end of the card session. Thank goodness we only ever played for matches!*

*Our first introduction to the 2/2nd Commando Association was at a Christmas tree held, at the 16th Battalion Hall in Perth, about 1950 or 1951. By that time we had our new baby brother, Max. After all these years I still remember the gift I received. I was a white cane sewing box — with beautiful blue satin lining. Father Christmas was there and whilst I, as a 12 year old, knew the real story, the younger kids revelled in his presence. In retrospect I suspect that he was one of you, from the jocular comments flung at Father Christmas by the male bystanders.*

*There was an abundance of the usual party paraphernalia, lollies, balloons, food, ginger beer out of a keg, games played by the kids and the ever increasing cacophony of talk amongst the grown ups.*

*But by far the loudest noise came from old comrades reminiscing, mostly round the keg, as was the Aussie habit. This was one of the most memorable Christmas trees I have ever been to.*

*Even in those early days, the names of various members of your group stuck in my mind.....names which now, I realise, were important to you all as leaders and brothers.*

*Then there were the Anzac day services.*

*They had always held great significance for me, but to go to a Dawn Service in King's Park with Dad or my Girl Guide group, then on to watch the march in which 2/2nd featured near the very front of the RSL contingent, was always very moving.*

*When I went to Perth Girls School, our choir sang for the Anzac Service on the Esplanade and from the vantage point on the dais I watched and admired you all.*

*That aura and pride displayed when all ex-servicement march at such occasions has a very special quality about it ..... and totally*

different from the crisp professionalism of present day regular service men.

The modern phrase ... 'Been there, done that!' is a trite and flippant one to use to describe the bearing of an ex-service person, but it somehow does indicate something of what you gave for your country, comrades and families.

The diminishing lines of men and gaps in the ranks are a poignant reminder of where you have been and where we are all going.

The hymn "In Memoriam" still brings tears to my eyes as it did when I was just a girl. And you never forget your mates in hospital.

I was visiting Dad one Anzac Day when Reg Harrington, his son Laurie, Stan Payne, Mal Herbert and one or two others came and spent half an hour with Dad on their way to the post march reunion.

There is nothing like a visit from an old army mate to put a sparkle into any man's eye, no matter how frail he is!

During my early teenage years, friendships between commando families were cemented, and I remember the pleasure of staying with Reg and Dot Harrington on the farm at Bolgart.

During one of our first weekends, Reg took us out in the famous Nash Rambler car. I'm sure it was then that my yen for comfort and luxury developed.

When Reg allowed me to drive/steer that beautiful creamy white car (in the middle of a paddock) I thought I would burst with pleasure.

The car was simply crammed with kids ... all of the Harrington's (minus their baby and our Richard) plus Dad and Glenys, Max and myself. Mum and Dot would have enjoyed the peace and quiet and a chance to catch up on the news.

When we were all in the house the walls must have bulged, but the Harrington warmth and hospitality was always A1.

I had decided on a teaching career, not surprising as my natural father had been a teacher and my sister and I definitely had

chalk running through our veins.

My first teaching appointment was to Coolbinia Primary School. The appointment sheet said that the name of my new head master was Ray Aitken. Dad said he was an army mate. Even that didn't help me to feel less terrified of the daunting responsibility I had undertaken in becoming a teacher.

The day I visited the school to introduce myself, happened to be the day that all the free stock for the following year was delivered. There was a hive of industry in progress, with senior boys carrying stacks of paper, exercise books, chalk, etc into the store room. A giant of a man wearing a white shirt with sleeves rolled up to his biceps, seemed to be in charge.

Thinking he may be a senior teacher or free stock official, I approached timidly and enquired where I might find Mr Aitken.... The giant boomed, "Speaking"! and that was my introduction to the best principal I worked for in 19 years of teaching.

Mr Aitken had a wonderful talent. He knew how to encourage the best from both students and staff, and he appreciated and valued kids as people.

This was one of the most valuable lessons I learned from him. He loved nothing better than to be surrounded by kids, either in the class or out of it, always stimulating their thirst for knowledge.

He had started a native plant nursery out the back of the school and my class and I attempted and nearly succeeded in growing blackboys from seed.

When I got the Mumps two weeks before one term ended, he came and stood at the end of my bed and laughed at my football shaped face and grumbled about staff who caught childhood diseases. But he took my class for me and just sent my marks book and the 52 report books home "to complete when I felt better."

On the same staff, was Beryl Smith (the late Arthur's wife) a lovely lady and dedicated to teaching. She was a Grade One specialist, and it was a delight for anyone to visit her classroom. I would sometimes go down after

school where she worked long hours in preparation for the next day, and gained invaluable ideas and assistance from the association.

From time to time Stan Payne would drop in to see Dad, and they would sit round the kitchen table yarning for hours. At that stage I did not realise that we would eventually become much more friendly when I went bush to teach, and married a Merredin farmer. Mal Herbert was another to make contact on a regular basis, particularly when Dad retired and eventually went into hospital.

News of your reunions always reached me eventually. Mum would tell me about the social functions and those wonderful reunion trips. I would hear that the Harringtons, Marches, Fowlers, Elsie Wares, Poyntons, Jerry Haire and many others I remembered, had been there.

The country dinner in Merredin in September 1987, demonstrated the bonds you have with each other very clearly. Dad had only just passed away, and we were feeling quite bereft even tho we knew it was a relief for him. We sat with Barb and Stan Payne and Alan Hollow, who were wonderful company. The caring and warmth of reception from you all for Jim and I, the gentle and sensitive words of comfort offered to us, and your philosophical approach to life and death, gave me a great calmness. I wished that Glen, Max and Richard had all been there at that dinner to share that feeling.

We really appreciated your attendance at the funeral.

Mother really needed diverse social interaction... something which Freddie did not, so while Dad had been happy to go fishing, or potter round up here on the farm, Mother thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated her association with you all.

The bus safari to South Australia with Laurie Harrington a co-driver must have been fun! I was coming in to town to wave Mother on her way, and delighted in seeing you all. If the chatter and hilarity while the bus was at the pick up point was a sample of what went on during the whole trip, it would have been

a very entertaining adventure.

As Laurie and the other driver shepherded you all into the bus to get on your way, I remarked to Laurie that I thought he was lucky he was escorting you all now, rather than 30 years ago, when you would have been almost irrepressible.

Barb and Stan have become part of our extended family... or is it the other way round? With Stan's interest in farming, they will occasionally drive out to check up on how we south of the line farmers are going in comparison to those north where he and Geoff are situated. Barb, with her wealth of knowledge and interest in native orchids and wildflowers, will drop everything (even cooking Stan's dinner) if we tell her that we have found what might be a different variety of Banded Greenhood Orchid, or a simply wonderful stand of Blue Lady Orchids which she might like to photograph. It is stimulating and educational to accompany her on these expeditions.

I thank Barb and Stan for the warmth of their friendship, and for keeping me in touch with the 2/2 news, since Mother passed away.

Like many ex-servicemen, Dad would never talk much in the early days about his experiences in the war. In later years he would reminisce about things which tickled his fancy... the canoe or yacht which was made out of "acquired" materials from somewhere? . . . the "jungle juice" made and stored in bamboo which would blow your heads off and have disastrous and colourful (green) effects on the stomach contents . . . And of sitting under a canopy of trees with Jerry Haire as two Japanese planes flew immediately above and very low over the trees looking for you all, and Freddie suggesting to Jerry that a pot shot into the belly of the plane with his rifle would "bring her down" and knowing that you couldn't for fear of disclosing your hiding place . . .

All these and many other stories which have been told, indicate the resourcefulness and ingenuity for which you were selected to form the 2/2 Commando Squadron.

I have read Col Doig's History of the 2/2,

*Bernard Callinan's Independent Company, James Smailes poems The Independents and now have Christopher Wray's Timor 1942 to read, so I have a small understanding of what happened all those years ago.*

*I am only one person whose life has been directly guided in some way by your members.*

*How many others have the ripples touched? I thank you for your friendship, always so warmly given, and your expertise from which I have learned so much. My life has been enriched by the association.*

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## EAST TIMOR SITUATION — AN INTERESTING EXERCISE

Our President, Bernie Langridge, wrote to the Prime Minister of Australia, the Leader of the Opposition and organisations in Canada, America and Portugal seeking support in resolving the issue of East Timor at the level of the United Nations Conference Table.

The following replies were the only ones received. The Prime Minister did not acknowledge our request, in keeping with the nil response to individual members who wrote seeking his support for the plight of the East Timorese. One would think that the courtesy of a reply would be ingrained in a ruling body. Such is not the case!

This was an exercise to test the feelings over a large range of organisations and, with few exceptions, apathy was the dominant factor. The Association went in to bat with a solid effort to support the beleaguered East Timorese for it is something very close to our hearts. Maybe in the long haul we could get a positive result? Our thanks to the organisations that favoured us with a courteous reply.

**A. Campbell**  
Editor

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**The Royal Canadian Legion**  
359 Kent Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 0R7  
13 May 1992

His Excellency Boutros Boutros-Ghali  
Secretary General of the United Nations  
United Nations Headquarters  
New York, NY  
10017, USA

This letter is with reference to correspondence that our office received from the 2'nd Commando Association of Australia.

This association is seeking support from service organizations all over the world to press all parties involved in the issue of East Timor, to find a just solution. They believe that the United Nations is the correct forum to attempt to bring the parties concerned to the conference table for talks directed to the amelioration of the desperate plight of the Timorese.

The Royal Canadian Legion is a veterans organization of 590,000 members, of which many have had first hand experience with armed conflict. In order to avoid future conflicts, we strongly encourage the United Nations to work towards quick resolution of this situation.

We trust that you will take immediate action in this matter and we truly hope that the results are favourable.

Yours sincerely,

**J.W. Jolleys**  
Dominion President

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**The American Legion**  
1068 "K" Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006-2847

15 May, 1992

Dear President Langridge,

This is in reply to your letter of April 21, 1992 to The American Legion's Public Relations Division concerning your request for The American Legion to bring pressure regarding the situation in East Timor.

The American Legion operates according to policy positions determined by our members in resolutions they adopt at our annual national convention. At this time, The American Legion has no resolution concerning East Timor; therefore, we will be unable to comply with your request.

Thank you very much for your interest in the Foreign Relations Program of The American Legion. We enjoyed learning your views very much.

Sincerely,

**G. Michael Schlee, Director**  
National Security — Foreign Relations Division

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**Leader of the Opposition**

25 May 1992

Dear Mr Langridge,

Dr Hewson has asked me to thank you for your letter of 21 November 1991 about events in East Timor late last year.

The Federal Opposition condemns without reservation the shootings at Santa Cruz cemetery in Dili on 12 November 1991. There can be no justification for the use of force on such a scale against a civilian population.

We join the international community in calling for a full open investigation of the incident to ensure

that all those responsible for these events are properly brought to account in accordance with Indonesian laws and internationally accepted standards of human rights.

We welcome the Indonesian Government's decision to hold an enquiry to be carried out by a commission headed by a Supreme Court Judge and comprising representatives of the Parliament, the Armed Forces and the Ministries of Justice, Foreign Affairs and Home Affairs. The announcement that there will be a full public report of the commission's findings is also welcomed. We believe, however, that the commission's hearings should as far as possible be open to the public — including international observers — as this would enhance the international credibility of the inquiry.

The preliminary report of the inquiry issued early this year rejected previous accounts of the massacre by the Indonesian military. In responding to the preliminary report, President Suharto removed some key military officers and called for "self-correction" by the military. The developments give ground for increased confidence that the further investigations will be carried out impartially.

The welfare of the East Timorese people who have suffered the effects of colonial neglect, civil war, economic deprivation and now the tragic loss of life in the Santa Cruz shootings, must be given priority. The Federal Opposition will continue to look for ways in which their interests might be advanced.

Thank you once again for taking the time to write to Dr Hewson.

Yours sincerely,

**Allan Rocher MP**  
**Senior Parliamentary Secretary**  
**to Dr John Hewson MP**  
 Parliament House, Canberra, A.C.T. 2600

*The following appeared in the Perth 'Daily News' in 1952. Beryl Smith recently found the cutting on the back of an old photo of her late husband, Arthur:*

'Its wonderful how old army mates still stick together through the horrors of peace.'

An ex-writer (2/2 Commando) finished building a house at Applecross recently, but before he could do anything about getting the surrounding scrub under control, he had a bad accident which made hard work out of the question. Right away the 2/2 mob rallied round, and a party of 26 cleared the area and planted a lawn in one day. It's the sort of thing that 'busy bees' are doing every weekend but this one was different. One of the gang was a one armed chap who did a solid day's work with fork and rake. Another helper stumped along on one leg and a crutch, turning over the whole area with a rotary hoe. He couldn't see anything remarkable about this, and nobody made any comment, except a husky type who was heard muttering 'I'll never moan about those headaches again.'

The two men mentioned were Charlie King and the late Arthur Smith.

*The following letter was received by Ron Dook who asked for it to be published in the Courier:*

**J.G. Porter C/- Berrimah P.O., N.T. 0828.**

The 50-year commemoration of Coral Sea battle, bombing of Darwin and the presence of WWII visitors has kindled a wonder of what happened to other Independent Companies.

I was with the 2/8th, firstly in 1 Section and later in 2 Section.

Jack Boardman was up here and was on T.V. about his involvement on protest ship 'Lusitania Expresso'. He was easily recognisable after some 47 years. I met him and many of the other protestors on their return to Darwin and was impressed with their obvious sincerity. Jack sent me a copy of the History of the 2/8th and a list of names and addresses of ex-members, yours among them, hence this.

The bloke who wrote this letter, A.J. Kerans and I had a long phone conversation and among other things he expressed concern about old Timorese here in Darwin who would dearly love to hear from their old mates. I have read books by C.H. Wray and B.J. Callinan and can understand a bit of how some of these old Creados must feel sort of deserted. Kerans wants me to meet and talk with them, but I thought first to give the matter some thought, seeing that old sores, old age, old everything is involved. He also mentioned a Dutchman, Sam Kreuger, who was on Bougainville and later Timor, now in Darwin. Have you heard of him?

Could you find out through your 2/2nd Courier if any of the 2/2nd are interested in saying hello to these old Timorese? I don't want to raise hopes of meetings or contacts if it's impossible.

Another matter, in this week's Bulletin, David McNicolls column, he gives a great rap to 'The Purple Devils', S. Tregillis Smith, A History of the 2/6th Aust. Cdo Sqn. On enquiring I found out only where to make enquiries — President, 2/6th Cdo Sqn, 1 William St., Ringwood, Victoria.

Bryce Killen has been in the public eye. I read a letter in the Bulletin regarding disposal of wool surplus and saw on T.V. a dispute with R.S.P.C.A. All the best.

**J. Porter**

## THE HISTORY OF HMAS VOYAGER CHART ROOM CLOCK

During the so-called Fretlin war some years ago when Indonesian troops overran Portugese Timor, some reports stated that there were over 36,000 killed and thousands of casualties, with most of the population starving.

Towards the end, the Indonesians allowed a few ships to bring in much needed aid, medical and food supplies. I happened to be on board one of these ships at the time. We were met by four Indonesian gun boats off the southern coast of Timor and escorted into Betano Bay.

On the way through the west channel, I focussed my glasses on the wreck of a ship. I knew at once that it was the late HMAS Voyager which ran aground there on 23rd September, 1942, when engaged on a mission taking Commandos, supplies and equipment to the 470 Australian Commandos (2/2nd Independent Company) still engaged in a guerilla war against the Japanese invaders after the surrender of the bulk of the allied garrison on Timor in February, 1942.

After running aground Voyager was attacked by Japanese bombers dropping high explosive, incendiary and anti-personnel bombs. Later Voyager's ship's company exploded demolition charges in the engine room, then set fire to the ship, leaving nothing salvageable for the enemy. A few days later HMAS's Warrnambool and Kalgoolie rescued Voyager's crew, taking them to Darwin.

While we were unloading under strict Indonesian Navy and Army supervision (taking what they wanted themselves first), I asked permission for myself and a supplementary Captain (old Alan Guthrie) to go and take photos of the old "Voyager".

Next day, escorted by twenty troops in jeeps, we were taken to a village not far from Voyager. Being introduced to an old native head man, I questioned him re Voyager. He stated that he and other villagers were paid to take supplies off when the ship ran aground to the Commandos. (During the process naturally some of the items were stolen and hidden away).

I asked if there was still anything in the village belonging to the ship. Later, after giving them cigarettes, money, etc., and bribing the Indonesian captain with money, the head man took me into a hut where, underneath old bags, were rope locks and an old brass clock. After a lot of bartering, I gained possession of the old seven-day brass chart room clock.

At a rough guess, it would be at least 70 years old, as Voyager was an old B & W scrap iron flotilla ship, late First World War vintage.

by George Phillips

☆☆☆☆☆

*N.B. The clock, highly polished and in perfect working order, hangs on the wall in our Clubrooms at the Highett R.S.L.*

## PROJECT RETURN TO TIMOR

This is now a "NON EVENT".

Representation for Air Transport by Tom Nisbet enabling members of the 2/2nd and 2/4th Commando Associations to visit East Timor, was knocked back by the Repatriation Minister's Advisory Committee.

This cancelled out any possibility of a 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the 2/2nd and 2/4th unit operations in East Timor, which it was hoped would be held in October 1992.

Tremendously disappointing after such a strong representation by Tom Nisbet, when other Units have received great assistance to visit their places of action in a 50th Year celebration.

This was a poor response to a campaign that 50 years ago was so vital to Australia. The assistance offered was token and unacceptable in its comfort. A poor reward for such a tremendous involvement by both the 2/2nd and 2/4th Independent Companies, in the dark days.

For all those who were interested it now becomes a "PRIVATE PARADE", for no one has the resources to organise such a visit by even a reasonable group of members. Go it alone if you wish?

Finally for your information — "The Return To Timor Project", has now lapsed. Thank you Tom Nisbet for your stalwart effort, and, as they say in the classics, "up em for the rent!!"

The Editor

## SICK PARADE

**Colin Doig** is battling an ulcer problem — not the old one, just in a different area. It is taking longer than anticipated to clear up and sure causes frustration to the active 80 year old. When he uses strong expletives we know he is on the road back!

**Doug Fullarton** had a rough passage recently but typical of 'Punchy' and his dogged G & D, he is now back home with Edna who has been a real stalwart.

**Charles (Pidgin) Pierce** has left Hollywood with a brand new set of legs. He has returned to Port Hedland where he is so well looked after by Helen. You surely have a big heart 'Pidgin' and deserve all the good things in life.

## DONATIONS TO COURIER

Mrs D. Lewis, Peter Barden, Reg & Dot Harrington, Mrs E.J. Pacey, Mrs Joyce Chapman, John Fowler, George Bayliss, Joe Poynton, Robbie Rowan-Robinson, Clarrie Turner, Jim McLaughlin, Col Criddle, Dusty Studdy, Stan & Barbara Payne, Betty Hopkins, Elsie Wares, Harry & Thelma Sproxtton, Ray Aitken, Archie Campbell, Jess Epps, Bernie Langridge, Don Murray, Don Hudson, Ted Monk, Sep Wilson, Ken & Doug Hasson, Mrs Phyl Brown, Mrs Nina Grachan, Gordon Stanley, Bruce McLaren, Bob Williamson.

## “BLOOD, SWEAT & TREES” The Canungra Experience

The jubilee year of military training in the Canungra area is to be celebrated in November 1992. The Army has commissioned Lieutenant Colonel Bob Breen to give expression to Canungra's 50 years of training for war by producing a fully-illustrated commemorative publication.

The book will be about those who delivered, underwent or supported training. It will be about people and not just about an institution that has been and will continue to be important for the defence of Australia.

A special early purchase offer is being extended to Ex-Service Organizations until 28 August 1992. By completing and posting the Special Offer Form you will save 5 dollars on the purchase price of the book when it becomes available in November.

You will be notified when the book is available and be able to order it for \$24.95 instead of its planned retail price of \$29.95.

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*Please inform me when the book, 'Blood, Sweat and Trees' The Canungra Experience 1942-1992 is available so I can purchase it at the Special Early Purchase price of \$24.95. I understand that this is not an obligation to purchase the book, that I do not need to send money now and this offer is valid only until 28 August 1992.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Post to:  
Captain A. Greenberry  
Secretary LWC Historical Committee  
Land Warfare Centre  
Canungra Qld 4275  
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