



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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

Vol. 93

FEBRUARY 1992

Price 1c

COMING EVENTS

PORT MACQUARIE SAFARI

MARCH 13 - 23, 1992

Final details appear inside

ANZAC DAY

SATURDAY APRIL 25, 1992

Assemble on St Georges Terrace by 9.00am

Details will appear in April Courier

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date will be advised in April Courier

1992 SAFARI UPDATE

Bookings received since the December Courier are: Port Macquarie Motel: Frank and Maisie Jackson (relatives of Frank Sharp).

Breakwall Carapark: Stan and Blanche Sadler, Merv (Cisco) Coles.

River Motel: June Bennett and daughter Marilyn.

R.S.L. I have spoken to the Management of Port Macquarie R.S.L. Club regarding visitors having to sign in each time they visit. The Club is bound by N.S.W. licensing laws and cannot issue anything more than a daily entry. To overcome this problem the best thing for those of us who are R.S.L. members is to take out Club membership at a cost of \$9.30 each. Please fill in the enclosed application form and forward, **together with payment of \$9.30 to:**

**The Secretary/Manager
Port Macquarie R.S.L. Club
Short Street
Port Macquarie NSW 2444**

BEFORE 24TH FEBRUARY, 1992

The R.S.L. Club will provide nominator and seconder.

This will enable you to visit the Club at any time and you will receive 10% discount off drinks and meals. For non R.S.L. members, as long as you are with a card bearing person you will be admitted.

If you are a later starter, please let me know your accommodation requirements immediately. I will be leaving Sydney on March 7th and will be at the Central Views Motel, Port Macquarie from Monday, 9th March onwards.

TRANSPORT. One of FOGG's COACHES will be at the Australian Airlines Interstate Terminal at Mascot Airport shortly after 7.30am. It will be suitably identified for our purpose and will be ready to depart at 8.30am. So far there are seats available ex Sydney, so if anyone wishes to utilise this service they can connect at Mascot or central Railway. **IF YOU WISH TO DO THIS PLEASE CONTACT ME.**

NAME TAGS. Please bring these with you. If you do forget we will have spares.

SONG SHEETS. If you have a song sheet please bring along for your singalong.

We look forward to seeing you at Port Macquarie. For those who are unable to make it, we trust that you will enjoy better health throughout 1992. May you have a gentle wind on your back and a smooth road in front of you.

Alan Luby

INDEPENDENT TRUST FUND

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The special pre-stamped envelope to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Timor Campaign will be issued by Australia Post on Wednesday 19th February, 1992.

The cost of the envelope (220mm x 110mm) is 55 cents. It is understood discounts are available for lots of 10 or more.

The envelopes will remain on sale until the issue is sold out, which could be about one month if the demand is high.

Members are advised to get in early and obtain their requirements.

We feel sure members will be pleased with the envelope. Australia Post has done the Association a great honour and we thank them for the issue.

So, keep the 19th February in mind and check with your local Post Office for further details.

REPRINT OF 'THE HISTORY'

Col Doig is about to have a small reprint done of the History of the 2/2 Independent Company, including the Pictorial Supplement. This is expected to be done in the near future.

Would any person whose name has been omitted from the original manning list or who knows the name of any person so omitted, please advise Colin Doig, 77 Rosedale Street, Floreat Park 6014 with additional particulars of Sections and whether Timor, New Guinea or New Britain, as soon as possible.

PICTORIAL SUPPLEMENT TO THE HISTORY

Everyone owning a History should acquire one of these supplements. There are only 70 copies left. A donation of \$5.00 to the Association funds gets you one while they last.

Enquiries to Box T1646 GPO Perth 6001.

JIM SMAILES POEMS 'THE INDEPENDENTS'

Still available from J. Carey, Box T1646, GPO Perth 6001. \$4.00 per copy or 3 for \$10.000 or Special Offer 10 for \$30.00

A UNIQUE PRESENTATION TO COLIN DOIG AND JACK CAREY

This article should have appeared in the December issue of the Courier along with the write-up of our "50th Anniversary Dinner," held on the 10/10.91.

The Courier Committee was snowed under with material so we decided to leave it until the February '92 issue so all who receive the

Courier could read about it away from the full output of Xmas activities etc.

It was a very special presentation on behalf of all members Australia wide.

The Editor

Brilliantly prepared and delivered by Ray Aitken on the 10/10.91 — Read on —

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At this most important milestone in the history of our Unit your President has decided to cement the occasion in our memories by bestowing a special honour on two of our members. Down the years some of us who have been considered to have given notable service in some way or other have been honoured with elevation to life membership. In the case of the two we intend to honour here, they have given so much of themselves to the rest of us it was felt that something unique and fresh was required. Bernie has done me the signal honour of choosing me to make this address.

Before I get to the task of special eulogies I would like to run through the names of some of the people to whom this association owes special thanks. Now since I am doing this 'off the cuff' I am bound to miss someone out. You may ask why the material was not researched. The answer is that such research would have required the co-operation of our two special members and this would have taken away any element of surprise and eliminated any sense of freshness from this occasion. Should I miss too many in my thanks I know you will be forgiving and that in your noting of my omissions your thoughts will, in a sense, be commemorating those I have missed.

Let us start with the Friends of the 2/2, that group of parents, friends, girl friends and so on who kept faith and believed in us when there was no news. It was they who raised the basic funds which gave this association its start. Notable of course was Tom Murray — Don's father. He chaired the meetings of Friends of the 2/2nd and chaired our first meeting until our own officers were appointed. He was ably assisted by Fred Gardiner.

And now to our own. I have made no distinction between the living and the dead. Let our memories try this list of names — Colin Doig, Tom Nisbet, Jack Denman, Mick Calcutt, Dick Geer, Arthur Smith, George Boyland, Alec Wares, Dave Ritchie, Archie Campbell, Fred Napier, Gerry Maley, Jack Carey, Curley Bowden, Rod Dhu, Don Murray, Mick Morgan, Doug Fullarton, Jack Fowler, Harry Sproxton, Clarrie Varian, Spriggy McDonald, Gerry Green, Jack Hasson, Percy Hancock, Jerry Haire, Keith

Hayes, Don Turton, George Lewis, Jim Smiles, Gerry McKenzie, Ray Parry, Fred Sparkman, Alf Blundy, Alby Martin, Percy McPhee, Ernie Bingham, Dutchie Holland, Les Halse.

How should we value the unflinching and massive contribution of Ron Kirkwood? There is our long term auditor John BurrIDGE, the originator of the idea of the Timor Memorial. Think too of the colossal performance over the years of Len Bagley. Remember the cheerful dedication of Bill Epps. Note, too, that old school mate Ron Dook is still contributing. Joe and John Poynton and Eric and Bob Smyth have carved niches in our history. Who can forget the selfless self-effacing efforts of George Fletcher? Think back if you will on the work of our country members and our country Vice Presidents. For me the name Barden epitomised and enhanced the office of vice president but our country members with or without titles did us proud. Robbie Rowan-Robinson, Bernie Langridge, Tony Bowers, Bib Bill Drage, Ernie Hoffman, the Sadler brothers, Bert Burgess, Reg Harrington, Tommy Martin, Peter Campbell, Jack Fowler, Geoff or Vince Swann (take your pick — he answers to both), Stan Payne, Tom Foster, Stan King, Don Hudson, Ted Loud, Alex Thomson, Norm Thornton, Geordie Smith, Ron Sprigg, Clarrie Turner, Mal Herbert, Mervyn Wheatley, Alf Hillman, Arthur Marshall. What a list! You may add more and they will all have been worthy. All please take note that though some of these have now become city slickers and then held office or completed other work for the association they get no second run here. Jack Fowler slipped through.

Let us go East. Bernie Callinan and Geof Laidlaw did their bit, as did Rolf Baldwin, Alan Luby, Jack Sargent, Norm Tillet, Harry Botterill, Ron Trengove, Neil Hooper, Jim English and Tom Nisbet who having now lived most of his life in Victoria does get a special second run. Perhaps South Australia needs a special roll call. There are only a few of them but if you look back on Bert Bache, Dud Tapper, Allan Hollow, Bob Williamson and the remarkable Keith Dignum your only comment could be, "What a solid bunch."

How could one pass on without special note of that best of all correspondents Paddy Kenneally, who has apart from numerous other services to the association kept us posted down the years with a fund of interstate, travel, personal and family news and completely unbiased political comment. He has ensured the Courier of a source of copy.

I don't propose to take the time to give proper thanks to the ladies and will simply allow Jess

Epps, Helen Poynton and Delys Carey to bear the weight of our deep felt appreciation of the support we have had from them. We should give a special note of thanks to Peter Epps who has given time and effort to keep some of our memory intact.

Now to the real business of this occasion. Let there no longer be doubt, if there ever were any, that the two members who are to receive a special award from their association, are Colin Doig and Jack Carey. In order of age and because I have known him for rather longer than most members, I intend to deal with "The Doig" at somewhat greater length. I first met Colin in his home town of Wagin when I was a secondary school boy who made Wagin my vacation headquarters for duck shooting and cricket. Colin's mother, much loved and respected, was one of the great ladies of the region and a pillar of the Anglican church. Despite the fact that he knew a multitude of Bible stories and was sought after as a Sunday school teacher, in Colin's case the theology just didn't take. So today you have him in his essential agnosticism. If you don't like it you must lump it. But I warn you. Try no conversions. Colin's work for all of us has been monumental and in all probability it has been both the making and salvation of our association.

His early years of planning and editing the Courier kept us together in a way not thought possible. We must never lose sight of the countless man hours he has spent on our behalf. He has always had the gift of words — **standard English** — the **vernacular** and **super expressive with colourful embellishment**, but for me his true strength lies in his complete mastery of the art of under and over statement. Let me give you an example. The scene is a tent on Wilson's Promontory. It is over-crowded but we have transportable refreshments. Mick Morgan is seated on someone else's kit bag holding court. Can you ever remember a happier drunk than 'Mickio,' never missing a word (his hearing was better then) smiling with camaraderie and joy and ready to conduct the choir or burst into a personal solo, he sat entranced by Colin's pristine delivery. Colin was telling two young unlucky Eastern Australians just how unlucky they were not to be Westerners. The kids in question may have been Messrs Botterill and Greenhalgh. "When the war is over," said Colin, "Come to W.A. It's a land of opportunity. I come from a little one horse town called Wagin. A few years ago a bloke called into our area without a bob in his pocket and now he owns half the place and a bit of St. George's Terrace, and he's a member of parliament to boot, and when he came down our way he didn't have a stiver." All we sandgraspers knew he was referring to Hon.

Sydney K. Stubbs, known affectionately in his electorate as Spittie Stubbs. Now Charlie King was there twitching his shoulders, as Mary will recognise, though it must be admitted he had rather more shoulders to twitch in those days. At any rate he launched an attack on Colin's statement. "Eh Col," he said "Old Spittie must have had a few bob when he cum." This was a slight which cast unwarranted doubt on the veracity of Colin's story and it so enraged him that he gave Charlie the full blue-eyed treatment, "Listen sport," he said "If Queen Mary's had been a dime a bloody dozen when this poor bastard landed in our neck of the woods, he wouldn't have been able to raise the wind to buy the dinghy from a Sydney Ferry boat." The wonder of this statement kept us all in silent awe until someone cracked another bottle.

When Tom Murray handed over the cash from the Friends of the 2/2nd. The Government of the day had decided that all such moneys should go into vested revenue. The Under-Treasurer made overtures to reclaim the money without result. At a later date three or four of us had an audience with the Federal Minister in charge of such matters, a dour Scot named Dedman. Colin simply told him, "We've got the money. You take it from us and see what the yellow press does to you." When we left Mr. Dedman was obviously in a thoughtful mood and it seemed we might keep the money after all.

Colin has always had success with politicians. He hates them quite evenly irrespective of party but they tend to crack in his presence. After Federal Authorities had decided that the Timor Memorial was not a proper subject for funding Ron Kirkwood and Colin obtained a personal audience with the then Prime Minister, John Grey Gordon. It is significant that though Ron used to shiver slightly when recalling what was said at that meeting an announcement was made shortly afterwards that the Commonwealth would contribute \$4,000 or 50% of the cost of the memorial. Once the association was up and running Colin took great interest in grooming people for office. Most of these I am sure he regarded as stop-gap until he discovered a fellow masochist in the person of Jack Carey who from his first acceptance of a role has served us without stint. Again just think of the hours he has given us.

Because they are so different and yet so alike Jack and Colin have developed down the years a oneness of thought and purpose which has consistently rebounded to our benefit. I don't mean to imply that they always agree. Far from it. Sometimes there have been near fiery clashes. When all is said and done Doig is a gaelic surname from the north and Carey is clear Irish. On the whole one may

report that the single object of "The good of the association" has resulted in an obvious affection and respect for one another so much so that I can remember Colin dealing out some entirely unsolicited and subtle advice. From memory it went something like this, "Don't let your Church hang-ups colour your bloody thinking. You'll miss out and regret it all your bloody life." I like to think that the very gentleness of the phrasing had some casual influence. At any rate it was only a short time afterwards that we all had the opportunity of knowing and thereafter loving Delys Carey.

I think that the closeness we have developed as members of a unit and of an association can be partly explained by studying the careers within the association of Colin and Jack. They have shared always the task of service and the service has been to us. Colin has taken a particular interest in all of us and our families and affairs. It is easy to notice the intense satisfaction he enjoys in success stories. His blue eyes light up with satisfaction. I am sure he regards us as his extended family. On the subject of eyes lighting up no one can really know Jack Carey until they have seen his face when the subject of Timorese children comes up. Many of us returned to Timor to see the mountains, to hear the cadence of Tetum or to return to the sites of minor battles lost or won. Jack Carey returned to see the kids. He took enough sweets and had himself a ball.

When I began these notes I intended detailing or trying to detail, the immense and various activities undertaken on our behalf by Colin and Jack. Then it occurred to me that you needed no list of positions held to place these two at the top of the heap. None of you will disagree with the President's choice. Irrespective of their positions in the hierarchy of our association they have always been the contact points. It has been "Ring Carey" or "Ring Doig" for all of us and we have never been let down. We have designed an honour for these two which can never be repeated since it is an award made in our 50th. Anniversary Year. And it is certain that no list of offices held or tasks performed was necessary. We could have chosen these two in our sleep.

It only remains then for me to call on our President, Bernie Langridge, to present Colin and Jack **with Special Gold Awards.**

With gratitude and heartfelt thanks from us all.

W.A. CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

This, as usual, was a highly successful function with an attendance of 75. The 2/2nd family really know how to enjoy themselves, it was a scene of animation with everyone entering in to the Christmas spirit.

It was great to see our widows as they are an integral part of our social functions. Their attendance is a tribute to the great bond of friendship that exists in our Association.

Informality was the keynote and Len Bagley set the pattern with a welcome to all in his usual breezy style and our President, Bernie Langridge, on behalf of himself, wife Babs and his Committee, wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. The catering by the Anzac Club was, as always, first class.

A Hasson Highlight

In welcoming Jack Hasson and his family to the party Len told us that several years ago Norma had written to the Committee suggesting that, as our Christmas socials were so popular, perhaps we could also have a mid-year social as a means of getting together more often. This was adopted by Committee and proved to be a great success. When Norma passed on Len suggested that the mid-year social be known in future as 'Norma Hasson Day,' which received the full support of the Committee and Members.

Peter Epps upholds a family tradition

This stalwart worker for our Association was made an Honorary Life Member, a richly deserved honour. His badge was presented by Bernie Langridge with some well chosen words and supported by Colin Doig who gave a resume on Peter's contribution to the Association.

Peter created our War History Museum in the garage of the Greenmount home of his mother, Jess Epps. He has put mountains of work into establishing this Museum and the result is first class. Those who have not visited this historical area are missing something unique.

Peter's next venture is a real challenge — a history on each member of the 2/2nd, accompanied by a photo of each member, to be produced in book form during 1992. Peter has worked night and day like a beaver, against the odds of our lethargy, to bring it all together. Thanks for such a courageous project Peter, it will remain a tribute to your expertise and the love of your father's Unit. Members Australia wide extend to you their appreciation.

There is a tremendous record of involvement by the Epps family. First your father, Bill as an esteemed member of the Unit, then a prodigious worker in peace time for our Association of which he was a Life Member.

This effort was supported by Jess, wife and mother, whose contribution to the 2/2nd has been outstanding during the post-war years. We love her for all she has meant to our Association, of which she is an Honorary Associate Life Member. Finally, Peter put the seal on a super family achievement, three of a kind, who have given service well beyond the normal.

Another happy, successful function came to an end with everyone wishing each other the best for the festive season and a healthy, happy 1992.

Archie Campbell

VALE RONALD ROLF GOODACRE

It is with deep regret that we have to report the death of yet another dear friend and comrade, Ron Goodacre, who passed away suddenly on the 22nd November at the age of 70. Ron had been in quite good health and had only recently moved to a new home on the central coast and was enjoying life in new surroundings. The cause of his death was apparently a massive coronary.

Ron was a foundation member of the Association N.S.W. in 1947, and regularly attended meetings and safaris, and will be sadly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him. He was made a Life Member some years ago in recognition of his loyal service to the Association.

Ron came to the Unit in New Guinea and was posted to 1 Section, 'A' Platoon and he stayed with the Section right through the New Guinea and New Britain campaigns. He was a good soldier and a valuable member of the best unit in the A.I.F. Ron was a very capable person who could fix anything, a trait which he carried on through life as a father and grand father. He was a loving husband to Marj and together they raised a fine family of four boys and two girls who, in turn, have given them fourteen grand children.

A very large gathering of family and friends attended a Mass for Ron at St. Charles Catholic Church at Ryde and the burial at Field of Mars Cemetery at Ryde. The Association was well represented by Alan and Edith Luby, Ron and Dorothy Trengove, Bill and Coral Coker, Col and Val Holley, John Went and friend Helen, Jack and Maria Hartley, Betty Hoy, Ron Hilliard, Mick Mannix, Jack Iles, Paddy Kenneally and Ray Cole.

To Marj and family and Ron's brother Leo and sister we extend our love and sympathy and best wishes for the future.

Jack Hartley

DILI MASSACRE

The purpose of this article is to bring to the attention of readers what your Association has done in regard to that vicious massacre of innocent civilians at the cemetery in Dili in November, 1991.

All persons associated with our Unit were horrified once again by the heavy handed repression measures taken by the Indonesian authorities and especially their military on the occasion of a memorial service to some of their slain at a previous confrontation. This time it was documented to the whole World by journalists and photographers who were on the scene. There could be no possible doubt of the authenticity of this vile act as it was there plainly for all viewers to see.

The reaction by your Association was absolutely stunned and horrified and immediate action was taken by your President in W.A., President in N.S.W. and the Commando Association of N.S.W. to make our views plain to the Australian Government via the then Prime Minister Bob Hawke. These letters were most plain and indignant at the Australian stance ever since the 1975 take-over by Indonesia. They were blunt in the extreme and put our view on this matter in bold terms. We deplored Australia's recognition of the original take-over. We deplored the recognition of Indonesia's claim to East Timor as the 27th State. We requested that Australia take a stand to have United Nations send a delegation to East Timor to get the real truth of the matter and we also requested that the Australian Government take up the matter of Self Determination for the People of East Timor.

Members attended rallies in all Capital Cities and many many members wrote personal letters to the then Prime Minister stating their views in most unequivocal terms. Ray Aitken, Jack Carey, Harry Sproxtton, John Burrige, Col Doig, Arch Campbell and many others from W.A. rushed off strongly worded letters to the then Prime Minister, leaving him in no doubt as to our views of the matter. Paddy Kenneally appeared on T.V. to state our case, also Alan Luby sent off strong representations from the East. **TO DATE NO REPLY FROM THE EX P.M.** What utter rudeness.

We in W.A. have followed up by sending Mr Keating copies of the communications written to the previous P.M. We hope for at least an acknowledgement. However, I have stringent doubts as a recent communication from the P.M. to the Press seems to indicate that he is satisfied with the white-wash presented by the Indonesian team who looked into the matter. The fact that a couple of new Generals have

been appointed to East Timor to replace the alleged culprits is meaningless. Generals are ten cents a gross in Indonesia and what is a couple of replacements? One of the replacement Generals has already indicated that he will be taking a very tough attitude. What is really going to happen to those poor souls still left in East Timor? It seems that the overall plan of the Indonesians is **GENOCIDE**. After all they have countless millions in Java with which to replace the hapless victims of their savage maledictions.

To think that up until now Australia has condoned all this. The current Australian Government attitude seems to be that this massacre was a 'one off' situation when it is actually a continuation of much of the same that has seen 200,000 slaughtered since 1975. It is most obvious that our P.M. and his Foreign Secretary are only looking for a small chance to jump clear and let the Indonesians have their will in this demoralised and unlucky region of this planet which is our nearest neighbour. If it had been the Gulf, South Africa, Cambodia or Vietnam they would have been wading in 'knackers deep' but the poor old East Timorese, our helpers in World War II can go deeply to that well know 'Out House' as far as our hopeless Government is concerned.

Col Doig

TIMORESE DAY

On Saturday, January 25th a group of Mandurah 2-2s joined 20 of our Timorese friends as guests of Beryl Smith at her home for a barbecue lunch and a convivial afternoon which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Beryl was certainly the Hostess with the Mostest and the Timorese ladies brought along many delicacies to tempt our palates. There was much laughter as our men brushed up on their Tetum, to the delight and amusement of the Timorese.

Bernie Langridge said a few words of welcome and thanked Beryl for her generous hospitality and Domingos de Oliveira responded with thanks on behalf of his people and assured us that the people in East Timor will never forget the men of the 2/2nd and are most grateful for any assistance we can give them in these troubled times.

VICTORIAN NEWS

We had the best roll up ever at our Christmas luncheon on December 9th at Paterson River County Club which did us proud with a very good luncheon and our thanks to Jack Fox for organising it.

BOB SMYTH'S ROGUES GALLERY — SEQUENCE 20



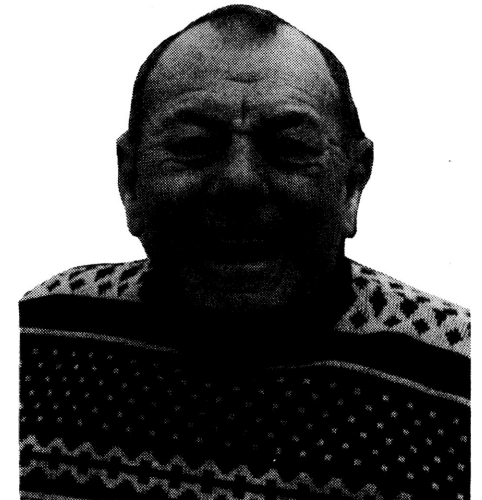
Fred Janvrin



Col Holley



Ron Hilliard



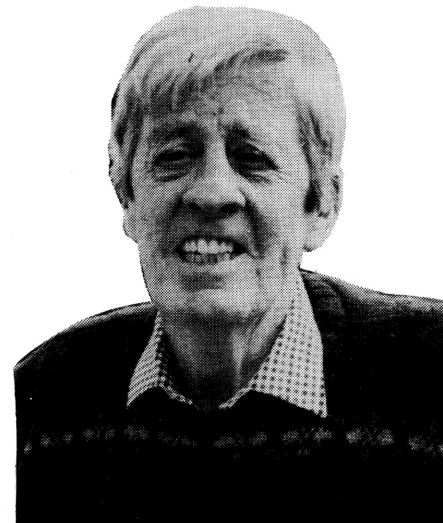
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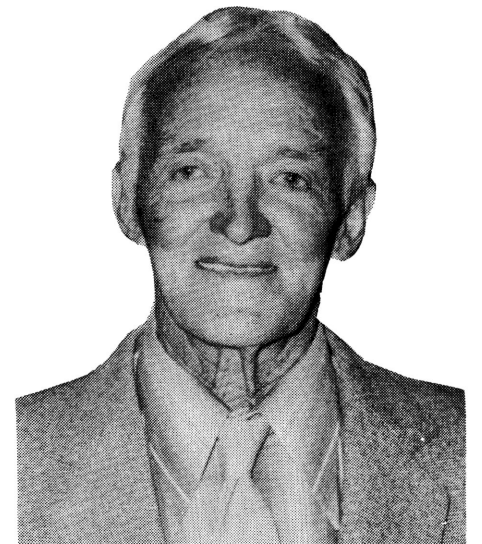
Ron Host



Doug Dixon



Frank O'Neill



Jim Cullen

The following were present — Patsy and Max Thatcher, John and Cath Roberts, Leith and Marj Cooper, Harry and Olive Botterill, Sep and Monica Wilson, Bruce and Lorraine McLaren, Ken and Margaret Monk, John and Shirley Southwell, Bruce and Faye Smith, Jock and Faye Campbell, George and Dot Robinson, George Veitch and daughter Susan, Eddie and Dorothy Bourke, Fred Broadhurst and sister Phyllis, Grace Davies, Peter McCracken, Jack and Julie Fox, Dulcie Gay and daughter-in-law Melwa, Alf and Gwenda Harper, Don and Joan Fryer, Alex and Beryl Boast, Bill and Pat Petersen, Tom Nisbet, Peter Krause, Mick Wellings, Paul Costelloe, Wilma Tobin, Nina Grachan, Glad Curran. Apologies were received from Bill Tucker, Bill and Eileen Sharpe, Wyn Humphreys, Joy Hodgson, Nancy Briggs, Bert Dowsett, Bruce and Erica Poynton, Dawn and Arch Claney, Norm and Fran Tillet, Rolf (Baldy) Baldwin, Sir Bernard and Lady Naomi Callinan, Colin South, David and Thais Brown, Mavis Broadhurst.

It was very pleasing to see our country members well to the fore — they are real stalwarts.

Eileen Sharp wrote a note regretting they could not come as Bill is not too well, although they had some good news regarding his sight. The lens grafts were successful and its great that the world isn't just a grey shape to him now. It's wonderful that the operation was a success as, with diabetes, there was the risk that it wouldn't be. They send their regards to all. Good luck Bill and we hope you keep improving. You have had a rough time and its about time the breaks came your way.

Mavis Broadhurst's father is not in the best of health and Mavis was looking after him.

Nancy Briggs had to attend a Legacy luncheon as she is the Treasurer.

Bill Tucker is now residing in Tocumwal, NSW. He phoned to say he has a nice home, large block and good garden and is well and very happy but was unable to come down.

A Christmas card was received from Glad Curran wishing all the 2/2nd family good health and happiness.

Fred Broadhurst sent Christmas cards to all our widows, which he does every year. Thanks Fred — you are doing a good job looking after our girls.

That's all for now, a Healthy Happy New Year to all.

Harry Botterill

CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

**R. Harrington
Box 35
Bolgart 6568**

Once again strong emotions get stirred at the Commemoration Service, possibly a little more so this year with the loss of Jack Spencer. I was quite sad at not being able to make the trip to pay my last respects to someone for whom I have held the highest of respect for a full 50 years, he being one of our six section team, and a great soldier. He gave as much dedication to his soldiering as he must have done to his boxing to have become a top boxer.

You often hear the saying "He is a great friend and would lay down his life for his mates." That is an absolute truth as it applied to Jack. This was demonstrated when word came through that the Japs were on the march in the August Push. There was the usual O.P. patrol at Daralaia, as always sleeping in the bush. Jack Spencer and Jack Penglase came out in the pitch dark from Remexio to inform us of our situation. They had to find us in the bush as we didn't camp in the same place twice. They also had the added danger that we would have to be convinced that they weren't Japs. Fortunately the boss picked a pretty good singer in Jack Penglase, and we were convinced that the Japs couldn't sing Waltzing Matilda as well as that. Time has dimmed my memory of course, but I think there were only the two of them. If there was someone else I apologise for not mentioning them.

I'm afraid time is catching up with us all, but as each name is called in that sad roll call one still remembers a touch of something about each and every one of them and I think we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to those who had the foresight and fortitude to organise that we have the privilege of having our own avenue of trees, and also to George, our Warden, and all who help to see that the area is maintained in such beautiful condition.

On a lighter note, I had just had a phone call from June Pow, Jack's niece, who was so very kind and helpful to Jack over the years, to say he had passed away, when 8 year old Kathrine, one of my grand-daughters, started worrying me about a ride on the motor bike and I told her not now, I have just found out one of my best friends has died. Later, when I was sitting quietly thinking of Jack she climbed up on my knee and asked me if I was still feeling sad about my friend. I said 'yes darling' and she replied 'never mind poppy, you'll be dead soon and be up in heaven with him.' A very compassionate thought but I hope not prophetic.

On top of all that sadness is the sadness of losing Norma Hasson. Our personal friendship goes back many years to when we had our families as little ones and spent very many holidays together. We all piled into the Nash and those who couldn't get inside would ride in the boot. That friendship carried on into adult life in the case of Kay and Laurie who, with Sheryl and Roy, have been inseparable friends for years.

I am no letter writer or journalist, or whatever it takes to do justice to ones feelings about someone as dear as I hold Jack's memory. He was a great soldier, a great friend and a man of the true tradition of the 2/2.

Kindest regards to all the 2/2.

Reg

**J. Peattie
Kuching
Sarawak Malaysia**

Just a note to wish you all the best for Christmas and the New Year from Marj and myself.

We've been sweating it out over here with our daughter and her family since October as the kids' school holidays start then to stop the wet season floods interfering with exams.

We're virtually sitting on the equator here, but living in a home with air conditioning and fans is totally different to New Guinea as homes are built to suit the climate. The wet season has started now, with rain every day, but to a pattern. Mornings are generally clear and cool but rapidly warm up and cloud cover by 10-11am. Rain usually starts from mid-afternoon to early night and can be anything from steady rain to a torrential storm.

Sarawak, although part of Malaysia, is very different to peninsula Malaysia, being that part of Borneo once ruled by the white rajahs, Brooke, who stopped the fighting between the different tribal groups and gave a stability that seems to be generally appreciated by all groups. The people are a mixture of quite a number of different tribes, probably up to ten major ones, plus the Malays and Chinese who settled in the coastal towns and along the rivers.

One of the most dreaded tribes were the Sea Dyaks or Ibans. These were the real head hunters and pirates who terrorised the others, including other Ibans. Forts were built along the rivers to keep these people back in the inland where they lived in jungle clearings. The older people are still beautifully tattooed and experts with the blow pipe. However, they are a naturally intelligent people and we know quite a few who are graduates of overseas universities and hold high positions.

On earlier trips over here Marj and I have taken a guide and gone up the rivers in a long boat and stayed with these people. Like most native races, they show a gentleness and kindness to all their own group that could not be surpassed. This kindness is also shown to accepted visitors to the long house. Marj and I slept on the floor of the chief's apartment and ate the food that they had, hill padi (rice) native vegetable, and frogs legs cooked in bamboo — very nice too.

Outside on the communal verandah their hunting dogs lived, plus their prize fighting cocks. Strung from the ceiling there were neat open string bags containing all told about two hundred heads that had been collected in earlier days but are still prized. These heads included a few that had belonged to Japs who had come up the river and harmed some of their women folk. A few well placed blowpipe darts and they were in no further need of a head. A later sally up the river to tame them with darts in the narrows of the river so the Ibans had no more worries.

Besides the racial harmony you find here is also a general friendliness to Australians because of the part our soldiers played here against the Jap, who is not forgiven for what happened to ordinary folk during their occupation. In the Kuching cemetery is what is known as the 'Hero's Grave' where are buried a number of Chinese and other Sarawakians who were caught smuggling food to the P.O.Ws. The men who were caught accepting the food were also shot. In the Sarawak Club that we regularly visit is an honour board with the names of members killed by the Japs. The Indian garrison troops were also rounded up and shot.

With the wet season started, it is not much good going inland so we'll just enjoy being with the family and head home some time after Christmas.

Enclosed is a cheque to be handed on to the Treasurer.

All the best, my regards to the boys and we hope to see you in Port Macquarie.

Jack

**R. Trengove
46 Hillcrest Avenue
Mona Vale 2103**

Today I went to a quiet demonstration by 100 or so people for the Timorese and saw many faces that were coming back to me. I joined Alan Luby, Paddy Kenneally, Jack Hartley, Bill Tomasetti and Gordon Hart. There were others who I think were 4th or 'Z' Force.

We were addressed by various speakers but I was most impressed with Her Honour Justice Evatt, niece of Dr Evatt who put forward to Parliament in the '50s that we annexe, by negotiation, from the Portos. I congratulated her and she asked if I had been to Timor during the war and congratulated us and wished us well.

I met a well dressed Timorese named Alfredo and his lovely wife Flavia who was born in Maucatur in 1942. He mentioned Brig. Veale, and I named Capt Arnold and S/Sgt Laurie Ross. He told me that he was 8 years old when the Australians were at Fatu Besi and he remembers a man called Archie (Campbell) who was a 'Loot' and used to teach him and the other boys to play rugby using grapefruit off the trees. He got away on the Vigilant but Flavia didn't get out until 1975.

Alfredo and Flavia would grace any company they may be in. He is an Electronics Engineer, doing very well, and they have two daughters. I hope to see more of this family.

Dorothy has had a very rough year — anyone without her inner strength could not have stood up to it, I'm sure.

Looking forward to seeing many of the 2/2nd in March '92.

RON

R. Morris
53 Hilder Street
Weston 2611

A very Happy New Year to all members of the 2/2nd and your families.

I am endeavouring to make Port Macquarie in March but my wife has relatives visiting from the U.K. and we are not sure of the dates they will be staying with us, also my Lions Club is trying to arrange a visit to our Twin Club in Fiji to which we have donated a childrens playground. You can see I am still a busy chap, what a pity there are not more hours in the day.

Herewith a small donation to the funds.
God bless you all.

Ron

J. P. Kenneally
28 Wilkins Street
Yagoona 2199

This particular assignment is exactly one month after the event. I refer to the Timorese day of mourning of invasion day, 7th Dec. 1975. In Sydney this took the form of a Mass

concelebrated by Cardinal Clancy, Archbishop of Sydney, Bishop Brennan of Sydney and Bishop Pell of Melbourne, three Priests, one of whom was Timorese.

The Timorese community of Sydney actively participated in the laity's role in the sacrifice of the Mass. The procession to the Altar of Cardinal Clancy, his fellow Bishops and Priests, was led by Timorese boys and girls bearing lighted candles. The hymns for the Mass were sung in Tetum by Timorese also in traditional dress, and Australians dressed in black.

The first and second reading of the Epistles were by Timorese, as were the Psalms, and the responses by the whole congregation. The offertory, the water and wine and Hosts were presented by a Timorese boy and girl, preceded by children and escorted by Timorese men dressed in full mauriedor regalia and carrying wooden swords.

Cardinal Clancy, in his sermon, denounced the brutal killing of unarmed defenceless people that occurred on November 12th, 1991 in Dili. He condemned all acts of aggression and all violence and repression by stronger nations against weaker, not only physical violence, but economic violence as well, perpetrated by rich, powerful countries in their selfish disregard of the needs of under-developed countries, and of the poor and disadvantaged within their own states. There was a message for all, but paramount was the message of support of the Church for the people of East Timor in their quest for a chance to decide their own future. (It is not a great deal to ask, yet Australia, the United States and many nations of the so-called 'Free World' steadfastly refuse to support East Timor in that request. Indonesia is aided in the aggression. It receives massive economic help and arms from the U.S. and Australia. At the time of the massacre there were Indonesian officers going through a training course at Canungra Jungle Training Centre. Were we teaching them to more efficient killers of innocent people?)

The section in brackets is my own observation and had nothing to do with the observance of the 'day of mourning.'

The Mass was folowed by a silent walk from the Cathedral to the Town Hall, plenty of banners (including our double red diamond banner) from various organisations supporting the aspirations of the Timorese people. The courtyard between St. Andrews Cathedral and the Town Hall was packed with people. John Carrascalav, prominent member of the East Timorese community of Sydney, gave a moving address stressing the sufferings of East Timor since 1975 and pointing out the total lack of support from all

Australian Governments before, during, and after those fateful events of 1975.

Ramos Horta followed with an appeal for help and understanding of the plight of East Timor. He has been pleading Timor's case since early 1975. He was snubbed by the Whitlam Government prior to November 11th 1975 and Fraser's caretaker Government and elected Government post November 1975.

Judge Elizabeth Evatt was scathing of official attitudes to the sufferings, the killings, torture, and imprisonment of the Timorese people by the Indonesian military. Our disregard of what has been happening in Timor for sixteen years, and the Prime Minister's puerile protest to Suharto's Government on the November massacre was disgraceful, said the Judge.

In all, the day of mourning achieved much, the Cathedral was packed, the walk to the Town Hall was impressive. The people of Sydney saw that, despite Government actions in ignoring the plight of East Timor, its diplomatic recognition of Indonesia's annexation, and the signing of 'the gap treaty' thousands of Sydney citizens were totally opposed to our Government's policy in relation to East Timor being claimed as Indonesia's 27th Province.

Enclosed is a cheque for the Independent Trust Fund to cover the complete period from 1st July 1991 to 30th June 1997. The trustees have a responsible job administering this fund. I am sure it will be a task admirably carried out. It was stated ideas from donors would be appreciated. From my observations in East Timor in 1990, medical assistance was most needed. In many regions I saw the only medical attention was given by the Missions. There was no shortage of schools, they were everywhere, and for one reason only, to shape the minds and hearts of young Timorese in a mould suitable to their Indonesian masters. The only hospital I saw was in Dili — there could have been others but I didn't see them. I do not agree that this help should be sent to Indonesian Government agencies, or carried out by them. If there are no other independent medical centres such as Red Cross, it should be channelled through Mission sources.

Good luck, and may 1992 be a good year for all.

Paddy

P. L. Thatcher
6 Park Road
Middle Park 3206

Please find enclosed cheques. The second one is a contribution to the Courier, which I enjoy receiving immensely, particularly the Rogues Gallery sequence. It is good to be able

to see a face which relates to names I've only read about.

Hope all is well with you all. Looking forward to catching up in March.

Am kept busy, both with the thesis and organising protests and rallies to highlight the plight of the Timorese students on trial over last November's massacre. Many have been charged with sedition which carries the death penalty in Indonesia.

Take care. Regards.

Patsy

M. Calvert
33A Mill Hill Close
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1NY

I think I might mention a little rigmarole which I wrote when suffering from Amoebic Dysentery in Burma, when operating with the Chindits.

*Solomon had his Sheba
 She ain't my cup of tea.
 I know my Amoeba
 She's good enough for me.
 Down in my zareeba
 I keep my pet Amoeba
 All shapes and all calibre
 For love and for du liebe
 For me and my Amoebae
 Will be the end of me.*

I wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year and, next to England, I support Australia in all sports and games and remain very impressed by all your performances.

Yours ever.

Michael

S. and B. Sadler
P.O. Box 24
Wongan Hills 6603

Enclosed is our contribution to the Trust Fund for the complete period.

We hope to make it to Port Macquarie for the Safari and have booked in the Caravan Park. A long trip over, but we will have a few days stop over in Geelong.

Had a wet Christmas Eve here, weatherwise. Bloody nuisance, and we still have quite a lot of harvesting to do.

Hope Delys is in good health now after missing the big 50th celebration dinner for which she did so much work in preparation.

All the best for the new year. Regards.

Stan

Alma Moore
10 Poplar Street
Dwellingup 6213

Just a few lines to wish all Christmas greetings and thanking you again for the Courier over the year. Enclosing a donation and also I would like one copy of Jim Smailes Poems and one Pictorial Supplement to The History.

Regards to all.

Alma

P. Campbell
30 Castletown Quays
Esperance 6450

Geoff Swann, Peter and I went up to Kalgoorlie to Jack Spencer's funeral. Jack Sheehan and his family were there, also Stan Payne and Eric Thornander. A nice service in an open air crematorium. One of Jack's friends, Geoff Smith, spoke of how Jack's love of children helped groups of under privileged children when he had his lease in the bush and entertained them with stories of the old days. He was a highly respected citizen of the Goldfields and died with his boots on as he always wanted to.

Harvesting in full swing down here when the weather is O.K. Had more rain in November than nearly all winter.

Regards to all the Unit.

Pat and Peter

O. K. Dignum
24 Selkirk Avenue
Seaton 5023

Am enclosing a couple of articles that appeared in the S.A. 'Advertiser,' one in which Archie Campbell got a mention, the other is Des Colquhoun, a satirical reporter who did a good job on East Timorese. This spurred me on and I approached members of the Commando Association of South Australia and suggested that we submit a letter of disapproval of the Australian Government's silence and inactivity over the East Timorese debacle. I wrote to Hawke with a copy to John Hewson, and one to the Editor of the 'Advertiser' and am waiting with bated breath for the replies, if any.

The following is a quote from a letter I received from Quorn. Troops travelling to Darwin by train during the war had to pass through Quorn.

The Quorn community is having a "Troop Train Re-enactment" from Saturday 17th to 25th April 1993.

The C.W.A. women claim to have served over 1,000,000 meals to servicemen travelling through Quorn during the war. They would be grateful for any information, photos etc from ex-servicemen. They are collecting the history of that period for a display and possibly a book. The Camera Club will assist them in reproducing old and valuable photos.

They would also appreciate any letters from ex-servicemen of that period who travelled through Quorn, just a short note or letter of their memories would be adequate.

Do not confuse Quorn with Terowie, that was where the sheep incident happened.

Address correspondence to:

Val Francis
C/- Junction Gallery
Box 177, Quorn 5433

Keith

EDITOR: *Let's see if we can help the wonderful people of Quorn with even the slightest piece of memorabilia. thank you in anticipation.*

A. Hodge
2/289 Wakaden Street
Griffith 280

Am well overdue with this, but doesn't time pass quickly.

The work you people do on the Courier is greatly appreciated. It is always good to hear how all the chaps are faring.

I saw a few of the boys for the first time since 1945, at Keith Craig's funeral, and they are all wearing well. Col Doig hasn't lost any of his drive, he is still as sharp as ever (quick on the draw).

My regards to all the boys, Joyce and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and health for the New Year.

Enclosed is a cheque for the Courier etc.

Alf

R. Archer
36 Soudan Street
Toowong 4066

This is to wish all members seasonal greetings and, as far as possible, good health and happiness.

On the 11th December our local pre-Christmas get-together was held at the Kenmore home of Ralph and Sheila Conley —

the hosts and all helpers did a splendid job. There were 22 present and am glad to report that Angus is making progress, though slowly.

Whilst there I read a copy of the letter Alan Luby sent to the P.M. about the recent Dili massacre and couldn't agree more with the contents. Unlike Kuwait, East Timor has no oil — in modern times its **only** money that people are prepared to fight over. **IF** the United Nations gets interested in self determination for these people it is hoped that it will not be conducted on the same lines as in West Irian — that was a complete travesty of justice. At the local protest rally on the 7th December Bill Gibbs of the 2/4th Company gave a fine address. Those present included John J. O'Neill (Ballina), Billy Hamlyn (Lismore), Peter Perrett — all 2/4th, Reg Murray 'Z' (Murwillumbah) and Ray (Butch) Barnier and me — 2/2 Company.

Haven't heard much from our one and only Sammy these days. His Brisbane house was recently re-sold and it seems that the vendor loaded a few dollars on to it, using Sam's famous name.

Enclosed is a donation to help keep the pot boiling. Cheers.

Ron

P. Mantle
19 Arnold Street
Allora 4362

Please send me one Pictorial Supplement to the History and put the remainder into general funds.

Am still in good health — with no added preservatives.

Here on the Darling Downs the long long drought has broken. The dry times were not fun for anyone, but so many farmers today have irrigation that its not hit so hard as in the past.

For Certain High Reasons of State I think 1992 will be a good year all round.
 Best regards.

Peter

1st Commando Regiment
Avoca Street
Randwick 2031
12 December, 1991

I would like to take this opportunity to appraise the members of your Association on the present status of the 1st Commando Regiment.

During 1991 the Regiment has had a year of intense activity. This activity has centred on

preparation for Exercise Kangaroo 92, where the Regiment is operating as the enemy. It has been pleasing to note, as the Commanding Officer, that the calibre of our modern commando is very high and the spirit of the unit is unchanged. All members are keen to learn which augers well for the future of the unit.

Training for the Regiment presently concentrates on recovery operations similar to the planned Operation KINGFISHER of WWII, for the recovery of prisoners of war from Sandakan. The unit does however still retain the capability of mounting harassment operations similar to those of the 2/2 Commando Company.

The Commando Regiment follows closely the activities of the Commando Associations, and the unit is very aware of the historical basis of the Regiment. It is a combination of historical example and modern technology that will ensure the continued success of this Regiment.

Finally I would like to wish the members and families of the Association a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and a safe festive season.

M. L. J. Hamilton—Smith
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding Officer

O. K. Dignum
24 Selkirk Avenue
Seaton S.A. 5023

Betty and I went up to the Quorn Caravan Park with Berk King's ashes to fulfil the last act, to finalise Bert's departure from this troubled world; why should we mourn.

Bert's friends, Reg and Yvonne Player, Quorn residents, Lyle and Lois Litchfield, Betty and myself, went out to Warren Gorge, a favourite spot of Bert's, where he would sit with Reg and just enjoy nature and the atmosphere of the bush.

So with solemnity we spread his ashes in an area he liked best.

We returned to Quorn and had a meal at the Criterion Motel-Hotel, settled down for a serious wake and the meal, both enjoyable. Then we put it on the publican for a complimentary "Port," he was slow to hook on, but we got it! I think Bert would have been proud of us!!

Ray Splatt was coming up with us but other commitments scuttled that. Am enclosing a eulogy to Bert, by Ray.

Enclosing a bit for the Courier.

Dig

We thank the following for their Christmas and New Year wishes:

President and Commissioners, Repatriation Commission, Canberra.

Ben Humphreys, Minister for Veterans' Affairs.

State President, Members of the State Executive and Staff, The Returned and Services League of Australia (W.A. Branch).

Commanding Officer and All Ranks, 1st Commando Regiment.

Michael Calvert.

Dulcie Gay.

The Courier Team would like to convey their thanks for the grand co-operation they have had from all members. Without your support our job would be much more difficult. Please keep up the good work. We wish you all good health and the best of luck in 1992.

DONATIONS

Mrs Gus O'Connor, Bob Smyth, Russ Blanch, Col. Criddle, Dot Boyland, Gordon Rowley, Jim McLaughlin, Don Turton, Doug Fullarton, Henry Sproxtton, Gerry Maley, Rob Stanton, Milton Evans, Jess Epps, Stan Payne, Isabel and Pat MacDonald, Ron Archer, Peter Mangle, Jack Peattie, Alf Hodge, Dulcie Gay, Patsy Thatcher, Alma Moore, Syd Marsh, Mrs O. J. Thornton, Ron Morris, Keith Dignum.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

LAWRENCE, Mrs F.

Faye
15 Telford St
Ovingham 5082
08 269 4371

KENNEALLY, Mr J. P.

Paddy and Nora
28 Wilkins St
Yagoona 2199
02 796 8469

Does anyone know the whereabouts of **Jim Smith**, last known address — 11 Miami Quay, Broadbeach, 4218. Phone 075 502 556?

NEW ADDRESS

BURTON, Mrs J.

Joan
88 McBride Road
Pinkenba, Queensland 4008
07 260 1021

W.W.C.P.

ANGUS MacLACHLAN is battling along bravely, has a few bad days but with the close attention and support of Win is handling his problems with all the courage we know Angus has. God bless, love to you both from members Australia wide.

ALAN SOPER has had a rough spin battling the scourge, but, typical of his approach to life, still smiles through adversity. Jewell gives tremendous support and our prayers go out for a complete recovery. God bless from all members.

STOP PRESS: W.W.C.P.

TOM NISBET has had a bit of trouble in the heart region. Spent 7 days under intensive care. But typical of the Scottish Breed!! is back on deck. Good luck. God bless. Best wishes from us all.

EULOGY TO A COMRADE

BERT KING —

From RAY SPLATT

*Veils of mist descent the trees
No more silent than I,
Gentle as April grass,
As sunsets last petals descent
Silent as a shadow.
Lonely snow falls on the sunset of being,
This is society where none intrude,
There is a pleasure in this pathless voyage
Take with you Bert, to realms beyond,
Our closest ties of kindred spirit.
We have lost a comrade true
You have gained eternal rest.
We offer you our only gift —*

RESPECT.

(RAMON)