

2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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

President B. Langridge. Secretary J. Carey. Treasurer G. Bayliss.

Vol. 97

OCTOBER 1992

Price 1c

COMING EVENTS MENS ANNUAL DINNER

**11 a.m. Friday, October 16th
at Lions Club Hall, Park Road, Mandurah**

Bus will leave rear Booragoon Hotel, Riseley Street at 9.45 a.m.

Returning ex Mandurah at 3.30 p.m.

Come along & enjoy some southern hospitality

COMMEMORATION SERVICE

Lovekin Drive, Kings Park

Sunday, November 15th at 3 p.m.

Lest We Forget

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

Friday, 4th December at 11 a.m.

at Anzac Club, Perth

Please wear name tags

NEW SOUTH WALES NEWS

Annual General Meeting held at Arncliffe RSL Club on 7th September 1992.

Meeting opened at 12.30 p.m. with Alan Luby in the chair.

Attendance: A. Luby, J. Hartley, R. Cole, M. Mannix, J. Went, L. Coker, F. Janvrin, R. Trengove.

Apologies: J. Kenneally, R. Hilliard, C. Holley.

Minutes: The minutes of the previous annual meeting were read and adopted on motion M. Mannix, seconded R. Trengove.

Treasurers Report: The balance in our Advance Bank cheque account stands at \$709.62. Balance in Term Deposit account \$1,850.68. Report adopted on motion of F. Janvrin, seconded J. Went.

Business: The Annual Dinner of the Combined Commando Association of N.S.W. will be held at the **Paddington R.S.L. Club in Oxford Street on Thursday, 26th November. Gather at 11.30 a.m. for midday sit down. All Welcome. Please advise Alan Luby, 981 3287, by 19th November if attending.**

The Christmas get together of the 2/2 will be held on Wednesday, 16th December at the Harbord Diggers Club at Harbord. Gather at 11.30 for midday sit down lunch. Please ring Alan Luby to confirm you attendance. This will be a change from our usual barbecue and will be most enjoyable.

The following officers were elected for the coming year:

President	Alan Luby — unopposed.
Vice Presidents	Bill Coker (Senior V.P.) Mick Mannix & John Went.
Sec/Treasurer	Jack Hartley — unopposed.
Auditor	John Went — unopposed.
Committee	All members in attendance.

Sick Parade — **Paddy** was unable to attend the meeting because of a prior appointment with a specialist to sort out a problem with his knee.

Ron Hilliard has been in hospital to have some surgery on his gammy leg and has had to drastically reduce weight because of a sugar problem.

Col Holley has had a spell in Concord after more heart trouble but is now O.K.

Tom O'Brien is currently in Concord Hospital with a very debilitating illness and the prognosis is not good. Tom is in Ward 130, if anyone would like to visit him.

June Dennis, Betty Craig, Jack Hartley & Alan Luby are recovering at home after a spell in hospital.

Also had the pleasure of seeing **Tom Foster** who had to spend a couple of days in St. Vincents

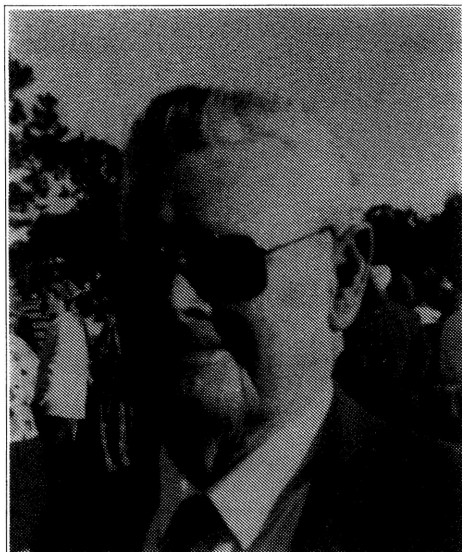
Hospital for an angioplasty heart operation which seems to have been successful.

Tom was on a round Australia car trip with Mary but only got as far as Canberra when his ticker began to play up. He spent a few days in Calvary Hospital before coming to St. Vincents for the operation and expected to be able to fly back to Canberra and eventually resume his tour.

The last time I saw Tom was when he stayed with me overnight about 30 years ago. He was on his way up north to buy some cattle and promised to come back, but never made it, so we were able to catch up. Hang up your spurs Tom, and hope to see you in Busseton.

Jack Hartley

VALE WILLIAM FREDERICK FOOT



William Frederick (Jimmy) Foot passed away in his sleep at Proserpine Hospital on the 11th July 1992 aged 79 years and one month. He suffered a heart attack three days before.

Jimmy spent all of his life, excepting war service, in the Proserpine district. On his return from the war he married Maureen Maloney in 1946 and they settled in Faust Street. He still lived in Faust Street only two doors from where they started their married life.

There are four children from the marriage. Bill and Peter who still live in the Proserpine district and Beryl and Irene who reside in Redcliffe.

In the period of his life he found himself in various occupations. These included land clearing, mining gold, fencing, roadwork, timber work, farming and

many years cutting sugar cane. When age stopped him from cutting sugar cane he commenced a job in the sugar mill where he eventually worked as a ganger on the tram lines.

He was forced into early retirement in 1967 after removed and after beating the disease lived in fair health until the time of his death. His wife predeceased him twenty years earlier to within one day of his own passing.

After the family left home he lived alone looking after himself completely, doing all the domestic duties without any help except for lawn mowing the last couple of years. He was a very independent man. Jimmy lived through the era of the motor car to its present stage without feeling the necessity to own or drive one and never held a driver's licence.

He was a humble and pleasant natured man with very strong morals and sincere principles. He will be sorely missed by his family and friends.

George Shiels

Jimmy joined the Unit at Canungra with Alan Soper, Alec Veovodin, Bulla Tait and others, and was posted to 9 Section 'C' Troop. He served in New Guinea and New Britain with distinction.

Tony Adams

Mrs J. Soper
9 Warill Street
Aitkenvale 4814

Dear Tony & Iris

Thank you for your sincere message of sympathy.

We are extremely sad, even though we thought we were prepared for Allan's death, such was not so when it happened, but we take comfort knowing that he has gone to his reward. He was a wonderful husband, father and grandfather. Very much a family man and much loved by his family.

Thank you Tony for your visits to Allan at Arthur Cooper Hospital. He did appreciate them, also other 2/2nd visitors.

We looked after him at home with the help of a wonderful, caring doctor, Blue nurses who came three times a day, our Parish Priest, and wonderful friends. He suffered a lot during the first few months but once his pain was controlled he was very peaceful and able to enjoy his family and friends around him. He never complained and died so peacefully. His farewell from Holy Spirit was really something — 'Befitting the man'.

Enclosing a copy of eulogy by Keith Barnett, Allan's boss of 30 years and also our good friend. It says it all. George Shiels was magnificent, especially at the grave side. Allan would have been so proud. George and Margo have been good friends George has been so helpful.

Allan was so proud of his association with the

2/2nd.

We will miss him.

Sincerely,
Jewell

L. Tait

Box 520 Ayr 4807

Dear Tony,

George & Margo Shiels, Lucky & Doreen Goodhew and self, plus a church full of friends, relatives and family said goodbye to Allan at a Requiem Mass. George spoke in the church and later at the graveside at the Belgium Gardens War Cemetery where Allan's nephew did the honours on the bugle.

Allan was born on the 11th January 1922, educated at Mac Desme country school near the family farm where he worked as a field hand and cane cutter and for a local transport firm until his enlistment in 1942. Came to Canungra early in 1943, thence with reinforcement to the Unit. Was a member of 2 Section in New Guinea and New Britain. Nicknamed 'No Grass', 'Desert Head' or 'Slim' — answered to them all.

On discharge in 1946 worked for local electrical line contractor, then transferred to North Queensland Regional Board as Line Foreman until he retired as Country Line Supervisor in 1982 at 60 years. Worked on helping everybody and anybody at any job. Was a Jack of all trades, water sinking, landscaping, transport driving — would have a go at anything.

In 1947 he married Jewell raised a family of four girls and two boys and there are fourteen grandchildren. He will be missed by all.

Regards,

Bulla

Address by George Shiels after the eulogy was read in the church.

'Jewell, family and friends. I have been given the opportunity of saying a few words regarding my association with our departed friend Allan Soper.

I first met Allan in Canungra Training Camp where we were endeavouring to join a commando squadron. After nine weeks we were sent as reinforcements to the 2/2 Commando Squadron. Allan had been in the forces previously in a transport section. We travelled to New Guinea and were sent to the Goroka Valley by plane. We then travelled over the Matahousa Range to the Ramu Valley where our mission was to patrol both sides of the Ramu River. After months in this area we were sent back to Australia for home leave and after re-training we were sent to New Britain where we stayed until the war was over. This is a short record of our service together. Allan was always referred

to as 'Soapy' which seemed to be usual in the forces to have nick names. He was often also referred to as 'Desert Head' owing to the fact that the hair on his head was a little bit scarce. The Fuzzy Wuzzies, or natives of New Guinea, call hair 'grass' in their pidgin English and Allan was also referred to as 'Masta No Grass' or 'Masta LikLik Grass'.

Allan was a good soldier and friend. He enjoyed his sport and was ever able and willing to assist his fellow man wherever possible. Having trained together and camped together in the jungles of New Guinea and New Britain, one gets to know the strength of the fellow man and Allan was to be one of those who could be depended on to give his utmost to assist in any shape or form. His conduct with the 2/2 Commando Squadron earned him the love and respect of all who came in contact with him. His devotion to duty was always present and I know for sure that he continued with this attribute during his life with Jewell.

I must finish with saying that the members of the 2/2 Commando Squadron have been honoured and privileged to have been associated with Allan. We all have lost a very good friend.

EULOGY — ALLAN THOMAS SOPER **11 JANUARY 1922 - 16 JULY 1992**

Like all gathered here this morning I feel a deep sense of loss yet I am honoured to have been asked by Jewell to present this eulogy. The right words seldom come to one and if they do they always appear to be inadequate. But a quote that I read somewhere often comes to my mind, "Very few of us are destined to do great things but we can all do lesser things in a great way." And this I believe was Allan.

Allan was not a man of double standards. He only had one standard — the highest — and he carried this through in all walks of life — in himself, his family, his work, his friendships.

I first met Allan some thirty years ago, 1961, in the course of his work with the Townsville Regional Electricity Board. He had been transferred from Ayr to Townsville and since that time the relationship extended from being a working colleague to one of great friendship, not only with Allan but with the whole family. A friendship which has permitted Joyce and myself to be accepted within the family circle.

To his work as foreman and supervisor Allan brought his set of standards, the highest. He encouraged all those working for him to accept and apply those standards. Consequently, he gained the respect not only of his colleagues but also from the community he served in providing electricity.

Allan was not afraid of the challenges in life. He accepted them with enthusiasm and a great desire to master them. He was the first supervisor of a live-

line gang in Townsville and in the industrial climate of that time this was indeed a significant challenge.

This work was followed with supervision of rural electrification contracts. This meant extended periods of work away from home working in the western areas of the Regional Electricity Board. It was during this time that Allan established a close working relationship and a firm friendship with the electrical contractor, Warren Persal. I mention this because today the friendship that developed out of integrity and respect, each for the other, still remains.

Retirement at the age of 60 years provided Allan with a freedom of time to share his life more fully with Jewell and his family and to do the things that brought enjoyment. But this did not mean that Allan retired completely from the workscene. Far from it. Allan was always available to help family and friends and no effort was ever spared.

Allan was a man of high moral and ethical standards with honesty and integrity beyond reproach. These standards which were set before his family everyday, were carried through, unreservedly, into his work.

Allan and Jewell raised their family to meet these standards.

Self-discipline had become a necessary part of Allan's early life and this he endeavoured to instil into his family. But with all these high standards to be achieved and maintained there was always a great pulsating force, A strong love of family. A lasting love which has been clearly shown by all his family including his grandchildren right up to the time of Allan's death.

Allan didn't really discuss his war experiences at any length but they were never far away. The bonds created during that time were lifetime ones for Allan as evidenced by his great pleasure in attending regular reunions, made doubly pleasurable by Jewell's sharing with him. Over the past 6 months frequent calls from his commando mates has been a support and comfort and just another example of the high esteem in which Allan was held by all who had come to know him.

His strength of character and his beliefs have been no more exemplified than over this latest period of his life. His courage in dealing with the problems, his acceptance of the ultimate outcome and his faith eased the burden on those around him. His love for his family, immediate and extended were borne out by the beautiful smile with which he would greet them.

The experience of knowing Allan Soper and his family is a cherished one. The example he set in all aspects of his life makes one proud to be counted as a friend.

In death as in life Allan Soper has been a great inspiration to all.

Keith Barnett

VALE ARNOLD WEBB

Advice has been received of the death of Arnold Webb at Trafalgar on 15th August 1992.

Webby, as he was known to us, was a definite character. Only moderately literate, he still managed to get through life in a manner most befitting his bushman's character. He joined the 2nd Independent Coy along with all the first reinforcements on the ill fated ship 'Koolama'. He was part of a section under Lt. Laffy. When the 'balloon went up' and things looked to be a bit of a shambles, quite a few of the troops, rather than be taken prisoner, decided to try and get to Australia. Arnold, Des Lillya, Curly Freeman and Bob Larney actually made it back to Australia although in separate parties, Arnold and Bob made up one party, Des and Curly the other. After many vicissitudes and much island hopping they turned up at Darwin. The reception of Arnold and Bob by the authorities was most unpleasant, they were treated as deserters and put in prison, only released to return to Timor on the ill fated 'Voyager'. Arnold was drafted to 2 Section 'A' Platoon and served out Timor with that Section. He also served with 2 Section in New Guinea. He transferred to the Forestry Unit in New Britain.

On demobilisation he returned to the timber business, cutting posts and rails for a living and clearing land on contract. He took up a block at Hill End and cleared it, using all available timber for posts and other purposes. He made an excellent job of clearing this block which, when seen by the Writer in March 1992, was covered with excellent feed and carried some 160 head of cattle.

Arnold was always a loner who seemed to enjoy living as a hermit. He was lucky to have caring people like John and Cath Roberts to try and keep an eye on him. He had quite extensive heart trouble and later was to succumb to a heart attack which caused his death. He was unmarried but had some relatives who would mourn his passing.

The funeral service took place at Trafalgar on the 19th August in terrible weather and was attended by Jock & Faye Campbell, Ken & Margaret Monk, Bill & Pat Petersen, John Roberts, Leith Cooper.

Arnold's last resting place is on a hill overlooking his own holdings at Hill End.

Col Doig

Thanks to Margaret Monk who made up a lovely sheaf of flowers with a card from the Unit and thanks to those who represented our Unit.

Harry Botterill

VALE CHARLIE McCAFFERY

The death of Charlie McCaffery occurred at Esperance early in August.

Charlie was an original member of the 2nd

Independent Coy and served with 3 Section throughout the Timor Campaign.

After the war Charlie worked in the Bunbury district as a painter but later moved to Esperance where he worked for many years in various capacities but mostly in his trade as a painter. He was quite well known to Peter Campbell in Esperance and indeed worked for Peter's brother.

Charlie did not take much interest in Association affairs and for a long time his address was unknown to us.

We would like to pass on sincere sympathy to his relatives.

Col Doig

VALE COLIN GREBERT

Advice has been received from our Queensland friends of the passing of Colin Grebert who was cremated on 29th June 1992.

Colin was a member of the 2/11th Field Coy Engineers and went to Timor as part of Sparrow Force. He was among those fortunate enough to avoid capture by the Japanese and managed to catch up with the 2nd Independent Coy. He firstly was a member of that small force at Malina under Col Doig. Colin Grebert was among the older of these lads and, along with his friend Tiny Bowman, proved to be a very reliable performer. He was later to serve with Don Turton's 'D' Platoon and saw out the Timor Campaign with that Platoon.

After demobilisation Colin joined the Commonwealth Public Service and had quite a distinguished career.

Colin was a keen member of our 2/2nd Association and took a big interest in the affairs of the Queensland Branch. He attended safaris at Surfers Paradise, Perth, Canberra and the Barossa Valley.

Colin was a quiet but thorough little gentleman and we will miss his presence. We pass on our sincere sympathy to his relatives.

Col Doig

VALE DOUGLAS RAYMOND FULLARTON

Another of the Unit's truly greats has passed to his eternal rest. Doug passed away on the 18th August 1992 from a heart condition after a lengthy and debilitating illness.

Doug was born at Williams in W.A. and took to the timber industry early in life. He was an excellent axe man and all round sawmill operative prior to joining up in the 2nd A.I.F. He served with Bunning Bros. in many centres including Wiluna and Kalgoorlie prior to the war.

He first joined the 2/4th Machine Gun Battalion and rose to the rank of sergeant. He was excellently

trained prior to discarding his rank and answering the call to the "Hush Hush" later to be the 2nd Independent Coy. With his previous depth of training he absorbed the new procedures like a sponge. He joined David Dexter's No.1 Section 'A' Platoon and soon became a Lance-Corporal. Doug's service in Timor was outstanding, an excellent bushman, good with all weapons and a natural leader. It was not long before Doug was commissioned in the field and took over 1 Section when David Dexter was made O.C. of 'A' Platoon and again proved to be an outstanding leader. He seemed to be as tough as that timber he matured upon.

Then on to New Britain where he was in charge of 8 Section 'C' Troop and later became Adjutant Quartermaster. He finished his army career at Rabaul in New Britain. He had been 'Mentioned in Despatches' for his bravery in New Guinea.

On demobilisation he returned to work for Bunning Bros as Yard Foreman at their Perth saw mill. He was later to be Manager of their Donnelly River Mill.

Doug then took up a position with West Plywoods and went to Borneo where he was responsible for getting logs from the jungle to provide the proper timber for special plywood. He later rejoined Bunnings and for a time was back in Kalgoorlie. Doug completed his career with Bunnings in the metropolitan area.

Wherever possible Doug took a keen interest in the 2/2nd Commando Association and served on the committee for some years, became Vice President and was President in 1985-86. He was made a Life Member in 1987. He had his 80th birthday on the 21st July 1992.

Doug Fullarton was a great tradesman and an accomplished soldier. Edna has lost a faithful and loving husband and wonderful step-father to her children. The Unit and the Association have lost one of the real greats and I have lost another marvellous mate.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Edna and family and wish her all that we can in her grief.

Present at the Crematorium service at Karrakatta on the 21st August were:-

Ray Aitken, Len Bagley, Betty Illsley, Tom Bateman, George Bayliss, Ernie Bingham, Tony Bowers, Arch Campbell, Jack Carey, Colin & Bonnie Criddle, Col Doig, Ron Dook, Jess Epps, George Fletcher, Gerry Green, Jack Hasson, Keith & Val Hayes, Mick & Jean Holland, Betty Hopkins, Bill & Elvie Howell, Don Hudson, Bernie & Babs Langridge, Gerry Maley, Wilf & Lorraine March, Bob McDonald, Ted Monk, Mick & Jean Morgan, Don Murray, Terry & Ivy Paull, Joe & Helen Poynton, Gordon Rowley, Bob Smyth, Fred Sparkman, George & Colleen Strickland, Lew Thompson, Don Turton, Roy Watson, Jack Wicks,

Norm Nicolay 2/4th, Jack Porter & Jack Boardman 2/8th, Messrs Langridge, Hayes, Hudson and Fletcher acted as Pall Bearers.

Bernie Langridge delivered a eulogy and Archie Campbell said The Ode.

SILENT TOM'S DEMISE

Described by the Geraldton newspaper and radio stations as a member of famous Commando Unit in World War II, **Thomas Daniel Francis Towers** died suddenly at his home on August 29th.

Born in Kingston, London, 72 years ago, Tom served against the Japanese in Timor with the 2nd Australian Independent Coy and then in New Guinea and New Britain with the renamed 2/2 Commando Squadron. He also served for two years with the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan before being discharged in August 1947 to end his army service of 2,225 days including 1,563 days overseas.

Tom and his second wife Mavis came to Geraldton from White Gum Valley in 1990. He lost his first wife Joan in 1987 and Mavis died in February 1992.

Like many of his Double Red Diamond mates, Tom did not enjoy good health as a result of his army service under extremely difficult conditions. He did not talk about his army experiences but I do remember the pullover he wore when he and Mavis attended the 1990 Anzac Day dawn parade — it bore a huge Double Red Diamond.

Although Tom had little contact with the 2/2 Association, I do know his son Kim and Tom's brother John were grateful for the help given by Eric Weller and myself in connection with the funeral arrangements on September 4th. Together with neighbour George Rickwood and Bing Smythe, a Geraldton man who was in the army with Tom in Japan, we were pall bearers.

As members of the 34th Australian Infantry Brigade, Bing was in the 67th Battalion and Tom in either the 65th or 66th Battalion. In 1947 they, and four other privates, operated two jeeps for six months carting rations to British Commonwealth Occupation servicemen convalescing on a mountain which was 13,000 feet above sea level and experienced a 13 ft. snow fall. Although Tom & Mavis were social members of the Geraldton Bowling Club, it was not until after Tom's death that Bing discovered he was the same man he had last seen up this mountain in Japan. Nevertheless, Bing was able to show to the bereaved, two photos taken in Japan, one of Tom & Bing and one of Tom carrying wood for two Japanese girls.

Tom's son Kim also obtained copies of two of Eric Weller's photos showing Tom, Eric, Len Bagley and other members in the Ramu Valley in New Guinea. At the Crematorium, Anglican Deacon Evelyn Doswell gave a heart warming eulogy and the Ode

was recited by R.S.L. Life Member and City Freeman Bill Cunningham (Nip's brother).

Peter Barden

VALE THOMAS DANIEL TOWERS

It is our sad duty to report the death of Tom Towers, one of our original members who died on 31st August 1992 and was cremated at Geraldton on 4th September.

Tom was an original member of 'B' Platoon and served on Timor with Geoff Laidlaw's Headquarters. He was a top grade performer as runner for Geoff. He transferred to the Transport Section in New Guinea and is probably best remembered for that famous photo of the returning patrol from across the Ramu in a canoe. He was in the forefront of the picture.

Upon demobilisation Tom firstly worked as a gardener with the Karrakatta Cemetery Board but eventually was accepted into the Waterside Workers Union and worked for many years on the Fremantle Waterfront. He was then living at White Gum Valley.

Latterly he resided at Geraldton where he passed away from a heart attack at 74 years of age.

The Association was represented at the funeral service by Peter Barden and Eric Weller.

Our most sincere sympathy to his loved ones.

Col Doig

VALE MALCOLM NICHOLS

Mal Nichols died of a heart attack on the 3rd September 1992 while watching television.

Mal was an original member of Clarrie Turner's No. 3 Section 'A' Platoon. He was the first casualty of the 2nd Independent Company when he unfortunately had a hand blown off in a training exercise on Wilsons Promontory and as a result was unable to rejoin the Unit.

Mal was born at Woollongong, NSW, lived in Victoria in his boyhood, moved to Bunbury, Brunswick in WA at an early age and worked as a butcher. He joined the 10th Light Horse and transferred from there to the 2nd Independent Coy where his terrible accident occurred. He then joined the permanent Army but on demobilisation in 1944 he became a meat grader at WA Meat Export at Robbs Jetty. He left to take up a business at Burracoppin and then became a farmer at Yealering. When he retired to Karrinyup he took a keen interest in bowling and also, despite his disability, played golf.

Mal leaves a widow, Verna, a son and two daughters and grandchildren. Vale to Mal Nichols, good husband, loving father and grandfather, top citizen and generally good bloke. Our sincere sympathy to Verna and family.

The Association was represented at the cremation on 7th September by Jack Carey, George Bayliss, John Fowler, Arch Campbell and Col Doig.

COL DOIG

MICK MORGAN — HAPPY BIRTHDAY

This milestone was celebrated in style by 59 guests and the whole party was organised by this very mentally alert octogenarian. Family, members of the 2/2nd, old and dear friends, were all included. Mick made special reference to his family in Alice Springs, son John, wife Dale and grandchildren Sam and Nicky who were unable to attend.

The venue was Sea Shells restaurant overlooking the Fremantle boat harbour. It was a brilliant day, calm, clear, with a warm sun shining brightly. The seafood smorgasbord was superb and refreshments were served at a steady rate, putting all present in a vibrant mood.

The piece-de-resistance was Mick's response to his toast, proposed by his dear friend Ray Aitken. Impossible to capture on paper, it was a classic, covering his life from his birth on the 18th August 1912 to the 18th August 1992. The aside remarks, mannerisms, coughs, hand signs etc were priceless. It was a family oriented biography of the full, interesting life of Harry John (Mick) Morgan — a type of 'This is my Life'.

By special request he sang the ditty that made him famous, 'The Dustman's Song'. To show his versatility he recruited John Burridge and Archie Campbell to present the old love song 'Aloha', with actions. Try it some time!

There was a beautiful birthday cake with only four candles to blow out — one for each 20 years.

It was a happy fun filled day and at 3 o'clock Mick announced 'Folks, you've had it!' However, everyone lingered on for some time enjoying each other's company.

Thanks Mick and Jean — God bless from us all. See you at your 90th Mick.

Written by brother-in-law, Archie Campbell, on behalf of Mick's friends everywhere.

CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

Mrs B.M. Hopkins
14A Norman Street
Bentley 6102

My sincere thanks to all for a most enjoyable day at the Norma Hasson Social. Your friendship and

kindness is very much appreciated.

Enclosed is a donation towards Courier expenses.

Best wishes to all.

Bet

L. Cooper
8 Hilltop Crescent
Rhyll 3923

A mini safari was held at Tocomwal, NSW, from 6th-9th July and what a show it was, dominated as always by our great feelings of mateship and general pleasure in one another's company. Apart from our delight at being together again, accompanied by our ladies, a very interesting program had been organised by local resident Bill Tucker.

6th July — Arrival at Kingswood Motel. 1500 hrs — welcome get-together at the Tocomwal Bowls Club. 1800 hrs — evening meal in the Club dining room.

7th July — A.M. Visited places of interest. This included a visit to the local glider area where members were offered a flight on a towed glider for \$39 per head. We all stayed on the ground. 1200 hrs barbecue lunch at the Kingswood Motel where we were delighted to receive a visit from Jack & Julie Fox on their way northward. 1400 hrs visit to Maatala Deer Farm and Murray Goulbourn Dairy Food Complex in Cobram. 1800 hrs evening meal at Tocomwal Golf Club.

8th July — 1000 hrs coach pick up for day's outing to Yarrawonga and Mulwala. A visit to Byramine Homestead built in 1842 by Elizabeth Hume, sister-in-law to Hamilton Hume the noted explorer of eastern Australia. Here we had a marvellous morning tea with the biggest and lightest scones you could imagine. Folks generally forgot their waist line problems for the morning. 1230 hrs — boarded the 'Paradise Queen' for a luncheon cruise on Lake Mulwala. 1430 hrs visited Tudor House Clock Museum where over 400 time pieces were on display, dating back to 1780. 1530 hrs — called at the tourist centre to inspect 'Old Yarra Shaft' housing an international collection of gems, minerals and fossils. 1630 hrs — debussed at Mulwala Services Club, reputed to be the biggest services club in N.S.W., with literally acres of pokies and other facilities. One prominent member of our party managed to win a jackpot which he shared with the party in the form of wine for our evening meal. 1800 hrs — we were treated to a complimentary evening meal, courtesy of the Mulwala Services Club. 2000 hrs — we boarded

the bus to return to our billets in Tocomwal. The singing on the way back was rather restrained — we must be getting old or tired!

9th July — 1030 hrs. An informal meeting was held at the Tocomwal R.S.L. with morning tea supplied by the local ladies. Harry Sargent, who was unable to attend the main safari, travelled from Bendigo specially for the day. It was great to see him looking so much better in health after a rather bad few years.

The members present voted this a good show to be repeated in the future, probably at Mulwala.

During the meeting Bill Tucker was presented with a Life Membership in recognition of years of service to the Victorian Branch, several years as Secretary, many years on the committee and culminating in his organisation of this latest mini safari.

After prolonged farewells the members departed for their homes, except for Marjorie and myself who stayed on with Bill Tucker, playing golf and recovering from our previous activities.

The following were in attendance — Nina Grachan, Max & Patsy Thatcher, Bill & Coral Coker, Max & Noreen Miller, Alf & Gwenda Harper, Bill & Eileen Sharp, M.A.M. Smith, John & Cath Roberts, Win Humphreys, Tom Nisbet, Rolf Baldwin, Fred Broadhurst & sister Phyllis Elliot, Arch & Dawn Claney, Roy & Joyce Martin, Bob Snowdon, Ken & Margaret Monk, George Veitch, Harry & Olive Botterill, Wilma Tobin, David & Thais Brown, Leith & Marj Cooper, Bill Tucker, Harry Sargent, Jack & Julie Fox.

Enclosed is a donation towards the Courier.

Regards to all.

Leith

R. Gurr
PO Box 3
Coonawarra 5263

It was good to have a visit from my old 4 Section mate, Paddy Kenneally, recently. He keeps himself mobile that man. Not long after that Tom & Mary Foster spent a couple of days here, to my great delight. I had not seen Tom for years. Keith & Betty Dignum are also coming to visit me shortly. Dig is having a think about whether or not to go ahead with a knee replacement.

Coonawarra is becoming a tourist attraction because since the war the red wines it produces

have become popular. They must be good, judging by the number of gold medals they win.

Nearby Penola will also become a tourist attraction if Mary McKilloh is made a saint in the near future as expected. She founded the Order of St Joseph of the Sacred Cross after starting her teaching career in Penola in 1866.

I live out on a farm several miles from all this activity. It is a district where most people go in for grazing but there is some cropping done when the seasons are not too wet.

I am one of the appreciative readers of the Courier so am enclosing a donation.

Regards to all.

Ron.

Editor: Great to hear from you Ron and to know you are fit and well. Best regards from all in the west.

R & H Griffiths
2/36 Wandoo Street
Leeton 2705

Enclosed is a cheque for the Courier.

Under separate cover am sending a report on the Voyager which may be of interest. It was certainly very interesting to me because of the part I had in it.

At that time I was at Atsabe with Don Turton's 'D' Platoon. Don sent me down to the beach to carry supplies. He gave me four men, Jim Hocking, Ron Mears, Casey Collison and another man whose name I can't remember. Also, 12 Timor Ponies and 100 natives. In his usual thorough way Don told me I would be responsible for the lot.

We were waiting on the beach at Betano when the Voyager came in very close. The 2/4th came in small boats, assembled and marched in formation on the beach. It made me think of the old saying 'you'll be sorry'. Soon it was evident that the Voyager was stuck on the beach.

I had reported to Rolf Baldwin who was in charge. My team was responsible for all supplies and we quickly got out into the hills. The Japs soon spotted the Voyager next morning and started bombing and strafing. All the natives stood firm I didn't lose one. They told me that if I didn't run they wouldn't. Not so Casey Collison, he shot through, got two Timor

ponies, swam out to the Voyager and got supplies of wine and cigarettes, loaded up his ponies and went selling them wherever he could. He was on the Voyager when the Japs started bombing. He dived overboard and swam to the shore. As he was running on the beach the Japs dropped some bombs but they missed Casey. Nobody seemed able to control Casey. When on leave in my home town I saw him with a mop and bucket working in the hotel. He was A.W.L. and asked me not to do him in.

We also had 180 sailors to look after for two days, hiding them in the jungle with the Japs roaring overhead in their planes. The sailors were not very impressed. They said we deserved V.C.s to be in such a place. Two days later corvettes came in to pick them up. We found a couple of bottles of wine and give them a send off, singing the old song:— 'This is my story This is my song We've been in Timor Too bloody long!'

The sailors predicted that the Captain of the Voyager would be finished as a sailor because he would not be forgiven for losing his ship, and they were right.

When I had finished the carrying Rolf Baldwin gave me some supplies to take back to 'D' Platoon, thanked me for the work we had done and gave me a nice note to take back to Don. So ended one more period on Timor and back to the Section and dodging the Japs.

Kind regards to all.

Reg

B.F. Dennis
614 Sackville Street
Albury 2640

June and self just arrived home after a spell in Orange, NSW. We had intended migrating north for the winter but only got one day out and June had a heart attack — all sorts of problems and eventually taken from Peak Hill to Orange by retrieval ambulance 150 km each way. Had second attack in hospital and a third trip to I.C.U. with odemia around heart and lungs.

Everyone so kind and helpful. Kath Press took June in for a convalescent period before we headed back home on advice. Many phone calls from the Trengoves, Herds, Smiths and Luby. What friendship we have inherited from Timor days. June still convalescing and Denny doing all the chores, so here's hoping.

Enclosed cheque for Courier funds. We do enjoy reading all the news of 2/2nd.

Regards.
Denny

Mrs K.B. Sargeant
25 Thomas Street
Gympie 4570

It's a while since I've written. This hasn't been a good year for me. However, here's hoping for better days. I guess age catches up with us all.

I was sorry to read of so many members passing on, amongst them Angus MacLachlan. Although I had never met him Angus was very helpful in supplying me with information when I needed it. It was good to see the tribute paid to him by Col Doig and other members. My belated sympathy goes to his wife and family.

Donation to Courier is enclosed.

Regards to all members.
Kathleen

W.B. Tucker
32 Tuppal Street
Tocumwal 2714

It has been an eventful and enjoyable month here in Tocumwal, with 38 Association members getting together over a period of 4 days for a reunion. You will no doubt receive an official report for the Courier.

The main purpose of this note is to enclose a couple of cheques which are self explanatory and wish the Committee continued success with the pulse of our Association, the Courier, and good health and comfort to all members.

Regards,
Bill

Mrs J. Scott
213 Tranby Units Rowethorpe
Hillview Tce Bentley

Many thanks for the Courier. It is always most welcome and I like to read news about all the members with whom Neil served in Timor and New Guinea. Enclosed is a donation towards the

production of this excellent little news magazine. Best wishes to all members.

Yours sincerely,
Joan

E. & T. Smyth
23 Maryllia Road
Busselton 6280

It is just as well we read the Courier eagerly or we may have missed the Queensland news and Alan Soper's death. Alan was a very special person to Eric and me on the occasions that we met up with him and Jewell on our visits to our daughter, the friendship and hospitality had to be experienced to be believed. His beaming smile and welcome was always the same and we were privileged to cross paths with the Soper family.

Eric fortunately met up with a couple of his 2/2nd friends in St. John of God car park and we were able to visit Col Doig who, I am sure was improving by the pithy remarks that were made about our two day old grandson — also on our visiting list.

Many thanks to the Courier for the up to date letters from everyone, keeping us in touch with things, sad though some of the news is.

Eric has been buzzing around getting information together towards the '94 Safari in Busselton and has had great interest shown by his contacts here in town.

Best wishes to everyone.
Twy

P. & P. Campbell
30 Castletown Quays
Esperance 6450

We have just arrived home from the north west where we travelled with Dot and Reg Harrington. Had a very nice time in warm weather. A lot of people think we are a bit odd camping out as we do but we all enjoy it and you can do your own thing.

Fishing is top priority and when weather is unsuitable all get a bit frustrated so we often wonder what we would do without Canasta.

We arrived home to wet weather and plenty of wogs in crops and pasture but no doubt the country looks the best ever. Came home via Mount

Augustus and the wild flowers were just magnificent. Mile upon mile of them, the best we have seen for years.

Enclosed is a cheque for Independent Trust Fund and Courier.

Looking forward to seeing old faces at Wongan Hills.

Regards to all.

Peter & Pat

J. P. Kenneally
28 Wilkins Street
Yagoona 2199

We have been saddened by the loss of Angus MacLachlan, Jim Foot, Alan Soper, Bill Gallard and Bruss Fagg. We are the losers in their passing and we extend our deepest sympathy to their families.

Angus MacLachlan sailed for Timor on the Koolama on the 16th January 1942. He was among the 50 O.Rs and 4 officers who were selected for the No. 2 Independent Company from the ranks of men training for the 4th Independent Company. These men landed in Kili under a cloud. Firstly on the report of one of the officers, secondly that they had looted the Company's comfort parcels, completely false allegations. Had they been true there would have been one exception — Angus MacLachlan. If ever a man had complete integrity it was Angus. After some time spent with Lieutenants Garnet and Campbell Rodd, Angus came to Remexio and joined No. 4 Section. He served with that Section until 1945 when he transferred to an engineer unit in New Britain. Many times in Timor and New Guinea Angus soldiered on under great difficulties, suffering from constant bouts of malaria in Timor whilst injuries he suffered in a truck accident in Canungra were responsible for much pain and suffering in New Guinea. He was a stubborn and determined man who, once convinced of the justness of his actions or views, backed off from no one and that included C.Os and N.C.Os. I should know, I was his escort. Farewell Angus, you died as you lived, calmly and courageously. To Janette, Ann and their families and wife Win our sincere sympathy in the sad loss of a wonderful father and husband.

Bill 'Doc' Gallard joined the Unit in Canungra in April 1943. He came with the men who rebuilt the Unit after its 1942 campaign in Timor. These men came under no cloud. They were out of the top drawer. We were the most fortunate Unit in the AIF to be blessed with such reinforcements, many of them veterans of Libya, Greece and Crete, who received their first baptism of fire in the 1940 blitz

on London. Bill was up there with the best of those men. On returning from the Middle East he, with many more, transferred from the artillery to the Independent Companies. They were first class men. Bill came to No. 4 Section 'B' Platoon and there he stayed, serving through the New Guinea and New Britain campaigns until the cessation of hostilities and his return home for discharge. He was a quiet easy going man, uncomplaining no matter how badly things were going.

Post war he was one of the stars of our cricket team. On one occasion we walloped Arncliffe — no mean feat. That mob had an abundance of first class cricketers and we had some good fortune, Bill Gallard, Jim English and Bill Coker hit their straps, Bill and Jim did the batting, 'Doc' Gallard did the honours with the ball and if memory serves me right he took seven wickets that day. May God keep you in his care, you hit up a pretty good innings in life 'Doc' 79 and not one man you could call an enemy along your road.

Alan Soper and Jim Foot also joined the Unit in Canungra in April 1943 and served with it until the end of the war, Alan in 'A' Platoon and Jim in 'C' Platoon. They were the equal of the best men who came to us at that time. Alan was a great comrade — I remember him fighting a bout at Strathpine against a real good fighter who out weighed and out reached him, yet he never faltered. His life was no different. It was a pleasure to catch up with him once again at Canberra in 1986.

Jim was a big man with a big sense of humour. He also saw the war out with us until the Unit broke up in 1946. He was a member of 'C' Platoon and the deeds of that Platoon in Timor and New Guinea were second to none. Being members of a Unit that spent its entire active service being out on its own and widely dispersed, the men of any section knew little of the doings of other sections. I am sure someone in 'A' Platoon and 'C' Platoon can give a far better account of Alan and Jim than I. To their families I extend my sympathy. They were good men.

Have just come back from a lunch that Michael shouted us for our 40th wedding anniversary. We had a full house over the weekend, my brother Joe and sister Mary missing out, both had serious operations some days before. Both, thank God, are recovering well. Nora and I survived too. I still prefer home cooking. The good Lord planted a very plebian tum inside me. Sophisticated gourmet delights just don't sit too well within it.

Good luck
Paddy

M. Wheatley
266 Fulham Street
Cloverdale 6105

A few lines to let you know that I feel bad missing out on Doug's funeral. I was in hospital for a two

day blood transfusion as I had a very low blood count. They let me go home as I have trouble eating the food they give me.

I agree with Col Doig that Doug was a great mate and a good soldier. When I got up this morning the sun was shining and it looked like a nice new world so I'm going to enjoy it while I have a little time left. Hope you can all do the same.

Am enclosing a cheque for the Courier and wish you all good health.

'Doc'

D. Latimaer
39 King Street
Inverell 2360

We are still enjoying the country life. Dulcie loves the place. I've never seen her so happy. Plenty of shops to look at, and three supermarkets. A population of about 10,000 in the town and a further 5,000 in the surrounding district. Our home is about five minutes walk from the main street.

I'm still in harness, more or less, as War Compensation Officer for the local sub-branch R.S.L. and kept busy enough helping men with disability pensions. Involved in the local Light Horse Association also, although I'd rather pick up a black snake than get on a horse now. Still a few of the blokes around that I enlisted with in the 12th Light Horse, they ride at Shows and Anzac Day parades both here in Northern N.S.W. and Southern Queensland. All in all not doing too badly.

We still have our son Steve living with us. No work for him up here. He hasn't worked for three years. A bit different to our days, but then things have changed so much since then.

I muck about in the R.S.L. War Museum here too. Being a broken down carpenter I suppose I'm some value to someone.

We're getting a Navy torpedo donated to us soon. I hope they de-louse the thing first.

Looking forward to our 2/7 Company reunion in Deniliquin in October. We still talk about our trip

to Perth on the Indian Pacific in 1975 — that's nearly 20 years ago.

Hoping everyone is O.K. Cheers.
Don & Dulcie Latimer

Thank you for your congratulations.

Betty

T. Adams
Box 1 Goroka PNG

These days one misses the chances to see our mates more often. If we could sell out here we would be down Brisbane way, but like everywhere the 'quid' is hard to come by.

The article by Mrs Bev Flockart was really something, can put ones self in a similar picture, but thank God still living. We would have an enormous gathering if all the relations who care, got together with us one time.

My health is good, no aches, pains etc., looking forward to 1994 in W.A. It was 1971 when there for the first time, came in on the Indian Pacific and liked what we saw. A pit Perth isn't closer, but if it was it may become spoilt, like the other bigger cities.

Was speaking to George Coulson and he filled me in on what's happening, now that my main contact Angus is checking out safaris up top.

Kind regards.

Theo

A. & J. Chatfield
59 Coolibah Avenue
Mandurah 6210

My letter is to express two important messages. Thank you for the Courier which we appreciate very much.

The other is to let you know about my brother **Laurie Tapper**, who has had ill health most of this year. He entered hospital last February to have an operation for the pulse in both legs. Unfortunately, the operation has not had a good result and he is now in a wheel chair and having therapy three days a week. One day he might walk again with the aid of walking sticks.

Laurie has a very loving family, especially his wife Grace who is an absolute gem. As we know, with every good man there is a good woman and Grace carries the work load and worry of Laurie's illness.

Laurie wishes to send his kind regards to his mates.

He says he will make it for sure eventually, God willing.

Very good wishes to all.

Joy & Allan

The Dept of the Prime Minister, Canberra ACT

Dear Mr Langridge 27 July 1992
Thank you for your correspondence of 13 July 1992 to the Prime Minister.

The comments and concern about East Timor by your Association have been noted and referred to the Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade, Senator the Hon Gareth Evans, QC who has portfolio responsibility for this matter.

Yours sincerely

(Sgd) M. Carr
Ministerial Officer

Mrs E. Fullarton
13 Riverview Road
Victoria Park 6101

I just felt I'd like to write a few words to say thank you to the 2/2 members and wives for attending the funeral service of our beloved Doug. He would have been very proud of the support his mates have given. My sincere thanks for the numerous messages of sympathy, they were of great comfort to me.

Doug was a very special man and he will leave a huge gap in our lives.

Yours sincerely,

Edna

WONGAN HILLS CONVENTION

Friday Sept 18: From midday on, people arrived from all over Western Australia in cold, blustery weather and settled in to enjoy the warmth of each others company, which is really what these Conventions are all about.

At 5 p.m. we were transported by bus to the lovely home of Stan & Blanche Sadler, Dot Harrington & Hilda Meldrum (Mavis's sister). This was a great start to a happy weekend, and Clarrie Turner conveyed our thanks to all concerned.

Saturday, 19th: Buses took us on a tour of the town and surrounding country which included a visit to the Agricultural Research Station which gives valuable assistance to the farming community, providing them with the latest information on

modern farming techniques. We were then taken to the top of Mount O'Brien a panoramic view of the countryside, including Lake Hinds and Lake Ninan.

At midday we were off to the home of Charlie & Mavis where the ladies had been busy again, preparing a so-called light luncheon of steaming hot soup, a huge variety of sandwiches and an assortment of mouth watering home made cakes.

In the evening 70 of us gathered in the Function Room of the Hotel for our official dinner.

Len Bagley, as M.C., introduced and welcomed our guests, Peter & Kathy, son & daughter-in-law of Stan & Blanche, Margaret & Charles Edmunds, daughter & son-in-law of Stan & Blanche, Don & Chris, son & daughter-in-law of Charlie & Mavis, Hilda Meldrum, sister of Mavis, Laurie, son of Reg & Dot Harrington, Brian & Sylvia Donnellan, relatives of Reg & Dot, Harry & Thelma Sproston's son Don, who is the Catholic Parish Priest in Wongan Hills, Kay & Roy Hanson, daughter & son-in-law of Jack & the late Norma Hasson, Paddy King, son of Charlie & Mary, Elsie David, cousin of Vince Swann, Bob McAlpine, son of Ron & Enid. Everyone agreed that it is grand to have so many sons and daughters taking an interest in our activities. This augurs well for the future of the 2/2nd Association.

Fr. Sproston said Grace, after which an excellent meal was served, accompanied by refreshments by courtesy of the owner of the hotel, Peter Treleaven, whose service during our stay was outstanding.

President Bernie Langridge thanked all those who were responsible for making this Convention such an enjoyable one and presented Unit plaques to Stan & Blanche, Charlie & Mavis, Reg & Dot Harrington.

Len then asked for suggestions for the 1993 Convention venue. Peter Campbell gave some good reasons for nominating Kalgoorlie and was supported by Archie Campbell (the Clan has to stick together). There being no objections, Kalgoorlie was unanimously decided upon.

Sunday 20th: We were taken on a picturesque drive out of town, passing through Peter & Kathy's farm which adjoins the property of Don & Chris, where once again we were treated to the wonderful Sadler/Harrington hospitality. Weather conditions were perfect for a picnic and we had the ideal venue.

This time it was the men's turn to cook and, as we were enjoying refreshments, Reg. and all the Sadler men were busy barbecuing the two sheep that were provided by Don & Peter and they did a fine

job, as did the ladies with the salads and, once again, those wonderful cakes.

Mick Morgan conveyed our thanks to everyone concerned, for making us so welcome over the entire weekend and Bernie Langridge supported Mick's remarks. Stan thanked the ladies for all their hard work and everyone for their attendance. Dot Harrington responded on behalf of the ladies and she was ably supported by Chris Sadler who left us in no doubt that we were most welcome.

This outing concluded a Country Convention which everyone agreed was most enjoyable from start to finish and our thanks go to the Sadlers, the Harringtons and all their helpers.

We hope to all meet again next year in Kalgoorlie.

THE INDEPENDENT TRUST

An article in the Melbourne Age newspaper reported a meeting in Timor of Monsignor Deakin, the Vicar General of Melbourne with a Timorise village leader.

The Timorise showed graves of some Australian men he had known as a boy.

After the Australians had gone the village leader said: "The Japanese lined up my father and others accused of supporting the Australians and shot them. Forty thousand of our people died for this, but you never came back to help us when we needed it."

Unfortunately under a new oppressive rule the sufferings of these fine people continues. It is

claimed that there are 40,000 orphans in East Timor.

Whether we were participants in Timor or New Guinea campaigns, we are grateful for the assistance given by the indigenous people of both countries.

Colin Doig recently said it well: "We were serviced by a black host who were our eyes, ears and safety valve. We owe our lives to those black angels."

If you have not yet contributed and would feel comfortable and happy to donate, we would welcome your response. Please indicate whether once only, or whether further annual contributions would follow. Use a nom de plume for Courier acknowledgement if preferred.

Bob Smythe

INDEPENDENT TRUST FUND LIST 2

Contributions received 13th May to 7th September incl.:

PAID IN FULL

Jack & Maria Hartley \$200 (making \$250 in all), Nancy Teague \$250, Ron & Nan Dook \$250, Nina Grachan \$50, W.N. Gibbs (2/4th) \$50, Garth Trengove \$50, Frank 'Curly' O'Neill \$250, Gerry & Dot Maley \$100, Ted & Dianne Cholerton \$100, Gordon & Eva Rowley \$250, Peter & Pat Campbell \$100, Peter Perrett (2/4th) \$20, Jack & Delys Carey \$250, June Bennett \$100.

PART PAID

Alan & Edith Luby \$100, Michael, Sean, Gerald & Helen Kenneally \$200, Swampy & Joan Marsh \$50, Bill Tucker \$20, Harry & Amyce Handicott \$50.

Total amount received to date is \$11,035 and there is a further \$3,000 pledged by members. 74 have contributed to the Fund.

The Trust Fund Committee, comprising Messrs Bob Smyth, John Burrridge and Ross Shenn, wish to thank those members, widows and friends of the Association for their generous response to this worthy cause.

The next list of donors will appear in the February 1993 Courier.

DONATIONS TO COURIER

Gerry & Mary McKenzie, Jack Porter (2/8th), Gordon Rowley, Denny Dennis, Reg Griffiths, Joan Scott, Eric Smyth, Doc Wheatley, M. & L. Cooper, Ron Gurr, Peter Campbell, Joyce Chapman, Ted Monk, Bill Tucker, Betty Hopkins, Kath Sergeant, Ron Dook, John Poynton, Swampy Marsh, Isabel & Pat MacDonald.

REPRINT OF COL DOIG'S HISTORY OF 2ND INDEPENDENT COY & 2/2 COMMANDO SQUADRON

This reprint is now available — only 70 copies have been printed.

It includes the Supplement Photographs, Peter Alexander's P.O.W. Stories, a story by Sgt Don Woolley of Charlie Dodge and Ted Potts P.O.W. days in Celebes and Alan Hollow's story of his problems.

Also the Manning Lists have been amended. These books will be priced at \$20 plus postage, probably about \$10. Enquiries to Box T1646 GPO Perth 6001.

WHERE ARE THE SPARROW 20? APPEAL FROM ADMIRAL THOMAS MOORER

This man was the Captain of a Catalina flying boat which picked up a team of servicemen off the coast of East Timor and his appeal was made through the Northern Territory News by Capt. Chandler on the 29th June 1992. There was another appeal by David Jarvis in the Melbourne Sun in July 1992. The information was given to me by an ex member of the 2/8th Commando Squadron, Jack Porter of Humpty Doo just out of Darwin.

Tom Moorer rose from the rank of Captain to Admiral during an illustrious career in the U.S. Navy. He began the war under fire in Pearl Harbour, saw action in Darwin, Broome, flew patrols out of the U.S. Catalina base on the Swan River in Perth, fought in the battle for Midway and commanded a bombing squadron in the Atlantic theatre of war. He is one of the most highly decorated and longest serving leaders in the modern American Navy, rising to Commander-in-Chief U.S.A. Pacific Fleet 1964, Naval Operations Chief in 1967 and confirmed by the U.S. Senate in 1970 as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He retired from active service in 1974. His war exploits earned him a Silver Star (U.S. Navy), Army and Air Force Distinguished Services Medals and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

On the 24th May 1942 six men of the 2/2nd Independent Coy were lifted by Catalina from Beco on the south coast of East Timor Alan Hollow, Gerry Maley, Eddie Craghill, Clarrie Varian, Brigadier Veale and Lt-Col. Van Straaten, O.C. Dutch Forces. Our records and discussions with Alan Hollow and Gerry Maley confirm this and also the fact that only six personnel were off loaded in Darwin. Some confusion with dates might have occurred with Tom Moorer being so actively engaged in many areas, plus the possibility of it being an exercise apart from the 2/2nd Independent Coy operation. One clue contained in the article in the Melbourne Sun was that Tom mentioned he thought one of the boys

had his jaw shot away. This certainly had to be Alan Hollow.

There was a clash of dates, Tom Moorer thought it was February 1942. After the night of the 19/20th February 1942 all contact with Australia was lost, not to be regained until the 20th April 1942. Our first lift by Catalina was on the 24th May 1942.

Have written to Tom Moorer giving him a bit of background on our Association and our efforts to help the currently beleaguered East Timorese. I have the history of the war exploits of Tom Moorer. It makes very interesting reading so we could give it a run in the Courier later on.

If any of the 2/40th boys in Tasmania are aware of any rescue related to a pick up by Catalina off the coast of East Timor would you let the Writer know C/- 2/2 Commando Association, Post Office Box T1646 GPO Perth 6001. Thanks in anticipation.

The Editor
Archie Campbell

SICK PARADE

Wilf March has had a successful knee replacement. He left Hollywood Hospital on the 7th September and is undergoing treatment for a heart condition and is handling it very well.

Harold Rowan Robinson had a bad spin for a period but is now back on the ball. Such a resilient chap, you can't keep him down for long.

Lew Thompson is in Hollywood Hospital with leg trouble, the healing of which is proving difficult but his wide smile is indicative of the man, plenty of G & D to beat the problem.

Len Bagley shared a room in Hollywood Hospital with Lew for a few days after plastic surgery on a skin cancer on his nose. It is healing well and Len is happy.

Bernard Callinan is having a battle in the mobility area. Naomi phoned Archie Campbell to let everyone know Bernie is using a wheel chair but we are sure he will overcome his ailments. Friendship is a great thing — Naomi mentioned that visits by Rolf Baldwin produce chatter, laughter and reminiscences of all sorts. Thanks to Baldy for visiting, as he would say, 'an old china plate'.

Albie Martin is not too well and is housebound. Despite his problems he is a cheerful soul and welcomes a visit from any of his old mates.

Ron Orr is in Concord Hospital undergoing some tests.

Edith Luby is soon to go into hospital for treatment

George Strickland is in Royal Perth Hospital with a severe aneurism. All members wish you a speedy recovery to good health George. Our best wishes to all the above.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mrs J. SCOTT
Joan
213 Tranby Units
Rowethorpe
Hillview Tce
Bentley 6102

Mr V. SWANN
Vince
PO Box 739
Esperance 6450

Mrs E. FULLARTON
Edna
13 Riverview Rd
East Victoria Park 6101
(09) 361 6064

Mrs V. NICHOLS
Verna
59 Seacrest Drive
Sorrento 6020

Mr D. MURRAY
Don & Ida
10/69 Ormsby Tce
Mandurah 6210
(09) 581 2940

Mr J. G. BOARDMAN
Jack
97 Manning Street
Scarborough 6019

Mrs J. SOPER
Jewell
9 Warili Street
Aitkenvale 4814

Mr P. J. FOOT
Peter
M. S. 398
Proserpine 4800

Mr J. C. PORTER
Jack
C/- Post Office
Berrimah 0828
N.T.

Mr R.C. GRIFFITHS
Reg & Hilda
2/36 Wandoo St
Leeton 2705
(06) 953 3992

Mrs G. KIRKWOOD
Gwenda *GARDINER*
11/31 ~~Gordon~~ Street
Como 6152
(09) 367 4295

Mrs M. McKENZIE
Maisie
3A Corbel Street
Shelley 6148
(09) 457 5061
(Late Dick McKenzie wife)
