



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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Address all Association Correspondence to: Box T1646, G.P.O. Perth 6001
President T. Monk. Secretary J. Carey. Treasurer G. Bayliss.

Vol. 102

AUGUST 1993

Price 1c

COMING EVENTS

MENS ANNUAL DINNER

Thursday, October 28th
at R.S.L. Hall
3rd Avenue, Mandurah

Refreshments from 11 a.m. Lunch at 12.30 p.m.
A New Venue — A New Experience!

COMMEMORATION SERVICE

Sunday, November 21st
Lovekin Drive, Kings Park
Commencing at 3 p.m.

SAFARI 1994 BUSSELTON, WA

Thursday 7 — Thursday 14th April

VALE STANLEY SADLER

It is with extreme regret that we have to advise of the sudden death of Stan Sadler from a heart attack at Wongan Hills Hospital on 31st May, 1993.

It is said that some persons are bred to greatness, some to acquire greatness and some to earn greatness. Stan Sadler was definitely one who earned greatness within his own sphere and within his own lifetime. He acquired his greatness in a most humble and somewhat anonymous way, without thrusting and with infinite care and patience.

The Shire of Wongan Hills will mourn his loss for many a year because, in a way, he was 'Mr Wongan Hills.' He was part of everything that went on in his area. Along with elder brother Charlie he was firstly a most innovative and successful light lands farmer. He handled all the new methods of grain farming as they came along and assisted no end in their devising. The Sadlers were also successful sheep breeders and their rams were always of great quality and made a ready sale at top prices.

So much for the commercial side, now for the social and sporting side of his character. Once again, along with Charlie, he was a top grade tennis player and an administrator with the Club in which he earned a Life Membership. He played cricket in the earlier years and in later years turned his attention to golf and became an excellent golfer but also did much to perfect the links and was made a Life Member of the Golf Club.

He took a deep interest in the RSL and was a leading member of that Association.

Probably Stan's greatest achievement in Wongan Hills was his leadership in acquiring the State Hotel to become a Community Hotel. He worked unstintingly for this project and was Chairman for many years and in that time the Hotel thrived and was extended until it could be said to be one of the leading country hotels. He steered through thick and thin and was also in charge of the selling of the business to a private company when it was beset by managerial problems. The Hotel is now on the Tourist Programme. There is a magnificent portrait of Stan in the hall of the Hotel which will always be a monument to his foresight and energy in bringing this project to such a successful conclusion.

Wongan Hills is a most modern country town, with substantial amenities and Stan proudly claimed it as his great home town on retirement from his farm.

Along with brother Charlie he joined the AIF in 1940 and both eventually became part of the 2nd Independent Coy when it was formed in July, 1941. They became members of No. 8

Section, 'C' Platoon, under Lieut. John Burridge. After training on Wilsons Promontory the Unit eventually found itself in dire combat in Timor throughout 1942. Stan was an outstanding soldier and was in many of the ambushes that occurred during the Timor campaign. Then it was onwards to New Guinea where Stan and Charlie were again pillars of 8 Section in what was now known as 2/2nd Commando Squadron. With Lieut. Campbell Rodd in command there was never a dull moment and anyone who served under him would not die wondering. After New Guinea Stan served in New Britain with the Intelligence Section. Charlie had taken his discharge. New Britain was the end of the road for the Unit and Stan returned to his home at Wongan Hills and Partnership in farming with Charlie.

Stan married Blanche in 1948 and they commenced their family life together.

Stan and Blanche and Charlie and Mavis took quite a deep interest in affairs of the 2/2nd Commando Association and were the hosts at four Country Conventions at Wongan Hills in 1953, 1960, 1966 and 1992. These conventions were excellent and the hospitality extended was outstanding. The most recent convention springs readily to mind and Stan was in excellent fettle and steered the show through the wet conditions with great aplomb. He also took a great interest in the interstate Safaris and attended many of them. He was a good contributor to the *Courier* and his letters were most interesting and on many occasions very instructive.

Stan was generous to a fault with donations and I remember when funds were urgently required for the Timor Memorial and people were asked to make pledges to guarantee any loan that had to be raised, he was early off the mark with a pledge. Fortunately the loan was not required but the urge was there. Stan and Charlie were both honoured with Life Membership of the 2/2nd Commando Association in May, 1990.

In later years Stan and Blanche did a lot of caravanning and saw much of Australia in this way. They also used Exmouth as a holiday resort for their caravan tours.

It is a sad farewell to a most remarkable man, a loving and caring husband, father and grandfather, a gallant soldier and an outstanding citizen.

Vale Stanley Sadler, you will be sadly missed. The Association wishes to extend its sincere sympathy to wife Blanche, son Peter, daughter Margaret, daughter-in-law Cathy, son-in-law Charles and to Charlie and Mavis and the extended family of these good people. We can only wish you well.

Col Doig

At what may have been one of the largest contingents of members and wives at a funeral ever, the following attended the cremation at Dench Crematorium on 3rd June, 1993: Len Bagley, Betty Illsley, George Bayliss, Ernie Bingham, Tony Bowers, John Burridge, Archie Campbell, Jack and Delys Carey, Colin and Bonnie Criddle, Dick Darrington, Col Doig, Jess Epps, George Fletcher, John Fowler, Les Halse, Reg and Dot Harrington, Laurie Harrington, Jack Hasson, Keith Hayes, Bill and Elvie Howell, Don Hudson, Mark and Elsie Jordan, Bernie and Babs Langridge, Gerry Maley, Wilf March, Tom Martin, Don May, Ted Monk, Mick and Jean Morgan, Stan and Barbara Payne, Joe and Helen Poynton, John Poynton, Gordon and Eva Rowley, Bob Smyth, 'Dusty' Studdy, Eric Thornander, Don Turton, Roy Watson, Eric Weller, 'Doc' Wheatley, Steve Rogers.

Peter, Kathy Sadler, Margaret and Charles Edmonds and families, also Mavis and Charles Sadler wish to thank all members of the 2/2 and their wives for attending the private funeral of our dearly loved Stan. Also for the many letters, cards, phone calls and flowers.

A 'special thank you' to Jack Carey and Arch Campbell.

Sincerely,
Blanche

EULOGY TO MR STAN SADLER

(2 July, 1917 - 31 May, 1993)

Prepared for and read at the funeral service of the late Mr Stan Sadler by his son, Peter.

Dad was born in Swan Hill, Victoria in 1917 and was one of seven children by Alfred and Annie.

After losing their mother when Dad was only 2 1/2, the four younger members of the family moved back to England with Alfred, where he remarried. They then returned to WA where they had purchased a farm at Goomalling and regrouped with their elder brothers.

Dad began his schooling at Ucarty, next to their farm, and then after a year or so he went to Guildford Grammar until the depression, leaving at the age of 13. He and his brother Charles commenced correspondence at this

point but fought so much that they were sent out to work!

In the meantime, Dad's father purchased the Wongan Hills farm "Leahurst," where he farmed with his family until now.

Dad's family became very active in sport, especially tennis, and it was a Sunday special in those initial hard working years in clearing the farm and they actually constructed an ant-hill tennis court on the farm.

When war broke out, Dad and brother Charles enlisted in the Army and served with a specially trained independent company to perform in dangerous and active situations. They served in Timor, New Guinea and New Britain from 1941 to 1945. This they did with great deeds, and members of the unit have developed a close relationship with each other throughout the years. The 2nd/2nd Commando unit was the longest serving unit in action.

Dad has been involved with the local RSL at Wongan Hills and the 2nd/2nd Commando Association in Perth, of which he is a Life Member.

Dad met Mum on leave in 1942 and they were married in 1948 and had two children, Margaret and myself.

Dad was very community minded and with the support of Mum, served on the council of the Agricultural Society for many years and did a lot of work to help establish The Tennis and Golf Clubs. He was made a Life Member of the Golf Club in 1969.

He was the Foundation Chairman of the Wongan Hills Community Hotel and remained in that position for some twenty years.

Dad was a very successful and hard working farmer and put many long hours into the farm, and in fact was worth a couple of men to me when helping out in the latter years. At the same time, he gave his all to his family, who are all immensely proud of him. Both Margaret and myself, who loved him very much, gave him six grandchildren and he spent many enjoyable hours with them.

In later years, after leaving me in control of the farm, Dad and Mum started travelling and seeing what the world was like and had many enjoyable trips abroad with their friends.

Dad and Mum also liked to travel with their caravan, making many trips in all directions, but always making sure they were home in time for seeding and harvest.

Dad was kind and considerate, with a stable and strong character who enjoyed a touch of humour, and his example was an inspiration to us all.

Mum, Margaret and I, and all the family and his friends will miss him so much.

VALE KENNETH (Skeeta) BAGNALL

His contact with the Association post-war was almost nil, but he was never forgotten or placed on the shelf. Enquiries were made on a reasonably regular basis and in the fulness of time, some 50 years later, I received a letter from 'Skeeta' wanting to know how all his old mates were getting along. It was a delight to hear from him and later, speaking to him on the phone rolled the years right back to 1942 on Timor.

Another two years silence occurred, then I heard he was desperately ill in the Mercy Hospital, Cairns. While staying with Tony and Iris Adams on holidays I was able to try every avenue to locate him but with not an ounce of luck. Mercy Hospital, Greenslopes and Brisbane General hold no record of his admittance, that was between 16th March - 15th April, 1993.

On the 15th June, 1993 I had a call from his wife, Dorothy, with the sad news of Skeeta's demise. Gave her the details of our search for him and she said unfortunately she had been in hospital for some time recovering from a heart by-pass operation. It was a hard and sad time for her and she was in need of immediate help so the right drill was for Legacy in Queensland to take up her case for a War Widows pension. I told her that because I was privy to the background of his problems, to nominate me as the go-between for all details required by Legacy and the Department of Veteran Affairs. Legacy is to visit her on the 16th June.

Time has its own method of solving problems as long as there is some persistence.

The Editor

VALE KENNETH (Skeeta) BAGNALL — 15TH APRIL, 1993

'Skeeta' joined the AIF at the tender age of 15 years! He was 16 when he was drafted as a reinforcement to the 2nd Independent Company prior to the Japanese landing on Timor in 1942.

When 7 Section 'C' Platoon was near decimated on the morning of 20th February, 1942 there were only four members remaining. This meant we had to build back to the original number of 7 Section personnel and, in came 'Skeeta' Bagnall among other reinforcements. He proved, as a teenager, a well disciplined soldier, he learnt the hard way, along with others, by doing a baptism under active condi-

tions. He possessed a great sense of humour, was full of fun when things got tough, developed a great rapport with 'Bunny' Anderson who made sure 'Skeeta' did it right.

'Skeeta' proved his value when 7 Section staged a raid on the strong Jap outpost at Dare. It was almost an eye to eye confrontation and he received a shocking leg wound with the muscles of one leg shot away. He was pulled in to cover by Ernie Field and Mick Calcutt. We had to get him clear of the field of fire and his wound cleansed. He showed raw courage with a wound that was horrific, not a peep from him as we traversed the steep mountain track, piggy-backed by his mate 'Bunny' Anderson, a big part of the way. Some hours later he was put on an improvised stretcher and sent to Dr. Dunkley, five hours away. Later, he was repatriated to Australia and his recovery was a long process. He never rejoined the Unit.

Post-war we heard very little from him but apparently he showed the same determination in civvy life, supporting wife Dorothy and family.

Now, after 51 years he has passed to the vale beyond at the virtually young age of 67 years. He goes with the deep affection of 7 Section and the boys of the 2nd Independent Company who knew him so well. Sleep well 'Skeeta', you earned our deep admiration in a relatively short space of time. Above all, you were one of us.

Our deepest sympathy goes to Dorothy and all the Bagnall family.

Archie Campbell

VALE DON (Shorty) STEVENS

Shorty transferred from the Armoured Div. 3rd Recce Squadron to the Independent Company Training School at Canungra with Lyle Litchfield.

Shorty joined the Unit at Canungra and served with distinction throughout the New Guinea and New Britain campaigns. He was a valued member of 7 Section and earned the respect of all, not only as a brave and resourceful soldier, but for his ability to adapt to all situations, and to help his Section mates. He had a good sense of humour and was a great team man. Close friendships made in the Section were continued after the war and his passing is mourned by all who knew him.

Early years after the war Shorty and Litch were droving in the Channel country, then Shorty returned to the family farm at Snowtown in the mid north of South Australia.

Shorty is survived by his wife Margaret, daughter Helen, who was a full time teacher, now a

part time teacher and mother at Mala in the far north of South Australia. Son Milton is, among other things, a stock handler and at present is at a quarantine station on Cocos Island with a mob of Alpaccas. Anne, the youngest, is in America competing in the Women's Professional Rodeo Circuit for the second year, and is holding her own.

So, we say farewell to a mate who will be long remembered.

All send deepest sympathy to Margaret and family.

Keith Dignum

NORMA HASSON SOCIAL

We were blessed with pleasant weather for this popular mid-year function which attracted 57 members, ladies and families. Unfortunately Jack Hasson was in hospital but Kay, Ken and Rhonda attended and once again the ladies were delighted to receive orchid corsages from Kay. A welcome change this year was the serving of the three course meal to us at our tables rather than buffet style as before, and it was thoroughly enjoyed.

Two copies of Col Doig's new book '**A Great Fraternity**' were raffled and won by Jean Morgan and Chloe Barnes.

Apologies were received from Wilf and Lorraine March, Les and Edna Halse, Joe and Helen Poynton, Roy Watson, Barbara Goddard, Stan and Barbara Payne, Bill and Iris Rowan-Robinson, Jack Fowler, George and Joan Fletcher, Bernie and Babs Langridge, Dutchie and Jean Holland, Charlie, Mary and Paddy King, Dot Boyland, Jack Hasson.

BUSSELTON SAFARI — APRIL 1994

Eric and Twy Smyth are home after a pleasant four months break holidaying in the eastern states. All enquiries re accommodation should now be directed to their phone number (097) 52 1076. Our thanks to Eric's sister, Mrs Billie Perry, for filling in during their absence.

Bookings are going well and to date over 80 people have applied for accommodation. The Gale Street Resort is fully booked but the Ship, Paradise and Vasse still have vacancies.

Members are requested to lodge their bookings as soon as convenient.

Everything is shaping up nicely for a great Safari.

Bookings made since the June *Courier* are:

Ship Resort Motel — Charlie King, Win

MacLachlan, Mick Mannix.

Gale Street Resort — Marj Goodacre, P. Sullivan, Neil Hooper, Ralph Conley.

Paradise Motel — George Shiels, A. Soper, Arch Campbell, Tony Adams.

Caravan Park — Reg Harrington.

Jess Epps has advised that anyone wishing to park their caravan in her backyard after the Busselton Safari is most welcome.

Also, Jess could accommodate two visitors in her home.

We think that is a very nice gesture, Jess.

SICK LIST

Fred Sparkman, Albie Martin, Alex Thomson, Ted Loud and Alan Hollow are not enjoying the best of health and our best wishes go to them all.

We are pleased to report that Wilf March and Jack Hasson are recuperating at home after recent successful operations.

A LOVE AFFAIR

*My husband took up bowling
And he bragged upon the phone
About some wench called Kitty
Whom he could not leave alone.
He played with Kitty
He sayed with Kitty
He picked her up without a hitch.
He missed Kitty
He kissed Kitty
He even lay beside her in the ditch.
So I took up bowling
To win my husband back
And I found what he could do with Kitty
I could do with Jack.*

Delys Carey

CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

**C. King
26 Crusader St
Falcon 6210**

Please find enclosed our donation toward the *Courier*.

We will be happy to see old friends at the 1994 Safari and hope that most will enjoy good health and will be able to attend.

Wishing everyone health and happiness. God bless.

Charles, Mary and son Paddy.

G. E. Pendergrast
29 Dodd St
Dongara 6525

Not much to report from Dongara. Edie and I are keeping well.

Enclosed is a donation for the *Courier*.

I go out to save as many lobsters as I can from being shipped to the Japs.

We're sorry that so many of our mates are departing.

'Blue'

D. Young
72 Graylands Rd
Claremont 6010

Please find enclosed a donation for the *Courier*.

I hope this finds everyone O.K. Barb and I are well, only my hip is playing up with this cold weather.

Cheers for now, all the best to the old mates.

Don and Barb

S. R. Marsh
17 McGough St
Glenorchy 7010

Enclosed is a donation for the *Courier*. I look forward to receiving each issue.

I noted in the last *Courier* a query about Signaman Jack Overs of the 2/40 Bn. The only Signaller I knew was Max Loveless who helped build the wireless to contact Darwin.

We (the 2/40) have a meeting every three months. Before the meeting we take our wives for a counter lunch.

Best wishes to all members.

Swampy and Joan

W. Tobin
15 Beatrice St
Burwood 3125

Enclosed is a donation for the *Courier*.

It's amazing what a wonderful job Harry Botterill does in this state. His willingness, along with Olive, is never ending. He helps members of the Victorian 2/2 family in their hour of need continuously.

Congratulations to Tom Nisbet on his appointment as President of the overall Commando Association over here.

My mother has had some trouble with her health but she's on the mend.

Regards to all in the 2/2 family.

Warwick

P.S. Carlton for Premiers '96.

F. Sharp
11 Stonehaven Avenue
Dubbo 2830

Well, dear friends, my conscience has prompted me to get the pen out and give you some news of the Sharps and the doings around Dubbo.

Judy and I are going well and have settled into our new home since we saw you all at the last Safari. We are in a very pretty spot overlooking the river and park land, also a great view of the city at night from our front balcony.

We have just had the pleasure and company of Fred and Mavis Broadhurst from Melbourne for eight days. They are great company and there is never a dull moment when 'Broady' is around. Jack and Julie Fox, Harry and Olive Botterill have called to see us. It is always great to see someone from the old Unit.

Betty Craig brought Jess Epps up from Young for several days while Jess was over from W.A. Jess brought me up to date with all the doings in the west and the latest news regarding members and wives.

Should any members of the Unit ever be passing through Dubbo, please call and see us. We are only two minutes drive off the main highway. There is a motel and caravan park a few hundred yards on either side of our home.

Dubbo had a very good Anzac Day with perfect weather and the largest crowd I have ever seen, and so many young people this year. The RSL President here is a Vietnam veteran. The previous President of 15 years passed away. He was a terrific worker for veterans and was Western Divisional Councillor of the RSL in this state. He was awarded the British Empire Medal and Order of Australia for his service. There were over 1,000 at his funeral and a full plane load of big brass of the RSL and Department of Veteran Affairs from Sydney attended.

Something of interest which will interest many of our members was the opening commentary of the ABC's coverage of the Sydney Anzac Day march. It started with the film entitled '*Men of Timor*.' I recognised quite a few faces, including 'Bull' Laidlaw with his big beard. The commentary covered quite a history of the Unit and its activities against the 'Nips' in Timor. It made me feel proud to have been a member of such a fine Unit. I feel no other unit has stuck to its members as we have.

I attended the Dawn Service and the main ser-

vice at 11 am. The RSL Club gave us a very good breakfast with plenty of rum and hot coffee after the Dawn Service. Both meals were free to all veterans. The Club here is a very wealthy one. They have just completed an eight million dollars face lift and it is one of the nicest clubs in NSW.

I guess the WA Committee is busy preparing the 1994 Safari. I have attended the last two in WA, in 1971 and 1983 and both were great.

My news is running short so for now I will say cheerio. Good health to all and hoping to see you again in the near future.

Kindest regards.

Judy and Frank

B. Flockhart

Box 22

Merredin 6415

Enclosed please find my cheque to cover further copies of the *Courier*. I enjoy reading it, in particular the anecdotes from members, your efforts with the Government over Timor etc., and how and where you all are.

It is sad to see so many passing from your ranks, but I know from experience that the farewell paragraphs inserted in the *Courier* are of comfort to family and friends.

You realise just how time is marching on when the 'children' of commandos join the lucky ones like Reg and Dot Harrington and become part of the annual migration to the warmer climate in the north.

Jim and I are heading up to see brother Max at Kununurra then on to the N.T. to Katherine. We are looking forward to seeing our daughter, son-in-law and grandson who live and work on Scott Station. I'll be looking around to see if there are any of the famous Double Diamonds to show evidence of your presence in Katherine all those years ago.

Best wishes for your Albany Convention. I know it will be marvellous.

Take care, keep smiling.

Bev

C. Turner

Box 97

Capel 6271

Hi to all our mates wherever you are!

Many thanks to the Committee for having once again made me Country Vice President and I will continue to try and give my full support to our Association.

It is sad to hear that we are having to say

farewell to some of our mates as they pass on to greater heights.

Alex Thomson has been in hospital after having a sudden heart problem. Pleased to say he is home again and seems to be fairly well but we hope it has just been a warning and that he will continue on the road to full recovery.

Eric Smyth's sister, Billie Perry, has been keeping us up to date on the Safari bookings during his absence and pleased to say the bookings are coming in very well — in the 70s so far.

Grace and I are both fairly well and looking forward to seeing you all again soon.

Regards to all.

Clarrie

Mrs J. Cash

3 Stevens St

Mundaring 6073

I received my copy of the June *Courier* in which is the write-up for my husband Mervyn who died last month. I will fill in the gap referred to, when your Association lost track of him.

After he gave up the Everdure job he went prospecting for a year (the kids were teenagers at that stage) but found no gold, so we didn't make our fortune. He returned to town and worked for Masters Dairy for 20 years until his retirement at age 65.

He was their Purchasing Officer, and over the years became highly esteemed and valued for his honesty and uprightness and extreme vigilance on behalf of the firm's finances, equipment, supplies.

'A good and faithful servant.' That phrase epitomises Mervyn's whole life which was spent serving and helping other people in the most amazing way, not just at work.

When he retired, Masters Dairy did something it had never done before. It stopped the factory for a couple of hours so that all staff could farewell him. He received an enormous number of beautiful and expensive gifts.

Now I see there are more people mentioned as attending the funeral than I remember meeting. I hope you will forgive me. It was a long and confusing day for me — the longest day of my life I think, not counting the day our first offspring was born (that was a long day too). Wilf and Lorraine March — you must have been in a separate car and didn't come to the house. I wish now I had met you. Thank you for coming. I received a lovely card from Stan and Mrs Payne of Merredin and I do not know anyone of that name so I assume these good people are Association members. Thank you Mr and Mrs Payne. Thanks also to Neil and Joan Scott

for their card, there was no address on the card but maybe I threw it out on the envelope? Another message I received, I will quote now in closing:

*'Death is not extinguishing the light,
But putting out the lamp
Because the dawn has come.'*

Best wishes to all.

Jean

**R. Conley
24 Byambee St
Kenmore 4069**

Our regular barbecue was held at North Pine Dam on 7th June. Present were George and Edna Vandeleur, George and Bettye Coulson, Butch and Pat Barnier, Ron Archer, Mervyn Murphy, Ralph and Sheila Conley, Neil and Margaret Hooper, Colin and Jeanette Andrew, Gordon and Joan Stanley, and new faces Bill Connell and his wife.

It was a great day in perfect Queensland winter weather with good mates, good food and good humour. We discussed the possibility of putting dates for the W.A. 1994 Safari back one week to enable the eastern states contingent to march on Anzac Day in Perth. Approaches to the Committee through a phone call to Archie Campbell resulted in consideration of our request. Jack Carey advised a number of problems made any change difficult and we can appreciate them.

I agree that Anzac marches in the future may be too much for some of our mates! I took the opportunity to visit Sydney for the last march and was surprised at the relatively few N.S.W. members present. However, it was a great day and wonderful to march with the N.S.W. fellows and enjoy a few cold ones after the event. The wreath laying at the Commando Memorial was impressive. Alexandre Tilman was present with Pat de Luz. Paddy Kenneally and I were able to express our sentiments regarding the Immigration Department refusal to allow a permanent resident visa to allow Alexandre and his wife to join his family in Australia — 'a travesty of justice' indeed.

Preliminary arrangements are in train with Qantas-Australian for group travel fares for eastern states travel to the Safari in 1994. Alan Luby is arranging with Tom Nisbet to co-ordinate names from Victoria and N.S.W. I will look after Queensland. Airline contact names for each state will be advised in the next *Courier* together with flight and fare details.

Enclosed is a donation for the *Courier*.

Best regards to all from the Queenslanders.

Ralph

**Mrs M. Stevens
Yallunda Flat
RSD1941
Pt Lincoln 5607**

As it is nearly a month since we buried Don in the Koppio Cemetery, I thought it may be of interest to his many friends in far flung places, via the *Courier*, to tell you what we did on June 4th. It was his wish to be buried in this small but beautiful peaceful resting place, and I think he would have approved of what happened that day.

The Cemetery has been there for many years, four miles from where Don and I have been living and farming since 1959, and nearby the Tod, Eyre Peninsula's only river flows on its way south through the Koppio hills to where it empties into the sea, north of Port Lincoln, near Poonindie.

The funeral service was conducted in sunshine in the garden of our home at Yallunda Flat, by the Uniting Church Minister from Cummins where Don gave support to the many branches of church activities from 1959 to 1980. As well as the Australian Flag, we had several articles on his coffin during the service, to remind us of the different aspects of his busy and successful life. A photograph taken at the 1972 Reunion at the Pier Hotel in Glenelg, South Australia, his army slouch hat, Light Horse style complete with ostrich plume, worn in the film *'Light Horsemen'*, the 2/2nd wooden plaque showing the stiletto and colour patches, his own stiletto, still in original leather sheath and his stock whip. Rev. Dennis Simmons read the eulogy from his childhood at Snowtown, through the war years and ending on Eyre Peninsula at Cummins Hospital.

We drove to Koppio and at the graveside the President of Tumby Bay RSL spoke briefly after the Minister completed the burial service. Lyle Litchfield spoke on behalf of the 2/2nd Independent Company, referring to Don as 'Shorty' and sharing his memories of their work on the cattle stations and through the New Guinea campaign as army mates. Then came Reveille and the Last Post, a taped rendition by the Australian Military Band. It sounded very moving and beautiful in the open air and sunshine, among the trees where the birds were clearly audible, mingling with the music — a worthy farewell to a fine soldier and citizen.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret

**R. Archer
36 Soudan St
Toowong 4066**

Our bi-monthly get-together was on Monday, 7th June. The week before, I rang Bill Connell

and told him he'd better pull up his socks and join us. Hey Presto, Bill and his nice wife Irma duly turned up and enlarged our happy little group of regulars. Bill also brought along some old photos which brought back many memories.

Am enclosing a paper I was asked to do on our National Flag, rather long but may be interesting.

Queensland is going to be well represented at Busselton.

Best wishes and cheers to all members.

Ron

***ED:** We are short of space in this issue Ron but your paper on our National Flag will appear in a future Courier.*

OCTOBER COURIER COPY DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 22, 1993

NORTHERN NEWS

Sorry to hear that Margaret Weller has been having a tough spin and we all extend our best wishes. Eric had told me he wouldn't be marching in Geraldton on Anzac Day because he would be in Perth as a result of Margaret's illness, and we have not been able to make any phone contact since.

I would like to thank the 2/2 Association for re-electing me as Country Vice-President for the Geraldton area. It is certainly a great privilege to have held this position in such an illustrious organisation since July 1959, three years after moving from Mullewa to Geraldton.

I was certainly sorry to learn of Sandy Eggleton's death. We were tent mate in New Britain and were able to have a good yarn at Geraldton when he managed the NSW athletes who were in WA for the Commonwealth Games and also performed in our town. I remember Sandy always being in the thick of it when we all played 'dog eat dog' by combining our Aussie Rules and Rugby skills. I know that Sandy was in the Security Service of Qantas because he met one of my bowling mates on a flight to Hong Kong, as a result of which I arranged for a neck tie and tie bar to be provided.

Geraldton City RSL Sub-Branch had a great Anzac Day commemoration at which our guests of honour included HMAS "Geraldton" Commanding Officer Bruce Hilliard and 92 year old Wally Fletcher of Exmouth. A great conversationist, Wally put his age up from 14 to 15 to

join the RAN in World War I and also served in the Navy in World War II. Mayor Ted Whelan welcomed a crowd of some 2,000 before President Allan Ellis paid tribute to the Anzacs and their successors and the men and women now serving overseas.

As PRO I had the pleasure of writing letters of congratulation to the two students who supported President Allan Ellis regarding the significance of Anzac Day.

Kalgoorlie Sub-Branch was the latest to donate \$50 to our special fund which was opened at the State Congress which was held in Geraldton last year to restore and frame a Gallipoli flag that was brought back by the late Dave Patten of Chapman Valley after having been damaged by Turk bullets.

Retired Telecom employee Ray Carroll has joined our bowling club and wishes to be remembered to Don Hudson. He vividly recalls those Nullagine days when Don exhibited his fighting prowess against an opponent at the local pub in 1960 and also helped to capture two escapees. Ray is now living at the Masonic Village.

The *Courier* valedictory for the late Alf Coupland of Canberra reminded me that his Permanent Army service included a period at Geraldton. However, as far as the general community was concerned, he did not mix freely.

Your valedictory for the late Jim Foot of Proserpine, Queensland brought back memories of his ambassadorial comments about the cane fields of that state and about the mighty Burdekin River. One of Jim's achievements occurred while we were on patrol in New Britain when he had a Royal Flush at poker with an unbeatable hand of five hearts from ten to ace.

Joan and I had a very busy weekend during the 30th anniversary celebrations of the discovery in June 1963 of the 1629 wreck of the Dutch flagship 'Batavia' at the Abrolhos Islands. The celebrations included a Civic Reception and welcome to Dutch Ambassador Cornelius Bast, a display of rare books on the 'Batavia' at our Library, a Seafaring Odyssey 'Batavia on Canvas' at our Art Gallery in what was originally the 1907 Town Hall, a Remembrance Service in St. Francis Xavier's Cathedral for those men, women and children who were massacred by mutineers during the series of 'Batavia' events that also involved rape and debauchery, retribution and rescue, and the opening of a 'Batavia Discoverers and Discoveries' display at the Geraldton Region Museum. This function was of special interest to me as the display material recognised that, as ABC Regional Journalist, I gave the story to the world of the discovery of the 'Batavia' which had been on the seabed for more than

three centuries. I'll have more to say on this subject when I finish a book about some of my experiences during my 30 years with 'Aunty.'

There was history everywhere in association with these June 1993 'Batavia' celebrations, including the fact that the Museum building featured a unique foundation stone that included bricks from the 1629 wreck and also the adjacent Museum building where renowned wreck conservationist Dr. Ian MacLeod gave a brilliant talk, was originally the Geraldton Railway Station for the Northampton line that was opened in 1879.

God bless all members of our great Association.

Peter Barden

VICTORIAN NEWS

The mini safari to Corowa, NSW, from July 5th - 8th was very well attended by 40 members and wives and thoroughly enjoyed by all, even though the weather wasn't the best, raining on the 6th and 7th. Those present were our hosts Norm and Fran Tillett, Harry and Olive Botterill, Wilma Tobin, Fred and Mavis Broadhurst and Phyllis, Lorraine and Bruce McLaren, Patsy and Max Thatcher, Don and Joan Freyer, Tom Nisbet, George and Dot Veitch, Bob Snowden, Alf and Gwenda Harper, John Southwell, Arch and Dawn Claney, Ken and Margaret Monk, Nina Grachan, Bill Tucker, Rosemary Turner, John and Cath Roberts, Bluey and Aynsley Sargent. From N.S.W. Roy and Joyce Martin, Ron and Dorothy Trengove, Denny and June Dennis. From Tasmania Max and Noreen Miller. Apologies were received from Bill and Coral Coker, Alan and Edith Luby, Betty Craig, Jack and Julie Fox, Grace Davies, Peter McCracken, Glad Curran, Leith and Marg. Cooper, Sir Bernard and Lady Callinan, Jock and Faye Campbell, Win Humphries. Norm and Fran did a magnificent job organising our itinerary. We were all in the one motel and on arrival were greeted with a cuppa and refreshments and in our rooms flowers for the ladies and a parcel of goodies from Uncle Toby's. Evening meal at the R.S.L. Club where the President, Jack Bartlett, who was a member of 2/5 Commando Coy was our guest for the evening.

Tuesday 6th. Departed to the R.S.L. Cowora for a talk and video show of Bunge Industries given by David Wilkes, Staff Officer. A very good talk with lots of information about the Company which is wholly Australian owned and it was surprising just how many companies they now own. The talk was mainly on pig-

geries as they have a very large one just outside of Corowa. Had lunch at the R.S.L. Club then went to Buller's Winery where Andrew Buller gave a short talk on the winery's history, followed by wine tasting etc. There was also a very good bird aviary. An excellent evening meal at the Golf Club, and the pokies if interested.

Wednesday 7th. Departed motel by coach for a visit to Albury via Howlong to board the 'Discovery' for a cruise on the Murray River and lunch on board — luckily it was glassed in as it was very wet and cold outside, but this doesn't discourage the 2/2 folks who enjoy themselves in all conditions. The evening meal was at the Corowa Bowls Club which they boast is the biggest bowling club in Australia and I believe it. A very pleasant meal — more pokies.

Thursday 8th. Before departing we had a meeting at the R.S.L. Club to discuss future business for the Victorian Branch also had our Annual General Meeting where present office bearers were elected unopposed. Tom Nisbet, President; Norm Tillett, Jack Fox V/Presidents; Leith Cooper, Secretary; Harry Botterill, Treasurer; Committee: Fred Broadhurst, Ken Monk, John Roberts, Bill Tucker, Alex Boast, David Brown and any others who are interested and come along to the meetings. We discussed future outings and proposed a day trip on the Yarra River, Christmas luncheon as usual and another country trip next year for three days, location to be decided by Committee. Patsy Thatcher gave a small talk and brought us up to date on Timorese position regarding difficulties with officials and the distribution of books for the schools in Timor. We thank Patsy for the talk and the work she is putting into this task.

Fred Broadhurst was presented with a Life Membership by Tom Nisbet in appreciation of the good work he has carried out throughout the years.

Harry Botterill

N.S.W. NEWS

Maria and I took the two grand kids up to Kempsey for a couple of days in the school holidays and made contact with Bill and Beryl Walsh. Bill has been very sick with a bad dose of flu and Beryl is reasonably well. Also rang Noel Buckman at Stuarts Point and he and Marie are going O.K. Noel has his ups and downs but at that time was getting around and sounded pretty chirpy.

Harry Handicott has had a 5 by-pass operation

in the John Hunter Hospital in Newcastle. It went well and he was hoping to be home this week. Ron Hilliard has also had a by-pass operation in St George Hospital. Coral Coker is recuperating at home after having both knees operated on and gets around with the aid of two sticks and is very happy to have straight legs again.

Memo Bill Connell. Yes Bill, I do remember the night we swam the Ramu River above Wesa. As I recall it was about midnight and the other 'idiot' as you so aptly put it was Val Nagle who was in charge of 1 Section at the time and was later killed on patrol in the same area we scouted that night. Do you remember how we wrapped all our gear in ground sheets to make a float, Val was in front, you were in the middle and I was behind, pushing. We got into the middle of the river and the bloody float sank and it was a bit of a battle to make the other side. It's not easy swimming with a 303 or an Owen gun slung over your shoulders. The idea of our trip was to find out where the Japs were and in the morning we must have been almost in their camp because we ran into two of them out picking daisies. We put enough lead into them to sink the Jap navy and then Val said to me 'You're the experienced soldier here Jack. What should we do now?' I said 'I think we should get to bloody hell out of here.' So we hightailed it back to the river and had an even harder swim back because it was a lot wider at that point. It must have been about this time Bill that we received a couple of letters from girls wanting pen friends and you asked me to write to one of them. I don't remember getting an answer back but it seems the one I wrote to became your wife so I must have done some good. Anyway Bill, I hope this long winded story answers your question and perhaps spur you into writing yourself.

There are a couple of other amusing stories I would like to tell through the *Courier* if our good Editor is agreeable and I'm sure there are hundreds, perhaps thousands of other funny tales members can recount which will make good reading. Cheers.

Jack Hartley

ED. Jack, we certainly would like to have your amusing stories to pass on for everyone to enjoy.

**Chairman,
Independent Trust Fund**

Dear Mr Smyth

Peace be with you.

I met your friend, Prof. Peter Spillett four days

ago. He briefed me about this benevolent project of yours on behalf of the youth of East Timor.

We thank you and your organisation for the help you are extending to us. Through the Director of the Catholic Schools, whose office is here in Dili, I take responsibility for the distribution of the educational materials here in East Timor.

To all the members of the 2/2nd Australian Commando Association I wish you and your families the best of health and peace of mind. May God bless you for these acts of generosity on your part.

With my prayers.

Mgr. Carlos Pilipe Belo SDB
Apostolic Administrator
Diocese of Dili.

Independent Trust: Peter Spillett of the Darwin Museum of Arts and Sciences, has overcome our initial communication problem following five unanswered letters. We gladly accepted his offer to help in which he has been most successful. Peter's approach to the Governor resulted in approval of our plan to forward school text books through Bishop Belo. Bishop Belo commends the project and assumes responsibility for distribution, at our request, via Pater Aureo Gusmao as Director of Catholic Schools in East Timor.

A letter of application enclosing a schedule of the first shipment and requesting censorship approval, has been directed to the Director General of Primary and Secondary Schools in Jakarta. The cost of landing the first shipment will be viewed with interest.

Bro. Ephrem Santos: Peter had a long session with this enterprising, conscientious, diligent teacher of the Don Bosco Training Centre. We hope to supply him with the full series of Commonwealth Government Basic Training Manuals (Trade Apprentices) recommended to us by Patsy.

Shipping: Singapore Agents confirm the Singapore Dili service remains suspended, but Perkins Shipping of Darwin advise they have received clearance for Dili loading.

Trust Funds: We acknowledge and thank contributors since our last report.

Trust Application of Funds: The Trustees continue to research and review various areas.

Bob Smyth

The following letters, signed by our President, Ted Monk, were mailed on July 1, 1993:

**The Hon G. Evans,
Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs**

Dear Sir,

We, the surviving members of that small guerilla force which saw service on Timor during World War II, wish to convey to you our horror at the nature of the recent sentence passed on Xanana Gusmao in Dili.

The nature of the charge itself is suspect. One wonders how a man who has actively fought continuously against an illegal invasion of his country can be accused of 'rebellion' against the government the interlopers set up. We would submit that at most he could have been accused of 'continued resistance' or some such fictitious charge.

We ask now that you use every means at your disposal to persuade the Indonesian power brokers to lessen the sentence or, more properly, to release Gusmao.

At the moment we feel only shame for the part Australia has played in the whole Timorese 'sell out,' particularly as many of us owe our lives to the people of Timor. You will understand, Sir, how deeply repugnant we find the Australian Government's comparative silence in the matter of this vicious abuse of human rights and natural justice, particularly as the actions of Indonesia are contrary to international law, and to the views of U.N.O. We intend to approach United Nations again and will also send a copy of this letter to that Organisation.

We continue this correspondence which, on numerous occasions, has not received the courtesy of a reply, because we are anxious that future students of history will be able to set the record straight and see for themselves that there was still a voice or two that believed in the rights of little people.

We trust that you will make a special plea to the Indonesians to alleviate the lot of Xanana Gusmao, and grant some form of clemency.

**The Hon P. Keating MP
Prime Minister of Australia.**

**The Hon Dr J. Hewson MP
Leader of the Opposition.**

Dear Sir,

Please find enclosed, copy of a letter from my Organisation to the Minister for Foreign Affairs. As we have had great difficulty in receiving acknowledgement of previous communications on Timorese affairs addressed to the Minister's office, we would appreciate if you could interest yourself in this matter.

**The Secretary-General
United Nations,
New York, U.S.A.**

Your Excellency,

**Trial and Sentence of Xanana Gusmao,
Dili, East Timor**

We wish to support you in any action you may still be taking in the cause of the people of East Timor and particularly any action taken to alleviate the lot of Xanana Gusmao.

We commend U.N.O. for its attitudes on Timor but we ask now that the Xanana Gusmao case be one of continuous pressure on the Indonesians to gain some amelioration of his imprisonment.

In our view the charge of 'Rebellion,' which was one of the counts on which Gusmao was found guilty, is not valid. We do not believe that one who has continuously resisted against an illegal invasion can be charged with 'rebellion' against the government the aggressor set up.

This man has been denied natural justice and the charges against him are at best illogical.

We pledge our support for any further action U.N.O. may contemplate in this matter.

ALEXANDRE DA SILVA TILMAN

The following is a record of achievement and the letter written in reply to a submission on behalf of the above man. Alan Luby, Paddy Kenneally and other members of the NSW Branch have put in motion an appeal for leniency, understanding and common sense.

Alexandre's record of service after being recruited from East Timor, training in Australia, then attached to the AIF, is second to none. This is published in our *Courier* for all members and others who could be vitally interested. This gives them an opportunity to go in to bat for Alex in his efforts to link up with his family in Australia by means of migration.

A letter of appeal sent to the Minister for Immigration, Mr Gerry Hand, by Mr Ted Grace, Federal Member for Fowler, N.S.W., and the answer by Mr Hand are appended. If anyone has seen such a travesty of a letter in response to such an appeal, this is one. For a man who has served Australia for all those years, co-opted from Timor at the age of 19 years, now in the twilight of his life, Mr Hand's letter is it. Typically political, going by the book, without enough intestinal fortitude to slash 'red tape' and give Alexandre and his wife access to Australia, something so thoroughly deserved.

What sort of an approach is this to 'Human Rights' for a man who risked his life in the cause of Australia fighting for its own freedom?

If ever there has been a slur on our reputation as supporters of fair play, this is the ultimate. It should be circulated Australia wide in every newspaper and news carrying media.

It behoves all states to support New South Wales in protest at such an iniquitous decision.

My suggestion is that the President of each state branch should make Mr Hand fully aware of our deep feeling of revulsion in his and his Department's approach to the plight of a man who served Australia so faithfully and so well.

If possible, a meeting should be arranged for a delegation to meet the Minister in an eye to eye protest so that he feels the depth and sincerity of our action.

The Editor

ALEXANDRE DA SILVA TILMAN

Was recruited, uniformed and paid four pounds a week by the AIF (Australian Imperial Forces) with whom he served from December 1942 until November 1945.

Like the over fifty other Timorese trained in Australia then, he was not legally enlisted because he was technically a citizen of a neutral power (Portugal), and was not a white European (and many HQ minutes WW2 attest to the forces sensitivity about that, there are orders to disband 'native' companies on that basis etc).

His war service involved Alexandre in three missions returning to Timor with 'Z Special'/SRD Army Intelligence parties, twice when he guided ships in and went ashore in enemy-held territory subject to great danger. These operatives undefined status meant that their treatment was not covered by the Geneva Convention and they could be shot as spies. Those caught died horribly of torture and illness incarcerated by the Japanese.

AIR WAR SERVICE

Alexandre was selected and evacuated from Portuguese Timor on the Dutch Destroyer *Tjerk Hides* in December 1942, along with the Australian 2/2nd Independent Company of commandos who had fought for a year with Timorese help.

He was then a fit young man of 19, who it was thought would be of future use because he had knowledge of the Timor coastline. His father had been colonial Harbour Pilot, and besides learning by helping his father, Alexandre had worked on supply barges. It was thought his skills would be of use for inserting Intelligence parties later, which they were.

In Australia he was attached to Capt. Jack

Chipper OIC of LMS (Lugger Maintenance Service) at the Quarantine station near Dawin. This was the cover name for the secret 'Z Special' SRD Army Intelligence operational headquarters, where camouflage ships such as the *'Krait'* set off on missions like the one that blew up Japanese shipping in Singapore Harbour.

THREE MISSIONS

On 3rd August, 1943 Alexandre helped guide in the ship that took Australian Jim Ellwood to join the ill-fated *'Lagarto'* party in Timor (see 'Telling' p3 and p43) which was captured a few weeks later. Alexandre and his 'commandante,' English Intelligence Captain Jack Chipper, took Ellwood ashore then loaded the ships boats with over 50 Portuguese Timorese who were in danger for helping Australians, and returned safely to Darwin.

On 29th January, 1944 Alexandre helped guide in the motor vessel *'Fairmile'* and he and Chipper took ashore and left the five operatives of 'Cobra' Intelligence party (three Timorese trained in Australia and two Australian officers). Within hours that party were ambushed (after *'Lagarto'* was captured all the Timor Z parties were compromised), three of *'Cobra'* died of illness and Japanese torture (Liversidge, Paulo da Silva and Cosme Soares), only two (Cashman and Sancho da Silva) survived their treatment.

In September, 1945 Alexandre went on the corvette *'Parkes'* on a mission called *'Groper'* along with Capt. Steve Stevenson ('Telling' p76) to investigate the fates of their friends who did not return from many Z parties, on Timor and other islands, and to trace Japanese *'Kempetai'* and collect evidence for their war crimes trials.

(Aside: most of these trials were later conducted by civil courts in Darwin and the few survivors of torture did not appear, because their work was still officially secret. As a consequence, Saiki, the Kempetai who caused the deaths of eleven of the Timor Z operatives was sentenced to only three months gaol).

CURRENT SITUATION

Alexandre has been denied migration to Australia on the basis of his health. His ill-health has been caused and/or exacerbated by living from 1975 under the stress of Indonesian military occupation. A situation he does not wish to speak about due to risks to relatives there.

For the last two years he has lived in Portugal (East Timorese people are never given refugee status, if they escape their country they get a Portuguese passport, Portugal is still recognised by the UN as the administering power). He wishes to permanently join his daughter

and her husband and children in Australia.

Although it's been fifty years, Alexandre remembers and understands English well from his three years in the Australian army, though he can't yet speak much English himself.

Dear Mr Carey

As you may be aware the Australian War Memorial, on behalf of all Australians, will be undertaking the entombment of an unknown Australian soldier on Remembrance Day this year. This event will coincide with the 75th Anniversary of the end of world war one and will be the last significant anniversary at which surviving Australian veterans of that conflict will be in attendance. The unknown soldier will be returned to Australia from a battlefield cemetery in France or Belgium. While it was in this region of the world that Australia experienced its greatest loss of life in war, the Memorial regards the Unknown Soldier as a symbol of the sacrifice of all Australians who served and died in all conflicts.

To make this a truly national event it is our desire to have a high level of community participation in particular from ex-service Associations. It is envisaged that representatives from as many Associations as possible will form a Guard of Honour for the Unknown Soldier during the last stage of his journey up Anzac Parade to his final resting place in the Memorial's Hall of Memory. To achieve this we would like your Association to send two representatives to bear your Association banner and to take part in the funeral procession in Canberra on 11 November.

We would also welcome as many members of your Association and their families as possible to be present at the Memorial on that day. As the Memorial is hoping to inform all Australians of this event we would appreciate your assistance to distribute details of this occasion as widely as possible. Maybe you could feature the event in your association newsletter or in some other manner in your local area. We enclose an information sheet about the Unknown Australian Soldier which will help you understand the importance of the project.

As I am sure you will appreciate the Memorial will not be able to provide your association with any financial assistance to come to Canberra. However, if you are able to provide representation for this national event please nominate a contact person and forward the attached slip to the Australian War Memorial by **20 August, 1993**. After that date additional information will be forwarded to your nominee.

The Memorial will be encouraging all Australians to participate on this day in a vari-

ety of ways (travelling to Canberra, watching television coverage, observing two minutes silence, etc), but your involvement in Canberra would be of special significance. The names of some members of your Unit are undoubtedly on our national Roll of Honour and your presence at this event will assist us to honour and remember them as well as all those who served and died.

Yours sincerely

B E W Kelson

Director,

War Memorial, Canberra

THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN AUSTRALIAN SOLDIER

The seventy-fifth anniversary of the end of the first world war on 11 November, 1993 will be marked by an event of national significance. Following a funeral ceremony with full military honours, the nation will entomb the remains of the Unknown Australian Soldier. His remains will be recovered from a Commonwealth War Graves cemetery in France or Belgium. The final act will take place at a simple Tomb at the centre of the Hall of Memory at the Australian War memorial.

Since it was opened in 1941 to honour and commemorate the sacrifices of Australians in war, the Memorial has lacked a symbolic point of significance — a place which tangibly reflects the spirit of sacrifice commemorated in its museum galleries and on the Roll of Honour. The Tomb of the Unknown Australian Soldier will provide a solemn and inspirational focal point for the large number of Australians and others who visit the Memorial each year. With overseas battlefields, cemeteries and memorials so far away, the Tomb will become a place where visitors may go to grieve, to place a flower of tribute and remembrance, to remember and to think.

No community in Australia has been untouched by war. The thousands of monuments, located in every village, town and city attest to that fact. Within many families there remains a sense of loss connected with wars of long ago or more recent times. As work proceeds towards the completion of the Tomb and ceremonial events of 11 November, many poignant individual reactions are coming to the notice of Memorial staff. For one elderly visitor the Tomb already stands for a lost mate, felled by gunfire on the western front in 1915. For another, the Tomb connects him with thoughts of a lost childhood after his father, broken in body and spirit, returned from the Middle East in the second world war.

November 11 has been selected as the appro-

priate time to dedicate the Tomb. It will be the last significant anniversary of the first world war at which surviving Australian veterans of that conflict can be present. Apart from being a final opportunity to experience a direct link with the nations' past, the return of the Unknown Australian Soldier will focus national attention on what the Australian War Memorial represents — the universal spirit of sacrifice.

Before beginning the project the Australian War Memorial obtained the views of all major veterans' associations and a large number of surviving veterans of the first world war. Among those groups the proposal was welcomed and supported. The concept of the Tomb will impact with similar strength on the wider Australian community.

A prime objective of the ceremonies on November 11 is that individual Australians, wherever they may be, should be able to participate in them in a meaningful way. A massive effort in communication and co-operation will be required to achieve this objective. It is hoped that a national telecast will bring sounds and images of the event as it happens, to every community, and that the media will assist in an information program throughout the year which brings about deeper understanding of the symbolic importance of the Unknown Australian Soldier.

Some communities are already planning to hold modified Remembrance Day ceremonies on 11 November, and some will incorporate elements of the Canberra ceremony in their programs. The Memorial will also encourage the observance of the traditional two minutes silence in every corner of Australia, to coincide with the time of the entombment. Hopefully, church bells will toll and school children will take part in commemorative activities.

THE JOURNEY OF THE UNKNOWN AUSTRALIAN SOLDIER FROM EUROPE

(subject to change)

In late October an Australian Defence Force bearer party will travel to Europe for the recovery of the remains of the Unknown Australian Soldier. This party will accompany the remains on all stages of the return to Australia, through the funeral procession and the entombment ceremony in Canberra.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, assisted by an Australian funeral director, will exhume the remains of one of the thousands of unidentified Australian soldiers of the first world war buried in France and Belgium. Nothing

whatsoever will be known about the individual. After exhumation the remains, borne in a simple coffin of Tasmanian blackwood, will be officially handed over at a ceremony in France on the border between the Villers-Bretonneux military cemetery and the Australian National War Memorial located there. Thus the boyd will pass into Australia's care.

It is proposed that the Unknown Soldier will lie in state in two locations before departure for Australia — at the Australian National War Memorial at Villers Bretonneux and at the Menin Gate at Ypres, Belgium.

An aircraft of the national carrier QANTAS will convey the coffin from Paris to Sydney where it is scheduled to arrive early on Sunday morning, 7 November. Tentative planning suggests that the aircraft will move to the jet base adjacent to the Sydney Airport domestic terminal. There an official reception party will formally receive the remains during a short ceremony attended by invited guests, and media representatives. An RAAF aircraft will then convey the coffin and the bearer party to Canberra.

After arrival at Canberra's Fairbairn airport, a gun carriage will be used to transport the coffin to King's Hall at Old Parliament House where it will lie in state for three days. The public will be invited to pay tribute during that period. A group of first world war veterans will take part in the Canberra ceremonies and may also visit during the lying in state.

On 11 November the coffin of the Unknown Australian Soldier will be removed from King's Hall, placed once again on a gun carriage and taken to Anzac Parade. Here it will be carried to the Memorial in a funeral procession befitting the burial of a Field Marshal.

The procession is to be led by mounted soldiers and a tri-service escort party of 300. It will proceed at slow march time from the foot of Anzac Parade, past the various memorials which line it, to the parade ground in front of the Australian War Memorial.

The Governor General and the Prime Minister and overseas guests will have key roles in the funeral. Community participants will include service and ex-service organisations, school children and the general public. Following a simple ceremony at the Stone of Remembrance the Unknown Soldier will be carried into the Memorial, past the Pool of Reflection and the Roll of Honour and laid to rest in the Tomb at 11.00 am.

The Memorial hopes that communities everywhere will be taking part in their own observance of this historic moment. Details of events leading to Remembrance Day will be publicised widely in an effort to encourage as much local involvement as possible.

'BOILED MUTTON and CAPER SAUCE'

*This is the story of Mulga Jim,
And the terrible thing that happened to him.
He was a Bushy, lank and brown,
Splashing his cheque in a coastal town.
He never before to the coast had been,
So you may guess, he was rather green.*

*He rode in the trams in a hazy dream,
And muttered 'Gor Blimey' but where's the
stream.*

*He drank with the ladies from foreign parts,
Shine Poms reckoned them Rye Buck Tarts.
He knew the Bush Boys couldn't be beat,
At mashing the girls in the city street.*

*He weathered most all that happened along,
Till he wandered into a restaurant.
He wasn't what you would call a glutton,
His thoughts never ventured beyond roast
mutton.*

*Mutton was the only dish that he knew,
Except, of course, stewed kangaroo.*

*So, mutton he ordered with accents hoarse,
'Roast Sir' or 'Boiled with Caper Sauce'?
He reckoned it was only good meat spoiled,
But 'Blimey I'll chance it, bring it boiled.'
The dish was brought, he sat and stared,
And will glassy eyes at the capers stared.*

*His bearded face turned an ashen grey,
As he feebly pushed the dish away.
He reached for his hat and upset his tea,
And shouted out 'Missus, you can't do me.
In dozens and dozens of sheds I've shore,
And Missus I've seen them things before.'*

*He broke for the station and boarded the train,
That took him back to the bush again.
And he tells this yarn in the camp fire's blaze,
And he ends it with 'Gor spare me days.
It would make a Bushy's hair turn brown,
They don't waste much of the sheep in town.'*

I don't know the original author of this poem, it may have been printed in a very early edition of the 'Bulletin.' I came across it amongst some of my father's papers which I have kept for posterity. I trust that in the years ahead it serves as a reminder of the past and brings some joy to many.

Alan Luby

For they health's sake?

Have you heard that a recent survey was conducted into the household garbage of several communities? And did you know that examination of the bins showed that when there were medicine bottles, there were no wine bottles, and when there were wine bottles, there were no medicine bottles?

COURIER DONATIONS

Don Hudson, John Poynton, Ron Dook, Henry Sproxtton, Joan Burns, Ray Aitken, Jess Epps, Lew Thompson, Arch Campbell, Frank Sharp, 'Blue' Pendergrast, Warwick Tobin, Bev Flockart, Don Young, 'Swampy' Marsh, Jack Porter, Col Criddle, Ted Monk, Charlie King, Ralph Conley.

ALL DONATIONS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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MAM SMITH WHERE ARE YOU?