



# 2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

Print Post approved 637597 / 1646

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

President T. Monk. Secretary J. Carey. Treasurer J. Poynton

**Vol. 104**

**DECEMBER 1993**

**Price 1c**

## A Christmas Message

From the President on Behalf of the Committee

Christmas is that special time of year when we gather together with Family and Friends to enjoy the love and warm friendship that reaches out to embrace all.

It is also that time of year to recall the true meaning of Christmas — the birth of Christ, bringing Peace, Joy and Goodwill to all mankind. However, over the years this message seems to have been forgotten with wars, strife and fighting taking place, plus natural disasters, earthquakes, floods and famine throughout the world. With the dawning of Christmas may we see peace and harmony restored to the world with the true meaning of Christmas prevailing.

With the approach of Christmas our special thoughts turn to those in hospital and to those at home suffering ill health and we pray 1994 will be a happier and healthier year for you all. To those who have lost loved ones during the year our deepest sympathy and thoughts are with you.

The Association has come a long way since its formation and today we see the years of friendship, caring and affection firmly cemented with the bonds growing stronger year by year.

The Committee, Peg and I wish you all —

**A Merry Christmas  
Happy New Year  
Good Health for 1994  
May God Bless You All.**

**Ted Monk, President**

## VALE: GORDON BARNES

It is becoming a case of 'For Whom the Bell Tolls' and unfortunately that bell is tolling with great frequency lately. It is with great regret that we have to tell of the death of one of our original members, Gordon Barnes, on 17th October, 1993 of that dreaded disease cancer, at the R.G.H. Hollywood. Gordon would have been 77 on 8th December, 1993.

Gordon was one of life's all time battlers and one of the most likeable persons it was possible to meet. He never had a bad word about anyone. He was left an orphan very early in life and was able to finish his education at Guildford Grammar School due to a legacy from his late father. After leaving school he returned to his home town of Manjimup and worked on farms there until he joined the Army in 1941 along with a large number of chaps from that area. He responded to the call to join the 'Hush Hush' later to be known as 2nd Independent Coy and trained on Wilsons Promontory in mid 1941, being a member of No. 5 Section 'B' Platoon under Col Doig. After the movements north he was with the Unit right through that horrendous campaign in Timor, serving with 5 Section throughout. After Timor he was left at Canungra and was re-drafted to 2/16th Battalion and served with that show in New Guinea at Shaggy Ridge and onwards to Bornea.

When discharged he was eventually truck driving in South Australia and then returned to W.A. Service Land Settlement block at the then newly created Rocky Gully. Gordon farmed this property for many years and was most successful at beef raising in the area. He had married prior to going to Rocky Gully.

While in the area he was a pillar of most of the social activities of Rocky Gully, especially the RSL of which he became President. Gordon was also a consultant to many beef growers in the area, especially Manjimup. Bowling was his major sporting activity.

Gordon and his wife Chloe retired to Mandurah where he joined up with the local RSL and Dudley Park Bowling Club. He took an interest in the 2/2nd Commando Association and when the Mandurah 2-2s was formed he joined in the functions of this body.

Gordon leaves wife Chloe and step children Eleanor, Ruth, Phyllis, Yvonne and Theo.

So passes a very good gentleman, a loving husband and step-father, a top grade citizen and a loyal and honest soldier. It was a true pleasure to know Gordon during a very long period.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Chloe and family in their hour of sorrow.

**Col Doig**

The following were present at the funeral held at Lakes Memorial Cemetery, Mandurah on Thursday, 21st October 1993: Joe and Helen Poynton, Len Bagley, Betty Illsley, Bill and Elvie Howell, Charlie, Mary and Paddy King, Don and Ida Murray, Joy Chatfield, Bernie Langridge, Roy Watson, Barbara Goddard, Gordon and Eva Rowley, Don Hudson, Mick Holland, Syd McKinley, Jim Lines, Ron and Enid McAlpine, Dick Fitzgerald, Keith Hayes, John Fowler, Jack Carey, Don Turton, Bob McDonald, Les Halse, Ernie Bingham, Don Young.

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## COMMEMORATION SERVICE

The Commemoration Service held at our Honour Avenue in Kings Park on Sunday, November 21, attracted a large number of members, wives, widows, families and friends. The emphasis this year was on families and it was gratifying to see so many country folk who had travelled long distances to take part in this most important gathering.

In perfect weather conditions 28 members marched in the fine style that we have come to expect.

The members of the Special Air Services Catafalque Party added their own professionalism to the occasion and they also made us very welcome at Campbell Barracks afterwards for refreshments.

The President's Address which was delivered eloquently by our President, Ted Monk, appears below.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Girls and Boys, Members of the S.A.S. Regiment, Fellow Members.

Commemoration Day for the 2/2nd Commando Association is the most important day of the year, when we gather in this beautiful Honour Avenue in King's Park to pay tribute and homage to those young men who lost their lives while on Active Service, in Timor, New Guinea and New Britain. They paid the supreme sacrifice in defending Australia during those troubled times, and it is pleasing to see such a fine Avenue to honour their memory. The King's Park Board must be commended for the high standard of care they have afforded this area — a fitting place to honour our fallen. We should also remember those fine men who have passed away since 1946, our ranks have been depleted by 240 since that time. In recalling the past our thoughts turn to the widows and families of the boys who did not return, and to the families of those members who have since passed away. We share in your sad thoughts.

The 12th of this month marked the 2nd Anniversary of the massacre of the East Timorese at the Santa Cruz Cemetery. The Indonesian Army was put on red alert to deal with any uprising and the Timorese people warned against taking part in any marches or demonstrations to mark this occasion. The oppression of these people still continues. Repeated requests to the Federal Government in seeking relief for the East Timorese have yet to bear fruit.

The Unknown Soldier, who died in battle on the Western Front in France during World War 1, was returned to Australia and entombed with full Military Honours at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra on Armistice Day, 11th November, 1193. The Unknown Soldier will be a focus for recognising Australia's 100,000 war dead and will serve as a grim reminder of the terrible price and futility of armed conflict. The 2/2nd was represented at the ceremony by Alan Luby, N.S.W. and Tom Nisbet, Victoria.

It is 52 years since the formation of our Unit, which is now history. The powers that be seem hell bent on changing our Constitution and our Flag. I see no advantage in any change. The men and women who served in two world wars, also Malaya, Korea and Vietnam fought under our present Australian Flag. This Flag has served us well for more than 90 years, in peace and in war. Back in 1900 and 1901 there were three competitions held to design an Australian Flag, 32,823 entries were received, judged by seven judges who eventually named five equal winners with virtually identical designs. Among the winners were Annie Dorrington of Bazaar Terrace, Perth, W.A. and a 14 year old school boy from Victoria. There has been only one change to the Flag since that time when, in 1908, a seventh point was added to the Federation Star under the Union Flag to symbolise the seven territories of Australia.

The name of the person who wrote the following poem is unknown, but I think the words expressed therein speak for most of us:

### OUR FLAG

*Our flag bears the stars that blaze at night  
in our southern skies of blue  
And that little old flag in the corner  
that's part of our heritage too*

*It's for the English, the Scots and the Irish  
who were sent to the ends of the earth  
The rogues and the schemers, the doers and  
dreamers*

*who gave modern Australia birth*

*And you who are seeking to change it  
you don't seem to understand  
It's the flag of our law and our language  
not the flag of a faraway land*

*There are plenty of people who'll tell you  
that when Europe was plunged into night  
That little old flag in the corner  
was their symbol of freedom and light*

*It doesn't mean we owe allegiance  
to a forgotten imperial dream  
We've the stars to show where we're going  
and the old flag to show where we've been.*

This is all part of the history of Australia. Our Unit has also made history with our record of service throughout the Islands of Timor, New Guinea and New Britain. Colin Doig's two books "The History of the Unit" and "A Great Fraternity" also the late Jim Smailes poems all add weight to this. The hallowed ground we now stand on should keep the history of our Association alive for many years to come. It is fitting that we gather together once a year to recall the friendships that were forged during the dark days of World War 2. Friendships that have lasted a lifetime. We realise what a wonderful Association the 2/2nd is and what a close knit band of men and women we have become.

It is very pleasing to see the young folk here today supporting our commemoration service. We realise it is difficult in today's climate for the young ones to find work and be gainfully employed. May the future hold a far brighter outlook for you all. Australia is a great country and we need the youth of today, and future generations, to make Australia even greater.

On behalf of our Association thanks go to the Members of the S.A.S. Regiment for their parade of the Catafalque Party for today's service. We thank you for your continued support of this day.

To all present a sincere thank you for sharing the most important day of our calendar year.

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## MEN'S ANNUAL DINNER

Thursday, October 28th

Once again the Mandurah 2-2s were hosts for the above function, held at an ideal venue, the Mandurah R.S.L. Club. This time, to save the girls a whole heap of food preparation and the boys rigging up refreshment dispensing equipment the catering was in the capable hands of Rod and Glenys Murray while Nellie Carter and Verna Coverdale provided service plus at the bar. A delightful meal served piping hot was voted first class by all present.

The hall looked bright with tables beautifully laid out and floral arrangements by courtesy and kindness of Joy Chatfield. Thanks Joy, that was a nice gesture.

The troops from outside Mandurah were warmly welcomed by the local members and it

was not long before each one was handed refreshments of his choice and the day's reminiscing was in action!

Betty Illsley and Elvie Howell assisted in the financial area and received a welcome that warmed the heart. Thanks girls for making the day start with a big smile, your help was certainly appreciated by the men who usually look after the important job of collecting the cash! Thanks too for your help in setting up the hall, along with other 2-2 members, the day was made easy for us all.

Don Murray was an excellent Master of Ceremonies. He assisted in every area that needed support, which made the day run so smoothly. Thanks Don.

Toasts were kept to a minimum with Arch Campbell saying the Ode and Bernie Langridge proposing the Royal Toast to which the boys responded with the singing of God Save the Queen. Wilf March proposed the toast to Our Visitors very efficiently indeed. It was particularly appropriate that Roy Crooke, one of the crew of the ill-fated 'Voyager' which was lost landing the 2/4th Independent Coy on Timor, was a guest. Roy received a very hearty welcome and spent much time reminiscing with members. In the absence of President Ted Monk in the eastern states, our Vice President Bill Howell proposed the toast to The Unit and left no doubt about his thoughts of a Unit second to none in the A.I.F. It was brief, to the point, giving a warm feeling to all who made up our fighting force and those who are members of this great Association. Well done Bill.

The roll call was 43, including quite a few we had not seen for some time. After all the long years the Association still has the ability to draw old members to its Reunion. May it ever be thus. Thanks boys.

Once again we say thanks to our Mandurah members for a great day.

**The Editor**

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## **ENTOMBMENT OF THE UNKNOWN AUSTRALIAN SOLDIER 11.1.93**

### **Report and Impressions of a Delegate**

Even with the warmth of the hospitality of Jim and Joan Fenwick, the night of 10/11th November was bitterly cold, even for Canberra.

However, when we arose on the Thursday morning the sunshine gave promise of a better day, and so, at 0815 hours, Jim chauffeured Edith and I to close proximity of our reporting point.

It was not difficult to find my Co-representative Tom Nisbet, and after greetings were

exchanged, we did a recce of the area. We also had no trouble locating Jack Hartley, John Went, and Ray Whitely.

Dan Daniels and Ron Morris were in a group from the Australian Commando Association, the A.C.T. Branch, and the No. 1 Commando Association, also Butch Barrier.

By the time we had greeted other friends, and changed position a couple of times, the Solemn Procession appeared at the lake end of Anzac Avenue, and the general hush of voices indicated that this was indeed a very special occasion.

As the Cortege approached closer this was even more evident, and for a while the only sound was the "BOOM" of the Artillery pieces firing their Salute at one minute intervals.

Then we heard the sound of shod hooves as the Section of Mounted Cavalry paraded, followed by a Section of Light Horse, both dressed in traditional uniforms, and impressively moving at a Slow March.

They were followed by a Hygiene Detail with scoops and brushes at the "ready."

Next came a group of personnel dressed in a range of uniforms from the Boer War to the present time, representing all Services, both male and female.

The beat of muffled drums heralded the approach of the Royal Military College Band, resplendant in summer uniforms and playing to perfection.

Marching in "Fours" followed the contingents from the Navy, Army and Air Force, in that order, somewhat crowded by the slow march beat, and it appeared nearly as many women as male troops in each Company. To my mind some of the spectacle of such a Parade is lost by the modern weapons, as they all carried Steyr Sub-machine Guns.

Then came the big moment as the Service Chaplains and the Director preceded the Gun Carriage bearing that most important Coffin.

One could feel the hush as it passed by.

The escort of Official Mourners was most impressive — a list too long to make individually, but would have been seen by those interested on their T.V. screens. One could not fail to appreciate the solemnity of this moment in our History and record it as an Extraordinary Occasion in our Lifetime.

As the Cortege proceeded the Banner Bearers joined in the procession, and it was estimated that some 900 Ex-Service groups and Associations were present with their Flags, Banners or other means of identification. I'm sure this would be the largest gathering of it's kind ever seen in the A.C.T.

From our position at the assembly area we



could not see all that transpired, because of the wall of people ahead.

We could hear the orders given as the Catafalque Party was dismantled, and then, shortly after, we could see the Bearers carry the Coffin up the stairway and enter the War Memorial.

We joined in the Hymns, and heard the broadcast description of what was taking place within the Sacred Site.

We could see the Firing Party up on the parapet.

We listened to those wonderful Bugle Calls of Last Post and Reveille by the best Bugler we've ever heard, as they echoed in the still morning air.

The many persons who had spoken parts in the Ceremony excelled themselves, the co-ordination of movement was magnificent, and the brilliant weather added to the spectacle.

I am sure Tom Nisbet was as proud as I to be your representative for this memorable event in the History of Australian people. Thank you for asking me to be part of this great occasion.

Separately I have sent a copy of the Official Programme to Jack Carey for our Records.

**Alan Luby**

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## BUSSELTON SAFARI

7th - 14th April, 1994

Eric Smyth advises that at 20th November, 132 bookings had been received, comprising 27 from N.S.W., 20 from Queensland, 10 from Victoria, 6 from South Australia, 2 from Tassie, 3 from Papua New Guinea and 64 from the home state, W.A. The Ship Motel had one double unit left and the Paradise Motel still has a number of doubles and twins. As mentioned in earlier Couriers, accommodation is no problem but it would help if members who have not booked in would do so as soon as convenient.

The itinerary has been revised as under:

**Thursday, 7th April:** Members arrive during day, book into their respective hotel/motels. Evening, informal welcome RSL Hall, 5.30-8.30pm.

**Friday, 8th April:** Morning free. Members can pay registration fees at RSL Hall between 9am and noon. 3pm Civic Reception at Busselton Shire Hall. Evening free.

**Saturday, 9th April:** 11am march from RSL Hall to War Memorial, led by Busselton Town Band. Following a Commemoration Service, proceed to The Broadwater Resort for our official luncheon at 1pm. Evening free.

**Sunday, 10th April:** Free day.

**Monday, 11th April:** Bus trip to Margaret River/Augusta, with luncheon at Augusta Hotel. Evening free.

**Tuesday, 12th April:** 10am, Association General Meeting at RSL Hall. For the ladies Twy Smyth is arranging a mystery tour from 10am-3pm. Evening Barbecue at RSL Hall.

**Wednesday, 13th April:** Day bus trip to Yallingup area, including luncheon. Evening free.

**Thursday, 14th April:** Free day. 5.30pm farewell function RSL Hall.

**Friday, 15th April:** Visitors depart.

Arrangements have been made with the local RSL to use their hall as our official 'watering hole' and an agreement reached on liquor prices which are very reasonable. The Club will be open for day and evening sessions and snacks and barbecue packs will be available. It looks to be a pretty good set up. It is intended to make the evening sessions as entertaining as possible, with a few nostalgic videos and maybe an artist or two. The organising committee is keen to make the Busselton Safari a happy and memorable occasion.

The Bowling Club has kindly offered use of its Club for those who like a game of bowls. Members who intend to bring their bowling gear are asked to let Eric Smyth know by March 1994 so he can give the Club an indication of numbers.

As mentioned previously, a bus will be available to take members arriving by plane direct to Busselton, a 3-3 1/2 hours trip. Members arriving by train or metropolitan members who would like to travel on this bus are asked to contact the Secretary on 332 7050. Further details of bus times and pick up places will be published in the February 1994 Courier, by which time we should have a better idea of numbers.

Members seeking more information on the Safari are asked to contact Eric Smyth on (09) 52 1076.

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## QUEENSLAND NEWS

Have just returned from New Zealand and a bowls tournament. An opponent from the local Queenstown team was in training at Nomad River at the same time as the 2/2. He regaled me with many humorous tales including the explosion! It is a small world indeed.

Since writing last we have enjoyed our usual barbecue meetings. At Caloundra on 9th August we were surprised when Harold Garnett, who had seen our 2/2 sign while

driving past, dropped in to make himself known. His address is 54 Anning Ave, Golden Beach 4551, phone (074) 92 2084. Those present included Ron Archer, Col and Jeanette Andrew, Butch and Pat Barnier, George and Bettye Coulson, Ralph and Sheila Conley, Neil and Margaret Hooper, Murvin Murphy, George and Edna Vandeleur, Grace Davies, her sister Gladys Butterworth, her brother Peter McCracken and cousin Ellen McCracken!

Our next foray was to North Pine Dam on 4th October. It was great to see Win MacLachlan and Alastair. Also present were Col and Jeanette Andrew, Butch and Pat Barnier, Ralph and Sheila Conley, Erma and Bill Connell (who has not been well), Bettye and George Coulson, Esse and Alex Veovorlin. Iris and Tony Adams were unable to attend due to Iris not being well at the time.

Our Christmas function is planned for 1st December at Sunsets Restaurant, Spinnaker Sound Marina, Bribie Island. A good roll up is expected.

**Safari:** Travel to Perth for the Safari is in the planning stage. I have arranged for seats to be held on Qantas flights from Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne on 6th April, 1994. Fares quoted are at special 'Coast to Coast' rates and are dependent on numbers travelling.

Adelaide members should advise me who is co-ordinating their travel as it may be possible to arrange a special fare for them. They do not qualify under the 'Coast to Coast' fare.

N.S.W. members should advise Alan Luby and Victorian members can advise Tom Nisbet. I will look after the Queensland team. Final names should be received by 1st February, 1994 at which time fares will be advised to all and subsequently tickets arranged. I will co-ordinate the necessary procedures. No money is required at this time.

That seems to be all for now, other than to wish all members, families and friends of the Association a wonderful, peaceful, happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

God bless and best regards to all from the Queensland Contingent.

**Ralph Conley**

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Trust you are well, one and all. My thoughts and prayers to all members and families not so sprightly as days gone by. Such is the penalty of 'growing younger'!

Fond regards as always.

**Nina**

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**Mrs N. R. Hiatt**  
20 Highfield Ave  
St Georges 5064

Enclosed is a cheque for the Courier.

Hope this finds you all hale and hearty in the West.

**Nancy**

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**Mrs J. Hamilton-Smith**  
1 Pease St  
Denmark 6333

Enclosed is my cheque for Timor Fund and one for general funds. This is some money of George's that turned up unexpectedly and as I don't need it am giving it to charities that he would have supported (and I don't mean the nearest two-up school either!)

Best wishes.

**Joan**

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**J. Steen**  
37 Chateau St  
Thornlands 4164

Enclosed is a donation for the Courier.

We will be going to the Busselton Safari by car. Will leave about 25th March and go by the Nullarbor, spend a week at Walpole and be in Busselton the 7th April. After the Safari we will spend a week in Bunbury and return via Geraldton, Broome and make a round trip of it.

Am sorry to see so many of the fellows departing but can only hope that they make a bridgehead for the rest of us.

Best wishes to all.

**Jack and Beryl**

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**J. Keenahan**  
34 Duncan St  
Huskisson 2540

Herewith enclosed cheque covering my second payment of \$50 towards the Independent Trust Fund and the rest toward the Courier.

See you all at the next Safari.

**Jack and Jean**

## CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

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

Dear Friends,

Perusing my 1992 diary I discovered my contribution to famous Courier long overdue, thus am enclosing donation for same, or whatever your heart dictates.

**R. Griffiths**  
**2/36 Waddoo St**  
**Leeton 2705**

Enclosed is my cheque being sub for the Courier.

Most of my time nowadays is taken up looking after my wife who is a permanent in our local nursing home. This month I went to Sydney for two weeks — first time I have been away for three years. My daughter came home and looked after the wife while I was away.

Always look forward to receiving the Courier but so many of our boys are no longer with us. It pleases me to see many of our 'D' Platoon are still with us, such as Don Turton, Gerry Green, Col Doig, Butch Barnier, Ralph Conley, Swampy Marsh. The missing ones I remember well are Cam Rodd and Smash Hodgson. I remember taking Smash down to the coast after he got bashed up, but the boat never came in. I believe it was sunk, so he stopped with us until the end.

Events in Timor are still a problem. I had hoped to make a trip back there to see for myself but at 86 years old have left it a bit late.

Kind regards to all.

**Reg**

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**W. Kerr**  
**25 Kennedy St**  
**South Oakleigh 3167**

Please find enclosed a donation to help cover Courier expenses. It is certainly a great little Courier.

**Wal** (1st Independent Coy)

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**Mrs B. Criddle**  
**124 Nanson St**  
**Wembley 6014**

My dear friends,

I wish to say how thankful my sons and I are, to each and every one of you for the manner in which you aided and supported us when we lost Col. His service was just as he had wished it to be, down to the get-together at home afterwards. You are a wonderful group of caring people and we're privileged to know you. Your closeness and feeling for one another is not often seen.

Col. would not have wanted lots of sadness, hence his favourite piece on the piano from Richard Clayderman was a fitting final touch. He's up above on some cloud now, having a beer with old mates. That's what I reckon anyway.

Thank you from me and all my family.

Sincerely,

**Bonnie**

**T. G. Nisbet**  
**54 Tuxen St**  
**North Balwyn 3104**

Dear Jack,

Thanks for your letter and the circular from Malone — a wry smile crosses my mind! When I think of Malone and Harcourt being President and Secretary of the Aust Commando Association and now living on the Gold Coast — although Good Blokes.

I am enclosing a copy of the Operation Order for the Unknown Soldier Ceremony — have also sent a copy to Alan Luby plus his official badge which arrived here on Friday. I propose going to ACT a few days before the 11th November to get the lay of the land and will look up our blokes and pay our respects to Freda Dexter.

As you will see from the Australian War Memorial circular, they have done something about the socialisation bit and it now looks as though we will have more functions to attend than we have time.

Sorry to hear about dear old Gordon Barnes. I hope you blokes removed the poorly made makings cigarette before you buried him!

I received a post card from Iwamura, he was most grateful for the hospitality he received whilst in Australia and wished to say 'thank you very much' to us all.

Recently I took Bruce Ruxton to see Bernard Callinan. Whilst Bernie can't respond to anything you say I am sure he enjoyed the visit. Dear Bernie is very frail and spends the waking hours in a chair or wheel chair — very sad. I keep in touch with Lady Naomi and offer any assistance she requires. I am sure she appreciates our Unit Association's interest.

Best wishes to all.

Sincerely,

**Tom**

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**A. Mitchell**  
**10 Covey Sxt**  
**West Chermiside 4032**

A few lines to let you know I have changed my address, as above. Also enclosing cheque for the Courier and a copy of 'A Great Fraternity.'

Joan and I have been showing hibiscus as a hobby and have had great success over the past six years. Won the top award two years in a row. We now have another interest, love birds, and that will certainly test us. We are keeping fairly well but, as each year goes by, do notice a difference — can't do the things we like to do as well and, of course, with so much

# BOB SMYTH'S ROGUES



*Snow Elmore*



*Vale Jack Servante*



*Keith Wilson*

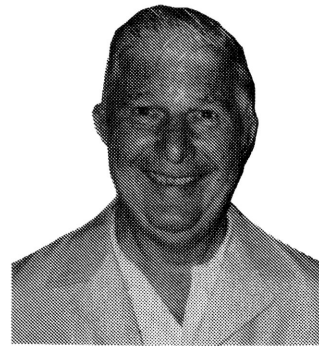


*Vale Bill Epps*

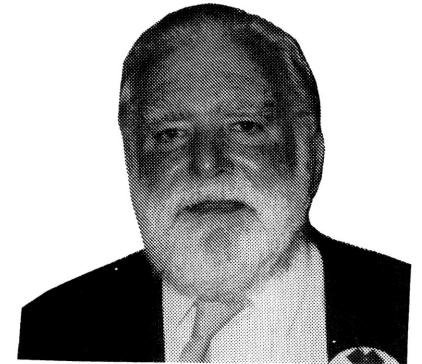


*Reg Griffiths*

# GALLERY — SEQUENCE 23



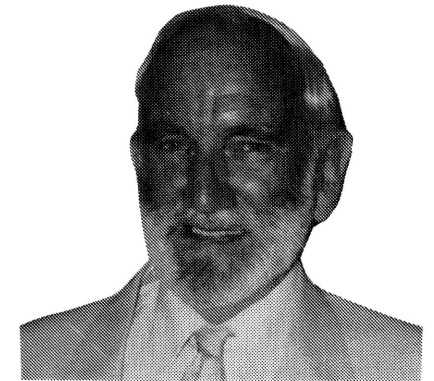
*Reg Tatam*



*Charlie Gorton*



*Ray Parry*



*George Timms*



*Gordon Barnes*

on and shifting from one area to another, we couldn't make the Safari.

Our kindest regards to all members.

**Allan and Joan**

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**J. Southwell**  
**2 Terry St**  
**Balwyn 3103**

What a sad thing it was to read of the death of two members of 'C' Troop, Stan Sadler from Campbell Rodd's 8 Section — my Section — and Shorty Stevens from 7 Section. Both good mates and good soldiers. Reading the list of members who attended Stan Sadler's funeral was like looking through a window on history of 50 years ago and seeing not men in their seventies today, but young, fit, well trained soldiers, often with a boyish sense of humour, but all doing a man's job, and I think how lucky I was to have been in the 2/2nd. My health was a bit down last year but I'm well again now.

Wishing you all the best in the West and enclosing a cheque for the Courier. Cheers.

**John**

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**G. Smith**  
**37 Shaw Cresc**  
**Muswellbrook 2333**

Trust all those who have not been so well this year will soon see great improvements.

No caravan trips for us this year as we are still getting Gloria back on her feet after two knee operations.

Enclosed is our cheque toward costs of the Courier.

Our very best wishes to all.

**George and Gloria**

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**Mrs V. Hancock**  
**46B Mount View Tce**  
**Mt Pleasant 6153**

Dear Col

Thank you for forwarding a copy of your new book 'A Great Fraternity.'

Enclosed is a donation for the Courier which I enjoy reading.

Best wishes to you and all members.

**Val**

---

**R. Harrington**  
**Box 35 Bolgart 6568**

A short note to drop off a cheque to complete our commitment to the Timor Fund and a donation to the Courier.

We have recently returned from our annual trip up to Exmouth and wondered what we had struck with the cold weather, but it has settled down now into Spring.

It is sad that so many of our boys have passed on in the last while. We particularly missed the Sadlers up north. Mavis and Charles were going up but Charles got sick and they had to turn back. We are in touch occasionally and he is a bit up and down but making out alright. Blanche has settled down pretty well but has her sad times. We are wanting to get over to see them and also my sister in Wongan but can't seem to get the time, so have to make do with the phone.

This is short but letter writing seems to get harder with the years.

Dot has had a bit of a medical problem that necessitated a blood transfusion but we hope the doctor is staying on top of it.

Cheerio for now. Regards.

**Reg**

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

Enclosing a further donation to the Trust Fund.

Best wishes to all.

**Swampy and Joan**

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**M. Calvert**  
**33a Mill Hill Close**  
**Haywards Heath**  
**West Sussex, England**

I was part of the British Mission 104 which helped start and train the Independent Companies in 1940/41 at Wilsons Promontory. I later went to Burma where I commanded a column and then a brigade in Wingate's Chindits. Later, in 1944, I went to Europe and commanded the Special Air Service Brigade. I re-formed the present S.A.S. in Malaya in 1951/52.

In lectures I always mention your operation in Timor and always read your Courier with interest. I am aged 80 now.

My best wishes to Colin Doig.

**Michael**

The following was written by Michael Calvert in Trieste during a cure for hookworm and amoebae in 1948 —

*Solomon had his Sheba  
She ain't my cup of tea.  
I have my amoebae  
They're good enough for me.*

*Down in my zareeba  
I keep my pet amoebae.  
All shapes and all calibre  
For love and for Du Liebe.*

*For me and my amoeba  
Will be the end of me.*

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

Please find enclosed cheque towards funding the Courier.

Here's hoping all 'The Boys' have a great Christmas and a healthy and peaceful 1994.

Best wishes,

**Gordon and Joan**

**L. N. Tair**  
**Box 520**  
**Ayr 4807**

Not being much of a scribe, will make this a two in one. Enclosing two cheques, one for the Courier and one for the Busselton accommodation for myself only. Will not be able to stay on for Anzac Day.

Have not seen George Shiels or Lucky Goodhew for some time.

Very dry and dusty here, not much rain in the past two years. Place totally dependent on the irrigation scheme.

Wishing everyone the best of health and a Merry Christmas. Never seem to get around to sending cards.

Regards,

**Bulla**

**J. P. Kenneally**  
**28 Wilkins st**  
**Yagoona 2199**

As usual, I'm in a hurry. The October Courier was a mixed bag, good news, sad news, sensational news, and as usual I was thousands of miles away from where it was being enacted.

The death toll was shocking, with the death of

Gordon Barnes five of the old guard crossed the river in a month. Who can forget Gordon Barnes, a happy go lucky block if ever there was one. Even in Timor he invariably had a cigarette dangling from the corner of his mouth. How he managed it with batar tahun for a cigarette paper I don't know but he managed it. May you rest in peace Gordon and may the quarter master in Paradise have a good selection of the best weed procurable for you. You brought us many a good laugh in days when there was not always something to laugh about.

Talking about Timor reminds me of mountains. I've been up and over a few here and there. Since I first went to Ireland in 1950 I intended to climb Croagh Patrick but during that and subsequent visits I didn't get around to it. This time I did, and when I looked up at the last 1000 feet or so I almost turned round and headed back down. A dot that seemed to move now and again, plus the fact had I done so it would have haunted me to the grave and beyond, made up my mind and I went up. Mother of God, its not alpine stuff but it was harder than any I have scrambled around. Then of course there are a lot more years on me now as well. I got there. I caught up to the moving dot and he was doing it bare footed. The view from all the way up is enchanting. Clew Bay is one of the most beautiful places I have seen, surrounded by mountains and dotted with hundreds of islands. I was lucky the sun rose and shone that day, and as it rose over the mountains the whole bay was enclosed with a shining light, and all these islands looking like emeralds floating in a blue sea. The sun didn't last long, the memory will, when the mists came Firbolg Quatha de-Danaan, Formosians and Milesians, all in turn regarded this as a sacred place. Lt. Patrick is reputed to have spent 40 days and nights fasting up there, and fast he would have to, unless a mountain sheep wandered to the top. Legend says it was from Croagh Patrick he banished the snakes out of Ireland. I wish he 'd been around when the first Normans and those who came after them arrived.

Nora has just sent the prices of two Melbourne Cup runners plunging. She has just got me to place a massive 200 cents on two of the favourites, Nora won't.

Drip Hilliard is well after his by-pass. However, I will not give him full marks for post operation antics. Drip is likely to send some poor 'divil' into convulsions per medium laughter.

Alan Luby the only 2/2nd body I've seen apart from Drip. That was at the N.S.W. Commando Association meetings. Alan and several move off to Canberra for solemnities connected with the re-interment of the Unknown Soldier. Nearly 80 years following his departure to the 1914-1918 Holocaust he returns. Wonder how



many question marks would enter his mind were he to see the land and people or rather the descendants of the people he left behind all those years ago. One thing we can be sure of, many there will be wondering how far their particular interests will be served by being present at such an historical event. The thinkers will be pondering why it took so long after the events of 1914-18 to recognise the deeds and sacrifices of the men who never came back, by having a national monument to our own unknown soldier.

Gordon Hart, John Crowley 2/12th and I went to a rally in Town Hall Square to commemorate the 18th Anniversary of the murder of Greg Shackleton, Peter Stewart (Australians), Malcolm Rennie and Brian Peters (Englishmen) and Gary Cunningham (NZ) at Balibo on October 16th, 1975 by Indonesian troops. Ted Mack, Federal Independent Member for North Sydney chaired the rally. Jim Dunn, ex Australian Consul in Dili, gave an excellent account of the events leading up to and aftermath of the atrocity and the disgraceful lack of response, indeed a misleading and deliberately untruthful report by the Prime Minister of the day, Gough Whitlam. Senator Vaughan, a Democrat, also spoke very well, emphasising the fact that even though Indonesia is our nearest foreign neighbour, and we have friendly relations with the Indonesians, that should not prevent our Government from protesting to the Indonesian Government on their methods in East Timor, namely discrimination, exploitation and Human Rights abuses practised on the people of East Timor. The crowd was disappointing, quite a few Timorese were present but Gordon, John and I were the only reps from the Commandos. We had a few drinks and a long wong in a closeby waterhole. I'll be attending a Mass at St Mary's Cathedral on Friday, 12th November which is the second anniversary of the Dili massacre. I hope Timorese don't have to be massacred on an annual basis for us to keep protesting at their treatment. I have been invited to attend a dinner at St John's College University of Sydney to mark the occasion of Bishop Carlos Belo's visit to Sydney. I had better make sure I bring my hearing aids, I'll be a long way down the table at that function. Will forward the gist of the utterances next year.

Nora and I and all the family keeping well. We will be spread out a bit at Christmas, however there will be a fair muster here for tea.

I was extremely interested in the visit by the Japanese. I suppose trigger fingers on both sides were a bit itchy to start with. I've got the old gent's Address to the United Nations in 1987. I wrote to him but heard nought. One thing, he put a lot of us to shame by the effort he made then, particularly at his age. Some of us didn't even put pen to paper, however,

many have put pen to cheque books since, plus time galore. It is most heartening.

The letter from Hewson's office was a gem. Any bloody fool who thinks the Opposition will take up the cause of the East Timorese is just that — a bloody fool. They had ample time from November 11th, 1975 to 1983 to do so. Like the Labor government they did exactly nothing apart from crawling up a certain part of President Suharto's anatomy. With these uncharitable comments churning in your minds I'll say farewell. May your Christmas be healthy, happy, carefree and spare a thought for so many people who will not be so fortunate.

### **Paddy**

P.S. There has been an excellent text book on Tetum by Geoffrey Hull, a Professor of Languages at Milperice Campus of the University of West Sydney. This is a comprehensive text book on the 'Lingua Franca of East Timor.' Priced at \$10 it is cheap. Anyone requiring copies, contact me. We didn't learn much of it when we were in Timor. Perhaps in old age we will master it. This is no junk edition, it is 25cm x 18cm (10" x 7") and comprises 296 pages of high quality printing and paper. It's a bargain at \$10.

### **Paddy**

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**Mrs B. Sadler**  
**P.O. Box 24**  
**Wongan Hills 6608**

Have just been at the desk getting all those bits and pieces ready for the accountant for taxation purposes and realise that a donation to the Association is well overdue — sorry about that. Hopefully, one of these days I shall be organised.

Before Stan died he spent some of his spare time in the office, not writing letters, but jotting down his experiences in Timor with 8 Section. This has been very neatly put together by Peter and Margaret with the help of Col. and several of our friends.

Caught up with Reg and Dot when Wongan played pennant bowls at Bolgart. So pleased my team did not have to play against Dot. Reg was out having a practice run bowling left handed. We found the march flies very friendly!!

Mavis and Chas are due home after a couple of weeks at Port Gregory.

The crops are ripening off with this hot weather so the boys will be into harvesting very shortly.

We will be down for the Commemoration Service on November 21.

Regards to all.

**Blanche**

**P. Alexander**  
**170 Forrest St**  
**Palmyra 6160**

Well, another Kalgoorlie round has come and gone. Always enjoy getting up there and seeing all my old mates, must admit there are one or two missing each year. The weather could have been a bit kinder, even the 'Brass Monkey' would have been in big trouble if he had forgotten his welder.

Had a yarn with Jack Sheehan out at the game and we did a bit of reminiscing. Jack's not exactly breaking any records getting around, but he is still getting around, that's the main thing.

I enjoyed 'A Great Fraternity' Col.

Best to all the Unit. Enclosing money for Courier.

**Peter**

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**O.K. Dignum**  
**24 Selkirk Ave**  
**Seaton 5023**

A few words from South Australia for the Courier. Most of us are O.K. or just hobbling along.

Alan Hollow rang and he was jovial and like a fresh breeze from the past. He has finished his course of treatment, still suffers some of the after effects but that is no worry. You must be very careful when these specialist bods say there is light at the end of the tunnel, make sure it is not a bloody train roaring towards you.

Kel Carthew is still doing his big for the Red Cross, keeps him very busy. At the Remembrance Ceremony at Keswick where our monument is, were Keith Dignum, Lyle Litchfield and Bert Bache, plus members of the other Companies, also M & Z Sepcial Units.

We of the 2nd Coy rarely meet but keep in contact by phone. What a marvellous gadget. Thanks to Optus, they have stirred up Telecom who have suddenly found a basket of goodies which has been hidden and long forgotten, and now they are carrying on like parliamentarians at election time, giving away the goodies, STD at \$1.00 for 5 minutes and at times 85c. I vote for them.

We cannot contact Ron Mackey, have no address that will find him. He has been very ill. Does his Courier still go to him and what address do you use, or has it been unclaimed and returned.

A chuckle for the day: How do you define 'Mortar'? Up to the panel limps the old digger who is looking to have his pension increased because of war injuries. Up speaks a young

woman civilian doctor. 'How do you think you injured your back?' The veteran looked at her. 'By carrying the mortar over the Kokoda Trail' he replied. 'Oh' she says 'tell me, what were you building up there?'

Senility is good, you can recycle all the old jokes, but it is a bit of a shock when someone says 'You didn't laugh as loud today as you did yesterday when I told it to you.' Bad memory can be embarrassing at times.

Enclosed is a donation from Keith Blomely and myself. Long live the Courier and all the dedicated staff who run and compile it.

Regards.

**Dig**

**Editor:** The October Courier sent to Ron Mackey's last known address was returned.

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**Mrs K. Sargent**  
**25 Thomas St**  
**Gympie 4570**

Christmas is fast approaching and I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members and their loved ones a Very Happy Christmas and Good Health in 1994.

I feel very sad to see 'Vale' to so many of your comrades but we know it is inevitable. Age and the rigous of war catch up with us all.

To you 'Men of Timor' who are still with us, I hope you will continue the comradeship you have always had.

Remembrance Day was a very Historical occasion with the Entombment of the Unknown Australian Soldier ceremony. It is pleasing to know you were represented.

I went to the special service held in Gympie to place a wreath on our memorial Gates on behalf of our Gympie Sub-Branch of the War Widows Guild. Our numbers are growing as so many of our men have been taken from us, but we are proud of the part they have played to try and make a better world for us.

Enclosed is a donation to the Courier which I am always pleased to receive. Once again sincere good wishes to you all.

**Kathleen**

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**R. Finkelstein**  
**317/130 Cresswell Rd**  
**Dianella 6062**

When I rang Jack Carey to let him know I'd returned home from Sydney and to enquire into what had transpired over the last couple of weeks, I was appalled when he informed me that we had lost four more of our precious West Australian boys in September.

On the 6th September Eve and I took a flight to the Olympic City for family celebrations. Everything went fantastically well. I contacted Jack Hartley and Alan Luby to arrange a meeting with a few of our boys. Alan arranged a get together for the 15th September. On the 12th September my son Peter dropped me into St Vincent's Hospital with an attack of asthma and a bout of pneumonia. Yep, I know, a silly bloody idiot who smoked myself from a healthy animal to a poor little old man and what's more, I did it all my way. Eve rang Alan to cancel arrangements, however, to my pleasant surprise Colin Holley arrived at the hospital and within a short space of time Jack Hartley and Alan Luby also landed at my bedside. I was truly overjoyed to see them. The following morning Patrick Kenneally turned up. I had more fights and reached greater heights in that three hours than I had in my whole career. In reality Gus Glendinning aptly nick named me Rembrandt. At this, Jack Sheedy retorted 'I know he's artistic but I didn't think he was that good.' Gus replied 'My arse, when he fought he was always on the canvas.' I must say Paddy did my ego good if nothing else. He related to me about his mate (I don't believe he's got one) who said to the doctor 'I don't know, but every time I poke myself I hurt and it doesn't matter where I do it.' The doctor told him to get up on the table and he patiently examined him and with some frustration said 'You're Irish aren't you?' Mick replied 'Yes, but how did you know?' The doctor responded 'You've got a broken index finger.'

Eve finally had a discussion with the doctor who stated I could fly home on the following Tuesday, the 19th September. We sadly had to cancel all previous arrangements, including a sojourn in Melbourne. I had seriously contemplated ringing friends in the eastern states in order to make arrangements before I left Perth. I was so glad I decided to contact them when I arrived at the various cities otherwise more people would have been inconvenienced. Now that I am much better we look forward to the Busselton Safari where we will meet up with most of the people we unfortunately failed to see in the eastern states. I am sure everything will go off with the usual aplomb and efficiency one associates with our terrific 2/2 committees.

I did try to ring Snowy Went on several occasions on 72 3932 but the line was always engaged — sorry mate! Once again Colin, Alan, Jack and Paddy, thank you very much, your comforting presence was truly appreciated. God bless!

The best things in life are never rationed — friendship, love and loyalty do not require coupons.

**Ralph**

**K. and M. Monk,  
Poowong East 3988**

Ken and I send our Christmas greetings to you all and we hope 1994 will be a good year for everyone. It is hard to realise that it is only a month till Christmas. How this year has flown! We are both looking forward to the Busselton Safari and meeting again 2/2nd folk from all over Australia.

We have just enjoyed a really pleasant weekend. Harry and Olive Botterill came on Saturday morning and stayed with us until Monday. We four went to the Annual Memorial Service at Tidal River on Sunday, a beautiful day weatherwise and great to see a few members and their wives and to hear news of others. Bill and Pat Petersen were there, also Alex and Beryl Boast, Fred Broadhurst, George Veitch and Tom Nisbet. Our next get-together will be our Christmas luncheon on December 6th at Patterson Lakes. Always a good day.

On Saturday we asked John and Cath Roberts and Jock and Fay Campbell to lunch so there were 8 of us and we had a happy time together.

I hope this reaches you in time for the December edition.

Enclosed please find a donation for the Courier — that wonderful little book full of news from mates near and far.

Our love and very best wishes to all.

**Ken and Margaret**

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**R. Gurr  
BOX 3  
Coonawarra 5263**

Christmas greetings to my old friends. I have had my Christmas letter from Paddy K., he is just as loquacious as ever. I think he gets recharged when goes home to Ireland.

Dig is battling on, nearing the end of the long period of treatment. Betty is in a bit of trouble too but they will come good.

I can't write without saying thank you to the Courier team. I hope you know how much pleasure it gives us.

Regards

**Ron**

---

**M. Smailes  
11/106 Williams St  
Gooseberry Hill 6076**

Enclosed please find a donation for the Courier, I do enjoy receiving it.

I wish all members a Happy Christmas and a Health Peaceful New Year.

Kindest regards,

**Marion**

**CORRECTION:** In the October Courier, group photo on page 12, the 5th member in the back row was shown as Bob Smyth. We stand corrected. It was Vince Swann who is much better looking. Our apologies Vince.

— Editor

**W. Howell**  
68 Randell St  
Mandurah 6210

6th October, 1993.

The Secretary,

2/2nd Commando Association

Dear Jack,

At the September meeting of the Mandurah 2-2s Social Club a motion was passed that we are against our National Flag being changed in any way.

Sincerely,

**Bill Howell,**  
Secretary.

**70 Years Young**

On behalf of members across Australia, readers of the Courier everywhere, we wish **Len Bagley Happy 70th Birthday.**

Len has been a stalwart in the affairs of the 2/2 Commando Association over a long number of years, his contribution in all areas has been first class, especially his work on the Courier team. One word — OUTSTANDING.

Len celebrated this milestone in his life with family, friends and members of the 2/2nd at a great party held in the Mandurah R.S.L. Club on October 13th. His brother Fred and wife Erika came from Canberra for this special occasion. Betty was hostess, as it should be for she complements Len so very well in all things. Likewise she gives great support as part of the Courier team. In fact, she is, in essence, the linch-pin of our great little publication.

Now you are on the credit side of life Len every year is a bonus, enjoy them all and make your motto: 'See you at the Sydney Olympic Safari in the year 2000!!' God bless Len, welcome to the 70s plus brigade.

With great sincerity on behalf of us all — The Editor.

**Arch Campbell**

That new book 'A Great Fraternity' is still available but sales are excellent and comments by buyers are very favourable.  
A good buy for Christmas at \$20.00 plus postage \$7.00.  
Apply to:  
**C. D. Doig**  
77 Rosedale Street  
Floreat 6014

**United Nations Office at Geneva, Centre for Human Rights.**

1 October, 1993

Your communication dated 1 July 1993 re Trial and Sentence of Xanana Gusmao, Dili, East Timor.

Dear Mr Monk,

This is to acknowledge the receipt of your communication, the contents of which will be brought to the attention of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the Commission on Human Rights.

Yours sincerely,

for Jakob Th. Moller

Chief, Communications Section, Centre for Human Rights

**2-2-14 Futaba-cho, Toyonaka, Osaka, 561 Jaapan**

Dear Bob and Margaret

I hope both of you are very fine.

Herewith I enclose some photos which I took in Perth. When you meet Jack, Del, John, Col, Ray, John-Jack Domingos of UDT, please pass each package to them. I was very much glad to see you and your friends in Perth. I cannot find the word to express my gratitude. Please send my best and sincere regards to all the members of the 2/2 Commando Association. When you come to Japan, I am ready to guide you anywhere you want to visit. Let me say again THANK YOU VERY MUCH to you.

Sincerely yours,

**Shohachi IWAMURA**

Dear Shohachi,

Thank you for your letter and many photos. They are a pleasant surprise. Together with a photocopy of your letter they have been sent to various members as requested. I also acknowledge return of the press clips.

Your courage and sincerity in visiting a potentially hostile environment is appreciated and respected. More so your frankness in acknowledging events of 50 years ago.

I am sure the manner in which our members received and welcomed you and your most helpful colleague Kyoko, dissipated any apprehension you may have felt prior to your arrival.

It is hoped that the Indonesians could be influenced to at least modify their present harsh policies concerning the indigenous inhabitants of East Timor. Your dedication to that cause is most commendable.

Margaret joins me in expressing best wishes to you and Kyoko.

Yours sincerely,

**Bob Smyth**

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## A VOTE FOR AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL FLAG

In 1788 we very nearly became a French Colony. I may be a bit biased but as a British Colony we have fared a lot better. The convicts, guards, administrators and free settlers who arrived were from England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. Then as now, they were above all else Christians. Naturally, in those early days, they flew the Union Jack. This flag symbolises crosses of St George (England and Wales), St Andrew (Scotland) and St Patrick (Ireland). As far as the latter is concerned, in case there is any shadow of doubt I include both Orange and Black Irish, for they **all** came out here and rightly enough form an important part of our heritage. Also, when I refer to Great Britain I mean Ireland too.

As the original New South Wales became more populated, during the 19th Century, our separate six states were formed and include the Union Jack as their continuing link with the Mother Country, but each was distinctive. Queensland's has a Royal Crown superimposed on a Maltese Cross.

In 1901 our wise constitutional grandfathers called for submissions for a new Australian national Flag. 32,800 entries were received so that our flag was not chosen lightly. The Union Jack was retained as that represented over 100 years of history for this vast continent. The blue background represents the sea around

our continent and the blue skies above and the Southern Cross identifies our country as being in the Southern Hemisphere. The large star represents the union of all six states and the brightness of all the stars gives us faith, hope and charity. We early birds just **love** those immortal words in our poem:

'The Morning Star paled slowly,  
The Cross hung low to the sea.'

How many Aussies have taken the trouble to **witness** this daily event?

Over many years Great Britain and Australia have welcomed migrants from all parts of the world. A few have returned but most have stayed. What our countries have has been a beacon to them. They have become naturalised Australian citizens, taken their oath of allegiance to our flag, our Queen and Australia. Our flag has truly become their flag. They understand and accept how it was conceived and they know that for many years we have been an independent nation in every way, so **why** all the fuss? To sum up, at one time or another we have **all** been migrants to this country and we happily accept our flag as part of our history and the part of the world where our country is. It is unique, **we are** a separate country and in every way we are very proud of it.

Unfortunately, the republican debate comes into this subject. Some say it is separate but I see it as an important part of the same parcel of meat. Let's not be fooled. In the final wash up it would mean more power for Canberra and less for the states (if we still have states!). The President would be a rubber stamp for the political party in these rights in order to resolve deadlocks. They need to be seen and act independently even though their appointments are by the parliaments and with consultations with our Queen as her representative. Let's have a quick look around the world. There are **no** republics which are truly stable and democratic. Even within the British Commonwealth of nations we have republics such as India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the former British Colonies in Africa. Sadly, despite Britain's help in trying to show them the way and guide them with their newly won independence, they have all become unstable and undemocratic. Police states where people live in fear under despotic and ruthless military regimes. In countries where we have constitutional monarchies i.e. Australia, New Zealand and Canada, we don't have these conditions. In 1981 Canada held a referendum to determine if they wanted to remain a constitutional monarchy or become a republic and they voted for **no change**. Surely, living next to the U.S.A. they would know **all** about republics! Our three countries plus Britain are the envy of the rest of the world, that is why

people clamour to settle where there is peace and stability. Presidents come and go but we have a sheet anchor. What about the fights in republics at voting time, rigging of ballot boxes etc. In recent years Spain has improved by the recall of its monarchy — it was notoriously undemocratic and unstable under Franco and as a republic. **Why give up the substance for the shadow?** Our language, the Westminster system of government, our laws, trial by jury etc. all go back to Britain. Their Queen is our Queen. She loves being Queen of Australia and we don't mind sharing her with any other countries which would like to join us. Our countries have been close since 1788, we want to continue to be friendly and despite the E.E.C. we still see that Great Britain, for trade alone apart from finance, the arts, education etc. is still the first step into Europe. Our men and women have fought over the years to preserve **our** way of life. Some have paid the supreme sacrifice. Two of our principles still are preserving our national flag and retaining our Constitutional Monarchy. Because we have won our wars we've been able to retain these most treasured possessions. Others want them but their ruthless despots won't let them have them. **I pray do not let our dead mates**

**down.**

There is a small vocal minority trying to push through these changes. All they are doing is dividing our people. Remember **'United we stand, divided we fall'** or from the Bible **'That house which is divided unto itself cannot stand.'** Times haven't changed much have they? We definitely do not want our people divided. In 1965 the government in Canada sought to appease a small minority by changing their flag. This was done by **an act of parliament** but it did not pacify the noisy minority — they are still active and divided despite their new flag. This could be done in Australia but a change of our constitutional monarchy would require a referendum. Knowing these facts I cannot understand **why** the media are putting up such a strong case for these changes. It's up to **all** of us to actively campaign for a vote for what we've got and which we wish to retain.

Of the two issues the flag is the most crucial. It **must** be put on the referendum paper as an item **not** passed through parliament. All Australians must vote on this important issue.

**R. E. Archer**

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## A Very Wonderful and Happy New Year

And to make it so,

May you laugh often

May your coffee be hot

May your steaks be tender

May your taxes be reduced

May you never burn the toast

May your meetings start on time

May your traffic lights be green

May your planes fly on schedule

May your mail never come postage due

May you sleep until the alarm goes off

May you have no flats or run out of gas

May your bank balance never be in the red

May your gains be great and your pains be few

May you make more than your spouse can spend

May you always have change for the parking meter

May you never light the filter end of your cigarette

May the service in your restaurants be worthy of a tip

May you car get the mileage per gallon that you claim

May you never have more than one child in college at once

May there be no questions asked about your income tax return

May you never put your change in the pocket that has the hole

May your trips to the dentist be for cleaning and polishing only

May you be privileged to pay your life insurance premiums another year

May you like your work, love your family and your God, be loved by everyone,

and may you just keep on being the person you are in the New Year.



## COURIER DONATIONS

Laurie Tapper, Bernie Langridge, Ernie Bingham, Dick Darrington, Ron Dook, Jim McLaughlin, George Strickland, Merv Wheatley, Bob McDonald, Mandurah 2-2s, Nina Grachan, Wal Kerr, Jack Keenahan, Nancy Hiatt, Jack and Beryl Steen, George and Gloria Smith, Joan Hamilton-Smith, Val Hancock, Reg Harrington, Reg Griffiths, Allan and Joan Mitchell, John Southwell, Keith Blomeley, Keith Dignum, Gordon and Joan Stanley, Blanche Sadler, Bulla Tait, Peter Alexander, Swampy Marsh, Kathleen Sargent, Marion Smailes, Ron gurr, Ken and Margaret Monk, Glad Curran.

**Thanks to the above and to all donors to the Courier during 1993.**

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## CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

MITCHELL, Mr L. A.  
Allan and Joan  
Covey St  
West Cherside 4032

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## ADDITION:

RYAN, Mrs D.  
Dorothy  
C/- Unit 18  
52 Samson St  
White Gum Valley 6162  
(09) 335 8814

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## SICK PARADE

JACK PEATTIE is a patient in Coffs Harbour Hospital with an abdominal condition. Reported to be improving each day.

FRED SPARKMAN is still receiving treatment at Hollywood Repat Hospital.

Our best wishes go to all members who are having health problems for a speedy recovery.

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Archie, Len and Betty send warmest wishes to readers for a peaceful, enjoyable Christmas followed by a healthy, happy New Year and hope that everyone will write at least one letter to the Courier in 1994, and perhaps an amusing anecdote or two, and thanks to those of you who have done so this year.