



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

Registered by Australian Post Publication No. WAS 0270 — Category "A"

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

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

Vol. 99

FEBRUARY 1993

PRICE 1c

COMING EVENTS

ANZAC DAY

Sunday, April 25, 1993

Details in April Courier

The Catalina Club of W.A. is holding a reunion in the form of a barbecue at the Mounts Bay Sailing Club on Friday, 26th March from 11 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. It is a mixed show.

The purpose of this function is to reunite all those servicemen and women who were brought back to Australia by Catalina flying boats, be they Australian, Dutch or American aircraft.

Any of our members who were involved with Catalinas during the war are invited to attend. Gerry Maley and Alan Hollow are members who come to mind who would qualify.

This should be a good show as the Catalina Club is going to a lot of trouble to ensure its success.

SAFARI 1994 BUSSELTON WESTERN AUSTRALIA

THURSDAY 7th - THURSDAY 14th APRIL 1994

DETAILS INSIDE THIS COURIER

SAFARI 1994

Busselton Western Australia

Thursday 7th - Thursday 14th

April 1994

Accommodation: When selecting the following hotel/motels the organising committee took into consideration factors such as proximity to the town centre and the accommodation rates on offer. The rates shown are current but these are not expected to increase beyond the CPI level, if at all, by April 1994. The proprietors of the respective hotel/motels have indicated they may even consider some form of a discount if the response to bookings is good.

Ship Hotel/Motel — 24 units:

Daily Rate	Room Only	Continental Breakfast	Full Breakfast
Single	\$35	\$40	\$45
Twin or Double	\$50	\$55	\$60

N.B. Some twin rooms can be made into triples.

Paradise Motel Inn — 20 units:

Daily Rate	Room Only	Full Breakfast
Single	\$40	\$40
Double	\$45	\$48
Triple	\$55	\$60
Four	\$60	\$68

The Ship and Paradise are within 250 metres of one another and are only a few minutes walking distance from the town centre.

Gale Street Beach Resort — 14 Units

Daily Rate: Single	\$30
Twin or Double	\$40
Add: Continental Breakfast	per head \$3.50
Full Breakfast	per head \$7.50

This motel is approximately 600 metres from the town centre and is a similar distance from the beachfront.

Vasse Hotel — 15 Units

Daily Rate:
 Single \$30 includes Continental Breakfast
 Double \$40 includes Continental Breakfast
 Triple \$50 includes Continental Breakfast
 Full Breakfast also available at a reasonable rate.
 The Vasse is situated in the centre of the town.

Kookaburra Caravan Park:

Situated within a few minutes walking distance from the town centre and the foreshore area. The park has powered van sites and on-site vans are also available.

Daily Rates: On-site Vans	per double	\$25
Van Sites only		\$11

How to book your accommodation:

Send a \$50 deposit nominating your hotel/motel preference and state whether you require a single, double or triple, in an envelope to:

'Safari 94'
 C/- Mr E. Smyth
 23 Maryllia Road
 Busselton 6280.

Important: Please make out your cheque to: **'2/2nd Commando Association'**.

Members requiring further information on accommodation are asked to contact Mr Eric Smyth in writing or by phone (097) 52 1076.

Eric and Twy Smyth and Clarrie and Grace Turner have kindly offered to handle all booking arrangements and they will also be playing an important part in the setting up of the Safari.

Summing Up: While there will be no shortage of accommodation at Busselton, members are advised to book in early. All bookings will be confirmed in writing.

Air Travel: As the majority of members are expected to come to W.A. by plane, the following information may be helpful.

Australian Airlines have a Flight No. 4 which leaves Brisbane early on Thursday mornings and connects up with Sydney and Melbourne and arrives in Perth at 10.30 a.m. Perth time. Members living in these states who intend to fly to the West should consider organising a block booking on this flight. If this could be arranged a bus would be waiting at the airport to take them direct to Busselton. The trip from Perth to Busselton takes 3½ hours, which means the party would be at Busselton by mid afternoon on Thursday, 7th April.

Ansett too have a connecting flight No. 161 from Brisbane and Sydney which arrives in Perth at 10.55 a.m. and a direct flight No. 7 from Melbourne which arrives at 9.50 a.m., both of which could also be considered.

Generally speaking, block bookings need to be made well in advance but it is often possible to obtain a concessional rate which makes the early effort well worth while. The respective state committees may care to take up the matter of a block air booking on behalf of their members.

In any case, providing we are given prior notice, there will be someone at Perth Airport to welcome you on your arrival, irrespective of the hour.

Members should arrange their return flight to suit their own needs. No doubt many will stay on for a time to enjoy the hospitality which the West offers.

HONOUR AVENUE, LOVEKIN DRIVE, KINGS PARK

In November 1992, four new plaques were added to our area. Due to an early oversight the names of four of our former comrades who paid the supreme sacrifice were omitted from the list of plaques prepared at the time. This has now been rectified.

Our avenue is made up of 46 trees. In front of each tree is a small post. Forty two of these posts have one plaque attached and the remaining four posts each bear two plaques, making a total of 50 plaques in all. Each plaque

shows the name of the deceased, his army number, the location and date of death. A small metal disc with our red double diamond colour patch has been attached to each post which has added to the dignity of the setting.

The Association is indebted to the Kings Park Board and its staff for the excellent condition in which our area has been maintained since the Board took over from the Association some years ago.

At the December Committee meeting it was resolved that all future Commemoration Services will be held on the third Sunday in November of each year. We would like to think that long after the men of the 2/2nd have passed on this Service will be continued.

Independent Trust Fund List 3

Contributions received 8th September 1992 to 15th January 1993 include:

PAID IN FULL: Albie Friend \$250, Ted Loud \$250, Tom and Ilma Martin \$50, Paul Costelloe \$50, Patsy and Max Thatcher \$50 (2nd payment).

PART PAID: Swampy and Joan Marsh \$50 (2nd payment), Dick Darrington \$50, Jack Keenahan \$70, Gordon Hart (2/4th) \$50 (2nd payment).

Total amount received to date is \$11,905 and there is a further \$3000 pledged.

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

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

VALE ALF COUPLAND

Alf was Platoon Sergeant in the original 'B' Troop of the 2/2nd Independent Company when it was formed on Wilsons Promontory, and served with distinction on Timor.

When the Unit was refitted and reformed at Canungra, Alf was promoted to Company Sergeant Major as W.O.II on the Headquarters establishment.

New Guinea was his next field of operation and he proved a fine administrator and courageous soldier. While out on patrol Alf was severely wounded and had to be evacuated to Australia. He had served the Unit extremely well and his unfortunate injury put paid to his war service.

Post war, very little was seen or heard of him and his whereabouts were not known to his old mates.

The news of Alf's passing brought back memories of a fine young man and an excellent soldier.

We offer our deep sympathy to his family. May he rest in peace.

Archie Campbell

Timor Trust Fund

When sending donations to the Fund, please make cheques payable to **Timor Trust Fund, to identify this specific account**. Please do not add it to any donations you might direct to the 2/2 Commando Association for the Courier or general funds. This will assist the Treasurer in his banking system.

Thanks in anticipation of your usual co-operation.

Editor

The Dedication of the Memorial to honour members of 'Sparrow Force' made up of the 2/40 Battalion, 2/1 Fortress Engineers, 2/1 Fortress Signals, 'B' Troop of the 18 Anti-Tank Battery, 'A' Section of the 2/11 Field Company, 2/2 Independent Company, Detachments from 23 Brigade Signals, 2/12 Field Ambulance, Australian Army Service Corps, 75 Light Air Detachment, 22 Dental Unit, plus a British Unit the 79 Light Anti-Aircraft Unit, took place at Oesau, near Kupang, in West Timor on 16th June 1992.

Miss Vonny Halberg OAM, formerly of Strahan, Tasmania, who in recent years has been a charity worker for the people of Roti, was present at the service. She said that Brigadier Cross, who represented Mr P. Flood, the Australian Ambassador in Jakarta, at the service, asked her where were the men of the 2/40 Battalion Association. She replied that she did not know. She said it was an impressive service and it was a great pity that some of those who participated in the gallant stand against a far superior force, over 50 years ago, were not able to be there.

It is understood there is a move afoot by our Darwin correspondent, Mr P.G. Spillett, to organise a pilgrimage to the Memorial on Anzac Day this year. It is to be hoped the Federal Government will have a change of heart and provide free air transport for the occasion.

Opening Address by Brigadier Cross

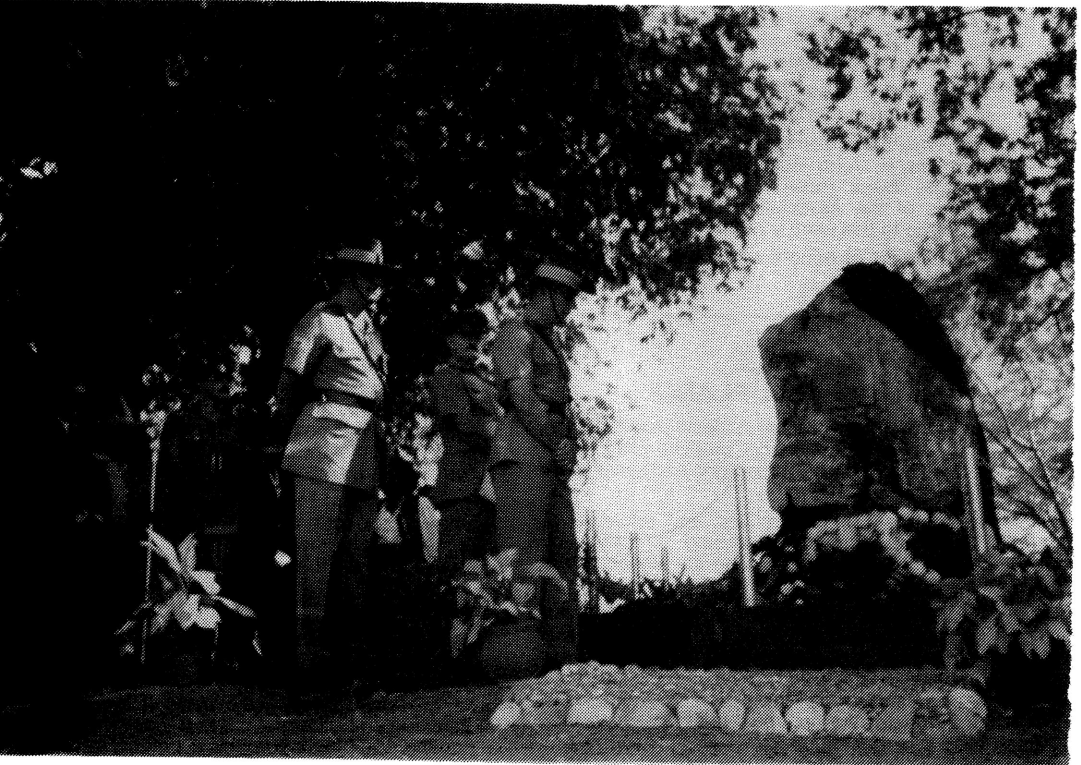
At the end of 1941 the men of the 2/40th Battalion and other members of Sparrow Force deployed to Kupang with the primary mission of defending the Penfoi airfield and thus helping keep open the chain of air links throughout the

region. They were not aware at the time that theirs was to be an impossible mission.

The speed and scale of the southward advance of the Japanese Armed Forces had been underestimated. Ambon, with its defending Gull Force, fell at the end of January 1941 and the Japanese turned their focus to Darwin and Timor. In February 1942 the small and relatively ill equipped Sparrow Force soon found itself exposed to the Assault of vastly superior forces. It had been split, with the 2/2 Independent Company being deployed to East Timor, and it was undermanned, depleted by illness and ill supplied.

A large scale co-ordinated Japanese attack began in the early hours of 20 February 1942. Sparrow Force was forced to destroy the airfield it had come to defend, in order to deny it to the enemy. Its mission had changed. Now it had to fight for its life, caught between a paratroop force dropped to the east of Oesau to cut off its line of withdrawal to Force Headquarters and ammunition and supplies at Champlong further east and the rapidly deploying and developing Japanese landing forces from the West.

Four days of almost continuous fighting followed, marked by cool courage and heroism. By the evening of 22 February the 2/40th had taken Oesau Ridge, but their position was becoming desperate, with the main body of the Japanese forces pressing from the West. The battalion prepared to depart Oesau on 23 February and to fight its way to Champlong, but by the morning of 23 February the main Japanese forces, equipped with artillery, cavalry and tanks, and reportedly numbering 23,000, had closed. The exhausted Sparrow Force, its supplies and personnel depleted, faced annihilation, and the only reasonable decision was taken to cease fighting. Some members managed to escape but most were to spend the remainder of the war in POW camps. They had fought bravely and hard, losing many of their members, but causing much greater casualties among the enemy.



Dedication of the Memorial to honour members of 'Sparrow Force'.

Our Own Sacred Site

'Wilson's Promontory, at the southernmost tip of the Australian mainland, is one of Victoria's largest, most spectacular and pleasant National Parks.'

The above, taken from a tourist brochure is probably not exactly as most of us remember it in 1941-42, but it is today a relaxing and beautiful recreational area, and is of course the site of our monument which attracts an annual pilgrimage. In 1964 the Victorian Parliament passed a Bill allowing us to erect the monument and the only alteration to the wording was that the National Parks Authority maintain the area instead of the Association, in effect it was 'enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty etc' that this perpetual memorial to mark the spot where it all began and to act as a memorial to those Commandos who died in active service.

IT IS NOW THE SUBJECT OF A CLAIM BY THE ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS MOVEMENT.

It may be argued that the monument could be moved — to my knowledge there is only one member whose remains are there. Some years ago the late Bill Taylor, (Z) the Victorian Secretary, expressed the wish that his ashes be scattered in front of the monument. After a long delay, permits were obtained and some fifty or so members turned up for the ceremony. The late John Wass read the service while Bob Halliday scattered the ashes. The Solemnity of the occasion was ruined when hundreds of seagulls dived in and grabbed the larger pieces before they hit the ground. The general opinion over a few beers was that poor old Bill really got his wish and was scattered over the whole of the Promontory!

Without entering into arguments on land rights, this is our sacred site. It was deeded to us by an Act of Parliament (which can be reversed or superseded by Federal Law) and whilst perhaps only one of our members rests there, it was here that the hopes and dreams of several thousand of our finest young men were laid to rest, not just for the duration but forever, as no-one came out of it entirely the same.

We hope that it will stay and that future generations may pause and ponder the saying 'They gave their todays for your tomorrows'.

Neil V. Harcourt
A.C.A. National Secretary

A MESSAGE TO FRIENDS

Isobel Servante-McCaul has had a rough passage since last October. She was most upset about not being able to attend our functions and her inability to send Xmas and New Year

greetings to her friends, particularly those in Victoria.

The reason was, both her hands were paralysed so she was unable to write. The suggestion was, we could put a note in the Courier so that all concerned would know she sent her love and best wishes.

Isobel is making steady progress, via the great support of son Peter, daughter Beverley and their families.

On behalf of all members I conveyed our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

The Editor

STOP PRESS

News has come to hand, via Alan Luby, that Max Bloomfield passed away in November '92. Max dropped the rank of Sergeant to join the 2/2 Commando Squadron, serving with us in New Guinea and New Britain, as a member of 8 Section "C" platoon, with distinction. Although little was heard of Max postwar, he was one of us and we regret his passing. Our deepest sympathy to his wife and family on their sad loss.

Christmas Social — Anzac Club, Perth

Seventy two people attended and made this a bumper occasion. Everyone was relaxed and mixed so very easily to add zest to the 'talk fest'. The Anzac Club caterers kept the pre luncheon refreshments up to one and all and then served a delightful smorgasbord lunch at tables nicely decorated, making all feel very festive. Our thanks to the Anzac Club for helping to make this such a happy gathering.

Our President, Bernie Langridge wished all present a happy Christmas and a very healthy, prosperous new year. This was heartily reciprocated by everyone to our excellent President and his wife Babs.

The hours just flew by and it was 3 p.m. and time for the Mandurah 2/2s to leave and board the coach which was waiting to take them home.

Archie Campbell

Christmas Luncheon, Mandurah

This was held on December 11th at the Dudley Park Bowling Club and attracted 36 members and five visitors from the metropolitan area.

The dining room was beautifully decorated for Christmas and Bill Howell brought along our own Unit flag which was given pride of place

and added that little extra 'something'. The tables were attractively set and we sat down to a superb three course luncheon, accompanied by drinks, all of which was at no cost to Mandurah 2/2s members as a result of our fund raising efforts during the year and Helen's clever management of those funds.

A great day thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Bob Smyth's Rogues Gallery

This has been highly successful in the past and we would like to see it continued in 1993, and we need your co-operation. We are appealing to all male members whose photo has not yet appeared.

Please send to 2/2 Commando Association, Box T1646, GPO, Perth, 6001, a clear photo of yourself. Dark photos are too difficult to reproduce.

Do not push this request aside, we really want to continue showing you **old soldiers** to your mates right across Australia. **Do it now!**

Editor

Timorese Day at Beryl Smith's

In my Christmas message I referred to acts of love performed by the 2/2 Commando Association which emphasised the spirit of Christmas.

There is another story about the spirit of Christmas, equally impressive. It has been performed in Mandurah by Beryl and the late Arthur Smith until his death and then by Beryl for a total of 16 years.

The form this expression of appreciation and love took was to invite Timorese people who fled their country after the invasion to a Christmas party at their home to make them feel they were wanted in Australia. It started in 1976 with a couple of families, Frank and Alzira Carvalhira and Marco and Mita D'Assis. It has grown in numbers every year until it reached 115 in 1992 with approximately 30 per cent of them ranging in years from teenagers down to babes in arms.

There is no need for me to say an almost impossible strain was placed on every facility in Beryl's home, including Beryl herself. Despite this, Beryl moved amongst these people as she always has, with her obvious love making them feel wanted and at home.

At the conclusion of the day, where fabulous amounts of food and drink were enjoyed, expressions of thanks and appreciation to Beryl and her helpers, notably Paddy King who drove Beryl's station wagon to Perth to buy presents for the Christmas tree, Charlie and Mary King

and Babs Langridge, were conveyed to the gathering.

There was a welcome by President Bernie, responded to by a Timorese lady, Anna Falomena and Domingos Oliveira who spoke briefly about the politics of their plight.

The 2/2 Commando Association was rather poorly represented owing to the short notice and the timing — two days after Christmas. Apologies were conveyed to the gathering from Helen and Joe Poynton, Len Bagley and Betty Illsley.

It was apparent to those preparing food, tables, chairs and cooking facilities that it will soon be too much for Beryl, maybe as soon as next year. Many of the Timorese discussed and agreed with the above view.

Bernie Langridge

MANDURAH TWO-TWOs NEWS

As a result of a suggestion by Helen Poynton, the Mandurah Two-Twos are arranging a **Family Picnic Day** at the **Western Rosella Bird Park, Old Bunbury Road, Mandurah, on Sunday, 28th February from 11 am** (the Sunday of the Labour Day holiday Weekend).

This is a delightful venue, with attractions for the young and the young at heart and everyone is welcome.

Barbecues are available — BYO steak, sausages etc., or a picnic lunch and your Esky with your own choice of drinks. There is also a well stocked kiosk in the Park.

The following special prices have been negotiated:

\$2.50 per person entrance to the Park
 \$1.00 per person mini golf
 \$1.00 per person train rides.

This promises to be a **Special Event** so round up your family and come along — you won't be disappointed.

Metropolitan members please phone Jess Epps on 294 1845 to let her know of your intention to attend. Other members please phone Helen on 535 2261.

Coming from Perth and using the Mandurah By-pass Road, turn left into Pinjarra Road at the traffic lights and watch for the third street on the left where there is a very large tree, turn left and when you reach the roundabout, turn right, and there it is.

Victorian News

Our Christmas luncheon was held at Paterson River Country Club on the 7th December. A very pleasant time was had by the following: Jack

and Julie Fox, Leith and Marg Cooper, John and Cath Roberts, Jack Renahan, John and Shirley Southwell, Don and Joan Freyer, Paul Costelloe, George and Dot Veitch, Max and Patsie Thatcher, Ken and Margaret Monk, Fred and Mavis Broadhurst, Fred's sister Phyllis and his granddaughter Kylie, Harry and Olive Botterill, Nina Grachan, Grace Davies, Peter McCracken, Dulcie Gay, Melva Gay, Bill Tucker, Tom Nisbet, Glad Curran, Wyn Humphreys, Peter Krause. Apologies were received from Bill and Pat Petersen, John South, Chris Wray, Jock and Faye Campbell, Bert Dowsett, Mick Wellings, Wilma Tobin, Alex and Beryl Boast, Dawn and Arch Claney, Nancy Briggs, Sir Bernard and Lady Naomi Callinan, Norm and Fran Tillett, Eddie and Dot Bourke, Alf and Gwenda Harper, MAM Smith, Sep and Monica Wilson, Bill and Eileen Sharp.

MAM Smith had a stroke a couple of months ago and is in St Vincents Hospital. We all wish him a speedy recovery and I am sure he would like a visit from anyone who could make it.

Bert Dowsett has moved to Queensland to live.

It was good to see Ron and Dorothy Trengove who were down for a couple of days. Their family shouted them tickets to see Phantom of the Opera, which they thoroughly enjoyed. We went out to Fred Broadhurst's to see them — both well.

Don Freyer had a stroke recently and is coming along slowly. It was good to see him and Joan at the luncheon.

I take this opportunity to wish everyone a very healthy, prosperous new year.

Harry Botterill

CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

G. Smith
37 Shaw Crescent
Muswellbrook 2333

Do hope all members are enjoying the good health we have been blessed with this year. As this will arrive too late for Christmas wishes, will just hope everyone will have a healthy and happy 1993, keeping fit until they are able to meet again at Busselton Safari.

Leaving home on 21st February in the Kingswood, boat on top and van behind, we started our trip up the NSW/Queensland coast. Spent several weeks in some places. The highlight of our trip was time spent with our dear friends at Port Macquarie Safari and the time went all too quickly. We only travelled as far as Rubyvale out from Rockhampton in the gemfields before starting back down the coast. Called on Ted, Di, Julie and Pat Cholerton,

spending a couple of extra days enjoying their company and exploring that part of Australia. We were sorry to miss George and Bettye Coulson who were not home. Arrived home on 7th November and now time to get on with overdue correspondence.

Enclosed is a cheque toward cost of the Courier.

Very best wishes to all.

George and Gloria

E. Loud
Geegeelup Hostel
Bridgetown 6255

Enclosed is a cheque for full coverage of the Independent Trust Fund, the rest as the Committee sees fit.

Am very sorry to hear of our treasured members passing away. My deepest sympathy to their loved ones. Hoping things will be much brighter in the future.

Kindest regards to all.

Ted

P. Costelloe
25 Sunburst Ave
Nth Balwyn 3104

Am enclosing a cheque — half for the Courier and the balance towards the Timor Fund. We don't know how the wheel will turn but hopefully in the future the Indonesians will show some recognition and compassion towards these unfortunate people to whom we owe so much.

Kind regards and Christmas greetings to all.

Paul

A. D. Stevenson
3 East Ave
Camberay 2062

Just a note to advise of change of address and of recovery from a recent operation for cancer of the throat which set me back a bit. Also, of my retirement from active commercial life, thus the home address.

While a 2/4th, having missed out on earlier cadres as F.S.C. had me typing out his schemes etc. in the Orderly Room under Staff Crozier, it is still a great privilege to receive the Courier and to read of old mates like Ray Aitken etc.

Herewith a contribution to the production and postage of the Courier and best regards to all in the West.

Steve

S. R. Marsh
17 McGough St
Glenorchy 7010

Enclosed is a donation towards the Courier. Will send another \$50 for the Trust Fund next fortnight.

Hope all members and their families had a happy Christmas and the same for the new year.

Swampy

A. Hodge
2/289 Wakaden St
Griffith 2680

Enclosed is a cheque for the Courier, our No. 1 information paper that gives us the health and whereabouts of our members. Far too many have passed on, even in the last few months. The years are slipping by and building up on most of us, in fact I should say on all of us. The end of next year I'll be in the 80 bracket, but still going along steadily. I go into hospital in January for a couple of small ops.

We are now getting the rain we should have had in winter and spring. Although the crops have finished well the rain now is causing grain damage.

The country is in an awful mess, with our increasing debt and unemployment. We need a couple of managers of the Doig calibre to put things on an even keel.

I hope all members and families enjoyed a merry Christmas and wish them all a healthy new year.

Kindest regards

Alf

E. & M. Weller
136 Kempton St
Bluff Point 6350

Another year has slipped by and quite an eventful one, with the reunion at Port Macquarie. It was wonderful to meet up with everyone and to be looked after in such style. Thank you NSW, a great effort and we are hoping to see lots of our eastern states members over here in 1994.

The mini safari to Wongan Hills was a great success. The hospitality was excellent — Stan, Charlie, Mavis and Blanche certainly were wonderful hosts and hostesses. There are always new things to see and learn about wherever we go. Pity the weather hadn't been kinder.

We have had a couple of trips into the north of the state. The wild flowers this year were beautiful. In all our years of wandering I can't remember them being better. We have watched most of the north west towns being born and it's very interesting to see how they have grown

and all the changes that have taken place, also how the roads have improved since we first ventured north. Where it was all dirt roads and the rivers had to be forded, now all the bridges are finished and no more scary crossing of flooded rivers and creeks. I sometimes think we were awfully brave or very stupid in some of the trips we did. Now we are more conservative and think twice. Anyway, it is fairly civilised up there now, and we don't have to carry everything we need with us.

Eric has been to Perth to see the eye specialist and have another bit of cancer removed from his eye. He is lucky that he still has the sight in the eye. We are keeping good health. Like everyone we have the odd pain but nothing to worry about.

We are getting ready for Christmas. Tony and his family are coming from Christmas Island. We haven't seen them for a year. He will be teaching at Tuart College next year.

Am enclosing a donation to help keep things rolling.

Regards,

Eric and Margaret

Season's Greetings were received from Theo Adams, Tony and Iris Adams, Paddy and Nora Kenneally, Alan and Edith Luby, Ralph and Sheila Conley, Alma Moore, Beryl Smith, Dulcie Gay, 1st Commando Regt, NSW, R. & S.L. (W.A. Branch), Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Repatriation Commission, Canberra, Don and Dulcie Latimer.

M Coles
30 Church Street
Branxton 2335

This Branxton seems to be a good place so I should like it here. Enclosed is a cheque for the Courier. Thank you.

Cisco

J. Boardman
97 Manning Street
Scarborough 6019

Sorry to be so long winded in sending my donation to the Courier and for missing the Commemoration Service in Kings Park.

I appreciate Paddy Kenneally's report on conditions in East Timor during May and June last year.

It is sad to read of the men who have passed on, but it is so good to have the Courier to pay tribute to them.

Best wishes,

Jack Boardman (2/8th)

**H. Handicott
18/151 Denison Street
Hamilton 2303**

Greetings to all. Hope everybody had an enjoyable festive season.

We moved to Newcastle on the 19th November and have nearly settled in. A few trips to the Sallies should solve things. We are one block from the shops and 100 yards from the RSL Club.

Spoke to Joyce Smith last week, has a virus she can't shake off but otherwise OK.

Unfortunately I've had to join the no hard work club — got the tight chest pain in October, after the usual stress test I'm on tablets. Hope we are right for the '94 migration to the West.

We went to Port on the 8th December for the Christmas party of the newly formed mini Commando Association, a branch of the NSW Association. I think 45 fellas, wives and friends sat down to lunch and a few beers. Todd Roods is C.O. and we meet four times a year at the RSL sports centre.

Attached is a donation towards the Courier.

Our regards and good health to all,

Amyce and Harry

THE ODE

Laurence Binyon who wrote 'The Ode To The Fallen' was a stretcher bearer in France during the first World War. Born in England in 1869 he died in 1943. Laurence Binyon was a poet, a keeper of paints and drawings of the British Museum, and he was an authority on Oriental Art.

His experiences as a stretcher bearer moved him to write his 'Ode To The Fallen', one verse of which has become a universal eulogy for ex-servicemen and women when they meet and remember departed comrades.

The reciting of the Ode each day in ex-service clubs affects people in different ways. To some it is probably only a routine to be endured, but to others it does stir up a feeling of reverence and possibly memories of comrades and events of years gone by, but do we stop to think of the meaning of the words as Binyon wrote them.

'They Shall Grow Not Old, As We That Are Left Grow Old'. We remember people as we saw them last, and those who died so young and so many years ago, we still remember as young and virile,

while those friends who have grown old alongside us, we shall remember when they are gone, as old and less active persons as when we first met them.

'Age Shall Not Weary Them Nor The Years (Contemn) Condemn'. The trials and tribulations of life can no longer sicken or pall them. As the years go by we will still remember them in high esteem with respect for the cause for which they died. They will never be despised or scorned.

As originally written by Laurence Binyon the word was 'CONTEMN', a word very little used these days. The word 'CONDEMN' has by general usage taken its place. CONTEMN': Despise, scorn, disdain, hold cheap or unworthy. 'CONDEMN': Blame, censure, reprove.

'At The Going Down of The Sun, And In The Morning We Will Remember Them'. They will be remembered somewhere by someone each minute of the day. They are enshrined by our memory forever.

THE CEREMONY OF THE ODE

Although this ceremony has only been adopted by Ex-Service Clubs since World War II, its history is reported to go back to World War I.

The Chairman of the Big Ben Council one time was a Major Polc, who was wounded in Palestine, taken prisoner and later escaped to England.

'The Silent Minute'. The chimes and strokes of Big Ben in the tower of the Houses of Parliament in London at 9 o'clock each evening is used to signal the 'Silent Minute'. This signal was first broadcast by the B.B.C. on November 10, 1940 and is still broadcast each evening at 9 p.m. to millions of people.

The ceremony of 'The Ode' is also held nightly at the MENIM GATE in Flanders. The Menim Gate is a British War Memorial astride the Menim Road. It was here around Ypres that three great battles were fought on the Belgian frontier with France in the first World War. There are 55,000 names inscribed on the monument in its huge wall and 6176 of them are Australians (who died there).

This then is a brief resume of 'The Ode' and 'The Silent Minute'. Can we put this silence to good use? The power of silence is greater than you think, depending on what you do with it. The Ode originally had seven verses, and it is the fourth verse which we know so well.

'They shall grow not old.

As we that are left grow old.

Age shall not weary them

Nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun

And in the morning

We Will Remember Them.'

Was Bully Beef a Killer?

According to Dr John Payne, senior medical lecturer at Sydney University, Military diets were 'primarily baked beans and bully beef' and contained up to 40 times the chemical compounds of civilian diets.

Nitrate based preservatives are known to be cancer causing in animals and whilst some authorities claim that it has not been established that exposure to nitrosamines is a risk factor for gastric cancer, the Administrative Appeals Tribunal has handed down a decision that a Queenslander's death from stomach cancer seven years ago, could be linked to tinned food issued as service rations.

The decision effectively validates the so-called 'nitrosamines theory' which has divided the medical community for some years and will no doubt cause a massive increase in defence based litigation. Already it has been taken as a precedent in a similar decision handed down which argues well for those having similar claims.

A Tribute To His Uncle

This was written by 13 year old Daniel Cluett as a tribute to his uncle, Charlie Stanton, whom he never saw, being tragically lost on Portuguese East Timor on the 20th February 1942.

Archie Campbell

Tis of a young soldier
 Charlie was his name
 He was his mother's pride and joy
 Adventure was his game.
 What brave young men these were
 To leave their homes and wives
 What brave young men these were
 To give up their young lives.
 They had to go to Timor
 To fight the cold hard war
 They fought for God and country
 On that distant lonely shore.
 One morning dull and dismal
 They set out for Dili town
 When out jumped enemy soldiers
 Who them they did surround.
 They bravely fought
 An unknown foe
 They didn't let up
 They did not let go.

What Are Seniors Worth?

Remember, old folks are worth a fortune — with silver in their hair, gold in their teeth, stones in their kidneys, lead in their feet, and gas in their stomachs.

I have become a little older since I saw you last, and a few changes have come into my life. Frankly, I have become a frivolous old girl. I'm seeing 5 gentlemen every day. As soon as I wake up Will Power helps me out of bed. Then I go to see John. Next, it's time for Uncle Toby to come along, followed by Billy T.

They leave and Arthur Ritis shows up and stays the rest of the day. He doesn't like to stay in one place very long, so we go from one joint to another. After such a busy day, I'm really tired and glad to go to bed with Johnny Walker.

What a life! Oh yes, I'm also flirting with Al Zymer.

The preacher called the other day. He said at my age I should be thinking about the hereafter. I told him I do, all the time. No matter where I am, if I'm in the parlour, upstairs, in the kitchen or down in the basement, I ask myself what am I here after?

An Aussie Mother's Letter To Her Son

Dear Son,

Just a few lines to let you know that I am still alive. I'm writing this slowly as I know you cannot read fast. You won't know the house when you come home, we've moved. About your father, he has a lovely new job now with 500 men under him. He's cutting grass in the cemetery. There was a washing machine in the new house but it isn't working too well. Last week I put 14 shirts in it and pulled the chain and I haven't seen the shirts since. Your sister Mary had a baby this morning but I haven't found out yet if it is a girl or a boy so I don't know if you are an auntie or an uncle.

Your Uncle Dick drowned last week in a vat of whisky at the Carlton Brewery. Some of his work mates dived in to save him but he fought them off bravely. We cremated his body and it took three days to put the fire out. Your father didn't have much to drink at Christmas — I put a bottle of castor oil in his bottle of beer and it kept him going until New Year's Day. I went to the doctor on Thursday and your father came with me. The doctor put a small tube in my mouth and told me not to open it for 10 minutes. Your father offered to buy the tube from him.

It only rained twice last week, once for three days and once for four days, and Monday the wind was so strong that one of our chickens laid the same egg four times.

We had a letter from the undertaker yesterday and he said if the last instalment wasn't paid on your Grandma within seven days, up she comes.

Your loving Mum

P.S. I was going to put a \$10 note in this letter for you but I had already sealed the envelope.

When God gave out brains I thought He said trains, and I missed mine.

When He gave out looks, I thought He said books, and I didn't want any.

When He gave out noses, I thought he said roses, and I ordered a big red one.

When He gave out legs, I thought He said Kegs, and I ordered two fat ones.

When He gave out chins, I thought He said gins, and I ordered a double.

When He gave out heads, I thought He said beds, and I took a nice soft one.

Boy, am I a mess.

The foregoing was given to me about 1946 by Jack 'The Bosun' O'Brien, ex Company Sergeant Major of the 2/2 Australian Commando Squadron. A truly Great Bloke.

Alan Luby

The rural recession has been explained in simple terms by an old time farmer, thus!

It all started in 1966 when they changed from pounds to dollars. That doubled me bloody overdraft. Then they changed to kilograms instead of pounds and my bloody wool clip dropped by half. Then they changed the rain to millimetres and we haven't had an inch of rain since. Then they changed acres to hectares and I ended up with half the bloody land I had in the first place.

By this time I'd had enough and decided to sell up. I put the property in the hands of a land agent. So what did they do!!! They changed miles to kilometres and now I'm so far out of town, nobody wants to buy the bloody place.

Change of Address

JORDAN, Mr A. M.
Mark and Elsie
46 Kingfisher Avenue
Ballajura 6066
(09) 249 2689

KIRKWOOD, Mrs G
Gwenda
11/31 Gardner Street
Como 6152
(09) 249 2689

DOWSETT, Mr B
Bert
'Lakewood'
7 Albert Drive
Elanora 4221

STEVENSON, Mr A. D.
Steve
3 East Avenue
Cammeray 2062

LAWRENCE, Mrs F.
Faye
90 Albatross Road
Berkeley Vale 2259

DARGE, Mrs J.
Joan
PO Box 222
Kingsgrove 2208
(02) 567 3885

HANDICOTT, Mr H.
Harry and Amyce
18/151 Denison Street
Hamilton 2303
(049) 62 3995

COLES, Mr M. R.
Merve 'Cisco'
30 Church Street
Branxton 2335
(049) 38 1034

SICK PARADE

Keith Dignum is up and about again — you cannot keep a good man down.

Mick Holland is home recuperating after a short spell in hospital.

Laurie Tapper continues to make progress.

Best wishes from everyone for a complete recovery and return to the best of health.

Courier Donations

Ted Loud, Patsy Thatcher, Jim McLaughlin, Bernie Langridge, Don Hudson, Joe Poynton, Ron Dook, John Poynton, Don Turton, Vince Swann, Colin Criddle, Dusty Studdy, Lew Thompson, Harry Sproxtton, Jack Fowler, Alma Moore, Ron Archer, Beryl Smith, Steve Stevenson, Dulcie Gay, Alf Hodge, Eric and Margaret Weller, Gwenda Kirkwood, Swampy Marsh, Warwick Tobin, Harry Handicott, Cisco Coles, Jack Boardman (2/8th).

TIMOR TRUST FUND ACTIVITY REPORT

The prime objective of the Trustees is to determine how the Trust Fund will be successfully applied.

A major application is contemplated for the purchase and distribution of Cliff Morris's

"Travellers' Dictionary" in Tetun English/ English Tetun.

Cliff is ex 2/4th Timor.

However, even though we believe the dictionary would be eagerly received by at least one major mission school, the trustees require confirmation in writing before proceeding.

We also have to ensure that the booklet's consignment would be received intact. (They are of no value to Indonesian transmigrants who do not speak Tetun.)

Letters written to the previous Governor, Mario Carrascalao in June 1992, to Bishop Belo and to the priest at Malliana remain unanswered. They have not survived the military censor and the addressees fear military pressure if they attempt to reply.

Following the suggestion of a well known Sydney based Catholic Relief organisation, we wrote to Archbishop Franco Brambilla the Apostolic Pro Nuncio in Australia. His reply expressing regret, advised that he could not help.

An approach via Federal Government channels, predictably failed to attract help, reflecting our Prime Minister's fawning comment that "Jakarta's action subsequent to the Dili Massacre was a credible response".

Assuming that Indonesian Military approval will finally be won we have investigated channels of freight.

W.A. State Ships deliver to Darwin, Singapore or Jakarta each 14 days.

A Darwin based shipping company can deliver to Kupang, but similar to State Ships, has instructions not to take any goods for Dili.

Our thanks for the tremendous assistance given by our Melbourne Associate member who is currently taking a further initiative on behalf of the Trust.

An approach to the Indonesian Ambassador has not to date attracted a reply.

In contrast to their oppressive military masters, the East Timorese are recognised for their high moral values. They are accurately described as friendly, generous, and respectful but for more than 20 years they have been subject to the most appalling Human Rights abuses.

Unfortunately because the Australian media continues to criticise, the Indonesian response is to cut all communication with East Timor.

Telephone lines are tapped and calls from Australia cut off. Censorship appears to include all inward mail. Mail carried by foreign visitors in hand baggage in outgoing flights is examined and names of addressees and senders recorded.

The indigenous East Timorese live in a permanent atmosphere of fear, accentuated when near the presence of a European visitor even when passing in the street.

Be assured that we have a variety of alternatives to pursue.

Many thanks again to all contributors to the Independent Trust Fund.

We would welcome further donations.

Best Wishes to all.

BOB SMYTH

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SCHOOL TEXT BOOKS FOR EAST TIMOR

Telephone contact was made last November and letters forwarded to the principals of eleven major private schools in the Perth metropolitan area.

We appealed for donations of used text books "in any condition" and possibly associated learning equipment.

Approximately 110 cartons were picked up from eight schools.

They are stored in a Fremantle Wool Store — courtesy of a Vietnam Veteran friend.

A future job is to sort the books into subject and age categories to hopefully facilitate Indonesian censor inspection and delivery to the addressee.

Favourable report of receipt could result in the scheme being repeated in greater volume next year.

Eastern States branches could be interested to pursue a similar project for December 1993.

Acknowledgements to Don Turton's farm equipment "Courier Service" assisted by Jack Carey and George Bayliss.

OFFICE EQUIPMENT

Keith Hayes on his own initiative has done a magnificent job in collecting used but usable office equipment which has done its tax depreciated life of 5 years.

Keith's haul includes typewriters, tape recorders, slide projectors, Gestetners, copiers, computers, calculators and PBX Switchboard etc.

Pending an early move to the Wool Store, they are presently pushing up the roof of Col Doig's garage.

Keith is confident he could fill a 20 foot shipping container.

BOB SMYTH.