



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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President T. Monk. Secretary J. Carey.

Vol. 103

OCTOBER 1993

Price 1c

COMING EVENTS

MENS ANNUAL DINNER

**Thursday, October 28th at 11 a.m.
at R.S.L. Hall, Mandurah**

An Enjoyable Day — Not to be missed

COMMEMORATION SERVICE

Sunday, November 21st at 3 p.m.

Lovekin Drive, Kings Park

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

**Friday, December 3rd at 11 a.m.
at Anzac Club, Perth**

Please wear name tags

SAFARI 1994 — BUSSELTON, WA

Thursday 7 — Thursday 14th April

VALE GEORGE FREDERICK BAYLISS

It is with extreme regret that we have to advise the death of our hard working Treasurer, George Bayliss, on Friday, 3rd September, of a severe heart attack while on our W.A. Country Convention at Albany.

George travelled with the main body on the coach to Albany and complained of not being very well. He tried to eat the evening meal but could not keep it down and the same occurred at breakfast next morning. He decided not to go on the tour of the Whaling Station and remained in his unit to rest. He became ill and asked the Motel Manageress to take him to the chemist but changed his mind and requested he be taken to the doctor. He apparently collapsed at the doctor's surgery and was rushed to hospital with a suspected heart attack.

When the party returned in the afternoon a message was given to Col Doig to take George's luggage to the hospital. This was done, courtesy of the coach drivers. George was on oxygen and didn't look at all well, his family was notified. He was again visited on Thursday at midday and looked much better, but knew he had had a heart attack, and would be in hospital at Albany for some time before being sent to R.G.H. Hollywood. His wife came down to Albany on Thursday afternoon and George appeared reasonably well but had a very bad attack early on Friday morning from which he was resuscitated, but another attack at about 3.30 a.m. saw his demise. Attempts were made to get in touch with the main party but we had departed just before the message came through to the motel.

George was a battler all his life. He left school at 13 years of age and commenced work, as a boy, with the pottery makers, Calex, later to be known as Bristile, and worked with this firm until he joined the A.I.F. in 1940. Previously he had joined the 44th Battalion Militia and became an excellent marksman with the rifle. He also learned signalling.

On joining the A.I.F. he was drafted to the Corps of Signals, was camped in Victoria when the 2/2 Independent Coy was formed and, along with many others in the Signals Corps, joined the Independent Coy and trained on Wilsons Promontory. George served with the Unit from formation and right through the Timor Campaign. He was a member of that truly outstanding band of Signallers who were our great communications Unit on Timor. He left us after Timor and served with other Units until the cessation of hostilities.

When he returned to work with Bristiles he became a foreman and was most highly regarded for his knowledge of all aspects of pottery manufacture. He left Bristiles to become a storeman with the Commonwealth Government Dept of Supply. Once again he made good and was eventually promoted to Audit Inspector of Stores and did many trips of inspection to Christmas Island.

George was always a keen supporter of the Unit Association and was appointed Treasurer when John Poynton relinquished the position. He did an excellent tradesman-like job as Treasurer and his services will be sadly missed.

George leaves a widow, Dot, sons Rodney and Max and daughters Pam, Alison and Joanne to mourn his loss. We extend our sincere condolences to the family.

So passes one of life's honest men at the age of 72. He was a good husband and father, good soldier and keen Association member. His main interests were his family, his fishing and our Unit Association. Goodbye, dear mate.

Col Doig

The Association was represented at the cremation at the New Crematorium at Karrakatta by Ray Aitken, Len Bagley, Betty Illsley, Tony Bowers, John Burrridge, Arch Campbell, Jack Carey, Col Doig, Jess Epps, John Fowler, Les Halse, Jack Hasson, Bill and Elvie Howell, Mark and Elsie Jordan, Gerry Maley, Wilf and Lorraine March, Ted Monk, Don Murray, Joe and Helen Poynton, Gordon Rowley, Harry Sproxtton, 'Dusty' Studdy, Don Turton and Jack Boardman 2/8th. Apologies were received from Bob Smyth in the country and Bernie and Babs Langridge ill with flu.

President Ted Monk gave the Ode.

VALE ALBERT MARTIN

We have to report the death of one of our great members in the person of Albie Martin in his 77th year. Albie died at the Home of Peace, Inglewood on September 14th, 1993 after a long and debilitating illness with emphysema. He was courageous until the last in his long fight against this vicious lung trouble.

Albie joined the 2nd Independent Coy on Wilsons Promontory with the original bunch of lads and was a member of the sappers under Don Turton. After training on the Promontory and the travelling and camp building at Katherine in the Northern Territory he served the whole period in Timor then on to New Guinea and New Britain. These sappers were a hard working bunch under Don Turton and later as the maintenance gang with 'Smash'

Hodgson. Albie really did his share of the hard going on these three arduous campaigns. With his most pleasing personality and ready wit he was always great company and a steady morale booster.

On return from active service he returned to his old position as a salesman with Makower, McBeath, at that time located in William Street over Bethel Thurstons (all now long demolished). After a few years Albie was transferred to Adelaide and then to Melbourne. He resigned to take up a position with his wife's family firm Donalds & Sons at that time located in the Commonwealth Bank Building on the corner of William and Hay Streets. He continued with this firm until his retirement quite a few years ago.

When the 2/2nd Commando Association was formed Albie was one of the original committee men and served the Association in this State well until his transfer to the Eastern States. He also took a keen interest in Association affairs while in Melbourne. Albie was a most valued member of the Association and we have lost a good reliable member.

Albie was a keen member of the Anglican Church and served on the Diocesan Committee of St. George's Cathedral for many years. He was also a reader for services held at the War Veterans Home at Mt Lawley.

He was predeceased by his wife a few years ago and had quite a large family of brothers and sisters and many in-laws, although no family of his own.

We say a fond farewell to a thoroughly nice bloke and send our condolences to his family.

Col Doig

The following attended Albie's funeral at Karrakatta on Friday, September 17th: Ray Aitken, Tom Bateman, Tony Bowers, Ernie Bingham, Arch Campbell, Jack Carey, Jess Epps, George Fletcher, Jack Fowler, Gerry Green, Jack Hasson, Keith Hayes, Bill and Elvie Howsell, Bernie Langridge, Wilf and Lorraine March, Tom Martin, Don May, Ted Monk, Joe Poynton, Bob Smyth, Henry and Thelma Sproston, George and Colleen Strickland, 'Dusty' Studly, Vince Swann, Don Turton, Eric Weller, Merv Wheatley, Jack Wicks. Apologies were tendered by Col Doig and Reg Harrington.

VALE ALBERT MATTHEWS

Another of the old gang in the person of Bert Matthews passed away in his 78th year on September 15th. Bert was an original member of 1 Section 'A' Platoon and served only on Timor.

After the Timor campaign Bert left the 2/2nd and was later allocated to the 2/16th Battalion and served with that show in New Guinea, especially at Shaggy Ridge.

After hostilities Bert married and lived in Adelaide Terrace for some time and worked at Metters for many years as a sheetmetal worker. He moved to Doubleview and apparently spent most of his leisure time with the Scarborough R.S.L. He was also a very keen lawn bowler and a member of the Innaloo Bowling Club.

Bert did not take any interest in the 2/2nd Commando Association, although he was always on the mailing list of the Courier.

We extend our condolences to wife Jean and the family.

Col Doig

The following attended Bert's funeral at Karrakatta on Friday, September 17th: Tony Bowers, Arch Campbell, Jack Carey, Keith Hayes, Bernie Langridge, Ted Monk, Joe Poynton, Vince Swann, Don Turton and Eric Weller.

VALE COLIN RAYMOND CRIDDLE

Again it is a sad duty to advise of the death of one of our original members, Colin Criddle. So the sad saga goes on. The deep decimation of our ranks continues.

Colin died on September 21st after a severe heart attack. He had just had his 72nd birthday. Colin joined our Unit and trained on Wilsons Promontory and was a member of No. 2 Section under Gerry McKenzie after training and that momentous trip north to Katherine and the building of that camp. He served the whole time of the Timor campaign, being with No. 2 Section on that memorable night of the Japanese landing.

After that arduous and debilitating campaign Colin was left with the Training Squadron at Canungra for some time. He was recruited into 'Z' Force and trained in 'Z' establishments in the eastern states before being allocated to the Darwin area. He did one foray in Timor disguised as a native and returned to Darwin where he underwent further training for a projected parachute landing in Timor. He was sent home on pre-embarkation leave but the Armistice was signed and his parachute jump was frustrated. It was probably this frustration that engendered his desire to enter this sport at a later date.

After demobilisation Colin joined the Midland Railway Company as a bus driver, eventually rising to the position of Superintendent. When the Midland Railway Company was taken over

by W.A.G.R., Colin continued with the railway bus service, again becoming a superintendent. In 1973 Colin retired because of ill health at the age of 52. He had open heart surgery in 1977 and unfortunately, in 1979 he suffered a stroke which left him somewhat crippled, although he carried on quite manfully. He also suffered very badly with ulcerated legs which did not respond to treatment. He was made T.P.I. quite a few years ago.

Colin was a keen member of our Unit Association and although his job and later his health precluded him from an executive position he contributed wherever he could and was a most generous donor to Association funds.

Apart from his early sport of parachuting he was involved with the Wembley Bowling Club and the R.S.L. Bowling Club. He was keenly interested in the Wembley-Floreat R.S.L. and the T.P.I. Association where he was also a most generous donor to funds.

Colin was a loving and affectionate husband of wife Bonnie and a great father to sons Terry, Gerg, Bret and their families. He was a gentle gentleman and a very sensitive person who made friends easily and kept them all his life.

So, we say farewell to a good bloke, a loving husband and father and a top citizen.

We extend our most sincere sympathy to Bonnie and the family in their sad loss.

Col Doig

The following attended Colin's funeral at the Norfolk Crematorium Chapel, Karrakatta on September 23rd: Ray Aitken, Len Bagley, Betty Illsley, Tony and Gwen Bowers, John Burridge, Archie Campbell, Jack and Delys Carey, Joy Chatfield, Col Doig, Ron Dook, Jess Epps, George Fletcher, John Fowler, Les Halse, Jack, Ken and Kay Hasson, Keith Hayes, Bill Howell, Don Hudson, Mark and Elsie Jordan, Charles and Mary King, Bernie and Babs Langridge, Gerry Maley, Wilf and Lorraine March, Ted Monk, Nellie Mullins, Don Murray, Joe and Helen Poynton, John and Cath Roberts, Gordon Rowley, Rob Smyth, Henry and Thelma Sproxton, 'Dusty' Study, Don Turton, Roy Watson, Barbara Goddard, Merv Wheatley, Jack Wicks, Joe and Dot Barron 2/5th, Jim Lines 2/5th.

R. Bayliss, Mandurah 6210

The President and Members, 2/2 Independent Company

On behalf of Mum, myself, brother, sisters and families, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to you and your members for your support during recent days.

My father (George) was always held in highest regard and whilst my military service was undertaken away from the conflicts you all experienced, I can respect and understand the importance that such comradeship held for him and holds for yourselves.

George had been looking forward to his trip away with you and even though his time spent with you was brief I know he could not have wished it to be any other way.

Again, my thanks to you, his mates, for your kind regards and assistance in making his parting so memorable to all who attended the service on Wednesday.

Best wishes to you all.

Rod Bayliss

ALBANY COUNTRY CONVENTION

Monday, August 30 - Friday, September 3

Forty members and friends boarded the coach 'Ride a Rainbow' at 9 a.m. on Monday, August 30, in pouring rain and good spirits, for the 'Five Day Experience in Albany' which had been expertly arranged by Julie and Bill of Halls Head Coach Lines, Mandurah.

At 10.30 a.m. we were enjoying morning tea in the sunshine at Quindanning, after which we were taken on a conducted tour of Ye Olde Quindanning Inne, an 80 year old beautifully furnished English Pub.

Back to the coach and through green countryside, fields of lupins, colourful everlasting and flowering peach trees, on the way to Kojonup where Julie and Bill produced a lovely lunch of cold chicken and healthy home made salads which we consumed, *al fresco*, at the old railway station Tourist Bureau. An enjoyable drive in changeable weather via Mount Barker and the Porongorups, arriving Albany at 4.30 p.m. The bar staff at Ryans Premier Hotel were startled when a coach load of thirsty travellers descended on them for a Happy Hour but rose to the occasion admirably, produced tasty hot nibbles and made us most welcome. Accommodation and dinner at the Albany International Motel was superb and added the finishing touch to a great day.

On Tuesday, after a hearty breakfast we enjoyed the sights of Albany, a guided tour of Whale World Museum, a delicious fish luncheon and a free afternoon and evening.

Wednesday, a fascinating visit to the Princess Royal Fortress which brought back to our members many memories of their army days. In 1956 the Fortress was closed and

dismantled, used as schoolrooms, a migrant hostel etc., before being vacated and subsequently vandalised. Thanks to a Restoration Project by the Town of Albany it now houses five museum display areas which are of great interest.

From the Fortress we took the steep winding road to the top of Mt Clarence to admire the spectacular views and the impressive Desert Mounted Corps Memorial, a recast of the original statue erected at Suez in 1932.

We enjoyed home cooking for lunch at The Old Strawberry Hill Farm built in 1836, now maintained by the National Trust and renowned for its fabulous gardens. After a short, very welcome afternoon rest, the best was yet to come in the form of a twilight cruise aboard the 'Silver Star,' a comfortable 45' catamaran, around the magnificent Princess Royal Harbour, the second largest natural harbour in the world. During this 3 hour cruise we enjoyed the scenery in daylight and then, as darkness fell we were able to see the lights of Albany turning on until the town looked like fairyland and while this was all taking place, our co-driver Bill had taken on the job of chef and produced a delectable barbecue with all the trimmings to satisfy the appetites brought on by the sea air and pre-prandial drinks!

After the excitement of the first three days, Thursday was to be a day of leisure for everyone to enjoy in their own way. Julie and Bill took us into town in the coach and, after shopping etc, quite a few decided to return to Ryans Hotel for a counter lunch and some conviviality. Our formal dinner at the motel in the evening was followed by a meeting to discuss the 1994 Country Convention.

Friday, another pleasant drive through picturesque country with refreshment stops at Kojonup in the park and Collie at the Corner Cafe and safely back at Mandurah by 4.30 p.m.

Mention must be made of the sterling job done by President Ted and Vice President Bill Howell in their efforts to control the group when we were not on board the coach. (Julie fined Len \$1 for referring to it as the bus!)

Welcome visitors during the week were Win Sprigg and friend Byron, and Marie Burgess from Katanning who joined us for the harbour cruise and an overnight stay.

Jack Hasson had booked and was looking forward to the Convention but was not feeling quite up to it after his recent operation. We missed you Jack.

Everyone who was fortunate enough to be part of this Country Convention would agree that it was five days very well spent, with lots of comradeship and good times. We were indeed lucky to have such a grand couple as Julie and Bill looking after us and we than them for

organising a most interesting and varied itinerary.

Your Roving Reporters.

BUSSELTON SAFARI APRIL 1994

Eric Smyth advises that bookings have passed the 100 mark for next year's Safari which is very encouraging for the organisers.

The Ship Hotel/Motel has only a few vacancies left which leaves the Paradise and Vasse still available to take bookings. There is no deadline for bookings — latecomers will be welcome and accommodation provided, but if you have made up your mind to come and have not yet booked in please do not leave it too long.

Eastern States visitors who are considering staying on a while after the Safari ends on the 14th April and are looking for accommodation in the Fremantle area can contact Jack Carey on (09) 332 7050.

That new book '**A Great Fraternity**' is selling rapidly and reports from readers have been most flattering. All consider the book to be a great buy and essential reading for Association members. Write in for your copy as soon as possible before all are sold. Price \$20 plus \$7 postage to:

**Col Doig
77 Rosedale Street
Floreat 6014**

There are but 24 copies of '**The History**' available and there will be **NO REPRINT**.

CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

**J. P. Kenneally,
Holidaying in County Cork, Ireland.**

At present Nora and I are enjoying a very pleasant holiday in a climate reminiscent of a mild, wet, winter in Sydney, an occasional touch of sunshine, interspersed with gentle rain dropping from a soft Irish cloudy sky, where a patch of blue appears for a short time, about every 24 hours. It doesn't seem to bother the Irish, as they sit in pubs singing and listening to music until about 2 a.m. I was up in Donegal and at 2 a.m. a group of young people said 'we'll go to Letterkenny to a disco'. That was 17 miles away. I think they just hired a mini bus

and went, and many of them had to back up for work.

If any of the 2/2nd go to Belfast make sure it isn't on a Sunday or a holiday Monday, Tuesday, The Sabbath, the 12th of July and another holiday after — why I don't know. Little transport, nothing open and bloody near died of hunger looking for a place to get a meal. John Knox sure laid his particular brand of Calvinism on the six countries. I reckon I'd have had a better time sitting in a morgue surrounded by corpus delicti. It's a horror but not so bad on a week day when business as normal is the go. Never me again on holidays or Sabbaths.

I came 13,000 miles to watch the Orange March commemorating the Battle of the Boyne 1690. Well, like Caesar 'Veni' 'Vidi' non 'Vici.' There was sure no Cleopatra in those ranks. I was standing in Donegal Square in front of the City Hall when I heard the bands and the First Lodge came marching by, bowler hats, sashes and fine looking marchers from grey heads down. I pretended I was tallying Tony Bowers sheep and counted. When the last Lodge marched by I had tallied 850, generously added 150 to make it an even 1,000, allow about the same for the bands and that was the 12th of July parade in Belfast. It started to pass me at 9.20 a.m. and was gone by 9.40 a.m. — 20 minutes. Bullamakanka would muster more on Anzac Day. The bands and band masters were magnificent and the huge Lambeg drums beating out their message to all and sundry. Next day banner headlines, 100,000 march to celebrate the 12th. Well, if Belfast couldn't muster any more than 1,000 I can't see the rest of the six countries mustering 99,000.

Spectators, don't ask me. By 9.42 a.m. there wasn't a soul in sight, except me, the R.U.C., armoured cars and soldiers. I was never more disappointed in anything. In one Lodge there were more Banner carriers and two marchers and the best I saw had 40 odd. I won't bore with details of the Boyne Battle William of Orange had, Germans, Danes, Swedes, Dutch and English. James the second had French, English Royalist and Irish. The Irish of course traditionally picked the losing side and paid the price. Boiled down to Protestant North Europe versus French and Irish Catholics. Louis XIVth of France backed James the second. The Pope — now hold your breath on this one (historical fact bears me out) supported William of Orange against the Irish and French Catholics. Even Catholic Austria supported William of Orange. That's why I love history and politics. They are the most intriguing of subjects, along with Theology. Perhaps that's why most people shun them. The forebears of the men marching today played little part in that battle, yet no one has celebrated it more assiduously than they for 300 years. Oh well,

wonder will Anzac Day be celebrated by 2215? If anyone is about I'd appreciate if they brought me up the answer.

As stated, there is not much sunshine, but it matters little. The skies are grey but the hearts are gay. The bus service seems to stagger and weave all over the place but finally gets one to one's destination. My brother-in-law said 'don't worry about those things, the bus will come, the bus will go and the bus will get there, it always does, and the world won't end if it doesn't.'

My sister and Nora are having a great time. My sister had a triple by-pass and wasn't doing all that well. Since coming here she sleeps better, eats better, walks miles, dances in the pubs and hasn't had a chest pain since coming. Nora and I got the flu but a couple of days will clean that up. We've been all over the place here and had a fair old ramble in England where the weather was glorious. The countryside was beautiful, of course hedge bound country lanes anywhere sound great. They are not. They completely obstruct the view. A barbed wire fence may not look appealing but it does protect the property without obstructing the view, like a buxom wench in a mini dress, or wide belt.

I saw Michael Calvert in Sussex, he is looking reasonably well, needs a stick these days, but then he has had one hell of a rough tough life. Most of his troubles at present stem from the Department that pays his Army pension. They are slicing quite a piece out of it on the grounds that his disabilities are not as disabling as they were. Now, if someone can prove that disabilities improve at the age of 82, that person has all ancients marching on the road to perpetual youth. The most ridiculous decision, we only have to look at ourselves to realise that it is utter rubbish. Michael will, of course appeal but at his age and with his background the question should not have arisen.

Well, all you 'B' Troop and 4 Section men, step back. Apart from Doug Dixon, who was an 'A' Troop man anyway, I have not seen a fitter man than Ian Ronald. I called on him in Beckenham and he's jumping out of his skin, up at 5 a.m. (summer only), cycles 4 or 5 miles, cultivates his half acre and back to base. Ian and I have devised a course of action for Ron Hilliard, a 5 acre plot 10 miles out on Botany Bay, a Cyclops scooter, a fork and a tablespoon and I reckon Ron will be cured in no time. Ian enjoys life, is his own vintner and vegetable producer and, a day or so after I'd seen him, was taking off on a day trip to Holland, total cost for him and his wife, two pounds. That's cheap travelling. Naturally, he likes the life here, in fact he has the game sewn up. A few months in Australia, the

balance in England. He wishes to be remembered to all.

That goes for Nora and myself also. I've written the equivalent of about 80 pages of letters in two days and I call it a day. Football fever mounting! The Ashes (cricket) look like staying with us. Michael will post this in Sydney. He has had a wonderful time here, on the move mostly. I'm dead weary — a few days in Youghal will, I hope, improve me.

Paddy

W. B. Tucker
32 Tuppal St
Tocumwal 2714

Have enclosed a couple of cheques to meet my normal commitments at this time of the year.

Our mid year mini safari organised by Norm and Fran Tillett up river at Corowa was a great success with an excellent turn up of members. Once again the sporting and service clubs supported our get-together and helped to make the reunion an enjoyable event.

I plan and hope to make the Busselton Safari but will leave definite confirmation until later this year.

Regards to all.

Bill

R. N. Splatt
10/34 Fraser St
Herne Hill 3218

As you will see, I am now back in Victoria. Arrived here a fortnight ago from Adelaide and busily settling and sorting things out. It was good to come back home after all these years.

Many changes have taken place in the city but my old friends are the same and after an hour or so in their company, along with their families, was very pleasant to roll back a few years.

Find the weather a little cooler than Adelaide but I like it. Adelaide can be quite uncomfortable during the summer months with its humidity and higher temperatures.

Hope to commence painting again this week, have a few pieces on hand to complete and am anxious to get back to it again.

All the best to all the fellows of 2/2nd. Cheers.

Raymond

Mrs J. Smith
6 King St
Shortland 2307
per daughter Joyce

I'm writing this for Mum who is having a bit of trouble writing at the moment. She has had the enclosed cheque for the Courier for a long time.

Mum is hoping to get over to the west for the next Safari. She is looking forward to seeing everyone — only wishes it was for longer than the week.

Regards to everyone and good health. Best wishes.

Joyce

Mrs B. Hopkins
14A Norman St
Bentley 6102

Enclosed is a donation for the Courier. Hello to all. Looking forward to our next get-together.

Best wishes for your health and happiness.

Sincerely,

Betty

Mrs P. Brown
26 Scadden St
Wembley 6014

I look forward to receiving the Courier and am enclosing a donation for it.

Yours truly,

Phyllis

Mrs D. M. Gibbling
4/8 Dunlop Crt
Mermaid Waters 4218

A few lines to tell you of my new address. I just love to receive the Courier as Bill Wallis, my late husband, talked of the Timor boys I have always felt that I know them. Enclosed is a donation to help.

I re-married in 1986 and last year was once again widowed. I have lost two husbands in nine years, both good men, but life must go on. I am off to the U.K. and America for three months on the 19th August so am quite busy with preparations.

Best wishes.

Yours in friendship

Daph

K. Wilson
'Glen Lee'
Collie Rd
Gilgandra 2827

I am enclosing a cheque to cover cost and postage for a copy of the book 2/2 Commando History to be sent over to me.

Had a visit from Tich and Olive in May for a couple of days. They were on their way around Australia again, said this would be the last as age is catching up. It was great to see them again. They were going to call in and see the Cullens after they left here. No doubt about it, he has got the game sewn up.

Had a pretty rough time in the last drought, however, Nola and I hope to get over and see you all in April next year. Will drive over and have a look at some of Australia at the same time. I hope to be able to see Sprocky, Sid, Jack Wicks, George and Robbie.

Thank you for your trouble Jack and we hope to see you both next April. All the best.

Keith

I. Ronald
5 Westmoat Close
Westgate Rd Beckenham
Kent BR3 2BX

It was great to meet up with some of the chaps in Sydney and to receive copies of the *Courier* again after a long lapse. However, it was sad to read of so much sickness and so many deaths.

Margaret and I enjoyed our stay in Australia and we returned fit and well. I need to be, because we have a large garden allotment, rented from the local Council. We have a small vineyard and grow vegetables, flowers and fruit. It is two miles away and I cycle there every day. This I enjoy and it no doubt keeps me fit.

We were delighted and surprised the other day — Paddy Kenneally called on us and we had a great yarn. Margaret met him for the first time and we noted how fit he was.

Enclosed is a contribution for the *Courier*.

Yours faithfully,

Ian

John Chalwell
57 Campbell Drive
Hillarys 6025
11.8.93

Dear Bob,

Enclosed snap of Keith Wilson taken recently on our round Australia trip. I don't know if you

still run the "Rogues Gallery" in the *Courier*, or if this snap is clear enough for reproduction, Keith is a bit of a recluse and no way would he send you a shot, yet I'm sure he would be happy to see it there. He keeps all his *Courier* copies and takes a great interest in reading them, we were good mates in 9 Section and still keep in touch.

There is a slight possibility that he could make the Busselton Safari.

If this photo is not clear enough don't bother to return it as I have a copy.

Kindest regards

"Tich" Chalwell

GERALDTON NEWS

Joan and I were blessed with the opportunity of visiting Margaret and Eric Weller during their brief visit to their Geraldton home before they returned to Perth so that Margaret can be close to her doctor. She certainly has had a tough spin following her major operation and it was heart warming to see the wonderful support she is receiving from Eric and her two sisters with whom we had the pleasure of chatting during their Geraldton visit. This visit also enabled us to say a big thank you to one of her sisters, Sister Anthony of the Dominican Order of Nuns, for being her 'Honorary Secretary' when answering letters Margaret received when hospitalised in Perth. I also know that the Wonthealla Bowling Club, of which Margaret is a valuable member, greatly appreciated Sister Anthony's letter writing in this regard.

Eric told me that on their return to Perth on August 29, he and Margaret would be staying with son Anthony at 1 April Road, Dianella 6062, phone (09) 345 5616.

During their visit east to see daughter Anne-Marie at Wagga, Eric and Margaret also called on Arch and Dawn Claney at Wangaratta.

It was great to see the 'West Australian' photo of the eight members of our Association and the former Japanese officer because the heading 'Timor Unites Former Foes' immediately told the story of the continued endeavours to have justice brought to the Timorese situation which is a disgrace of the highest order to Australia and the gutless politicians.

Please find attached payment for a copy of Col Doig's 'A Great Fraternity' and place the remainder in the *Courier* account. Hearty congratulations, Col, on your continued great work.

God bless all members of our wonderful Association and all those associated with it.

Peter Barden

N.S.W. NEWS

The Annual General Meeting was held at Arncliffe R.S.L. Club on Monday, September 6th. Unfortunately the troops are getting pretty thin on the ground so we have had to leave Office Bearers etc. the same as last year. Not a lot to report as far as the sick parade goes. Ron Hilliard is back to his old cheeky self after his bypass operation and the rest of us seem to be coping with the ravages of old age as well as can be expected.

We have been blessed with a visit from Ralph Finkelstein who is visiting with his wife Eve. I arranged a game of bowls for him but as luck would have it the weather washed it out, so now we are meeting him for lunch at the City Bowling Club this Friday. More about it later.

For those who are interested, the Combined Commando Association Christmas luncheon will be held at the Paddington R.S.L. on Thursday, November 18th at 12 noon.

Our own 2/2 Christmas luncheon will be held at the Dee Why R.S.L. on Saturday, November 27th, gathering at 11.30 for 12 noon sit down. Last year was a great success at the Harbord Diggers Club, so we hope to see a good roll up once again.

Jack Hartley

H. Handicott
18/151 Denison St
Hamilton 2303

If I don't get this away soon I'll be able to save 45c and bring it with us.

Received the *Courier* this week, everything stops when it arrives. It's just about due for its third reading. Much better reading than Mr Keating's activities. I hope those arguing with Immigration Department win out in the end.

Hope Margaret Weller's health is better. Isn't it a shame we are all cracking up, but worse still, our mates going out on their last patrol.

Have just given Joyce Smith a bell, she is going OK, stopped taking some of her pills and feeling much better.

I've ordered one of Col's new books — they should go well.

Attached are a couple of cheques, one to finalise my Timor Appeal and the other for the *Courier*.

We are looking forward to April. Hope to return on the Indian Pacific and change to the Ghan in Adelaide for the trip to the centre and back. Joyce hopes to do that as well.

We are having perfect Spring weather, 14 days and not a cloud in the sky.

Regards to all and keep as well as you can. I'm coming along OK.

Cheers,

Amyce and Harry

SICK LIST

We regret to advise that Margaret Weller is very seriously ill. Our thoughts and prayers are with all the Weller family during their time of trial.

Dot Harrington spent a few days in the Mount Hospital recently. Reg and Dot have been great stalwarts of the Association for many years and we hope that Dot is soon back to her bubbly self.

Bob Sargent, brother of 'Blue,' was holidaying in the west from Victoria and thought members might like to know about 'Blue.' Bob phoned to say that 'Blue' is starting to come good after having had a rough time over the past couple of years.

Best wishes to Fred Sparkman who is still receiving treatment at Hollywood Repat. Hospital.

W.A. members have been pleased to meet up with John and Cath Roberts, both looking fit and enjoying a holiday in Perth with their daughter. They will be returning to the west next year to attend the Busselton Safari.

Joan Darge and friend John have enjoyed a busy visit to Perth to take part in a square dancing competition. When they come to the west next year for the Safari they plan to stay for a few weeks and catch up with everyone.

Mandurah members would like to thank Theo Adams in New Guinea and Alan Luby in Sydney for their phone calls to check on our safety after the frightening tornado which did so much damage recently. Your thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated.

AUSTRALIAN COMMANDO ASSOCIATION

The Secretary
 2/2 Commando Association
 GPO Box T1646
 Perth 6001

Dear Jack,

Recently I had a telephone call from a Dr Keith Horsley who is the chief researcher, D.V.A., Canberra. He is known to me and has been a great help in supplying information and backing veterans going for disability pensions.

According to some overseas research, people who have had a past, prolonged diet of Cassava (Manioca) have a high risk of developing into diabetics, and Keith wants to research the subject in order that such a hypothesis will be accepted by D.V.A. as a war caused disability.

As those who served in Timor would be the ideal subject for such a project, could you please let me have a nominal roll of the 2/2, underlining or highlighting those who were in Timor.

He has guaranteed that your members will not be pestered and any contact will be no more than an interview or filling out questionnaires — everything will be in confidence. This is not the first time we have assisted in such research to the advantage of our members.

Best regards

(Sgd) Neil Harcourt
28th August, 1993

N.B. At our committee meeting on 14th September the request for the Australian Commando Association to have a nominal roll to pass on to Dr Horsley was considered. The committee decided against providing this information as they felt that some members would not want their names submitted for the project. They considered it should be left to members to make their own decision. If you have no objection to the above request please send in writing your army number, particulars of service, age and current address to:

**Mr N. Harcourt
Hon. Secretary
Aust Commando Association
12 Whipbird Court
Burleigh Waters
Queensland 4220**

You are asked to send your particulars as soon as convenient.

Our Editor, Arch Campbell will be writing direct to Dr Keith Horsley giving him what information he has on the incidence of diabetic cases among our members which seems to be unusually high for such a small Unit.

Cassava is a member of the flowering plant family cultivated throughout the tropical world for its tuberous roots from which Cassava flour, breads, tapioca, a laundry starch and even an alcoholic beverage are derived

Tom Nisbet and Alan Luby will be our representatives at the above service.

The two representatives of each Association will stand, one abreast, with their banner on Anzac Parade to form a guard of honour for the funeral procession of the Unknown Australian Soldier. They will be located on the inside barricading lining the entire length of Anzac Parade. Once the funeral procession has passed, the representatives are welcome to join as mourners in the funeral procession by falling in behind and following the procession up Anzac Parade to the parade ground at the Australian War Memorial. Associations should not dip their banners when the funeral procession is passing.

It is anticipated that the funeral procession will commence moving up Anzac Parade at approximately 9.50 a.m. and that the ceremony will formally conclude at approximately 11.15 a.m. Unit Association representatives will be expected to be in position at 9.40 a.m.

Other Association members present on the day will be able to find a position at the Australian War Memorial with other members of the general public, or will be able to form up behind the banner on the outside of the barricade lining Anzac Parade. If the latter option is chosen then the members will be able to follow the procession up Anzac Parade, but on the outside of the barricade. Members will not be able to form up behind the banner at the parade ground. Should any members be unable to attend the ceremony, they and their families will be able to view it via a national broadcast on ABC Television.

The remains will lie-in-state from the afternoon of Sunday, 7 November to the morning of Thursday, 11 November in Kings Hall at Old Parliament House. Members of the public can visit Old Parliament House following the arrival and between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. There will also be an opportunity following the ceremony on 11 November and until Sunday, 14 November to view the coffin in the Tomb in the Hall of Memory. After this time the Tomb will be sealed. The Australian War Memorial will be encouraging this year and from here forward that visitors lay a single flower upon the Tomb. The official party will be laying single flowers on 11 November. During the lying-in-state and following the funeral service members of the public will be invited to lay a single flower as an act of remembrance for those who gave their lives in war.

Qantas and Ansett are offering significant discounts for people wanting to fly to Canberra for this ceremony.

THE ENTOMBMENT OF THE UNKNOWN AUSTRALIAN SOLDIER

Australian War Memorial
11th November, 1993

2/2nd COMMANDO ASSOCIATION N.S.W. BRANCH

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - 1992-93

It is indeed a great pleasure to be here with you, my colleagues of so many years, and to present this, my Annual Report, on another very good year. Hopefully, as the Vintners would wish, '93 will be a year of good Vintage for we Vintage People.

Fortunately on our side of the country our losses of members has been extremely light, particularly in view of the age bracket we have entered, and the number who have passed on interstate.

We remember with sadness Ron Orr, Max Blomfield, Fred 'Sandy' Eggleton, and Tom O'Brien, and extend our most sincere condolences to the families of all our brothers who have done their Last Patrol.

Our Xmas Luncheon last December at Harbord Diggers Club was successful in spite of inclement weather with 23 members, wives, and widows in attendance.

Anzac Day saw the usual Roll-Up of stalwarts, and on this occasion we had the pleasure of Ralph Conley and Fred Bryant from Queensland joining us for the day.

Also present and receiving a fair amount of publicity were Alexandra da Silva Tilman, an East Timorese National recently arrived via Portugal, his wife Francesca, daughter Adelina, Manuel Pires and his daughter Mailena and other Timorese friends. Paddy Kenneally gave an excellent interview on the Hinch Report to support them in their application for an extension on their Visitors Visa, which had been knocked back by the then Minister Gerry Hand.

We trust their fresh application for permanent residence will be approved by the Immigration Department in due course, without too many hassles. That great member Ray Aitken came to the rescue as a Guarantor when we needed an urgent response. The N.S.W. Commando Association has launched an appeal with \$500 as a starter, and requested the Australian Association to get behind it to ensure that the bond money would be covered if it becomes necessary. Hopefully, other state branches will come to the party, as well as R.S.L. Branches and even individuals. At present, we await the outcome of the application lodged on 18th August.

On 16th August, Ray Cole, Jack Iles, Edith and myself, along with Gordon Hart and Dan O'Connor of 2/4th and a number of our Timorese friends, met up with an ex-Japanese soldier, ex Platoon Commander Shohachi Iwamura, who had fought against us in Timor,

and his interpreter Kiyoko Furusawa, at Mascot Airport. The purpose of the visit was to let us know that some Japs at least have sympathies for the Timorese and oppose the Indonesian invasion of their country. They have even spoken their views at the United Nations General Assembly.

As their stay in Sydney was virtually only overnight, our part of their seven day visit was only minimal, and confined to a Press Conference at the Airport, followed by a brief period for discussion at a very expensive Airport Hilton Hotel. Iwamura appeared to have very comprehensive records of places and people, and was quite free in his answers to the many questions thrown at him.

As I had been indisposed for the previous several days, I was quite happy that a young man, one John Wing, who had been a teacher at Osaka University, and knew the visitors in Japan, had arranged to take them to dinner at Parramatta along with other friends.

They departed for New Zealand early next morning.

I trust that as many members as possible will attend our Xmas Function at a Club to be selected, and also the N.S.W. Association gathering at Paddington — Woolahra R.S.L. Club on 18th November for lunch.

My thanks to all members of our Association for your support during the year, especially our secretary Jack, and the other officers. For those who have not enjoyed very good health we hope that the next year will be better for you and yorus, and that we will still be able to meet again at the same time next year.

With best wishes.

Alan Luby
President

6th September, 1993

AN HISTORIC OCCASION

Visit of Mr Shohachi Iwamura and Mrs Kiyoko (Kiyo) Furusawa

It is necessary to give some background as to how this visit came about.

When the massacre occurred in Dili, East timor, in November 1991, the Association made every effort to bring the plight of the people of East timor to the attention of the world, having failed miserably to move the Australian Government to any real effort in this terrible situation. Letters were forwarded to Ex Service Organisations in many parts of the world including The Legion of Ex-Servicemen in U.S.A., Canada, United Kingdom and New Zealand and it was also decided to include ex-



Front Row (left to right): Jack Carey, Doc Wheatley, Kiyoko Furusawa (Interpreter), Sohachi Iwamura, Domingos De Olivera, Colin Doig, Bill Howell. Back Row (left to right) Bernie Langridge, George Bayliss, Ted Monk, Henry Sproxton, Bob Smyth, John Fowler, John Poynton, Ray Aitken, Bob Smyth, Jack Wicks, Dick Darrington, Les Halse, John Burridge.

service persons in Japan in the hope that they would also throw their weight behind our efforts and bring the case to the full notice of the United Nations. The only real contributor was the Ex Legion of Canada which made representations to the U.N. The American Legion said this matter was not on 'their agenda,' no replies were received from the U.K. or New Zealand.

Regarding our overtures to the Japanese, the only response to a letter put together by Mrs P. Thatcher and translated into Japanese by a University academic was from Mr Iwamura. It was discovered that he had already put a case to the 'Special Committee on Decolonization' on August 13, 1987. He had told of the Japanese occupation of East Timor, 1940-1945, and of the horrific usage by the Japanese of the East Timorese people and pleaded the case for United Nations not to allow the Indonesians to perform the same atrocities once again on these unfortunate people. As a result of his stance he was ostracised by his own people and especially his old regimental members. He received death threats and was generally abused. This did not

shake his determination to do something for the cause of the East Timorese, and he joined with a small band in Japan who are promoting the cause of the East Timorese in many centres of Japan, especially in Osaka and Tokyo.

Mr Iwamura was an army officer in East Timor for two years and four months from November 1942, engaged in transportation and road and bridge building and stationed mostly in the Bawcau, Bagulai and Allimbata areas.

As a result of correspondence between Mrs Thatcher and Kiyoko Furusawa, who speaks and writes English excellently, a request was made for these two people to visit Australia with the object of Old Foes meeting to assist the cause of the East Timorese, with the high hope that publicity generated by the visit would awaken deep interest in Japan for the cause, Japan being the greatest contributor to aid for Indonesia. This idea was forwarded to the W.A. Branch of the Association for consideration, as W.A. is generally regarded as the parent body. At a well attended committee meeting on July 13, 1993 the matter was brought to the attention of the Committee by Secretary Jack

Carey and Col Doig, who had both been contacted by Mrs Thatcher. After a full and free discussion it was unanimously decided that we would be prepared to accept such a visit as it possibly could do considerable good for the cause. The decision was conveyed to Mrs Thatcher who was the go-between for the parties.

Advice was rapidly to hand that Mr Iwamura and Kiyo Furusawa would be arriving in Perth on Tuesday, August 10 which, incidentally, was the W.A. Committee Meeting day, and that accommodation and publicity be arranged for an itinerary commencing Perth on August 10, departing for Melbourne Thursday, August 12 and on to Sydney August 15, departing for Japan, Monday, August 16.

A Sub-Committee was called in W.A. to arrange the necessary details for the W.A. visit. Thanks to John Poynton accommodation was arranged at the Airways Hotel (where we hold our Anzac Day Reunions) at excellent rates. Jack Carey arranged for Andre Malan, special features writer for the 'West Australian' with a photographer to interview the couple, also a segment of the Gerry Gannon talk back programme was arranged for Wednesday, August 11. A room was booked at the Airways Hotel for a meeting with the Japanese guests and for the necessary Interviews.

It was decided that the Committee meet as usual and at midday all possible to go to the Hotel to meet with the Japanese. Everything happened in haste and as many as possible of our members were contacted by phone and requested to attend at the Hotel where drinks and snacks were to be available. Bob Smyth kindly arranged to meet the visitors at 1 a.m. and set them up at their hotel. The actual meeting occurred at 12.15 p.m. with 16 members, Andre Malan and photographer Nic Ellis and Domingos Oliveira representing the Timorese Association in W.A.

The atmosphere was one of expectancy and some excitement but it did not take long for everyone to become acquainted with the two people who proved to be most genuine and full of personality. Mr Iwamura did not speak English but all proceedings were interpreted by Kiyo. The guest was able to read a specially prepared speech in English which he handed to our President Ted Monk on its completion. He told of the Japanese treatment of the East Timorese and also spoke of the current treatment of these unfortunate people by the Indonesians and sincerely hoped that this getting together of Old Foes would generate a high degree of publicity in Japan and so help to benefit the cause of the East Timorese people.

Many questions were passed to the speaker who answered each question in a most able manner. It transpired that Mr Iwamura's speech



Foreground: Shohachi Iwamura. Left to right: Colin Doig, Jack Carey, Ray Aitken, Bill Howell, Bob Smyth, Hentry Sproxtton, Bernie Langridge, Ted Monk (president).

at United Nations was heard by Domingos Oliveira who was also present at that dramatic meeting. When this was made known to Mr Iwamura he immediately left his place to embrace Mr Oliveira — it was a most touching moment. During all this time Andrew Malan was taking notes and later had a lengthy interview with our guest. Later a special photo for insertion in the 'West Australian' Wednesday edition was taken and also a full group photo was arranged, a copy of which appears in this issue. The couple were the guests of Mr and Mrs Smyth for Tuesday's evening meal.

The coverage in the Wednesday edition of the 'West Australian' was excellent. Mr Malan did the show really proud, had all his facts right and as a publicity affair it was outstanding and the photo came up in a grand manner.

On Wednesday, John Fowler and Jack Carey took the visitors on a tour of the suburbs after the interview for the Gerry Gannon show which was steered through for the guests by Ray Aitken. This was an excellent interview and did the participants great credit. A tape of this event has been forwarded to Mr Iwamura in Japan. The couple were entertained at lunch

by Jack and Delys Carey, John Fowler, Ray Aitken and Col Doig. They proved to be a charismatic duo — Kiyoto was especially charming. They took with them a couple of History Books and a couple of the new 'A Great Fraternity,' Delys made a presentation of a koala which played 'A Jolly Swagman' and Jack presented a special W.A. ball point pen made of W.A. timber with the Double Diamond emblem on it. In the afternoon and evening the East Timorese of W.A. took over and had a good rundown with these people.

Bob Smyth delivered the couple to the airport on Thursday morning for onward transit to Melbourne.

To sum up the W.A. section of this exercise, it was as much of a success as could be made of such a project. The couple proved to be easy to know and most intelligent. Mr Iwamura is an engineer now retired and Kiyoko is a lecturer at a university. Both are hard workers for the East Timorese cause in Japan and are most courageous in taking this course as it is currently not a particularly happy one to take, especially in acknowledging Japanese war crimes which definitely brought all types of repercussions on to Mr Iwamura's head. As Ray Aitken remarked, they are both people you would be happy to know.

Mr Iwamura's Speech in Perth

Dear Comrades,

I read your letter over and over again. Fifty years ago I was forced to meet you as an enemy in Timor but now I want only to express my respect and brotherly affection for you.

If I am alive today and able to meet you, it is because the Timorese people helped me and fed me, as they did you, when we were in need.

When I learned that the people from the 2/2nd Commando Association had lacked support by Australian Government and also the Returned Services League were not particularly helpful I was very surprised. The same thing has happened in Japan. The nucleus of the forces that occupied East Timor in World War II was the 2nd Formosan Infantry Regiment. The former members of this Regiment have very friendly relations with Indonesia today. I, who was once a member, am now ostracized by the Regiment in a way similar to your situation.

If we are human we cannot ignore the tragedy of East Timor. But not only has Japan still not apologized or compensated the Timorese for our occupation, today it is the largest donor of economic aid to Indonesia. By thus backing the slaughter of the East Timorese, it is, I believe, committing a second crime.

Fortunately though, there are some fine young people in Japan who are working in solidarity with, and for the independence of East Timor, together with others around the world. I am encouraged by them and consider myself one of them, though I am not able to do a lot.

Now we are no longer enemies, and I am very proud to be your comrade and friend. Thank you.

The Sydney Segment of Iwamura Visit

Although this was the shortest section of a very significant visit it was also a very important section as many journalists were present, including some reporting for Japanese papers, and this really was part of the whole exercise in the way of promotion.

The visitors were met at the airport by Alan Luby, our N.S.W. President, Gordon Hart and Dan O'Connor of 2/4th Association. They were booked into the Hilton Hotel and arrangements were made for the use of a special lounge to meet and interview Mr Iwamura and Mrs Furusawa. Apparently the cost of liquid refreshments at this 5 Star Hotel were more than just a bit prohibitive and were confined to about a drink a piece. Those present were Alan and Edith Luby, Jack Iles, Ray Cole 2/2nd, Gordon Hart and Dan O'Connor 2/4th, Michelle Turner author of the book 'Telling' about the ordeals of the East Timorese people, John Wing, university contact Osaka, Catherine Munro, Kyodo News Service, Takeshi Susuki, Agahi News Bureau, Josephine Cafagna, SBS News, Tony Stevens and Andrew Taylor, Sydney Morning Herald and the following East Timorese — Jawares Nito, Gusmao (son of Xanana who is under life sentence for alleged rebellion) and daughter Angelica Dos Santos, Bernadette De Almeida.

The arrival of the Japanese guests was filmed by SBS and became the subject of a news item, a photo was taken in conjunction with the news which eventually preceded an interview on the programme "Dateline" produced in Melbourne. The couple gave an address to the meeting and were thoroughly questioned on many issues by the journalists and those present. The result of this interview was a full article plus photo of Alan Luby Iwamura and Alexandre Da Silva in the 'Sydney Morning Herald' on Tuesday, August 17. There was also an article 'The Japanese Time' on Friday, August 20 and it is understood there were other items in Japanese newspapers.

The visit to Sydney was brief as our guests were taken over by Mr Wing who was a close friend in Japan and he saw to their departure on the evening of the Sydney visit.

Visit of Mr Iwamura and Kiyo Furusawa To Melbourne

Tom Nisbet, Max and I met Mr Iwamura and Kiyo at Tullamarine Airport on a glorious sunny day on Thursday the 12th at about 4.35pm. Tom was toey, and I sensed he had many reservations about the coming meeting. (No doubt his feelings were shared by many of the other boys who decided to meet with their former foe). I remember thinking at the time how little the Timorese would have appreciated how momentous the meeting between old adversaries was and what courage and generosity of spirit, on both sides, it required.

The meeting between the two old soldiers was very poignant for us on-lookers. The towering scot and the slight Asian man, both polite, but a little diffident. Then suddenly the occasion became relaxed and warm as Mr Iwamura pointed proudly to his double diamond lapel badge and Kiyo remarked how delighted and happy he was to receive it with Mr Iwamura breaking in and saying in English, "very proud, very proud."

On Thursday evening our Japanese guests met with over 70 members (both Timorese and Australian) of the Talks for Timor campaign. At this meeting Mr Iwamura gave an account of his career in East Timor and was questioned about it by Australian members of the audience. Then he and Kiyo told us of the work of the East Timor solidarity groups in Japan and briefed us on what the election of the new Japanese government will mean for their work. They are optimistic, claiming that four members of the new cabinet are members of East Timor solidarity groups. The Timorese were quick to indicate to them that in Australia the current government made very encouraging noises regarding Timor before they came to power! In the audience were Tom Hyland from Australian Associated Press (AAP) who wrote a long article and a reporter from 3ZZZ a local community radio station, which put a half hour program together from the meeting. This went to air on the 31st of August.

Friday morning our Japanese friends met members of the Victorian branch at Tom Nisbet's house. Present were Jack Fox, Fred Broadhurst and Paul Costelloe. All present then adjourned to Sherbrooke Lodge, a distinguished restaurant in the Dandenongs. Also present was a TV crew from the SBS program *Dateline* which recorded the meeting at Tom's home and then followed us to Sherbrooke Lodge. We spent a few pleasant hours chatting, sipping and dining together in between the TV crew interviewing all the ex soldiers. Its hard to believe just how much filming is required to make a couple of minutes of television. It was, I believe, a very successful

day. The TV crew had been alerted to the visit of Mr Iwamura and the reason for it by Colin South, who had been contacted by Tom Nisbet.

That evening Mr Iwamura met with three members of FRETILIN and after they left he met a lady representing the Timorese community in Melbourne and a Timorese academic in Melbourne. The Timorese academic was from Bagia (where Mr Iwamura had been based during his time in East Timor) and it turned out that his uncle had been one of Mr Iwamura's closest friends on East Timor. The uncle was still alive in East Timor, surviving both imprisonment by the Portuguese for working with Mr Iwamura in the building of a road from Bagia to Uato Carabau, and by the Indonesians for aiding the guerillas. As you can imagine Iwamura San was delighted. He immediately made a tape recorded message to be sent to his old friend.

On Saturday morning another radio interview. This time with the East Timorese program on ethnic radio, which went to air on the Thursday, the 19th of August. The radio interview was followed by a meeting with the Australian East Timor Association (AETA) with the purpose of organising a method of consolidating the efforts of the various Timor support groups world wide. In the afternoon Shohachi and Kiyo went to watch the rehearsal of a young Timorese dance troop and to meet with the young members. The SBS TV crew were again on hand to film the afternoon activities. (The TV program was shown on Monday 16th at 7pm). Saturday evening another delegation of Timorese met with our guests, this time from UDT.

Our guests were interviewed for a one hour radio program at 3CR, a Melbourne community radio station with the largest listening audience, on Sunday morning. This program went to air on 24th August. Shopping in the afternoon for Kiyo and Shohachi which meant they missed the football. Kiyo has promised to come back and see a live game in the future. Then to a formal reception and dinner with representatives of the Melbourne Timorese community where Mr Iwamura formally apologised for his part in the war in East Timor. He was questioned very closely for over two hours by members of the community present, several of whom had fathers killed by the Japanese. As those who have met Kiyo and Mr Iwamura will appreciate they handled the situation very well. He recounted many incidents when Timorese had helped him when he was sick or hungry, explaining that one of the reasons he speaks out on East Timor's behalf is a way of thanking those Timorese. For me the most touching moment of this evening was when the President of the Timorese Association of Victoria, with tears in

her eyes, said, "All my life I have regarded with loathing any Timorese who helped the Japanese. After listening to Mr Iwamura I realise these Timorese people also have a human face."

On the 12th of August ABC Radio National News woke me at 6am regarding the visit. I believe an extract from it was broadcast on the national news that morning but I did not hear it nor do I remember what I said. It must have conveyed something intelligent because I have been amazed by the large numbers of people who have been giving me stick about it ever since! Tom Nisbet conveyed our guests to the airport and saw them safely en route to Sydney.

The one thing I am sad about is that Paddy Kenneally would not have been there to welcome them. He would so have enjoyed talking to Iwamura San.

P. L. Thatcher

Summary of the Visit

Although the visit was viewed with much trepidation the personalities of these two Japanese people soon overcame any initial problems. The object of the visit — the getting together of old foes to further the cause of the East Timorese, was indeed as successful as such an event could be. It is only hoped that some fruit will come eventually from the Japanese who are in an excellent position to bring pressure to bear on the Indonesians and their vicious annexation of East Timor.

Special thanks are due to the following people who did so much to make this project a success — Bob Smyth, Jack Carey, John Fowler, Ray Aitken, Patsy and Max Thatcher who, inadvertently were responsible for the visit of the Japanese to Australia, Tom Nisbet and the other Victorians who looked after them on their big day in Melbourne, Alan Luby who, despite severe illness, organised the Sydney end of the visit. To journalist Andre Malan for his remarkably accurate coverage in the "*West Australian*" and photographer Nic Ellis for his great photographs. To television station SBS for its excellent coverage in the "*New Report*" and "*Dateline*." The ABC Gerry Gannon radio show for the segment aired at prime time. The "*Sydney Morning Herald*" journalist Tony Stevens and photographer Andrew Taylor and, last but not least, journalist Cameron Hay of the "*Japan Times*."

Col Doig

Article published in
"The West Australian"
August 11, 1993

Timor unites former foes

By **ANDRE MALAN**

FIFTY years after they were locked in fierce combat against the Japanese on East Timor, a group of Australian war veterans have joined forces with an enemy officer — to rid the former battleground of a new invader.

The commandos of the 2/2 Independent Company, drawn mainly from WA, retreated to the mountains and waged a highly successful guerilla war against the Japanese after Allied forces elsewhere in Asia had surrendered or were driven to retreat. The commandos' survival depended heavily on the support of East Timorese helpers and ever since the 1975 Indonesian invasion of East Timor, the veterans have lobbied relentlessly for a tougher Australian stance against Jakarta's aggression.

Yesterday, over beer and sandwiches at a Perth hotel, members of the 2/2 Commando Association welcomed Shohachi Iwamura, a former Japanese officer in East Timor who has been waging a similar campaign in his country. The meeting created considerable soul-searching among some of the association members, who had to overcome ill-feeling against the Japanese in order to attend.

However, the dignified Japanese visitor read an emotional statement to his former enemies in which he expressed his "respect and brotherly affection" for the Australians and called for solidarity in support of East Timor.

Mr Iwamura acknowledged that men under his command had raped Timorese women and caused the deaths of men press-ganged into working for the Japanese.

Article published in
"Sydney Morning Herald"
Tuesday, August 17, 1993

Now they're comrades in peace

By **Tony Stephens**

THE old Japanese soldier bowed his politeness, in the Japanese way. He had come to Sydney to make his peace, but also to plan a new campaign of battle, in which the old enemies would fight on the same side.

The old Australian soldiers returned the politeness, while cracking a joke or two, in the Australian way.

They gave Mr Shohachi Iwamura the red

badge of their commando association, as a token of friendship and a sign of time passing. He seemed grateful, calling them "comrades" and saying he was proud to be their friend.

Mr Iwamura had been wounded by Australians in Timor. Now, would the new comrades talk about old wars and old times over a drink?"

"I think we'll talk more about the present times," said Mr Alan Luby, who had fought with the 2/2nd Commando Squadron in Timor against the Japanese.

Mr Iwamura was happy with that. He admits to Japanese atrocities during the war. Men under his command raped Timorese women and many Timorese men forced to work for the Japanese had died of starvation.

He welcomed Sunday's apology by the new Japanese Prime Minister, Mr Hosokawa, for his country's aggression. "It's very good news," said Mr Iwamura, "but it's too late."

Having accepted the past, Mr Iwamura wants to get on with the present. He went last night to befriend East Timorese living in Sydney, people like Mr Alexandre da Silva, who fought for Australia during the war.

Mr Iwamura wants Australia and Japan to join together to take a case for the independence of East Timor to the United Nations.

He went to the UN Decolonisation Committee in 1987. "It is painful to speak today of the sacrifices and burdens we placed upon the East Timorese, a people who had nothing to do with the war . . . Yet, after the war, the Japanese Government paid no war reparations to East Timor.

"If we are human, we cannot ignore the tragedy of East Timor.

"Not only has Japan still not apologised or compensated the Timorese for our occupation, Japan is now the largest donor of economic aid to Indonesia. By thus backing the slaughter of the East Timorese, it is, I believe, committing a second crime.

When Allied forces in Asia surrendered or retreated before the advancing Japanese in World War II, the commandos headed for the hills and fought successfully as guerillas.

Mr Luby and two of his surviving colleagues, Mr Gordon Hart and Mr Dan O'Connor, agreed yesterday that they would not have survived without the help of the Timorese.

Mr Iwamura said Japanese supporters of East Timor had raised nearly \$150,000 towards a special school in Darwin for East Timorese expatriates.

Article published in
"The Japanese Times"
August 20, 1993

OLD ENEMIES UNITE FOR CAUSE Ex-foes fight for East Timor

By Cameron Hay

OSAKA — Enemies who once faced each other half a century ago in East Timor met earlier this month in Australia, this time as allies fighting for the freedom of local people who fed and supported them during the Pacific War.

Although Shohachi Iwamura, who commanded an Imperial Japanese Army platoon in East Timor until 1945, and Australian 2/2nd Commandos left the island north of Australia under different circumstances, they took home similar memories of the East Timorese.

Iwamura, 74, who was responsible for marshalling thousands of locals to build a vital supply route on the island, left East Timor in March 1945, fearing he would be tried for war crimes if captured.

The Australian commandos, precursors of the elite Special Air Services battalion, fought a guerilla war on the island until November 1942, when the exhausted men were evacuated under cover of darkness by small ship.

Both sides remember the generosity of the East Timorese, who despite being invaded first by the Australians and then by the Japanese, offered food and lodging to both sides.

"Without the East Timorese, I wouldn't have made it," Iwamura said.

According to Jack Carey, a former private in the 2/2nd Commandos, the 300-man guerilla force did not operate in West Timor because they were so dependent on the support of the East Timorese.

"They (the East Timorese) seemed to take a liking to us. They'd feed and scout for us, and the young blokes would offer to carry our stuff. We wouldn't let them carry weapons, or put them in any danger though," he said.

Before leaving East Timor, Iwamura asked a village headman he had befriended if there was anything he would like Iwamura to send. The headman asked for a soccer ball, but for the next 40 years Iwamura forgot about the request, and East Timor.

"Like most Japanese, I was too busy with my work," he said.

Even Indonesia's invasion of East Timor in 1975 left him unconcerned. Then in 1986, Iwamura spotted a letter in a local paper by a Japanese activist outlining Indonesian atrocities in the former Portuguese colony.

At a subsequent rally organised by two East Timorese exiles, Iwamura asked them to help him fulfill his promise to the village headman, but was told letters could not get through to the island, much less a soccer ball.

After offering at the rally to return to the island to fight for East Timor's independence, Iwamura was persuaded by Japanese activists to represent their movement at the 1987 United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization in New York.

Iwamura's passionate speech, among the stale appeals of more seasoned diplomats, drew considerable press attention.

While both Japan in the 1930s and Indonesia in 1975 were guilty of brutally invading the island, he noted in his speech, "there is a decisive difference. The more the Japanese army tried to defend its presence in China, the more isolated it became in the eyes of the world. But in the case of East Timor the annexation seems to be increasingly treated as a fait accompli."

The 2/2nd Commandos have funded East Timorese delegations to the U.N., and others who have been able to locate the families who served as guides and carriers have sent money to support them.

The group, which numbers around 130 men, maintains contact with East Timorese exiles in Australia, and campaigns actively for their independence.

"We're all getting on now," the 71-year-old Carey said. "But we'll keep on doing whatever we can for as long as some of us are around." On the other hand, Iwamura continues to act alone in Japan. Some of his wartime comrades also reacted to the letter in 1986, but only to the supposed defamation it cast upon their invasion in 1942.

The Japanese activists' group has since ostracized Iwamura after he tried to explain to them that the real issue was the current tragedy in East Timor. Similarly, the Australian Returned Servicemen's League refuses to support the 2/2nd in its campaign to help East Timor gain independence.

Iwamura said continued Japanese aid to Indonesia has made his country an accomplice to the invasion, and has not been the act of a true friend.

"If Japan wants to build real friendship with Indonesia it should tell that country: 'We know from experience that no country can escape the judgement of history in a war of aggression. Stop this aggression against East Timor now.'"

**Leader of the Opposition
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Phone 277 4022**

Mr W. Monk
President
2/2 Commando Association of Australia
GPO Box T1646
PERTH WA 6001

Dear Mr Monk,

Dr Hewson has asked me to thank you for your letter of 1 July, 1993 about the sentence recently imposed by Indonesia on Xanana Gusmao of Timor.

I have referred a copy of your letter to the Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Andrew Peacock, MP, for attention.

Dr Hewson appreciates the trouble you have taken to write and inform him of your views.

Yours sincerely

Alex Somlyay MP
Parliamentary Secretary
to John Hewson MP

**INDEPENDENT TRUST FUND
LIST 5**

Contributions received 12th May to 14th September, 1993.

Gerry and Mary McKenzie	\$100
Harry and Amyce Handicott	\$200
Second and final payment	
Dick Darrington	\$50
second payment	
Eric and Lorraine Herd	\$50
second payment	
'Blue' and Edith Pendergrast.....	\$50
second payment	
Bill Tucker	\$20
second payment	
'Swampy' and Joan Marsh	\$50
second payment	

86 donors have contributed \$13,505 to date, which is a very commendable effort. Further amounts are pledged.

The Trust Fund Committee comprising Messrs Bob Smyth, John Burrige and Ross Shenn wish to thank those who have contributed to this worthy cause. The fund is still open and all donations are welcomed.

Members of the Independent Trust acknowledge and appreciate the most helpful administration contribution to the Trust by our late Treasurer George Bayliss. Our sympathy to Dora and family.

Our application to the Director General of Education in Jakarta remains unanswered. However, we understand that the long waiting period can be considered normal for Indonesian Administration.

It is imperative that permission be obtained from Jakarta prior to despatch of any goods to East Timor.

Following shipment we would require confirmation of receipt; in reasonably intact condition; from Bishop Belo or his Director of Catholic Schools.

We have an appointment next week with the recently appointed Indonesian Consul.

A news service received via Japan advises:

'A Non-Political Visit to the Pope'

The Dili diocese (Bishop Belo) is currently administered by the Vatican. (Indirectly via Manila).

On 25th August a group of 30 Community Leaders from 13 districts in East Timor were flown by Garuda to an audience with the Pope. The objective — to persuade the Pope to relinquish Vatican direct control of Dili in favour of the Jakarta based Indonesian Council of Bishops. Hopefully to impress U.N. members non aligned with Indonesian occupation of East Timor.

Significantly, Bishop Belo was not included in the deputation.

R. N. Smyth

The following poem was written by Bill Howell's nephew, Bill Watts, for his mother:

'My Rose'

*Like a rose of great beauty, you stand out from
the rest*

*With talents that make you unique, qualities
that stand the test.*

*You're loving and generous, you're always last
in line*

*As long as everyone else has plenty, you think
that all is fine.*

*Without selfishness that's hard to top and a
real joy for living*

*One of the talents you possess, a genuine love
of giving.*

*Birthdays, Christmas and Special Days are
ones you like to share*

*Your true colours are revealed as you show
how much you care.*

*Instead of darkness and ignorance caused by
selfishness and greed*

*Your message of love and giving and knowing
what we need*

*Could teach the world that happiness comes
from attitude to life.*

*You've been a great example, Mom, of a
mother and a wife*

*And as I grow older, day by day, I appreciate
you more.*

*Of all the mothers in the world you're the one
that I adore!*

Bill Watts

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COPY DEADLINE

November 24, 1993

Don't forget your Christmas Messages

BIRTHDAYS are good for you.

The more you have the longer you live.
