



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

Print Post approved 637597 / 1646

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

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

Vol. 109

DECEMBER 1994

Price 1c

A Christmas Message

From the President

Christmas is that special time of year when we celebrate the birth of Christ, bringing with it a message of Peace and Goodwill to all mankind. It is the time for family and friends to unite to celebrate this joyous and very happy occasion.

As the bells ring out on Christmas morning may they bring peace and happiness to the world.

This year has proved to be an exceptionally busy one for the Association, taking in the Busselton Safari and the Kalgoorlie Country Convention, thus bringing members, near and far, closer together to further cement the bonds of loyal and lasting friendship.

Our thoughts turn to those in hospital and to the ones at home suffering ill health. May you soon be back on the road to complete recovery. We pray 1995 will be a happier year bringing good health to all.

To those who have lost loved ones during the year, our thoughts and prayers are with you.

May the coming year bring its many blessings, love and happiness, good health and friendship.

*The Committee, Peg and I wish all, near and far
A Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year.*

Ted Monk

VALE ROSS SMITH

The sad toll goes on and we are sorry to once again record the passing of one of our members in the person of Ross Smith, of a heart attack on 10th October, 1994 at Clare in South Australia.

Ross Smith was a really good happy bloke and seemed to have a good word for everyone and made friends with the greatest of ease.

Ross was one of those members who joined the Unit from Murray Barracks in Port Moresby. As is well known, these chaps were reinforcements to various squadrons who were left in Moresby when their parent Units left New Guinea. They were gathered into the 2/2nd and proved to be a great bunch of soldiers.

Ross came to 5 Section and was a truly distinguished member of that Section in New Guinea. A good soldier and top grade sportsman, playing a high grade of Rugby League. He came home early from New Britain and played League in the top grade in Sydney. He worked firstly in the Newcastle area and apparently obtained an insight into the vine growing and wine making business in the Hunter Valley area. He moved to South Australia and became a resident of Clare which was to be his home until he passed away. He was employed on a dairy farm at Clare and also acquired an interest in a couple of small vineyards.

Ross was a good member of our Association and proved a great help when the safari was held in South Australia in 1978 and again when it was held in the Barossa valley in 1990.

Ross had a son living at Dongara and came over to W.A. on quite a few occasions to assist him with his home building. Never once did he fail to look me up when he was in the West.

As a member of my Section in New Guinea I found him to be a game and reliable soldier and in latter years a good friend.

We extend our sincere sympathy to his widow Mollie and family.

Another good bloke has passed beyond the vale. Goodbye Ross.

Col Doig.

VALE WILLIAM JOHN SHEEHAN

That Bell has tolled again and another of our old hands has bitten the dust. This time that truly wonderful character Jack (or Ging or Dave, wherever you had known him) Sheehan on 29th October, 1994 at Kalgoorlie.

Members of the very recent Kalgoorlie Country Convention had called on Jack and although

he was very frail his eyes lit up when he realised they were his old mates of Unit days.

Probably Jack Sheehan, as we knew him, was one of the real characters of the 2nd Independent Coy, along with Paddy Knight and Mick Calcutt. Born in the Meekatharra district in 1908 Jack always had a colourful career in which gambling in all its forms played a big part. Jack was more than a useful heavy weight boxer in his younger days and fought the then heavy-weight champion of Australia, George Thompson, on three occasions for a win, a loss and a draw, which showed his class in this sport. Jack worked around Meekatharra for most of his early life as a woodcutter and also was interested in the local two-up game. He moved to Kalgoorlie just before the war and joined the AIR from there, along with so many other Goldfields chaps. He joined 2nd Independent Coy in its original formation and went to John Burridge's 8 Section in 'C' Platoon. Jack proved to be an intrepid and great soldier and was part of many of the ambushes that were carried out by 8 Section.

When the Unit landed on Timor we were probably about as broke as any unit of the AIF and when the call went out for funds to buy food to enable us to exist, Jack was one of the very few with money which he handed over smartly and I don't think was ever repaid. After the Timor campaign Jack somehow left the Unit and went in other directions. How this happened I do not know.

Jack was quite famous for the 'Swy Games' he was interested in on the homeward journey from Larimah in the NT, on one occasion paying the convoy drivers to put their truck lights on to enable the game to keep going so he could recoup his losses. He was a renowned poker player and with an unpickable visage and being a true gambler, you would never know whether he was a winner or a loser. I well remember him going to Melbourne for the Cup that Sirius won, taking a small fortune from the books and losing same at poker games very soon after. This never seemed to worry the big man.

Jack returned to Kalgoorlie after the war and took up the legitimate calling of wood cutter, but also became the co-proprietor of the famous 'two up' game previously run by 'Bouger.' He and his partner Nick Turich ran this illegal game on the Broad Arrow Road out of Kalgoorlie for many many years, even until it was legalised in 1986 or 87. In latter years his sons have taken over the game which is still a feature of Kalgoorlie and even has a world-wide reputation. I remember going to Kalgoorlie soon after decimal currency came in and Jack showed me a wheat bag of pennies he had acquired to keep the game in motion. He had a property just out of town in the

Leonora rail line area where he ran all sorts of animals, horses, goats, geese, you name it jack had them. There are many tales that could be told of incidents on this property and probably will find their way into later Couriers by other writers.

Jack was one of the number who went to Timor in 1969 for the opening of the Memorial at Dare, and proved to be a real character.

Jack was practically a tee totaller, having only a mild shandy on odd occasions, and was also a non-smoker. He was always keen to see any of the Unit members who were in Kalgoorlie on holidays.

One day a proper biography on Jack Sheehan will be written by a much better pen than mine and it should be a colourful best seller. So, with those words let me say a fond farewell to a truly great Australian character in its best sense.

Vale Jack Sheehan, good bloke, good soldier, good citizen and grand family man. They only breed Jack Sheehans one at a time so, with an odd tear I say farewell Jack Sheehan.

The Unit's sympathy to that big Sheehan family.

Col Doig.

TWO-UP HAS HAD ITS FAIR SPIN

Two-up is at least a century older than federation. The first recorded reference to spinning coppers is contained in a letter to the Sydney Gazette of April 15, 1804 in which an irate citizen said: 'The little chuck-farthing mob that generally assembles at the quay in the afternoon should be dispersed by officers of the Crown.' This probably is the truest clue to its origins; pitch and toss, which had been played on English village greens and cobblestoned alleys for centuries.

It was about the only form of gambling available to miners on Australia's earliest goldfields. When the troopers – later the police – weren't running the games they were chasing the entrepreneurs who were.

It is not so long ago that a town of any size in Australia had one or two two-up schools operating under terms of harassment or protection. Servicemen attending a postwar games picnic race meeting in the Kimberleys were intrigued to hear a public address announcement that the two-up game would be held behind the betting ring after the last race. They were even more delighted to discover that it was being run by a stubby-toting police sergeant, all in the interest – superficially illegal – of local charities, of course.

Sadly, it probably is only in the outback and in some of the nation's casinos that the game is now played. Sad, because 'Come in Spinner' – the call to head or tail riches which has echoed down nearly three centuries – is as Australian as 'Waltzing Matilda' and because it probably is the fairest gamble in the world – a 50/50 chance of winning or losing on the toss of two bright discs.

Australia is about luck.

No other nation invests as much per head of population on chance. The laws governing betting have always been cheerily ignored, the penalties being until recently not much more than a slap on the wrist.

Two-up is popularly known as the 'swy' from the German 'zwie' which means two.

In Brisbane, as in other large population centres, the game has virtually disappeared. A corruption of it, loaded heavily in favour of the organisers, exists only in the casinos.

Why it died no one knows. Huge games once existed in Torwood and the swamps now known as Eagle Farm. As in other places, the games gave rise to legendary and often hilarious confrontations between players and police.

For very obvious reasons, the game that once fired enthusiasms on Australia's diggings found a ready place. A kind of immortality, in fact, among wartime diggers. The first is that it is easily portable. It needs only a ring, a couple of coins (three are better because you then get an instant result) and a stick known as a kip.

Gambling is at best a diversion. Horror demands diversion if men are to remain sane. In at least two world wars and several other military actions Australians have found that diversion in two-up. One example is sufficient to make the point. In Timor in 1942 an Australian commando force was pinned down by numerically superior Japanese troops. 'The boys were down in the dumps. The Nips could take us at any time' recalls one of the besieged commandos, David Sheehan, 'So I produced a couple of pennies. We'd just had our first pay since landing on the island and we weren't sure if we were going to live to spend it. Pretty soon all the troops joined in and after a while we forgot all about the Japs. Everyone was happy, even the losers.' The Unit's commanding officer descended on the game demanding to know who had started it. Told it was Sheehan, the officer said 'Well, the man deserves a VC.'

Sheehan survived to return to the goldfields of Western Australia, becoming in 1985 the owner of the first legal two-up game in Kalgoorlie. He had run the thing there since the end of the war anyway.

Tony White, owner of Napoleon Military Bookshop in Brisbane and a man whose eyes glint at the rustle of pennies, expects half a dozen or more RSL clubs to stage two-up games on Tuesday. 'They've always done it. The tradition is there,' he said. At each game someone would be rattling a tin for the club's charities.

The game itself is a ritual of remembrance, with just hundreds rather than thousands of dollars at stake.

'I guess the stakes might be a little higher than last year,' he said, the two dollar note which was the minimum has gone so now it could be five, but no one is going to stop it. Would you like to be the policeman who tried?'

Thanks to 'Bulla' Tait for the above which appeared in a newspaper in Queensland.

KALGOORLIE COUNTRY CONVENTION

Starting from Mandurah at 8 a.m. in perfect weather, with pick ups in Perth and Greenmount, 25 members and friends were on their way in the competent hands of Julie and Bill of Halls Head Coach Lines. When we arrived at Merredin Stan Payne was there to spend a little time with us and Julie and Bill served a welcome 2 course lunch in a park. Then we were on our way through farmlands, Southern Cross, the old mining town of Coolgardie, arriving at our destination at 5.30 p.m. We were welcomed by Peter and Pat Campbell who had driven up from Esperance, and Reg. Harrington who arrived by train. We all settled in to the comfortable Star & Garter Motel.

Next morning Ted Monk, Reg. Harrington, Peter and Archie Campbell visited Jack Sheehan in a nursing home. When Jack was told that some of his 2/2nd mates were there it was quite emotional for us as a tremendous smile of recognition came on his still rugged countenance and we all shook hands with a comrade of 50 years ago. Jack passed away on Saturday, October 29th, the day we left for home.

After the visit to Jack we were all taken on a tour of Kalgoorlie with an old identity, Barry Bracegirdle as our guide. He knows the Golden Mile like the back of his hand and has a great sense of humour which made his commentary not only informative but entertaining. Kalgoorlie is bursting at the seams – an upsurge in mining with new mines and old ones being worked with greater production. There is an abundance of work and there are many new housing developments. The growth was an eye opener

and it has not finished yet. Exploration and mining fields are alive in every direction, planning by big companies is really forward looking. The Super Pit has almost obliterated the old Boulder Block and is a remarkable project which was the brainchild of Alan Bond. It created a basis for hundreds of jobs and stands as a monument to him. An amazing piece of open cut mining and engineering, as yet only in its infancy, its growth will make a big impact on the area and for young people following this growth, a great education and an aim for graduates of the the School of Mines to be a part of the future.

For the rest of the morning we were taken for a trip back in time at the Museum of the Goldfields. This has captured the colourful, harsh and hostile charm that is the Eastern Goldfields, and the effect the magic metal gold has had on it has been captured and distilled in this interesting Museum. We travelled up the mighty Ivanhoe headframe in a glass-fronted lift to a viewing platform to see the panoramic view of the City of Kalgoorlie and the Mt Charlotte Gold Mine unfold before our eyes.

Gold put Western Australia on the map and it is the theme of the impressive range of exhibitions and the underground vault containing specimens of the precious metal, a large ingot, a display of jewellery and historic photographs.

Then it was off to Hammond Park for a sausage sizzle expertly prepared by Bill and Julie. This park was put together on a private basis with the accent on birdlife including magnificent peacocks. It was a peaceful and pleasant stopover.

After lunch a trip to the old mining town of Broad Arrow with its galvanised iron hotel, a real landmark and tourist attraction. Every inch of the wall is taken up with signatures, remarks, poems etc.

Our next visit was to a venue known to people throughout Australia, as well as other parts of the world, the famous Two-up School. This was of great significance because of Jack Sheehan's involvement for many years. Today it is run by his two sons, Danny and David, fine young men who made us most welcome. Some of our group tried their hand at tossing the coins with varied results. This was a visit we will always remember. Len invited Danny and David to come to our hotel in the evening and they came after the two-up game had finished and enjoyed a happy hour or two.

Next morning we were taken back in time when we boarded the Rattler Railroad Car for a ride over the old Golden Mile Loopline Railway, reliving past events that made the area one of the richest in Australia. It was an interesting flash back to the days when this rail line was

one of the busiest in Australia because of the 24 hour shift system.

We had a fine home cooked lunch in the very old Cornwall Hotel, now renovated to be a tourist attraction with an old world charm. After lunch a wander through the streets of Boulder which took us to the Boulder Town Hall, a very handsome building, both inside and out. A beautiful painting on the curtain in the main hall attracted our attention and we were told by our guide that it was a painting of the Bay of Naples by Phillip Goatcher, so well known in Perth. Born in London, he sailed to Melbourne in 1867 at the age of 15, jumped ship and walked to Ballarat to see his uncle! To cut a long story short, his sketches attracted attention, he went to America where he met the young J. C. Williamson, came to Australia where he painted scenes for many plays and decorated public and private buildings. When he came to Perth he established a painting and decorating business. His works were many and varied and the lovely 'Bay of Naples' is believed to be the only surviving theatre curtain in the world by this fine painter. It is to be fully renovated at a cost of \$250,000.

A Tribute to Jim Smalles. Arrangements had been made to present a number of copies of 'The Independents' to the Principal of the W.A. School of Mines to be presented to graduates of his choice who would appreciate an unusual story in verse form. President Ted Monk, Spokesman Archie Campbell, John Poynton and Reg Harrington met the Principal, David Spottiswood, who said he was delighted to receive such an unusual vehicle of war from our Association to honour our 'Poet Laureat,' Jim Smalles who had been a part of the W.A. School of Mines and a soldier in the 2nd Independent Company.

On Thursday morning we were off to visit the old and distinguished gold mining town of Coolgardie which, in its heyday had a population of 15,000.

The museum depicts the history of this remarkable town. The early modes of transport used to reach the town, horses, camels in particular or just pushing wheelbarrows upwards of 300 miles. The hazards of lack of water, food, medical supplies meant that people went through a veritable hell. We were able to read stories of primitive tools, makeshift living quarters means of water extraction and the strength of character and ingenuity of those people in their search for gold.

Today Julie and Bill treated us to a special two-course meal of barbecued steak with all the trimmings, followed by sweets. We enjoyed all this in the shade of trees in another lovely park with a sward of green lawn and colourful gardens – a delightful venue. Julie and Bill made a rule on day one that anyone who

referred to the coach as a bus would be fined \$1. By Thursday we had collected \$27 which was just enough to buy a carton of cans which were very acceptable on such a warm day. Bill took pity on the non-drinkers and provided cold soft drinks for them. After lunch came an innovation when we had our first informal convention Meeting in the Park. All agreed that this was a welcome change, especially the men who were very comfortable in their casual gear, short sleeved shirts and NO ties. Ted presided over a short meeting and asked for suggestions for the 1995 Convention. Venues named were Collie, Pemberton, York, Fremantle, Manjimup and Mandurah. Manjimup was the clear winner. Julie and Bill were asked if they could provide a good itinerary for that area and they were enthusiastic in the reply. Ted thanked them for the way in which they had conducted this Convention, going out of their way to make it a memorable week just as they did last in Albany. Ted then presented them with a gift from us all.

We visited the house of Warden Finnerty, the first gold warden in Coolgardie. Built in 1895, it stands on a hill overlooking Coolgardie and its surrounds, now a Heritage property and being restored to its former glory.

When we returned to the motel there was a pleasant surprise awaiting us. Terry and Ivy Paul had driven over from Kookynie, about 200 ks, to be with us for a couple of days. We really enjoyed their company and were pleased to see them both looking fit and happy.

Friday was a free day and Julie and Bill took some into town to do shopping etc., and some to an underground mine especially set up for tourists – 'Hannans North' on the edge of the Super Pit. We were shown the method of underground mining, the hazards the early miners went through, resilient, tough men. Australia can be proud of them for building a nation by their contribution to the gold industry and saving Australia by their sacrifice in war. A lady, expert at her job showed us a modern example of gold pouring and then the finished product, gold bars. Despite all the talk of more women in politics, here they are proving their worth in a man's world, not only in the gold room but Driving the massive trucks in the Super Pit.

Len had made enquiries from Danny about the local R.S.L. Club and on our return to the motel there was a message from the Secretary/Manager inviting us to the Club at 12 noon. Quite a few of us accepted this invitation and were treated to a most convivial afternoon in the company of friendly, hospitable people who made us most welcome. We met interesting people, one of whom had flown with Gerry McKenzie's brother during the war. We

were treated like VIPs and Lucy, a charming lady who does the catering for the Club piled us with tasty savouries and told entertaining anecdotes. A relaxing way to spend our free afternoon and thoroughly enjoyed by all present, and it was thoughtful of Danny to make this possible. The Secretary/Manager, John Green, told us that any of our members visiting Kalgoorlie will be made welcome if they care to call into the R.S.L. Club.

After dinner on Friday we were taken by Julie and Bill on a short tour of Kalgoorlie at night, which included a visit to Hay Street.

The Writer got in touch with Mrs Davidson, widow of Tony, who was thrilled that we made contact. Kind regards were passed to her from all members.

On Saturday we were up and away at 8 a.m. heading for home after an exciting, fun filled convention. A comfortable drive to Merredin for our lunch stop and we were delighted that Bev Flockart, daughter of the late Freddie and Beryl Griffiths, was there to welcome us and have a talk. After a nice lunch we were off on the last leg of the trip, a tired but very happy group.

The Editor.

MEN'S ANNUAL DINNER

This popular event was held in the Airways Hotel function room with the following members present: Ray Aitken, Len Bagley, Ernie Bingham, Tony Bowers, John Burrige, Archie Campbell, Jack Carey, Colin Doig, Ralph Finkelstein, John Fowler, Gerry Green (great to see him), Jack Hasson, Bill Howell, Don Hudson, Mark Jordan, Charlie King, Paddy King, Bernie Langridge, Wilf March, Jim McLaughlin, Spriggy McDonald, Ted Monk, Don Murray, Ray Parry, Joe Poynton, John Poynton, Bob Smyth, Dusty Studdy, Lew Thompson (the oldest one present at 88 years!), Eric Thornander, Don Turton, Roy Watson, Doc Wheatley. Apologies were received from Henry Sproxton, Ted Loud, Stan Payne, Gerry Maley, Clarrie Turner, Dutchy Holland, Eric Weller, Ron Dook, Keith Hayes, Bill Rowan-Robinson.

M.C. Len Bagley welcomed members and guests, Lt-Col. Don Higgins, C.O., S.A.S. Regiment; R.S.M. Glen Hibbert, S.A.S. Regiment; Owen Morris, 2/4th Machine Gunners; Jim Lines, 2/5th Commando Squadron; Fred Cheesemur, English Army.

The Ode was said by Archie Campbell.

Loyal Toast – proposed by Vice President, Bill Howell.

Our Guests – proposed by Bernie Langridge who made the point that maybe they were

small in number but certainly not in talent. The Unit and Association – proposed by President, Ted Monk who stated that the 2/2nd were closely knit in the years of war and equally so in peace time via our Association. May it ever be so.

The function was expertly organised by John Poynton. There were ample refreshments and before too long there was animated chatter. The luncheon was very well catered for by staff members Chris and Terry, with food of high quality served buffet style. Our thanks to John and the staff.

At the conclusion of the luncheon Len called on Lt-Col. Higgins to respond on behalf of the guests. Don thanked the 2/2nd for the invitation, eulogised them for being so closely knit with the S.A.S. Regiment and setting them a fine example with their war record. His wish was that the S.A.S. Regiment and the 2/2nd Commando Association retain a close friendship in the years ahead. Colin Doig kindly presented Don with a copy of 'A Great Fraternity' the history of our Association, and a copy of Jim Smailes poems 'The Independents' as a personal memento. This gesture was greeted with sustained applause.

'All good things must come to an end. It had been a nostalgic day enjoyed by all present. Closing time was 3 pm and the advent of the coach to pick up the Mandurah 2-2s.

Thanks boys for another great roll call, it certainly helped to make it a good day.

Archie Campbell

COMMEMORATION SERVICE, LOVEKIN DRIVE, KINGS PARK

SUNDAY, 20th NOVEMBER

In glorious sunshine a fine crowd came along to pay homage to the men of the 2/2nd who lost their lives while serving their country, plus those who have since passed on.

It was great to see the number of children, young and into teenage, girls and boys, who joined us for the service. You know, the 'old boys' received a real thrill at such a happening. What a great roll up we had of our widows from near and far. Your support is invaluable.

Once again the Special Air Services Regiment supplied the Catafalque Party which lends so much colour and dignity to this most important day of our calendar year. Many thanks to the O.C. Sergeant Peter Boyd, Troopers Lance Redding, Peter Rudland, Stuart Duncan, Richard Hungerford for an excellent display of precision drilling.

President, Ted Monk, thanked the boys of the

S.A.S. Regiment for their time and dedication. We are singularly fortunate to have their services and we thank them wholeheartedly for a job well done.

The address by our President was one of excellent, as shown below, then read the names of The Fallen. This was followed by the Last Post extremely well played on the bugle by Wally Wilson. Two minutes silence was observed, *The Ode* was recited by Ted Monk, followed by Reveille. Thank you Wally, hearing the bugle calls made all the difference, it lent pathos to our proceedings and we are indebted to you for your kindness.

Archie Campbell marshalled the troops for the march past by the veterans of the 2/2nd. Don Hudson and Bob Smyth were the markers and behind them 26 men marched as if it was yesterday. Ted Monk and Sgt Boyd took the salute, supported by the Catafalque Party on either side of our obelisk. Congratulations boys, you thoroughly deserved the great round of applause received for a march that had dignity and bearing.

Thank you to all those who, by their attendance, made it a day to remember.

An invitation to visit Campbell Barracks, home of the S.A.S.R., for refreshments was accepted by many and we thank you for inviting us to your home. It was a most enjoyable and friendly way to finish off an excellent day.

Thanks to our Secretary, Jack Carey, for organising the finer details, plus chairs for the ladies and our infirm members.

God bless all who participated.

Archie Campbell.

Apologies were received from Stan and Barbara Payne and Dot Boyland.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Ladies and Gentlemen, members of the Special Air Servicer Regiment, fellow members of the 2/2nd Commando Association, girls and boys.

In 1950 the first commemoration service dedicated to honour our fallen was held in Kings Park, today marks the 45th anniversary of that Commemoration service, when we gather on this hallowed ground to pay our deepest respect and homage to our fallen comrades who, in their prime, gave their all. These young men came from all walks of life, had so much to live for and look forward to, but were cruelly cut down before realising their hopes and dreams. As we remember these fine young soldiers we realise the supreme sacrifice they made when defending Australia throughout those dark days in Timor, New Guinea and New Britain. It is also fitting that, at

this time, we remember the 252 members who have passed away since 1946. In recalling the past our thoughts turn to the widows and families of the boys who did not return and to the widows and families of those members who have since passed away. On this day we share with you your memories and sad thoughts. The Kings Park board must be commended for the excellent standard of care and attention they have afforded this area, a beautiful avenue in which to honour our fallen. There are 1,131 plaques in Kings Park, 697 in May Avenue and 434 in Lovekin Drive. These plaques cover many of the names of the fallen from two World Wars, Korean War plus 12 plaques for British Units. As these avenues cannot be extended to embrace further tree planting and plaques the 2/2nd Commando Association is indeed privileged to have the names of all our fallen inscribed on 50 plaques in our section of Lovekin Drive.

During our campaign in East Timor we were very fortunate to have the help and support of many of the East Timorese people, our friends. Without their support it is doubtful whether many of us would be here today. If caught helping us they stood to suffer harsh penalties and even death. With the Indonesian invasion of East Timor in 1975, the East Timorese have suffered great hardships for the past 19 years. May their hopes and dreams of peace become a reality as all they are asking for is their independence.

In 1969 the Dare resting place and wading pool, just south east of Dilli, was officially opened, this a thank you in recognition of the help given to us by the East Timorese. With Indonesia invading East Timor, plus the years of neglect that have followed, this resting place is badly in need of repairs. Within the next 6 months we hope to have the water pipes renewed and all repair work undertaken.

As well as Timor, we remember the men who served the Unit so well in New Guinea and in New Britain. Like Timor the New Guinea campaign was a long and bitter struggle, taking its toll of many. It was during those dark days of conflict that the bonds of friendship were forged and now after many years, these bonds of friendship have been firmly cemented.

The Federal Government has recently made a grant of ten million dollars available towards restoring 1,500 War Memorials throughout Australia. This grant is a fitting gesture from the Government as many of the memorials stand in need of repair work. It is the intention of the Federal Government to involve the unemployed to carry out the restoration of these memorials.

Today we again welcome the young folk to our commemoration service. It is indeed pleasing to note that this number increases year by

year. The latest unemployment figures show a decrease in the number seeking employment, an encouraging sign for our youth of today. Australia is a land of opportunities, with so much to offer and, if full employment could be maintained, future generations could make Australia an idyllic place in which to live. In spite of what may be lacking in the ideals we have for our country, it is a country worth protecting, and it is well to remember that 'freedom is not free.' Freedom brings with it the obligation for self discipline and often demands restraints and, indeed at times, sacrifice. Then, under God, let us address ourselves to the task, each in his own way, old and young, putting the best we know into our profession, our leisure, our sport, our church, our club or whatever our pursuits may be if we do this we will demonstrate the merits of a Christian democracy as a way to lasting peace and brotherhood.

1994 has been declared the International Year of the Family, in recognition of this even a fifty cent coin has been struck depicting a family scene. With the break up of so many family homes and the soaring crime rate at present prevailing, may the International Year of the Family be instrumental in re-uniting many of these families towards a happier future.

This marks the 11th year the Special Air Service Regiment has participated in providing the Catafalque party for our Commemoration Service. Our sincere thanks and appreciation go to them for their continued support of this very important day.

To all present a sincere thank you for your attendance.

N.S.W. NEWS

For a change we have some good news to offer and I hope it brings joy to many of our members.

Firstly, I have been advised that our friend Alexandra da Silva Tilman and his wife Francesca have been granted permanent residence in Australia. Naturally, his daughters, their families and his sister, who have lived in Australia for many years, are delighted with the news.

We saw some of them when we attended a Memorial Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral to honour those killed in the Dili massacre three years ago.

Apart from some right paraplegia, as a result of a stroke, Alexandra is keeping quite good health. Their knowledge of English is also improving, no doubt aided by living with Adelina, Tico and their children.

We were represented at the mass by Paddy Kenneally, Edith and myself and Jack London 2/7, a member of the N.S.W. Commando Association Committee.

The other piece of good news is that our wonder working Betty Craig has already commenced preparations for a Mini Safari at Young next March.

Betty reports that she is now enjoying an easier, more relaxing time after her long breaks away from home.

I propose to include particulars of the gathering at Young in the programme of events for the 'Australia Remembers' catalogue as our contribution from 2/2 Commando Association N.S.W., from the 'Out of the Past' Department.

I've had a phone call from a Ted O'Sullivan, Vice President and Pensions Officer of Parramatta R.S.L. Club seeking information as to the whereabouts of Don Turton, Tony bowers, Jim Harper and Pat Dunshea who were involved in the rescue of an American airman, Capt Chas. P. O'Sullivan whose P38 (Lightning) plane was shot down and crash landed in the Ramu River area in late 1943. Tony and don may be able to fill in more detail but Ted is going to send me copies of some correspondence regarding this matter. Strangely enough we have a number of common friends although we have never met. We're hoping to arrange a meeting for a drink and lunch at the Harbord Diggers Club before Christmas.

Speaking of Christmas, it's not far away so on behalf of Edith and myself and all N.S.W. members, I extend sincere greetings to everyone for Christmas and the new Year and best wishes for as good health as you can cope for in 1995. God bless and good cheer. Also our love and condolences to those who have lost a loved one during this year.

Alan Luby

GERALDTON NEWS

We had the pleasure of having Eric Weller at our home for morning tea on his return to Geraldton after visiting members of his family at Exmouth, Quininnup and the metro area, following the demise of his beloved wife Margaret. He was wearing a gold chain featuring a crucifix which Margaret gave him when she knew she was about to leave her loved ones. Eric is planning to leave on boxing Day accompanied by daughter Josephine and husband Bryce of Quininnup to spend a few months at Wagga Wagga in New South Wales with daughter Ann Marie and husband Richard. Geraldton City RSL Sub-Branch, of which I

have had the honour of being Public Relations Officer or Publicity Officer since 1959, is seeking the help of all sections of the community for a special reason. This is to ensure that our beloved city provides a wholehearted contribution to the national project 'Australia Remembers: 1945-1995.' Next year's Australia Remembers Programme is being held to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, through a wide range of activities at community level.

Members of our Barden family and associated families gathered in strength for a family reunion and also for the Farewell Mass by my brother, Monsignor John Barden, who has retired to the metro area after 41 years' service to the vast Geraldton Diocese, including 13 years as Cathedral Administrator, 18 years in charge of the Rangeway suburban parish in the absence of the Bishop. Although Monsignor was Celebrant for the Mass, Bishop Justin Bianchini was present to speak highly of Monsignor's long and devoted service.

A framed Australian flag that experienced the World War I Gallipoli campaign in 1915 between the Turks and the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps was placed on permanent display at Birdwood House, Geraldton, on October 16. It was brought home from France by the late David Ephraim Patten who served in that country with the 32nd Bn after farming at Yetna in the Chapman Valley near Geraldton. The Gallipoli relic was given to David Patten in France by an English-born Australian Digger, the late Sidney Exten of the 11th Australian Bn, a farmer from Wicka who served in Gallipoli. Mr Exten's son Russell, said the flag was given to David Patten to take home to Australia because his father was taking leave with his parents in England after having migrated to Australia in 1912.

The Festival of Geraldton held over the shorter period of October 8-12, proved an outstanding success and in the words of director Lyle Harris, provided enjoyment for about 35,000 people. Almost 40 individual events were staged, comprising more than 100 component items, with the Geraldton Building Company the major sponsor as a means of celebrating its centenary year. May Phil Cooper was amazed at the huge crowds.

Regarding the reciting of the Ode to the Fallen, our RSL Sub-Branch has decided to continue with the practice of members having turns at handling this matter.

Having had trouble with my legs and awaiting advice from Perth after one visit to Perth and also receiving attention from my Geraldton surgeon without success.

God bless and kindest regards.

Peter Barden

**Wilson Tuckey MP,
GPO Box B58
Perth 6838**

Dear Mr Carey

Thank you for your letter requesting flags and a flag kit.

Because of the large number of flags requested, we do not have any in stock at the moment but have some on order.

As soon as our new order is available we will send you your request.

Yours sincerely,

**Wilson Tuckey MP
Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs,
Defence, Science and Personnel.**

24 October, 1994

COURIER DONATIONS

Paddy and Nora Kenneally, Peter Mantle, Joy Hodgson, Terry Paull, Jack Keenahan, Margaret Blomfield, Denny Dennis, Jim McLaughlin, Bernie Langridge, Joe Poynton, Don Hudson, Bill Howell, John Fowler, Don Murray, Bob McDonald, Mark Jordan, Dusty Studdy, John Burrige, Eric Thormander, Gerry Green, Bob Smyth, Lew Thompson, Ernie Bingham, Melton Evans, Ted Monk, Jack Hartley, Kath Sargeant, Col. Holley.

INDEPENDENT TRUST FUND LIST 8

Donations received September, October, November period.

Keith Hayes	\$100
Bill and Pat Petersen	250
Jack and Jean Keenahan	50 3rd payment
Don and Ida Murray	150 Final payment

Donations now total \$16,370.

The Trust Fund committee thank those who have contributed to the Fund which is still open to receive donations.

PADDY KENNEALLY'S SAFARI TIMOR 1994

I went into East Timor through Suai. Four years had brought many changes, new church and school being constructed. Suai much expanded and developed since I was there in 1990. Suai, Hato-Udo, Betano, Same. Huge areas of this south coast plains area have been cleared, cattle and goat herds grazing over much of it. Farms growing corn, sugar, tobacco, fruit, vegetables in quantity.

Thousands of transmigrants have been settled here, mostly Balinese who are excellent farmers. Any 2/2nd or 2/4th men visiting here now would have difficulties recognising places they knew so well. It is also quite obvious that we would not have survived in this area as it is now. It will change a lot more yet. Same, a place that loomed so large in the history of both companies. However, long before the men of those Companies were born, Same played a vital role in the history of the Timorese people. Its king Dom Boaventure was defeated by the Portuguese in 1912. That defeat gave the Portuguese control of the areas south of the Cablac Range. The Indonesians control it now, perhaps not as effectively. They have yet to control the innermost life of the people. That is going to be far more difficult fire power, superior physical forces. None of those things will decide that. It is rooted in their faith, the faith of their religious beliefs.

On up to the Same Saddle, I farewelled the bus there and humped my swag to Hato-Builico passing the Ainaro track on the way. This track linked up with the Maubesse-Ainaro track. The one I was on went to Hato-Builico from the northern side of the Saddle. About 15ks in, another track coming from Maubesse joined it. I reckon those four tracks were the key to the Jap push to the south coast at the end of September, early October 1942. How they got there so easily I can't understand. Pull out both 'B' Platoons and there was almost two Independent Companies in the area. I read what a 2/4th 'C' Platoon man said: 'Why don't they combine both 'C' Platoons (2/2nd and 2/4th) and take those bastards on instead of doing it in bits and pieces and getting pushed all over the mountains.' He was right of course, a few actions such as 'A' Platoon blokes and the sappers put on would have changed things. 'B' Platoon played no part in that affair. As the chronicles record 'B' Platoon was poised on the Jap flank and they were going south. We were north and east. All the way from Turuscai to Fatomaquerec, north to Remexio and north east to Cribas, we were sure poised on that flank. It didn't cause the Japs any worries. I wasn't there, I was with Six Section 2/4th Company. I didn't know where I was either as no one bothered to tell me where we were bound for. It transpired that we were supposed to be on the Maubesse-Turuscai track, about three hours walk west of Turuscai. It took us about four days to get there via south east of Maubesse, then west, getting to the same track in time to see 'C' Platoon 2/4th heading for Same. In about an hour or so the Japs came along so, from a range of about 8 or 9 hundred yards and a couple of thousand feet higher than the track, we gave them hell, they just kept walking. I have plenty of time to observe it all, as I sat on my backside and didn't fire a

shot. We did some more wandering after that, finishing where we should have been four days earlier. I had a good walk around the Hato-Builico tracks. It was cold, the mist was down on the mountains and I was all alone with plenty of time to think and ponder 1942, September and October. I'd love to get hold of the Japanese version because somehow I think we missed the bus.

I was running short of money so had to head for Dili and a bank. Still on foot back to the maubesse-Same Road. I would have preferred going to Ainaro and back to Atsabe, but you just can't say 'Obrigadu' these days and I would have been 'Obrigaduing' my way across a lot of mountain. Picked up a lift on the back of a police ute going to Dili. They were from Same and said 'where are you going John Patrick?' 'Dili' I said. 'we take you.' They did, right to the bank.

I met Tom, Patsy Thatcher and her friend Judy O'Halloran at the Tourisma. Tom did the honours and treated us to a gorgeous dinner. Tom didn't know it but that was my first meal (apart from a mug of coffee) for 30 hours and a lot of walking.

Dili en fete. Triumphant arches everywhere proclaiming Integration 1976-1994. The night before I left Dili I was taken on tour, crowds everywhere, cars and motor bikes galore parked everywhere, the shops busting at the Sams with consumer goods. Few Timorese own motor bikes, far fewer own cars so it was not hard to deduce who was celebrating Integration and why shouldn't they celebrate? The transmigrants are doing handsomely in East Timor. They own the shops, the stalls, and do the trading in conjunction with the Chinese of course. Its Indonesians working in the banks, the Post Office, Telecommunications and they run all the transport. They have all the best land, the richest farmland along the river valleys.

I have been to Timor three times, 1990, 1992, 1994 and it has become increasingly clear to me the Indonisation East Timor the final goal of the Jakarta government. Transmigrants, the education system, the depriving of the Timorese of their land. They will become a landless people, herded into settlements, no chance of employment and no land to sustain themselves.

The one organisation standing between the Indonesians and their aims is the Catholic Church. The only ones the people trust are the Bishop, the Priests and the Missionary Nuns and brothers and you can exclude the Indonesian religious. In my walkabout I saw where the people were going with their worries and cares. The Indonesians are up against something superior armament, numbers and power have never been able to conquer. The

pages of history are littered with the names or those who failed. I'll back the Spiritual against the Temporal. All isn't lost in Timor yet.

Paddy Kenneally

Mrs M. Blomfield
12 Sirius Key
Forster Keys 2428

Enclosed please find a donation to the Courier, or whatever you wish. Thank you for sending it to me, I enjoy reading it, even though I don't know a soul. It is a link with the past.

Regards,

Margaret

J. Keenahan
30 Duncan St
Huskisson 2540

Herewith two cheques, one to help out with our courier expenses, the other for our Timor Fund. Would you be able to let me know the balance I owe on the Timor Fund.

Jean and I are both well, looking forward to the next Safari, each of which gets better than the last one.

Our house number has been changed to No. 30 Duncan Street.

Jack and Jean

C. Turner
13 Hardy Tce
Capel 6271

Dear 2/2nd Family,

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I am feeling in the mood to write to few lines to you all and say that Grace and I are again well and taking up the reins of life and our commitments in this area.

We were both in hospital at the one time and believe me, I was very pleased to have our daughter Bethel home from Queensland for nearly six weeks and our son Noel in Perth to help out as well. We would have been in trouble without them both. Grace is home again with me and is doing really well and looking her old self again. I must thank all who were able to send cards, letters, flowers and good wishes and visits while she was in hospital in Bunbury and also in Perth. Sincere thanks to all.

We will attempt to make the Commemoration Service or the Christmas party all being well. Wyn and Alex Thomson, Eric and Twy Smyth plus Eric's sister Billy Perry, are well by latest reports.

Grace joins me in wishing one and all the best with your families and friends for Christmas and New Year.

Good health and God bless.

Grace and Clarrie

B. F. Dennis
614 Sackville St
Albury 2640

Tis time I put pen to paper as I have been out of circulation for some time. I guess the main thing is I am still alive. June has been having a bad trot also and needs full time care.

A bit back when I was doing the cancer treatment so many of our 2/2 friends rang regularly, sent cards and many letters for which we were thankful.

We wish all our friends a Merry Christmas and prosperous year in 1995.

Cheque for Courier enclosed. It's a great paper to keep in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Denny

Mrs J. C. Cash
7/11 Elvire St
Viveash 6056

Please note my new address above. I have moved into a 'Villa' in a new complex. My new phone number – 250 3441 (when it's installed which I hope will be soon).

Thank you for the last copy of Courier which was redirected.

Yours sincerely,

Jean

R. D. Darrington
– holidaying overseas.

Writing to let members of the 2/2nd that I am thoroughly enjoying myself over this side of the world. I have met up with a lot more of my relations I missed out seeing last time I was in England.

I am happy to say there is no better way of spending holidays than going on these planned fabulous coach tours mostly of ten days duration which is great.

I have been on a tour of Ireland through Dublin fair city, travelling around southern parts of the country, beautiful mountains and the world's most famous crystal factory at Waterford. My greatest experience was my bus tour into Austria, travelling through Belgium, Germany and back into France, viewing the spectacular

mountain scenery and the fascinating panorama of the whole countryside, such green and the lovely fir trees growing everywhere.

Going to these soccer football matches the fans really get worked up, scream and yell. They're fanatics – mania of the brain syndrome.

Hope you are all well.

Cheerio for now.

Dick

S. McKinley
49 Nairn Rd
Coodanup 6210

Detecting for gold in the Pilbara, Murchison, Mt. Margaret, Coolgardie and other goldfields has occupied my time for 3 to 5 months of the last 10 years and has served two purposes. firstly to escape the cold southern winters and then providing a great deal of enjoyment in the search. Usually managed to find enough of the yellow stuff to cover costs of trips (without being lucky enough to stub my toe on the 'big one') and a bit more as a bonus. Fuel costs for the old Landrover I had for years were very high, averaged about 13 mpg at prices ranging from about 70 to 95 cents per litre up north over the years. However, its great in the bush, particularly when finding gold, and I hope to go again next year.

My best wishes to all members of the Association – the Courier keeps me in touch and I am very grateful to receive my copy. Donation enclosed.

Syd

Mrs B. Craig
PO Box 234
Young 2594

My family and I wish you all a Very Happy and Holy Christmas and trust that the New Year will be a Happy and Healthy one for us all. We are not sending Christmas cards this year but using the money to buy Christmas cakes and puddings for folk suffering from the drought. The dancing group are joining us in this.

Just before Christmas last year I had a toe taken of each foot. It didn't worry me and it is good to be without pain. Janette was ill so I flew to Adelaide to be with them and didn't come until February. In March I left for Perth for Safari and stayed on and on, a little more than three months. In September I spent six days with Kath Press at Orange and while there I went to the 100th birthday of my Great Aunt Kitty Lindsay, 350 of us sat down to a wonderful luncheon and met relatives and

friends we rarely see. When I left Kath's I went to Gilgandra to see Aunty Gladys Craig who was 96. After six days there I stayed with Frank and Judy Sharp in Dubbo. Frank had a big operation but was coming along really well.

I have been to Goulburn a few times to see my sister and I always meet up with old friends I went to school with there. In the near future some of the dancing group I have here and I are going for our medals etc. which means we will be going to Goulburn.

The family are all well. Phillip will finish at Puckapunyal mid-December and move to RAEME at Bonegilla mid-January. He has just returned from 6 weeks exercise around Darwin. One day nine of them in a tank dropped into a 12' hole and they spent a night in hospital, much to his disgust. The Young R.S.L. have asked him to be Guest of Honour and Speaker at the Anzac march in 1995. He is very thrilled.

Stan, Janette and family are all well in Adelaide. My great grand daughter is 19 months old and Susan and Adam are expecting their second baby in January.

I keep busy, what with dancing classes, Carers' Group, Church Group, Home Care Executive meetings, Guides etc., I don't seem to have much spare time. am going to spend a few days with Jim and Joan Fenwick this month and hope Joan and I will go to the Cancer Christmas meeting. We went last year and it was a very good day.

Best wishes to everyone and hope all are well and that you will keep on keeping well.

Best wishes Betty and Len and hope to see you in Queensland 1996. Best wishes also to Arch Campbell.

Sincerely,

Betty

MINI-SAFARI – YOUNG

MARCH 1995

Friday, March 10th: Dinner from 6pm at 43 Edward Street.

Saturday, March 11th: Barbecue Lunch from 11 am. Official Dinner 6.30 for 7 pm.

Sunday, March 12th: Barbecue Lunch from 11 am. Evening: Dinner in the lounge room.

Monday, March 13th: Morning Tea and Lunch for anyone staying on.

Motels closes to Craig's, 43 Edward Str are –

Colonial, Zouch Street Phone 82 2822

Cherry Blossom, Zouch Street Ph 82 1699

Caravan Park (also has cabins), Zouch Street Phone 82 2190

All are approximately one block from the house.

Anyone who comes will be most welcome.

P. Mantle
19 Arnold St
Allora 4362

Enclosed is a small something to help keep the wheels so splendidly turning.

My present entry in the Address Book needs no changing.

My day-to-day health is fine but the machine is wearing out and spare parts are hard to find.

Queensland is in the throes of shuffling its Local Government units. Amalgamations, boundary changes intended to improve efficiency. It happened to our little Allora Shire council. With two other shires we were joined to the 'city' of Warwick into a new Warwick Shire. Doomsayers and protest meetings, but we don't seem to have fallen into any big black hole. No local employees have been sacked and my total rate bill under the new Shire is somewhat lower than my last Allora bill.

Peter

B. Dowsett
4 Lakewood Village
43 Murtha Drive
Elanora 4221

Referring to the new address book mentioned in the August Courier would you please note that my present address is shown above.

My health is good apart from small outbreaks of skin cancer from time to time which is not serious. I get treatment through the Repat.

Bert

B. Richards
6 Valleyview Drive
Rowville 3178

A short note to let you know Mrs Joy Hodgson is now living with her daughter and son-in-law at 6 Valleyview Drive Rowville 3178. Please send the 2/2 Commando courier to that address.

I am enclosing a donation.

Bronwyn

Lieut-Colonel D. G. Higgins
S.A.S. Regiment
Campbell Barracks
Swanbourne 6010

11 October, 1994

Dear Mr Carey,

I wish to record again my thanks and those of WO.2 Hibbert for the splendid luncheon last week. We both enjoyed ourselves thoroughly. I hope the link between the 2/2nd and SASR continues. Best wishes for the future.

Yours faithfully,

Don Higgins, Commanding Officer.

A. G. Bowers
9 Talbot Close
Mandurah 6210

Don't think I am a Paddy Kenneally, God bless him.

While we were having lunch with Bulla and Jean Tait some weeks ago we got talking about old times in New Guinea, down in the Ramu Valley etc, and about the Pimple near Kesawi when a Yank pilot walked in. He had been in the bush for thirty days, had lost his boots and his feet were in an awful mess.

When we got home I had a call from Bulla about a letter in his local paper from a P38 pilot shot down in the Ramu Valley in September, 1943. He had been in the bush for thirty days. Bulla thought it must be the same chap. He wanted to contact some of us in Australia so, on the long shot I wrote and hereunder is his reply. Thought it might interest some of our people.

Had a good trip to Kalgoorlie.

The very best to all.

Tony

Charles P. O'Sullivan
Colonel, Ret. U.S. Airforce
8 Pine Tree Point North
Little Rock AR72116-8315

Dear Tony,

You are so right - I am indeed the P38 fighter pilot who crash landed in the Ramu Valley September 30, 1943 and 'sneaked up' on your camp, and you are one of the gallant 2/2 Commandos who helped me in my hour of need. I remember Lt. Jim Harper, Frank preparing breakfast. 'Bluey' cleaned my gun and knife, Harry dressed my wounds, 'Bunny' and 'Smash' building an addition to Frank's kitchen, 'Big Doug' so jolly in camp but a 'tiger' on patrol. I remember his specialty was hand grenades. I slept one night in a two man tent with 'Iggie,' Doug and Jonesie.

On October 15th an Aussie Captain Turton and about twenty men came in after a six day patrol in which they killed about ten Nips without any loss to themselves (at our camp).

Tony, as I recall, the night I arrived at your camp you prepared for a possible Jap. sneak attack. I am glad that did not materialise.

On October 16th Lt. Pat Dunshea, two sergeants and a native guide led me out on the trail again towards Dumpu. We had to cross the Ramu which was swift in parts. We went through Weiper and Kesawi villages. In the afternoon on October 17th we reached Dumpu. I missed the last transport out that night so an

American 1st Lt. said he would take me on to Nadzab in his little Cub observation plane. We crashed in that, turning upside down. By this time I was indestructible and did not get hurt, but started out walking again.

I remember well sitting up on top of the hill talking with you while you guarded us. As you remember, I could not sleep – still too excited.

I got back to my airstrip at '14 mile' Port Moresby on October 19th, 1943 much to my joy and that of my fellow pilots. I got malaria soon after but eventually got to my home in U.S.A. about November 22nd, 1943. I was one of the first troops from U.S.A. into Australia at the end of January 1942, landing at Melbourne.

As an interesting sidelight or story, when I left the 2/2 Commandos I volunteered to call your mothers, wives or families. For those who gave me an address I did that in late November 1943 when I got to Brisbane. One of those I called for was a Peter Kemp. I sent a cablegram to Peter's family saying 'I saw your son Peter recently, he is healthy and tanned and sends his love' dated November 18, 1943. Thirty seven years later I learned from a young Australian, David Jones who was Peter's nephew, that Peter had been killed in action in November 1943 and that my cablegram was received about a week after the family received notice from the government of his death. For almost forty years I never knew, so it must have been very puzzling for the family to receive my good news. At last correspondence David lived at 10 Edna Street, Willoughby, N.S.W. 2068 with his father Aubrey and mother Elma Jones.

My malaria illness sent me to the hospital so my calls to 2/2 families were delayed about two weeks.

So happy you wrote me. Thank your Ayr friend for me. Bring me up to date on 2/2 Commando survivors. Tell me about your family.

Cordially.

'Sully' (Charles)

J. Hartley
62 Palmerston Rd
Fairfield West 2165

Dear Jack,

A very much belated note of thanks for all the work put into making the Busselton Safari such an enjoyable event and special thanks to Twy and Eric, Clarrie and Grace, Len and Betty, Delys and yourself, Archie, Col, Ted and the many others who gave their time and sweat of brow to make it a great success. My brother Frank had a great time with the S.A.S. boys at the R.S.L. and Maria was happy to see Beryl

Smith again and make a new friend in Eve Finkelstein. My only regret was that I was not fit enough to walk around your lovely town of Busselton and see more of it while I had the chance, but seeing so many old friends made up for it.

As you know, when we came back I went into hospital for an Angiogram which showed that my arteries were so badly clogged up that I was inoperable and the only treatment I can have is medication to keep my blood thin enough to pump. Have got back into bowls again and doing plenty in the garden, had two 6ft. colorbond fences put up on the sides and built a new rock garden bed so now I have possibly the best looking garden in Fairfield, certainly in the street.

Very sorry to hear of the passing of Jack Sheehan. No doubt the dear old fellow took his kip and pennies with him and has a two-up school going up yonder. Also sad to hear of Ross Smith being taken – two more good blokes whom we shall mourn.

Ron Trengove has been having a bad time healthwise lately and has sold his home at Mona Vale and he and Dorothy have moved to a retirement village not too far away. Two of our Unit friends also having health problems, Ray Whitely has been in hospital with a heart attack but is O.K. again and Ken Glover has been in for a leg operation.

Muriel O'Brien has sold her home in Cabramatta and moved up to the Central Coast. Muriel has been one of the top lady bowlers at Club level here for many years and this year made a clean sweep of the Cabra-Vale championships.

Enclosed is my donation towards Courier expenses.

My best wishes to all.

Jack.

C. Holley
Unit 20, Fairfax House
Howell Village
Castle Hill 2154

A few lines to let you know I have changed my address. It's a retirement village but I'm working harder than I did before. They have three well equipped workshops here, making toys, mending furniture and also a bit of welding.

Thank goodness I met a couple of blokes who like their grog and we get together each afternoon and swap a few.

My health is holding up OK and I still play tennis a couple of times a week, but its more guile than speed these days.

A couple of times a year we go up to Ballina on the north coast and its a great pleasure to do a spot of fishing in the nice clean waters that aren't polluted. Most of the big rivers around Sydney are polluted and even though you can catch fish, I wouldn't be game to eat them.

Am enclosing a few dollars for the Courier, a great publication.

Regards,

Col.

Mrs K. Sargeant
25 Thomas St
Gympie 4570

Another year nearly gone. As one gets older the years seem to pass more quickly and of course we lose more of our friends and loved ones.

Timor is very much in the news as I write, and one cannot help but wonder what will become of people there. I am sure all of our men who served in Timor would be very sad at what has happened since the end of the war.

I attended the Remembrance Day service in Gympie on the 11th November and it was pleasing to see such a large gathering at our Memorial Gates, proving people do care.

Enclosed cheque towards the Courier which I am always pleased to receive.

May I take this opportunity of wishing all members a Happy and Healthy Christmas.

Sincerley,

Kathleen.

J. P. Kenneally
28 Wilkins St
Yagoona 2199

Reading the reports of Tom Nisbet and Patsy Thatcher on their trip to Timor in July/August, they are to be congratulated and thanked for a job well done under difficult conditions. Bob Smyth and his team would be well aware of the difficulties, they had ample experience in striving to deal with officialdom in the area concerned. Their postal service alone boggles the mind, a month to six weeks waiting period for an airmail letter between posting and delivery. Tom and Patsy, acting on behalf of our Association showed considerable tract, patience and restraint in achieving our aims. We were fortunate in having such ambassadors.

Aleen Luby gave me the sad news about Jack Sheehan and Ross Smith. Sincere sympathy to their families and may Jack and Ross rest in peace. They were men we were fortunate and proud to be associated with. I remember Jack well on the trip from Larrimah to Mt. Isa in January 1943. The two-up was on at every

staging camp. Jack did a bundle, it was raining heads. Tommy Fitzgerald won 100 quid in about half an hour. What Jack lost I don't know, but I do know when the Unit got into the camp at Ascot Race course, Brisbane, a bundle of yanks arrived from Panama about the same time. They were loaded with pelf and the dice were rolling - 'Hazards' was the game. Well, the Yanks played all combinations at even money and an old player like Jack knew that certain combinations were odds on. If memory serves me correctly Jack picked up 1100 quid in one night which overall meant a good win Larrimah-Brisbane. If St. Peter has not got a race course and a swy school in Paradise Jack will rectify the matter.

Ross Smith - well, like Les Isenhood, he came from the Newcastle area. They were built like bridge pylons and both were good Rugby footballers, Ross a hooker, Les a speedy strong winger. Although the number of Rugby League players in the 2/2nd was low, the quality was good. Tom O'Brien, Mick Mannix, Cyril Chaplain, Mick Devlin, Keith Wilson, not forgetting Joe Poynton and Gerry Green, even though they came from the West, all good players, but in my book Ross Smith was away out on his own, by far the most experienced. He never wasted a yard or an ounce of energy. He finished up in an Aussie Rules State and more than likely missed seeing some of the greatest Rugby league players I can remember, and most of them in two teams, Canberra and Brisbane.

I can't fathom how the Poms beat us at Wembley and they did it with 12 men. They played superb football but even so I don't rate them anywhere near the kangaroos - but they won. The second test was a run away after Meninga intercepted, plus the fact we had a goal kicker in Wishart. The third test next week I expect Australia to win, and do so comfortably.

Today, 12th November, the third anniversary of the Dili Massacre. There was a Commemoration Mass at St. Marys Cathedral, very well attended. I sent a letter and an invitation to Paul Keating - he didn't attend, neither did any other politicians. It may have upset Suharto, Sutrismo and Foreign Affairs Minister Alitas. Our own Foreign Minister, Senator Evans, of course couldn't be there, it would be counter productive, also he and Alitas are playing golf in Jakarta. It will be some game if their scores are as low as the numbers they claim were justifiably shot down in Dili in the 12th November, 1991. Gareth, from the safety of his office in Canberra, said he agreed with the figures arrived at by Jaenlani. enquiry 50. It should either make them champion world golfers or the greatest champs in another sphere since Ananais two thousand years ago.

The sours in the Commemoration came out in College Street after the Mass. The new generation of comrades turned up with placards galore, which had no relevance whatsoever to East Timor. Those parasitical bastards were at their time honoured game, uninvited they fasten on to a just cause to get their own particular brand of repressive politics across. I had a few words with them at the Town Hall. they were happy they had pushed their way into a legitimate demonstration, displayed their creed, and any odium would rebound on the Timorese. I was seething. I told their leader exactly what type of lecherous specie they were, and gave him a slice of their history from the 1930s up to 1994. I may as well have tried to push the Town Hall over for all the good I achieved.

Jack Stafford's (Sheen) story was fascinating. He most certainly had a persevering vocation for army life, fortunately for Jack, Malaya, Korea and Vietnam all came within his era of service, because I do not believe a man of his calibre would have enjoyed peacetime soldiering. He can settle down to a peaceful prosaic retirement now. He came out all in one piece which is surprising after seeing what up front service he chalked up. He certainly placed his head in the lion's mouth often enough. I was having a talk to him in Busselton and apart from being somewhat heavier, he was no different than when I first met him in 1943. Years of active service didn't put any dent in Jack's nerves from what I could see. He was and still is a physical and mentally tough boyo, and he needed to be. I reckon Jack's story, Peter Alexander's and Charlie Dodge's story the most interesting episodes I've ever read in the Courier. One other I thought would have been in the Courier, Peter Alexander's 'Growing up in Trafalgar.' I return to it often, it is so reminiscent - depression years, youngsters growing up, laughing, living and making their own amusements in an era when even the necessities were in short supply, or non-existent.

I wonder if Charlie Dodge finished the manuscripts he was working on before death claimed him. I hope so, and maybe one day his family will put them together. Charlie and Peter had a rough road to travel when they became prisoners. As far as the Australian army went, I reckon the men who did it the toughest of all were the men unfortunate enough to be prisoners of the Japanese. Throw in every campaign the AIF was in, it was child's play compared to what the 8th Division suffered as prisoners.

All my family are well, Sean and his family living in Canberra now. Denise and the children have been there since August, Sean arrived a couple of weeks ago. How he will take to Canberra life, well, it will be far different from

life in the Territory.

Sean has spent 17 or 18 years in the north west and Northern Territory. I wish him luck. Helen will be moving also but still in Canberra. She might have everything straightened out by Christmas, she will be moving a week or so prior. Gerald and Michael will be around for Christmas. We won't be short of bodies. There will be quite a clan gathering for tea. Nora will be busy but she enjoys the crowd and the talk and its just as well otherwise it would be no fun.

School reunion on later in November. The school is gone, a high rise office block now. A plaque on the wall says it occupies the site where St. Patrick's School once stood 1872-1964. There are still a few of us about who were there in the 1920s and 30x. Just a few. The Harbour Bridge wiped out three streets of houses, the end of the 20s, then the Rocks redevelopment plus the Cahill Expressway saw more go, Millers Point, the Rocks and Pymont, now a boring place for tourists, five international hotels, bow scraping servitors, Japanese galore, and trendies whose only contribution to society is raising a lap dog, along Kent Street, High Street, Dalgety Terrace, Argyle Place and Windmill Street. The remnants of the old families still survive but they will go. The whole Walsh Bay area up for development. The ships are gone, the cockneys, Liverpool Irish, the Geordies, the men from the Clyde, Swedes, Danes, Germans, Norwegians gone, the pubs, a few left. With sky high prices, tourists or curious visitors breasting trendy bars in pubs that once had swinging doors, board floors and a patronage of seamen from all over the world, wharf labourers, coal lumpers, the men from the wool stores and teamsters, all with more life, fight and fun in five minutes then you would get out of the present customers in a life time. Bloody progress and money grubbing, we throw away so much in pursuit of hog wash.

Never mind, for a few brief hours we will relive it all, the characters we knew, the hordes of hard case kids who lived in Paradise until Sydney's need for a bridge and developers' lust for money robbed us of it.

Nora joins me in wishing all our members a Merry and Joyful Christmas and may 1995 be a year of Happiness, Good Health and Contentment for all.

Paddy

W. N. J. Howell
68 Randell St
Mandurah 6210

To whom it may concern:

Having been messed about by experts for most of my life, I am pleased to report that I have

met a couple of amateurs (advocates, that is) at the RAAF Association in Manduarh, WA, who have successfully pursued my claim to have diabetes mellitus recognised as war caused. On 27 September 1994, the Veterans' Review Board decided to set aside a decision by the Commission and substitute that my diabetes mellitus was war caused as defined in Section 9 of the VEA, and that the Commonwealth was liable pursuant to Section 13 to pay pension for any incapacity arising from the condition.

At the hearing of this matter it was put to the Board that the condition of diabetes mellitus was attributable to the veteran's war service due to protein malnourishment and consumption of cassava whilst operating with 2/2 Independent Company in Timor in 1942. In its consideration of all the relevant material the Board considered that the expert medical reports before it were sufficient to raise a reasonable hypothesis in terms of the interpretation of that requirement of the Act by the High court in the cases of **Bushell** and **Byrnes**. It remained for the Board to consider whether the facts supported that hypothesis as required by Section 120(1) of the Act.

In this case the Board found the factual basis for the hypothesis by noting the well documented history of the 2/2 Independent Company during its period of operations behind enemy lines on Timor during 1942. During that period it is well documented that the Unit was required to live off the land. The circumstances resulted in an inadequate diet, continual physical and psychological stress and recurrent illnesses. Part of the means by which the Unit maintained itself was by eating cassava, a staple diet on the Island.

The advocates from the RAAF Association in Mandurah who presented my case were John Gabriel and Alex Rose who in turn received assistance from Dr Keith Horsley from Department of Veterans' Affairs central office in Canberra.

John Gabriel and Alex Rose, with able help from Pam Gabriel who did all the typing, spent many months researching my records to enable this decision to be reached. My heartfelt thanks to all three.

Bill Howell,

November, 1994.

SURPLUS CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

– a Problem in all States

The Courier is our official magazine! Because of this and its wide circulation, the Association is being inundated with correspondence from all sorts of organisations to the extent it is

becoming a near nightmare. Likewise, our members in all States are receiving circulars and letters seeking donations, some relating to attending meetings, plus other unrelated requests. This saddles them with the question 'What do we do with them?'

Our 2/2 Command Association of Australia was formed to look after our own and this we do very efficiently. Wherever possible, any matter relating to their welfare will be conveyed in the Courier.

What has to happen to all superfluous communications received is, relegate them to your rubbish bin, just ignore them. This is the only answer to counter quite a massive invasion of privacy. The Courier is our line of communication to disseminate matters that are relevant to our members. We do not want organisations sending at random a whole heap of irrelevant material of no interest to the recipient. If no response is forthcoming from the receiver then the sender will realise there is no interest. So, quitting them by the suggested method should act as a deterrent.

As an individual, of course, what line of approach you decide to take is entirely your prerogative.

Archie Campbell,
Editor.

REPATRIATION MEDICAL AUTHORITY

The Repatriation Medical Authority (RMA) arose from the recommendation of the Baume Committee that an expert medical committee be formed. The aim being the provision of a more equitable and consistent system of determining claims for disability pensions for veterans and their dependents.

The Government announced the establishment of the RMA in the 1994-95 Federal Budget. The Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 was amended to reflect this on 30 June, 1994.

What is the RMA?

The RMA is a statutory authority created by Parliament. The membership is limited to five and these experts were appointed by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs on July 20 and 21 after consultation with the major ex-service organisations. The RMA assisted by a Secretariat. It is an independent authority, free of the Repatriation Commission and the Department of Veterans' Affairs. It does not replace the Veterans' Review Board or the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

The role of the RMA is to prepare Statements of Principles (SPOs). SOPs are determinations by the RMA that set out the factors that must exist to establish a casual connection for particular diseases, injuries or death. The matters of fact including the nature of service

and any connection of the factors that may contribute to a disease are still determined by the various decision makers.

The RMA commenced its operations with a review of those existing SOPs that had been established by the Repatriation Commission but were not binding on any decision maker. The RMA must satisfy itself that SPOs are based on sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that the identified factors are indeed casually related to the disease or injury.

The Secretariat of the RMA is producing an information brochure that will explain in more detail the processes the RMA will adopt in order to achieve its role. This will be distributed to ex-service organisations as soon as it becomes available.

'A FAIR EFFORT'

At the invitation of the Western Arms and Armour Society Inc. the Association presented a display of our wartime memorabilia collection at the Society's Annual fair held at the Claremont Showgrounds 29/30th October.

Thanks to the efforts of our museum curator Peter Epps, we were able to present a very attractive display with the Unit flag to the forefront. Peter also brought along two videos 'The Men of Timor' and 'Independent Company' which were shown a number of times during the weekend. A friend of Peter, Gary Hayes, was good enough to make up two dummies, one dressed in Joe Poynton's Victory Parade army uniform and the other in the rigout we wore on Timor, complete with boots, shorts, shirt, beard and Tommy gun. Both were very well done and along with the other wartime memorabilia and the videos, attracted a lot of interest.

The Association would like to thank the following who assisted with the display: Peter Epps, Gary Hayes, Col Doig, Keith Hayes, Ted Monk, Arch Campbell, Delys and Jack Carey.

Due mainly to the enterprise of Col and Keith we were able to sell \$170 worth of Jim Smailes' poems which topped off a good weekend.

We are pleased to be able to let you know that the President of the Arms and Armour Society Inc. said that the 2/2nd display was very professional and voted it the best presented at the Fair.

INDEPENDENT TRUST INFORMATION

FAX TO: Don Bosco Training centre
Att: Bro. Ephrem Santos SDB
FROM: Independent Trust, Robert N. Smyth
16/11/94

Dear Ephrem,

USED SCHOOL TEXT BOOKS ADDRESSED TO FATHER LOCATELLI, DILI FOR ATTENTION BRO. EPHREM SANTOS.

The shipment of 3 pallets holding a total of 99 cartons left Fremantle on Friday, 11th November, 1994 for Singapore for transhipment to Dili by YUFAM PTE LTD. Delivery is to Fr. Locatelli, attention Bro. Ephrem Santos for distribution.

Attached are copies of documents and FAX, posted and FAXED to Singapore – 13 pages).

Document Distribution

Regarding original documents for Batara Indra Dili. Our shipping Agents Sea Transport, advise that the shipping documents for Dili have to be made up by YUFAM Pte Ltd, Singapore, because the enclosed documents cover only the Fremantle to Singapore leg.

Nevertheless I have Air mailed, as enclosed, documents to PT. Batara Indra whose address the Dili phone authority gave us:

Jose Maria Marques, Dili. I trust that address is correct.

Carton No. 3 on Pallet 2 contains knitting needles and crochet cotton for Br. Ephrem Santos.

The books were selected in subjects thought to be of value to your education system. Some obviously could be considered for use only at University level if appropriate.

Language:

Without exception all in English text.

Carton Containers:

For reasons of economy many of the cartons have been previously used.

Packing and Listing:

The books were collected, categorised and packed by our own members, some inexperienced in those procedures. However, we trust that you will not have difficulty in reconciling the contents to the schedules provided. It is hoped and felt that the books do not warrant any concern to the Indonesian Authorities and are received in total for distribution to you.

Our best wishes – Sincerely,

Robert N. Smyth

Independent Trust –
2/2nd Commando Association.

**128 Dalkeith Road
NEDLANDS 6009**

14/11/1994

Mr Pat J. DeLuz,
56 Lamonerie Street,
TOONGABBIE N.S.W. 2146

Dear Pat,

Regarding our recent phone conversation, I am enclosing Peter Spillet's report.

The names are unfamiliar to our members of the 2/2nd Commando Association but it is of note that you can identify and support the claim of Dominggus Amaral.

Raku Loi refers to Cpl. Barry (Blossom) Laurence who ex 2/2nd Commando joined "Z." He died in South Australia some years ago.

I am referring the subject to the Secretary of the Z Special Unit Association of W.A. Inc. Ted (E.W.) Dubberlin, 28a Houston Avenue, Dianella 6062 western Australia - Telephone (09) 275 1348, and requesting that he pursue its objectives.

I am resentful of the Australian Government's callous disregard of your own position for so long and not giving substantial recognition to your outstanding contribution to the War effort.

I am sorry to hear of your wife's and your own declining circumstances and state of health and trust that some colour may return.

My best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Bob Smyth.

**From: Peter Spillet A.M.
8 Leichhart Crescent
Darwin 0801**

TWO UNSUNG TIMOR HEROES

Raku Loi (Hermenegildo Belo) and **Dominggus Amaral** both old men living with their memories have recalled the dangers of their respective lives when serving with the Australian troops in the mountains of eastern Timor in the Second World War against the Japanese invaders.

Raku Loi remembers leading a band of young Timorese in the mountains to the south of Baucau who helped the Aussie soldiers to carry radio equipment and heavy batteries, constantly on the move to detect Japanese movements and concentrations. He could only remember the name of Lieut. Brain and a telegraphist by the name of Jack, a Cpl Barry Laurence and a Captain whose name he could not remember.

For three years he worked closely with the Aussies and whenever the parachuted food supplies failed he and his men foraged throughout the villages in search of food.

Dominggus Amaral first met the Australians in 1941 when an order was received from Salazar, President of Portugal, to collaborate with both the Aussies and the Japanese. Later, in 1942 the people were told to support the Australian troops. Dominggus met a Lt. Col. Leelo in 1942, and an interpreter named

Lt. Pires. Later he worked with Pat De Luz in the Bacau-Luka region passing radio messages. Both of these veterans acted as guides, foragers and pack mules for the Aussie soldiers between 1942-45, but neither have ever received recognition for their support from Australian authorities. No wages, no medal, not even a letter of thanks. Maybe it is not too late to give some recognition to them for their services to Australia.

Peter Spillet is based in Dili, currently researching the Oral History of the tribes of East and West Timor from the pre-Colonial era to the Second World War. He is a Hon. Research Fellow with the Northern Territory University and the Museum of Arts and Sciences, and attached to the Universities of Nusa Cendana, Kupang and the University of East Timor in Dili.

FINKY'S TROUBLE WITH 'SEX'

Usually everyone who has a dog calls it 'Rover' or 'Spot.' I called mine 'Sex.' Well, 'Sex' is a very embarrassing name. One day he ran away from me. I spent hours looking for him. A policeman asked me what I was doing in an alley at 2 am. I said 'I'm looking for Sex.' My case came up the next week.

When I went to get a dog licence the clerk asked me what I wanted and I told him I wanted a licence for 'Sex.' He said he would like one too. I said 'This is a dog.' He said he didn't care what she looked like. I said 'You don't understand. I've had 'Sex' since I was 5 years old' and he said 'By jove, you must have been very strong.'

When I decided to get married I told the Minister I wanted to have 'Sex' at the wedding but he told me to wait until after the ceremony. I said 'Sex' had played a big part in my life and my whole life revolves around 'Sex.' He said he didn't want to hear about my personal life and would not marry us in his church. I told him everyone coming to the wedding would enjoy having 'Sex' there. Next day we were married by a JP and my family is barred from the church.

We took the dog on our honeymoon and when I told the Motel Manager I wanted a room for my wife and myself and a special room for 'sex' he told me every room in the motel is for sex. I said 'You don't understand, 'Sex' keeps me awake at night.' He said 'Me too.'

When my wife and I separated we fought for custody of the dog. I said 'Your Honour I had 'Sex' before I was married.' He said 'Me too.' When I said that after I was married 'Sex' had left me he said 'Me too.'

Well, now I've been thrown in jail, been married, divorced and had more trouble with

that dog than I gambled for. Just the other day when I went for my first session with the psychiatrist, he asked me what seemed to be the trouble. I said 'Well, 'Sex' has died and it's like losing a best friend and it's lonely. He said 'Mister, you and I both know that sex isn't man's best friend, so get yourself a dog.'

In a phone call to Len, Harry Handicott reported that he and Amyce, Bill Walsh, Joyce Smith and Alan Luby are all well. Harry sends his greetings to all for a happy Christmas and healthy 1995 and he is looking forward to seeing everyone in Maroochydore in 1996.

Jess has been busy on the phone and has messages from Betty Craig who is well, Grace Davies who has been very sick but is well again, Dorothy and Ron Trengove who has been ill but is not too bad now, Alan Hollow doesn't have to see the doctor for six months, Margaret and Ken Monk, Win MacLachlan, Coral and Bill Coker are all well. Kath Press was in Perth the week of the Kalgoorlie Country Convention and was only able to contact Jess by phone the night before she left. All send their kindest regards and wish to be remembered to everyone.

Mick and Jean Morgan send Christmas and New Year greetings and their love to members everywhere. They are happy in their new home and enjoying good health.

Festive Season Greetings from the Courier Team. Archie, Len, Betty and Gavin wish all members and families a Happy Christmas and health and happiness in 1995. Thank you for your letters and items of interest this year and please keep them coming next year.

TRENGOVE, Mr R. W.
Ron and Dorothy
73/10 Minkara Rd
Bayview 2104
9999 3629

KEENAHAN, Mr J.
Jack and Jean
30 Duncan St
Huskisson 2540
(044) 41 6074

JACKSON, Mr P. A.
Peter
17 Myrtle Grove
Altona 3018
(033) 98 2606

HODGSON, Mrs J->
Joy
6 Valleyview Drive
Roweville 3178

DOWSETT, Mr B.
Bert
4 Lakewood Village
43 Murtha Dr.
Elanora 4221

ELMORE, Mrs I.
Isabel
19 Cadorna St
Launceston 7250
(003) 26 2046

CASH, Mrs J.
Jean
7/11 Elvire St
Viveash 6056
(09) 250 3441

McLAUGHLIN, Mr J.
Jim
24/70 Goderich St
East Perth 6004
(09) 221 3947

NEWTON, Mr L.
Lionel and Elsie
274 Kaolin St
Broken Hill 2880
(080) 87 3060

O'BRIEN, Mrs M.
Muriel
Bevington Village
Lot 78 Sunrise Ave
Budgewoi 2262
(043) 99 3504

HOLLEY, Mr C. G.
Col and Valerie
Unit 20 Fairfax House
Howell Village
Castle Hill 2154