



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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

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

Vol. 105

FEBRUARY 1994

Price 1c

COMING EVENTS

Keep These Dates in Mind

MONDAY, APRIL 25, 1994

ANZAC DAY

Assemble in our usual place in St George's Terrace at 9.30am.
March off at 10.00 am.

Get-together after the parade at Airways Hotel,
195 Adelaide Terrace.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 10, 1994 at 11.00 am

at Anzac Club

Members are asked to try and make this meeting.
Refreshments and Snacks to follow.

SAFARI 1994 — BUSSELTON, W.A.

Thursday 7 - Thursday 14 April

Details Inside

VALE FRED SPARKMAN

That dreaded Bell has tolled again, this time in the person of Fred Sparkman, on December 18, after a long fight with cancer. This makes 13 deaths in 1993, of which 10 were West Australian members.

Fred Sparkman was born on August 8, 1918 in Victoria and came to W.A. at a very early age when his father took up a dairy farm at Mundijong. He was educated at the local school and when school days were finished was employed by W.A. Government Railways on the running staff with the then steam locomotive branch. He went through the grades of jobs from 'call boy,' cleaner, fireman and engine driver. He took his ambulance badge while in early training with the W.A.G.R. as this was fairly normal practice.

At the outbreak of war Fred was an early enlistment and was drafted to Army medical corps. He volunteered and joined the 'Hush Hush' to be later called 2nd Independent Company, and was sent to Capt. Roger Dunkley as an R.A.P. Corporal. He served as an R.A.P. man right through all the campaigns, Timor, New Guinea and New Britain. He was allocated to Don Turton's 'D' Platoon when it was formed in Timor, and operated with great distinction. Fred was very much a soldier as well as an R.A.P. man and carried a Tommy gun with 'D' Platoon. On the day 'D' Platoon was to be evacuated from Timor Fred was unfortunately unlucky to be cut off from the main body by Japanese action as the Platoon left Same. He battled with a badly wounded 2/4th soldier and was with Spr. Moule when he was killed. Fred was to pick up with the rest of the Company and was evacuated a few days later. Fred's army service was of the highest possible order right through until the war finished in New Britain.

On his return to civilian life he rejoined the W.A.G.R. and rapidly became an engine driver in those old days of steam. Firstly he served in Perth, then Bridgetown, Albany, Mullewa and back to the metropolitan area where he finished his career as a driver of diesel engines. He married Rose soon after he came out of the army and they had three children, Alex, John and Margaret. Fred was practically a fanatical supporter of the Perth Football Club — he used that venue as his 'local.' He was later to join the Lathlain Bowling Club and also the Belmont RSL. Anzac Club was also a steady venue for 'Sparky.'

Fred was a very good member of the 2/2 Commando Association and attended many interstate safaris. He will be missed by his many friends and in a big way by our Association. We say a fond farewell to a great soldier, good husband and father and an avid

footy supporter. The Association extends sincere sympathy to his family and relatives.

Col Doig

A Crematorium service was held at Karrakatta on December 22, 1993. President Ted Monk, 'Doc' Wheatley, Don Turton and 'Dusty' Studdy acted as pall bearers. Ted Monk recited the 'Ode.' The following Association members were present: Ray Aitken, Tom Bateman, Tony Bowers and daughter Anne, Arch Campbell, Jack Carey, Col Doig, Ron Dook, Jess Epps, John Fowler, Jack Hasson, Keith Hayes, Bill and Elvie Howell, Don Hudson, Mark Jordan, Gerry Maley, Don May, Ted Monk, Joe and Helen Poynton, Gordon and Eva Rowley, Bob Smyth, George and Colleen Strickland, 'Dusty' Studdy, Don Turton, Roy Watson, 'Doc' Wheatley and Jack Boardman (2/8th).

VALE HARRY G. HOLDER MBE

Harry Georges Holder passed away on December 28, 1993 after a very long and debilitating illness, aged 73 years.

Although not a member of 2/2nd Commando Squadron, Harry was a very good friend of our Association. He was one of that band of 2/1st Heavy Battery who were captured on Dutch Timor in February 1942. He was a P.O.W. in Timor, Java, Malaya, Burma and in the coal mines of Japan. It was a long and rugged prisoner experience and probably it was only his youth and resilience which carried him through.

Harry started his working life with the Perth Mint and returned to that august institution after the war and rose to Mint Superintendent. He and wife Maisie shared the home on the Mint premises and reared their family there, only leaving to set up their own home on Harry's retirement.

Like his father before him, Harry took a very deep interest in the R.S.L. His father, Bill was the Secretary of the City of Perth Sub-Branch and a great friend of our infant Association in 1946. The Sub-Branch was our unpaid landlord for many years. Harry also became a member of the City of Perth Sub-Branch and served on the Committee and on his retirement became Secretary of the Branch. He served on the Executive of the R.S.L. for a long time, holding many of the major offices, but most unfortunately he did not become State President when he undoubtedly was most qualified for such an honour. Harry was very much the 'Soldiers Friend.' He set out to assist ex-servicemen wherever it was possible, both in his position with City of Perth Sub-Branch and with the R.S.L. Executive. On many occasions he helped out the R.S.L. as an

advocate on the Appeals Tribunal of the Repatriation Commission. He helped set up the City of Perth Holiday Camp at Point Peron and he, Maisie and family had a permanent caravan and annexe there for years.

Maisie has carried on the Holder R.S.L. traditions with the Auxiliary of City of Perth and on the Executive of Ladies Auxiliary, State Branch.

Harry was extended Honorary Life Membership of the 2/2nd Commando Association in 1989 for his services to our great Association.

The Association has lost a very great friend and we extend our most sincere sympathy to Maisie and family. Farewell to a very fine mate, citizen and family man.

Col Doig

The cremation took place at Karrakatta on January 4, 1994 and the following Association members were present: Jack Carey, Col Doig, Bill and Elvie Howell, Wilf and Lorraine March, Jess Epps, John Fowler, Keith Hayes, Dick Darrington, Bob Smyth, Peter Alexander, Don Turton and Patsy Thatcher.

VALE CHARLES GORTON

The tide of life rolls on and we have to advise the death of Charles Gorton on Sunday, January 9th, peacefully, at home. He was 78 years of age. He was born in England and came to Australia as a child. He married Joyce in 1938.

Charlie joined the Unit when we were at Strathpine and served with us in New Britain.

Charlie was employed as a wharf labourer at the port of Fremantle all his working career. He was a great family man and home lover. He cared for his garden and poultry in a very big way. He had a large circle of friends and was a keen church man. In his younger days he was a very good bantam weight boxer. He is survived by wife Joyce and children Jan, Gail, Carol and Steve.

Charlie had a very deep regard for the 2/2nd Commando Association and took as much personal interest as his employment would allow. There were not many of our more recent ladies' functions at which Charlie and Joyce were not in attendance.

There goes another good husband, father, grandfather, good citizen and good soldier. We offer our sincere sympathy to Joyce and family.

Col Doig

The following were in attendance at a very large funeral at Fremantle Cemetery on

January 12th: Jack Carey, Keith Hayes, Joe and Helen Poynton, Arch Campbell, Wilf and Lorraine March, Ted Monk, Don Turton, Jess Epps.

We regret to advise of the passing of **Margaret Weller** who died on January 26th, Australia Day.

Margaret underwent a major operation last year but unfortunately complications set in which, despite a courageous fight by Margaret, eventually took her life.

Eric and Margaret have been loyal supporters of the Association over many years and Margaret's cheerful presence will be missed by members.

The Association extends deepest sympathy to Eric and the Weller family. May she rest in peace.

BUSSELTON SAFARI

7TH - 14th April, 1994

The Committee comprising Eric and Twy Smyth, Clarrie and Grace Turner, Jack and Delys Carey, Billie Perry, Ted Monk, Bill Howell and Col Doig met at Eric's home on Thursday, 20th January. Arrangements for the forthcoming Safari were discussed in detail at the meeting which lasted over three hours. The Committee intend to meet again in February and again in March to finalise arrangements so it can be seen every effort is being made to ensure the success of the Safari.

As at 27th January 137 members and friends have nominated, made up of 31 from N.S.W., 18 from Queensland, 9 from Victoria, 6 from South Australia, 3 from New Guinea, 2 from Tasmania, 2 from A.C.T. and 66 from the home state, W.A. Unfortunately, Tony and Iris Adams had to withdraw as Iris is not enjoying the best of health. 'Basher' and Iris will be missed at Busselton.

The itinerary is much the same as appeared in the December 1993 Courier. The Committee has set Friday, 25th March as the last day for members to book in, which still gives people who haven't yet made up their minds whether or not to come, plenty of time to decide. W.A. members, in particular, who intend coming to some of the functions are asked to let Eric Smyth know of their intentions before this date. The Committee would like as many as possible from W.A. to attend the main day, Saturday 9th April which includes a march through Busselton, followed by a remembrance service and the official luncheon. The Busselton Town

Band has kindly offered its services for the march so we would like to see a good representation for what should be a crackjack day. Members could consider arriving on the Friday and staying for a few days at least. It is a wonderful opportunity to renew friendships with old mates, so make up a few car loads and come along.

As with previous Safaris, a package deal will be struck to cover the cost of the various functions. This cost has not been finalised yet but you can be assured it will be very reasonable.

Arrangements for meeting our visitors are also yet to be finalised as we are still in the process of finding out who is arriving and when. So long as we know in advance, all incoming parties will be met on arrival. It is still planned to hire a coach to take members to Busselton and have them there in plenty of time for the first function on the Thursday evening. W.A. members can avail themselves of the bus trip and three have already advised the Secretary to this effect.

The Paradise Motel and Vasse Hotel/Motel still have accommodation on offer at reasonable rates.

This, and previous Couriers, should provide members with all the information they need. If anyone needs further information, don't hesitate to contact our man on the spot in Busselton, Eric Smyth on (097) 52 1076. Lawn bowlers, don't forget to bring your gear and let Eric know in advance that you will be bowling!

As this Safari may well be the last held in the West, members, especially those in W.A., should make every effort to join in what promises to be a memorable eight days at one of the State's popular tourist spots — Busselton. See you on the 7th.

Jack Carey

Bookings made to date are:

Ship Resort Motel — Adams T. and daughters Thea and Lisa; Andrew, C. and J.; Bache, B. and S.; Bagley, L.; Brown, D. and T.; Chatfield, J.; Coulson, G. and B.; Craig, B.; Darge, J.; Devlin, B.; Doig, C.; Epps, J.; Finkelstein, R. and E.; Fowler, J.; Fullarton, E.; Goddard, B.; Howell, W. and E.; Illsley, B.; King, C., M. and P.; MacLachlan, W.; Mannix, M.; McAlpine, R. and E.; Meldrum, J.; Morris, R. and H.; Poynton, J. and H.; Poynton, J. and G.; Rowan-Robinson, B. and I.; Rowley, G. and E.; Vanderleur, G. and E.; Watson, R.

Gale Street Resort — Bowers, T. and G.; Coker, B. and C.; Conley, R. and S.; Hooper, N. and M.; Hudson, D.; Keenahan, J. and J.; Langridge, B. and B.; Luby, A. and E.; Maley, G. and D.; Martin, R. and J.; Mullins, N.; Payne, S. and B.

Vasse Hotel — Adrian, J.; Hasson, J.; McLaughlin, J.; Steen, J. and friend.

Paradise Motel — Campbell, A.; Carey, J. and D.; Chalwell, J. and O.; Cooper, L. and M.; Greenhalgh, G.; Handicott, H. and A.; Jordan, M. and E.; Maclachlan, A.; Miller, M. and N.; Monk, T. and P.; Roberts, J. and C.; Shiels, G. and M.; Smith, J.; Soper, J.; Sproxtton, H. and T.; Steele, G.; Tate, B.; Thatcher, P.; Tillett, N. and F.; Wilson, K. and N.

Kookaburra Caravan Park — Blomeley, K. and friend; Campbell, P. and P.; Dignum, K. and B.; Harrington, R. and D.; Kenneally, P. and N.; McLaughlin, B. and D.; Newton, L. and E.; Sadler, B.; Sadler, C. and M.; Trengove, R. and M.

Private — Foster, T. and M.; Monk, K. and M.; Perry, B.; Smyth, E. and T.; Turner, C. and G.

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

This was a wonderful event of happiness and Christmas cheer, with the attendance of 57 proving this function is one of our most popular.

The room allotted to us at the Anzac Club looked a picture with the complete Christmas touch. The service was excellent and everyone enjoyed refreshments followed by a sit down three course luncheon.

It was great to see the widows there in force, likewise May Mansfield, sister of our old mate Gordon Chiswell. His other sister Isobel Macdonald and her husband Pat from Rockhampton sent a donation so we could further enjoy ourselves. Marie Evans, sister of another old mate long gone, Charlie Stanton, with her husband Ernie who, along with their family, are staunch supporters of the 2/2nd, Bob Chalmers' sister Dorothy Ryan and her grandson Steve Thompson. Jack Hasson was there with his family, Ken and Rhonda, Kay and Roy, and apologies were received from Wilf and Lorraine March, Charles, Mary and Paddy King, Bernie and Babs Langridge, Ralph and Eve Finkelstein, John Burrridge, Joe and Helen Poynton, Edna Halse, Dot Maley, Mick and Jean Morgan.

President Ted Monk conveyed Christmas and New Year greetings to the assembly and these were reciprocated heartily to Ted and Peg.

Len Bagley, doyen of M.C.'s, kept everything rolling along, with messages from all and sundry across Australia, and a big welcome to our visitors.

The signal to conclude was given by Vice President Bill Howell when he rounded up the Mandurah 2-2's for the return trip to Mandurah. These stalwarts consistently contribute so much to our excellent attendances.

A big 'thank you' to the Anzac Club for their first class co-operation and friendliness. It is nice to have such a rapport with them.

Archie Campbell

MANDURAH 2-2s CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

This happy event took place on Friday, December 17, at the Dudley Park Bowling Club, a delightful venue with plenty of space for the 31 members and ladies to mingle and enjoy happy talk and pre-luncheon drinks at 'Happy Hour' prices, thanks to the Club Manager. A nicely presented three course luncheon followed, with refreshments subsidised to the tune of \$200 due to our saving ways during the year. The usual bon-homie prevailed throughout the afternoon until it was time to say au revoir and look forward to our next get-together.

Welcome visitors from Perth were Jess Epps, Bonnie Criddle and John Fowler. Apologies were received from Ted and Peg Monk who had a previous engagement and Jack Hasson whose son Doug arrived in Perth from N.S.W. that day.

INDEPENDENT TRUST

Following the recommendation of the Indonesian Embassy, on two occasions we wrote the Director General of Education, without success.

We then gave all details to the Australian Embassy in Jakarta and requested assistance. A reply advises a team from the Indonesian Education Department may require to review the books.

'Sensitivities tend to slow down an already slow moving bureaucracy.'

Our embassy is to advise further.

John Burrige and Bob Smyth invited and picked up the Indonesian Vice Consul and took him to Fremantle where he examined four random chosen cartons and checked them to manifest.

Bob Smyth and Ray Aitken were privileged to have a meeting with Bishop Carlos Filipe Belo of Dili during his Perth visit.

We detailed our attempts to gain permission for the despatch of the Text Books. He will make representation to Governor Soares of Dili on our behalf.

We are persevering.

Bob Smyth

ADDRESS BY P. L. THATCHER and C. EATON

Quite a large number of members and wives, including John and Cath Roberts holidaying in Perth from Melbourne, came to Anzac Club on January 4th to hear an address by Patsy Thatcher and Charles Eaton regarding the current position in East Timor and its bearing on the outcome of our Timor Trust Fund.

President Ted Monk introduced the two speakers and Don Turton gave a brief run down on Mr Eaton's interest in the Timor situation. Mr Eaton's father was the Group Captain in charge of the Darwin area during the war and was responsible for many of the bombing missions in the Timor zone. Mr Eaton senior was also the first Consul in Portuguese Timor after hostilities and was an Australian Ambassador to Indonesia. Mr Eaton junior was a child on what is now East Timor.

Mrs Thatcher is well known to the Association with her deep interest in East Timorese affairs. Her address which lasted over an hour, with interspersed comments by Mr Eaton, was most enlightening. She was able to trace the affairs in Indonesia, with special reference to the politics and religion of the governing parties. The Islamic religion does play a large part in the affairs on Indonesia and the rise of Fundamental Muslimism is a most worrying matter for the current Government, and from Mr Eaton's idea also for the future of relations with Australia. Apparently the whole thing is very complicated with the various factions that have their fingers in the pie in Jakarta.

Mrs Thatcher said there did not seem to be any thought of granting independence to East Timor and the best that could be hoped for was some form of autonomy. If there was a move for independence for Timor it would bring about a rush for similar independence from other outlying provinces such as West New Guinea (West Irian) and the Celebes.

Mrs Thatcher seemed to think that the 2/2nd stood in good regard with the Indonesians and was hopeful that we would eventually be able to deliver the great heap of books we have gathered together and also the office machinery. She said she had very good relations with various Indonesian students studying at Monash University which has the largest Indonesian Studies Unit in the Southern Hemisphere and was hopeful of a quid pro quo with a student she had assisted and finding out the correct approach in Jakarta to get our goods into East Timor.

Many questions on all relevant subjects were asked and answered by both speakers. This was a highly successful meeting and all present got a new and proper view of the situation in East Timor and the type of politics

bound up in Indonesia. It is certain that those present came away well satisfied with what they heard and also with some hope for the future, and we extend our sincere thanks to Mrs Thatcher and Mr Eaton for their excellent expose of this most difficult and complex situation.

Col Doig

**Australian War Memorial
GPO Box 345
Canberra ACT 2601**

5 January, 1994

Dear President and Members

Thank you for your generous donation to our Appeal to save recordings in our Sound Archive. Your official receipt is enclosed. We will attempt, where possible, to meet your request for a sound recording of 'Men of Timor,' however, at this stage we are not sure if our collection contains this specific recording.

Your donation will cover the cost of restoring one complete disc in this unique collection. As we mentioned in our Appeal letter, in return for your gift to the Memorial, once the disks have been restored we will send you, as a sign of our appreciation, a high quality audio tape of the recording that you have saved.

In addition we will acknowledge disc sponsors in the first 1994 issue of our newsletter **Despatches**.

Unfortunately, I cannot tell you at this time exactly when you will receive your tape. The process of transferring material from one medium to another for archival purposes is quite complex and will take some time. Nevertheless, it is hoped that we can complete this project within one year.

Your name has been recorded as a disc sponsor and you will be kept informed of progress on the project.

Thank you again for your support for this important Memorial project.

Yours sincerely

Brendon Kelson

VICTORIAN NEWS

Tidal River Memorial Service was observed by the Combined Commando Association on Sunday, November 21, 1993 and Tom Nisbet who is President, conducted the service. Members of the 2/2nd who attended were Tom Nisbet, Ken Monk, Harry Botterill, Fred Broadhurst, Bill Petersen, George Veitch, Alex Boast. A very pleasant day. The No. 2

Commando Company put on a display of rock abseiling, canoeing, weapons and unarmed combat which was well received.

Victorian Branch Christmas luncheon was held at Paterson River Country Club on Monday, December 6. We had an excellent lunch in delightful surroundings and a very good roll up. Present were Bruce and Lorraine McLaren, John and Shirley Southwell, Harry and Olive Botterill, Jack and Julie Fox, Max and Patsy Thatcher, Bill Tucker and friend Rosemary, Ken and Margaret Monk, Leith and Marg. Cooper, Don and Joan Freyer, Alex and Beryl Boast, John and Cath Roberts, Jock and Faye Campbell, Bill and Pat Petersen, George and Dot Veitch, Sep and Monica Wilson, Alf and Gwen Harper, Grace Davies, Peter McCracken and friend, Fred and Mavis Broadhurst and Phyllis, Tom Nisbet, Ted Bourke, Nina Grachan, Wyn Humphries, Glad Curran, Paul Costelloe, 44 all told, with apologies from Mick Wellings, Jack Renehan, Wilma Tobin, Bill and Eileen Sharp, George and Dot Robinson, Dawn and Arch Claney, Dulcie Gay, Norm and Fran Tillet, Bruce and Erica Poynton, Bob Snowden, Chris Wray, Bluey and Mary Bone, Sir Bernard and Lady Callinan.

We were sorry to hear of the passing of Mavis Robinson on October 29, 1993.

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing everyone a very enjoyable Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

Harry Botterill

GERALDTON NEWS

In this Year of the Family it was wonderful to witness the strong participation of family members in the Eucharistic Celebration in thanksgiving for the life and love of **Margaret Mary Weller**, at St. Lawrence's Church at Bluff Point, Geraldton on February 4th. Margaret, beloved wife of Eric, had gone to her Heavenly Father on Australia Day after a long illness which she bore with great courage and fortitude, highlighted by the wonderful support of her family, relatives and friends.

The eulogy was delivered by Margaret's son Tony, followed by my vocal tribute during which I made special mention of the support given to our Association's activities, including safaris and country conventions. I stated that when Margaret married Eric 47 years ago, she immediately became involved in the double red diamond colour patch Association which had its roots in Australia's darkest days when the Unit carried out a guerilla campaign against the Japanese, followed by campaigns in New Guinea and New Britain. I also said that Margaret soon became involved in the

affection, love and comradeship of our Association and derived and also provided great pleasure by participation in safaris and conventions.

In Geraldton for the church service and graveside service were Charlie, Mavis and Blanche Sadler from Wongan Hills, Tom and Mary Foster from Allanooka and Bernie 'Boomer' Giles and daughter from Mullewa.

After Margaret's funeral we all got together for afternoon tea at the Wonthella Bowling Club which had provided a guard of honour for both services.

I'm sure Eric and Twy Smyth will be delighted to learn that members of the Sadler families, Eric Weller, Tom and Mary Foster will be attending the Busselton Safari. In addition, Tom will contact Bluey Pendergrast to see if he and Edith are interested.

The Sadler families, like most W.A. farming families, have experienced a good season and the same applies to the Foster's farm at Allanooka which is also the subject of a 30 kilometre seismic survey in association with oil exploration.

Bernie Giles has not been enjoying the best of health and has been battling for a long time with the Department of Veterans' Affairs to obtain additional benefits. Pat has been strongly supporting Bernie in this regard and I wonder if Colin Doig, who has had great experience with Repatriation matters, might be able to help. Bernie's address and phone number are 15 Carson Street, Mullewa 6630, (099) 61 1149.

Would all members in possession of copies of 'A Great Fraternity' turn to page 116 and make a correction. As I have often reported, the 'Batavia' sank in 1629 not 1829. It was with great delight that I gave the world the story of the discovery of the wreck in 1963 — as a scoop news item.

Peter Barden

CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

A. Luby
6/35 Richmond Ave
Dee Why 2099

As this is the first surat for this year, from Edith and myself our hearty greetings and best wishes for a happy and healthy new year.

Our Christmas luncheon in the Bistro at Dee Why RSL Club on Saturday, November 27th was a very pleasant event with 24 members, wives, widows and families in attendance. As well as Edith and myself were Bill and Coral Coker, Paddy and Nora Kenneally, Ron and Dorothy Trengove, Fred and Norma Janvrin,

Jack and Maria Hartley, Harry and Amyce Handicott and sister Laurel, Snow Went and Helen Dickson, Frank O'Neill, Betty Devlin, June Bennet, daughter Marilyn and son Steven. We also had the pleasure of Arthur and Gwen Littler joining us, Arthur in his capacity as President of NSW Commando Association.

Unfortunately, some of our members have been on the sick list, including Ron Trengove who has been in and out of hospital and having radiotherapy. Currently as well as can be expected. Jack Peattie has had more than a fair share of hospitals at Coffs Harbour and Westmead, mainly abdominal conditions of which it was apparently difficult to diagnose the root cause. He's at home presently and on treatment to build him up for a gall removal early in the new year. David Hartley is lucky to be alive after coming to grief in his vehicle near Port Macquarie about a month ago, and is still having injuries treated. One of our Associate Members, Ray Whiteley, has been in Liverpool Hospital following a heart attack. My last report indicates that he is OK.

We were indeed saddened to learn of the recent death of another good old friend in the person of Fred Sparkman. Fred was one of the great characters and personalities of the 2/2 who served with the Unit from Go to Whoa, and I'm sure he will be missed by those of you who have been in close contact with him, especially during the time he has been so ill. R.I.P.

Our thanks to all the interstate folk who phoned me and others to enquire about our welfare during and since the recent devastating bushfire disaster that swept so much of NSW. Those who were in closest proximity to the worst areas of fire were Doug and Shirley Dixon at Como, Allan and Jean Dixon and Frank O'Neill at Narrabeen, Bill and Frieda Tomasetti at Wentworth Falls, Snow Weir at Spencer. The only one for whom we have no report is Snow and I reckon the old fox would have found a good water hole to shelter in.

Safari time is rapidly approaching and will be here before we know it. Once more we look forward to joining with you in happy reunion at Busselton and later for a short stay in Perth. Till then we wish you all the best of health.

Sincerely,
Alan Luby

Mrs J. Chatfield
10/22 Third Avenue
Mandurah 6210

Enclosed is my donation towards the *Courier* which I look forward to and enjoy reading very

much. congratulations to the *Courier* team, they do an excellent job.

Best wishes to all members and their families. I hope 1994 will bring good health and happiness to all.

Joy

Mrs O. Thornton
PO Box 81
Denmark 6333

Enclosed is a donation to the *Courier* from Olive Thornton and family on behalf of the late Norm Thornton.

Yours faithfully

O. Thornton per R. Thornton

The following Christmas greetings were received too late to appear in the *December Courier*:

Mrs B. Smith
97 Spinaway Pde
Falcon 6210

All the best to everyone for the festive season.

Enclosed is my donation for the *Courier*.

Beryl

Mrs A. Moore
10 Poplar St
Dwellingup 6213

Christmas greetings to all.

Enclosed is a donation for the *Courier*.

Alma

P. Campbell
30 Castletown Quays
Esperance 6450

We have been very remiss in not writing for a such a long time.

Please find enclosed cheque for *Courier* or whatever.

Peter keeping reasonably well, still working and going for short breaks.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in April.

All the best.

Peter and Pat

**The President and Commissioners
Repatriation Commission Canberra.**

**With best wishes for Christmas and the
New Year.**

R.E.L. Archer
36 Soudan St
Toowong 4066

This is to wish all our mates seasonal greetings and that those who are not so well will be a lot better during 1994.

Saw Russ Blanch briefly in October at his Bangalow Bowling Club. He's not playing bowls lately **but** still catches the **big** fish quite often, plus doing a good job looking after his little grandson quite often too. He sees George Greenhalgh from time to time and he is O.K.

Enclosed is payment for 'A Great Fraternity' plus a donation.

All the best — cheers.

Ron

D. Latimer
39 King Street
Inverell 2360

I enjoy receiving the *Courier* and reading about the 2/2nd, especially about the travels of Paddy Kenneally. A broth of a boy if ever there was one. When Paddy was Secretary of 2/2nd N.S.W. I reckon it was our combined efforts which brought N.S.W. Association and 2/2nd closer together, and they have been so ever since.

We miss all our friends by living here, but we often think of the people from all over Australia we have met through Commandos. One never forgets the good times in each others company. We are all O.K. here.

Cheers now.

Don and Dulcie

J. Peattie
11 Denne St
West Tamworth 2340

Marje and I had been looking forward to the Safari but unfortunately it will be no go. I didn't have a good year, healthwise, in 1993. Firstly I had to have a heart pacemaker inserted, which happily fixed up troubles I had had ever since the Nuriootpa Safari. Last November I went down suddenly with a large abscess in my liver, evidently caused by a malfunction of my gall bladder. After six weeks in hospital, I was discharged but still have the abscess and gall

bladder to keep me company. I'll be on antibiotics until late March and then will have to return to Sydney to have them removed. Luckily I feel quite well now and feel that everything is under control.

There is not doubt about it, at times like this you really value the wonderful comradeship that binds us and our families together in the Association. We were up the north coast of N.S.W. when I took sick and was well and truly out of action for the first fortnight but Marj. had real offers of help from everywhere and this continued after I was transferred to Sydney. Visits from Paddy and Snowy, plus phone calls and letters and cards made the days much shorter.

Life is pretty quiet at the moment but it is great to be back in our own home again.

Had a call from Ray Westerweller to check on how I was soon after I arrived home and was able to get up and see him a few days ago. He is battling on with his illness and has had a number of stints in hospital but is always as cheerful as ever. He has a wonderful minder in Betty and you are always made welcome when you visit.

All the best to everyone in the west. We wish you all the best of times at the Safari and hope to make a trip west at a later time. Donation is enclosed for wherever it is needed.

Yours sincerely,
Jack

Mrs J. C. Mills
27 Anne St
Southport 4215

It is with belated and deep regret that I have to inform you of the passing of Charles Edward Mills on June 17, 1993, after a long battle with emphysema and cancer. He was a very private person who was very proud to have served with 'C' Company, 7 Section, 2/2nd Company. He will be sadly missed by his family and friends.

Enclosed is a donation to ensure the *Courier* is still delivered to us as Charlie looked forward to each copy. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,
J. C. Mills

Mrs J. Gorton
138 Marmion St
East Fremantle 6158

Thank you for your love and support and attendance at Charlie's funeral. It was a great comfort to know that so many people cared.

Smile when you think of him and know that he is only a prayer away.

Joyce and Family

J. P. Kenneally
28 Wilkins St
Yagoona 2199

You may be short of material after the Christmas break. Most of our correspondents will be resting their writing wrists after the strenuous effort of signing Christmas cards.

January drawing to a close already. Apparently 1994 is going even faster than 1993. Looking way back into the faraway era of school days, particularly primary school days, a year seemed to take a century to pass from go to whoa. As I creak my way through the year I wish it were so now.

The bush fires came, and passed, all up five people dead, 185 homes and buildings destroyed, 800,000 hectares of bushland burnt out. That's bad, however, it could have been infinitely worse. Twenty years ago the above figures in relation to the intensity of the fires and their proximity to densely populated areas would have been far, far greater. God only knows what the damage would have been had it not been for the Fire Brigade and the Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade men and women. It was a real Anzac effort. The fire fighters came from every State and Territory and from across the Tasman came the New Zealanders. People who escaped the fires without loss can thank those fire fighters. They were truly magnificent.

The soul searching comes next, the fires were not 24 hours old. Parks and Wildlife, Greenies so-called conservationists, and the Forestry Department, all ducking for cover. The Forestry Department had a case, because of the intensive lobbying of Greenies and Conservationists burning off precautions and cleaning up for fire breaks was at a minimum. Parks and wild life of course believe wilderness areas should be completely untouched. Well, they, we and Governments can sit down and thank our lucky stars the loss of life and damage was so low. It may not be so next time. So all the think caps can be donned.

We had a good Christmas muster, the up and comers got through a hectic cricket session without breaking a window. The ex champs sat in the shade, sipping a beer or two and looking at the young giants wielding the bat and fielding. Don't reckon they were as good at cricket, but they certainly left us far behind in the size and brawn department.

Curly O'Neill was advised to evacuate his house during the fires. Varina went down to

Narrabeen and came straight back. Anyway, they were not affected. The inhabitants of the Narrabeen Anzac Retirement Village were moved out but nothing happened there either. Reckon some of us take so long to get mobile these days the powers that be have to prod us along hours before anything transpires. I tried contacting Snowy Weir. I might as well have tried flying to the moon on a broom. If anyone contacts Snowy they must be part of the occult, no bloody human can find him.

None of the 2/2nd that I know of were affected by the fires.

Jack Hartley's son David had an accident so Jack and Maria have been back and forth to Kempsey on the mid north coast. David and Andrew work up there. Looks like it will be some time before David will be fit for work again. The worst of the damage a badly smashed arm. Eleven days had elapsed between the break and the operation, that is now the main cause of the trouble. Let's hope all is well quickly.

We don't seem to be doing much of anything at present, our next meeting is not until March. By then something may have turned up that will be of some interest.

The unknown warrior was at last laid to rest in what may have been his homeland. Anyway, it was the land where he volunteered to go and fight for his country in a place 12,000 miles away. I almost swooned when I looked through the last 'Reveille.' A tribute to our aboriginal diggers (and not before time) and a couple of letters opposing views of R.S.L. hardliners. Tolerance seems to be seeping into all organisations.

Good luck, and may 1994 be kind to all our members and their families.

Paddy

Thank you Paddy for boosting our Correspondence Corner for this edition. We are hoping a lot of members' wrists are better now and we look forward to a host of letters for the June Courier.



The Banner first fielded in Canberra 11 November, 1993 — Designer Arthur Malone; Artist producer June Malone, and able supporter on that day Charlie Olliffe (2/5).

The above was received from the President and Executive of The Australian Commando Association with Festive Season Greetings.

Mrs D. Gray
7 Stanley Ave
Ringwood East 3135

Joys of Christmas to all members and loved ones wherever.

All the best.

Dulcie

Minister for Veterans Affairs
Minister for Defence Science and Personnel

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

R. Shenn
2/1 Kilpa Court
City Beach 6015

Enclosed is a donation towards the *Courier*.

Regards,

Ross

S. R. Marsh
17 McGough St
Glenorchy 7010

Enclosed is a donation towards the *Courier*.

Would you let me know how much I have paid into the Trust Fund.

Things are pretty quiet here at present.

Looking forward to our Reunion on February 19th up at Ulverstone on the north west coast.

Looking forward to the next *Courier*. Great reading.

Best wishes to all.

Joan and 'Swampy'

Editor: *You have made five contributions each of \$50 to the Trust Fund 'Swampy,' for which we thank you.*

Thank you also for your Courier donation which will appear in the Donations List in the June Courier.

Dot Harrington has been in the wars. Dot took a bad turn early in January and was rushed to the Mount Hospital in Perth. She was in the intensive care ward for over a week and didn't look like making it. Somehow she rallied and pulled through and is now over her crisis and is feeling a lot better though by no means as yet back to her bright and breezy self. It has been a very worrying time for Reg and the family who were constantly at her side throughout her illness.

All members send Dot their love and hope her health will continue to improve now that she is home.

APOLOGY

Apologies from the *Courier* team for the delayed delivery of this edition of your *Courier*.

We waited for final details of the Busselton Safari so that we could keep you right up to date with arrangements.

Because of the Safari there will not be a *Courier* in April — you will receive your next edition early in June, complete with highlights of the Safari. This will also give everyone a chance to settle down after their travels and, hopefully, be in the mood to write letters for inclusion.

Deadline for June Courier
Wednesday, May 18th, 1994

IRISH MEDICAL TERMS GUIDE

(With apologies to Paddy)

- Artery** — the study of "arts"
- Bacteria** — the back door to a cafeteria
- Barium** — What undertakers do after the doctor's medical treatment fails
- Bowel** — A letter in the alphabet like A E I O or U
- Caesarian Section** — a district in Rome
- Cat Scan** — a search for Kitty
- Cauterise** — he made eye contact with her
- Colic** — a kind of sheep dog
- Coma** — a punctuation mark
- Congenital** — friendly
- D & C** — where Washington is
- Dilate** — live a long time
- Enema** — not a friend
- Genital** — not Jewish
- GI series** — ball games played by US soldiers
- Grippe** — a suitcase
- Hangnail** — a coat hook
- High colonic** — a Jewish holiday
- Impotent** — distinguished - well known
- Labour pain** — getting hurt at work
- Medical staff** — a doctor's walking stick
- Morbid** — a higher offer
- Nitrate** — cheaper than day rate
- Node** — well aware of
- Outpatient** — a patient who has fainted
- Pap smear** — a test for fatherhood
- Pelvis** — a cousin of Elvis Presley

Post operative — a postman on the job
Prostate — flat on one's back
Recovery room — a place to restore lounge suites
Rectum — damn nearly killed him
Rheumatic — amorous
Secretion — hiding something
Seizure — an old time Roman Emperor
Tablet — a very small table
Tibia — a country North of India
Terminal illness — getting sick at the Airport
Tumour — more than one more
Urine — the opposite of "You're Out"
Varicose — very close - near by
Vein — conceited.

LIFE'S LIKE THAT

SPORTS

BULLFIGHTING: A South American was describing his country to an American woman. "Our most popular sports is BULLFIGHTING." "I think it's revolting!" said the woman. "No! That's our second most popular sport."

★ ★ ★

CRICKET: There used to be a rule in cricket that the bowling team could ask for a new ball when 100 runs had been scored. An Australian team touring India were being introduced to important local dignitaries.

"This is the maharajah of this area. He's one of the richest men in the world. He also has 99 wives."

One of the players exclaimed, "Crickey! One more and he'd need a new ball."

★ ★ ★

FOOTBALL: The rules of football are very simple.

IF IT MOVES, KICK IT.

IF IT DOESN'T MOVE, KICK IT TILL IT DOES.

★ ★ ★

HUNTING: A gentleman came into a leading London gunsmith and asked to see shotguns. The clerk recognised him as a man of means and showed him a fine English model at seven

hundred and fifty pounds.

"It's a splendid weapon," said the customer, "but more than I want to pay."

Next he was shown a Belgian model at four hundred and seventy-five. "Still a little expensive," he said.

Finally the clerk showed him a Winchester stock model. "This is mass produced. It's only eighty-five pounds."

"Just the thing," said the customer. "After all, it's only going to be a small wedding."

★ ★ ★

GOLF: Did you hear about the player who spent so much time in the bunker, he got mail addressed to HITLER?

★ ★ ★

TABLE TENNIS: Confucius say: "NEVER PLAY PING-PONG with mouth open."

COURIER DONATIONS

Wilf March, Ron Archer, Ted Monk, Ralph Finkelstein, Alma Moore, Charlie Sadler, Peter Campbell, Beryl Smith, John Fowler, Don Young, Eric Thornander, Tony Bowers, John Boynton, Jess Epps, Don Turton, Henry Sproxtton, Mark Jordan, Dusty Studdy, Arch Campbell, Keith Hayes, Theo Adams, May Mansfield, Lew Thompson, Warwick Tobin, Jack Penglase, Ted Cholerton, Peter Krause, Paddy Kenneally, Alex Sparkman, Peter McCracken, Steve Rogers, Roy Watson, Gordon Barnes, Denny Dennis, Don May, Dulcie Gay, Alan Luby, Joy Chatfield, Mal Lindsay, Olive Thornton, Ross Shenn, Jim McLaughlin, Ray Aitken, Mills Family, Jack and Marge Peattie, Jack Hartley, Bill Walsh.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

McDONALD, Mr R. H.
 Robert and Betty
 82 Oakmont Ave
 Meadow Springs 6210
 (09) 535 0269

MILLS, Mrs J. C.
 27 Anne St
 Southport 4215