



# **2/2 COMMANDO COURIER**

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

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**Price 1c**

## **COMING EVENTS**

### **NORMA HASSON SOCIAL**

**Friday, July 1, 1994  
at Anzac Club, Perth**

**Refreshments from 11 am. Luncheon 12.30 pm.**

**Come along and enjoy this special day.**

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### **KALGOORLIE COUNTRY CONVENTION**

**Monday, October 24th -  
Saturday, October 29th**

**See inside for full details**

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## DOT HARRINGTON'S PASSING

This gracious and lovely lady passed away on Good Friday, 1st April, after a punishing illness in which she showed just how brave and family oriented she was.

Dot knew that time with her was no more and on the Sunday before Easter, all the family gathered at daughter Barbara's home in Toodyay. In her usual loving manner she told the grandchildren and family that she was on the way to meet her Maker. There were no secrets, it was a frank and open situation which she shared with them all.

On Wednesday, 30th March, a small group of members went up to Toodyay as Dot had indicated that she would like to see some of the 2/2nd Commando Association members as she loved this organisation so very much. A quick ring around saw Jack and Delys Carey, Colin Doig, Don Turton, Ted Monk, Kay and Jack Hasson, Jess Epps, Betty Craig (visiting Jess prior to Safari) and Archie Campbell. This was made possible by Laurie Harrington who picked up four of the above and liased with the others to meet in Toodyay.

As a group ushered in by Reg, we went to see Dot who was like she always was, gracious and loveable, talking as though she was as fit as could be, but we knew, and Dot did not hide it, that she had but a short time to go and it would be on Good Friday. There is no doubt she walked with God, she knew the day she was to join the Heavenly Host. Everything was normal and as Dot slept we had a lovely barbecue lunch and chatted with Reg, Barbara and other family members.

When it was time to say goodbye Reg took us, individually, to her bedside. It was, for us all, an emotional moment made possible by this brave lady with her approach to something she knew was part of the inevitable in this life. She made it seem all so peaceful, she was ready to go and instilled in everyone the calmness that comes with a deep faith in God.

It was a day that will be remembered by us all. Reg, Barbara, Laurie and other family members organised everything so efficiently and with no fuss.

Farewell Dot, sleep well. We of the 2/2nd Commando Association Australia wide loved you dearly. To be able, on behalf of them all, to say goodbye was a great privilege. God bless Reg and all your dear family who will miss you so very much but will be stronger for the lyout set.

I thought you should all share in this unusual experience, showing how the love of a closely knit family can overcome the most poignant occasion. Dot and Reg both weighed in with a great contribution over all the years to the cause of the 2/2nd Commando Association which they classed as their extended family.

**ARCHIE CAMPBELL**

## VALE CHARLES EDWARD MILLS

It is with deep regret that we belatedly record the death of our old mate on June 17, 1993.

Charlie, also known as Eddie and Millsey joined the Unit at Canungra and served in 'C' Section 'C' Troop throughout the New Guinea and New Britain campaigns. He was highly respected by all his mates as a good soldier and friend. Quiet and sincere, he was reliable and the sort of chap it was good to have beside you.

Charlie worked for Associated Minerals, a Company which closed down about 11 years ago and after that he did not enjoy good health. He was finding it an effort to walk and was admitted to hospital on the Queen's birthday holiday, lapsed into a coma and passed away two days later, aged 70. His passing comes as a complete surprise to all his mates, as the last contact with him was at the Surfers Paradise Safari and we are all just so sad we were not represented at his funeral. Eddie was always a very private person.

To Pam his widow, Bret and Jason his sons their wives and families, we offer our deep and sincere sympathy. 1993 was a sad year for them all as Pam lost her daughter and the boys their sister only two months previously.

We send you all our loving messages.

**Tony Adams**

## VALE W. J. 'Bill' COWIE

Bill cowie passed away on the lawn of his home on January 25, 1994.

More than a hundred relatives and friends attended his cremation service on the 27th. Harry and Amyce Handicott represented the 2/2 Commando Association and have since visited his widow, Helen.

As far as I can gather Bill joined us as a Sig. either at Bulolo or in New Britain.

Post-war he was a grocer, a driver a publican and a family man. He was married to Helen prior to joining the 2/2. They had two daughters, Linda and Vickie, both married with children and their first great grandchild is expected soon.

Bill was a Foundation Member of Wallsend RSL Club and Sub-Branch.

Unfortunately, Bill was one of the Unit members with whom we have had no contact since 1945, even though he has been in our address book. Snow Went, who knew him in the Unit, saw him a couple of times but that was all. Personally I can remember meeting him once or twice.

To Helen and family we offer our sincere sympathy.

**Alan Luby**

## VALE MAXWELL JOHN BOWDEN

NX108912 Cpl Maxwell John Bowden was born on the 3.10.1918 and joined the Australian Citizens Military Forces on 12.5.1939 and after serving at Middle Head and Georges Heights, was drafted to Port Kembla where he served with the Coastal Artillery and was later sent to Bowen Island where his Unit put in 4.2" guns to protect Jervis Bay.

On 21.8.1942 Max transferred to the AIF and volunteered to join the Australian Parachute Unit which was later disbanded. Late 1942 Max was drafted into the 1st Australian Commando Service Unit as a weapons and PT instructor.

In 1943 Max was drafted to the 2/2nd Commando Squadron and was sent to Port Moresby and was airlifted to Bena Bena, Goroka. His Unit walked for three days to the Ramu Valley and was installed behind enemy lines to report on enemy troop movements and sabotage. After this operation the Unit had to spend three months on recuperation at Bulolo before they could be granted leave. After leave the Unit was retrained at Strathpine, Queensland and then sent to New Britain.

After hostilities ceased Max with his Unit went to Singapore where he was involved with the repatriation of former prisoners of war from Changi jail. After three months in Singapore Max returned to Australia on the HMS Cheshire. He was discharged from the AIF on the 4.2.1946 and was the proud holder of the Pacific Star, 1939-45 Star, Service and Defence Medals.

In 1947 Max married Maisie who pre-deceased him in 1987. In the later 1940s Max came to Berry and bought into a carrying business and later a cleaning business in Nowra.

He was a member of the RSL and was known for his Master of Ceremonies on Anzac Day. He served on the Board of the Shoalhaven Ex-Servicemen's Club and was made a Life Member in 1973.

Max is survived by five sons and one daughter. On behalf of the Ex Service Community and President and Members of the Nowra RSL Sub-Branch we offer our deepest sympathy to Dennis, Arnold, Phillip, Ian, Kevin, Maxine and their families.

### We Will Remember Them

## A THANK YOU

Eric Weller and family would like to convey their sincere thanks to the members and wives of the Association for the many messages of sympathy and support extended to the family on the sad loss of Margaret who passed away on 26th January, 1994.

## EDITOR'S REPORT

The Courier Committee of Archie Campbell, Len Bagley, Betty Illsley and Gavin Bagley who is included for keeping our membership roll up to date on his computer, have worked efficiently in circulating news to all our members. We could not have a more dedicated group.

It is great to see the spontaneous donations that have come in over recent months – proof positive that members are aware of the value this great little magazine is to the Association

I thank everyone, everywhere, who has contributed in any manner to make the Courier very readable.

The good news I am able to report is that the current Courier Committee will continue to operate for the next 12 months. On their behalf I thank you all for your co-operation.

**Arch Campbell**

## SICK PARADE

**Jack Penglase** had a spell in Hollywood Hospital with leg ulcers and is now home recovering.

**Les Halse** is expecting to go into hospital early in June for surgery.

Best wishes to you both from us all.

## SAFARI 1994 – BUSSELTON WA – APRIL 7th - 14th

### REPORT BY ARCHIE CAMPBELL

**Day 1:** Members and friends came from all points of the Australian compass, from Ayr in North Queensland to Esperance in WA, and from New Guinea. They came by car, caravan, plane, train and bus. Everyone headed for the Busselton RSL Hall for the official welcome, refreshments and a buffet tea. Our thanks to the RSL for opening up their premises for our use for the duration of the Safari, with specially reduced liquor prices. The hall was packed and what emotional and happy meetings of old comrades and dear friends took place. It has always been a time for our one big 2/2nd family Association to put their hearts on their sleeves.

Colin Doig introduced the members and their wives and families from all visiting States and all were given a lusty welcome which they thoroughly deserved, coming those long distances to reach Busselton. Theo Adams and his daughters, Lisa and Thea, received a tremendous welcome. Ted Monk, our President, officially welcomed everyone,

wishing them a happy stay full of fun, plus the cementing of old ties of friendship. Some sadness was evident because Reg Harrington's wife, Dot, had been sent to her Maker this very afternoon, but who would be the first to say 'may you all have a wonderful Safari.'

**Day 2:** We were paid a compliment indeed when the Busselton Shire Council gave us a Civic Reception in the lovely Shire Hall. There was a full roll call, indicating how much we appreciated the action of the Shire.

Shire President, Robert Tognela gave us a warm welcome and thanked us for choosing the lovely town of Busselton as the venue for our 1994 Safari. As a memento of the visit he presented a Shire Pennant to a representative from each State Branch and New Guinea which was a unique gesture. Alan Luby thanked the Shire for the presentations and all they had done to help make the Safari a resounding success.

The Shire provided a generous afternoon tea and other refreshments. Their welcome and presentations made it a memorable part of Safari 1994.

**Day 3:** The highlight of the Safari, the Memorial Service and Official Luncheon.

All members who could manage the march assembled at the Busselton RSL Hall and our numbers were augmented by members from that organisation. Ted iMonk led the march, Don Hudson carried the banner, Joe Poynton was the marker and representatives from each State and New Guinea made up the first eight, the remainder fell in behind them. The Busselton Town Band led the contingent through the main street, setting an easy pace with tunes harking back to World War I, such as Tipperary, Pack Up Your Troubles In The Old Kit Bag, both of which put extra spring into our step and we all reached the Busselton War Memorial in good shape. Our thanks to our ladies and the people of Busselton for the warm reception given during the march.

We are indebted to Keith Hayes for the production of a programme giving the Order of Proceedings and all present were able to follow everything so easily. The Double Red Diamond was a feature piece and underneath were the words 'Remembrance Service - Busselton War Memorial - 1115 hours, 9th April, 1994.' This was followed by the message 'This Service is dedicated to the memory of those splendid young men who paid the Supreme Sacrifice serving in the Unit campaigns in Timor, New Guinea and New Britain in World War II. It is also dedicated to the memory of our old comrades who have passed on since 1946. LEST WE FORGET.'

We had an excellent P.A. system which kept everyone in the picture.

President Ted Monk and Blanche Sadler laid wreaths for those killed in action and for those who have passed away since 1946. It was a touching moment. Hymns to suit the occasion were sung, with the band adding impetus to it all. Vice President Bill Howell gave the following fine address:

'Ladies, Gentlemen and Friends on this Safari. We are gathered for this simple wreath laying ceremony at the local Busselton War Memorial to pay homage to those of our Unit who paid the Supreme Sacrifice.

Although the monument enshrines the memory of those citizens of Busselton who gave their lives in the service of their country, it also symbolises the sacrifice of all the people in all parts of Australia who have given their lives in the many conflicts in which the Australian nation has found itself involved.

We do not come here to glorify warfare, it is the thing furthest from our minds. War at any time is a terrible waste of young virile lives.

At one time war was a combat between the armies of the combatant nations, with only troops involved, now in the modern era of sophisticated weaponry the horrors of war are inflicted on the innocent citizens, including women and children. The indiscriminate bombing and the weaponry now in use make warfare, wherever it may be, a thing of vicious horror.

The current embroglio in the former Yugoslavia is something that belies the civilisation of that ancient place. Man's inhumanity to man will never be better illustrated than in this terrible conflict.

But, with it all, we do honour those friends of ours who lost their lives in the campaigns of Timor, New Guinea and New Britain and we also honour the memory of those of the Unit who have departed since the cessation of hostilities.

It is not my intention to bore you good folk with a long address, but bring to you all once again a message of love for those who have departed and high hopes for the future.'

The Ode to the Fallen was recited by all present which proved a great innovation. With parade at attention came the Last Post, 2 minutes silence, Reveille. Archie Campbell gave thanks to the following who had helped make the Service and the Safari in general, so successful - The Busselton Shire via President Robert Tognela, the Shire Ranger and his staff for their co-operation, the Police Department for their ever present help, what would we do without them? The Busselton RSL for throwing open their premises to make for a happier and more convivial Reunion. To the Busselton Boy Scouts Association, thanks for all your help. Last but by no means least, the



Busselton Town Band and Bandmaster, Fred Chapman. You did us proud and put life into our Service. God bless you all for your endeavours.

After the National Anthem the Parade was dismissed. So ended a Memorial Service that will linger long in our memories and which we trust paid due homage to our dear departed comrades.

The Official Luncheon was held at the beautifully situated Broadwater Resort where tables set under the wide spreading trees gave a respite to us all as we took advantage of icy cold refreshments after which 170 people were ushered into the nicely laid out dining room with a seating plan to avoid any confusion.

The catering was first class, a meal of two choices was available beautifully presented and served by efficient waiters and waitresses. Our thanks to them all for a fine job of work and friendliness. Every table had a \$50 bank to be utilised for refreshments – a great and successful innovation.

Toastmaster, Len Bagley welcomed everyone to this 14th Safari and introduced the following special guests:

Shire President Rob Tognela and wife Dianne, RSL President John Van Eldik and wife Dianne, RSL Past Vice President Tony French and wife Jean and George Franklin who assisted with Safari arrangements, families and friends of members, Theo Adams' daughters Lisa and Thea, Laurie and Sheryl Harrington, Terry Harrington, Barbara Anthony (Reg's daughter), Phillip and Erica Smyth, Peter and Kath Sadler, Eve and Sue Johnston, John and Noeleen Parkinson (friends of Jack Stafford).

Apologies and best wishes for a successful Safari were received from Frank and Judy Sharp, Fred and Mavis Broadhurst, Tom Nisbit, Ron Gurr, Bert Bache, Dave and Thais Brown, Harry and Olive Botterill, George and Edna Vandeleur, Jewell Soper, Ron and Dorothy Trengove, Russ Blanch, John Burrridge, Les Halse, Wilf and Lorraine March, Keith and Val Hayes.

Len got us all into the swing of things in his own inimitable style as he called on Bernie Langridge to propose the Loyal Toast which he did very capably. He then called on President Ted Monk for the Toast to the Unit and Association. Ted gave the following excellent presentation:

'Ladies, Gentlemen and Visitors. It is with great pleasure I propose the Toast to The Unit and The Association.

The Unit was formed at Foster, Victoria in 1941 and served with distinction in Timor, New Guinea and New Britain. 1946 saw the formation of the Association with headquarters established in WA embracing branches in

Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Brisbane. Credit for the continued success of the Association must go to the office bearers and committee members, both past and present, who have given so generously of their time and served the Association so well over many years.

One of the main achievements of the Association is the *Courier*. Great credit must go to both past and present compilers of this excellent publication. The main life line of the *Courier* relies heavily on the correspondence and news received from members both near and far.

Another great achievement of the Association covers our Safaris. These have taken place over many years. The first Safari was held in Melbourne in 1956. This was held to coincide with the Olympic Games also held in Melbourne that year. Mention must be made the idea of holding the first Safari came from the Victorian members. The second Safari took place in Perth in 1962. The same year the Empire Commonwealth Games were held here. From then on these Safaris have been held regularly in different States. This week we celebrate the 14th Safari and over the years these safaris have been a bridge spanning the various States, bringing members closer together through personal contact, thus deepening the bonds of friendship throughout the Association.'

The Toast to Our Guests were handled by Eric Smyth in a polished and breezy style that befitted the occasion. Len called on Shire President Robert Tognela who responded with equal efficiency and in a humorous vein, quoting portions of the Jim Smailes poem *'The Independents'* in which he drew on the unusual escapades of the 2/2nd on the road to Katherine and other areas. Rob made it very interesting and educational to many present. To complete the Toast List, Len handed the gavel to Paddy Kenneally for Absent Friends which he did with due justice to this important area.

As age creeps on we find the list growing and how we miss them. Even though absent they remain entrenched in our hearts. Thanks Paddy.

Len then called on Neil Hooper to make a special presentation of Life Membership to Ralph Conley, a real stalwart from Queensland. Neil eulogised Ralph for all the work and planning that has put into the Queensland Branch and said he was an ideal recipient for such an honour. Ralph was completely surprised and he conveyed how thrilled he was about it all. Ralph is never stuck when dealing with words but this really stopped him. Congratulations from all members Ralph, you have weighed in with a mighty contribution

and the help you received from Sheila has seen a fine team emerge in Queensland. Well done, well deserved, may you live long to cherish the badge.

That concluded a first class afternoon full of fun, laughter, emotion, sincerity, but above all, wonderful camaraderie. We belong to a magnificent organisation and how proud we all are of that fact. Breaking up such a day was so difficult but we still had 5 days to go.

**Day 4:** This being a free day, members took the opportunity of visiting friends, sightseeing, organising barbecues and generally fraternising. It was an ideal day to have a relaxing time. In the evening the RSL put on a barbecue with lovely salads to go with the steaks cooked by RSL President John Van Eldik, his wife and other helpers.

**Day 5:** The activities for this day were looked forward to with great expectations, we were to explore the south-west corner of WA right down to Cape Leeuwin. At 9.30 three comfortable coaches arrived with drivers who knew the territory well. How dry the country looked as we traversed the Bussell Highway but the profusion of trees offset the driest season on record. It was new country to those from the Eastern States and for some of our own members. In the early years after World War I it was a War Settlement Group area, but the British migrants found great difficulty in coping with the climate; and the land and it was a failure. Today it is a prosperous booming area, one of the best beef producing in the State and high class wool clips to go along as a financial adjunct.

Our first point of interest was a large tract of country known as 'Eagle Heritage.' It is a great point of interest for here the Kites or Falcons are numerous. The trainers of the birds brought a couple in sitting on their gloved arms and we were given a short history of the site that houses these magnificent birds. Then we were invited to come out singly, minus hats, to take over from the trainers. We were given gloves and the birds transferred onto our arms. It was interesting to see the reactions of each one, of course, all cameras were at the ready! The highlight was when the birds were rewarded for their efforts with pelleted food which was hurled into the air for a small flight of Falcons to show their retrieving ability. We saw them climb steeply, swoop at the last second inches from the ground and seize the pellet and two attack the one pellet and the smarter win. It was absolutely fascinating and all finished too soon. What an unusual experience it was for us all, thanks go out to the men of the 'Eagle Heritage.'

Margaret River loomed up, a well known country town renowned for its surf and the Australian Surf Titles which attract surf

champions from all over the world. It is neatly laid out, a prime stopover for tourists heading south, shops of excellence, homes of quality, we just kept rolling along on to Caves Road. On we went through forest country of Marri and Jarrah trees into the home of the majestic Karri. What magnificent trees they are, how lovely they look when cut into any shape and polished. They were shedding their bark, which they do in reverse to other trees, it starts peeling from the top and they looked a bit rough but the ones which had shed their bark stood tall and regal, a lovely shining white.

Next we visited Leeuwin Estate, now acknowledged as one of the finest grape growing areas for fine wines in Australia and becoming well known overseas. It was the brainchild of the late Dr Kevin Cullen and has developed into a real show place. Every year the present owners, the Horgans, bring orchestras, opera singers and other artists from overseas to perform (one who quickly comes to mind, Dame Kiri Ti Kanawa) plus jazz and blues singers such as Diana Ross. Crowds of up to 5000 pack the well grassed shell where the stage is set up. All classes are catered for, holiday makers, visitors from all over Australia, plus a special area for what they call the 'silvertails,' with prices to match! Some bring their own, all are catered for, especially the 'S.T.s,' and everyone can partake of the class wines. It is always a night to remember. We were well catered for with morning tea, a good view of the facilities and a display of the staff's ability to cope with an instant large crowd like ours. We were very impressed.

We headed along Caves Road on to Bussell Highway, passing through Karridale to Hamelin Bay where a famous rescue took place when a boat ran aground on a reef and the name of Grace Bussell was etched into our history. She and her aboriginal helper mounted two horses, took them into a heavy surf and after five hours effort rescued the crew of an estimated 30. She was decorated and her name lives on in this area where Gracetown was named after this famous lady.

On our way to Augusta there was a big Karri forest which displayed the beauty and majesty of this tree. The Karri has been used extensively in building, particularly churches.

We passed a long line of caves that are a feature of the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park that stretches 120 kms between WA's two most prominent capes, covering an area of 19,700 hectares. There is an underground world of stalagmites and stalactites in more than 360 caves. They run right down to Augusta, a beautiful seaside town on the Blackwood River with a view of the entrance at the mouth of the river second to none. We enjoyed a panoramic view of the glorious

Flinders Bay while we were having lunch at the hotel. Augusta, a gem of a town where the Indian and Southern Oceans meet. It is an idyllic place with fishing, surfing, boating attracting retirees and tourists galore in season. After an excellent smorgasbord lunch at the Augusta Hotel we visited Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse on Australia's most south-westerly point, which was officially opened in 1896. It guards one of the busiest sea routes on the Australian coast. Its automatic white electric light has an intensity of a million candle power and a range of 25 nautical miles in all weathers. Being at the junction of two mighty oceans gives one a feeling of power. It was an educational stopover.

We turned our heads for Busselton after a mighty day of many things. Our last visit in Augusta was to the Roman Catholic Church, a hammered earth construction built in a circular form. The Altar, rafters and all timber asides were made of Karri, a beautiful tranquil church where a few of us knelt and said a prayer to our old friend up top thanking him for the friendship of Safari. This two yearly get-together keeps the wonderful family feeling intact.

**Day 6:** Our all states meeting was held to discuss the happenings that will affect us for the following two years. The main thing was to determine which state was to play host for the 1996 Safari. Queensland had accepted the challenge at our meeting in Port Macquarie in 1992. Ralph Conley put the case for Queensland, supported by Neil Hooper and produced substantial reasons why it should be allocated the next Safari. The meeting decided that Queensland would be the hosts in 1996, with Maroochydore the venue. Well done Queensland, good luck, the co-operation of all states is assured. The meeting was lively and well handled by Ted Monk with support from Jack Carey.

Twy Smyth had arranged a mystery coach tour for the ladies which was thoroughly enjoyed by them all.

In the evening we had a 'singalong' in the RSL Hall, which proved a winner with contributions coming from the ladies and the men. There were some budding stars, albeit, in some cases geriatrics! Many thanks to our gifted guitarist from the Busselton RSL who also had a fine voice. Marj Cooper added further polish with her piano playing prowess, the group breaking into ballroom dancing to the obvious enjoyment of all present. Thanks Marj, you rounded off the night beautifully.

**Day 7:** Today we had a tour of Wildwood, Riverdell, Gralynn, three of the prominent local wineries, and the Cape Naturaliste area in general. It was a leisurely tour with plenty of time to explore the vineyards and the products

and some bargains were to be had. Wine tasting was the order of the day, with quite a number purchasing wines of their choice. It was remarkable the quality they produced for sale in these relatively small places. Added to this were paintings, souvenirs of all descriptions, home made jams, pickles, cheese etc. We were served coffee, tea and biscuits at each of the wineries and there was time to chat to old friends.

Canal Rocks, with the unusual rock formation that formed the canals, evinced great interest. The adjacent Smith's Beach, a very safe anchorage, is popular with holiday makers who can rent flats, on site cabins and caravan park facilities.

The ocean side of the Cape Naturaliste Ridge is scenic and spectacular. We then headed for Yallingup where we were to have lunch at Caves House which in the early days pre-war and after, was a well known honeymoon resort. The carvery lunch was first class and the refreshments were welcome for it was a warm day. There was time to view the peaceful gardens so beautifully laid out and almost manicured, the shady trees giving relief from the warm sun. Walking along a tranquil track to the beach one can look back at Caves House, the old original hotel, which is real Heritage material.

Traversing Cape Naturaliste Ridge was interesting for so much housing has appeared. We visited Eagle Bay, fast becoming a suburb right on the western shores of Georraphe Bay, and land and houses are very pricey. Next stop was Meelup with its fine beach. When the stingers are bad in Busselton people come here to escape them. Then we traversed the town of Dunsborough, with its multi-million dollar golf course under construction. What a great day it was, so relaxed and unhurried. We are indebted to the Busselton organising committee for their great choice of venues. Eric Smyth made it all so easy by his attention to detail and the instructions he issued prior to every event ensured that we all knew what was happening.

**Day 8:** A free day for all to prepare for departure, extend hospitality to old friends and generally relax. The night was to be a farewell buffet tea in the RSL Hall. The weather was kind and a full muster turned up for this, as always, nostalgic event. The RSL turned on a first class spread with efficiency and excellent planning.

Ralph Conley was MC for the presentation part of the evening and he did a masterly job in selecting those who were to present the organising committee with a token of appreciation and our heartfelt thanks. The committee, comprising Eric and Twy Smyth, Eric's sister Billie Perry, Clarrie and Grace

Turner, Col Doig, Ted Monk, Bill Howell, Jack and Delys Carey conveyed how indebted they were to Keith Hayes who worked tirelessly to produce the menus, Remembrance Service sheets, song books, name badges, copies of maps and itineraries for the Safari. Thanks also to Ralph Finkelstein for his thoughtful supplying of Double Red Diamonds for identification. They were a great idea. Our thanks also to Arch Campbell our compere for the Remembrance Service and Len Bagley our MC for the official luncheon.

Might I add our appreciation for the large amount of time and effort the organising committee put in to make the 1994 Safari a great success.

Ralph thanked 2/2nd members in general for arranging a top line Safari. Likewise the Busselton RSL members for their hospitality. Presentations were then made as follows: Eric Smyth by Jack Hartley, Twy Smyth by Marj. Cooper, Ted Monk by Norm Tillett, Bill Howell by Ron Morris, Billie Perry by Neil Hooper, Colin Doig by Theo Adams, Grace Turner by Col Andrew, Jack Carey by George (Happy) Greenhalgh, Clarrie Turner by Max Miller, Delys Carey by Betty Craig, Our thanks to Delys for placing fruit in our fridges, chocolates and shoulder sprays at the official dinner and the little extras needed for our comfort. To you Delys our love and affection. All recipients responded with sincerity and some emotion.

John Poynton and Leigh Cooper eulogised the efforts of all for making this Safari such an outstanding success. Theo Adams spoke on behalf of himself and his charming daughters Lisa and Thea who all thoroughly enjoyed their Busselton stay.

President, Ted Monk, gave the following farewell message:

'Ladies and Gentlemen. As the Busselton Safari winds down, the time has come for me to thank those who have made this such an enjoyable week.

A sincere thank you to the President, John Van Eldik and members of the Busselton RSL for their kindness in making their club and facilities available to us, with special thanks to Tony French for organising the many amenities extended to us and for making us feel so very much at home.

Thank you to the President and Councillors of the Busselton Shire for a very enjoyable Civic Reception.

We were very pleased to have the Busselton Town Band lead the Parade at the Commemoration Service, for which we thank them very much indeed.

Many thanks to the members of the Busselton sub-committee, Eric and Twy Smyth, Billie Perry, Jack and Delys Carey, Clarrie and

Grace Turner, Colin Doig, Bill Howell, and to Keith Hayes for his good work in making the Service and hymn books, the official luncheon souvenir and the badges. Congratulations to these members for the smooth running of the Safari – you have completed an excellent job. Well done.

To all, thank you for attending the Safari, thus making this week so very special. We hope 1996 will see us all meeting again in Maroochydore, Queensland to celebrate the next Safari.

I hope you have thoroughly enjoyed your stay in Busselton and on behalf of our Committee, we wish you one and all a safe trip home.'

Then it was all in the big hall for 'Now is the Hour,' 'Pack up your Troubles' and 'Auld Lang Syne.' The farewells were emotional, many a tear shed, such is the love this big family has, one for the other. Until we meet again in Maroochydore, Queensland in 1996.

**Archie Campbell**

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## A SAFARI HIGHLIGHT

When Theo Adams was asked to say a few words at the men's meeting he delighted everyone and drew sustained applause for his response in 'pidgin' as follows:

Mi hamamas long kam daun long hia long lukim yupela, wantaim tupela pikinini bilong me.

Mipela kam daun long tripela balus long long wei hap.

Taim mi go bek long ples mi ken tok tok bulsit long ol lain bilong me.

Freely translated: I am happy to come down here to see you with my two daughters.

We came in a very big aircraft from a long distance.

When we go back to Goroka we can talk a little story to my friends.

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## ANZAC DAY 1994

**Dawn Service:** The morning was cloudy but the atmosphere, in keeping with the excellent crowd assembled, was warm. Again a preponderance of young people came to pay their tribute to the men who lost their lives servicing their country. The very young and the teenagers make Anzac Day live and as long as this attitude exists the young ones can carry the Torch into the years ahead. God bless you for your loyalty and enthusiasm.

Kings Park lends itself to this service of silence. Dawn was breaking as the steady

tramp of feet of the wreath layers broke a cathedral silence. Then there was *'The Last Post'* beautifully played by the bugler after which silence reigned as all heads were bowed in private prayer. As if to serve as a reminder came the 'gunfire' which reverberated along the river, followed by *'Reveille'*. The flags were raised to the mast head as if in triumph.

The Dawn Service concluded, the official party retired and people laid their own wreaths. There was a small contingent of 2/2 members to support old faithful, Don Turton, who laid a wreath on behalf of us all.

At the Special Air Services Regiment War Memorial at Campbell Barracks, Swanbourne, John BurrIDGE and Bob Smyth laid a wreath as a tribute to the brave lads of this first class Regiment who have given their lives in service to their country. Thanks John and Bob, we trust you enjoyed the breakfast as guests of the S.A.S.R.

**Parade and Esplanade Service:** The fine weather continued for this combined service by the RSL, Armed Forces and public. It opened with a Fly-Past by the Royal Australian Air Force. The 2/2 Commandos marched at near head of the line behind the Cavalry Commando Regiment personnel followed by old comrades of other Commando Squadrons. Thirty four of our members marched to the Esplanade. President Ted Monk led the march, Don Hudson carried the banner, Joe Poynton was marker. Our eastern states members were given pride of place in the first two ranks – a fine gesture hailed as a great innovation. A real team effort. The daughter of our late member, George Bayliss, marched with us. Thank you for coming Pam, we were delighted to welcome you. While you could not locate Dad's medals, bringing a photograph of him wearing his medals was appreciated.

**The Reunion:** Organised by John Poynton and held in the Airways Hotel, this was a great success. We even went through the rehearsal of how not to tap a keg!! The repast was of 5-star calibre and there was ample refreshment. Great job John. Ted Monk welcomed our visitors and read apologies from Harry Sproxton, Wilf March, Keith Hayes, Mick Morgan, Peter Campbell, Eric Smyth. Ted thanked eastern states members Alan Luby, 'Happy' Greenhalgh, George Shiels, Paddy Kenneally, Lionel Newton, Norm Tillet, Ken Monk, Roy Martin and thanked them for their co-operation at the 1994 Safari and for joining us on this Anzac Day to march alongside old mates. All responded with great sincerity. Ted also welcomed John Lillie 2/3rd, Jim Lines 2/5th, Tony Maley (Gerry's brother), Terry Criddle (son of the late Colin Criddle). Ted praised John Poynton for arranging such a first class Reunion and for staying up all night cooking the goodies?? Members showed their

appreciation by sustained acclamation.

So ended another Anzac Day – our mates beyond the Vale would be the first to say 'Enjoy everything to its fullest extent, keep that team spirit alive' – Our reply 'We will, **Lest We Forget.**'

**Archie Campbell.**

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## ANZAC DAY 1994 IN MANDURAH

Members of the 2-2s marched with our banner for the first time in the City of Mandurah before a record crowd of 5,000.

As some of us cannot participate in the longer march in Perth, this shorter march meant we were once more able to enjoy the ceremony fully.

Four R.A.A.F. jets flew past at exactly 10.31am as the march proceeded on to the bridge.

A wreath was laid by Charlie King and Len Bagley presided over the wreath laying ceremony.

Our banner, carried by Gordon Rowley and Ray Howell was placed alongside the dais for the march past, which made a big impression.

The following members and sons marched: Len Bagley, Charlie King, Paddy King, Mick Holland, Bill Howell, Lee Howell, Ray Howell, Ross Howell, Syd McKinley, Gordon Rowley, Terry Rowley, Dick Fitzgerald.

**Bill Howell**

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**TUESDAY, MAY 10, 1994**

Twenty seven members attended and apologies were received from Ron Dook, Peter Campbell, Keith Hayes, George Fletcher, Mick Morgan, Dick Darrington, Tom Foster, Reg Harrington.

**Life Membership:** Ernie Bingham, presented by Don Turton, **Lew Thompson**, by Archie Campbell. The third recipient, **Tom Foster**, was unable to be present and he will receive his badge at a convenient date in the near future. All thoroughly deserved the honour as they have worked long and hard for our Association. May you live long to cherish the honour.

### Election of Office Bearers:

President:	Ted Monk
Vice President:	Bill Howell
Secretary:	Jack Carey
Treasurer:	John Poynton
Asst. Treasurer:	Col Doig
Editor:	Archie Campbell

Courier Team: Len Bagley  
 Betty Illsley  
 Gavin Bagley  
 Warden (Kings Park): John Burridge  
 Auditor: John Burridge

Committee: All elected members plus John Fowler, Don Turton, Dick Darrington, Bernie Langridge, Wilf March, Ralph Finkelstein.

Any member wishing to attend is most welcome. We do not hold meetings in January.

Country Vice Presidents (1 year to serve):

Goldfields: Peter Campbell  
 Northern: Peter Barden  
 Midlands: Reg. Harrington  
 South Coastal: Bill Rowan-Robinson  
 South West: Clarrie Turner  
 Mandurah: Joe Poynton

Our thanks to all these stalwarts for their ever ready co-operation.

## The Editor

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Gentlemen. It is with pleasure I present to you the President's Report for 1993-94, and in doing so, I wish to thank all for the help and support you have afforded me during my first year in office as President, with special thanks to Jack Carey, John Poynton and all members of the Committee and members of the Trust Fund Committee, The Editor and compilers of the Courier, the Busselton Sub-Committee and the Country Vice Presidents. It is the dedication of these members that makes our Association the great force it is today.

**Deceased Members.** It is with deep regret I mention the sad passing of 16 Association members over the past 12 months: Merv. Cash, Stan Sadler, Don (Shorty) Stevens, Kenneth (Skeeta) Bagnall, George Bayliss, Albert Martin, Albert Matthews, Colin Criddle, Gordon Barnes, Fred Sparkman, Harry Holder (Associate Member), Charlie Gorton, Charlie Mills, Max Bowden, Bill Cowie, Ron Gurr. Association thanks go to Col Doig and others for writing the eulogies for the above deceased members. Three further deaths to deeply touch the Association were Margaret Weller, Dot Harrington and Max Thatcher.

The past year has proved very eventful, spanning many and varied activities.

**Norma Hasson Midyear Social** saw an attendance of 56 enjoying a sit down luncheon, ably chaired by Len Bagley. After lunch, Col Doig's latest book 'A Great Fraternity' the story of 2/2nd Commando Association 1946-1992, was launched. All agreed this function was most enjoyable.

An unusual meeting was held at Anzac House

in August between some members of the Association and Mr Iwamura from Japan and his interpreter. Mr Iwamura saw military service in East Timor during the war and is now active in trying to assist the East Timorese people towards greater independence.

**Albany Country Convention.** A most interesting Convention was held at Albany, attended by 40 members. Len Bagley is to be commended for organising this Convention through Halls Head Coachlines, Mandurah. The varied activities enjoyed were a visit to the Whaling Museum, lunch at Strawberry Hill Farm and a twilight harbour cruise on the Silver Star catamaran. A sad note was struck during the Convention with the collapse and passing away of our Treasurer George Bayliss at Albany Hospital.

**Men's Mandurah Luncheon.** This was held at Mandurah RSL Club and was hosted by Mandurah 2-2s, with 43 members attending this popular function. In my absence the running of the luncheon was in the capable hands of Vice President Bill Howell. Many thanks Bill.

**Commemoration Service.** This was held in Kings Park in November in perfect weather, resulting in an excellent attendance of members, wives, widows, families and friends, including members from the country. As in previous years the S.A.S. provided the Catafalque Party. At the conclusion of the ceremony the S.A.S. invited all present to partake of refreshments at their Sergeant's Mess.

**Christmas Social.** This was a happy gathering with 57 attending and bon bons adding a festive air to the occasion. A sit down 3 course meal was enjoyed by all.

At Anzac House on the 4th January a very interesting and enlightening discussion on East Timor was given by Mrs Patsy Thatcher and Mr Charles Eaton. Having first hand knowledge of the East Timor situation Mrs Thatcher and Mr Eaton were able to answer all queries put to them. Mrs Thatcher is planning a return visit to east Timor about the middle of the year.

**Busselton Safari.** This Safari drew members from all over Australia as well as New Guinea. In perfect weather members, wives, widows and friends enjoyed a superb week catching up with old mates and reminiscing over old times. The highlights included a Civic Reception, March and Remembrance Service led by the Busselton Town Band, luncheon at Broadwater Resort and three coach tours. Appreciation must go to the Busselton RSL for making their facilities available and for their very warm welcome. Our next Safari is scheduled for Maroochydore, Queensland in 1996.

**Anzac Day March and Social.** Eight members



from the eastern states joined our ranks for the Anzac Day March. After the service members adjourned to Airways Motel to enjoy an excellent meal and afternoon social. Our thanks go to John Poynton and his staff for again providing the venue and catering for this event.

**In Concluding**, a thank you to the ladies for the many ways in which they have helped and supported the Association over the past 12 months. Their help has proved invaluable. My best wishes to all for future good health and may the next 12 months prove to be as rewarding as the last.

## 2/2 COMMANDO ASSOCIATION

### TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY, 1994.

The chairman and members of this Association, I have much pleasure in presenting a Statement of Receipts and Payments for the Financial Year to 31 January, 1994.

Firstly, I should like to say that the accounts, General Account of the Association, the Independent Trust Fund, have been subject to audit by Mr John Burrridge and he has appended his certificate to the original copy of the Statement of Affairs relating to the above mentioned accounts of your Association.

Secondly, I wish to thank members of the Committee for the assistance they have given me since taking over the position of Treasurer in August, 1993, after the sad death of George Bayliss.

In regard to the Statement of Receipts and payments I should like to make several comments:

**1. The Courier** – the life blood of the organisation. Costs have increased again this year –

	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94
Postage	738.24	804.57	874.47
Reg. Courier	75.00	80.00	None
			this year
Labels	183.00	187.00	182.00
Printing	3245.00	3260.00	3740.00
450 Copies			
Photo Scan	230.00	180.00	160.00
Newsletter	125.00	110.00	145.00
Covers			
Mail Wrappers	75.00	75.00	95.00
Staples	14.65	-	10.53
Typing	150.00	150.00	150.00
Taxi Service	-	8.00	10.00
	<b>4835.89</b>	<b>4854.57</b>	<b>5367.00</b>

Six Publications x 450 = 2700 pa.

Cost for each 1.79 1.79 1.98

Once Cent increase = \$27.00 pa.

For year 1994 the increase of 19c per copy totalled \$513.00.

	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94
RECEIPTS	4656.23	4287.00	4924.00
DEFICIT YEAR	(179.69)	(567.57)	(443.00)

Association events held during the year were:

APRIL	– Anzac Day.
MAY	– AGM Luncheon.
JULY	– Norma Hasson Social
OCTOBER	– Men's Re-union Dinner.
DECEMBER	– Xmas Social.

Deficit for the year was \$80.70 compared with previous year of \$193.20. Socials are pretty well self financing.

Interest received for the year:

1993 - \$741.20	1994 - 587.00
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Previously we were getting \$2128.35 for year 31/1/1991.

Total assets at -

1993 - were	12,271.65
1994 - were	11,241.88
	1029.77 Decrease.

As the "Courier" is our main way of communicating with each other and this will become more important as we get older and less mobile.

It is quite likely that donations could also decrease in the years ahead, hence the need to have the comfort of our reserve in the assets held.

I shall now read the reports for the year ending 31 January, 1994.

(Reports)

Thank you for doing me the courtesy of listening.

**J. C. Poynton**

**Treasurer.**

## 2/2nd INDEPENDENT TRUST FUND

The trustees of the Fund met on four occasions since the last AGM. However, telephone contact has been weekly and copies of all correspondence promptly forwarded to each.

Communication with Indonesia remains a major difficulty. Patsy Thatcher received 24/4/94 a FAX from Bro. Ephrem Santos, the first for 12 months (25/3/94) but he made no reference to three letters sent him by Patsy in that time. He does mention the terrible suffering of his people.

The Trust's first letter to the Governor was 23/6/1992. having had no acknowledgement from the Director of B & M Education in Jakarta we wrote our Australian Ambassador on



## 2/2 COMMANDO ASSOCIATION

### STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31st JANUARY, 1994

RECEIPTS	\$	\$	PAYMENTS	\$	\$
<b>BALANCE FORWARD 1.2.93</b>			<b>GOVERNMENT CHARGES</b>		22.27
Working Account	1306.29		<b>ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES</b>		
Savings Investment Account	2181.39		Rent GPO Box	110.00	
Debentures Town & Country	7784.06		Postage and Stationery	173.00	283.00
Loan WA Safari	1000.00	12271.65			
<b>INTEREST RECEIVED</b>			<b>SUNDRIES</b>		
Working Account	20.76		Subs — RSL Listening Post	15.00	
Savings Investment Account	39.79		— Aust CDO Association	58.50	
Debentures Town & Country	526.45	587.00	Aust War Memorial Record Restore	300.00	
			ANZAC Day Memorial Wreaths	90.00	463.50
<b>COURIER MAGAZINE</b>			<b>MEMBERS MEMORIALS</b>		318.80
Donations for Year	4924.00		<b>PLAQUES — Kings Park</b>		20.00
Less Costs for Publication	5367.00	(443.00)	<b>KINGS PARK Commemorative Service</b>		67.50
<b>JIM SMAILES POEMS</b>			<b>LOAN W.A. SAFARI</b>		1000.00
Sales		60.00	<b>BALANCE AT 31.1.93</b>		
<b>OTHER SALES</b>			Working Account	1710.67	
Ear-Rings		22.00	Savings Investment Account	221.06	
<b>ASSOCIATION EVENTS</b>			Debentures Town & Country	8310.115	10241.88
Net Expense		(80.70)			
		<u>\$12416.95</u>			<u>\$12416.95</u>

## 2/2 COMMANDO ASSOCIATION INDEPENDENT TRUST FUND

### STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st JANUARY, 1994

<b>BALANCES at 1st February, 1993</b>			<b>EXPENSES INCURRED</b>		
C/wealth Bank Trust A/C	1999.38		Government Charges	1.93	
C/wealth Bank Term Deposit	10240.61	12239.99	Telephone/Fax	34.86	36.79
<b>DONATIONS received for the year to 31/1/94</b>	2440.00				
<b>INTEREST RECEIVED</b>			<b>BALANCES at 31st January, 1994</b>		
Trust Account	47.73		C/wealth Bank Trust Account	4450.63	
Term Deposit	513.51	3001.24	C/wealth Bank Term Deposit	10753.81	
		15241.23			15204.44

22/9/1993, which he finally acknowledged on 25/11/1993, telling us how tough his job is.

We have sent three polite FAXES since but without acknowledgement. Jack Carey had a phone call from Jim Molin, Australia's Military Attache, Jakarta, who said 'Send the text books to the Dili Military Commander advising who is to get them.' On 22/4/1994 we faxed J. Molin referring to our faxes Austemb and requesting confirmation of names. No reply yet. The subject will be pursued by Tom Nisbet and Patsy Thatcher when visiting Dili in July.

**Important:** The book project has been ancillary to the Trust's main objective. All books are donated. All labour by our members voluntary. Total costs for telephones, faxes and wrapping tape, less than \$300. But an invaluable exercise to demonstrate at little cost the problems of delivering anything tangible to Dili for benefit of the indigenous East Timorese.

**Interplast Australia:** This was introduced to us by John Lindquist and a nurse, all working voluntarily, visit neighbouring developing countries doing reconstructive surgery. Patients include congenital deformities, palate and cleft lip and traumatic deformities of burns etc.

**The Trust is pursuing the practicability of an Interplast visit to Dili.** If approved by Indonesia it could cost \$16,000 to \$20,000. East Timor's population is 0.4% of Indonesia and for obvious reasons we would need to fund the cost of the project. We are writing the Governor for an appointment with Tom and Patsy in July. We don't wish to lose the personal nature of our gesture. It can only be a TOKEN of appreciation.

The visual impact of reconstructive surgery is dramatic. Our comparatively limited aid contribution could hopefully change the lives of some 40 or 50 villagers currently living in a greater depth of misery than their companions. In small and large communities of a country betrayed by successive Australian Governments, Interplast could leave an enduring reminder of the Australian Soldier. Interplast brochures will be posted to all donors. I will be away for about 10 weeks. Further copies from Box T1646 GPO Perth 6001. Cheques made out to 'Independent Trust Fund' **crossed 'Not Negotiable'** to Box T1646. All donations past and future are acknowledged in the Courier.

**THANKS** to J. C. Burridge and R. M. Shenn, Trustees, late Treasurer George Bayliss and now John Poynton, Keith Hayes, office equipment, Patsy Thatcher for an enormous amount of vital information following endless enquiry and research, many phone calls etc.

The team, including those from Mandurah, who

collected books and delivered them, with Jack Carey's influence, to the Robb Jetty abattoir for storage. Don Turton for his farm trailer, Colin Doig for 1 1/2 years storage of Keith Hayes' equipment.

**Donations.** Thanks to all members, wives, widows and families who responded so magnificently. We would welcome further contributions where relative.

Best wishes, **Bob Smythe.**

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## COUNTRY CONVENTION – KALGOORLIE

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 24 TO  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1994**

Arrangements have been made with Halls Head Coachlines for the following package deal:

**Tour Cost – \$490 per person twin share**

**\$100 single supplement**

**Cost includes 5-Star coach travel, 5 nights accommodation at Star & Garter Motel with dinner, bed and breakfast, all entry fees, morning teas and lunches except Friday which is a free day.**

**Minimum deposit \$50 per person at time of booking. Balance by September 23.**

**People who wish to travel independently should notify Julie or Bill on 535 2297 to book accommodation at the new Hannans View Motel, adjacent to the Star & Garter, at \$37 per person bed and breakfast.**

**All bookings, deposits and final payments to be made direct to Halls Head Coachlines, PO Box 876, Mandurah 6210.**

The Itinerary is:

**Monday:** Depart Mandurah at 8am, pick up at Perth Train Station, Wellington Street, at 9.30am. Lunch at Merredin. Arrive Kalgoorlie approx. 5pm.

**Tuesday:** Depart 9.30am for tour of the town and visit Hammond Park for a sausage sizzle lunch, then on to the two-up centre. After a game of two-up a trip to Broad Arrow for a Happy Hour before returning to the motel for dinner.

**Wednesday:** Depart 9am for the Super Pit and a Rattler railcar ride around the Golden Mile, reliving past events that made the area one of the richest in Australia. Then relaxing over a counter lunch at one of the old Boulder hotels, returning to the motel approx. 4pm.

**Thursday:** Depart 9.30am to visit the 'Old Camp' known as Coolgardie in the Gold Rush days, to relive some of their past when the

population was 15,000. Also the Bottle and Curio Museum, all located in the Tourist Bureau. A barbecue lunch in the park before returning to the motel approx. 3pm.

**Friday:** A day of leisure to sleep, shop or whatever. Julie and Bill will be available if anyone wishes to do a tour or any other activity.

**Saturday:** Depart at 8am, lunch at Merredin, arrive Mandurah approx. 5pm.

**This promises to be an interesting and fun filled week. Those who enjoyed the Albany Country Convention last year will agree.**

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## CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

**G. R. Watts**  
2/7 Fleming St  
Glenorchy 7010

Howdy Folks,

I hope and trust this note finds you all as well as can be expected and still enjoying yourselves as usual.

I am writing this note as a guilty excuse for Gerald Slade and myself for not getting the death adder out of our pockets sooner. I don't write much to anyone these days as a phone call is more convenient around close states and a few words of hello and goodbye and finish is more convenient.

Gerald and wife and I play bowls a bit through the summer and it is perfect for a game this afternoon (25 degrees) even if it is 13th February.

We hope those of you who are laid up can soon get up and on the move again.

Thank you for the Couriers and keep sending them to us please as we both refer to one another different items that are printed in them. I don't get to talk to any others as four of us have dwindled to two in the past couple of years and I haven't seen any others since the 1990 Safari.

Well fellows, I had better close now and place a little something in with the letter or you might forget our address!

Don't have too much on Anzac Day.

Yours sincerely,

**Gordon and Gerald**

---

**J. Hartley**  
62 Palmerston Rd  
Fairfield West 2165

A quick note to enclose some money for the Courier from Bill Walsh and myself. I saw Bill

and Beryl on Christmas Eve when I was in Kempsey and they are both in reasonably good nick.

My No. 3 son David had a bad car smash early in December and suffered a compound fracture of his left arm plus various other injuries, so I have been back and forth up there three times to bring him down to Newcastle Hospital for surgery and he has to go back to Newcastle on 21st February for a check up and possibly more surgery. He and No. 4 son Andrew have a 25 acre farm property 12ks out of Kempsey.

My brother Frank will be coming with me to Busselton but I am not sure if Maria will be coming. She wants to go to Austria to see her brother who is very ill. They were separated during the war and she hasn't seen him since. We have good friends who go back home every year and Maria will go with them but we don't know when they will be going so its a bit up in the air.

See you in April.

**Jack**

---

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

Had a call from Keith Dignum, bad news, Ron Gurr died this morning, the 8th June, 1994. Ron had a long innings, 86, and a very active 86 years it was. Ron would not be mourning. He told me last year he had no ambition to reach 90. I wrote to him only a week ago giving him a run down on the Safari. Keith Dignum had also given him a report. He was greatly interested in the Safari and in the people who would be there. He and Dig came out of the 2/3 Field Regiment. He served in England, Libya, Greece, Crete, North Queensland and Dig and Ron New Guinea, Dig of course saw it through to the finish, he was with us in New Britain also.

So SX141 has called it a day. He had no family of his own. The end of the line.

We had a great Safari, as usual the west came up with the goods. We loved Busselton. I reckon the away from city venues is wonderful, more compact, easier style, even getting to know the inhabitants. That RSL was superb, just a country town hall, took us in, laid it on and made us part of the family. Our plush Pakie financed palaces are just cold, austere morgues compared to that old hall. It and the people were vibrantly alive.

Jack Hartley called in for his camera the evening we got home. He was going home after 24 hours in hospital for tests. They were not good, his arteries and heart muscles so bad that any operation would endanger rather

than prolong his life. Jack his usual calm self. He will have to take life much easier and there should be no immediate complications. He is the only one I've seen since returning. We will not be having a meeting until June so unlikely I will be seeing anyone before then.

Anzac Day in Perth was pretty good, a lot didn't march, they took the short cut down Barrack Street to the Service. There was beer left in the keg, that in itself speaks volumes. We just ain't what we were. The years of the Lord have taken their toll. A.D. 1998 may be just that. We, like everyone else are heading for the finishing line. It only needs some bugger to say 'what about the money' and I'll shoot him. We've had a great run. Fifty odd years down the road and still mustering so many for a Reunion, with men coming from as far away as North Queensland to south West Australia and talking as if there wasn't a day, or thousands of miles between their daily lives. It says a lot for the ties that bound us together, and more to the point it occurred in an era far removed from what we came from. It's a far different world today with far different values. That's inevitable, if we stay still we stagnate and die, we had our day, our times, we made our mistakes, bundles of them. The young ones today are experiencing their era, like us they will make their mistakes and they will learn from them as we did. Some will go under, most will survive, that's the way it's always been. I reckon all round the world is a far better place today. The young ones think more and are more aware of what really matters and less amenable to the powers that be. Of course, the publicity goes to the drop outs, the unfortunates caught up with drugs, vice and the 'do your own thing' fringe, and the people making millions out of it make sure the pot is kept on the boil and that includes our media who can shoulder much of the blame for what happens to the unfortunate.

We were lucky in our youth, damn all money so no one could make a profit on us, consequently we didn't have to put up with all that's thrown at the young today.

An ironical world, 60 years on and I'm glad I was always dead poor in my youth, it saved me a lot.

Anyway Len and Betty, look after yourselves. Nora sends her love and best wishes and we hope that 1996 will see us all up on the Sunshine Coast, pretending we're as good as ever we were. It was great meeting you both once more. I hope you're having more than 'a leek and a look around' for breakfast these days Len, our droving days are over.

**Paddy**

*(I agree with you Paddy about our droving days – am enjoying a more conventional breakfast these days. Regards, Len)*

**R. Morris JP**  
**53 Hilder St**  
**Weston Canberra 2611**

May I thank you and your Committee for making my wife and self so welcome at the recent reunion. What a great bunch of people you are!!!

I was able to spend an interesting half hour with Jim and Joan Fenwick looking at photos and all the bits and pieces we had gathered together for them during our stay in Busselton.

We would especially like to thank Eric and Twy Smyth for the warmth of their acceptance of a couple of oldies from that sterile city of Canberra.

Sincere thanks for all the hard work the Committee put in to make this event such a success. God willing we will be able to repay you by welcoming you to the ACT in 1998.

Hope to see you all in Maroochydyore in 1996.

I enclose a donation to the *Courier*.

**Ron**

---

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

Following the 'Irish' definitions in our last *Courier* I thought the attached might be of interest to the retired educationists in our Association (we used to call them teachers) plus the odd grandparent. I hope we will get a wry smile from Ray Aitken, Leith Cooper, Jack Peattie and any others who were in the education system pre or post war. No doubt they could add a few of their own definitions.

Sorry I couldn't be at the Busselton Safari, please accept my formal apology. From the Vic. Branch regards to President Ted Monk and Association members.

Enclosed is something for the *Courier* fund.

Kindest regards,

**Tom**

---

**E. & L. Herd**  
**2/101 Duke St**  
**Iluka 2466**

Please accept third and final payment for Timor Trust Fund, \$180. Thank you.

**Eric and Lorraine**

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

Dear John

Safely back in what we arguably term the Premier State. I suppose we base it on age, rather than being top of the ladder. That's a dangerous place to be, particularly as there are six contenders willing to shake the resident off the perch.

We had a great time in the west, Busselton a great choice for the Safari, then Mandurah with Joe, Helen and half the 2/2nd. The fish were committing suicide, even I managed to catch a few. Anzac Day in Perth, first for me since 1948, in those days we marched with a swing and a suggestion of swagger. 1994 we creaked along and more of a stagger. We made it! By the time we finished at Airways Motel the aches were gone and our stagger was a swagger, even though we were the only believers.

Thank you for the arrangements for our accommodation. The discount was certainly appreciated. Our stay was both comfortable and enjoyable, not to mention being so conveniently central. I was almost teetotal after Anzac Reunion, three beers, two at a luncheon with Ray and Muriel Aitken, one in the Fremantle Hotel down in the port. That was for old times sake. I stayed there in 1948-49 and part of 1950. Fremantle a far different place today. I really don't appreciate the Yankee place names. This is Australia, we have our own legends, place names and idiom. We don't have to ape others.

Nora joins me in wishing you and Gloria good health and happiness, may they be your constant companions. Once more, thanks for all you did on our behalf.

**Paddy**

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**Mrs J. Gorton**  
**138 Marmion St**  
**East Fremantle 6158**

Dear Jack,

I was glad to be able to have a few words with you and Jessie Epps at the cemetery. I'm afraid I was in a bit of a daze and there was such a large crowd of old and new friends that it was impossible to speak to many. We were not allowed much time either, which was disappointing.

Thank you for arranging about the flag, also the photograph for my daughter Gail. I have a very caring family of three daughters, one son, 12 grand children and 2 greats. Most are in

near districts and the others Wyndham, Melbourne and Narrogin.

Charlie had been sick for some time, heart first, then a bad fall just before Christmas 1992. He also had a hip replacement. He got his last wish which was to be home with his loved ones at the end.

Once again, thank you for your help and the Association's help over the years.

May I ask you one favour. Would you please thank those who were at the funeral. I have a list from the cards but not all addresses. I hope I have included them all. They were yourself, Jessie Epps, Helen and Joe Poynton, Lorraine and Wilf March, Ernie Bingham, Ted Monk, Bob Smyth, Don Turton, Keith Hayes. Jean Morgan rang for herself and Mick. I believe they are not too well either.

Yours very sincerely,

**Joyce Gorton and family**

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**T. B. Adams**  
**3 Couldrey St**  
**Rainworth 4065**

Dear Jack

Thank you very much for your letter and copy of letter from Mrs J. C. Mills. The news came as a great shock as we had no idea of Charlie Mills death. We contacted him a few times years ago but he did not show any interest in coming to our gatherings and as his phone number was not listed in the address book he was not contacted.

However, I asked a friend of mine, who is a member of Legacy in Southport, to check if she was on their list of widows. She wasn't, so he called on her and besides giving me her telephone number, has arranged for a Legacy Welfare Officer to call and enroll her for Legacy benefits. I have told Legacy I will submit a report to help the case. Neil Hooper goes down the coast from time to time and will call on her.

We are sorry to be missing out on Busselton but that's the way it goes and we would be unwise to make the trip. We will be thinking of you and I hope you can organise the 'C' Troop personnel to have lunch together - give them all our sincere messages.

We had a barbecue early in the month and the boys are excited about the trip to W.A. We have a hard core of 12/14 and sometimes up to 20 at our gatherings which are good fun.

We had a full roll call at Christmas and our grand daughter will be 19 in July. No wonder we all creak and groan!! Iris and I returned home on 2nd January after our Christmas gathering. We both said there was nothing we wished we had done that we didn't do. It was a

wonderful two weeks with Paul, Pam and their three from Tokyo and Judy and her four from southern N.S.W. First time we have all been together for ages.

I'll be contacting Col for his birthday – talk to Archie regularly so I catch up with all the news. We also talk to Bob Field's widow, Madge, in Coffs Harbour – a lovely person but almost blind!

Sincere messages to one and all, take care.

**Basher**

---

**A. Harper**  
**14 Roberts Rd**  
**Belmont 3216**

I don't write letters very well but had to make an effort to say thanks for your continuing production of the *Courier*.

Unfortunately Gwenda and I won't be making the trip west to Busselton but I'm sure it will be another great meeting of mates and friends. One of my regrets at not going is not seeing Col Andrew and his wife.

I haven't seen Baldy for some time but spotted his car this morning. He told me ages ago that he was anticipating going to the Safari, so will no doubt be getting excited.

Am enclosing a cheque to be used as you think fit.

Regards to everyone, especially Col Doig.

Len and Betty – the apples are ready to pick.

**Alf and Gwenda**

*We would love to be there to help you pick (and eat) those delicious apples. L. & B.*

**K. Brown**

---

**86 Throsby St**  
**Fairfield 2165**

Enclosing donation for the *Courier*.

I am a Timor man, I was in Gerry McKenzie's Section.

Am still reasonably well. Getting older, of course.

My regards to everyone.

**Keith**

---

**Mrs A. Tapper**  
**3 Vera St**  
**Paralowid 5108**

I would like to inform you of my new address. I always look forward to the *Courier* to read of

Dudley's mates.

Yours sincerely

**Audrey**

---

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

I was sorry to read of the death of Fred Sparkman. I met him by accident one evening in Katanning when I was a student visiting from Adelaide in about 1948. He was a fireman on the train going to Albany. He kindly invited me on to the footplate of a new oil burning steam locomotive. We roared through the night to Albany with flames at times coming out of the fire box. I shall never forget that thrilling ride through that warm summer night, followed by a magnificent cooked breakfast at his home in Albany, before I went off to visit relations nearby.

We were in Australia this summer and visited Wilsons Promontory for the first time since the war. The Commando Memorial is a fitting and dignified monument in a lovely setting. I had forgotten how beautiful the Prom is and it is being very well maintained as a park. With a much younger friend I climbed Mt. Bishop. I'm sure that it has got a lot higher than when I trained with the 8th Independent Company in 1942!

Margaret and I had a great time at Umina, NSW, where our family has a beach house. I spent my time painting the house, walking, cycling and surfing. I learned to surf at Wide Bay when we were there. I remember being exhausted in the big surf and having to be helped to the shore. This was a very shaming experience for a young man who thought he was a good swimmer! I hope I've grown up a bit since then.

Have just had a hernia done and am writing this in bed. I'm looking forward with impatience to my normal activities, working on the allotment, cycling, walking etc.

I appreciate the time spent and good work done on the *Courier* and greatly welcome it as I am so out of touch here.

Kind regards,

**Ian**

---

**B. Smith**  
**29 Royalty Ave**  
**Highbett 3190**  
**(03) 555 2463**

I am writing on behalf of my uncle, Maurice (MAM) Smith. He asked me to forward a

donation to the Unit, please find cheque attached.

Maurie has had a serious stroke and has lost the use of his hands and he has failing eye sight. No more cryptic crosswords, however, his mind is still as sharp as a tack. He asked me to pass on his best wishes to all members and their families.

Yours faithfully

**B. Smith**

---

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

Enclosed is a donation to the *Courier*.

Best wishes to all members and their families.

**Joan and Swampy**

---

**M. R. Coles**  
**30 Church St**  
**Branxton 2335**

I could not be at the Safari as I had an operation on my right side which makes it hard to move. Anyway, I hope to improve.

Sending cheque for *Courier*.

Love,

**Cisco**

---

**Chriss Taylor**  
**13 Bent Street**  
**Moonee Ponds 3030**

I wrote to Mr Botterill in regards to a book written by Col Doig in which there is a reference to a patrol in which my brother Lt. Phillip Hopper was mentioned, and he told me I could purchase it so I am enclosing a cheque for \$26.

Yes, I did know that there was a plaque at the base of a tree. Some friends saw this and took photos for me last Anzac Day.

Some 18 months ago a friend of my brother, a Mr Frank Orriss, was in W.A. at a conference and a man from the Commando Association was giving the talk and he asked Frank if he could get a photo of my brother so I gave him a photo and an article written in the Argus newspaper which referred to the Commandos on Timor in which my brother was also mentioned. I didn't hear if this book was ever published. Do you know if it was completed.

Yours sincerely,

**Chriss Taylor**

**Ed:** The late Phil Hopper was a brother of Chriss Taylor.

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

It is with an aching heart that I write this with the loss of my companion, my friend and my wife after 47 happy years. She died on April 1st and our 47th wedding anniversary would have been on the 12th. She died with the full knowledge, for at least the last week, that she was going to die. Her faith in God and her dignity didn't allow her to question her fate. She died as she lived – a lady.

For many years one of her great loves was the people of the 2/2nd and when six of you good people visited her on the Wednesday before she died it lifted her spirits miraculously. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart for that. Thank you also for the love and support you have all shown here in her illness and me since her death. It was a very big challenge for me to go to Busselton but you made it so easy. Of course, without my family's support it would have been harder. Your warmth and understanding gave me courage.

There are quite a number of ladies and men who have faced the same sadness, as is evident by the number of widows and widowers who follow all events. Far be it from me to complain about my lot. I would bet they, in their loss got the same comfort from the ladies and gents of the 2/2nd.

Please accept enclosed cheque to help the continuation of that great periodical *The Courier*.

Regards,

**Reg**

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**R. & E. Finkelstein**  
**317/130 Cressell Rd**  
**Dianella 6062**  
**(09) 276 7160**

The Busselton Safari has come and gone and what a glorious week it was. I just sat back in the RSL beer garden and surveyed the wonderful group of people I feel privileged to be part of. There was George and Margo Shiels tripping the light fantastic on the lawn, Ed Bourke scratching his head whilst deep in thought, Tony Bowers, Bulla Tate and Ponyton laughing uproariously over a beer, Blue Bone, Alan Luby, Henry Sproxton, Paddy, Doigy, Arch, Len Bagley, Curly O'Neill, Jack, Maria and Frank Hartley and Betty Craig. I can go on and on and to those beautiful people not named, we still love you just as much.

Our bus trips were superb as were all the functions. Many thanks to the hard working combination of Eric, Twy and committee who organised everything meticulously. The RSL



also did us proud. They were predominantly Vietnam War veterans who gladly volunteered their services and time to make beautiful BBQs nightly for a minimal charge. \$2.50 per meal included meat and a selection of salads, all supplied with a happy smile.

While I sat back I saw a wonderful period of history slipping away. The pioneers era and the time of my father. An open, generous, chivalrous and nationalistic Aussie who loved his beer a little too much. A patriot who was never too proud to help a mate; maybe a bit chauvinistic or even ignorant of the opposite sex at times. Now we see a sophisticated and educated new age Australian who fits in wine appreciation courses with SBS television and NBL basketball games. I grew up on a farm in Marybrook, 12 miles south west of Busselton. It was the heart of the depression and education was never considered a viable priority. Survival was uppermost in my parents' mind and my father spent long periods away from home searching for work. At the age of 12 I looked after the farm for my mother until we left in 1933. The Busselton Safari gave me the opportunity to return which was very nostalgic for me. I took my wife Eve to show her the old homestead. Col and Jean Andrew elected to come with us. The current owners were delighted to let us look around. The only reminder of our period was an old log that spanned the creek. The house, sheds and roads had all been modified or had totally disappeared. Eve said 'What do you expect - it's 60 years ago.' I replied 'What are you talking about, it's 61 years.' Fortunately, we did meet the grandson of one of our dear neighbours of the past who still farms his grandfather's old property. He very kindly invited us to use one of his rental chalets free of charge at any time we so desire.

The 94th Anzac Day has now passed. It was a lovely cool day and a few eastern states boys stayed on for the march. Norm Tillet, Happy Greenhalgh, Lionel Newton, Ken Monk, George Shiels, Paddy Kenneally, Roy Martin, plus an excellent turn up of our own local peasants made up the contingent. It was a pleasure to behold the boys who were able to march, lift themselves to their full height, with straight backs and firm steps. At the first beat of the band they forgot all their aches and pains and marched as thought the years had never passed.

The crowd, which included our own beautiful women and families, lined the roadside cheering loudly. We marched on to Airways Hotel where the keg was expertly opened by Tiger. A sumptuous lunch was served and the stories flooded in thick and fast. I especially liked Lionel's ego inflating tale which of course was true down to the last detail.

Eve and I would like to apologise to Ed and

Dorothy, the lovely girl with green eyes. We honestly meant to give you our address prior to leaving Busselton but it wasn't until we were home that we realised we hadn't. However, you will find it at the top of this letter.

Once again I must say I am pleased and privileged to be part of such a wonderful group of people. God bless you all.

Enclosed is a copy of the story the mob would like published.

Ralph

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## COURIER DONATIONS

Isobel MacDonald, Swampy Marsh, Bob Smyth, Tom Nisbet, Keith Brown, Isobel McCaul, Ralph Conley, Dick Fitzgerald, Alastair MacLachlan, Neil Hooper, Clarrie Turner, Jack Hartley, Betty Craig, Bulla Tait, Mick Mannix, Col Doig, Gordon Watts, Alf Harper, Cisco Coles, Maurice Smith, Gerry Slade, Win MacLachlan, John Burrigley, John Lillee, Joe Poynton, Gordon Rowley, Ray Parry, Stan Payne, John Fowler, Tom Foster, Bernie Langridge, Ray Aitken, Don Turton, Ernie Bingham, Ken Monk, George (Happy) Greenhalgh, Alan Luby, Jack Hasson, Ken Hasson, Doug Hasson, Vince Swann, Ron Dook, Merv. Wheatley, Dusty Studdy, Eric Thornander, Ron Morris, Reg. Harrington, John Chalwell, Mick and Jean Morgan, Roy and Joyce Martin, Ron Barton, George and Bettye Coulson, Marj. Goodacre, George and Edna Vandeleur, Leith and Marj. Cooper, Eric Weller, Ed. and Dot Bourke, Bill and Iris Rowan-Robinson, Max and Noreen Miller, George and Margo Shiels, Bert and Sylvia Bache, Dave and Thais Brown, Keith Wilson, Dick Darrington, Jim McLaughlin, Ray Aitken, Bob Smyth, Unrecorded \$70, Nancy Briggs, Nellie Mullins.

*Ed: If you made a donation at the Safari and your name is not in the above list, please let me know and your name will appear in the next Courier.*

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## AUGUST COURIER COPY DEADLINE

**JULY 18TH, 1994**

**Please keep that copy rolling in**

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## INDEPENDENT TRUST FUND LIST 6

Dick Darrington	\$100
Reg and Dot Harrington	\$200 2nd and final payment
Swampy and Joan Marsh	\$ 50 5th and final payment
Joan Hamilton Smith	\$500 final payment
Jack and Jean Keenahan	\$ 50 2nd payment
Jack Penglase	\$ 40
Eric and Lorraine Herd	\$180 3rd and final payment
M.A.M. Smith	\$250 final payment
Ron and Dorothy Trengove	\$ 50 2nd payment

91 donors have contributed \$14,925 – a very fine effort. The Trust Fund Committee, Messrs Bob Smyth, John Burrridge and Ross Shenn thank those who have contributed to this worthy cause. The fund is still open and all donations are welcomed.

## N.S.W. REPORT – MAY 1994

I'm sure there will be adequate coverage of our recent Safari. From our point of view it was a wonderfully successful event and the organising group can be justifiably proud of the result. Busselton proved to be an excellent choice of venue with all its interesting features and the great hospitality we enjoyed.

The response from the RSL team to provide for so many of our needs was nothing short of miraculous. Well done indeed!

Our thanks also to the kind folks who took us places and provided transport when it was needed.

Like several others during the post-Safari week, I remained at Mandurah and enjoyed the hospitality of Dot and Gerry Maley for a week of enormous interest and friendship. Thanks again dear people.

The icing on the cake was to attend the Anzac Day march and service in Perth after all these years, and enjoy a fabulous reunion luncheon at the Airways Motel afterwards. All in all another memorable Safari and thank God we all made it safely home.

On the local front things are much the same.

Harry Handicott reports all well in the Steel City after a safe return and a stop over in Adelaide.

Ron Trengove still hasn't sold his house with its million dollar view – must be that 'Back Step' (with its 150' drop!!)

The trip to the west did Edith the world of good – she has been quite well since her return so it must have been that early morning swim in the Indian Ocean WOT DID IT! No other known people on the sick list.

We are due for a meeting of the NSW members early in June.

## Marksmanship Shield

The Commando Association Shield for Marksmanship has again been competed for and won once again by that outstanding shooter, Cpl. Alan Namor from 126 Signals Squadron, attached to No. 1 Commando Regiment. Tom Nisbet has undertaken to make the presentation of the trophy and the appropriate silver tankard on our behalf, at a suitable function.

We send our warmest greetings to everyone and our most sincere thanks to all who made our visit to the west a memorable occasion.

Alan Luby

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