



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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

President W. Howell. Secretary J. Carey. Treasurer T. Monk.

Vol. 113

AUGUST 1995

Price 1c

COMING EVENTS

MEN'S ANNUAL DINNER

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1995

at Airways City Motel, 195 Adelaide Terrace, Perth

Refreshments from 11am., Luncheon 12.30 pm.

This will be a good day – make a note of it in your diary.

MANJIMUP COUNTRY CONVENTION

October 30 - November 4, 1995

COMMEMORATION SERVICE

Lovekin Drive, Kings Park

Sunday, November 19th at 3 pm

LEST WE FORGET

MAROOCHYDORE 1996 SAFARI

20th - 30th APRIL

Details inside

VALE EDWARD LOUD

Again it is necessary to advise of the death of one of our really respected members

Ted Loud passed away on 30th May 1995 at Bridgetown, W.A., after a long illness. Ted had undergone a couple of very major operations for stomach problems since February of this year and there were times when it appeared that he would succumb but his great degree of courage saw him through and it appeared he may come good again.

In writing of Ted's passing it becomes a very personal thing. He and Dudley Tapper were my NCO's when the Unit was formed and indeed they were the props for a very raw officer. As a team we formed a terrific Section No. 5 down on those dank stretches of Wilsons Promontory in 1941.

Ted was to be a leader of outstanding ability right through the three campaigns of Timor, New Guinea and New Britain. He was 'mentioned in dispatches' for a particularly brave effort with Ray Parry during one of the big Japanese pushes in mid 1942. He attained the rank of Sergeant and was Troop Sergeant in New Guinea with Capt. Tom Nisbet.

Ted was also an outstanding sportsman, not only with the Unit but in civilian life. He played league football with the Perth Football Club in 1939, was an outstanding boxer and swimmer. A really big man in every way and as loyal as a person could be.

After demobilisation Ted returned to his native Pemberton, firstly in the State Saw Mills and later with the State Forestry Department as a 'B' grade forester, tractor and bulldozer driver and also the trainer of many batches of forestry recruits in the tough work of forestry such as axe work, broad axe usage and all of that manual hard work of the forestry business.

On retirement he settled in Pemberton to enjoy life having a few bets and following football. He was a staunch member of the Pemberton Club.

Ted's wife Phyllis predeceased him by quite a few years.

Latterly he had lots of problems with his hips and knees and finished up with replacements for most of his lower joints.

Ted was a very good friend of mine after the war. He was one of those blokes you liked to have around to back you up especially in the tough going.

Another of my really good mates has gone to his just reward and will be missed by a great number of his friends, both army and civilian.

All I can say, with the deepest regret, is farewell good mate, you were one of the greatest.

Col. Doig

On Friday, 2nd June 1995 nine members of the Mandurah 2-2s journeyed to Bunbury in a bus graciously loaned by Meadow Springs War Veterans' Home to attend the funeral and say farewell to a fine soldier and a good man, Ted Loud.

The 2/2nd representation was excellent considering the short notice members received. Ted's family was deeply appreciative of our efforts to farewell such a fine leader and respected man.

The Unit flag was draped over the coffin and all members present formed a guard of honour on either side of the coffin and the church service was an emotional sight indeed. Many old friends and work mates attended to pay tribute to this fine man. Members of the Association who attended were Bill Rowan-Robinson, Clarrie Turner, Eric Smythe, Alex Thomson, Mick and Jean Holland, Tony Bowers, Charlie King, Jack Hasson, Roy Watson, Ron McAlpine, Joy Chatfield and Bill Howell who recited the Ode.

Vale Ted Loud, your duty nobly done.

Rest We Forget

W. Howell
President

VALE FRANK SHARP

Frank Sharp passed away at his home in Dubbo on the evening of Monday, 10th July, surrounded by his wife Judy and their family, following the onset of an extremely rapid form of cancer.

Frank joined the 2/2 Commando Squadron at Strathpine after a long period with the 2/1 Armoured Division and served in the New Britain campaign until the Unit was disbanded.

In civilian life he joined the N.S.W. Railways and came through the ranks as Fireman, Driver (Steam, Diesel and XPT) Instructor and Inspector. In his last years of service he was Chief Inspector, based at Werris Creek.

Frank attended many of our 2/2 Safaris as well as the occasional Anzac Day march. He was a delightful character and a staunch friend and during his lifetime suffered more than a fair share of knocks.

The packed church for his funeral service on Thursday, 13th July at Dubbo attested to the esteem in which he was held in the local community where he had lived for almost 50 years.

2/2 Commando Association was represented by Jack Hartley, John Went, Mick Mannix, Keith and Nola Wilson, Betty Craig and myself.

We joined with the local R.S.L. Sub-Branch,

Legacy and other organisations to form a guard of honour to pay homage to a good citizen

Our sympathy and condolences go out to Judy, her family and Frank's family.

May he Rest in Peace.

Alan Luby

B. Dennis,
614 Sackville St,
Albury 2640

Margaret (June) Dennis

Died 30 April 1995 –
Cremated 3 May, 1995

June had suffered heart disease for a number of years and, during the past two months in the Albury Base Hospital, was a real fighter for life. But this time the battle was too great and our much loved June passed away from acute renal and heart failure.

We, Denny, Suzanne, Warren and families, wish to thank you for your kind thoughts, cards, phone calls and condolences during this sad period.

It is obvious from your comments that June was a special lady and had many good friends. We trust we can keep contact in the future.

Many thanks and God bless.

B. Dennis for the family.

Mrs B. Westerweller,
5 Dowell Cresc.,
Tamworth 2340

Betty and family wish to thank members for their kindness and sympathy at a time when it was deeply appreciated.

Ray was ill for 2 1/2 years and I nursed him at home with the help of the Capital Nursing Service here in Tamworth, except when he was in hospital. Now he is at peace and not in any more pain. He suffered enough and never complained.

Betty Westerweller.

It is with regret that we have to advise of the passing recently of Sir Bernard Callinan.

A Personal Tribute to Sir Bernard Callinan by C. D. Doig

I feel it is essential for me to pay a very

personal tribute to a great man and a firm friend.

When the 2/2 Commando Association was formed in 1946 I was elected the first General Secretary and Co-ordinator of the fledgling Association between the States. I was also the first Editor of the Newsletter later to become the 2/2 Commando *Courier*. This was the true co-ordinating influence with the Australia-wide Organisation. Many were the trials and tribulations of this magnificent Association's early teething problems. Whenever I felt a sense of frustration regarding the Association, a word to Sir Bernard and his great spirit of optimism would carry me on. He was a very shrewd adviser and a great help with many complex problems probably known only to himself and me. His steady help over many years was beyond value.

Of course we did not always agree on some subjects but Sir Bernard's equable nature always managed to overcome any disagreement. We disagreed over the early problem in East Timor when Portugal was in the throes of moving out and I thought Sir Bernard's immense influence as a friend of both Timorese and Portuguese and his world standing as a figure would be of great value as a mediator, but for some reason he thought otherwise and a great chance to handle a complex situation at its source was missed. That, of course, is just my opinion.

The 2/2 Commando Association has lost a friend of immense stature. He was a magnificent leader of our Timor Campaign and proved over and over again, as the war went on, that he was a leader and a soldier of terrific quality.

As a citizen he was outstanding in his chosen profession, also as a helper in many many good causes. Australia has lost one of its really outstanding personalities in his passing.

Sir Bernard Callinan was **all man** and a truly **great man** of whom we of the 2/2 Commando Association can be proud to say he was **one of us**.

I say very humbly that I have lost a friend and counsellor, probably irreplaceable.

Col Doig

N.S.W. NEWS

As of 24.7.95, phone numbers with the prefix (02) will have a figure 9 in front of the number. An example is my number which now becomes (02) 9981 3287.

Have had phone calls from Ken 'Blue' Jones, down from Dorrigo for health reasons, Allan Hollow who is a regular, Tony Ashford from the

'Australia Remembers' programme, seeking information re Timor, Pat De Luz who phones regularly with items of interest, Tom Nisbet regarding his inclusion in the group to return to Papua-New Guinea.

Elma Jones, sister of Peter Kemp, advises her husband Aubrey has suffered a stroke and has been left severely impaired. Betty Devlin is well and planning to join us at the Maroochydore Safari. June Bennett, who called in recently, is also well.

Several calls from Frank Geddes, Secretary of RSL, Darwin, in connection with planned events in that city to do with the 'Australia Remembers' programme, with a request for three Australians who served in Timor in 1942, and two Timorese who helped us. The party selected is Gordon Hart, Jack Hartley, myself, Pat De Luz and Alexandra da Silva Tilman, for ceremonies of remembrance of those who gave their lives in Timor from 1942 to 1945, to be held in Darwin and the War Cemetery at Adelaide River, during the first week of September. Subsequent to this event there are thoughts of a short visit to Dili and East Timor if suitable arrangements can be made.

The sad news is that Bill Wade, ex pensioners officer at Paddington/Woolahra RSL, passed away on the 15th July. He assisted many of our members, as well as those from other squadrons. May he Rest in Peace.

Greetings to all, and a special wish that those who are ill or in hospital enjoy a speedy recovery and we hope to see as many as possible at Maroochydore Safari 1996.

Alan Luby

COMMANDO ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA) PILGRIMAGE TO THE CAIRN, TIDAL RIVER. SUNDAY, 19th NOVEMBER, 1995

Each year, your Association organises a pilgrimage to Tidal River on Wilson's Prom.

where our permanent Cairn of Remembrance is located. This event is catered for by a barbeque and transport is arranged with a tourist bus/buses. They have some three or four stops in the metropolitan area to pick up travellers to the ceremony.

The service is simple and moving and the Cataflaque Party is supplied by the TWO COMMANDO COMPANY of the present day army.

This year, the 50th Anniversary of the end of World War 2 and the year of 'Australia Remembers', we invite all, Australia wide, to join us on this commemoration day.

Your committee is anxious to make this event

a very special occasion but feel that many who might attend are reluctant due to the cost of accommodation and that HOME HOSTING by Melbourne association members could be the answer. If you would like to host a "commando couple" from interstate or country for a few days around 19th November next or if you would like to be hosted; it would be of assistance if you would signify your intention by filling out the form below and posting it back to us, ASAP.

Note Well!: Ansett and Qantas offer 60% reduction in veterans' airfares during 1995.

Name

Company/Squadron

Address

No in party

I/We would like to be Host or Hosted during this period

I/We will travel to Tidal River by car/tourist bus.....

Post to:

**Commando Association (Vic)
PO Box 81, Ashburton 3147
Melbourne, Victoria.**

CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

**I. Ronald,
5 Westmoat Close,
Westgate Rd,
Beckenham, Kent**

I hope this is in time for the new address book. Our phone number has changed to (O) 181 402 9884.

Things are going well for us here. We are keeping busy on the allotment garden to which I cycle every day, and on our garden here.

Our son David, in the RAF, is an engineer on Hercules transports, and flies all over the world.

A few weeks ago Margaret and I were invited to Founder's Day at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. This magnificent old building, well worth a visit at any time, is a rest home for 375 old soldiers who have no family life, and was built by King Charles II. There was a parade of hundreds of old veterans of many a campaign, the same age as ourselves. It was an inspiring scene, the men all wearing their red great coats and tricorn hats. The inspection was carried out by Princess Margaret, and three cheers were given for her.

I appreciate the regular arrival of the *Courier* and enclose a cheque towards it.

Yours faithfully,
Ian

**G. & B. Coulson,
313 Bradman Ave
Maroochydore 4558**

We now expect to move in mid-September to our new address which appeared in the June *Courier*. We have had a long delay in moving owing to rules of the Noosa Council and the wet weather.

Please give our love to all. We will let you know our telephone number later.

Betty and George

**J. H. Steen,
37 Chateau St
Thornlands 4164**

Herewith small donation for the *Courier* and hoping that everyone is in the best of health.

Glad to hear that Col. is a lot better and on the road to recovery though I don't suppose you could kill him with an axe.

Am only having small trips around now as the aches and pains are starting to catch up, anyhow all the best to everybody and hope to see you all at the next Safari.

Best wishes.

Jack and Beryl

**Mrs B. Hopkins,
14A Norman St,
Bentley 6102**

Enclosed is a cheque towards *Courier* expenses.

It was great to meet up with one and all on the 7th.

Sincerely,

Betty

**Mrs I. Elmore,
19 Cadorna St,
Mowbray 7248**

Please find enclosed \$20 towards *Courier*. Thank you for sending it to me.

Still have my days. They say time is a healer so live in hope.

Was sorry to read of the passing of June Dennis.

Regards.

Isabel

**Mrs M. Martin,
670 King Georges Rd,
Penshurst 2222**

Enclosed is a cheque towards *Courier* expenses. Thank you very much for sending it to me for such a long period, it was and is greatly appreciated. I find it most interesting and it reminds me of bygone days and I recall familiar names mentioned therein.

Good wishes to all.

Sincerely,

Mary

**R. Griffiths,
2/36 Wandoo St,
Leeton 2706**

Please find enclosed cheque for the *Courier*.

Some time ago I received a letter from Col. Doig wanting us to write of our experience with the 2/2 in East Timor. Fifty years is a long time but I still have some very vivid memories. Col. told me there are only less than a hundred of the old guard still alive. There is much still happening in East Timor and it would seem that opinions held by the 2/2 are in conflict with government policy. There has just been a settlement of the law case concerning the Timor oil. Both sides seem to be claiming victory. However, we can sit and listen, it will still be there when we have all passed on. Indonesia has sent an army General to be the Ambassador to Australia. I think he will get a rough time.

Kind regards to all.

Reg

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

Enclosed is a donation for the *Courier*.

The 2/40th Bn. chaps and their wives had a great night at the Wrest Point Hotel recently. All expenses paid by the federal government.

The government is also funding a big day at the Claremont RSL Club in September. All RSL clubs in Hobart are invited.

Things are pretty quiet and cold lately. Looking out my kitchen window, the old mountain is well covered with snow.

Best wishes to all members,

Joan and Swampy

H. A. Sargent
 134 Simpsons Rd,
 Eaglehawk 3556.

I recently had a visit from Col. Doig. Patsy Thatcher brought him along and we had a pleasant couple of hours. I mentioned I had not obtained his second book 'A Great Fraternity' and he promised to have one forwarded. I received same from Keith Hayes, thank you Keith. I went into hospital for ten days just after Col's visit and read the book while I was there and realise that I am one of the few who have not contributed my share of input. For this I apologise and promise to mend my ways.

Enclosed is a cheque for the *Courier* or whatever the need is greatest. Specialists etc. have taken a fair toll of our finances the last five or six years but there's still a bit left.

I hope you can decipher this. I recall when we were allowed to write our first letters home while on Timor, I handed Joe Burridge my letter, he looked at it, shook his head then asked me if there was anything in it that shouldn't be. I said 'no', and he sealed it. I didn't know whether my writing was crook or he couldn't read!! (Sorry, Joe).

I mentioned to Col. Doig that '8' Section ambush at Maubissi Saddle did not get a mention in his first book and he told me to give him my recollections of it. I have done so and there are a couple of other incidents in which I was involved while with the 2/2, which I will get the urge to put to paper sooner than later. One such incident was the landing at Dili from the old Dutch gun boat. The troops headed out in the landing barges fully loaded with 5 rounds of ammo in their pockets, mags empty. H.Q. staff (us lesser ones) landed the unloading chore carrying boxes of ammo supplies etc, from the hold around the deck, down the gang plank into the barges. The Dutch crew supplied us with cold bottles of Dutch beer. Every time one returned up the gang plank he took a swim or two before heading to the hold for another load. I recall Freddie Bryant and I didn't mind missing the landing proper. The cold beer was pretty good too.

Haven't been able to play golf since the end of April. The self dissolving stitches left in my belly five years ago did not dissolve and are giving me hell from the inside. The quack reckons they can't be removed. I'm very much improved now and hope to be back at golf three to four weeks from now.

Thanks Col. for calling in. I really got a lift from that and thanks for the book that will join my 'pass on' collection.

Regards to all members and associates.

'Blue'

R. Archer,
 36 Soudan St,
 Toowong 4066.

Just thought some of our mates might like the following poem:

Hoop might go for this one – the locals tell me that the milk episode probably took place at Boyland. This poem has been taken from a book that has just come to hand called 'Poetry, Paintings and Pieces of Wood' by Harry McVey. The author was a pioneer and lived in the district prior to WWII – was a WW1 veteran and died very recently at 98. I have the authority that you can publish this poem if you so wish with the request that further copies of this book are available from the author's daughter, Mrs A. E. Markwell, 9 Laura Court, Beadesert 4285. For anyone wanting a bit of light entertainment from a dinky die pioneer it can be recommended. The cost is \$20.

'THE CANUNGRA TRAIN'

*Down the green Canungra Valley
 It trundles on its way,
 Sometimes late – an hour or two,
 But never a whole day.*

*From Canungra to Benobble,
 Then on to Wongelepong,
 You can relax – enjoy the scenery,
 As the old train chugged along.*

*They drove it down to Brisbane town,
 The old Canungra train,
 In Brisbane town they turned it 'round,
 And drove it back again.*

*Non-stop between each station,
 You could rely on that
 Its whistle echoed 'round the hills,
 As it steamed along the flat.*

*No-one ever missed the train,
 We knew the train would wait,
 Friendly service to the people,
 That's what sometimes made it late.*

*Six bob would take you down to town,
 Six bob would bring you back.
 Time just didn't mean a thing,
 On the old Canungra track.*

*Today folks race from place to place,
 Why? No one seems to know,
 Traffic signs and long white lines,
 Show how fast, and where to go.*

*Speed is all the craze these days,
 But I'd like, just once again,
 To hear the whistle in the valley,
 Of that old slow. Canungra train.*

Ron

**W. B. Tucker,
32 Tuppal St,
Tocumwal 2714**

This well overdue communication with the 'Fraternity' has come about because I am laid up in the local hospital waiting on a reconstruction of my left knee. It gave up on me about three weeks back – just would not hold me up. It is an old complaint of osteoarthritis brought on by an accident in PNG, 1944 when the leg became twisted, fortunately it is well documented with the Veteran Affairs. However, it's an ill wind that does not blow some good and I am now in the position with a bit of spare time to catch up on a few commitments I have sadly let slip.

Firstly, the 'Trust Fund' and *Courier* donation (see cheques enclosed). It has been a busy year to date, mainly because of my involvement with the River Murray Heritage Centre situated on Newell Highway in Tocumwal. This is a Berrigan Council Shire project. Built in 1988 on 94 acres of land, it comprises in the main a 110 squares mud brick homestead, a most impressive building ideal for conventions, weddings, large birthday parties and, of course, community balls and large functions, also special pioneering days. The theme throughout is in keeping with the olden days with displays of antique farming machinery. The out buildings include a large community archives and museum area and a blacksmith workshop which services the local horses and of course our team of Clydesdale draught horses. The R.M.H.C. project is self-funding, supported by a hard working committee plus the occasional 'grant' from the Council and donations from business and supporting friends. I propose to move out of the chair at AGM this month but will still take an active interest when required.

The Tocumwal Bowling Club is one of the many outstanding clubs in the Murray area. We have four excellent all-weather greens and normally 32 rinks available all year round. This year we had the honour of hosting the Victorian Fours Championship Final.

I doubt if my knee will be strong enough to play golf but with the right supports I should be able to play bowls.

Talking of leg problems which no doubt must affect a lot of us, I had the great pleasure of a visit from Col. Doig and Patsy Thatcher a couple of months back. They called in for lunch when passing through and with Patsy driving, minding, nursing and Col. navigating, only missed my place by ten minutes!! Col's leg was not good this day so I was pleased to read in the June *Courier* of the vast improvement with plastic surgery. Thanks Col for getting the Unit Family book over to me, it arrived in perfect condition. It brings back many good and sad memories.

I went down to Melbourne the other day to see Sam Fullbrook's special viewing featuring 60 of his paintings at the National Arts Centre, St. Kilda Road. Sam was on deck for the presentation to Gallery members and with his co-ordinator kept the audience enthralled with comments on his works, answering questions with the typical Fullbrook wit that leans, I think, to left of centre, and interesting remarks concerning a Unit member most of us would remember, Charlie Anderson, who found it difficult to settle back to civil life, joined up again and was killed in Korea. Sam apparently had met Charlie prior to joining up.

I am looking forward to Maroochydhore Safari which is not far away now. Until we meet again. best wishes to all. Cheers.

Bill

NORMA HASSON DAY:

Held at the Airways City Hotel, this popular function attracted 45 members including two special visitors, John and Cath Roberts from Victoria, holidaying in W.A. and enjoying the chance to catch up with old friends.

Apologies were received from Clarrie and Grace Turner, Gerry and Dot Maley, Gordon and Eva Rowley, Bernie and Babs Langridge, Joy Chatfield, Enid McAlpine, Joe and Helen Poynton, Charlie, Mary and Paddy King, Archie Campbell, Don Turton, Keith and Val Hayes, John Fowler, Henry and Thelma Sproxtton, Stan and Barbara Payne. Although some were away on holidays, others were absent because of sickness and we hope all are feeling fine again.

Speaking of holidays, Dick Darrington was off to Canada on the following Monday for two months and promised to keep us posted with letters to the *Courier* telling us of his escapades.

Jack Hasson, Kay, Fred, Ken, Robin and Rhonda were there and Kay made all the ladies feel special with her lovely orchid corsages.

Everyone was comfortable in this new venue and we thank John Poynton and his friendly staff for helping to make this a most enjoyable day. They made a fuss of us and we loved it. The usual non-stop chatter and laughter prevailed while we enjoyed pre-prandial drinks to suit every taste and then, after a few well chosen words from our M.C. Len, who introduced our President Bill who was followed by our hard working Secretary Jack, we were served with our 3-course hot meal. Well, the only word to describe the meal is 'Superb' and the same for the service. Everyone went home with memories of another memorable get-together.

COUNTRY CONVENTION – MANJIMUP

Monday, 30 October -
Saturday, 4 November, 1995

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

Tour Cost -- \$495 per person twin share.
Single Supplement \$75.00

Cost includes 5 Star Coach travel, 5 nights accommodation at the Manjimup Motel with dinner, bed and breakfast. Morning teas, lunches, entry fees and Cruise.

Minimum deposit \$100 per person at time of booking, balance by September 30. All bookings, deposits and final payments to be made direct to Halls Head Coachlines, PO Box 876, Mandurah. Phone 535 2297.

ITINERARY: Monday, October 30. Departure point for metropolitan residents is the Tourist Coach Stand in Wellington Street, Perth, west of the Horseshoe Bridge at 7.30 am. Look for the Pink Coach marked 'Halls Head Coachline.'

Depart from Sutton Street, Mandurah Bus Shelter at 9.00 am and travel via the South West Highway to the **Harvey Tourist Centre** where we will have **Morning Tea**. Then on to **Donnybrook** where we will have our lunch break, after which we will continue on to our motel at **Manjimup** and freshen up prior to a happy hour (at your own expense) before dinner and a quiet evening.

Tuesday, October 31.

Leave the motel at 9.00 am to visit the **Manjimup Tourist Timber Park** and then on to the **100 Year Forest** where a **Barbecue Lunch** will be cooked for you. After lunch we visit the **Trout Hatchery** in **Pemberton** and then back to the motel for another relaxing.

Wednesday, November 1.

A day to relax as we join the **Pemberton Tram** and travel over stream and rustic bridges. We enjoy lunch at the **Pemberton Hotel** before visiting the **Pemberton Tourist Centre**.

Thursday, November 2.

We depart the motel at 8.30 am to visit **Walpole** where we will have a cruise on the **Nornalup** and **Walpole Inlets** with a light lunch on board. After lunch we travel back to the **Manjimup Bowling Club** for a happy hour before returning to our motel for dinner.

Friday, November 3.

This morning we visit the **Lavender Farm** and enjoy our **Morning Tea**, then off to **Donnelly**

River Wines, Beedleup Falls and Mountford Winery where we will have lunch.

Saturday, November 4.

All good things must come to an end and today we make our way home through **Bridgetown, Boyup Brook and Collie** where we will have lunch at the **Victoria Hotel**, arriving back in Mandurah at approximately 3.45 pm and Perth at approximately 5.00 pm.

Please Note: Only six people have booked and unless we have 30 paid bookings by September 30, this trip will have to be cancelled.

MAROOCHYDRE SAFARI 1996 – UPDATE

In addition to the confirmed bookings listed in the June *Courier*, the following confirmed bookings are held as at 22nd July: Bulla Tait, Peter and Pat Campbell, Gus and Dawn Campbell, Harry and Olive Botterill, Wilma Tobin, Ken and Margaret Monk, Arch and Dawn Claney, Wilf and Lorraine March, Tony Bowers, Mick Mannix, Alan and Edith Luby, Max and Noreen Miller, Joe & Helen Poynton, John and Gloria Poynton, Ted and Dianne Cholerton and son Pat, Ted and Peg Monk, Col Doig, Peter Krause, Patsy Thatcher, Tony and Iris Adams, Archie Campbell, Don Hudson, Nellie Mullins, Jim and Joan Fenwick.

Members who have indicated they will attend are Ken 'Blue' and Edith Jones, Betty Devlin, George and Margo Shiels, Jean Palm, Jack and Delys Carey, Jess Epps, Betty Craig, Marge Goodacre and her sister. Ron and Dorothy Trengove and John and Olive Chalwell are making bookings at the Caravan Park.

Travel: Under the War Vets scheme travel has to be undertaken by 31st December, 1995 so that rules that discount out. The best available fares are with Qantas as follows:

Super Apex:

Perth/Maroochydore via Sydney	\$696 return
Melbourne "	\$336 return
Sydney/Maroochydore via Sydney	\$206 return
Launceston "	\$406 return

A coach service operates from Maroochydore Airport to the town centre (accommodation areas) only a short trip. As a matter of interest the air fares quoted above are much less expensive than flying to Brisbane and then coach from Brisbane to Maroochydore.

A special code has been allotted by Qantas for all 2/2 Commando Association members when making bookings for the Safari. It is HMZQZ and should be quoted when calling from individual locations. Phone numbers are:

Sydney	(02) 9514040
Canberra	(06) 2508299

Melbourne	(03) 2742210
Perth	(09) 2258344
Adelaide	(08) 2088877
Launceston	(003) 329911
Hobart	(002) 383516

The Qantas people answering will, when the code is quoted, be able to answer all queries regarding fares, time tables, flight numbers, etc.

A detailed programme and costs will be advised in the next *Courier*.

Best wishes to all.

Ralph Conley

Dear Mr Carey

Re: 2/2 Commando Display in the Army Museum of Western Australia

Following on from our conversation last night I formally invite your Association to participate in the new Army Museum to be located in Artillery Barracks, Burt Street Fremantle to be formally opened by the Premier Mr Court on 15 August, 1995. As you may know the aim of the Army Museum is to collect, conserve and display the Army heritage of Western Australia and the move to Fremantle will be an extremely positive one allowing us, at last the space to do justice to our military history.

It is our intention therefore, with your kind permission, to establish a 2/2 Commando display in the new World War 2 Gallery. We have allocated a space each side of a large fire place in the largest of the four galleries being developed. There is space to place two large free standing cabinets in these alcoves and enough wall space to accommodate any framed pictures, flags etc. As this Gallery is primarily a WW2 general gallery, 2/2 Commando would be the only complete unit represented in there with the possible exception of a small Engineer Forrestry unit we have currently on display. This situation of course, may change as time passes.

All cabinets in this gallery will be jarrah keeping in tone with the extensive original jarrah floors. With your inclusion there will be eight free-standing wall units and four very large centre units.

These units are very expensive and we would appreciate any financial assistance you may give towards it. We would be able to construct a very good display for \$5000 which would account for the cabinets, any wall treatments and contribution to security, lighting, painting etc.

If your Association could afford to come into the Gallery for this amount of money we would very much appreciate it. I will need an answer

fairly quickly as our builder may not have time to complete the job if left any later. It is our intention to have this Gallery completely installed for the opening on 15 August, 1995.

If you and any of your members would like to meet me at Fremantle Artillery Barracks for an introductory tour of the new facility then I am at your disposal. I can be reached on 383 2184.

I look forward to a positive resolution of this situation and very much welcome 2/2 Commando Association participation in what should be an extremely exciting project.

Yours sincerely

M. J. (Mick) Malone, OAM
Administrator
Army Museum of Western Australia

A special committee meeting chaired by President Bill Howell was held at the Anzac Club on Wednesday, 21st June to discuss the above offer. Mr Peter Epps, our museum curator, was good enough to take time off work to come and address the committee on the project. Peter recommended that we take up the offer. He pointed out that the old artillery barracks in Fremantle had been declared a heritage building which meant if we agreed to the proposal we would have a permanent home for our wartime memorabilia collection, which was something the Association had always wanted. The joining fee of \$5000 requested by the Army Museum is a substantial amount but it would be money well spent in the long term. Peter said the authorities had big plans for the future of the museum and eventually it would be one of the finest war museums in Australia. The Fremantle Chamber of Commerce supported the museum concept and were willing to help with its development.

After listening to what Mr Epps had to say the matter was discussed by the committee, the outcome being that it was the unanimous opinion of all present that we should accept the offer. One proviso was that the \$5000 fee be paid in two instalments. The first of \$3000 in July of this year and the balance of \$2000 in February, 1996. We have since contacted the army museum people and they are quite happy with this arrangement.

The committee also decided to start a '**Fremantle Museum Appeal**,' inviting members to contribute to offset part of the cost.

Now that Peter has been given the green light he is tackling the task of setting up our section of the museum with great enthusiasm, in preparation for the official opening by the W.A. Premier, Richard Court, on August 15th of this year.

Fremantle Museum Appeal

The appeal is off to a flying start with \$730 contributed already. Donations have ranged from \$100 to \$20. Donors are asked to make cheques payable to '2/2 Commando Museum Appeal.' All donations will be acknowledged in the *Courier* in due course.

Over the years members have been very generous in their response to the various appeals the Association has asked them to support. Hopefully this will be the last occasion members will be asked to contribute.

Donations to Army Museum

Peter Epps, John Burrridge, Bill Howell, Dick Darrington, Les Halse, Bob Smyth, Don Turton, Ted Monk, Tony Bowers, John and Cath Roberts, Don Hudson, Mick and Jean Holland, Charlie and Mary King, Jack Hasson, Jess Epps, Roy Watson, Len Bagley, Don and Ida Murray, Bryan Howell, Gerry Maley, Marion Smailes, Colin Doig, Beryl Smith, Keith and Val Hayes, Robbie and Iris Rowan-Robinson, Fed Hasson, Archie Campbell.

A Decision of the Veterans' Review Board – Bill Howell.

Entitlement – hypertension – stress – diabetes mellitus – protein malnourishment – cassava.

The veteran appealed to the Board for review of a decision which determined that hypertension and diabetes mellitus were not war-caused.

The veteran served in the Australian Army from 29 April, 1941 to 18 October, 1944. During this period he served in the South West Pacific Area and that service constitutes eligible war service including operational service as defined in the VE Act.

Diabetes: The advocate put forward the contention that the veteran's diabetes mellitus was attributable to his war service due to protein malnourishment and consumption of cassava while operating with 2/2 Independent Coy in Timor in 1942.

The Board had before it a report from Professor Zimmet, Executive Director International Diabetes Institute, in response to a letter from Dr. Horsley, Medical Services Adviser to the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Dr Horsley's questions and the answers provided by Professor Zimmet were as follows:

(Q) What evidence is there that cassava consumption results in an increased risk of diabetes mellitus?

(A) There is some circumstantial evidence that cassava consumption results in an

increased risk of diabetes. It is possible to produce diabetes in animal models with cassava.

(Q) What evidence is there that malnourishment increased incidence of diabetes mellitus?

(A) Malnutrition related diabetes is considered as one of the three major categories of diabetes. It occurs predominantly in tropical countries and protein calorie malnutrition, particularly in childhood, is suggested as a possible cause. However, even in tropical countries it probably accounts for only a very small proportion of cases.

(Q) What form of diabetes is postulated to be related?

(A) Malnutrition related diabetes.

The Board noted the report and was satisfied that there was sufficient material to allow it to make an appropriate decision in respect of diabetes mellitus.

Hypertension: In regard to the veteran's hypertension, it was contended that this had developed as a result of stressful situations experienced during war service. The veteran had an elevated blood pressure reading of 150/90 in 1948. The Board had before it a report from Dr McKechnie, Consultant Physician, which stated in part:

'The hypertension has apparently been present since 1948 and clinical signs are consistent with this history. While there are many causes of hypertension, it was recognised by Selye (1945 on) that stress factors could result in what he called the Adaptation Syndrome of which hypertension was a feature. It is not known if hypertension was present during or on the veteran's discharge. In my opinion it is possible that his particularly stressful time in East Timor could have contributed to the onset of the condition.'

The veteran stated that his hypertension was first noted in 1948, but that he was not given medication. However, he continued to have his blood pressure checked by his local doctor approximately once per month thereafter. His blood pressure was continuously above normal levels.

Board's conclusions: The Board considered that the expert medical reports before it were sufficient to raise reasonable hypotheses in terms of the interpretation of that requirement of the Act by the High Court in cases of Bushell and Byrnes. It remained for the Board to consider whether the facts supported those hypotheses as required by section 120 (1) of the Act.

The Board found the factual basis for the hypotheses by noting the well documented history of the 2/2 Independent Company during

the period of its operations behind enemy lines on Timor during 1942. During that period, it is well documented that the unit was required to live off the land. These circumstances resulted in inadequate diet, continual physical and psychological stress and recurrent illnesses. Part of the means by which the unit maintained itself was by eating native foods distributed as cassava, a staple diet on the island.

The Board noted that the circumstances were exceedingly stressful for all members of the unit and the results of that stress continued to be experienced by the veteran in the context of an accepted disability of post traumatic stress disorder. As noted by Dr McKechnie, stress has been recognised by many authorities as a factor in the development of hypertension.

Given this factual basis, the Board was not satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that there was no sufficient ground for determining that the veteran's hypertension and diabetes mellitus war-caused.

Formal decision: The Board set aside the decision under review and substituted its decision that the veteran's hypertension and diabetes mellitus were war caused.

An Interesting Hobby

Our thanks go to Allan Addison for submitting an attractive design in the way of a shield for our Association. It is evident Allan put a lot of time and effort in designing the shield which is a credit to him.

The design will be handed to our Curator, Peter Epps, and eventually will be on display in our new museum set up in the Artillery Barracks, Fremantle, W.A.

Allan is kept busy in researching and recording his family's history which includes an Addison Family Shield.

Keep up the good work Allan.

Letter to the Editor

Looking in a cold blooded manner at the current situation in East Timor, it is getting to be most apparent that the Indonesians will be the lords and masters for a very long term.

Hopes of an early self autonomy fade daily with Celebration of Annexation held recently at **Baliboa** on Sunday, 16 July, 1995. It is ironic that these celebrations should be held at Baliboa, the site of the massacre of the five Australian journalists in 1975 which was the true start of the Indonesian march into East Timor.

With the above thought in mind I am tempted to review the situation of those children orphaned by the destruction power of the

Indonesians. We, with the Independent Trust, are doing our very best to provide educational back-up for the training of many at the Dom Bosco centres in Dili and Zata Marka and also in the provision of school books distributed to many other schools in the area. The '*Dan Kiak*' Trust in Victoria are also quite heavily involved in educational training for orphans at other Catholic schools.

This is all very good stuff. **But**, we must try to do more. These orphans of today are the citizens of tomorrow and if they can be sent out from the various training establishments with adequate education and training they are the ones to keep the **pride** and **culture** of the East Timorese people for all time.

It is all very well to basically train scholars both male and female at these institutions but they must also be equipped to take their firm place in the society when leaving school. To that end it is necessary to provide tools of trade in all the areas of training so that they go into their world in a position to earn a reasonable living. These tools of trade in all areas of the economic situation **do not come cheaply**. We have been given to understand that a lot of the tools available in East Timor are of sub-standard variety, so it is necessary to provide them from this end.

I urgently appeal to the well known generosity of all members of the Association, men and women, to provide funds to see that adequate tools are sent to East Timor to fit out these kids to take a rightful place in the world into which they will be pitched. The better they are prepared the better they will be able to handle their country if ever in the future they do achieve a degree of autonomy.

Yours most sincerely,

Col. Doig

THE TIMOR MEMORIAL FATUNABA DILI EAST TIMOR

A reply has been received from John Wilkinson in East Timor on the condition of the above memorial which reveals it is in a bad way and is in urgent need of repair. A copy is submitted for the benefit of members.

After considering the report the Committee decided to approach the federal labor government and request that the memorial is fully restored, including the landscape work. The cost to the government would be \$10,450.

The Committee contends that as the memorial was given by the people of Australia it is the responsibility of the federal government and not our Association to restore the memorial to its former grandeur. The wording on the original plaque supports our approach.

The bronze plaque which was unveiled at the opening ceremony of the memorial on 13th April, 1969 reads *'To the Portuguese people everywhere from Minho to Timor this memorial has been given for your use by the people of Australia in gratitude for the help you gave our soldiers during the second world war 1939 45 and particularly to the people of Timor from the members of the 2/2 Commando (Independent Company) who served here in 1942.'* The plaque, in English and Portuguese, is by a roadside set in stone.

Originally John Wilkinson said that his work force, the East Timor Supply & Sanitation Project, would do the restoration work. This has changed and tenders called for from local builders which accounts for the higher prices quoted in the enclosed submission.

The Association wishes to thank Murray Thornton for his report on the memorial.

Jack Carey

EAST TIMOR WATER SUPPLY AND SANITARY PROJECT

I refer to the letter from J. W. Carey, the Hon. Secretary of the 2/2nd Commando Association of Australia dated June 12, 1995.

We have received quotations for two alternative proposals.

Alternative 1:

This alternative includes a full restoration of the pool structure by outlaying the existing pool floor and wall with 60mm concrete with mortared and paint finish. The contractor will rid of tree roots from pool area to prevent future tree root intrusion. Sitework includes a provision for a site drain and limited landscaping.

The restoration work also includes a restoration of the water source and associated pipeworks. The work will involve the construction of a weir structure and a pipe connection from the weir to the existing holding tank. To ensure a reliable and adequate supply of water to the pool, the existing second water source will also be restored involving cleaning out its seepage and filter structure.

The cost of this work is Rp 15,327,000 or approximately A\$9500.

Alternative 2:

In this alternative, the restoration of the pool is limited only to adding a mortared layer over the floor and wall of the pool. Other works as above.

The cost of this alternative is Rp 7,075,000 or approximately A\$4500.

As mentioned earlier, the both proposals include only a limited amount of landscape work. To landscape the entire site, an additional amount of say Rp 1,500,000 or A\$950 should be added to the above quotes.

The question of who would be responsibility of providing a routine maintenance budget needs to be addressed before commencing any restoration work. As I understand, the monument is under the responsibility of Education Department who has been paying for the wages of a caretaker. No other budget is available.

Regards,

John Wilkinson

MURRAY THORNTON's VISIT TO EAST TIMOR

I am writing this letter from Mount Isa, Queensland, having had a few days to reflect on the trip to East Timor.

To start from the beginning, having decided to take four or five months off work to look around Australia before my eldest daughter started school, I thought it would be an ideal time to go to Timor when in Darwin, as the flight from Darwin to Kupang is relatively cheap. Having decided this, I was still a little under-prepared as I was too busy tying up all the loose ends at work to learn Bahasa Indonesian. As it was I got a short conversation course tape from a bookshop in Perth and studied it as I travelled around W.A. When passing through Perth going North, my sister Colleen heard that I was going to Timor, and decided she was coming. A good thing too, as she was good company to travel with and had the opportunity to do 6 weeks of Bahasa Indonesian language study.

On reaching Katherine in the NT, I re-read Bernard Callinan's book *'Independent Company'* and Col Doig's *'History of the 2nd Independent Company'* so as I could better link places, dates and events to the places we were going.

Colleen flew to Darwin from Perth with, among other things, 20 soccer balls, Capsella, books, tapes and some medical supplies for Brother Ephrem at the Salesian Order, with whom 2/2 Company has had some contact. Colleen brought with her some notes from Paddy and Ray, which shed further light on the activities of 4 section during the Timor campaign.

Dad did not talk a lot about the war, although he did mention a few of the main events he was involved in.

I was 11 years old when Nicolau Goncalves (Dad's creado) visited us in Denmark, so that stuck in my young mind.

I think after the war Dad had had enough of guns and killing, as he got rid of all the farm's guns he had as a young man and did not associate with the local RSL types, for whom he used the phrase 'too many chokos.' I think if he talked to anyone about it, it was only to his ex 2/2 mates.

We flew to Kupang on Saturday. The countryside was dry and stoney around Kupang as you would know. The city was a typical Indonesian town, lots of bemos with local music. With a tout as a guide, we looked around Kupang Saturday afternoon and evening, riding bemos from place to place. I soon decided that one day was all I needed of Kupang. On Sunday we flew up to Dili.

On entering the terminal building we were pulled out of the line by 'immigration' and signed in (passports, place of residence etc).

We were to be met by Brother Ephrem from the Salesians, but he had to return to the Philippines as his mother had died. We were met by Father Walter Van Wouwe who is the head of the Don Bosco training centre in Dili, who took us to our hotel the Turismo. Father Walter spent 16 years in Vietnam (1960-76) and 9 years in East Timor so he has seen it all, but he is still the worst driver in South East Asia, and that's saying something. I think he and his passengers only survived through repeated divine intervention. After surviving the trip to the hotel from the airport. I knew there was nothing the Indonesians could throw at us that would be scarier than our own friend Father Walter.

Sunday afternoon we walked around Dili for 3 hours, getting the lay of the land and our bearings. Dili was a bit ramshackle by Western standards (open drains etc) but after coming back from the hills a week later, it looked quite modern. Everything could be described as 'a job only half done' but that is judging it by our standards, not Indonesian standards. On Monday we hired a car, did some errands about town (e.g. shipping documents for 2/2nd to Shipping Co) and were shown around the Don Bosco training centre by Father Walter. It is well set up, especially by East Timor standards, with facilities that would be comparable to those you would find at a Perth TAFE college. Father Walter is obviously a good salesman, he had his sales pitch for money well rehearsed. He is obviously a good administrator but my latter impressions were that a bit too much seems to go into bricks and mortar 'empire building' and not enough to helping the immediate social problems of the East Timorese.

On Monday afternoon we drove to Bazar Tete up a single lane track. It is still only a small village with only a few substantial building. It gave us the first feel for the Timorese

mountains. The weather was very pleasant after the higher temperatures and humidity of Dili. I can see how 4 section would have enjoyed it up here after the mosquitoes and heat of Dili. Every small town and village has its police and army post, Bazar Tete being no different. (in effect an army of occupation). We were immediately the centre of attraction for all the children and old people in town. (Young and middle age adults seem wary of being seen talking to strangers). The police were most helpful in finding Luis Gon Zaga, an old man who was a young carpenter when 4 section were there. They took Colleen off on the back of a motorbike down to his hut. He was very happy to see us, the only disappointment being having to use the police to interpret from Bahasa Indonesian for us. One of the police was an old local who was most helpful while the rest were from other Indonesian islands.

On reading the units history you get a false impression when you hear that 4 section set off to ambush trucks on the Dili-Liquica road. I imagined it to be a stroll down the road and over a few hills, not equivalent to a decent and re-accent of Mt Everest. This first day put into prospective the efforts of all sections in the mountains.

After Bazar Tete we drove down to Liquica, the coast road now being a good blunt top surface. The Portuguese obviously used this as a bit of a resort town as there were some substantial post war buildings on the beach. A Timorese was making a dug out canoe on the beach using only a machete and he had only one arm. Indonesian officers were playing tennis on an old court near the beach. The two junior officers were friendly, the CO was as stiff as a board (and bloody hopeless at tennis). Six locals had been murdered in the area by a rogue lieutenant and the court marshall was going on in Bali as we visited Liquica.

As dusk was falling we went up to the Fatunaba Monument. The view from up here is magnificent.

On Tuesday we contacted Andre Lemnos at a Government Department (everyone works for the government or are subsistence farmers), who is Nicolai Goncalves nephew. He took us to the Goncalves residence where we met Nicolai Goncalves's wife, Florentina, who is now blind and his daughter Margarida. The house was a tin shed with concrete floor, set off the road with many other said houses, about only 1 km from the Turismo hotel. In usual Timorese fashion the pigs and chooks run around outside between all the houses. We told them through Andre Lemnos who we were, and that we would come back and meet the whole family when we returned from our travels. We found Andre to be a bit of a 'smooth operator,'

the difference between where he lived and where the Goncalves family lived being quite substantial.

On Wednesday we took a bus from Dili to Aileu – usual Timorese affair, 22 seats, 34 people, chooks, goats on top, people hanging out the doors held open by a piece of rope. About 10 kilometers out of Dili the bus was stopped by the army, the Timorese had to show their passes we had to show our passports. We continued with the bus on to Maubisse after the stop at Aileu. The bus trip gave us a good feel for the mountains – Colleen refused to look over the edge. The road was mainly single lane. There were several times when we nosed up with a jolt to the bus or truck coming from the other direction on a sharp bend. We had a bit of fun and games in Maubisse because there was no accommodation in the town and I do not think the army really wanted us there. After signing in at the local government offices (passport check etc, we managed to explain that we could sleep anywhere as we had our own swags. They then let us sleep on the floor of an old building overlooking Maubisse, that had been a guest house pre 1975. It had no power or water, but at least it was a roof over our heads, as the cloud came in about 3pm and by 7pm it was only about 14C. The town had no power as there was damage to a power pole close to the generator, so everyone went to bed at 6pm.

It was a new experience for us in Timor to have the clouds below us. Before the cloud came in we walked for a couple of hours up a hill where we had a view back to Aileu.

It gave us some 'eel' for treks you would have made.

We had a few friendly visitors in the early evening up at our sleeping quarters. Why a young Indonesian soldier would want to do 'sprint' training around the building is a bit beyond me. I reassured Colleen that I still had my swiss army knife and we would be quite safe. It was the smallest blade I saw on the whole island. The locals had 2ft machetes. The army M16's. Most of the locals still live in traditional huts, only in the town itself are there stone and iron buildings. Most of the locals are still using subsistence agriculture, with the only other employment out here being a government job.

The next morning we went down to the market square and arranged to travel by truck to Ainaro. We knew we had no chance of getting a bus seat when the bus came through at 11.00am and we did not want to hang out of the doors. All the locals go by truck from market town to market town. The truck stops along the track whenever it is hailed and farmers jump on with their produce. The fare is 1000 RP (70cents). The trucks are small 3 ton

and are well driven by Timorese. The track from Maubisse to Ainaro was dirt with many wash aways and sharp bends, just passable by high clearance 2 wheel drives. We were on the back of the truck but it was a great way to see the countryside. The locals enjoyed having us there, but an army patrol noticed us about half way to Ainaro and three of them came with us. That stopped the bit of communication between us and the others, but the soldiers were friendly and they talked to us. The senior CO was from Jakata, 4 months into a 12 month tour. It took 2 hours to do the 50kms from Maubisse to Ainaro, 5 hours by bus from Dili to Maubisse, about 150 kms.

We reached Ainaro about 11am and checked into the only inn in town. Then off to sign in at the Police Station with our passports. If it wasn't for the rain that came in at 3pm it would have been healthier to sleep outside in our swags. As it was we slept in our swags on the bed, as there were hundreds of mosquitoes attacking us. The power is switched on in Ainaro at 5pm.

As usual, both the locals and the police were friendly with many people talking to us when they thought it would not get them into trouble. One local talked of the soldiers being in Ainaro during the war.

Next day we got a bus back up to Dili, as we were expecting to meet Brother Ephrem on Saturday. There were 6 Timorese school girls on the bus and they sang songs in Tetum as we crossed the mountains, both Colleen and I found this to be a very moving experience. Coming back down into Dili the bus lost it brakes, as the driver had been using them instead of engine braking coming down the mountains. Smoke poured from the front of the bus and everyone jumped off (including the chooks). Some locals would not get back on board and got the first truck or bemo going past. After things cooled down the driver brought the bus down the last 5km in first gear. Luckily it did not happen 60km earlier.

The countryside was quite damp around the hills above Dili and from Maubisse to Ainaro but it was dry around Aileu. There were more eucalyptus around the Aileu area, better able to survive in the dryer conditions. All the forest, both tropical and eucalyptus get a hammering from the locals collecting timber and firewood. I think in future they will have to be careful not to de-forest too much more as there will be environmental problems.

On Sunday we hired a car again so we could cover the country quicker with the intention of doing a big loop Ermera, Letefoho, Atsabe, Bobonaro and Maliana and then back on the new coast road through Baiibo, Maubara, Liquica to Dili.

As it turned out in a 2 wheel drive we could only get to just short of Atsabe as the roads were washed out. It took us 7 hours to do 160 kms to Atsabe and back. We had to get out on a number of occasions and push the car through. The road after Ermera had many wash ways. No one seems too worried about fixing it up.

At Ermera there was a Sunday market with many thousands of locals all in their Sunday best either going to one of the church services or selling their goods at the market. As we travelled these areas we re-read the unit's history of the sections who were operating in the area so we got the feel of what they were doing.

The locals still predominantly live in their 'grass huts' in this area with coffee and gardens being the main farming activity. Old Ermera is probably much the same as it was in 1942 with a New Ermera being built down in the valley by Indonesia.

On Monday we met Father Walter again and had lunch with him. We asked him to assist us in transferring money from travellers cheques to Florentina's bank account, as we had been unable to contact Andre Lemnos and we needed a fluent Tetum speaker. He was of great assistance to us, both as an interpreter and by using his 'pull' at the bank to speed things up. Even as it was a 5 minutes transaction in Australia took 2 hours in Dili. He is also going to follow up that Florentina see a eye specialist. We did these transactions with Florentina's daughter-in-law, and arranged to meet the rest of the family that night at 6pm.

When we arrived we could see that they had made a real effort for us. They bought out cold beers (I don't think they had a refrigerator). We went through photos we had of Nicolau from his 1969 visit to Australia, 1 photo of Nicolau in 1941 and past and present photos of our family and a photo of Paddy. I think we had more photos of Nicolau than they did. At the household were Francisco Gonçalves (45) and his wife, Margarida Gonçalves who is one of Nicolau's two daughters, and Jauuario Gonçalves, his youngest son (26). There were many grandchildren, and I have yet to work out who belonged to whom. Also present but not at the meal was Joagium Gonçalves who is mentally handicapped. Both Francisco and Joagium looked much like Nicolau. They had had three places set at the table as they were expecting Colleen and myself along with Father Walter. We had to persuade the family to eat with us. Only the men would, with the women waiting on us and about 30 locals looking in the windows and doors at us.

We were soon comfortable with each other as Francisco spoke Bahasa Indonesian and Jauuario had a good grasp of English. (Like

you say Paddy, I think he is a perpetual student). It was a fitting final meal in Dili as next day was our flight back to Kupang.

Back at the Turismo we get a call from Brother Ephrem who is in Jakarta.

On Tuesday morning, before our flight left we went back to Fatunaba to look at the monument, as we had spoken to John Wilkinson on Monday morning. John is the head of a joint Australian and Indonesian water and sanitation project in East Timor. He had been corresponding with J. W. Carey about repairs to the monument. I wanted to have a look at it so as to give my opinion about the repairs. Our plane left lunch time Tuesday and as it climbed above the cloud at about 8000 ft we could see the Cabalabit and Ramelau sticking 2000 ft above the cloud level in bright sunlight.

A few thoughts on the present situation in East Timore. Everyone we came across both Timorese and other Indonesians were very friendly and helpful. The police and army were, with few exceptions, friendly to us. But it was easy to see that the local indigenous Timorese were under a state of military occupation. As an example when we drove down to Liquica we were not stopped or questioned but a local Timorese who did the journey a few days after us was stopped many times.

I do not think all of the Timorese are anti-Indonesian but even the pro-Indonesian Timorese are not happy with the way Indonesia rule in controlling the economy and ignoring human rights. I got the feeling as I travelled around that the Timorese had had one set of brutal colonial masters replaced by another set of colonial masters with at least the Indonesians being forced to do a bit more to help the people by the outside world looking on. Three hundred years of colonial rule, especially the policies that restricted Timorese from going into business, seems to have robbed the population of some of its initiative and drive to help itself.

This is compounded by the peoples devout catholicism, which acts as both a great prop against the Indonesians and thus helps them keep their cultural identity but unfortunately it has left them with too much of a 'cargo cult' mentality.

They seem to be more interested in building churches than items of solid infrastructure. Whether they can gain independence or at least a greater degree of self-determination will depend on many factors, not least there own unity. I think there are signs that the U.S. accepts that Indonesia has not won the hearts and minds of the people and therefore some pressure can be brought on the Indonesian government. Unfortunately our own

government, of both political sides, are like jelly, not wanting to offend the Indonesians. It is about time that the Australian government called a spade a spade. Suharto came to power by a bloody coup, has used the gun to remain in power and oppress others, whilst amassing himself and his family a fortune and Paul Keating treats him like a long lost uncle.

I think it will be events such as the transfer of power after Suharto and the globalisation of telecommunications which may take away a country's ability to control what people see and hear on TV and radio which may offer 'windows of opportunity' to the Timorese resistance. A container load of AK47's and 20 missiles would not go astray either.

These are only the view of a 'ten day bloody expert' so I may be well off track. Anyhow I hope to catch up with you all later this year and show you some of the photos we took.

Thank you for the assistance you gave myself and Colleen.

Yours sincerely

Murray Thornton

P.S. We are planning to go back next year and continue to learn Indonesian.

INDEPENDENT TRUST

No. 2 SHIPMENT TO DILI – 10/6/95

An urgent call to vacate our Fremantle storage was responded to immediately by volunteers Keith and Val Hayes, Jack Delys Carey, Wilf March, Don Turton, Ted Monk, John Burridge and Bob Smyth. Listed contents, cartoned and strapped, then listed again and packed on 8 shipping pallets and strapped again were 112 cartons and packages including 7220 text books, 326 nurses medical manuals, 13 new knitting machines, sound systems, amplifiers and audio machines, stencil cutters, loads of stencils and office paper and 10 electric motors etc. etc. **TOTAL:** 10.5 cubic metres.

All equipment organised by Keith Hayes. School books donated from local schools.

CONTENTS PURCHASED:

326 Nurses books	\$430.00
Trade books selected by W. Santos	91.23

PACKING MATERIALS

Tapes, printing, labels, photocopies, Courier post, Telecom	243.16
Shrink wrap	80 00
	<hr/>
	\$844.39 844.39

FREIGHT

Fremantle - Singapore	\$1236.25
Singapore - Dili	1654.35
	<hr/>
	\$3734.99

CONTINGENCY

Possibility of Tariff and 'other charges' to land in Dili

\$

A fax from Singapore transhippers received on 21/7/95 advises E.T.A. Dili 26/7/95.

SOCCER BALLS

20 balls marked with a double diamond were kindly delivered to Dili by Colleen Ward who visited East Timor with brother Murray Thornton. Father Norm fondly remembered as a member of 4 Section. Their report elsewhere.

Another 40 balls at \$10 each are being purchased and marked, while we wait for the next Dili visitor to be approached.

RETIRED TRADESMEN TUTORS – DILI

The air conditioning – refrigerator mechanic is no longer required.

A Carpenter with some plumbing know-how is yet to be found.

Darwin Rotary have been requested to help.

TOOLS

A list of some 30 items is compiled and the feasibility of forwarding 10 sets being examined.

Ephren agrees with our suggestion that all items be controlled and issued as with a lending library.

We are writing quotation from various suppliers including from Darwin.

The landed cost would be up to \$5,000.

Bob Smyth

MARY MICKILLOP INSTITUTE OF EAST TIMORESE STUDIES

64 MacKillop Drive

Baulkham Hills NSW 2153 Australia

I am writing on behalf of the above Institute to thank you and your members for the support which we have received from you for our work with the East Timorese people through the medium of the Tetum language.

Earlier this year we received a donation of two electric typewriters from your association through the combined efforts of Mr Jack Carey, Mr Keith Hayes and Mr Paddy Kenneally. We are very appreciative of your practical help and encouragement.

I am including for your information and the interest of your members some details of the purpose, aims and activities of the Tetum

language project. We are being encouraged in our work by Bishop Belo, Apostolic Administrator of Dili and are working as closely as we can with the Church in East Timor and with the East Timorese community in Australia. Interest in the project is growing within Australia and around the world. Naturally, we have many needs particularly for finance and resources so would appreciate your continuing support.

During a recent visit to East Timor, I witnessed first hand the unbelievable suffering, fear and poverty of the people. I realise the 2/2nd Commando Unit has shown unstinting support for the East Timorese people over many years. We can only hope that all Australians will learn from your commitment to stand with this oppressed people in their struggle for freedom and self-determination.

With our thanks, our best wishes and the assurance of our prayers,

Yours sincerely,

Sr Josephine Mitchell RSJ

HOLLYWOOD PRIVATE HOSPITAL

Dear Veterans

I am writing to give you an update on Hollywood Private Hospital and let you know that we are still there for you. It is now more than 12 months since Ramsay Health Care acquired Hollywood from the Commonwealth Government. At that time we made a sincere pledge of service to veterans and war widows of WA.

We believe we have honoured that pledge – and the indications are that you agree with us!

Hollywood has been well supported by the Veteran community in the past 12 months, with over 14,000 admissions in that time and more than 10,000 operations and procedures having been performed. In the Hollywood Medical Centre – the old 'Outpatients Department' – we continue to see an average of 800 patients per week. The hospital's occupancy has been, on average, 82 percent, which really means in excess of 90 per cent, Monday to Friday.

The hospital was surveyed by the Australian Council on Health Care Standards (ACHS) in May. The process of accreditation can be compared to the star-rating for hotels. The Council surveys hospitals to ensure that their standards of care and service are up to a national standard. The surveys are tough and investigate all areas of safety, service and clinical standards. All other Ramsay Health Care hospitals hold accreditation status and while Hollywood is still awaiting its 'results' we

are confident the survey will give us accreditation to the national standard.

Hollywood has always been committed to patient care – and that hasn't changed.

What's more, at a time when waiting lists are still high at public hospitals we continue to have short waiting periods (about six weeks) for all major operations. Over the past year we have spent in excess of \$1 million on the latest state-of-the-art theatre equipment and general hospital equipment.

While we are concentrating on the best facilities and medical care for our patients, we have not forgotten the spirit and history which makes Hollywood a special hospital. Hollywood has been extensively involved with the Australia Remembers campaign and as a culmination to the Australia Remembers year we plan to open our Memorabilia Hall in November 1995.

Hollywood is and continues to be your hospital.

If you have any queries on Hollywood, please do not hesitate to contact me through our Public Relations Manager Catherine Archer on 346 6716.

Yours sincerely

Roger Snell
Executive Director

COURIER DONATIONS

Frank Sharp, H. A. and A. J. Sargent, Jess Epps, Marion Smiles, Tony Bowers, Bill Howell, Don Murray, John Poynton, Ted Monk, Mark Jordan, Dick Darrington, Edna Fullarton, Beryl Smith, Mary Martin, Betty Hopkins, Reg. Griffiths, Isobel McCaul, Jack Steen, Swampy Marsh, Isabel Elmore, Ian Ronald, Mick Holland, Colleen Ward, Bill Tucker.

INDEPENDENT TRUST FUND

LIST No. 9 to 19.7.95.

Les and Edna Halse	\$200	Final payment
Patsy Thatcher	\$50	3rd "
Bill and Iris		
Rowan-Robinson	\$250	Final "
Dick Darrington	\$100	4th "
Blue Sargent	\$100	Final "
Bill Tucker	\$60	2nd "

Donations now total \$17,130.00, a very commendable effort.

The Trust Fund Committee, Messrs R. Smyth, J. Burrridge, R. Shenn thank all those who have contributed. The Fund is still open for donations.

STOP PRESS:

**AUSTRALIA REMEMBERS –
VICTORY PARADE,**

SUNDAY, 13 AUGUST, 1995.

A major street parade starting at 11 am in St. George's Terrace west of Mill Street, Perth, around the city block to the Esplanade where a short service will be held, followed by entertainment in Forrest Chase.

This will be a **SPECIAL** day to meet up with mates and recall the Victory Parade of 1945.

OCTOBER COURIER COPY DEADLINE

Wednesday, September 20, 1995

Please send your copy to reach us no later than September 20 to be typed and collated as we are committed to a date by which the entire **COPY** must be in the Printer's hands. Thank **YOU**.

A message from Isobel Servante-McCaul to Victorian friends, given to Archie Campbell by phone:

Her permanent address is now as above and she has named her new abode after the Timor village of Liltai. She has now changed her name officially to Isobel Servante-McCaul and would like to say hello to her friends particularly Blue and Joan Stanley, Harry and Olive Botterill and Wilma Tobin. Her kind regards go to all members with a wish for health and happiness.

PHONE No. CHANGES

N.S.W.: Mr R.C. Griffiths (069) 53 3992
VICTORIA: Mr F. Broadhurst (03) 9489 2440
U.K.: Mr I. Ronald 0) 181 402 9884

CHANGES OF ADDRESSES

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Jack
RSL War Veterans Home
82 Oakmont Ave
Meadow Springs 6210
(09) 535 0520

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Isobel
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Collier Park Village
Como 6152
(09) 313 0409

Mr N. T. Nicolay
Norman
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Lady N. Callinan
Naomi
1/12 Balwyn Rd
Canterbury 3126

Mr. J. McLaughlin
Jim
23/51 Alexander Drive
Mt. Lawley 6050
(09) 370 0200

ADDITIONS

W.O.I. Rosemond O.A.M.
Peter
Senior N.C.O's Mess
Aust. Defence Forces Academy
Northcott Drive
Canberra ACT 2600

The President
Sergeants' Mess
Royal Military College
Duntroon ACT 260