



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

Print Post approved 637597 / 1646

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

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

Vol. 115

DECEMBER 1995

Price 1c

A Christmas Message

From the President

At Christmas time we celebrate the birth of Christ to whom we give thanks for all the blessings bestowed upon us day by day.

At this time of the year our thoughts reflect on our mates who have gone before, whose sacrifice made possible the way of life we all enjoy.

To the widows and families left behind we wish that this festive season will alleviate the sadness you feel, may those who are incapacitated, infirm and fighting to sustain life, be part of our Christmas prayers as we ask for recovery to good health.

May Christmas bring you relief from your adversities and help you to know that the love of all the 2/2nd members and a prayer for a return to good health are yours. Wherever you are in whatever corner of the world, may you and your loved ones share the happiness of this 1995 Christmas season to the full.

God bless you all.

Elvie and Bill Howell

VALE – ALEX BOAST

Again the bell has tolled, this time for that stalwart of the Victorian Branch, Alex Boast. Alex had been in poor health for some time and passed away peacefully on 29th October, 1995.

Originally one of the many families that came to W.A. in the early 1920s, Alex's family settled in the Denmark area and, like all those who migrated at that time, experienced very tough times and were brought up as tough as iron bark.

Alex was one of the band that was due to reinforce the Company in Timor and was in Larimah in the Northern Territory when we were evacuated. On re-organisation at Canungra, Alex went to join 'A' Platoon, later to be 'A' Troop. When an advance party was selected to go up to the Atherton Tableland he joined this small gang under Col Doig and proved to be a real asset as he really could swing an axe and that was the main job of the advance party to clear an area of fairly virgin bush and get the area ready to receive the main party. This never occurred as it is now history that the Unit was disembarked to Port Moresby to take part in the campaign in that tough area of the Bismarks and Finisterre Ranges. Alex served the Unit with distinction in New Guinea and New Britain.

On demobilisation Alex returned to W.A. for a brief period, eventually married and went to live and work in Victoria. He was a staunch supporter of the Victorian Branch of the Association and worked very hard at organising many successful functions.

Alex was a keen photographer and many of the Association events were the subject of his hobby. I well remember the 50th anniversary of the forming of the Unit when the Commemoration Service was held on Wilsons Promontory and Alex supplied the sound equipment and also took a lot of photographs which many were later able to acquire from him.

Alex leaves a widow and four children. We offer our sincere sympathy to Beryl and the family.

A good man who soldiered grandly, who was a truly worthy citizen and a marvellous family man, a gentle gentle man in the truest sense.

Goodbye good friend.

Col Doig

VALE RON MACKAY

Ron Mackay passed away at Kadina on September 3, 1995, aged 72.

Ron's early life was hard, having been put in an orphanage at an early age, then when old enough he was fostered out to a family who

had a contract for cutting green feed from the sewerage farming. When he was old enough he volunteered for the army in an endeavour to become his own man. He did his training at Canungra and was drafted to the 2/2 Commando Squadron where he was attached to 'B' Platoon, 6 Section in New Guinea. As Keith Dignum said, he entered the army with the same zest as an untrained Alsatian pup. He was originally put in Mal Herbert's sub-section but Ken Mackintosh thought Mal was too easy-going, so put him in Reg. Harrington's section. The patience and understanding each member of the Unit had for one another applied to him and he became a valuable member of the Section, sometimes, like that Alsatian, needing a little bit of restraint.

Post-war Ron joined the staff of the P.M.G. He married Pat Barnes and had a family of three boys and a girl and three grandchildren.

He spent time with the peace time army and proudly wore his old battle dress at the parade at Keswick Barracks when we were on the Barossa Valley Safari.

Unfortunately Ron had a serious car accident and suffered considerable injuries, later having a by-pass and several minor strokes.

Lest We Forget.

Reg. Harrington and Keith Dignum

Lady N. Callinan
Unit 1, 12 Balwyn Road
Canterbury 3126

To all Bernard's beloved comrades in the West.

He really loved you all and cherished the memories. I know you will always remember him.

I love you too.

Naomi

We are sorry to have to advise that Alf Harper's wife Gwenda passed away.

CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

J. P. Kenneally
28 Wilkins St
Yagoona 2199

As you are well aware, this time of the year any other topic apart from football is taboo. Melbourne, of course takes pride – where else would you get 50 odd thousand people to a semi final when one of the contestant teams is

based nearly 3000 miles away. They had a long time and a long way to ponder the result.

All going pretty well here, some rain which was badly needed, and thankfully covering most of the State. Our daughter Helen taking life in her stride after three operations for cancer in March. Her quip to Nora and myself - 'I'm leaving you a bit at a time, there's a long time left in me yet.'

I had a spinal operation in August, result an unknown factor at present. Perhaps by the end of October will know more. It cost me two trips. I almost got to Nippons shores 50 odd years after setting out on the first leg Timor - apparently never destined to get there. Maybe, who knows, what the future holds? The other trip Timor, I have the tickets and covering letter as a memento.

Farewell to NX8491 Tpr. A. B. Weir, 2/2 Commando Sqn, ex 2/1 Australian Infantry Battalion, campaigns Libya, Greece, Crete, New Guinea, New Britain. 'Snow' of the lazy grin and imperturbable manner made his last journey, to my knowledge, without any of the 2/2 men aware of his passing. The last time I saw him, Curly O'Neill and I visited him at Lady Davidson Repat Hospital at Turramurra in the upper north shore. We were lucky to catch him as he was being discharged after an extended period of treatment in Concord Repat Hospital and Lady Davidson. Curly and Snow were always pretty close, Curly told him to keep in contact. Snow just grinned and said 'OK'. Keeping in contact with Bernie Weir was no mean feat, he lined up at Spencer near Gosford, he may as well have lived on the moon. Several of our members tried on many occasions. Snow was just never there, or just didn't answer the phone. He was very much his own man and could live his life without props. I well remember when we were moving from Jacquinot Bay to Wide Bay in New Britain, Snow who was in No. 1 Section was running late. Of course we were all standing at ease, loaded and waiting. Snow came sauntering by and someone said 'Come on Snow, you're always late.' Snow grinned and replied 'I wasn't late in 1939.' Trick and contract to Snow. Wherever you are Snow, I'm sure when Gabriel blows his trumpet you will saunter up in your own good time, you were always early and on time when you were needed most.

The only memorial I know of in Australia which mentions the people of East Timor was unveiled on 19th August, 1995. Present were members of the East Timorese community, members of the federal government, Marrickville RSL and the East Timor Association and Alan Luby, Jack Hartley and myself representing the 2/2nd.

Also present were sisters of the Josephite order and Mr. Keith O'Neill of the Australian

Catholic Social Justice Council which has played a significant part in aid and support to the people of East Timor. Mr O'Neill is a former colonel of infantry in the R.A.A. and commanded a battalion in Vietnam. Tom Uren, minister and member of Parliament who served in the 2/1 Heavy Battery and was captured in Timor, February 1942, spoke with feeling of the sufferings of the people in East Timor in 1942-45 and since the Indonesian invasion 1975. Mr. Barry Cutler, Mayor of Marrickville said he was proud that a memorial plaque to honour the men of Sparrow Force and people of East Timor was situated in his council areas. I may add that getting an area to put up such a memorial is not easy in the Sydney of 1995. Mr Cutler, his council members and outdoor staff are to be thanked for providing a suitable area and erecting the memorial which will outlast many future generations. A map of Australia and Timor is etched into the granite with the following wording - 'In memory of the men of Sparrow Force and the people of East Timor who died in Timor 1942-1945 in World War Two.' To Linda Pilay must go the credit of firstly conceiving the idea and working unceasingly to achieve it. Ms. Jeannette McHugh, federal member for Grayndler played a most important role in Canberra to procure the finance and within her electorate to gain support.

Good luck,

Paddy Kenneally

B. Poynton
2 Lygon Street
Sth Caulfield 3031

Thank you for sending me the *Commando Courier*. Enclosed is a donation for same.

Sincerely,

Bruce

A. Hodge
2/289 Wakaden St
Griffith 2680

Enclosed is a cheque for the *Courier* or whatever.

I am still mobile, although in first gear. Have had both knees replaced but not at the one time, the last one in February. Both are quite good.

Different areas around have had fair rain, some very little but most can expect a fair crop.

No news of note around here, my regards to all.

Alf

Mrs M. McKenzie
5 Wendlebury Way
Eden Hill 6054

Enclosed is a contribution to the *Courier* – it is a long time since my last donation.

Thank you for arranging the flag at Chippers and no doubt arranging the good roll call of the men.

I am off to Melbourne for a month to be with the family and attend my grandson's wedding in October.

Mary

G. E. Pendergrast
29 Dodd St
Dongara 6525

It was mentioned in the *Courier* about wanting to help the Timorese in the plumbing trade. I may be able to help in some way, being a licensed plumber. I have had a fair amount of experience, also installing and maintaining sewerage treatment plants.

At present I am recovering from a by-pass operation which I had on the 12th June. I believe it will take six months to fully recover.

Edith fell over and broke her arm so I am kept busy with house work and looking after her at present.

Edie and I are managing but the old bones are slow healing but we will get there. I don't get out to see Tom Foster but get to know how he is from his son Peter or my daughter who works for SBS in Geraldton.

Regarding Timor, my idea would be to bring the Timorese over here and teach them so they could go back and pass it on. Perhaps the government might come to the party.

I read about the photo exhibition and would like to have seen it but could not manage it this time. I know Don Turton has some photos of the Sapper Section so must try to get some next time I come down.

Col Doig will be 84 next March and I will be 74 next February so I have 10 years on him. Am still fairly active. I am Secretary/Treasurer and Armourer of the Dongara Pistol Club so I am still messing around with guns. When I was sent over to join the Unit I thought I was to be the Armourer as I was a qualified Artillery Artificer but I ended up a fitter in the Sapper Section.

We will be down in October next year for the 50th.

Yours faithfully,

'Blue'

Mrs K. Press
6 Parker Place
Orange 2800

As each *Courier* arrives I have good intentions re a donation so am making haste before 1995 disappears. I find much interest in the contents despite reading of the demise of so many fine members of the Unit.

Unfortunately I cannot make plans for Maroochydhore for health reasons.

I wish everyone much happiness for the approaching festive season and the coming year.

Sincerely,

Kath

P. Alexander
170 Forrest Street
Palmyra 6157

Thought it about time I penned a few lines – never was one of my strong points.

Still see Keith Hayes when he drops in for a yarn. He's a bloody marvel that man, never seems to age and appears to have no aches or pains. Will have to give Val a ring and find out what she feeds him on.

I don't do much driving these days, only on the golf course.

Went to Esperance at Easter, had a nice holiday, the weather was kind but the fish were not plentiful. Locals say there's too much netting going on. While in Esperance I visited the local cemetery, went looking for Charlie McCaffery's grave, was surprised to find Charlie had been married. He lived in Coffs Harbour after the war and eventually turned up at Gibsons Soak in Esperance.

Best to Ron Dook, Arch and Col. Hope they are all OK.

Enclosed is cheque for the *Courier*.

Peter

C. Sadler
PO Box 108
Wongan Hills 6603

Herewith please find cheques for the various appeals in recent *Courier*.

As far as farming goes there are more troubles than ever. They always seem to be spraying for some pests. Rye grass has become resistant to most sprays but for all that we hope to have a reasonable finish.

I am not enjoying the cold weather.

Looking forward to seeing you all at Kings Park.

Yours sincerely,

Charlie

R. A. Wintour
22 Watson Street
Earlville 4870

Any of the 2/2 Commandos will be welcome to far north Queensland. There are now direct flights from Perth to Cairns via Alice Springs.

I was surprised one day to open my front door to be greeted by Ron Archer with the words 'good day Fuzzy.' Ron is the only 2/2 member I've met up with since I came north in 1955.

I'm limited in my travels as I have graduated to a wheel chair.

Very sorry to see the passing of Gerry McKenzie - I was in 'C' Platoon in New Guinea and New Britain.

Christmas greetings to all.

Ross (Fuzzy)

H. Handicott
18/151 Denison Street
Hamilton 2303

A very overdue note, the arrival of the *Courier* has jolted my thoughts.

A great write up of Sir Bernard. You Timor fellows were lucky to have him in those dark days.

On the lighter side, all socks washed ready for Maroochydore. It looks as though Hoop and Co. have been busy for our pleasure.

Good to read of the new War Museum in W.A. Enclosed a cheque for it and the *Courier*.

Spoke to Joyce Smith recently. She's going OK and looking forward to the Safari.

Our weather is crazy - hot, cold, wet, dry, windy. I don't know who enjoys it.

Christmas greetings to all. See you at Maroochydore.

Cheers,

Amyce and Harry

R. Finkelstein
Unit 317/130 Cresswell Rd
Dianella 6062

My friend Harry and I left Perth on the 29th May, 1995 heading north to Broome approximately 2300 km away. Our trusty

Landrover was towing a caravan, a 3.9m. aluminium dinghy and its motor. As we drove on we passed through some healthy grain crop country followed by a red land dotted with spinifex, termite mounds and the occasional boab tree.

Three days after departing Perth we arrived at our destination where friends from previous years helped us oldies park the caravan and assemble the annexe. Our site was in the Roebuck Bay Caravan Park, adjacent to the beautiful blue ocean. At this stage it was too late to put our boat out so we leisurely watched the fishermen filleting their abundant catches.

The next few days were marred by a deep weather depression and by then the tide had altered to 9 metres, making it impossible to fish. The alternatives were bowls and many miles of walking. Fortunately I had sufficient thrust to knock a few off. At this juncture it was delightful lazing in 28 to 32 degrees while Perth froze.

The first day out fishing we caught a couple of tasty Blue Bone Groper; suddenly we were surrounded by an ocean boiling with tuna. Our mate, fishing only 10 metres from us, called out 'Ay Finky, look at this!' He was pointing to an 18 inch shark's fin neatly cutting through the water between the two of us. I swear he was the original 'Jaws.' We quickly grabbed our lines, however, suddenly one 100 lb. line took off. This was enough for us so we very promptly left. Later on we caught one magnificent tuna. This was sufficient for a dozen steaks which we marinated and shared with our friends over a BBQ. They were truly delicious. We spent approximately one week in Roebuck before we met up with Tich Chalwell who was also camping there. We spent a few very pleasant hours together. Sadly, Olive wasn't the best so they took off early.

At this stage I decided to take a look at the Ord River project. Arriving in Kununurra I took a tour of the diversion dam and plantations. The diversion dam consists of 20 gates, each 11 metres high and 15 metres wide. Should they be opened one metre, 36,000 cubic metres per second would pour through, enough to fill Sydney Harbour in 20 minutes. It is comparable to an enormous inland sea with a volume of 5672 million cubic metres and a surface area of 740 square kilometres. In reality, Lake Argyle is 9 times the size of Sydney Harbour.

The bus took us off to the plantations. This was heaven to one brought up with agriculture. One block of sugar cane measured 1 square kilometre. It had been laser levelled and the abundant irrigation waters were flowing down furrows 2 metres apart. The soil was dark red to black and almost edible. We were then

transported to a paw paw and banana plantation. The seeds of the paw paw were imported from Thailand and have a reputation of being sweeter. I shared some, along with a rockmelon – absolutely delicious. The experimental farms can and do grow almost anything.

The next day I took a flight to the almost eerie Bungle Bungles. They sit 580 metres above sea level and some reach a height of 1800 metres. Enormous ravines have been cut by water action over countless thousands of years. Whilst in this general vicinity we were also able to view the world's largest supplier of diamonds, Argyle Diamonds. The projected annual production is 40 million carats.

I returned to Broome and fished for a few more weeks in order to fill up our freezers. Then it was back to Perth, passing by the same fascinating country as before. The grain crops this year have been record breaking and were a sight to see.

Age is catching up; when I walked in through the door I took my pack off first!

Early in September I ventured to Sydney and visited my son Peter and his beautiful family. His twin boys, although only 15, were taller than me and I believe just as rough as I was at their age. My gorgeous 18 year old granddaughter has a black belt in karate; a good looking girl needs every help she can get to survive in today's world.

I rang Alan Luby and a get-together was organised at the Allied Services Club in the city. John Went, Helen Dixon, Ray Cole, Paddy Kenneally, Mick Mannix, Frank O'Neill and his carer Nancy Silkin were all there for a wonderful meal. I cannot put into words how pleased I was to see everyone, particularly Curley, as I can understand how difficult it was for him to make it. After lunch we retired to the bar and most left by 4.30 pm. Paddy, however, hung in fighting all my fights plus a few more. His ability to express himself is unparalleled and is as interesting as the subject itself.

I also rang Fred Janvrin and Jack Hartley. Fred had a rough trot in hospital but was well on the road to recovery Jack had a few personal problems and sadly couldn't meet me; better luck next time. Next day I left Sydney for home and 'She who must be obeyed.' I must admit, it's the best place when you are lucky enough to have a truly good mate.

I wish you all a very happy, healthy and prosperous festive season. God bless you all.

Ralph

O. K. Dignum
24 Selkirk Ave
Seaton 5023

To all the chaps, especially the 'Courier Slaves' a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May 1996 be one of the best years.

We, the S.A. 'Twig' have risen like the Phoenix from the ashes. Alan Hollow is battling on in his usual stoical way. He had a fall and broke his hip – nothing to do with alcohol. At present he has a wheel chair and a walking frame. If he gets too fast in the chair doing wheelies Hazel makes him use the frame that slows him down a bit. He will soon be striding forth again. He is quite cheerful in himself.

Kel and Ruby Carthew are going OK. We meet at the Association monthly luncheon. All is well. Bob and Audrey Williamson have not been for a while. Bob is having treatment at Daw Park Repat Hospital for a torn muscle in his upper arm. I didn't know lead was that heavy to swing.

Bert Bache is battling like the rest of us. I see him every Anzac Day, Remembrance Day and Pancake Day. As you can see, we do keep in touch. Litchie drops down every so often, just to take a refresher course in civilisation. He is either hiding away in Quorn or Mundowdna, probably dodging creditors. I don't have to worry on that score, no one will give me credit.

Sid Wadey: On the 7th November the widow of Sid passed away and that caused me to think of Sid. He used to come here to meet the boys and relive his experiences of Timor and talk. He was good at that. He always appeared to have an unlit cigarette in his fingers and that gave him the opportunity to approach someone for a light and start up a conversation. The cigarette would smoulder away until the ash was about 1 1/2" long. Gravity would take over and it would finish up on the floor. Sid was the bane of Betty's life, sweeping up the ashes.

Sid was forever quizzing the chaps on Timor. Bob Williamson was the only one who could help him. Unbeknown to us Sid had dementia. He wanted all the information for a book he was going to write. In due course he gave me a draft to read. I read a couple of pages, that was all, later he rang me up and asked me what I thought of it. I said it was B.S. which didn't make him very happy.

After that 'Big Charlie' smote me with his dirty left. About 4 years later I was cleaning up and lo and behold, I had Sid's story in diary form. I read it and it is one of the best accounts I have read. At no time did he big time himself. He thought Tex Richards was wonderful, a veritable 'oracle,' a mister fix it and thought the 2/2 were great. He got down to the beach, the Voyager was aground and had to come off on the Kalgoorlie on 27/9/47. I am contacting Sid's family – they might have a copy.

I have more respect for Sid after reading his story. He had three psychological barriers to cross. 1. Pain – he was badly burnt. 2. Remorse – his crew were all incinerated. 3. He was completely out of his element. He probably had never been camping with half a dozen rabbit traps and a .22 rifle and then to meet up with the 2/2nd in Timor would probably throw him for a loop.

REMEMBRANCE DAY 1995

We the Association held a ceremony at our memorial housed in the grounds of Keswick Barracks (vandal proof).

The memorial was built in three stages, the first and original stone is of rough white marble quarried at Angaston in the Barossa Valley. This comprises of a bronze plaque with all the Units colour patches surmounted by the Association Badge.

The second stage is a stone of white marble in front of the original, which carries a plaque of all the S.A. chaps who were killed in action listed in their individual units. The 2/2 had no S.A. casualties, the "S.S.S." boys were hard to hit.

The third and final stage comprises of two low walls either side of the stones, made of cement blocks painted white, approximately 2'6" high, 6' long on top of each is a bronze plaque carrying the names of all S.A. personnel who survived the war, again set out in their units. Also included are the names of men from interstate who settled in S.A. after the war. No army numbers were included, Broken Hill was deemed S.A. We hold a ceremony twice a year at the memorial, early on Anzac Day before the Adelaide march and Remembrance Day. At that rate it will certainly outlast all of us.

About 50 attended, the most ever. It is surprising how names on a plaque are like honey to ants, they come from everywhere. I took a couple of photos of the memorial but they are still in the camera.

Enclosed is a cheque for the *Courier*.

Regards to all.

Keith the Scribe

S. Marsh
17 McGough St
Glenorchy 7010

Enclosing a donation for the *Courier*.

Had a phone call from Reg Griffiths of Leeton N.S.W. I couldn't place him but he said he was with me on Timor. My memory is not the best these days. The only chap I do remember well was Lt. Rodd.

I would like to know if there is a reunion planned for Melbourne some time in the future.

Regards to all.

Joan and Syd

Mrs K. B. Sargeant
25 Thomas St
Gympie 4570

Age is catching up with us all and it saddens me to see so many of your Unit who have departed this life, but good to see you who are left still carry on.

If I am able, I hope to meet up with some of you when you hold your Safari at Maroochydore next year.

Christmas is nearly with us and I wish all members of the 2/2 Commandos and their families good health and all the best for the festive season.

Yours sincerely

Kathleen

THE COURIER TEAM

Archie, Len, Betty and Gavin

would like to thank all you nice people who have kept those letters and stories coming in – please keep up the good work.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and Health and Happiness in 1996.

We look forward to spending time with some of you at Maroochydore next April.

VICTORIAN VOCAL VENTURINGS

We have been saddened by the passing of two of our members. Bill Petersen died on 10th October and Alex Boast died on 28th October. We pass on our deepest sympathies to the families of Bill and Alex.

Bill's funeral was held at the Catholic Church, Fish Creek. After the service he was buried at the Tarwon Cemetery, with the following members present: Margaret and Ken Monk, Harry and Olive Botterill, Tom Nisbet, Fred Broadhurst, George Veitch and Leith Cooper.

The funeral service for Alex was held at the Civic Hall, Rye, after which a private cremation was held at Springvale. The following members were present at the service: Harry and Olive Botterill, Shirley and John Southwell, George and Dot Veitch, Fred and Mavis Broadhurst,

Leith Cooper and Jack Fox. Both services were attended by large numbers of mourners and showed the great esteem in which Bill Petersen and Alex Boast were held in Fish Creek and Rye, and their families would be very proud.

I called to see Don Fryer recently but he was not as bright as usual and had to go to hospital for a few days. Knowing Don's fighting spirit he will pick up.

Christmas is rapidly approaching and I take this opportunity to wish all members a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Harry Botterill

L. Cooper
8 Hilltop Crescent
Rhyll 3923

Enclosed is a death notice inserted in the 'Sun' by the 2/2 Commando Association relating to our dear mate Alex. Thought there may be members in W.A. who would like to see same.

Boast, Alex D.

The Members of the 2/2 Commando Association regret the passing of their esteemed active Member and friend Alex.

Deepest sympathy to his wife Beryl and family.

Lest we forget.

I am at present trying to get Repat to accept further responsibility for some of my annoying ills so am under fairly extensive investigation. Though nothing is immediately life threatening my health problems are making living decidedly unpleasant from time to time.

My intention is to attend the service for Alex at Rosebud so shall see some of the 2/2 fellows there.

My best wishes to all the W.A. boys.

Leith

Commemoration Service, Lovekin Drive, Kings Park

Sunday, 19th November, 1995

We were blessed with superb weather for this important gathering which was attended by 120 members, families and friends.

Apologies were received from Jack Fowler, Tom Foster, Jack Boardman (2/8th), Ralph and Eve Finkelstein, John and Gloria Poynton, Stan and Barbara Payne.

The Special Air Services Regiment provided a fine catafalque party consisting of Sgt. C. Palmer, Cpl. C. Laretev, L/Cpl. D. Pigott, Tprs P. Rudland and R. McManus and Signaller J. Fisher.

It was pleasing to see so many of our country members and also the families of members.

Twenty five men marched with heads held high and in perfect step. They were a pleasure to watch and were rewarded with a great ovation from all present.

The President's Address

Members of the 2/2 Commando Association, our families, our widows, our friends, men of the Special Air Services Regiment who, by their co-operation make this commemoration service to our departed comrades something really special.

Thank you all for coming to take part in a service so dear to our hearts, an action that brings us very close to those whose lives were stilled at war, and those who have since died. We are not assembled here to glorify war, our fervent hope is that there will be no more such situations. To honour our comrades in this manner gives the younger people the chance to know that those men in the flower of their youth sacrificed so much so that future generations could be free to do their own thing, lead a full life, to appreciate the country we live in, which is the best in the world, to remember that people are the most important ingredient in their lives.

This superb setting of our Honour Avenue is the ideal place to reflect and pray, to give thanks to our mates beyond the vale for their sacrifices made in East Timor, New Guinea and New Britain. All these campaigns were long and bitter struggles, taking their toll of many. During these days of conflict the bonds of friendship were forged and, after many years these bonds have been firmly cemented. During the campaign in East Timor we were very fortunate to have the help of most of the Timorese people and, without their support many of us would not be here today.

Our widows, a big part of our Association, are with us today as we pay tribute to the men who have gone before at war and those who have since died. We miss them very much for what they meant to us, loved ones deeply respected. God bless the widows and all our ladies who have given this Association their full support over the years.

It seems ironic that the powers that be should declare an 'Australia Remembers' year when this is what we have been doing for so many years on an annual basis.

Today we should also remember the 260 of our comrades who have passed on since 1946. There is hardly an issue of the *Courier* which does not contain a vale for one of our departed members. Although we are mature enough to accept the inevitable, it still hurts to read of their passing. To all the families who have lost a loved one we extend our sincere sympathy.

The 7th December 1995 will be the 20th anniversary of the unlawful annexation of East Timor by Indonesia. The exploits of the 2/2 Independent Company in 1942 have been well documented as is the help our men received from the good people of Timor during a very difficult period. The support given by way of food, shelter and information, vital at the time, was in part responsible for the Unit being able to get back to Australia safely. As an Association we have always been grateful and acknowledged the contribution of the Timorese people in 1942 and we have endeavoured and are still trying to repay the Timorese for their assistance.

In April 1969 a memorial was dedicated at Fatunaba above Dili by the people of Australia in our presence and 26 years on the memorial is still there. Recently we wrote and asked the Federal Government to fully restore the memorial and are waiting for their response.

We deplore what has taken place in East Timor during the past 20 years and have written to the Government asking that the 18 Timorese being held in Australia be allowed to stay, on humanitarian grounds,

The Trust Fund is up and running, thanks to the untiring efforts of its Chairman, Mr Bob Smyth and his Committee. This is a great source of satisfaction to our members to know something

is being done for the youth of Timor. We will continue to do what we can for them.

A feature of 1995 has been Australia-wide celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of the ending of the war in Europe and the Pacific. The Year of Remembrance, as it came to be known, has indeed been a nostalgic occasion with parades, concerts, memorial services, reunions, trips by ex-service personnel to old battle grounds bringing back memories of the events of that era. A pleasing feature has been the great interest shown in the these activities by the young people of Australia.

Before reading out the names of our fallen comrades, I would like to thank the following – the Kings Park Rangers for their attention and care given over many years. We are indeed grateful for their contribution. The S.A.S. Regiment whose kinship we have enjoyed and respected since 1984 when Lt-Colonel Roberts first became interested in our Association.

Today we thank Sgt, Palmer and the men of the catalfalque party. What fine young men they are.

Thank you all for attending to make this a day to remember,

We have been kindly invited to join members of the S.A.S. at Campbell Barracks for refreshments.

Commando Association (Victoria)

State Secretary,
W.A. Commando Association

Dear President,

The Association in Victoria has turned the yearly Pilgrimage to our permanent memorial at Wilsons Promontory on November 19th next into a National Reunion for all Independent Companies, Commando Squadrons, M & Z Special Units. We appreciate your past help in this matter and request some indication as to what number may be expected from your area in order that catering and auxiliary activities may be better arranged.

Enclosed you will find a Commemorative Medallion produced by this branch as a fitting piece of memorabilia for members and their families, which could become an item to be passed on to children and grandchildren as a bequest to remind future generations of our actions in the Second World War.

The item has been invoiced to your branch at \$22.00 postage included (consider this letter as that invoice). The first 100 of these medallions have been swiftly taken up and we stand ready to accept your orders, singly or in multiples, at the same cost. One hundred units remain for interstate colleagues who wish to purchase same. The cost of \$22.00 includes postage and handling. Cheques or money orders should be made payable to Commando Association (Victoria) and sent to Mr. Les Poulson, 2 Shepreth Avenue, Noble Park, Victoria, 3174.

Include your name and address, telephone number, number of units ordered and the amount enclosed. Please allow three weeks for delivery.

Best wishes and warm regards,

Bruce Coleman
Hon. Secretary

September 21, 1995

MEN'S ANNUAL DINNER

The Men's Annual Dinner was held at Airways City Hotel, Perth, and was attended by

29 members, Major Norm Brown, 2i/c S.A.S.R., W.O.II Al. Forsyth, R.S.M., S.A.S.R., Bob McDonald's son Neil, and Graham Wallis, nephew of the late Wilbur Wallis.

Apologies were received from John Poynton who was overseas, Ralph Finkelstein who was holidaying in Sydney and Arch Campbell, Henry Sproxtton, Ron Dook, Gordon Rowley, Don Hudson, Bernie Langridge, Jack Hasson, Laurie Tapper, all of whom were on the sick list.

Best wishes were received from Alan Luby and Tom Nisbet.

Len Bagley welcomed members and guests and, after reciting *The Ode* he called on Don Murray to propose the Loyal Toast, Bill Howell – the Unit/Association and John Burrige – Our Guests to which Major Brown responded.

The catering was, as usual, superb and a good time was had by all.

Bro. Ephrem Don Bosco Comoro Dili

Greetings from East Timor. I had a chat with Col Doig. He has some other plans about some volunteer ladies for the knitting machine.

I am still in the midst of meetings and follow-up meetings such that I have not been able to update you about the books and other matters.

The group of Gordon Hart and company was here last month. They came while I was preparing for our special assembly of Salesians in East Timor. Even Bishop Belo was present on two occasions during those days of meeting. At that time I would have wanted to accompany the old soldiers around but I was rather tied up. Moreover, there was a general unrest in the streets of Dili; consequently, travel was restricted, I just helped in translating some messages for them and arranged for their transport outside Dili and other trips within Dili.

There is another meeting I have to attend in the Philippines this week. For this reason I already arranged for this advanced course in sewing for Irene da Silva two weeks ago. She is doing it in Bali and I have just received a letter from her saying that all is fine and according to plans. So far I have spent 1,200,000 Rp for her round trip plane fare, school fees and lodging fees. She will finish at the end of this month. I think there will not be any other major expenses related to her training. At your convenient time you may send the reimbursement by Father Walter Van Wouwe.

As regards the books and materials, about 20% have been distributed but the others are still put on hold because I did not have the time to go around. I have contacted already three schools who know how to use and maintain the gestetner machines. I thought that these

machines be given to schools that can really use them over a longer period of time.

My regards to all members of the 2/2nd. God bless you.

Bro. Ephrem

Dili, 22 Sept. 1995

Dear Mister Robert Smyth

I am writing this letter to thank you. Bro. Ephrem tells me that you help me have this course in advanced sewing. I thank you and the other members of the 2/2nd Commando Association, especially Col Doig. I am here together with other girls from this island. I am happy here and prepare to go back and teach the other Timor girls. I pray for you and your companion. Thank you for giving me this study.

Irene da Silva

Ephrem, re TOOLS

I have been reluctant to discuss tools in a Fax to Dili because it will attract the interest of those connected with Dili Stores.

We have purchased 2 sets.

Instructions were that the quality had to be reasonable. That there was no need to buy a hammer costing \$35 if a good quality was available at \$20.

We have in mind to send up possibly 10 sets. That would depend whether 'you know who' would allow them to land intact or cripple the exercise with exorbitant L.C. (landing charges). We will try to get the first 2 sets in as visitor's excess luggage.

Assuming you agree with Viv Paust's visit, 1 set will accompany him. The RAAF option via Indonesian Air Force now appears unlikely although we will still try.

The schedule attached is a pro form a invoice from the supplier. there are some errors.

You will note that some are from China PROC and some Taiwan ROC.

I am not happy with the quality of some items and will "G R" (return them) for better.

Overall, some guidance from your end would help.

TYPE OF TOOLS

Should we for example leave out Pinch Bars and oil sharpening stones which are relatively heavy but cheap and could be bought locally in Dili?

Are there some tools we have overlooked?

SIZES – Are some tools too large or small?

ENGRAVING

We intend to metal engrave each item with the 2nd 2nd double diamond and 'Don Bosco TNG School.'

We have paid for 40 Soccer Balls and 40 Basketballs. They are now in Darwin waiting for "visitor" delivery to Bishop Belo.

Please acknowledge receipt when received.

If you think any comment is necessary it can wait until you have settled in after your Dili return.

Best wishes,

Bob Smyth

INDEPENDENT TRUST

EMBROIDERY INSTRUCTION –

IRENE da SILVA

Ephrem Santos advises that Irene has completed the course and has now returned to Dili to commence demonstrating to her pupils. Reimbursement of A\$700 has been forwarded to Fr. Walter Wouwe.

CARPENTRY INSTRUCTION for DILI –

MR VIN PAUST

We have been fortunate in attracting a most outstanding volunteer.

Vin Paust age 60 is a retired manual arts teacher with wide experience lecturing to High School and University students.

He has built several timber framed houses, kit homes, boats and caravans. He also is active in the W.A. Wood Turning Society.

Vin was also appointed as lecturer in Communications and relieving Director of Media Services at Secondary Teachers College of Advanced Education.

Vin has had wide participation at high levels of voluntary, charitable and community activity.

Phone bookings allow for arrival in Dili on Thursday, 4th January, 1996

On 20th November we meet with Ralph Finkelstein and Ted Monk to select eight sets of tools from appropriate sources. These will be shipped at earliest via Singapore after a working bee engraves each item. Vin will be taking another two sets with him.

SOCCER and BASKET BALLS ex DARWIN

Ephrem has not yet returned to Dili from Manila to report on the Soccer and Basket BALLS

FUNDS

For the first time since our meeting in March 82, our Bank Balance could appear anorexic.

We are not appealing to those who have contributed, or those whose circumstances are not compatible with a donation. However, it is understood that a few, more affluent than others, have elected to defer a move until we have identified a committed expenditure to a category that has substance.

An expenditure review will be detailed next *Courier*.

John Burrige and Ross Shenn join me in thanking all for donations to date and also to all

those who have contributed their physical activity of collection, collating, packing and despatch.

Our Festive Greetings to all.

Bob Smyth

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE – CANBERRA

Dear Mr Carey

Your letter dated 21 July, 1995 to the Hon Simon Crean MP, regarding the War Memorial in Fatunaba, Dili, has been referred to the Office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs for action. Senator Evans has asked the Department to reply.

Your concerns over the deterioration of the Memorial are noted. The Government acknowledges that the Memorial is an important reminder of Australia's debt to the people of East Timor during World War II. Many Australians, particularly members of your Association, are aware of the valiant efforts of the Timorese who fought alongside Australian troops during World War II. The Australian Government has always acknowledged the invaluable military contribution made by the Timorese people during those years.

Officials from the Embassy in Jakarta visit East Timor regularly and often include a visit to the Fatunaba Memorial in their programme. The most recent reports we have had from the Embassy indicate that the Memorial was recently made to function again after a period of neglect and equipped with running water by the Australian-funded East Timor Water Supply and Sanitation Project. To the best of the Embassy's knowledge, the plaque which you mention is still present and attached to the plinth at the War Memorial pool/bathing place.

I note, however, the reports you have about the run-down condition of the Memorial. Accordingly, I have asked staff at the Embassy in Jakarta, who are to visit East Timor again shortly, to visit the Memorial and report on its current condition. I will also suggest that they talk to Messrs Wilkinson and Lee about the work that needs to be done on the Memorial. I will be in touch with you again after a report of their visit is to hand.

I am also passing a copy of your letter to the Department of Veterans' Affairs for their consideration. Thank you for bringing your concerns to the attention of the Government.

Yours sincerely

Denis Fisher

Director

Indonesia Section

Report by Alan Luby on Trip to Darwin and Dili as part of the 'Australia Remembers' programme

Those taking part were Jack Hartley, Gordon Hart 2/4th and myself. Pat de Luz and Alexandra da Silva Tilman were also invited but were unable to make it for health reasons. In their stead Antonio Pinto attended from Cairns.

Our invitation came from the N.T. Government, the RSL, the 'Australia Remembers' Committee and the Portuguese-Timorese Association.

1/9. Friday. Departing Sydney at 1705 on 1st September Gordon and I flew to Darwin via Brisbane while Jack was on another flight and met up with us later. On arrival we were greeted by the two leaders of the Portuguese Club, Alvaro Inglis and Jose (Joe) Fernandez who drove us to the Motel Altai, which was to be our comfortable home for 4 1/2 days. Air conditioned, with a large pool and all mod cons, a real holiday resort.

Evening we were picked up and taken to the Portuguese Club where we met several members and wives or family and enjoyed a nice meal. We also met up with Jack Porter of 2/8 Squadron who was to be of great help.

2/9. Saturday. Gordon and the two Jacks left early on Saturday morning for the K-Mart at Casuarina to check on an order for 40 each soccer and basket balls to take with us to Timor on behalf of Bob Smyth and the W.A. Timor Aid Committee. They were disappointed to find the order only half prepared. Many phone calls ensued. In the meantime I did a recce of the area and laid in some supplies, as well as testing the pool.

Many of the guests at the Motel were aboriginals from Gove, as black and shiny as ebony.

Late afternoon we were picked up by Jose and taken the 10k. trip to the P/T Club where we met many Darwin and N.T. dignitaries including the Chief Minister Stone, two other government ministers, the Leader of the Opposition, the Portuguese Consul, President of the West Darwin RSL and Frank Geddes, Secretary of the NT and Darwin RSL as well as many other community service club officials, Timorese and Portuguese expatriates, some of whom had lived in villages where we had sheltered or camped during 1942.

At sunset a flag raising ceremony was held, complete with a bugler and the Ode. This was followed by pre-dinner drinks and a chance to meet and greet. Dinner was a magnificent smorgasbord of delicious foods with a great variety to tempt the taste buds.

As the evening progressed speeches of welcome were made and I had the honour of

responding as well as making several presentations of Unit History books of 2/2 and 2/4 Squadrons, Smailes Poems, and thanks to Fred Janvrin, a colour patch shaped shield which now holds pride of place in the main entrance to the Club. This was a memorable night and probably the highlight of the whole trip.

3/9. Sunday. We were again picked up by our hosts in the morning and returned to the Portuguese Club for a midday Mass officiated by a Spanish priest. Being Fathers Day, the ladies served the men with another food-fest and drinks which went on for ages, including photo sessions. Later we were taken to the magnificent Aircraft Museum, built around a B57 US bomber and embracing much of the history of Jap raids on Darwin. From there we were taken on a tour around the harbour foreshores and the inner city to our Hotel.

4/9. Monday. Gordon and Jack were picked up by Jack Porter for return to Casuarina K-Mart, only to be disappointed again. More phone calls to WA!

It was time then to prepare for our visit to the home of the Administrator, the Hon, Austin Ashe QC and his charming wife Dr. Valerie, where we and the Portuguese group were given a red carpet welcome. From there we went to the Darwin Cenotaph overlooking the harbour, where we laid wreaths in remembrance of Portuguese, Timorese and Australians who died on service against the Japanese between 1942 and 1945. The crowd present was widely representative of the local community. Along with other speeches was a long dissertation by an 83 year old Timorese, Antonio from Viqueque, a delightful old character. We have asked for a transcription. Thence to the Adelaide River Memorial Cemetery where we spent over an hour seeking and photographing various 2/2 and 2/4 members plaques. Returned to our motel after a long and somewhat exhausting day.

5/9. Tuesday. Our hosts were on the job early to take us to the airport for our flight to Denpasar, Bali. On arrival we were taken care of and transported to our overnight 4-star hotel at Sanur where we met up with Jim Walker, son of Major 'Mac' Walker, original CO of 4th Independent Company.

Being too hot to venture out we found a nice cool bar where we enjoyed a pleasant hour before dinner. Early sleep was difficult because of an Italian fashion parade in the pool area below our windows – just imagine, an Italian fashion show to sell clothes in Bali!!

6/9. Wednesday. Awakened early and off to the airport for our flight to Dili. How many people have the opportunity to spend their 80th birthday on such a flight over those many islands which from the air have a magical appearance. We were met by Bro, Ephram

Santos who had our luggage picked up and customs clearance and transport organised. The new airport is about 5km west of the one we knew and beyond the Comoro River. Present day suburbs of Dili extend much further.

Our next home was The Motel New Resende. If this was the 'new,' I'm glad we were not in the 'old!' Here time has stood still! However, the beds were comfortable and we didn't expect the Hilton. Our driver was waiting with Bro. Ephrem to take us to his Don Bosco Training College. This must be a remarkable man to have achieved what he and his assistants have in such a short time. My photos do not do justice to the numerous hostels, workshops, class rooms and sports courts and they are still developing. Between us we were able to add somewhat to their supplies and thanks to Col. Doig, to his cellar, E.S. replied in kind later. On our return we were ready to eat our first Timorese meal for 53 years and enjoy a mild celebration with 'Tiger Beer.'

7/9. Thursday. We had hopes of getting to Betano. Our driver Zaire was ready but after boarding our Mitsubishi 7-seater we took 45 minutes to get petrol! Then on our way via Dare where we made a stop at our Memorial, on to Remexico – a new town, and not the village we were in – by a reasonably good, winding road. I reckon maybe 8 km as the crow flies but 26 km by roads and I'm sure those foothills are a lot steeper. Better road from there to Aileu and a fair amount of traffic, more than expected, and many villages along the way.

On to Maubisse in its picturesque situation and amidst those huge forbidding mountains. We paused at the area we reckoned to be Same Saddle. From there on the road deteriorated and it was only by the skill of our driver we were able to continue. Even so we had a rear wheel puncture.

Shortly after, an Army check point where our passports were inspected – way out on a lonely ridge. We eventually arrived at Same and after checking in at the police station we sought some food in a small cafe and what a mixture. Not your usual smorgasbord Sir!

We decided it was too late to go on to Betano and just as well, for when our driver checked with the police he was directed to the army posto in the old posto area where it took a good 40 minutes before we were cleared and we still had a puncture to be repaired. This occupied another hour, during which we were the objects of curiosity by the locals, especially the young people. We also had time to observe their living conditions which are still very primitive and the only connections with the 20th century, Coca Cola and motor scooters, jeans and T-shirts. We departed about 5

o'clock on the return journey and thanks to the skill of Zaire arrived at Dili at 9.30 pm, ready for something to settle our nerves!

8/9. Friday. We set off again planning to head westward along the coast and complete a round trip through Balibo, Bobonara, Erimera, Three Spurs etc. back to Dili. The road for most of the way was not too bad with many parts showing the ravages of the previous rainy season. There was much repair and rebuilding going on and mainly with the most primitive of tools and equipment so it would be an everlasting job. Apparently the Indos have a road upgrading programme place to cater for defence purposes as well as an increasing population and traffic.

There is a large housing development being built along the coastal strip at Tibar near the bombed out remains of the Posts and Church. Could not see any sign of the huge cactus to identify the old 'B' Troop camp site where malaria was rife.

Several new bridges are under construction before, through and after Liquica, which meant a long detour and we could not see anything to indicate Nasuta or Bezatete. We passed through Maubara and along to Batugarde where there was a police check (also one near Tibar).

Much more productive farming areas along the coastal plains and up into the Lois River valley with its terraced rice fields for miles. Another enormous housing development in this area too, enjoying the title of 'Bobonara Resort.' These houses are more in the Balinese style so we assumed they are for transplanted people from other islands.

From here we again climbed into the high mountains to a more prosperous looking town of Balibo where we again were stopped at an army post. After a long discussion with much head shaking and keen scrutiny of our passports we were told we could not go any further and had to retrace the road.

During our stay there were many disturbances by Timorese youths and so the Riot Squads were very active – truck loads of them!

Disappointed, we set out to return and stopped at a roadside cafe for a late lunch, with three more check stops on the way.

We were impressed by the beauty of the coastline with its many pretty little fishing villages, many anglers out offshore, the number of inter-town mini buses, mostly loaded to the doors, and the fast inter-island ferry boats.

On return to Dili another four members of 2/4 Squadron had arrived bringing our group up to nine.

9/9. Saturday. Only rare small shops open so our plans for souvenir shopping were out. Some of the new arrivals left to head for Same

and Betano, which they reached, only to find the area bare. We took a walk along the beach at Dili had a look at the many rusting hulks of Jap landing craft still there. Many of the buildings still carry their wartime scars.

The open-air fish market did not appeal. On to the Turismo Motel for our contact with Tom Nisbet's ex Criado Rupino, who joined us later in the day.

Some more disturbances in Dili with more truckloads of Riot Squads going in all directions. Reports of tyres being burned on roadways and stones thrown at vehicles. Two more of the party arrived.

Mid-afternoon Rupino arrived for a warm and tender reunion with those of us he hasn't seen since 1942. He lives out in the Tibar area with some of his family and over the next couple of days brought some of them in to meet us.

Being an extremely hot day was a good reason to remain in the cool pub restaurant and enjoy some cold 'Tiger' beer. We also met a holidaying Darwin couple, Peter and Sylvia Dermendy, who were in Dili trying to interest the powers in the re-establishing of the Darwin-Dili yacht race. A delightful pair who were keenly interested in the purpose of our visit.

10/9. Sunday. Zaire took 10 of us on Church Parade at the Cathedral and who should be officiating at Mass but Fr. Alvos from Sydney whom we have met several times over many years. He was as surprised as we were, telling us he had gone over for a holiday and the regular priest had taken ill. After Mass many of the Timorese wanted to talk to us, particularly some of the teenage students who are learning English. An outstanding feature of the vast number present was their 'squeaky clean' appearance and obvious 'Sunday Best' dress, men, women and children.

After lunch were transported to our War Memorial at Dare where we were joined by John Wilkinson from AIDAB and others. Our presence attracted locals and some passers-by so we had a reasonable number for our Memorial Service. Jack Bickford from Perth had brought over a wreath of dried native Australian wild flowers which I had the honour of laying on your behalf.

This was followed by the Ode and a prayer for those who lost their lives defending Timor against the Japs was recited by Fr. Anthony. We spoke with some of the locals who told us they have much respect for the Memorial. One young Portuguese lady told how her parents used to come there for picnics and how she enjoyed them, especially to splash in the pool on hot days. I believe those present were impressed by our visit, our ceremony and its purpose.

On return to Dili through some of the suburbs that had been subject to the 'youth

disturbances' we passed still burning tyres and piles of stones but no sign of burning market stalls. Jack and I accepted an offer of a Timor couple to take us to a market place where we were able to obtain mementos to bring home, without any sign of trouble.

We thought it interesting to learn that 20 years after the Indonesian occupation there are still those who are prepared to put their lives on the line to defend the Timor they love, and resist the invaders.

We observed a strong military presence said to be 5 Battalions, and the Indos are proposing to increase those numbers.

11/9. Monday. A breakfast of cold '*Zasi Gorenge*' to start our final day, then we packed up and prepared to depart along with Jim Walker. Gifts to 'Charlie' our house boy who had looked after us as well as he could. He and I both enjoyed our Tetum conversations and his ventures into English. Peter and Sylvia came to say farewell and we loaded up and proceeded to Don Bosco School to thank Bro. Ephram for all his help and bid him goodbye and on to the airport and a good flight to Denpasar. Different outlook on this route and apart from those magical islands, several old volcanic craters were visible.

On arrival at Bali we had no desire to run around in the heat so we spent the next 8 hours waiting for our flight with an odd ale and a meal, plus our duty free shopping. We boarded a loaded airbus at 2315hrs and arrived Darwin at 0345hrs and, believe it or not, Joe Fernandez and Joe da Silva were there to greet us and help with our bags. We didn't have long to talk but gave them some Timor newspapers and messages from friends.

At the Alice a quick phone call to Edith to relay to Maria, an ETA of 1300 hrs - pulled up outside home right on the dot! Tired but happy and thankful we had been given the opportunity to make the trip and participate in a small way in the '*Australia Remembers*' programme.

Impressions:

The Portuguese-Timorese-Australian community numbering 5000 odd, in Darwin is very much alive and well and holds us in very high regard.

We were given a wonderfully warm welcome and every courtesy, as well as being transported to each venue where functions were held, or we desired to attend.

As well as fulfilling our obligations I believe we left an impression that in our participation we really did remember the help and support we had received from the Portuguese and Timorese during 1942 and the penalty they paid for that support during the Japanese occupation.

Our current programme of sending

educational, medical and sports equipment, although belated, is very much appreciated and is serving a most useful purpose.

The strong military presence is very much in evidence, particularly in the Capital and the larger towns. Indigenous people seem to get the rough end of the pineapple and this appears to be a large part of their problems – the Indonesians get most of the employment and business opportunities while the locals have the hard work and more menial tasks. Don Bosco training may help to overcome some of these problems.

The lot of the Timorese is much the same as it has been for unknown ages, depending on the teachers their basic school facilities are present. Healthwise, it is difficult to assess, we saw odd infirmaries but did not have a chance to observe staff or equipment. Red Cross have some ambulance units in Dili and we saw one at Same.

Memorial: Previous reports on the run down state of our Memorial are pretty accurate as far as the pool is concerned. The shelter is not too bad – mostly dusty because of the dry season apparently the locals tend the plants but water is a problem. There is a large crack across the floor of the main pool area, leading to a crack through the wall. I don't profess to any building expertise but imagine it would be a complicated problem to fix. The estimated cost of \$12,000 by John Wilkinson may seem excessive, but bearing in mind all the factors, is that really so? On the other hand, considering the potential use of the facility, the fact that few people travel on foot these days, the difficult water supply, plus the cost, I believe we must ask ourselves if it is likely to achieve the purpose for which it was intended in 1969, or would the money be better spent along the lines we are working on in 1995?

The plaque indicating what it is about, although nicely restored, because of the protective glass cover, and the dust upon it, is almost impossible to read.

For what it is worth, these are my personal thoughts, others may think differently. I hope and trust some of you may enjoy them as I have enjoyed this experience.

Sincerely,

Alan Luby

Members of Remembrance Party to Darwin and Timor Timor September 1995

Darwin 1st to 5th

Portuguese, Antonio Pinto, Cairns

2/2 Commando Squadron

Alan Luby, Jack Hartley

2/4 Squadron: Gordon Hart

Timor: Above Australians plus 2/4th

Kevin Rix, Bill Gibbs, Peter Perret, Wilf Roberts, Bill Hanlon, Wal. Staples,

Jack Bickford, Jim Walker, son of Mac Walker, original C/O 2/4th, Robert Gregg, son of Ernie Grigg, K.I.A. on 'Z' Mission.

Wet Conditions: I have played 7 games of golf this year. On two of the first four games rain caused a course closure by the time we had played 5 and 7 holes.

On the sixth appearance two weeks ago we were soaked by the 5th hole. Rain continued until it was my turn to putt on the 7th green when my line of direction was obliterated by hail stones. We called it off at the 9th.

Last Thursday the forecast was fine all day so I dispensed with the brolly. I was holding the pin on the 3rd for another player whose ball left the bunker at a pace which indicated to me it was going to cross the green and disappear down the steep slope into the lake. With a speed commendable to a Pakistani fieldsman I dropped the pin and hot footed after the pill. Drawing alongside on the steep down slope I skillfully shot my foot out in front of my quarry – lost traction with the other foot hit the deck and gathering speed in a fast roll that would attract praise from Gary Sweet, did a swift inspection of the bottom of the lake,

Fellow players assured me they would not tell anybody.

I had dried out by the 18th but my wife Margaret looked at my togs on Friday and asked had I been duck shooting!

Bob Smyth

SAFARI 1996 UPDATE

Additions to the number attending are as follows: Rex, Harrington, Tex and Bridget Richards, Denny Dennis, Bernie and Babs Langridge, Curley O'Neill, Verena and friend, Judy Sharp, Jack and Delys Carey, Blue and Mary Bone, Jack and Marj Peattie, Eileen Sharp, Ron and Dorothy Trengove, This brings the total booked to 130. Please refer to the *August Courier* for details of Qantas booking and prices and the *October Courier* for the proposed itinerary.

Once again Isabel and Pat Macdonald from Moura in Queensland have sent a Christmas present of \$100 for us to enjoy our Christmas Party. Sister and brother-in-law of Gordon Chiswell, so tragically lost on Timor, our Association and the memory of the boys of 7 Section are very dear to them.

They send their love to all members and best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a prosperous 1996, Thank you Isabel and Pat, your greetings are heartily reciprocated,

Archie Campbell

To all the 2/2 Boys, wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Combined Ops Daniels.

Fremantle War Museum Donations

John and Olive Chalwell, Ron Dook, John Burrige, Ernie Bingham, Tom Bateman, Peter Sadler, Harry and Amyce Handicott, Charlie and Mavis Sadler, Paddy and Nora Kenneally, Wilf and Lorraine March.

Donations to the War Museum Appeal totalled \$1680 at 14th November, 1995. The Association thanks the 45 members who have contributed to the appeal to date.

Independent Trust Fund

List No. 10 14.11.1995

Blue and Edith Pendergrast \$150 final payment
Charlie and Mavis Sadler \$50 additional payment

Ted Quinlan \$25

Donations now total \$17,355 – a great effort. This amount has been contributed by 100 members and friends of the Association. With the fund up and running the demands on it are increasing and more donations are needed to enable the fund to meet its future commitments. To those members who have yet to contribute dig deep chaps and start the new year with a donation to this very worthy cause.

J. Carey

COURIER DONATIONS

John and Olive Chalwell, Ron Dook, Mary McKenzie, Eric Thornander, Dick Darrington, Bill Howell, Joe Poynton, Roy Watson, Bob McDonald, Don Murray, Doc Wheatley, Col Doig, John Burrige, Ray Aitken, Bob Smyth, Dusty Studly, Ernie Bingham, Bruce Poynton, Alf Hodge, Don Young, Steve Rogers, Peter Alexander, Les Poidevin, Tom Bateman, Peter Sadler, Harry and Amyce Handicott, Charlie and Mavis Sadler, Paddy and Nora Kenneally, Tony Adams, Kath Press, Clarrie Turner, Kathleen Sargeant, Keith Dignum, Syd Marsh.

**FEBRUARY
COURIER COPY
DEADLINE
24 JANUARY, 1996**

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mr D. Hudson
Don
RSL War Veterans Home
82 Oakmont Ave
Meadow Springs 6210
09 535 0247
08 9535 0247

Mr G. A. Coulson
George and Bettye
Beach House 14
Castaway Cove
David Low Highway
Noosa Heads 4567

Mr. T. Bateman
Tom and Jean
6 Argyle Court
Thornlie 6108
09 459 0555
08 9459 0555 (1997)

Mr. P. Epps
Peter and Sue
PO Box 39
Hilarys 6025
09 401 7584
08 9401 7584 (1997)

Addition

Mrs A. Ryan
Anne
12 Marda Way
Nollamara 6061
09 349 2383
08 9349 2383

Mr R. Neuzerling
Ron
11/4 Bedingfeld Rd
Pinjarra 6208
09 531 3321
08 9531 3321

Change of Phone No.

Mr A. Thomson
Alex and Wyn
PO Box 145
Capel 6271
097 272 581
08 9727 2581

Mr. J. Hasson
Jack
RSL War Veterans Home
82 Oakmont Ave
Meadow Springs
09 535 0252
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