



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. 120

DECEMBER 1996

Price 1c

Christmas Message 1996

Christmas is that special time of the year when we celebrate the birth of Christ, bringing with it a message of peace and good will to all mankind.

It is time for all family and friends to unite to celebrate this joyous and happy occasion.

To members in sorrow, sickness or distress, to those less fortunate than ourselves, the maimed and infirm, may Christmas bring you relief. May it help you to know that the love of all members of the 2/2nd Commando Association and a return to good health are yours.

We said our last farewells to many of our mates during the year, and to their loved ones we offered our deep sympathy and love. May this Christmas period see them all with peace of mind and heart so they can continue living life to its full, as would be the wish of the departed.

As President of this happy and proud Association I ask you to spread your good cheer, love and friendship far and wide to reach members we may sometimes miss.

Thank you all, and we wish you a Happy Christmas.

Elvie and Bill Howell

VALE: Ron JOHNSON

The man that tolls the Bell seems to be as busy as Quasi Moto the famous Hunchback of Notre Dame the way our Veterans are passing away to those pastures rare. This time it was Ron (Johnno) Johnson, suddenly at home at Koorda on the 20th September, 1996. He was 82 years of age, born in 1914 at Albany, W.A. He leaves a widow Norma, and children Lorraine, Yvonne, John, Norman and Trevor and 14 grandchildren.

Johnno was an original member of No. 2 Australian Independent Company and trained on Wilsons Promontory and was drafted to No. 3 Section 'A' Platoon under Lt. Clarrie Turner.

Ron served with the Unit right through the three campaigns, Timor, New Guinea and New Britain, finishing up a Corporal with the then 'A' Troop 2/2nd Commando Squadron. He was one of those very steady, reliable soldiers that you liked to have with you when the going was tough. Always somewhat of a loner but underneath it all, easy to get along with. It could easily be said he served under the Double Red Diamond with distinction.

Before joining the Army Johnno worked in the Koorda surrounding districts as a dam sinker – a very hard way to earn a living in those days with horse teams. When demobilised he returned to the Koorda area and continued with the dam sinking for about another ten years before taking up work in a service station as attendant and mechanic. He had a great reputation, especially as a tractor mechanic, and worked at that trade until retirement. He married in 1953 and lived out his life in Koorda.

Ron did not take a very great interest in the affairs of the Association but in the very early stages he did contribute to the Courier by way of letters.

The funeral was held at Karrakatta Crematorium in September and was attended by Jack Carey, Keith Hayes, Bernie Langridge, Bob Smyth, Wilf and Lorraine March, Ralph Finkelstein and Tony Bowers.

The Association extends to Norma and family its deepest sympathy in the sudden and very sad loss of a great husband, sound citizen and a top grade soldier.

Col. Doig

VALE: Bernard (Boomer) GILES

The bell has tolled again. It seems that the sound is becoming increasingly ominous. This time it was on 15th October, 1996 in the person of Bernie Giles after quite a short illness. Bernie, better known to members of the Unit as Boomer, joined the show at Canungra

in May, 1943 and served with 3 Section 'A' Troop in New Guinea and New Britain. He was an excellent combative soldier and was eventually to become a Corporal. He had the type of personality that helped no end with the morale of the Section.

'Boomer' was born at Mullewa on 27th December, 1922.

After war service he decided to abandon his job as a cinematograph operator and took a course in carpentry under the Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme, doing the training with the Geraldton Building Company at the Northern Centre which, at the time was a very large concern with contracts all over W.A. but mostly in the north west. He rose to the position of supervisor and was stationed at Port Hedland for some considerable time where he took a keen interest in the local Sub-Branch R.S.L.

Because Bernie was stationed in the north he was not able to devote a lot of time to Association affairs but I do remember some most interesting and humorous letters written to the Courier.

At one time he was an excellent competitive swimmer at Geraldton. I also remember that he had quite a rare talent as a black and white artist and was an excellent caricaturist, a talent he didn't continue with, which is to be regretted.

The Association extends to wife Pat and family sincere sympathy on the sad loss of Bernie.

Col. Doig

VALE: John Corbett POYNTON

This dear 50-year old Association seems to be well and truly in the hands of that doleful Bell Ringer. John Poynton died of leukaemia on 12th October, 1996 at Hollywood Private Hospital, aged 77 years which, judged by modern standards is not particularly ancient. John had been having blood trouble for some time but the diagnosis was not made until a couple of weeks before his death.

Let me say, with some emphasis, that John Poynton was one of a rare breed, a true home loving gentleman with a high degree of inbuilt genius for anything he undertook. An accountant of great merit as indicated by the high ranking he attained in his banking career and then his ability with all sorts of materials was that of an expert, and his garden was something to behold. Also, his service as a consultant, director and manager of many business concerns is a tribute to his usefulness as a business man and a citizen of merit.

The second of the three Poynton sons, Bruce,

John and Joe, he was also the second to join the 2/2 Commando Squadron after the highly courageous and much decorated Joe. After quite a lengthy career in the AIF, mostly with static units such as Searchlights in many parts of W.A. and attending some 26 army schools, John decided to link up with brother Joe and came to the Squadron as an officer while the Unit was training at Strathpine in Queensland prior to departure to New Britain.

John took over No. 1 Section 'A' Platoon under Col. Doig and served with much energy and capability right through that campaign in New Britain. He was one of the most articulate officers it was the Writer's pleasure to meet.

After demobilisation John returned to W.A. to take up his previous career with the old E.S.A. Bank. With his great ability he rapidly obtained promotion and served at quite a few centres in South Australia before returning to W.A. at the near top of the management of the E.S.A. Bank before its amalgamation with the Union Bank which, along with other banks became the ANZ Bank. John did not enjoy his stint with this Bank and took early retirement and took up quite a few directorates and consultancies.

John always took quite a reasonable interest in the affairs of the Association but it was not until he was talked into accepting the job of Treasurer in 1987 that his full value became apparent. In his role as Treasurer he was more of a special Consultant/Treasurer than is normal for such a small organisation and his handling and manipulation of the Association finances ensured that it was always in a very healthy condition. He stood down in 1991 and took over again in 1993 on the death of George Bayliss and continued until 1995 when he handed over to Ted Monk. He was Vice President as well as Treasurer in 1990. John was awarded Life Membership in 1990.

Among the many things he did for the Association was the introduction to the venue Airways Hotel which has proved to be a great boon for Anzac Day and many other functions.

John leaves wife Gloria and family Carolyn, Corbett, Robyn and Richard (deceased).

I salute a good soldier and officer, a brilliant accountant and general all round performer. A citizen of class, a loving and devoted husband, father and homemaker of excellence. I can proudly call him 'mate.' A fond farewell John.

The Association extends sincere sympathy to Gloria and family.

Col. Doig

The cremation took place at Karrakatta Cemetery on Wednesday 16th, October. The following were present: Tom Bateman, Tony Bowers, John Burrigge, Jack and Delys Carey, Dick Darrington, Ralph Finkelstein, Keith

Hayes, Bill and Elvie Howell, Wilf and Lorraine March, Ted and Peg Monk, Ray Parry, Don Turton, Doc Wheatley, John Wicks, Jim Lines, Joe and Helen Poynton. Don Turton delivered a short eulogy and Bill Howell recited The Ode. Apologies were received from Albie Friend, Jess Epps, Harry Sproston, Bob Smyth, Arch Campbell and 'Dusty' Studdy.

Gloria Poynton and Family would like to gratefully thank the 2/2 Commando Association for their expression of sympathy which is deeply appreciated. We also wish to thank members for their representation at dear John's Chapel Service. It was all so fitting.

Yours sincerely
Gloria Poynton.

THE CHANGING OF AN ERA

The passing of Colin Doig heralded the changing of an era for the 2/2 Commando Squadron of Australia. The loss of our Patriarch in such tragic circumstances pointed to such an observation being made. This prompted me, as Editor of the Courier, to write this article for dissemination to 2/2nd members Australia wide, but, it is not a eulogy.

Len, Betty, Gavin and Pam Bagley have supported me during my period of inactivity, proving the Courier team is a closely knit productive unit. Thank you – it was truly appreciated.

Colin's value to the Unit was of inestimable proportions. He was one of those irreplaceable people, he kept the Association on track. He was so vital in his approach to all facets of our activities that made us the finest organisation of its type across Australia.

Jack Carey is a first class administrator, possessing a keen and tidy brain. What a gem he is to our organisation, and would be to any other. A bonus is Delys Carey, a person of the same mould. What a team they make. As our Honorary Secretary, Jack keeps everything on an even keel, a great stabiliser, no doubt Colin's right hand man, likewise to the numerous members who made up our committees over the years. We had a host of talented members who weighed in with some great contributions, too numerous to name for members right across Australia had one target in mind, to make the 2/2 Commando Association the epitome of what an ex Association should be.

The area of change has a wide field of choice, those who are currently serving and have for so many years. Sons, daughters, grand

children, relatives of our members who have seen their dads in action and are imbued with the same loyalties that make the Association second to none. They can keep the torch burning brightly and carry on the worthy objectives of their forebears for a lot more years to come.

From the time dear old Tom Murray handed over the surplus monies of what had been raised during the war years, the 2/2 Commando Association sprang to life. It provided a joyous occasion for all of us and our families, continuing to do so for fifty years. The beauty of it was it really lived, do not let it die now. There were Safaris, Reunions, Country Conventions, activities of all sorts that made us the envy of other ex-Associations. It proved a focal point for all of us to hang on to, being one big happy family.

This article in our beloved Courier is to stimulate food for thought, to keep the Association very much alive. While we have men the calibre Jack Carey, a wise, able, deep thinking counsellor to stimulate and promote the Association further. The response from our younger group, both men and women, would be a tribute to all who have sustained it over the years post war and given us all, young and old, a life style we so enjoy.

All of this would only be possible if the response of our young group was enthusiastic with a real desire to keep the name alive and well, a true memorial to our forebears.

As the years close in on all of us the fertile brains available to us will evolve a plan for a lasting memorial to all members of the 2/2 Commando Association to be created. This could embrace our memorial section in Lovekin Drive. The full support of all members of our families would assure success of any plan devised to make those wonderful words live:

Lest We Forget

A. Campbell
Editor

A TRIBUTE TO COLIN

I can visualise Colin fronting up to St. Peter at the Pearly Gates and St. Peter saying to Col "I don't see your name on the list of the faithful Mr Doig," and Colin replying "Now hang on a minute Pete, I was a contributor down below." And then he proceeds to tell St. Peter one of his very, very old stories, the one about Dad and Dave and the visiting parson. When the parson man is taken aback by the carryings on at the Rudd family tea table and raises his eyes to the ceiling and says "Let there be light on this darkened house," dad says to Dave "You'd better hop up on the roof Dave and

knock a few shingles off, this old so and so is going blind!" With that St. Peter throws back his head and laughs saying "You'd better come on in, this place could do with a bit of brightening up."

I'm sure that is how many of us gathered here this morning would like to remember Colin as a good friend and a great storyteller who helped brighten up our lives.

The Doig clan of which Colin was a member is of Scottish ancestry. In 1897 Alexander and Maria Doig with four children left Beltana in South Australia and took up a holding in Wagin, in the Great Southern district. Four more children followed of whom Colin Douglas Doig was the last born on 3rd March, 1912. "The scrapings of the pot" was how Colin later referred to his birth. He had a happy childhood although he had the misfortune to lose his father who died as the result of an accident in 1920 when Colin was only 8 years old. His mother Maria was a strong and very active woman. Not only did she raise a large family she was also a midwife, was called upon to lay out the dead for burial and involved herself in many other community affairs. She was also an active five campaigner for the Liberal Party. She lived to 89 and was truly a remarkable lady.

Colin loved his sport and was a handy cricketer and a good runner. He unfortunately developed some bad habits. He learned to swear profusely at an early age and took up smoking when quite young. He tells the story in his autobiography how on one occasion the school headmaster gave him a shilling and sent him down to the local store to buy a packet of cigarettes which he did. He promptly opened the packet and smoked one on the way back for which he copped six of the best. The headmaster was Oscar Charlesworth, grandfather of Ric Charlesworth of cricket and hockey fame.

Despite receiving many canings in the course of his school life, Colin was a bright lad and finished up dux of his small school. He was also taught to box by a Mr McDonald and as a result became very handy with his "Dooks." He also learned the rougher side of brawling and knew how to look after himself.

He was very proud of his eldest brother Peter who was 25 years older. Peter served in Palestine in the 10th Light Horse and won a Military Cross for bravery at Jenin in 1918.

One of his most vivid recollections of his childhood was when he was six years old and peace was declared on 11th November, 1918. He could well recall the church bells ringing and everyone turning out in the town to celebrate the occasion.

He was a callow youth of 17 when the wall

street crash of 1929 heralded the start of the great depression which swept the world. For the next 12 years until he entered the 2nd A.I.F. in 1941, Colin tried his hand at many things. He certainly crammed a lot into those 12 years and fortunately for posterity he has duly recorded his experiences in his book "The Ramblings Of A Ratbag" of which many of us have a copy. He was at some stage or other a horse breaker, cattle musterer, a shearer, had a camel team on the rabbitproof fence, was in a boxing troupe, worked for many a cocky, rode in rodeos, had contracts sinking dams and so on. He also returned form time to time to help out on the family farm. These were tough times and people needed to be equally tough to survive. Throughout these experiences Colin always retained his keen sense of humour and could always relate to the very many humorous incidents he was involved in. His description of the time spent with the camel team is hilarious. He complained that camels seem to be able to kick with all four feet at once and the smell of their breath was really damnable. He got camel sick many a time with their "Bloody rolling gait" and lost many a breakfast as a result. During these years his language got worse and he could put a bullocky to shame. He became like "The Man From Snowy River" hard, tough and wiry and drank and smoked a lot – all bad habits. He was blessed with a wonderful retentive memory and never forgot the many odd and humorous characters he met in his travels. He always had a close interest in people and developed a compassion for the battlers of his time.

In the late 30s he joined the 25th Light Horse Regiment and received a commission and when war broke out after several attempts to transfer to the A.I.F. were knocked back he finally succeeded. A short time after he joined the Hush Hush crowd at Northam and finished up after training in Wilson's Promontory. An original member of the No. 2 Australian Independent Company, later known as the 2/2nd Commando Squadron, he served as an officer in the Unit's Timor, New Guinea and New Britain campaigns and was made a captain in 1945.

Early in the Timor campaign he contracted pleurisy and Black Water Fever and nearly died. He was in Bobonaro at the time and the trip from there to Ainaro where Doc. Dunkley nursed him back to health, took over three days. He was forever grateful to the Timorese for carrying him on this journey and never forgot the debt he owed them for saving his life.

Colin, a capable officer, was well respected and liked by his men. He had a wealth of good yarns to tell and always enjoyed a beer or two.

He was a real down to earth character and a soft touch. He loaned many a quid most of which he never got back. he was more at home in the company of men and it came as a bit of a surprise when word came through that he had married a Julia Pemberton in January 1946.

Following his discharge Colin and his bride returned to Perth and for a few years they were domiciled in the old Ozone Hotel near the causeway. He obtained a job with the Department of Labour and National Service where the late Tom Murray, Don's father was his boss. He enjoyed his work in the Department and was a competent officer. To earn a bit of spare money he also got a job as clerk for Bill Maloney, a trot bookie and a former top East Perth footballer. He added many racing stories to his collection during his working life with old Bill. In 1952 he and Julia moved to their new home at 77 Rosedale Street, Floreat Park where he was to spend his next 44 years.

This was the beginning of the second phase of his life. Before leaving New Britain he chaired a meeting of Unit members prior to it being disbanded. It was unanimously agreed that we should carry on our wartime friendships in the form of an Association to be known as the 2/2nd Commando Association of Australia. From that time onwards until he breathed his last Colin was a tireless worker for the Association. He was our first general secretary and editor, a job he undertook for over 23 years. He was made our first Life Member in 1950 and was president in 1953 and 54. He was involved in practically every important activity in which the West Australian Branch undertook and these were many. His contribution to our little paper was unsurpassed. The greatest tribute we can pay him is to simply say "Things won't be the same without him."

In 1958 Colin was transferred to the Department of Social Service where he remained until his retirement in 1976. For relaxation he liked his weekend sport and was a regular patron of the local football of a Saturday. He was a West Perth supporter and became quite vocal on the odd occasion. He liked to have a drink and yarn with his old mates at the Royal, Globe and old Imperial. Colin was not an ambitious man. He liked nothing better than to sit around a table with a glass of beer and his friends and talk sport, politics or any other subject or relate humorous experiences from his years of knocking around the bush. He was a most interesting man and one felt all the better for having been in his company. He also got a lot of pleasure from his garden and vegie plot. He was proud of his sweetpeas, poppies and kangaroo paws. He

was forever giving away flowers and vegies to his many friends – such was his generous nature.

He underwent a number of crises in his life. The first and most serious was the breakdown of his marriage. This really knocked him and he sought sanctuary in drink which seriously affected his health and lifestyle. The advent of Joy Lowden as housekeeper steadied the ship and things started to return to normal although he still continued to drink too much. He was also smoking a lot, eventually things caught up with him. I remember going around to see him one morning and was dismayed to see his poor physical state and I said to him "You'd better see a doctor immediately," which he did. He finished up in hospital and for a time was on the seriously ill list and did not look like coming through his crises. His toughness prevailed and he made it. Following this his doctor read him the riot act of which he took heed and from that time onward his health improved and he started to look after himself. Even after the death of Joy, which he felt very keenly, he continued to do the right thing by himself.

Some highlights of his life of which he was quietly proud, was when he and Ron Kirkwood met Prime Minister, John Gorton, in 1968 and succeeded in obtaining a grant for the erection of the Dare Memorial in East Timor. He also played a major part in organising arrangements for our trip to Timor in April 1969 for the opening of the Memorial which went off very well. The other highlight was his Australian honours award of his O.A.M. in June 1988. He was in hospital at the time and it gave him a great lift. Colin was a well read man particularly in his retirement years. He was a regular at the local library and enjoyed all types of books. He could write well and if things had been different could have been a top journalist. He had a sharp intellect and a man of great perspicacity. He was indeed gifted. In spite of a nagging leg ulcer and failing eyesight the last 12 years or so of his life were in many respects his most rewarding years. He compiled "A History of the 2nd Independent Company and 2/2nd Commando Squadron," the profits of which he generously gave to the Association. He also wrote "The Great Fraternity" a detailed history of the Association from 1946-1992, and his own autobiography of the first 34 years of his life under the title of "The Ramblings of a Ratbag" a book full of humour and interest.

He became a great supporter of the Trust Fund to which he gave generously. He also struck up a close relationship with Brother Ephram Santos of the Salesian Order and was very good to him, paying for the good brothers trip to Australia in 1995. One of his last

generous gestures was to contribute \$10,000 to the Oan Kiak Foundation, the interest on which will be handled by the Don Bosco Training Centre who in turn will see that the Memorial at Fatunaba is maintained in a sound condition. He was indeed a generous man and helped other causes and people in his latter years. For a man who had not religious convictions he was blessed with those two great god-given gifts of charity and compassion. He was a charitable man in every sense and his gift of compassion stemmed from those early times in his life when he saw life raw and came to understand the need of the less fortunate.

Looking back on his life his 84 years saw him live through a greater part of the 20th century which surely must rank as one of the most exciting and progressive centuries of all time. Colin often spoke of this in his more pensive moods.

All this came to an end at 5.40pm last Sunday as a result of a nasty fall he sustained on Friday. It is a sobering thought that before the day is out his worn out frame will become a handful of ashes and having known Colin pretty well for the past 55 years I think he main wish would be that he would like to be remembered for a while. We come and we go in this world and are quickly forgotten and I guess this is the way it has to be. But I know while those of us who are assembled here this morning – Gwen, Robyn and the other direct descendants of Alexander and Maria Doig, his near neighbours, old Waginites, his old mates from the Department of National Service and the members, wives, widows and friends of his beloved 2/2nd Commando Association – while we are still around Colin Doig will not be forgotten.

I would like to think that in times ahead whenever any of us are gathered together and the name Colin Doig is mentioned it won't be long before the conversation begins to quicken and the grins start to appear and the grins turn to laughter as we recall the happy and humorous times spent with this unique Australian character.

We loved him and he's gone!

The above tribute to Colin was delivered by Mr Don Turton at Colin's funeral service held in the Norfolk Chapel at Karrakatta on Thursday morning, 24th October.

On behalf of Col Doig's relatives, may I convey sincere thanks to all 2/2nd members and their families for their attendance at the funeral service on October 24th, 1996.

I know how much the 2/2nd Association meant

to Col, and the large number of old comrades who participated in the service bore testimony to the close bond between you all.

A special thank you to Jack Carey for his Eulogy of Colin's life and to Don Turton for his reading of this very fitting tribute.

Colin will be sadly missed by us all.

Sincerely,

Gwen Treasure

The South Australian Branch of the 2/2nd had the highest respect for Col Doig and we all knew he was the man behind the formation of the Association and the Courier.

He was a great member of the Unit and later the Association. A great supporter of the East Timorese.

On the passing of Col, a beloved member of this great Unit, we are deeply saddened and send our deepest sympathy.

Kel Carthew

On behalf of the members of the Victorian Branch of the 2/2nd Commando Association, Tom Nisbet expresses sympathy and condolences in memory of a fine soldier and friend.

Post-war Colin made a most remarkable contribution to our magnificent Association in preserving the camaraderie and support of all members and their families.

Colin's generosity to many, particularly the cause of the indigenous East Timorese, was normally a private decision. It was concealed behind an endearing, rugged demeanour that will always be remembered with affection and respect as we say farewell Colin.

Expressions of sympathy were also received from the Queensland and New South Wales Branches.

To all Association Members in our loss of dear Col.

It is my guess that we are all still deeply shocked at our Colin's sudden passing away, and so close to our 50th Anniversary Luncheon. He was so mentally and physically bright at our Queensland Safari – definitely the same old Col. It is unbelievable. The case of another great mate gone on his last patrol. Was so pleased that there was a big attendance at his funeral.

Ron Archer

May these few words serve as an expression of sincere sympathy to the Unit Association.

From Amyce and Harry Handicott.

An extract from a letter from Ross Bird to Mrs Thatcher

I join with you and friends to mourn the loss of Col. I'm sure it is sad for you and all his mates.

With his heart and good deeds directed to, and helping the people of East Timor, his amazing energy and spirit will surely be missed. He has inspired me and no doubt many others.

I will place some flowers at the Dare War Memorial when I go there.

**Mrs N. Johnson,
Box 7, Koorda 6475**

Dear Mr. Carey,

Please thank the 2/2 Commando personnel who attended the funeral of my loved husband, Ron. My family was grateful for their attendance and the chance to meet some of their father's mates. It was a sad occasion but knowing others cared for us was lovely.

Thank you.

Norma

2/2 Toasted:

The loss of our great member, Colin Doig, brought to mind the RSL Reunion held at Northampton 33 years ago during one of our Geraldton Conventions. It was highlighted by a couple of unusual aspects. Always prepared to be of assistance when required, Col. found himself responding to the toast to the League, despite the fact that he was not a State Executive member. However, with all his eloquence he praised the great work of the League and heartily congratulated Northampton Sub-Branch on its achievements which made the RSL such a strong organisation. Col described as a wonderful achievement the fact that the Sub Branch had been able to open its fine hall free of debt. It was a building which was obviously a great asset, not only to the Sub-Branch but to the district generally, and it stood as a memorial to what he called 'the greatness of a very good rural Sub-Branch.'

Another unusual but highly appreciated aspect of that Reunion was a separate toast to the 2/2nd Association whose President, Arthur Smith said in reply that they felt honoured to have been given a toast by an RSL Sub-

Branch, particularly of the calibre Northampton.

It gives me pleasure to say that Northampton has won the Geraldton Sub-Branch Shield 13 times as the outstanding county Sub-Branch with fewer than 100 members. Northampton area has always had a special interest in the 2/2 Association because our membership included Bill Drage, Joe Brand, Bert Burges and Bruss Fagg.

Peter Barden

The 50th Anniversary Luncheon, held at the 'Heritage on Charles' function centre, a truly superb venue, was a grand affair attended by 140 members and friends, including interstate visitors, Happy Greenhalgh, Margaret Hooper (unfortunately, Neil was hospitalised) and Patsy Thatcher. Special friends included Viv and Verna Paust, Les and Verna Cranfield, Charles Stewart (S.A.S. Association), Mick Malone (W.A. War Museum), Sgt. Steve Paterson (S.A.S. Regiment), A. Da Costa (Timorese Community), Gavin and Pam Bagley (Courier Team), Peter and Sue Epps (2/2nd Museum), John Lillie (2/3rd), Jim Lines (2/5th), Rita Byrne (for Colleen Ward), Alan and Anne Ryan (Gerry Haire's sister). There were over 40 apologies including Mike Silvester, C.O., S.A.S. Regiment, who had another engagement and the Chairman of the Kings Park Board. Greetings were received from Alan Luby, N.S.W. Branch and Tom Nisbet, Victorian Branch.

On arrival, all the ladies were presented with beautiful red carnation corsages made by Delys Carey and Val Hayes.

The President welcomed everyone with the following words: Ladies and gentlemen, friends of the Unit, distinguished guests. Welcome to the 50th anniversary of our Association. It's good to see so many come to celebrate this special occasion. I trust your stay with us will be one of enjoyment, renewing old friendships and making new friends, and when it's time to return, have a safe journey home to your loved ones. He then recited The Ode.

M.C. Len Bagley asked Ralph Finkelstein to propose the Loyal Toast, after which a sumptuous meal was served. Tom Foster then presented the Toast to The Association as follows:

**The Toast to the Association
by Tom Foster**

Mr. President, Visitors, Ladies and Gentlemen. I am indeed honoured by the privilege to perform this duty today to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of our Association. It can only be

described as having been highly successful – it has maintained that great bond of friendship forged during a time of active service and enhanced by the inclusion of family members in later years; it has honoured our fallen comrades with great dignity and contributed greatly to the social fabric of our family life.

Its genesis was a wartime welfare association under the watchful eyes of the late Tom Murray, Harry Foster, Fred Gardener and a small band of women helpers who, by various means, raised funds to supply us with amenities parcels whilst we were on active service.

As time progressed and funds accumulated, these three wise men from the West, realising that these funds could finish up in consolidated revenue coffers at the end of hostilities, arranged for their transfer to an ex-members association and so, in 1946 emerged our fledgling Association with cash in bank.

The first major project undertaken was the development of our Honour Avenue in Lovekin Drive, Kings Park. This project was rather protracted through the necessity of many formalities and today provides an excellent Memorial and venue for our annual Memorial Service which, in recent years has been enhanced by the addition of a formal contingent of SAS Regiment troops for which we are both proud and grateful.

The year 1969 saw the dedication ceremony of our Timor Memorial at Fatunaba. This was later partly destroyed during the political unrest after 1975 and has recently been restored to its former state, funded by our federal government.

Some very good results are currently being achieved assisting the youth of Timor, funded by a special trust fund under the control of a very active Trust Committee.

One of the highlights of latter years has been the spontaneous affiliation with the SAS Regiment at Swanbourne Barracks who have regularly participated in our annual Memorial Service and who have been most generous with their hospitality. We are proud to be associated with the elite Regiment.

Our social calendar has been well established for many years and is now almost a routine schedule of events. These are invariably a huge success due in no small part to the support and efforts of our ladies for which we are eternally grateful. We thank you most sincerely.

It is with some relief that we now have a permanent home for our wartime memorabilia in the WA Army Museum in Fremantle, due to the initiative of our devoted warden Peter

Epps. Well done Peter! We salute you!

A large amount of the success of our Association is due to our unique little news pamphlet 'The 2/2nd Commando Courier' and the members and their ladies who have worked tirelessly to get each publication off the press and into the mail on schedule which must have been quite an onerous task, your efforts are greatly appreciated. We thank you!

In contrast to ourselves the Association shows no signs of aging, which in itself is a tribute to the spirit and dedication of all those capable executives (many of whom are no longer with us) who have contributed so much over such a long period. This is surely an Association of which we can all be proud to be a member, and in the words of our inimitable mentor, Col. Doig, it really is 'A Great Fraternity.'

What about this man ladies and gentlemen? Colin Doig would **have** to be the Father of this Association – virtually a lifetime of service in spite of more than his fair share of ill health. Fifty years of unflinching loyalty and dedication including 23 years in the various offices of President, General Secretary, Executive Committee, Editor of our Courier, War Historian, Vale Reporter, our first Life Member in 1950, a great benefactor, and has contributed most generously through his books, to the Association and the cause of the East Timor people. He is this Association personified and I can think of no better time or place than here and now to accord him the accolade which he so rightly deserves. Let us now give him a standing ovation.

At this juncture I would like to add that if Col. is the father, then Jack Carey has to be the mother. Did you ever see such a quiet achiever, and of course that makes us, sort of, 'Mother Carey's Chickens.' He is an expert at keeping a low profile but he always seems to be there attending to the details, and you can be sure that each state branch has its own Jack Carey and that is why our Association has been so successful in the past and I feel sure will continue to be so in the future for some years hence.

Would you please now be upstanding and drink a toast to our Association's 50th Anniversary.

Thank you and God bless you all.

Bill Howell replied as follows:

Ladies and gentlemen, friends of the Unit, distinguished guests.

It has been my good fortune to be your President for this year, the 50th anniversary of

our great Association.

I would like to thank you Tom, for the very fine toast you have given to the Association and I fully endorse everything you had to say about it.

It is very pleasing to look around this room and see such a wonderful gathering of our members, wives, widows, sons and daughters of members and friends of the Association on this very special day. I thank you all for coming and trust you will have an enjoyable day.

This state will not be the only one celebrating our 50th anniversary. Before the year is out our Queensland, New South Wales and Victorian Branches will also have their get-togethers to mark our 50 years as an Association, though on a smaller scale, so you see there will be rejoicing throughout Australia, and that is how it should be.

The 2/2nd Commando Association is in every sense of the word a family of which we can all be very proud.

God bless our widows and all the ladies who have given this Association their full support over the years, without which we could not be the Association we are today.

God bless you all and, once again Tom, thanks for a great toast.

Lest We Forget

John Burridge presented the Toast to Friends of the Association, followed by Happy Greenhalgh's Toast to Absent Friends.

There was a wonderful atmosphere, tinged with a little sadness because of the absence of Col Doig who had a bad fall that morning and was hospitalised.

After lunch there was a band for dancing, entertainment, and compere Don Murray conducted a quiz session with prizes of bottles of good wine (and he kept the questions very simple!) The star turn of the day was the rendering of Unit songs by the 2/2nd 'Glee Club Singers' who were rewarded with loud applause, much laughter and advice such as 'Sit down ya mugs!'

A magnificent Anniversary Cake was cut amid great ceremony by Bill and Elvie Howell and passed around for all to share.

This function was a fitting recognition of the importance of our very special Association. Jack and Delys and their helpers deserve great accolades for their dedication to making this important anniversary one to be remembered with pleasure by all who were fortunate enough to be part of the celebration.

Commemoration Service, Sunday, 17th November 1996.

Address by the President, Bill Howell

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, valued friends from the S.A.S.R., fellow members, it is my privilege to welcome you to this beautiful area allotted to us many years ago to be our living memorial to the memories of those 52 boys we knew as our mates. Not only do we bow our heads in solemn reverence to those who gave their lives in war, but also to those who have now left us but who have so freely of their comradeship for so long. I feel, as the years pass by, we are finding that attendance at this commemoration service is becoming much more of a personal must. It is up to us who are left behind to make certain those who have gone did not die in vain. They gave their lives in what was thought would be the war to end all wars. Such has not proved to be the case but to date the conflicts have at least been confined. It will have been a wilful waste of lives if we allow the sacrifices of our good friends to have been for nothing. Today we gather to give thanks to God for having known them, to have shared their friendship and affection. We are privileged to stand on this hallowed ground in silent reverence. God bless them.

Nearly a month ago we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Association with a luncheon in Perth. It was well attended and a great day. Tom Foster, in proposing the toast to the Association, spoke at length of the forming of our very fine Association and the happy times we have spent together as members of a wonderful family in the 2/2 Commando Association. Today, on our traditional date, the third Sunday in November, we gather in a more solemn mood to commemorate the passing of those brave young men, our former mates who paid the supreme sacrifice over 50 years ago in Timor, New Guinea and New Britain campaigns. Today marks the 46th occasion we have met in this hallowed place in Lovekin Drive to pay our respects to the young men of yesterday. We remember them as they were – strong, virile, happy go lucky and keen to play their part in the defence of Australia. Fate was to decree otherwise in those grim war years, and they died before they really had a chance to live. The enormity of them going is to a degree exemplified when we think back to our celebration luncheon one month ago when we recalled how good life has been to us both individually and collectively as citizens and members of the Association. In laying down their lives the men who we remember here today were denied that right to live out a normal lifetime. It was a terrible thing, a waste of the very best of young people.

God bless the widows and all our ladies who

have given the 2/2 Commando Association their full support over the years.

As a Unit we have been concerned at the plight of the people of East Timor and expressed the hope that the Timorese should be permitted to govern themselves as an independent nation. This has not been the case. The people have endured much suffering and loss of life and East Timor has become the 27th state of Indonesia. We feel deeply for the Timorese and can only hope and pray that under their new order they will be humanely treated, allowed to live their own lives in peace and become again the happy and generous people we know them to be. Their help given to us in 1942 is well documented. As an Association we have always been grateful and acknowledged the contribution of the Timorese people and we have endeavoured to repay them for their assistance.

Before reading the names of our fallen comrades I would like to thank the Kings Park Rangers for the care and attention given to our Honour Avenue over many years.

My most grateful thanks to those members of the S.A.S. Regiment who have given their time to parade the catafalque party for today's service. This certainly adds a lustre to what is a most solemn occasion.

Commemoration Service, Sunday, 17th November 1996

What a glorious Sunday afternoon it was to pay homage to the men of the 2/2nd who lost their lives while serving their country, and those who have since died.

The country folk gave their support and it was great to see members of the Sadler family in attendance, as they always are. The men sent their apologies for harvest time is No. 1 priority and the inclement weather we have had caused problems.

What a joy it was to see all the young ones present from teenagers to toddlers. This augurs well for the Commemoration Service in the years ahead. Such an attendance gives the Unit men a big thrill, they can now envisage that this day will survive.

Once again the Special Air Services Regiment supplied the Catafalque Party which lends so much colour and dignity to this most important day.

Our thanks to Wally Wilson for the bugle calls which lend a touch of pathos to our proceedings.

John Burrridge marshalled 28 members for the march past. Joe Poynton was, as usual, our right hand marker. The men marched well and

the eyes right and salute were taken by the O.C. Catafalque Party and President Bill Howell.

An invitation to visit Campbell Barracks, home of the S.A.S.R. for refreshments was accepted and was a friendly way to finish off an excellent day.

Archie Campbell

Doug and Shirley Dixon, now living at Jannali, N.S.W., visited W.A. recently. Both look well. Doug is a keen golfer and Shirley likes her bridge. The weather was kind and they enjoyed trips to Rottnest, Margaret River, and did a spot of whale watching off Fremantle. They met up with Jack and Delys Carey and bumped into Neil and Margaret Hooper and Tony Bowers at the War Museum at Fremantle.

Doug was a top rugby player in his prime and still looks fit. Brother Alan, according to Doug, has not been enjoying the best of health and we hope he improves soon.

Nice to see you both again.

Neil and Margaret Hooper made a special trip from Queensland to attend our 50th Anniversary Luncheon. Unfortunately, Neil took ill and was taken to Hollywood Hospital and was unable to attend. After a short stay in hospital he was able to enjoy the rest of their visit, staying with Tony Bowers and then with Peter and Pat Campbell on the way home. Members of the Mandurah 2-2s were also happy to welcome Neil and Margaret at their October meeting.

Mount Ramelau

Eh! Mount Ramelau, Mount Ramelau, eh!
What is higher than your peak?
What is greater than your majesty?

Why, Timor, is your head forever bowed?
Why, Timor, are your children enslaved?
Why, Timor, do your children doze like chickens?
Why, Timor, do your children doze like slaves?

Awake! The foot of the mountain is white
Awake! A new sun has risen

Open your eyes! A new sun is over your village
Open your eyes! A new sun is over our land

Awake! Take the reins of your own kuda
Awake! Take command of our own land!

Francisco Borja da Costa, Timorese poet,
killed by invading forces, 7th December, 1975

Mount Ramelau is the highest mountain in East Timor. 21 years on the people of East Timor are still subject to oppression by Indonesia

CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

R. Conley
2/61 Pacific Dr.
Banksia Beach
Bribie Island 4507

Dear Len,

Sheila and I trust you are both well and enjoying life. It is about time you heard from the Queensland Branch of the 2/2 family. From all accounts we are holding ground in the ageing stakes apart from the to be expected ravages of time, bearing up well.

Our last get-together, in August, was a seafood lunch at Morgans Restaurant Scarborough, attended by Jeanette and Col Andrew, Pat and Butch Barnier, Bettye and George Coulson, Margaret Hooper, Edna and George Vandeleur, Esse and Alex Veodovin, Sheila and Ralph Conley, Beryl and Jack Steen, Ron Archer, Theo Adams. Joan and Gordon Stanley, Iris and Tony Adams were unable to attend. A very welcome visitor was Jack Fox who looked great. He says if he had new legs and feet he would be better than ever. It was great to have him with us. The day passed happily with a few new stories and some good laughs. We took some time out for reflection, remembering those Unit members who have passed on in recent times.

We still talk about the good times at the Maroochydhore Safari. There is no doubt we locals enjoyed the get-together immensely.

Our next barbecue will be on the first Monday in October at North Pine River Dam when a decision on our Christmas function will be made. A popular suggestion has been for an outdoor effort based on a menu of beautiful fresh ocean prawns with a plentiful supply of chilled amber fluid!

Apart from making those in other less fortunate States a little envious it would be great to welcome any of you who may be visiting. Please let us know.

God bless and cheers to all.

Ralph

V. Paust
3 Vestey Court
Duncraig 6023

Our good fortune to become involved with the 2/2 Commando Association has enriched our lives in the past twelve months. We have been moved by the warm welcome we have received at your functions.

Verna and I extend Christmas wishes to you all.

Sincerely,

Viv

Mrs J. F. Fletcher
1/29 Kimbara Street
Nollamara 6061

A few lines of thanks to all of George's mates and their families for their attendance at his funeral, plus all expressions of sympathy in phone calls and cards.

Thank you all,

Joan and Family

J. P. Kenneally
28 Wilkins Street
Yagoona 2199

Back in the land of sunshine once more. Caught up on all the jobs that required doing, which was very little. Michael and Gerald attended to all the work around the place and correspondence from the four of them kept us abreast of all the family and local news.

The sad news concerning the deaths of Jack Hasson, George Strickland and Don Hudson I received in Ireland per letter from Jack Carey. Our sympathy is extended to their families and friends in their sad loss. May time ease their sorrow.

'Huddy' exhibited his usual determination by making it to the reunion in Maroochyodore. Given the condition of his health at that time I am sure he could have taken the easy road and stayed at home. Not 'Huddy,' he trod few easy roads in his life, that was an alien way of life for him. He turned up and bade his last farewells. Don Hudson served in three different sections, No. 10 in New Guinea, No. 4 in Strathpine and New Britain. He was, however, a 2 Section man through and through, his real soulmates were the men of No. 2 and how well he fitted in. Tony, Joe and 'Plugger' will experience a void in their lives. No. 2 was a close knit clannish mob. I'll miss him as well. I shared a dug out with him at Centre Post New Britain – there were no dull moments.

The awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize this year to Jose Ramos Horta and the Most Rev. Carlos Felipe Ximenes Belo, Bishop of Dili has most certainly thrown the cat into the Indonesian Pigeon Coop. President Suharto will not be looking forward to his coming visit to East Timor,

Foreign Minister Alatas has little cause to rejoice either, his years of devious manoeuvring and misleading information on East Timor exposed for what they were by the award.

Australian Prime Ministers and the Governments they have led from ex Prime Minister Whitlam at Wonosabo Java in 1974 to current Prime Minister John Howard at Jakarta

in 1996 have supported the Indonesian conquest of East Timor in all its aspects. Our Governments have excused and defended Indonesia before the U.N. and other tribunals. It's time it ceased and our Government set about repaying Australia's debt to the people of East Timor who suffered so much on our behalf in World War II. We the men of the 2/2 Commando Association can help. All of us, irrespective of where we served with the 2/2 Commando Squadron. Had it not been for the enormous help rendered by the Timorese in 1942, there would have been no 2/2nd in existence for anyone to join and of the three campaigns we did fight in the Ramu Valley campaign 1943-1944 was by far the most important. That fact only increases our debt to the Timorese. We were still in existence to be part of the New Guinea campaign.

I will forward a list of all parliamentarians, senators and House of Representatives when I procure it. I appeal to all our members to write to the members of their choice in support of the Timorese people in their quest for the right to decide their own future by means of a United Nations Supervised Referendum. Also emphasise support for the Timorese seeking political asylum in Australia.

My clan all well – Sean's two spent a week with us during the school holidays. Sean wishes to be remembered to Joe and Helen Poynton, Tony, Willie and Jan Bowers. Helen is really in great form since the treatment finished. The next five years will tell the tale. Michael should be back home at the end of October. He's been working in New York for some weeks. Suits him, he likes New York, he was on holidays there a year or so ago. He is fortunate, Autumn is a lovely time of the year there. The colouring of the tree leaves in Autumn is glorious. One last burst of beauty before they fall and leave the trees bare of all foliage and colour. I hope he appreciates it. Nora is reasonably well, plenty of 'get up and go' but a hell of a croak that allows for little sleep.

We wish all our members a joyous and Merry Christmas and may 1997 be a year of happiness and good health, particularly to the people currently suffering illness. This brings me to Jim Fenwick. I saw Jim a couple of weeks ago, he was faring well but awaiting some future tests which will indicate how well. There is one quality Jim and Joan possess in abundance – that is a strong faith. May it be well rewarded.

The enclosed cheque to be divided evenly for the Timor Fund and the Courier, also congratulations on the magnificent work done by the W.A. branch for the people of Timor.

Paddy

G. Vandeleur
Hibiscus Ret. Resort
183 Karawatha Dr.
Buderim

From September 21st- 23rd Edna and I were residents of Perth after just completing a coach trip from Darwin to Perth. We had a free day on Monday the 23rd and I rang a few of the fellows to see about a get together. Jack Carey agreed to call for us and showed us around many parts of your fair city, then home to his wife Delys. Also at their house was Jess Epps looking a lot better than she did at Maroochydhore. Later, Don Turton arrived. Edna and I are very grateful for the hospitality given to us by Jack and Delys. I also had a phone call from Ray Parry. I had not seen him since 1986 at Canberra.

Yours faithfully

Edna and George

A. Hodge
2/289 Wakaden St.
Griffith 2680.

Enclosed is a donation for the Courier, a very informative paper, helps to keep contact with the Unit.

I apologise for my absence from all functions. I lead a very quiet life, too many years behind me now to change. Still get about OK but only in low gear.

The season promises to be 100% for the grain farmers, over an inch last night which will finish off the wheat and barley crops.

Regards to all members and I wish everyone well.

Alf

P. Foot
M.S. 398
Proserpine 4800

Enclosed is a donation for use where most needed. Even though dad has gone we still enjoy reading the Courier as you have become very familiar to us over the years.

Peter and Sheryl Foot

Mrs G. Kirkwood
11/31 Gardner St
Como 6152

Many thanks for the invitation to the 50th anniversary Dinner. So sorry that I cannot 'make it a must.' These days I have to walk

with the aid of a frame so am very limited in where I can go and what I can do. However, I hope it will be a memorable occasion, a great success and thoroughly enjoyed. I'll be with you all in spirit.

Enclosed is a donation for the Courier.

Gwenda

K. Carthew
18 Brixton Rd
Elizabeth North 5113

On the passing of Keith Dignum I was elected President of the Commando Association in South Australia. The 2/2nd has held this position for quite a few years. Prior to Keith, Dud Tapper held it for two years, Keith approximately six years.

Two of our 2/2nd members have been hospitalised over the last few months. Bert Bache has had surgery on his eyes and Bob Williamson has had surgery on his left shoulder.

Best wishes to all for a happy Christmas and may the New Year be kinder to some.

Kel Carthew

P. Barden
1/101 Francis St.
Geraldton 6530

In the words of the great Colin Doig in one of his recent Obituaries, 'he cycle of death is still persisting' and this time it involves 'Doigle' himself and Boomer Giles.

Bernie's widow, Pat was highly appreciative of Tom Foster having a 2/2 banner displayed at his funeral and was also impressed by the expanded remembrance poppy tribute by RSL President Dennis Moss who gave a special mention to our banner.

Fresh in my mind is the introduction to Col Doig's book - 'The object of this story is to tell of the humour and pathos which occurred to the men who proudly wore the Double Red Diamond Colour Patch through five long years of peril and had a wonderful comradeship which only comes through day by day contact in all sorts of surroundings.' This took me back to September 1989 when Geraldton's first and only female Mayor, Fay Simpson, received an autographed copy of Col's book which has created immense interest in our Library. Yes, Col, the story you told and the manner in which you presented it surely qualifies for the description 'A Literary Gem.'

In my early days with the ABC at Geraldton my visits to Perth included a 'must' a lunch time

gathering at the Royal Hotel for a drink with Col and his work mates. With Col's presence you immediately felt at home among people you had not previously met.

In his many writings was a spirit of togetherness that has made our Association such a wonderful organisation. As I was not able to take part in the 50th anniversary celebrations, I have since had the pleasure of listening to a tape of the excellent speech given by Tom Foster proposing the toast to the Association. It was certainly a great pity that Col was not able to hear a toast that included a standing ovation in absentia.

With Christmas not far away, let me repeat from Col's Editorial in the December 1956 Courier – 'Let us with every word, thought, deed and wish help to make this old universe a better place for the generations to come and reflect the whole year round the glorious fellowship of the Spirit of Christmas.'

God bless you all.

Peter

Mrs B. Craig
P0 Box 234
Young 2594

It's ages since I wrote to the Courier and I apologise for that.

After the Safari which I enjoyed, I went to Adelaide to stay with Donna and Marc for 8 days while Janette was with Stan in Singapore. Stupid me got thrombosis in the leg and stayed with the family until July. We all had some good times together. They all came back to Young for the school holidays in July. Stayed in Wodonga on the way home and while there we celebrated four family birthdays including my 75th. After they left I had a fall in the driveway. I was very lucky – no bones broken, just badly bruised and muscles out of place. Spent a fortnight in hospital and then rested at home with help from friends who did so much for me.

I decided some months ago to sell the house and move into a unit at the Anglican Church. Stan and Janette suggested that they build a 1-bedroom unit for me in their large back yard, so that is what I have decided. I like Adelaide and know quite a few people there and I can always play bowls. Have also been having a few games of ten pin bowling. Of course, I will be sorry to leave Young. I have been very happy here and will miss good friends. However, it is only a day bus trip to Phillip at Wodonga and from there easy to go to Young to friends and Goulburn to see my sister. So, at the moment the Young Mini Safari is 'on hold.'

Like all members of the 2/2nd, I was very upset

to hear of the passing of Col Doig. It will seem strange him not being at meetings and Safaris. He always had a good word and greeting for everyone and will be sadly missed by us all.

Because I am busy packing, potting, etc., I won't send cards and letters this year so hope you'll all accept my best wishes for a Happy Christmas and that 1997 will be a Happy and Healthy year for all.

Love and all the best to everyone, and I hope to see as many folk as possible in the near future.

Betty

G. Smith
37 Shaw Crescent
Muswellbrook 2333

A very good beginning to 1996 when so many were able to be together at Maroochydhore, though sad too when some of the loved ones are missing. Thank you to all those who made it possible for us to enjoy it after such a bad start. A few weeks ago we took delivery of another new van. While waiting for it to be built we went on a 25 day wild flower coach trip and sight seeing tour over to Perth. On our return trip, after the Nullabor we went down the Eyre Peninsula. There seems to have been plenty of rain as all places are looking green and such a lot of crops and sheep.

It's getting very close to Christmas so would like to wish Good Health and Happiness which we hope will continue for all during 1997.

Enclosed is our cheque toward the Courier which we appreciate receiving.

Yours sincerely,

George and Gloria

T. Martin
22 Chancery Lane
Alexander Heights 6064

Enclosed please find cheque to cover cost of our tickets to the anniversary luncheon which we unfortunately could not attend. The rest to the Courier which we look forward to receiving. Thanks to those who work to put it together.

Regards to all,

Tom and Ilma

J. Peattie
11 Denne Street
Tamworth 2340

Col has gone to his rest and left an enormous

gap in our Association but he has influenced us all with his great loyalty, his courage in war and his life afterwards, his indomitable spirit, his immense sense of humour and unswerving friendship, so that as long as the Association lasts his spirit will be with us.

I was one of those fortunate enough to be in his section in New Guinea where he earned everyone's respect, loyalty and friendship.

Goodbye old friend. Thanks for knowing you.

Jack

**R. Hanson
P.O. Box 786
Derby 6728**

We arrived safely on Monday, 11th November after a very pleasant 3-day drive. We have a beautiful country – always changing. The Boab trees are just getting their new leaves and looking fantastic. Our house is directly opposite the hospital entrance so Roy walks to work and home for lunch. It is a well laid out house with good size rooms and air conditioner in all rooms as well as fans. A fibro home with a separate tin roof over the house and large extension over the front, it is very cool and the yard is reticulated. Shopping is good – Woolworths and Foodland which has a fresh bakery. We are in walking distance to most of the main shopping area. It is hot but that is what we expected.

Roy is still just meeting all his staff and getting the feel of things and seems very happy with what and who he has seen so far and looking forward to getting stuck into work.

We are coming home for Christmas which will be nice – no place like home at Christmas.

Anyone who comes up this way is more than welcome to call in or give us a ring from Broome.

Our thoughts are with you on Sunday, 17th November and your Christmas lunch in December. Please extend our best wishes to all

Kaye and Roy

**From: Lt-Col. J. F. B. Mansell
1st Commando Regiment.**

Dear Mr Howell,

Please accept heartiest congratulations from 1 Commando Regiment on your 50th Anniversary. I note that the ranks of the NSW Commando Association are thinning and no doubt you are experiencing similar problems. However, from the regular distribution of the

2/2 Commando Courier, it is evident that the spirit is still strong.

Yours sincerely,

Joe Mansell

The Army Museum of Western Australia.

Dear Jack,

I would like to sincerely thank you for your kind invitation to attend your 50th Anniversary luncheon on 18 October last. It was a great privilege to be seated among so many good soldiers and their marvellous wives. The war record of the 2/2nd is held in awe by all of us in Special Forces units and the Museum is very proud to be able to display such excellent relics.

Pity about Colin Doig. He was a remarkable man and will be sorely missed.

Regards,

Mick Malone

Commonwealth Dept Veterans Affairs

Dear Mr Carey

I refer to your letter of 8 October, 1996 in which you formally accepted the Minister's offer, and the associated audit conditions, of a grant of \$1,000 towards the cost of your Association's reunion.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Healy

Project Officer Commemorative Activities

**J. Fennick
71 Morgan Crescent
Curtin 2605**

1998 SAFARI – CANBERRA MARCH 10 - 17 INCLUSIVE

Accommodation: After a good deal of inspections we have decided on the Oakford Apartments at 10-12 Howitt Street, Kingston. These are mainly two bedroom with full kitchen and laundry. The building is three storeys but no lift so anyone requiring/preferring ground floor please indicate.

The apartments are as well furnished as the Maroochydore Safari provided but not so cheap. Cost is \$110 per night for 2 bedrooms. \$100 per night for 1 bedroom. (There are only four 1 bedroom apartments available).

Deposit: \$100 and we must confirm numbers by September 30, 1997. We have been

promised a meeting room for our exclusive use. The apartments are about 200 metres from the shopping centre which has a good variety of eating places plus a liquor store. They are also close to the venue of our welcome and farewell functions and our formal Unit Luncheon.

The apartments have a swimming pool, BBQ area and, for the healthy ones a gym. They have undercover parking as well as being on a good bus route.

We can arrange for caravans if necessary so please let us know as soon as possible.

We have been invited to take part in the Canberra Day Parade as passengers in the vintage cars. If interested, let Danny know.

We have to tie up a few loose ends yet and, God willing, we will have the programme in the February 1997 Courier.

Danny has charge of accommodation booking so please send all requests etc. to him – Safari 1998, C/- J. Daniels, PO Box 156, Hawker, ACT, 2614.

INDEPENDENT TRUST FUND

No. 5 Shipment – SINGAPORE delay

Even a brief FAX reply is difficult to obtain from the "Singapore Transshippers" unless "Charges" payment is required.

Phone contact a week ago brought information that our goods (Ex Fremantle 10th October) are "in the warehouse." The Dili ship leaves Singapore late November or early December.

LES CRANFIELD

Our Agriculture specialist Les Cranfield is currently at Fuiloro Agriculture School Lospalos, Eastern end of East Timor. His luggage from Perth included a duplication of varieties of the seeds now delayed in Singapore. Les returns Tuesday ,26th November.

BOY SCOUT and GIRL GUIDES – EAST TIMOR

A few days following our purchase of basic Leaders instruction books, the Guides asked if we could use 20 used Army Tents. Ephrem's reply Fax said "yes."

The following Saturday morning Don Turton, Wilf Marsh, Keith Hayes and self joined the Deputy Director of Guides, May Core, and three of her team at the magnificent Guides bush camp at Lesmurdie on the Darling Range escarpment.

We unpacked the tents and stencilled each one prominently "ESCUTEIODS TIMOR" (the Timorese name for Scouts) to hopefully deter any attempts to confiscate.

Thanks to Col Hodson who cut and gave us the stencil at short notice.

All the tents, though vintage, were in good condition. They were then tightly packed into new corn sacks which were marked with shipping addresses and expertly sewn up by our beavering Guide helpers.

Now the Indos have got reason to show suspicion! However Ephrem said – 'thanks – send em up'

Many thanks to all who contributed their time, support and money during the year.

Seasons Greetings.

Bob, John and Ross.

Dear Ephrem

We are saddened in having to advise that following a bad fall at his home on Thursday the patriarch of our 2/2nd Commando Association Colin D. Doig, passed away at 5.40pm yesterday Sunday 20th October 1996

Colin injured his ribs and suffered loss of blood and shock which for his 84 years was too much to overcome.

Colin has done an outstanding job in the strengthening and maintenance of our Association.

It has been a dedicated, wholly consuming activity for all his post war years. Most would be unaware of his substantial anonymous monetary contributions.

Colin's rugged exterior shielded a kind, compassionate heart which was reflected in his awareness of the problems facing the indigenous East Timorese.

Colin Doig will be sadly missed by a large number of friends and associates in Australia and East Timor.

The funeral service is being planned for Wednesday or Thursday.

Kindest regards

Sincerely

Bob Smyth

2/2nd Commando Association of Australia

Dear Members of the 2/2nd and friends,

The Don Bosco School here in Dili joins you in the sad news of Colin Doig's passing away. I received the news by phone last Sunday evening. Before going to bed, I asked the students to pray that the Lord reward him for the good he has done. The following day, in the parish church, we had a Eucharistic service asking God to grant him a blessed rest.

I thank God for Col Doig. He was always cooking up something for us here in East Timor. He helped arrange for volunteers, scholarships, books, magazines, tents, tools and even thread for our Tailoring course. He would telephone me from time to time and update me on news and happenings. He had passed away already, yet the effects of his work are still going on.

I had a special interview with Bishop Belo the other day. We were talking about matters related to Australia and East Timor. I told him about the 2/2nd Association's latest project and he was happy to mention the 2/2nd Association in his word of thanks.

I think Col Doig represents what the 2/2nd is like. Somehow it is like a pebble splashing on the pond. At a certain point in time, we may not see the pebble anymore; but the ripples still linger on.

Thank God for Col Doig. Thank God for the 2/2nd!

With prayers on your behalf

Br Ephrem Santos SDB

Mr, Les B. Cranfield
University Avenue
Floreat 6014

Dear Les,

Re: Visit to East Timor

Whereas our dear friend Colin Doig had been substantially handling the administrative aspect of your visit, that now devolves to our Trustees.

Please contact me by phone or FAX at any time you feel advisable. Viv Paust would have reassured you regarding the very strong support given by the Salesian Bros., especially Bro. Ephrem Santos (S.D.B.). Our arrangements to date have been conducted through Bro. Ephrem, however, I am aware that Colin had contact with Fr. Jose Vatta Parambil whose comprehensive, excellent report on Fuloro, you would have read I am sure with absorbing interest.

All food and accommodation will be provided by the Salesian Brothers. Fares and incidentals covered by A.E.S.O.P. Please keep vouchers or similar for any costs for which you feel you should not be accountable.

We are grateful that you have undertaken this humanitarian project which will bring enormous benefits to a huge group of disadvantaged people. Les, we wish you a most successful, interesting and gratifying experience in East Timor.

Yours sincerely

Bob Smyth.

VOLUNTEER WELDING INSTRUCTOR

The details of the Independent Trust Fund were sent to the ABC 'Grapevine' programme hoping to find a volunteer welding instructor to visit East Timor.

He would advise in setting up a welding workshop of instruction, also instruct a small group of trainee teachers in welding procedures.

The appointee would live in hostel type accommodation administered by a group of the Roman Catholic Salesian Brotherhood. They are fine types of men dedicated to the welfare and protection of the children of the indigenous East Timorese many of whom suffered severely following the invasion of their country by Indonesian soldiers who still maintain an oppressive surveillance.

Our limited funds would pay for the return air fare. The Salesian Brothers provide accommodation and good quality meals and companionship.

We are still searching.

SICK PARADE

Roy Martin is not a well man but Roy, who was never lacking in courage, is facing up to his problem with great fortitude.

Jim Cullen has been in the Kyogle Hospital after suffering a stroke. Our thoughts are with you Jim and Beryl.

Jim Fenwick is back in hospital after suffering a bout of pneumonia which, on top of his other health problems is making life very difficult. Keep up those prayers for Jim please.

We thank the Kenneally Family and the Theo Adams Family for their Christmas/New Year greetings and Alan Luby for his good wishes on behalf of NSW members.

The Courier Team wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and Healthy, Happy New Year and we look forward to hearing from you all in 1997.

**Address Book Additions,
Alterations, Corrections**

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Courier Donations

George Vandeleur, Gwenda Kirkwood, Ross and Beth Shenn, Albie and Daphne Friend, Terry Paull, Ron Trengove, Mick and Jean Morgan, Lew Thompson, Ernie and Verna Bingham, John Burrigge, Arch Campbell, George Greenhalgh, Les Halse, Fred Humfrey, Arthur Marshall, Stan and Barbara Payne, Bill and Iris Rowan-Robinson, Blanche and Peter Sadler, Bob and Margaret Smyth, Henry Sproxton, Dusty Studdy, George and Nancy Timms, Doc Wheatley, Ron Barton, Peter and Sue Epps, Viv and Verna Paust, Paddy and Nora Kenneally, Gerry Green, John Lillie, Alf and Joy Hodge, Ron Archer, Peter Foot, Doug and Shirley Dixon, Roy and Kaye Hanson, Jack Peattie, Tom and Ilma Martin, George and Gloria Smith.

Army Museum Donations:

Albie and Daphne Friend.

**Independent Trust Fund List No. 14
to 20th November 1996:**

Trengove Family	\$1,000.00.
Paddy and Nora Kenneally	\$50.00.

February Courier**Copy Deadline –****22 January, 1997.**

Editor's Note: Due to the volume of copy received recently, it has been necessary to abridge some items in this issue. Thanks to everyone for your letters and please keep them coming in 1997.