



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. 116

FEBRUARY 1996

Price 1c

EDITORIAL

A glimpse back at 50 years of the Association

An old adage is that a **good** soldier never looks behind, but it is also certain that an **old** soldier does plenty of backward glancing. Memories are the stuff of the aging.

To look back at what has been fifty years of our great Association is to bring to light an ocean of memories both bitter and sweet, but always there is that great sense of comradeship for all to see.

I think the greatest achievement, and there have been many great achievements in that half century, has been the remarkable way in which the Association has stuck together. The comradeship has the quality of strong cement fused with the highest grade granite. No matter what else may have been achieved, it would have been of very little moment without the true stickability of the people who comprised the true basis of the show. This thoroughly applies to both the men and women who now are so much the life blood of a very happy and active organisation.

To single out any specific item in this journey into nostalgia my number one pick would be that grand and permanent memorial to our fallen in the paradise that is Lovekin Drive in Kings Park. We have, or nature has, created not only a thing of

beauty but something that springs travellers and tourists who traverse this marvellous avenue on a daily, or should it be hourly, basis. We can be justly proud of this ever remembering avenue in a park of world wide renown.

The establishment, along with the Australian Government of the day, of that other memorial to our wonderful helpers in the Timorese and Portuguese in what is now East Timor, must also have a high ranking in deeds of honour produced by a caring Association.

This truly remarkable Association owes its durability and stick togetherness to that means of communication, firstly the Newsletter and now, for over 45 years, the 2/2nd Commando Courier. These two small organs have made certain that the friendship stayed in the glued position. Then all those terrific interstate and intrastate Safaris have put the meat on the skeleton of the Courier and have **put people together** and that has had the effect of continuing the truth of the friendships.

Enough to say, for this first Editorial of our 50th year, that we have done well and have the highest hopes, despite advancing years, of more of the same in the years to come.

Col Doig

VALE GORDON PELGRADE ROWLEY

The grim toll marches on, this time in the person of that great gentle giant, Gordon Rowley, on the 4th December 1995. It was only a few months ago that he entered Hollywood Hospital with chest problems and was diagnosed with cancer.

Gordon was born on 23.11.1921 in Romarsh, U.K. and came to W.A. with his family when he was six and they settled in Palgarup.

Gordon was an original of the 2nd Australia Independent Coy, joining the Unit on its formation on Wilsons Promontory and being allocated to 'C' Platoon 8 Section under John Burrige. He was part of all the action in which that Section was involved during the Timor campaign. It is only about three months ago that Gordon wrote a small resume of his service in Timor, after first having little recall of these and other events in his army career. After Timor Gordon joined H.Q. in New Guinea and was with the Quartermaster's store with Joe Garland and Bill Coker. He was there at the end of hostilities and as such saw out the full service with the 2/2 Commando Squadron as it was renamed in 1944.

Gordon met Eva in Manjimup when he returned from Timor in 1941 and they were married in 1945 and lived on a farm for eight years during which time he also worked at a timber mill. He then moved to Kojonup and worked for Tony Bowers. Gordon and Eva went back to Manjimup where Gordon worked at felling trees with a 2-man saw and a circular saw, and in 1961 he joined the well known firm of McCulloch Chain Saws, selling and servicing the saws. In 1964 he won a trip to Sydney as the top salesman. Whilst in Sydney he stayed with Bill Coker. When they returned to Manjimup Gordon and Eva ran a toy shop successfully for some time before retiring to Mandurah where they had a small orchard, and later they lived happily in Singleton. Gordon and Eva were married for 50 years and had one son, five daughters, 16 grandchildren and one great grandchild.

He took a keen interest in the bowling club, the R.S.L., and was also involved with the Mandurah 2-2s, a sub-branch of the 2/2 Commando Association. For many years he was a steady contributor to the *2/2 Commando Courier* and always took a keen interest in Association affairs.

Gordon was a true gentleman who made friends easily and was good to all around him. He was an excellent citizen at Manjimup and later at Mandurah.

We, as an Association, mourn the passing of another good mate who was a shining example

of what a good person should be, a good and loving husband and father, a top grade citizen, a man for all seasons and a good soldier. A fond goodbye to a real man.

We offer our sincere sympathy to Eva and family in their sad loss.

A cremation service was held at Fremantle on December 12th and all the grandchildren were pall bearers. Over 200 people attended, including the following 30 members and ladies of the 2/2 Commando Association: Len Bagley, Ernie Bingham, Tony Bowers, John Burrige, Jack Carey, Dick Darrington, Jess Epps, Ralph Finkelstein, Jack Hasson, Keith Hayes, Bill and Elvie Howell, Betty Illsley, Gerry and Dot Maley, Wilf and Lorraine March, Ted Monk, Nellie Mullins, Don and Ida Murray, Joe Poynton, Blanche and Mavis Sadler, Eric Thornander, Don Turton, Roy Watson, Doc. Wheatley, Jim Lines, Ron McAlpine.

Col. Doig and Terry Rowley

We are sad to report the passing of Millie Bowden, wife of the late 'Curly' Bowden. Don Turton represented the 2/2 Association at the cremation in January.

NSW NEWS

Our annual Christmas luncheon was held at the Dee Why RSL Club on Saturday, 2nd December 1995, and as usual proved to be a very happy gathering, with members, wives, widows, family and friends coming from near and far. Present were: Allan and Mary Addison, Bill and Coral Coker, Ray Cole, Alan and Edith Luby, Jack Hartley, Ron and Dorothy Trengove, Col and Val Holley, Frank O'Neill with minders Nancy and Verena, Fred and Norma Janvrin, June Bennett with daughter Marilyn and husband Kevin, Betty Hoy, Ken and Pat Glover, Ray and Bonnie Whitely.

At this time of year it is impossible to avoid clash functions and as a result we had a number of apologies. Many were not able to make it because of illness or incapacity and we send them our greetings for a better New Year. We received Christmas wishes from Joy Smith, the Handicotts, Theo Adams, Kath Press and Jack Carey.

Here 'tis New Years Eve 1995 with the hopes and aspirations of 1996 before us. I guess our main objective for the next few months will be to join our national group of family friends at Maroochydore in April. For those who have not yet nominated, may I heartily recommend that you do so as soon as possible, and join in what may be our last major reunion! Whether we

like it or not our 'Thin Red Line' on the ground is getting thinner and thinner and we've only got to do a finger count over the past two years to calculate the odds of maintaining our numbers for a large scale get-together in 1998. By that time we'll be ready to form a nationwide 'Octogenarians Club.'

Meantime my thoughts are perhaps inspired by our recent trip to Darwin and Timor and I reflect on New Years Eve of 1942. There we were setting up our camps and yes, we even had tents at that time, along the area between Tibar and Liquica to the west of Dili. 'Cactus Flat' we named it! An area of coastal plain with a narrow roadway separating it from the seashore, and the first coral reef most of us had seen. It was so refreshing to dive into cool clean water, even with the friendly coral snakes.

After our exposure on the aerodrome it was not long before almost everyone was down with a bout of malaria, probably the first of many. Also for most, the onset of what would become a regular feature, gastric problems. Call it what you will. Diarrhoea, Dysentery or just 'the trots' – the end result is the same, and no one knew anything about people becoming dehydrated.

However, I depart from my theme; there were no fireworks displays, or wild parties to say farewell to 1941 and usher in 1942. All we could do was lay in our bunks and think of the folks back home. Perhaps wonder what lay ahead in that fateful year that has probably affected our lives more than any other.

Thank God we survived, and 54 years later can look back on it with wonder and gratitude for the wealth of friendship it sustains.

During the festive season we had many cards, phone and personal calls from all over Australia, which were much appreciated. I hope we returned the greetings but if, inadvertently we missed some, we apologise.

Tucker (from Tocumwal) Wyn Humphreys, Rolf Baldwin, George Veitch, Leith Cooper, John and Cath Roberts, Beryl Boast, Tom Nisbet, Fred and Mavis Broadhurst, Dan Daniels (Canberra).

We held our Christmas luncheon on Monday, December 4th at Paterson River Golf Club. We all enjoyed a very good luncheon and each others company and Fred Broadhurst's jokes. The following 29 were present: Beryl Boast, Wyn Humphreys, Nina Grachan, Pat Petersen and her sister Miriam Van Dyke, Harry and Olive Botterill, Wal and Betty Kerr, Ken and Margaret Monk, Fred and Mavis Broadhurst, Bruce and Lorraine McLaren, Tom Nisbet, George and Dot Veitch, Leith and Marg. Cooper, Arch and Dawn Claney, Blue and Mary Bone, Jack Fox, Joan Freyer, John and Shirley Southwell.

A special presentation was made to Tom Nisbet and Harry Botterill as Honorary Life Members of the 2/2nd Australian Commando Association, Victorian Branch in appreciation for their service beyond the call of duty. A plaque with the red double diamond mounted on wood. 'In appreciation for long term service' was inscribed on a metal plate. This was greatly appreciated by Tom and myself and came as a great surprise.

Apologies were received from Patsy Thatcher, George and Dot Robinson, Wilma Tobin, Sep and Monica Wilson, Dulcie Gay, Nancy Briggs, Norm and Fran Tillet, Bill Tucker, Mrs Adams, Alf Harper, Jack Renehan, Rolf Baldwin, Paul Costelloe, Grace Davies, Peter McCracken, John and Cath Roberts, Edie and Dot Bourke, Stan and Marie Whitford, Eileen Sharp, Barry and Aynsley Sargeant, Jock and Cay Campbell.

Harry Botterill.

A cheque from Wal Kerr 2/1st Company is enclosed for general funds. Wal comes to most of our functions and this is his way of saying thanks.

Harry

VICTORIAN VOCAL VENTURINGS

On Sunday, November 19th the Combined Commandos held the 50th Anniversary at the memorial at Wilsons Promontory with a large attendance. Three coaches from Melbourne were provided by Veterans Association and a good representation from other states. Unfortunately the weather was very inclement, it rained nearly all day, but relented a little while the service was held.

The following 2/2nd members were present: Ken and Margaret Monk, Olive and Harry Botterill, Wilma Tobin, Pat Petersen, Stan and Marie Whitford, Bruce and Lorraine McLaren, Roy and Joyce Martin (from Griffith, NSW) Bill

P. Barden
1/101 Francis St,
Geraldton, 6530
Geraldton News

First of all allow me to heartily congratulate President Bill Howell and wife Elvie on their lovely Christmas message which truly expressed the substance of this wonderful occasion. Next time you are speaking to Wally Holding of the Mandurah RSL Bill, please tell him that immense interest resulted from the display of his 1941 photos of Mullewa at the Mullewa Centenary celebrations and the follow-up celebrations at South Perth.

It was great to see Blue Pendergrast's letter in the December *Courier* because I had intended passing on information about Blue and Edith that I received through Tom Foster. Tom has not been enjoying the best of health but he is not of the ilk who continually complains, despite the fact that he was irked by the attitude of one young bloke at the Veterans Affairs Department concerning travelling claims.

No doubt many of you would have been among the thousands who took part in the brilliant '*Australia Remembers*' Cavalcade at Perth Entertainment Centre. Our Sub-Branch was represented by Northern Wheatbelt Country Vice-President, Frank Sharp, who was proudly displaying the Geraldton banner when someone popped the question 'Where is the 'g' in Geraldton?' to which Frank replied 'in the middle.' Asked the same question and giving the same answer, Frank looked up at his banner which had been provided by the Lotteries Commission, and discovered that the letter 'g' was missing from the name 'Geraldton.' At the RSL meeting someone commented 'That's how some people pronounce the name of our lovely city.'

Our Sub-Branch has been kept extremely busy with a multiplicity of '*Australia Remembers*' activities but we still found time to give strong support to a march and the opening of a Museum Gallery featuring Aboriginal servicemen. They included 10 members of the Mallard family, including six brothers and a step-brother, as well as other relatives, including a son of one of the Mallard sisters and a son of one of the Mallard brothers. They all served in the army except one brother who was in the RAAF. Ron Kelly served on HMAS Adelaide and HMAS Shropshire.

Additions to our War Museum section at Birdwood House include a bugle that Graeme Perham's uncle, Sgt. Roy Thompson, had at Gallipoli when killed alongside his brother three days after the landing.

God bless you all.

Peter

D. Darrington
151 Koondoola Ave,
Koondoola 6064

I have relatives in Canada I had not met but corresponded with over the last 20 years through letters, Christmas cards and photos so, with an invitation from my nephew Bruce to visit their beautiful country I set off with my Westpac travel tickets and heaps of information and brochures, maps etc to fly with Qantas for 21 hours via Sydney, Honolulu to

Vancouver for a stop over of two days in Downtown Barclay Hotel. Vancouver has a population of two million with about three million tourists a year. I liked the mountains that surround the beautiful city, trees everywhere, lovely parks and gardens. I met up with two people who took me on a couple of hours sightseeing tour and then to dinner.

After my short stay I boarded the mighty Canadian Via Train which travels from the west to east coast over the majestic Rocky Mountains, the scenery just wonderful, the meals excellent. First class treatment from the stewards. The spectacular landscape of white spruce, pine, fir trees. Pine logs are still floated down the rivers and there is no shortage of timber here and there is a big export trade. I arrived at Saskatoon in Saskatchewan right in the centre of Canada. It was 2.30 am when I arrived to meet my nephew Bruce, his wife Pam and two daughters. I was so happy to see them. I received gifts, a T-shirt, cap, badges, maps, flag, even one month free car parking which was handy for Bruce. Not too many tourists visit Prince Albert where I stayed for two weeks sightseeing and having a game of golf. It was the Indian Pow Wow week so along to catch the excitement of the beating of the drums with high pitched singing which gets everybody into a frenzy in the dancing competition. I met the Toronto Indian Chief, got talked into dancing with Pokohontas Princess, thank goodness it was slow rain dance because I was worn out in ten minutes.

With the weeks quickly passing by, all arrangements were made to meet the other four families. It was school holidays and a lot of workers were on holidays so it worked out pretty right to see them all. I was roped in to go picking blue berries and cranberries which make excellent pies.

Time to travel to Edmonton, an eight hours bus trip to meet the Elliott family and another relative Gary, Managing Director of Marlin Travel Service. I was only there a week before Gary had to fly to London. With brother Lloyd I made a quick trip of 800 kms to Fort McMurray out in the wilderness. Passed all the badly burnt out forests, all trees destroyed over hundreds of kms close to the Arctic Circle. Fort McMurray is famous for its oil sands interpretive centre, the world's largest oil sands deposit extracting the bitumen and crude oil. The place smells of oil over a vast area. I had three wonderful days there and flew in one of the small float planes they use to fly the miners along the Athabasca River.

Back to Bruce who was on three weeks holiday and we loaded up the truck and 40ft. caravan which comfortably slept six people out of each of the brown bears and mosquitoes. With the rest of the family we headed up the highway for

La Range heritage park campsite. It rained for a week so we decided to go home for a few days and then we were off again to the Waskersin River camping ground where we had two weeks of dry warm weather and went swimming and some days we caught fish which we barbecued and ate by the camp fire with a few beers. We had a lot of fun but one day there was panic when three brown bears came through the camp. The mosquitoes were my problem, they attacked me day and night – I was laughed at, they said it must be my Aussie blood.

There were two more relatives I had promised to visit so we travelled to Swift Current or 'Speedy Creek' as they call it. We motored all day over flat treeless prairies. You could see for miles and miles but surprisingly they grow corn and wheat. I met Pam's parents who have lived in Swift Current on the bald prairies all their lives. We stayed four days and enjoyed great hospitality from Joe and Mary. Everywhere in Canada people are kind and helpful – my relatives always fed me too well.

I had a couple of weeks left so dashed back to Prince Albert to collect my clothes then a long trip to Edmonton and four days round journey to Calgary and Banff. The most spectacular scenery. I had two swims in the hot pool in Banff Springs. It was nice enough for twenty minutes at a time to fix all those aches and pains. The sulphur hot springs are most relaxing. Banff Resort has everything – the tourist trade operates all year with skiing in the winter and all activities in the summer. I really loved my stay there but then it was on to the Jasper snowfields where I had a thrilling snowcoach ride on the surface of the Athabasco Glacier. It was an awe inspiring experience to see and travel alone the majestic Rocky Mountains on the way back to Edmonton where I spent the last two days before flying back to Australia.

I enjoyed meeting up with my relatives and had the best of Canadian hospitality and enjoyed my magnificent journey through the Rocky Mountains and the prairies but it was certainly great to be home again.

Dick – November 1995.

G. and G. Smith
37 Shaw Crescent
Mussellbrook 2333

Please find enclosed cheque to defray costs of the *Courier*.

We wish you a successful and happy Maroochydore Safari.

Sincerely,

George and Gloria

S. Payne
7 Todd Street
Merredin 6415

At last I have got around to it. I have had the money put aside for sometime. Please find enclosed cheque for Timor Fund.

Stan

Mrs V. Nichols
59 Seacrest Drive
Sorrento 6020

Please find enclosed donation to your Association for whichever use you may like to put it.

Thank you for sending me the *Courier*.

Sincerely,

Verna

Mrs A. Moore
10 Poplar Street
Dwellingup 6213

Please find enclosed donation towards the *Courier* which I enjoy reading.

Alma

R. and B. Shenn,
2/1 Kilpa Court
City Beach 6015

Many thanks for the new Address Book – excellent production.

Enclosed please find cheque for *Courier*.

Regards and best wishes to all for 1996.

Ross

Mrs B. Boast
1 Hillview Ave
Rye 3941

Enclosed please find donation for the *Courier*.

Alec's funeral was held at the Rye Civic Hall where he had been Manager/Caretaker for the last 10 years. There were about 300 people there – they came from everywhere, relatives and friends that we hadn't seen for years. They came from all over Victoria as well as the Mornington Peninsula. Alec had spent a lot of his time at the hall, improving it for the benefit of the Community and he is going to be sadly missed. There was a big contingent of Commandos there, both from the 2/2 and other units. It was lovely to see and I do appreciate them coming.

I could go on writing for hours because Alec was such a wonderful gentle man who would help anyone in need. The cards I have received have all held Alec in very high esteem.

Would you please keep on sending me the *Courier* as I do like to read about the members of the 2/2, they are a great bunch of mates.

Cheers for now.

Beryl

**K. and M. Monk
Wayside Delivery
Poowony 3988**

We have been having a very busy time and this year has passed by very quickly. This last weekend has been enjoyable as we had Olive and Harry Botterill and Wilma Tobin staying with us and we all went to Tidal River on Sunday for the annual pilgrimage. A wet, miserable day weatherwise but a pleasant time meeting with old mates, their wives, families and friends.

Our family are all busy as usual, Elva and Rod are now living in Hanoi where Rod is working for a Melbourne engineering firm on a Water Supply Project and Elva is teaching at the International School. Barbara is still nursing three nights a week and Owen and the three girls all busy in their respective spheres of work, school etc. Colin and Robert, their wives and families all busy on the farms and school and other activities.

We are still plodding on, enjoying our garden and other things. We both send heartiest Christmas greetings to all and may the New Year treat you kindly.

Ken and Margaret

**P. Costello
115 St. Anns Street
Nowra 2541**

Thanks to the good offices of Jim Cullen my name has been restored to the *Courier* distribution list. It was remiss of me not to inform you when I last moved six years ago. Since then Jim has been my only contact with anyone from the Unit and then mostly at Christmas time. The last time I renewed acquaintance with the N.S.W. contingent was on the sad occasion of Nick Devlin's funeral. Previous to that I met up with the interstaters at Cabramatta and the Great Southern Hotel in Sydney. The only virtue of my long absence from Association affairs, I guess, is that my memories are of people, if not still in the glow

of youth, certainly in their prime. For my part it is a long time since I could answer to 'Blue.'

Part of the reason for being out of touch has been my wife's poor health and lack of mobility over the past 18 years, plus living either on the outskirts of Sydney and, since my retirement from the Education Department, on the south coast. I note that Jack Keenahan is located here but have not seen him – maybe we wouldn't recognise each other.

Paddy Kenneally, feisty as ever, I've seen on television and in print over the East Timor business, I wonder if, when Paddy was urging us around the football paddock, he ever dreamt that W.A. would be fielding a team in the rugby league competition, but then who would have forecast Perth as the AFL premiers.

On the health front I can't really complain. I have had a few episodes where I wouldn't want to be in the ring with Mike Tyson, or Finky for that matter, I'm still managing a couple of rounds of golf a week so can't complain.

I spoke to Jim Cullen last night and he was rejoicing in 5 1/2 inches of rain after over six years of drought, but is having to take things quietly after a severe heart attack last July. Unfortunately, a by-pass is not an option. When he is well enough I hope to induce him to make a trip south to our neck of the woods.

I am enclosing a donation towards the *Courier* and East Timor Appeal. When I read the magazine I am struck by the dedication of those whose efforts have sustained the sense of mateship over the past half century.

My best wishes to all for the coming festive season and future years.

With warm regards.

Pat

**P. Epps
PO Box 39
Hillarys 6025**

The Committee. Dear Gentlemen,

Sue and I would like to thank you for asking us to be your guests at the RSL Cavalcade on the night of 11th November 1995.

We both enjoyed the performances very much, thought the whole show was excellent, and it was good to see the Commandos get a mention.

To the members, wives and widows of the Association we would like to THANK YOU FOR THE FREEDOM.

Kind regards,

Peter and Sue

L. Cooper,
8 Hilltop Crescent
Rhyll 3923

At our recent annual dinner held at the Patterson River Country Club on 4th December, the Victorian Branch of the 2/2 Commando Association took the opportunity to honour two of our long serving members who have ensured the continuity of our organisation here for many years. I refer in particular to our president, Tom Nisbet, and our very long serving treasurer, Harry Botterill who, for many years served as secretary as well as treasurer. Tom, too has in recent years served a dual role as many of the secretarial duties of duplication of notices etc. could not be satisfactorily arranged from my place of residence on Phillip Island.

To give recognition for the service provided by these two members a number of the troops conspired secretly to make a presentation of a wall plaque and framed proclamation at the first opportunity when we had a gathering of members. As the producer of many other mementos, the late Alec Boast was given the job of making the wall plaque and frame for the proclamation. This he did with his usual skill and efficiency earlier this year.

In spite of the possibility of other functions during this year, the 4th December luncheon proved to be our first opportunity to make our planned presentation. In the meantime the sad demise of Alec made this occasion a kind of memorial to him and the many good works he had carried out over the years.

The actual presentation fell to myself when I was able to put to those present the information and sentiments as above.

In reply, our worthy president Tom duly delegated to Harry the job of a reply to my few words. Harry's reply was delivered in his usual unflappable style.

We sincerely thank Beryl Boast who was present at the luncheon, for caretaking Alec's handiwork and bringing the articles safely and secretly to the function.

Please convey my best wishes to all the W.A. fellows and to the Mandurah group in particular.

Enclosed please find a donation towards *Courier* expenses.

Yours sincerely,

Leith

Mrs B. Sadler,
Box 24,
P.O. Wongan Hills 6603

Christmas Greetings and best wishes for the

New Year to Archie and your *Courier* Team – you all do a wonderful job!

Regards,

Blanche and family

Mr R. Morris,
53 Hilder Street,
Weston ACT 2611

Enclosed is a donation for the *Courier*.

Hope to see you all in the new year, and I hope all will have a happy one.

Sincerely,

Ron and Hazel

R. Archer,
36 Soudan Street,
Toowong 4066

Enclosed is a donation for the *Courier* and one for the Fremantle War Museum.

Keep up the great work on our 2/2 Commando *Courier* – it is a **WONDERFUL** communicator.

Looking forward to catching up with **ALL** the news next April.

Best wishes to all members.

Ron

J. P. Kenneally
28 Wilkins Street
Yagoona 2199

Greetings to all and may 1996 treat all and sundry kindly, not that numerals have anything to do with it apart from saying we lived to see the start of another year.

Nora and I paid a visit to Tasmania in December. Nora missed the Safari week there in 1973 because of illness. We enjoyed our stay, Tasmania, in common with other states has its own unique features to offer. Considering it was 45 years since I was last there, the changes were not all that great. One thing or rather industry that has changed is shipping in regard to the port of Hobart. It's practically non-existent. Forty one wharves, or lumpers man the port of Hobart and that includes clerks, gear men or whatever other category connected with stevedoring, that number to be reduced to 12. The Maritime Union hopes that 19 will be the final settlement. When I worked on the waterfront, 19 men would not have manned one hatch effectively, now it will service the port of Hobart. Of course, the only ships that Hobart will see by then will be cruise liners and they can dream the yachts that flock into Constitution Dock each year are the cargo fleets that used the port of Hobart

from its inception in 1804 when Lieutenant Governor Collins landed his stores there, until the era of technology when a mad scramble for saving and profits made a modern port redundant. Unfortunately it has had dire effects on employment.

I worked on the wharves in Hobart 1949-1950 during the apple season, there was work for about 800 men, on an around the year basis about 500. Up river near New Norfolk. Bayers paper mill employed about 1,450. That is the pattern everywhere, not only Hobart.

Michelle Turner was awarded the 'Tasmanian award for Humanitarian Activities,' for her dedicated and impassioned commitment to the people of East Timor, and her struggle for justice of unemployed and other people. Michelle was the grand daughter of TX2597 Pte. Arthur W. Hickman, 2/40th Bn. and 'D' Platoon No. 2 Independent Company. Should the Association be interested I can supply a photocopy of the award and background material.

We met the widow of Durn Anning who was also a 2/40th man and member of 'D' Platoon. Mrs Pat Anning was most interested in the doings and activities of the 2/2 Commando Association. Bert Price, ex 2/40th and 'D' Platoon wished to be remembered to all the 2/2nd men he knew. Bert's memory of his period in the 2/2nd ever green. Don Turton and the sappers were the men he had most to do with. I asked him why they didn't remain with us. Pretty simple, they were given three choices - stay with the 2/2nd, join the 2/12th Bn (which comprised Tasmanians and Queenslanders) or join the Provost Corps. They opted for the 2/12th Bn, because of its Tasmanian connection. Their service with that Battalion included the Ramu Valley, Shaggy Ridge and Balikpapan. Bert looks first class, very fit and alert.

Ran into Gerry and Nancy Slade, the latter still had her arm in a sling and was on her way to the doctor. Last October whilst playing bowls, a mighty gust of wind picked her up and slammed her against a post. Bowls can be a hazardous game in Tassie. Apart from that both were in good health. Gerry said that Gordon Watts was not so fortunate and had not been too good in health for some time.

Ian Ronald rang me - he was on his yearly pilgrimage to Australia. He and Margaret enjoying very good health. They have done quite a deal of travelling, South Africa, then N.S.W., South Australia, Victoria, Queensland and back to England via Japan where he will visit one of his sons and his family. Ian does not stay long on a blade of grass. He has covered a lot of territory since he set out from Brake Hill 30 years ago.

Nora and the clan are well. The grandchildren have been keeping her busy for a couple of weeks. Helen's, then Sean's, they have done a bit of moving around. The Snowy Mountains, south coast and Sydney.

Whilst I was up in Darwin last July, Antonio Casemiro, ex Tafu Bessi Coffee Plantation 1942 wished to be remembered to Bill Howell and Gerry Green. Others he vividly remembered, Alan Hollow and Eddie Craghill, long time ago. Bill and Gerry he could name, Alan and Eddie because of their wounds stayed in his memory. Bad luck I had to return to Sydney by August. I missed a trip to Timor and Japan, maybe another day. I met some interesting people in Darwin on that trip and learned a few things from them.

I'd better knock off, little knowledge of what is doing here, hope to be at Maroochydore in April, God willing. If not I'll get somewhere.

Paddy

"The Double Reds of Timor"

On Sunday, 26th November, 1995 at a very successful Book Launch held in Legacy House, South Perth, Archie Campbell introduced his book 'The Double Reds of Timor.' It is now in the market place.

The book is priced at \$35, hard cover, produced so the pages will remain intact for all time. Members of the 2/2 Commando Association will be able to purchase same for \$20 plus packaging and postage where applicable, at the prices shown below:

Western Australia	\$27
Interstate	\$30
Others	\$35

Supplies are available from:

- (1) Archie Campbell, 4A Frobisher Avenue, Sorrento W.A. 6020.
- (2) John Burrridge, Military Antiques, 91 Shenton Road, Swanbourne, W.A. 6010.

Archie is donating the proceeds from the book as follows:

- (1) 50% to the 2/2nd East Timor Trust Fund.
- (2) 50% to the Legacy Club of Perth.

The book makes for compelling reading and Archie thanks you in anticipation of your valuable support.

**Mrs B. Craig
PO Box 234
Young 2594**

I am sorry I did not get around to writing to everyone at Christmas. I was laid low with

pneumonia and pleurisy for about six weeks and it certainly knocked me about. I had to go to Sydney just when I was beginning to feel a little better, as Keith's sister passed away. Her children wanted me to go so I made the effort. I stayed with the family and when I met up with Keith's brother, discovered his mother-in-law had passed away at the same time. We had a quiet three days together and they put me on the train for Young. I didn't see or ring anyone, I just didn't have the energy.

I went to Wodonga to Phillip and Lorraine for a while and am writing from Janette and Stan's in Adelaide. I still feel very tired and have no energy but am improving. Was hoping to be here until the end of January but have to be back to Young earlier as Vet Affairs have advised me to be available, as I have reapplied for war widows pension and the case is to be heard in Sydney towards the end of January. Legacy have taken the case to Vet Affairs and I have to be available in case they need to phone me. (I won't hold my breath).

Janette and Stan have been very good to me and also Donna and Marc. Janette and Donna are flying to Perth for five days to see a friend of Donna's at Rockingham. I am staying with Marc, then I'll leave for Wodonga and then Young. I catch the coach and enjoy seeing the country as we go, and Phillip meets me at Wodonga. I have had mail sent on here and received the *Courier* and the new address book. It is really wonderful. Congratulations on the way it is set out and especially to the people who did all the hard work setting it out with present and future phone numbers. It must have been a consuming time for you all. Thank you. Am enclosing a donation for *Courier* costs etc.

Best wishes to all.

Betty

A. R. Beveridge
49 Carey Street
Toronto 2283

Enclosed is a donation to the Association. Wishing you all a healthy, happy, prosperous 1996.

Regards

Andy

Announcement: There will not be a Courier in April due to Easter and the Courier Team going to Maroochydore Safari.

Copy deadline for June Courier – May 23, 1996.

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

This was, as always, a happy gathering of many members and friends enjoying the

opportunity to spend time together and catch up with all the news. Attendance was down a little, mainly due to health problems and apologies were received from Clarrie and Grace Turner, Don and Ida Murray, Bernie and Babs Langridge, Charlie, Mary and Paddy King, Roy Watson, Barbara Goddard, Helen Poynton, Dot Boyland, Dusty Studdy, Doc Wheatley, Jack Fowler, Bill and Iris Rowan-Robinson, Ernie and Verna Bingham, Mark and Elsie Jordan, Joan Burns.

Special guests were Colleen Ward who is Norm Thornton's charming daughter, David Hannah who has been of great assistance to Arch Campbell in the writing of his book *'The Double Reds of Timor'*, Viv and Verna Paust. Viv has volunteered to spend some time in Dili as a carpentry instructor and is leaving on the 4th January 1996. Stan and Barbara Payne had been to Sydney and brought good wishes from Cisco Cole.

There was the usual wonderful atmosphere and the time passed by quickly and all too soon it was lunch time. Delys introduced a new idea this year. Instead of having Christmas Crackers on the tables we were all given a ticket with a chance to win one of three prizes. The lucky winners were Thelma Sproston, Eric Thormander and John Poynton. Thanks Del – a nice idea.

Then it was time to wend our way home and look forward to our next get-together.

SICK PARADE

Dot Boyland has been having a rough time healthwise. Following on from three heart attacks in 1995, Dot spent a Month in hospital in January with a debilitating illness. Despite these set backs Dot is fighting hard to get well again.

Helen Poynton is another of our ladies slowly recovering from a major operation. We all wish her a speedy recovery and hope she and Joe can make the Queensland Safari in April.

Bernie Langridge is recuperating after suffering a heart attack recently.

Gerry Maley is back in hospital due to trouble with his hip replacement.

Our best wishes to the above members and ladies for a return to good health in 1996.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Hasson, Mr. D.
Doug
136 Julia Flynn Ave
Isaacs ACT 2607
(06) 290 1559
(02) 6290 1559 (1988)

SAFARI 1996 UPDATE

Arrangements are progressing well and all indications are it will be well attended. We believe members will enjoy their accommodation and the programme arranged for them.

We would appreciate advice on arrival details, particularly those travelling to Maroochydore by air so transport can be organised. My number is (07) 337 8717.

Neil and Margaret Hooper have done a great job and others on the Committee have provided a lot of assistance with the programme and transport.

Neil, Margaret, Sheila and self visited Maroochydore on Tuesday, December 12th to tie up a few final items and on Wednesday the 13th our Christmas lunch was at the Bronco's Club. Tony and Iris Adams were not with us having apologised because Iris was not very well an also George and Bettye Coulson – George not the best. Those present, Neil and Margaret Hooper, Ralph and Sheila Conley, Col and Jeanette Andrew, Butch and Pat Barnier, Mervyn Murphy, Gordon and Joan Stanley, Ron Archer, Theo Adams, George and Edna Vandeleur, Alex and Esse Veovodin. Our next meeting is on 5th February 1996 at North Pine Dam near Strathpine.

Best regards to all from Queensland.

Ralph Conley

The following bookings have been made and there are still units available for late starters.

Northcliffe Holiday Units.

Phone (074) 43 5912)

Tony and Iris Adams, Ron Archer, Fred and Mavis Broadhurst, Len Bagley, Russ Blanche, Barry and Olive Botterill, Tony Bowers, Peter and Pat Campbell, Gus and Dawn Campbell, Arch Campbell, Ralph and Sheila Conley, Leith and Marg Cooper, Bill and Coral Coker, Betty Craig, Arch and Dawn Claney, Jack and Delys Carey, Betty Devlin, Col Doig, Dick Darrington, Jess Epps, Jim and Joan Fenwick, Ralph Finkelstein, Jack Fox, George Greenhalgh, Marj Goodacre, Harry and Amyce Handicott, Neil and Margaret Hooper, Don Hudson, Betty Illsley, Jack and Jean Keenahan, Peter Crause, Alan and Edith Luby, Roy and Joyce Martin, Mick Mannix, Max and Noreen Miller, Ken and Margaret Monk, Ted and Peg Monk, Ron and Hazel Morris, Nellie Mullins, Merv. (Spud) Murphy, Jim McLaughlin, Wilf and Lorraine March, Jean Palm, Joe and Helen Poynton, John and Gloria Poynton, Gordon and Joan Stanley, Judy Sharp, George and Margo Shiels, Joyce Smith, Jack and Beryl Steen, Pat Sullivan, Eileen Sharp, Laurie (Bulla) Tait, ~~Paty Thelmer~~, Wilma Tobin, Bill Tucker and friend, Keith and Nola Wilson.

Trafalgar Towers: Phone (074) 43 3288.

Theo Adams, Blue and Mary Bone, Ted, Dianne and Pat Cholerton, Denny Dennis, Reg, Harrington, Jack and Maria Hartley, Paddy and Nora Kenneally, Frank (Curley) and Verena O'Neill and friend, Stan and Barbara Payne, Frank Park, Tex and Bridget Richards, Ron and Dorothy Trengove.

Caravan Park: John and Olive Chalwell, Jack and Marj Peattie.

Private: Bernie and Babs Langridge.

Locals: Col and Jeanette Andrew, Butch and Pat Barnier, George and Bettye Coulson, Harold Garnett, Alan Mitchell, George and Edna Vandeleur, Alex and Esse Veovodin.

SAFARI FLIGHT DETAILS

Following an approach by the Association, Ansett Airways agreed to granting a special return fare to Brisbane of \$569 which is a very good offer. As a result 15 members have already taken up the offer.

Flight details are: Flight No. 1174 departs Perth 11.30 pm Friday, 19th April, arrives Brisbane 5.45 am Saturday, 20th April. Return trip departs Brisbane 11.55 am Tuesday, 30th April.

This offer is open until mid March. Any member still wanting to fly with the group is asked to contact Mr. Chris Bond of Ansett on 334 2444 before the offer expires.

Arrangements for a bus from Brisbane to Maroochydore are yet to be finalised with the Safari organisers.

An excellent publication by Veterans' Affairs entitled

"Dementia – a Practical Guide for Carers" is available to members for a small cost. Those interested should write to National Dementia Care Coordinator, Department of Veterans' Affairs, PO Box 21, Woden, ACT 2606.

COURIER DONATIONS

Ken and Margaret Monk, George Strickland, Pat Costello, George and Gloria Smith, Ted and Peg Monk, Lew Thompson, Jess Epps, Beryl Boast, Keith and Nola Wilson, Mrs A. M. O'Connor, Wally Kerr (2/1st), Alma Moore, Stan Payne, Joe Poynton, Col Doig, Vince Swann, Dick Darrington, John and Gloria Poynton, Val Hayes, Henry and Thelma Sproxtton, Ray Aitken, Don Turton, Verma Nichols, Ross Shenn, Ralph Conley, Dorothy Gibson, Ron Archer, Ron Morris, Betty Craig, Andy Beveridge, Leith Cooper

ARMY MUSEUM DONATIONS

Pat Costello, Keith and Nola Willson, Anonymous, Vince Swann, Val Hayes, Henry and Thelma Sproxtton, Ron Archer.

Donations to the War Museum appeal totalled \$2,860 as at 24th January 1996. Our target for this appeal is \$5,000. Association thanks go to those members and friends who have contributed to this fund.

**INDEPENDENT TRUST FUND LIST
No. 11 to 23.1.96:**

Harold Rowell	\$50
Arch Campbell	\$1000 (2nd donation)
Andy Beveridge	\$100
Warwick Tobin	\$10
Pat Costello	\$20
Stan and Barbara Payne	\$250

Donations now total \$18,785 – a highly commendable effort. The fund is still open to receive donations.

Ted Monk
Treasurer

18785
29 12 96
274785

**MEMORIAL FATUNABA
EAST TIMOR**

For the benefit of members a copy of a letter which Con Sciacca, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, wrote to Senator Chris Evans on 21st December last is shown hereunder.

Since receiving the copy from Senator Evans I have been in touch with Mr. Alan Heggen, the Director of the Office of Australian War Graves, and he has confirmed that the federal government will provide half the cost, an amount of \$5000, to assist in the restoration of the Memorial. Mr. Heggen also said he had been in touch with Mr. John Button (not the former Senator) who is on the executive of the RSL, and had been assured that body are prepared to provide the remaining 50% needed to have the job done. The executive of the RSL National Trustees meet on the 29th February when the matter will be disclosed and presumably agreed upon. While we are grateful that the government has agreed to pay 50% of the cost, our original request was for them to pay the full amount of \$10,500 which after all said and done is not a lot of money. At no time have we approached the RSL and we can only surmise the decision to ask the RSL was the initiative of the War Graves Commission.

Mr. Heggen raised the question of future maintenance of the memorial and is looking to

our Association to undertake this responsibility at least for the next five years. This request will be considered by our Committee. What we have in mind is to get the Don Bosco training centre in Dili to handle the maintenance for us, which it should be quite capable of doing.

The Association is hopeful that the restoration work will be completed this year.

Jack Carey

Dear Chris

Thank you for your letter of 9 November, 1995 in which you made representations on behalf of Mr J W Carey, Secretary 2/2nd Commando Association of Australia, requesting that I give urgent consideration to renovation of the 2/2nd Commando Memorial at Fatunaba, East Timor. I understand Mr Carey has approached other Members of Parliament in similar vein.

As I understand it, the Memorial at Fatunaba to the 2/2nd Independent Company was funded as a joint venture by the Unit Association and the Commonwealth in the late 1960's, and has been maintained under arrangements put in place by that Association. The only apparent involvement by my Department has been in 1994 when the Director of the Office of Australian War Graves provided some liaison assistance to the Association when an AIDAB (now AusAID) project team based in East Timor had offered to carry out some restoration work on the memorial.

While my Department has, seemingly, not had any responsibility for, or detailed knowledge of this memorial, I understand the main features of it are a well and some form of water reticulation. I am advised that a plaque associated with the memorial describes it as having been "given" to "the Portuguese people" and to the "people of Timor." I understand that, consistent with the memorial's having been given to the people of Timor, local arrangements for its maintenance had been put in place by the Unit Association and funded, at least in part, by that body.

It is indeed a matter for regret that this memorial has fallen into disrepair. While I doubt that such condition could logically be interpreted as a reflection of Australia's attitude towards the contribution the East Timorese people made in assisting Australian forces during the Second World War, it is clearly desirable that a facility so plainly associated with Australia should be in effective working order. Under the circumstances, therefore, I consider it reasonable that the Commonwealth should join with the 2/2nd Commando Association and/or the RSL to fund and bring about such restoration as may be necessary to render the facility fully functional. Accordingly,

my Department through the Office of Australian War Graves will work with the 2/2nd Commando Association and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to have the restoration work carried out. I am advised that the cost of such work has been estimated at \$10,000, and I would hope that cost might be shared equally between the Commonwealth and the 2/2nd Commando Association/RSL.

While I concede it is important that the memorial facility be restored to full functional effectiveness, I believe it is equally important that new arrangements for its ongoing maintenance be established with a local authority. In this regard I believe the option of having the facility placed under the care of a branch of the Christian Church is also worthy of consideration. The Director of the Office of Australian War Graves, Air Vice Marshal Alan Heggen will be conferring with the 2/2nd Commando Association and with colleagues in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to establish the most reliable and durable arrangements. While it is difficult to conceive that some level of Australian assistance would not be required in future, I suggest it will be important to engender among the local people and authorities the greatest possible sense of ownership and responsibility for the memorial facility.

Whatever arrangements are developed, it seems likely that if the AusAID team currently located in Dili is to remain on a semi permanent basis, it could constitute a very useful agency in this matter. Equally, it will be important that the Australian Embassy in Jakarta and the Indonesian Government be appropriately involved in the arrangements.

Meanwhile, I am certain the Director of War Graves would be grateful for the support 2/2nd Commando Association as he assumes a central role in the arrangements for renovation of the Memorial facility and for its ongoing maintenance.

Yours sincerely

CON SCIACCA

DECEMBER 1995

R. Smyth
128 Dalkeith Road
Nedlands 6009

Dear Archie,

Gifted are those who can record history in a book for posterity. Congratulations for the successful launch of the *'The Double Reds of Timor'* – what a great title too!

John Burridge and Ross Shenn join me in

acknowledging your most generous gift of \$1000 emanating from book sales.

Archie on behalf of the Trust Fund and all members, our heartfelt thanks.

Sincerely,

Bob

**Maryknoll Sisters,
Aileu, East Timor.
September 30, 1995**

Dear Friends,

We at St. Paul High School in Aileu, East Timor, are very grateful for the hot pink, anti-smoking balls you shared with us through Brother Ephrem. You can see from some of the pictures that the kids enjoy playing with them (they enjoy playing ball, period!) and though they know it's a soccer ball, this day they used it to play volleyball because the police had 'borrowed' our real volleyball and still haven't returned it.

We thought you might like to see some photos of a monument erected in Aileu, commemorating the Timorese soldiers who fought alongside the Australians in 1942, during the Japanese occupation. Many were massacred, and this monument is in front of the cemetery Australians often visit.

Another photo shows Sr. Dorothy McBowen with her class and another teacher, and a few others show our kids harvesting corn, their staple food. We try to make school a safe and happy place for them because so many are orphaned. So again, thank you.

Sincerely,

Sr. Harriet Lum MM

Dear Bob,

Greetings from East Timor!

I have no idea when this letter will arrive, considering the Christmas rush and postal service here. These pictures should have been sent before I left for the Philippines but I was taken up by other pressing duties.

I have received a letter from the group that came here for the memorial service last September. They returned well and fine. The balls of the Quit Smoking campaign were already distributed. A school run by American Nuns in Aileu responded by sending some pictures and a letter too.

When you get to have a chance to meet the old soldiers again, please relay my thanks and the gratitude of the Timorese. Oh, another point ... I am very happy at the result of the course that

Irene da Silva took in Bali. She is doing a good thing teaching the other girls.

This will be all for now. Many thanks and best wishes for all of you in the 2/2nd.

Bro. Ephrem Santos, SDB

INDEPENDENT TRUST FUND

V. PAUST – Don Bosco Project

On Wednesday, 4th January Viv Paust arrived in Dili via Darwin - Kupang to be met by Ephrem Santos.

I phoned him briefly to ensure he had in fact arrived. Viv was unable to detail his passing through Kupang, but suffice to assume it was interesting. It was a point we had anticipated when I approached the local consul to determine whether he could facilitate Viv's passage through the charming people he required to meet at that centre.

Viv's most understanding wife Verna was able to phone him on his birthday (which his companions acknowledged with a party including a cake).

Viv commenced activity immediately. The Brothers had to stop construction of a building pending his arrival. Some most useful items of machinery had not been used because there was no person qualified to set them up. They are now in operation. He was accompanied with two complete sets each of 30 tools.

The balance of 8 sets left Fremantle by ship on the 23rd December. Trans shipping in Singapore is apparently still in process. We are waiting for details of costs and ETA Dili.

EMBROIDERY TEACHER –

Irene da Silva:

Irene sent a most attractive Christmas card wishing all members Christmas and New Year greetings **SOCCER and BASKET BALLS:**

40 each of these are still in the safe keeping of Jose Fernandes in Darwin.

Jose and his son have permanently marked each ball with our double diamond. They are now packed in bundles of 10 (deflated) and await contact (Darwin (098) 275 063) by any tourist visiting Dili.

The original 20 soccer balls were delivered last June by Colleen and Murray Ward.

These pink and white "Quit" balls were widely distributed. A letter of thanks is received from a grateful Nun at a well known centre. A perusal of a number of photographs of the children would indicate one ball shared by over 100

kids. It is also being used as a volley ball because the police had 'borrowed' the real volley ball and haven't returned it.

So many of the kids (who harvest their own corn, their staple diet) are orphans. That the local police should blatantly take their volley ball is deplorable and is surely indicative of the utter contempt that the Indonesian Military have for the indigenous East Timorese.

A certain person should stop grovelling in their presence and desist from, on his own initiative, inflicting on us a partnership with the Military.

Many thanks to all contributions to our fund

BOB SMYTH

Dear Editor,

On Friday, 15 December, I attended the 2/2nd Commando Association Christmas Social as Archie Campbell's guest. I wish to record my thanks to him and the men and women of the Association for making an outsider feel so welcome. What I witnessed at Anzac House was more than a gathering of "independent" company. It was a celebration of the forthright and friendly values which make Australia great and stabilise our sense of national identity.

We are told we must identify with Asia now and become a part of it. Perhaps we will. But, given our dominant Anglo-Celtic origins, what can we contribute in terms of politics and culture? From too many of our politicians the "contribution" is a mealy-mouthed disregard for democracy, human rights, and the Aussie "fair go." They call it "pragmatism," but in reality it is a betrayal of the principles which Australian commandos fought and died for.

At the Christmas Social, the Aussie "fair go" was reaffirmed in the warmth of 2/2nd hospitality to a stranger like myself. It's practicality was evident in a quietly-spoken carpenter bound for East Timor. Its proof lay in the photographs of 2/2nd members standing by their Timorese comrades, and grateful Timorese students with Australian text books. It was clear to me that to be genuinely accepted and respected by Asians, kindness and integrity are vastly superior to "pragmatism" and hypocrisy. So if politicians want us to be part of Asia, the men and women of the 2/2nd Commando Association could give them a few pointers on how to go about it!

To all of you (and particularly Archie Campbell, Bill Howell, Jack Carey, and Len Bagley), many thanks for a really enjoyable and thought-provoking experience.

Yours faithfully

David Hanna

COMING EVENTS

ANZAC DAY

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Assemble in our usual place on
St. Georges Terrace at 9.30 am

March off at 10.00 am

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

March 12
Tuesday, ~~May 14~~, 1995

at 11.00 am at Anzac House

Refreshments and snacks to follow

Members are asked to try to attend this meeting.

NORMA HASSON SOCIAL

FRIDAY, JULY 5, 1996

AT AIRWAYS HOTEL

195 Adelaide Terrace, Perth

Refreshments from 11 am. Luncheon 12.30 pm.

Don't miss this enjoyable day.
