



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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

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

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EDITORIAL

A Brief History of the N.S.W. Branch of the 2/2 Commando Squadron

When I attended the inaugural meeting of the NSW Branch, I had no idea of the wonderful organisation I was getting into, or the time consuming task I would be asked to undertake. Gerry Maley was a first Secretary and Jack O'Brien our first President, a great combination to start with. Unfortunately, it wasn't long before Gerry found his job didn't allow him enough time to cope with anything else, so I was inveigled into filling in as Secretary. Jack (the bosun) O'Brien was a person of the Doig mould and he was a real driving force in getting the Branch operating.

Jack's untimely death from cancer in 1952 was a great blow to all of us. He thought of the 2/2 as his family and just before he passed away in Concord hospital he made me promise to keep his boys together.

Those early days from 1947 until the *Courier* was born were really hard going. We endeavoured to hold Annual Dinners, smokos, picnics and cricket matches, but as the boys got married and began to propagate the species, things got a bit slower.

I would spend several nights a week down at the Gallipoli Legion Club, typing stencils on an old portable typewriter, then another night either at Bob Smyth's place of business or the Hurstville RSL Club, where Tom (Tuan no-grass) Martin was President, churning out hundreds of pages of newsletters, putting them into and addressing over a hundred envelopes, with the result that there was many a night I didn't get home. But in the long run it has been well worth the effort.

Then, thanks to "Bulla" Tait and many other wonderful people in the Golden West, along came the *Courier* and things became considerably easier.

Over the ensuing nearly half a century there have been many outstanding personalities who have contributed a great deal to keep things going, and to name just a few, there were Bill Bennett, John Darge, Mick Devlin, Ron Hilliard, Bill Coker, Jimmy English, Paddy Kenneally and Alan Luby. There has been a hard core of members who have attended meetings and helped make decisions as they became necessary, and to those people we owe a great debt of gratitude.

Organising the first Sydney Safari in 1968 was probably the most satisfying of the many tasks we have had to cope with, and I am sure all the people who have organised Safaris in W.A., Victoria, South Australia, Queensland and Canberra have been truly happy with the results of their efforts. Every succeeding Safari has seen members come out of the woodwork for the first in forty and even fifty years, and this is all thanks to the *Courier* and its great team.

The 1996 efforts of Neil Hooper, Ralph Conley, Tony Adams, Ron Archer, and their good ladies have been outstanding and they can be really proud.

In closing, may I appeal to all members to support the *Courier*, the *Timor Appeal* and the *2/2 Museum Appeal*.

Jack Hartley

Vale: 'Casey' COLLIS – 'D' Platoon, Timor.

'Casey' Collis passed away in Belmont, a suburb of Newcastle, two years ago. 'Casey', a close friend of "Curly" O'Neill and Merv Clarke (Squirt Johnson) grew up in Narrabeen on the northern beaches. As youngsters he, Curly and Merv Clark surfed, fished the lake and wandered the hills rising above the shores of Narrabeen Lake. In the thirties it was a carefree life in idyllic surroundings.

In 1941 he joined the AIF, volunteered for the Independent Companies and landed at Dili, Portuguese Timor on 20th January 1942 with the first reinforcements for the No. 2 Independent Company. When 'D' Platoon was formed 'Casey' with other 2/2nd men and the men from Dutch Timor comprised the personnel of the extra Platoon. 'Casey' did not rejoin the Unit after Timor.

After the war he was seen occasionally by Curly O'Neill or Merv Clarke. He was a loner and a traveller. He was also very much his own independent man. Had Curly not met his sister, no one would have known what or where. He has departed as he lived, a conundrum. May he Rest in Peace.

Paddy Kenneally

Vale: George Alfred FLETCHER

The sad saga continues, this time on 19th February, 1996, George Fletcher, quite suddenly but after a long and debilitating illness which resulted in his hospitalisation at Home of Peace, Subiaco.

Just what can I pen about this truly wonderful servant of the 2/2nd Commando Association? It will be quite a task to try and tell of all the hard physical work that he accomplished for our Association. His efforts alone in our Memorial Area at Lovekin Drive, Kings Park would fill quite a volume. So many years of tender loving care of the grassed area, mowing and edging the lawn, taking the greatest care of the plaques on each tree, then his great care of the signs at each end of our area. The work he did on those signs alone was just terrific, even providing replacements when originals were thieved. But his work in Kings Park was not all that he did for the Association. Whenever his great skills with all tools were needed he would come forward with some masterpiece that was just so right for the occasion. The way in which he maintained a relationship with the staff at Kings Park was of immense value to the Association when it came to holding of Commemoration Services and the staff co-operation when problems arose in the area. The debt the Association

owes to George Fletcher for his marvellous services is of the nature of irrepayable. At least the Association was able to honour him with Life Membership in 1973. He was the continuous Warden of the Kings Park Memorial area from 1968 to 1992 and a Committee member of the Association, again continuously from 1964 to 1992. What a colossal record of service to offer to our great Association.

George was born on 19/10/1923 and attended school in Jolimont and Leederville. He was apprenticed as a carpenter-joiner with Plunkets where he served his time until joining the Army in 1942 and was with the 3rd Field Regiment before he joined the 2/2nd Commando Squadron at Strathpine after training at Canungra served with the Unit in New Britain with distinction.

After demobilisation he returned to the building trade with Plunkets, specialising in the joinery shop where he became a true perfectionist at his trade. He left Plunkets to work with the A.B.C. as a scenery maker when the A.B.C. in W.A. were still doing T.V. shows from the Perth studios in Adelaide Terrace. He left the A.B.C. to join the Water Supply Department, initially as a model maker at their special workshop in Floreat Park, doing models of harbours and weirs. He was very proud of the models he did for the North Dandalup Dam and he also worked on its construction. George was to finish his time with the Water Supply as a very much general hand, doing carpentry, plumbing and even bricklaying where necessary.

George's hobbies were like his work in the construction of things. He was most adept in the making of grandfather clocks of distinct beauty. He loved to work in wood and made many excellent plaques for presentation by the Association to many Councils around Australia. He was also the maker of the famous Calcutt Trophy for sporting events with the Association.

George married Joan Hill in 1947 and was a loving husband and father of Ron, Janette and Margaret. He loved his home and garden and his grandchildren.

As well as the 2/2nd Commando Association he was an active member of the Nollamara R.S.L.

To me personally he was a very dear friend in my times of illness. He and Joan were the truest of helpers to myself and the late Joy. I owe George Fletcher in a big way for all he did for me and now will never be able to repay this debt of gratitude. I really have lost a true mate and friend so I can only say farewell dear George, you were one of the best.

Our sincere condolences and sympathy to Joan, Ron, Janette and Margaret. You have lost a person of great value and a citizen of truest worth.

The following members and wives were present at the funeral service held at Karrakatta Crematorium on Thursday, 22nd February 1996: Messrs Tom Bateman, E. Bingham, J. Carey, J. Chalwell, D. Darrington, C. Doig, J. Fowler, J. Hasson, K. Hayes, W. Howell, Gerry & Dot Maley, Wilf and Lorraine March, R. McDonald, T. Monk, Joe and Helen Poynton, Bob Smyth, Harry and Thelma Sproxton, R. Studdy, D. Turton and Jess Epps. There were also four members of the 3 Field Battery present

Col. Doig

It is with extreme regret that we have to advise of the death of **Thelma Sproxton**, wife of Harry Sproxton, on 26th February, 1996 from a sudden heart attack.

Thelma was a very good friend to all members of our Association and our most sincere sympathy is extended to Harry, Don, Kerry and the grandchildren. May she Rest in Peace.

Col. Doig

Vale: Oscar Keith DIGNUM (Dig) Born April 1920 – Died May 5, 1996

Keith Dignum grew up in the Port Adelaide area of Birkenhead, a port suburb hard hit by the Great Depression of the 1930s. Like all young people of that era he would have learned what hardship and struggle was involved in every day life. Leaving school, he procured a job in the motor industry graduating to Duco Sprayer. He joined the pre-war militia, serving in an Artillery Unit based at Fort Largs. On the outbreak of World War II Dig immediately volunteered for overseas service even though recruiting hadn't even been announced. In October 1939 he was accepted as a recruit in the 2nd AIF and became SX881 Gunner Dignum, O.C. 2/3rd Field Regiment, AIF. The 2/3rd moved from Woodside to the newly opened camp at Ingleburn on the outskirts of Sydney. From there the Unit embarked for the Middle East in May 1940, sailing on the 'Queen Mary' on its first voyage with Australian troops. In Europe took a dramatic change for the worse. The Germans quickly over ran Holland and Belgium. They broke through at Sudan, split the British and French forces and outflanked the Maginot Line. The Queen Mary was diverted to the United Kingdom. The Australians were disembarking in the Clyde as the B.E.F. was being embarked far to the south at Dunkirk for evacuation to England. Dig witnessed the blitz mounted by the Germans in both its phases, initially daylight raids so costly to the German Air Force that it switched to night raids.

In December 1940 the 2/3rd sailed for the Middle East once more, and the Unit was in position in Egypt to take part in the Australian 6th Division advance into Libya in January 1941. By February 12 Bardia, Tobruk, Derna and Benghazi had fallen. Dig and the 2/3rd went to Greece. During a fighting retreat from the Yugoslav border, Keith Dignum was seriously wounded not long before arriving at their evacuation point. An officer ordered no stretcher cases to be evacuated, meaning Dignum. Two infantry men picked up the stretcher and one of them bluntly told the officer 'If he stays you stay, but you will be dead'. Dig was evacuated to hospital in Crete and was later shipped to a British Army hospital near the Suez Canal. They made a good job of patching him up. Invalided back to Australia for discharge, Dig persuaded the doctors to put him on a course to regain the use of his left arm and shoulder. He made excellent progress, mainly because of his determination to follow the course diligently. He rejoined the 2/3rd Field Regiment in April 1942 in Adelaide and proceeded to Cooktown, North Queensland. Transferred to the Independent Companies doing a jungle training course at Canungra prior to joining the 2/2 Independent Company at the end of April 1943. Sailed with that Unit to New Guinea, June 1943 and served in New Guinea and New Britain. When hostilities ceased on August 15, 1945 Dig was in Centre Post, a defensive post being manned by 'B' Troop at that time. On returning to Lamarian on the south coast Dig said 'the war is over, I'm off'. He left New Britain in September 1945. By the time he was discharged Keith Dignum had completed six years in the AIF, serving on three continents, Europe, Africa, Australia, in England, Greece, Crete, Egypt, Libya, New Guinea and New Britain. He fought against Italians, Germans and Japanese. He experienced intensive action, more so than any 2/2nd man in World War II.

Dig married Betty Hoffman, a sister of Ernie Hoffman, 7 Section 2/2nd, Timor, in December 1945. He worked on his father's boring rig for a short period, then returned to the motor trade, working as a Foreman Supervisor with the Ford Company. For the last 13 years of his working career he was an Insurance Assessor.

Dig had many interests, fishing, camping, exploring the Flinders Ranges. He had a comprehensive knowledge of the Fauna, Flora and bird life of that area. He was a student of military history, his interest unfortunately did not extend to studying it from the other side. He was a good family man and a staunch friend. He set high standards of conduct in his dealings with other people and he attained them.

Dig served many years as President of the 2/3 Field Regiment Association and the South Australian Branch of the Commando Association, also President and Secretary of the 2/2 Commando Association South Australian Branch.

SX881 Gunner, Private, Trooper, L/Corporal Dignum, O.K., you were a tough, self reliant confident soldier and man. Te Salutatis.

Paddy Kenneally.

The W.A. Branch of the Association would like to pay a final tribute to **Keith Dignum**, a very fine gentleman who has been a true pillar of the South Australian Branch and has toiled magnificently over many years to keep the Branch in working order. His organisation in respect to the three Safaris held in South Australia in 1968, 1978 and 1990 are a marvellous tribute to his ability.

The Association Australia wide has suffered a grievous loss and practically one that is irreplaceable. A truly great supporter has gone to his eternal rest.

I would like to pay my great thanks to Dig for his help and friendship over many years.

The Association in W.A. extends very genuine sympathy to Betty and family.

Col Doig

AGM 1996

The AGM was held at Anzac Club on Tuesday, March 12, commencing at 11am with President Bill Howell in the chair. There was an attendance of 22, including 'Happy' Greenhalgh from NSW, and the following tendered apologies – Arch Campbell, Harry Sproxtton, Don Hudson, John Burrridge, Ray Aitken, Jack Hasson, Bill Rowan Robinson, Les Halse.

Life Membership: The following were made Life Members – Ralph Finkelstein, Eric Thornander, Eric Weller, who made a special trip down from Geraldton for the occasion, Don Murray, Doc Wheatley and Jim McLaughlin. In nominating the above Colin Doig said all had given loyal and strong support to the Association over the past 50 years and were well worthy of the honour. The medallions were presented by Bill Howell with acclamation. In responding all recipients said they were proud and honoured to be made a life member of such a fine Association.

The annual reports were presented and Bob Smyth reported on the Timor Trust Fund activities of the past year. Gerry Maley was

appointed Returning Officer and the following were elected as office bearers for 1996/97:

President	Bill Howell
Vice President	Ralph Finkelstein
Secretary	Jack Carey
Treasurer	Ted Monk
Asst. Treasurer	Colin Doig
Editor	Arch Campbell
Warden	John Burrridge
Auditor	John Burrridge
Courier Committee	Len Bagley
Committee	Betty Illsley Gavin Bagley
Committee	Dick Darrington, Les Halse, Wilf March, Bernie Langridge, Don Turton, Jack Fowler.

All appointments were received with acclamation and Gerry was thanked for carrying out the task of Returning Officer.

General Business: Gerry Maley congratulated those members responsible for publication of the new address book which he said was an excellent production.

Members agreed that the Association hold a special anniversary luncheon in October to celebrate the 50th year of the Association. Every endeavour will be made to get as many members, wives, widows and friends of the Association along to this function.

At the conclusion of the meeting at 12.15pm members adjourned for a snack and a few beers.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Members of the 2/2 Commando Association.

Gentlemen, I extend a warm welcome and thank you for your attendance. I, as I am sure other Presidents have found, when sitting in this honoured place, what a wonderful tea I have around me.

I am Most grateful to Secretary, Jack Carey, for his assistance and guidance and Delys for her continued support and a big thank you to all members and their wives whose loyal support makes it all worthwhile. To our Treasurer, Ted Monk, who has done an excellent job. To our editorial team of Arch Campbell, Len Bagley, Betty Illsley and Gavin Bagley for their continued hard work with the *Courier* and the new Address Book. To the Trust Fund Committee led by Bob Smyth, for their continued great effort under difficult circumstances. To the Country Vice Presidents for their support and co-operation. To Peter Epps in his work with our memorabilia in relation to the War Museum. To the Kings Park Board for their never ending work with

Lovekin Drive, our memorial avenue, each year. To the S.A.S. for their co-operation and participation to make our commemoration service each year one to remember.

To one and all, this is what makes our Association the great fraternity it is today, a big thank you.

Some of the highlights of the year were our participation in the Remembrance Year victory march and cavalcade concert, also the decision to be part of the Army Museum set up at a cost of \$5000, and sending Viv Paust to Timor Bosco Training School together with tools, to teach the Timorese boys trades, also a great number of books and 40 balls for soccer or volley ball games, and Irene da Silva teaching the girls embroidery etc., and the distribution of 100 of Jim Smailes poems to schools.

Our heartfelt feelings to out to those who have lost loved ones.

To those in ill health we wish you a speedy recovery.

All our social events which have been well documented throughout the year in our *Courier*, were well attended, considering health and age of our members.

Again, to all members my grateful thanks for your ever ready support and for having me as your President for 1995-1996.

Bill Howell

2/2 COMMANDO ASSOCIATION TREASURERS REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st JANUARY, 1996

Mr Chairman and members of the 2/2 Commando Association with pleasure I present a Statement of Receipts and Payments for the Financial Year ended 31st January, 1996.

This Statement has been audited by Mr John Burrigde and his certificate has been appended to same.

My thanks go to all members of the committee for the assistance they have afforded me during the past year, particularly John Carey, John Poynton and the Assistant Treasurer Col Doig.

We held five social funicions during the year:

- Annual General Meeting
- Anzac Day Celebration
- Norma Hasson Social
- Mens' Annual Dinner
- Christmas Social

All were well attended and most enjoyable

The shortfall for the above celebrations amounted to \$372.55.

Owing to payments made on the following:

- Courier
- Army Museum
- Association Events
- Address Books and other items

Resulted in a deficit of \$2,567.46 for the financial year.

Leaving a credit balance of \$9,354.60 as at 31st January, 1996.

**W. Monk
Hon. Treasurer**

2/2 COMMANDO ASSOCIATION INDEPENDENT TRUST FUND

TREASURERS REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st JANUARY, 1996

Mr Chairman and members of the 2/2 Commando Association I have pleasure in presenting to you a Statement of Receipts and Payments for the Financial Year ended 31st January, 1996.

Mr John Burrigde has audited the accounts and appended his Certificate to the original statement which is available for inspection by any member who may wish to do so.

Total donations received	
during the year	\$2165.00
plus interest	\$ 639.66.

Expenses incurred cover the following:

Administrative	
School and Nursing Books	
Sea Transport to Dili	
Advanced sewing course	
Tool Sets	
air fares and insurance	
Total Expenses	\$10,788.05
Total assets at 31st January, 1996	\$ 8,041.83

I sincerely thank all members of the committee for the assistance given me through the year, in doing so I wish to contragulate the Trust Committee and their helpers on the sterling work achieved by them over the past year.

My thanks to you all.

**W. Monk
Hon. Treasurer**

2/2 COMMANDO ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST JANUARY, 1996

RECEIPTS	\$	\$	PAYMENTS	\$	\$
BALANCE FORWARD 1.2.95					
Working Account	2139.00		Government Charges		22.81
Add T & C Term Deposit Transfer	3500.00	5639.00	Rent GPO Box		115.00
Town & Country Term Deposit 1.2.95	8783.06		Postage and Stationary		150.00
Term Deposit Trans to Working A/C	3,500	\$5,283.06	Address Book		876.42
Loan Queensland Safari		1000.00	Capitation Fee Aust Comm Ass		80.00
		<u>11,922.06</u>	Anzac Day Wreaths		50.00
INTEREST RECEIVED			Kings Park Commemoration Service		80.00
Working Account	42.93		Medal Army Museum		22.00
Town & Country Term Deposit	568.87	611.80	RSL Ass Membership		30.00
SALE OF BADGES		10.00	Members Memorials	120.45	1546.68
COURIER MAGAZINE			BALANCE AT 31.1.96		
Donations for year	4676.00		Working Account		2502.67
Less Costs for Publication	5806.03	(1130.03)	Town & Country Term Deposit		5851.93
ARMY MUSEUM			Loan Queensland Safari	1000.000	9354.60
Donation to Army Museum	3000.00				
Receipts	2860.00	(140.00)			
ASSOCIATION EVENTS					
Net Expense		(372.55)			
		<u>\$10901.28</u>			<u>\$10,901.28</u>

2/2 COMMANDO ASSOCIATION INDEPENDENT TRUST FUND

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST JANUARY, 1996

BALANCES at 1st February, 1995			LESS EXPENSES		
C/wealth Bank Trust A/C	4778.45		Government Charges		21.07
Add 1995 Interest	111.04	4889.49	Postage/Fax		50.00
C/wealth Bank Term Deposit			Shipping Pallets cartons etc		372.71
Balance at 1st February, 1995	11,247.19		School and Nursing Books		874.48
Add 1995 Interest	528.62		Sea Transport to Dilli		3107.78
Less Govt Charges	(42)		Advancee Sewing Course		734.22
Term Dep. transferred to Trust A/C	11,775.39	11,775.39	Soccer and Basket Balls		640.00
			Tools - 10 Sets		325.79
			Engraving Tools		130.00
			Air Fares and Insurance		1532.00
DONATIONS RECEIVED					10,788.05
For the year to 31/1/96		2165.00	C/WEALTH BANK TRUST ACCOUNT		
		<u>18,829.88</u>	Balance as at 31st January, 1996		8041.83
					<u>18,829.88</u>

CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

**Mrs E. Sharp,
2 San Fernando Ave,
Portarlington, 3223.**

30.1.96.

Dear Len,

I would like your advice re some photos and a silk Japanese sash that Bill had and I notice that there is to be a museum at Fremantle. Prior, we sent several things over to Peter Epps, amongst them a 2 Commando banner of Kevin Curran's that Glad asked me to place for her. Do you think these few things would be of interest?

I couldn't help but notice the last *Courier* did not contain a Vale to Bill – of course, he was such a quiet unobtrusive person. He chose a bad time to say a last farewell to years of uncomplaining suffering. The last several months were really dreadful for him, but it was such a dreadful year of losses for the 2/2nd too.

Trust that you are keeping well and that you all have a great time in Queensland.

With best wishes,

Eileen

Note from Len: Eileen has been assured that the items will be most welcome and she will pass them on to Peter.

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

Enclosed is a donation for the *Courier*.

Joan and I have just had six weeks up the coast looking after our son's property while they had six weeks in England. We were glad to get home after all the rain, thunder and lightening up the coast.

While in Devonport I visited the new RSL Club. It would have to be the biggest in Tasmania. I met up with two 2/23th Bn. chaps I was with in New Guinea and Borneo, Looking forward to our reunion on the 25th of this month.

Regards to all members and wives.

Joan and Swampy

**P. L. Thatcher,
56/343 Beaconsfield Pde,
St Kilda West 3182**

Enclosed are cheques for annual contribution to *Trust Fund* and *Courier* or whatever.

Hope all is well, will catch up at the Sunshine Coast show, I hope.

Patsy

**Mrs D. Gay
7 Stanley Ave
Ringwood East 3135**

Thanks so much for sending the *Courier* to me. Donation enclosed.

All the best to everyone.

Dulcie

**M. R. Coles
2/29 High Street
Greta 2334**

Enclosed is payment for the book *The Double Reds of Timor* and donation for the *Courier*. Thank you.

I won't be able to see you at this Safari but am getting better by the month.

Love & xxxxxx to all the 2/2nd God bless

Cisco

**Mr E. Weller
136 Kempton Street
Bluff Point 6530**

Enclosed is a donation for the *Courier* and thank you for the address book.

I still have a couple of cray pots in the water in front of my place so I have a crayfish when I want one. Also go fishing in the boat on most days and get a feed of herring or garfish.

Regards to all.

Eric

**Mr K. Blomeley
69/62 Corcoran Drive
West Lakes 5021**

Enclosed is a donation towards the *Courier* which we look forward to receiving.

Unfortunately will not be making the trip to Maroochydore this year but wish you a happy and successful Safari.

Regards and best wishes to all.

Keith and Kath

**L. A. Mitchell
10 Covey Street
West Chermerside 4032**

Enclosed is a donation to use as you like.

Am not keeping too bad these days, still have about the same sight in both eyes. I will make it up to the Safari, just what day or days as yet not sure.

Thanks a lot for sending the *Courier*, it certainly keeps us informed.

Allan and Joan

Mrs N. Grachan
15 Banksia Court
Mulgrave 3170

Dear Neil and all Committee,

I am penning this note with heavy heart, unfortunately it is not possible for me to join the excitement, companionship and togetherness of the Maroochydhore Safari. Your exciting itinerary will surely challenge the most selective. Sounds wonderful to me. I did so look forward to renewing friendships of so many Australia wide. Sadly this is not possible for other reasons. Rest assured I will be with you one and all in thought, prayer and spirit. Without doubt it will be a wonderful page in the book of memories for all attending.

My best wishes to all hard working committee. Great satisfaction and success will be your reward. I shall look forward with anticipation to glowing reports when reading the following edition of our *Courier*.

Fond wishes and every blessing.

Nina

H. W. Bert Price
O.A.M. Huon Highway
Dover 7117

Attended the 51st Annual Reunion of the 2/40 Old Comrades Association over the weekend and as usual got together with those of us who were fortunate to get through to the 2/2nd after the 2/40 had to capitulate – sadly there were only three of us – 'Bluey' Max Miller, 'Swampy' Syd Marsh and myself. We three served to the end of the war with the 2/12 Batt.

It was great to meet up with Paddy and Nora Kenneally in Hobart before Christmas. The occasion was an East Timor Memorial Service which was highlighted by a choir of 80 singing a Timorese song in their language. It was beautiful to hear and brought back many memories and to me was very emotional.

Mention has been made in the *Courier* of Michelle Turner Michelle was a lovely lady and her commitment to the East Timorese was wonderful. I met her on several occasions such as when I gave an East Timor Memorial Address at the Hobart Cenotaph, and when she launched her book on East Timor.

The *Courier* certainly gives us plenty of news and it is great to see it gets so much support. It is always of interest to me to see letters from Peter Epps as I spent so much time with his Dad in Timor – he was a great section leader. Col Doig's Editorial in the February *Courier* gave out many memories – it is amazing how often one thinks back to the days in Timor and those men we served with.

Had a nice letter from Jennie Herrera who lives in Newtown, Tasmania. Jennie has been interested in the welfare of the East Timorese for many years. She enclosed a photo of a memorial plaque for Sparrow Force and East Timorese, set up in Marrickville, Sydney, and came through courtesy of Paddy Kenneally. Jennie told me of a small photographic exhibition (18 pictures) put together by the Portuguese Embassy and can be borrowed for local exhibition. Now I will look at having it in our Dover RSL Club for Anzac Day.

I feel a little lost at times, all my 2/40 and 2/12 mates from this area have passed on and there were no 2/2nd. I enjoy my time as President of the Esperance Sub Branch R & S.L.A. This is my 15th term – plus time as Secretary. Esperance is the most southern Sub Branch in Australia and includes the townships of Dover, Geeveston, Southport, Rameana and surrounding hamlets, and has a membership of 65.

Regards to all members of the 2/2 Commando Association, together with their families.

Bert

R. Martin
PO Box 353
Griffith 2680

To the Courier Team, Archie, Len, Betty, Gavin To all who attended the Safari at Maroochydhore, we do hope you had a wonderful time. Can't say how sorry we were to have missed seeing all you great people once again but God willing we will see you all in Canberra. Can't wait.

Roy and I would like to thank all our wonderful friends and mates who made phone calls, sent cards, letters, and to dear Ken and Margaret Monk who called in and had a couple of days with us on the way home from Safari. After much talking and looking at photos taken by Margaret we felt as though we had been partly there but our hearts were with you all every day from start to finish – we love you all.

Please find enclosed donation for the *Courier*.

Love, best wishes to all.

Roy and Joyce

'Blue' Sargent
134 Simpsons Road
Eaglehawk 3556

Being on the idler's list once again I thought it about time I reported.

Very sad to read of Gordon Rowley's demise. I had a lot to do with Gordon while with 8

Section on Timor. I mourn very much with his wife and family.

I'm just out of hospital after seven days in what to be a slit, snip and stitch but turned out to be a major op. Am on the mend once again and hope to take up golf again later on, or at least be able to bend without pain.

No doubt you all had a whale of a time at the Safari. I'll have to arrange a stay of illness periods for the next one, who knows.

Enclosed please find a cheque for a copy of *'Double Reds of Timor'*. If there's any excess, please direct to where needed most.

Regards to all and pleased to read old 'Col' is still mixing with the best.

Blue

Ian Scott
1001/206 Ben Boyd Rd
Neutral Bay 2089

Dear Mr Carey

Many thanks for your very interesting letter.

I have passed on to Dr. Sean Foley your address for his information should he visit Perth as intended in April.

You certainly have done a great job in keeping your Association so strongly together for 50 years.

Thank you most sincerely for your invitation to join your Association and I can assure you I have great pleasure in accepting your kind offer.

I admire your efforts to help the Timorese over the years and fully appreciate your frustrations trying to deal with those rotten little Indonesian b.....s.

From the enclosed cheque, would you please deduct my 1996 subscription to your Association and if there is a copy of Col Doig's book available would you deduct the cost involved and kindly forward same to me at the above address and please place balance of cash to your fund to assist the Timorese.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Scott

J. Fox
47 Rowans Road
Highett 3190

Dear Ralph,

I am reluctantly forced to cancel out of our 1996 Safari in April. I am having a lot of trouble with my hips and feet and cannot walk very far on sealed surfaces or stand for very long at

any time. I am currently under tests by D.V.A. to see if I need a new hip or whether new foot wear will prevent the need for this operation. These tests will take several weeks, so the Safari is out.

I hope to be able to come up for some weeks during July and August. In the meantime I wish you every success for the Safari and I am very disappointed that I will not be able to participate.

Regards to all up there and best of luck in the coming weeks.

Cheer for now.

Jack

Mrs H. Cowie
2/68 Albert Street
Warners Bay 2282

Sorry I have been so long writing (all old people's complaints) and we were unlucky to lose one of twin great granddaughters, one is still in hospital on oxygen (fingers crossed).

Thank you for the address book.

I have joined a Newcastle War Widows Club held in the TPI rooms and look forward to the once a month get together and our daily trips.

Two years since I lost Bill and I miss him so much.

Watched the Sydney Anzac March, saw the Combined Commandos and the Land Army in which I served. Then I went to Speers Point RSL where a later flag service was held on the waterfront Memorial.

Best of health to all, till next time, yours sincerely,

Helen

J. P. Kenneally
28 Wilkins Street
Yagoona 2199

I hope all and sundry had a safe return to their home base following the Maroochydore Reunion. The Queensland Branch certainly ensured all had a most enjoyable stay in the Sunshine State, the accommodation was first class, the people managing the units went out of their way to ensure our comfort. Howard and Grace George of the Trafalgar Tower complex provided transport to the Unit Dinner and for people going to the airport at the conclusion of the Safari. Congratulations to the Queensland Branch and sincere thanks for their unstinting efforts in making the Reunion one to remember.

I had a roundabout trip home via Adelaide. My

thanks to Betty and Merlyn Dignum for the work they put into tracing me to let me know that Keith was dying. I got to Adelaide whilst Dig was still conscious – very little conversation but a full awareness of each other. Dig died on the 5th May. Our sympathy goes out to Betty, their children, Andrew and Merlyn and their children in their sad loss of husband, father and grandfather, also to Dig's brother Wally, and sisters Vera, Alice and families, all of whom showed so much devotion to their brother and uncle. The care and compassion displayed by the nursing staff at the Daw House Hospice of the Repatriation Hospital of Adelaide was a revelation, no effort spared to ascertain that each patient was comfortable and suffering no pain. Dig's passing from this world was an example of family devotion and the palliative care provided by a caring nursing staff.

All my clan are well. Mothers Day today, so a more than usual amount of communication flying back and forth. Despite all the commercialism doing its best to spoil it in the scramble for dollars. Mothers are very special, the care and love they expend on their families does not cease until death claims them, and all due respects to the male specie, we do not seem to possess the same capacity.

By the way, always look before you sit. On Anzac evening I sat on a chair that wasn't there, consequently I finished up with a fractured tail bone and a reminder for some time to come to heed my advice, it saves the discomfort.

Paddy

**Mrs B. Flockart
Box 22
Merredin 6415**

Enclosed is cheque for my *Courier* subscription. I think the donation was overlooked in 1995 – time flies when you're busy!

Thanks for the address book, it's great – particularly our projected phone numbers.

Keep up the good work. There are many of us 'young' ones who admire you all.

Cheers,

Bev

**J. & J. Keenahan
30 Duncan Street
Huskisson 2540**

Herewith cheque to help out – includes *Independent Trust Fund*. Jean and I have just returned from a three week holiday on the north coast, reaching as far as Ballina. The

weather conditions were great throughout.

Have booked for the Safari, by reading the *Courier* it should be a good roll up.

Regards,

Jean and Jack

**Mrs M. Holder
26 Meredith Way
Dianella 6062**

Many thanks for the address book and the *Courier*. Harry was always very proud of belonging to the 2/2 Commando Association.

Please find enclosed cheque for the *Courier*.

Best wishes to all for 1996.

Maisie

**D. and V. Turton
29/444 Marmion Street
Myaree 6154**

Dear Ralph,

Most envious and disappointed we can't be with you to soak up the Queensland hospitality.

Trust somewhere along the trail you may find time to have a drink on Vida and me.

Love to Sheila and kindest regards to all.

Don and Vida

ANZAC DAY – PERTH

Don Turton attended the dawn service in Kings Park and laid a wreath on behalf of the Association. Don said it was one of the biggest gatherings at the service he could remember. John Burrigge and Bob Smyth did the honours at the Special Air Service Regiment dawn service at Campbell Barracks, Swanbourne, with Bob laying a wreath on our behalf.

Keith Hayes had the proud honour of leading the march and Ray Parry was our flag bearer. Because many of the regulars were absent attending the Maroochydore Safari, numbers marching were well down on previous years. Nevertheless the small Red Double Diamond group comprising Ray Aitken, Doc Wheatley, Bob Smyth, John Burrigge, Bob McDonald and Don Turton, along with two members from the 2/4th, as well as Keith Ray, received a warm reception from the large crowd lining St. Georges Terrace and William Street.

After the service on the Esplanade a get-together was held at the Airways Hotel. The cook turned on a great curry and rice which, along with a few cold beers made for a very

pleasant session. Besides those who marched, also present were Gerry Maley, Don Murray, Terry Paul (all the way down from Kookynie), Eric Thornander, Dusty Studdy, Harry Wheatley (Doc's brother) and Bob's son Neil. Mike Silvester, C.O. of the S.A.S. Regiment, and his driver Neal McNamara, dropped in for a few drinks which was appreciated by our members.

So passed another Anzac Day, our 51st as an Association, and they've all been good ones.

ANZAC DAY – MANDURAH

Due to some members being away at the Maroochydhore Safari, the 2/2nd representation was small. The Unit was given the honour of leading the march and our men were led by Charlie King. The banner was carried by Charlie's son Paddy and Bill Howell's son Ross. The wreath was laid by Terry Rowley, son of our late esteemed member, Gordon.

Clarrie Turner marched with the Mandurah contingent for the first time, having recently moved up from Capel.

ANZAC DAY – MAROOCHYDORE

The 2/2nd contingent, in excess of 70, was given the honour of leading the march which was led by Tony Adams from Queensland and the flag was carried by Tony Bowers from Western Australia. As usual, our men marched in fine style and received a great ovation from the large crowd of onlookers.

Minutes of 2/2 Commando Association AGM

Maroochydhore RSSAILA Offices,
Friday, 26 April 1996

The Chairman President of the Queensland Branch, Tony Adams, opened the meeting at 0930 with 54 members in attendance per book.

Apologies Curly O'Neill, Don Hudson, Ted Cholerton

Items 1. The Chairman invited Ross Bird, a freelance photographer, to speak about the conditions experienced in Timor during a recent visit he made about the anniversary of the deaths of Australian journalists.

2. Nominations for Safari 1998 were invited. Phillip Island was declined by Leith Cooper and David Brown. Jim Fenwick nominated Canberra and spoke about plans for the event, 7th to 16th March 1998. Moved Jim Fenwick, seconded Ron Trengove. Canberra to be the

venue for Safari 1998. Carried.

3. Colin Doig spoke about the success of the Independent Trust. Things are going smoothly, thanks to Patsy Thatcher and the pipeline is operating well. Books have been distributed to schools etc. A young Timorese girl who was sent to Bali for embroidery training has now returned and is teaching this skill. Carpentry trainees are doing well. Col said this is the greatest thing the Association has ever done. More finance is needed however, for training courses.

4. Jack Carey spoke about the Army Museum shifting to Fremantle. Peter Epps has become our Warden and we have contributed \$5000 to the Museum. Our display is housed in the Main Hall of a Heritage Building and approximately 500 people each week are viewing, with even greater potential. We have made a good investment. An appeal from members has generated \$3000 already.

Jack advised of a memorial service at 3 pm on the third Sunday in November in Honour Avenue, Kings Park, Perth.

5. A request for \$10,000 for repairs and maintenance of the Timor Memorial resulted in the Foreign Affairs Department agreeing to \$5000 and the RSL \$5000. The Memorial will be fully restored and Don Bosco College will maintain it.

6. The President presented Frank Rourke, President of the Maroochydhore RSL and Stan Riley, the Secretary with plaques commemorating the 2/2 Commando Squadron.

7. Len Bagley requested urgent advice of changes of address for the Courier postage. Donations are needed as the Courier costs \$1000 per issue for six issues per year!

8. Alan Luby gave greetings from Australian Commando Association and N.S.W. Branch of our Association and reported on the state of health of various people. He also reported on his recent visit to Timor and the Don Bosco College. He congratulated the Courier Team on the address book with larger print.

9. An official vote of thanks was recorded for the work of Len Bagley and the Courier Team.

10. Ron Archer tendered a vote of thanks for the RSL provision of a wreath for the Association. It was beautifully made in the form of a double red diamond and most fitting for the ceremony.

11. Fred Broadhurst congratulated the Safari organisers of Safari '96.

12. The meeting was closed by Tony Adams at 10.30 am with thanks for the attendance of members.

Ralph Conley
Scribe 1/5/96.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT'S SAFARI THOUGHTS

As we walked up the stairs of the Perth Airport to the transit lounge my 10 year old grand daughter said 'There they are Poppa'. I looked over and saw a group of silver tops. Yes, they were, my wonderful old mates of 50 odd years, all on our way to the Safari Reunion. A pleasant flight, a well organised bus trip took us from the Brisbane Airport to Maroochyodore.

One can only congratulate the Queensland Branch for the magnificent venues they chose for our sojourn.

Our particular unit had every possible convenience, plus a beautiful view from the front patio up the river to the sea front. I had the very good fortune of rooming with the eloquent tongued David Brown and our quiet country lad Vince Swann. It took one day only until Vince exploded with verbal diarrhoea and David and I were privileged when we got a word in edgeways. Our Vince was so good he left Paddy Kenneally floundering like a fish out of water.

The get-together on Sunday evening was casual and delightful. As the night wore on, with each tale and each drink I became a younger more virile youth again. Anyway, that's what it felt like and it felt bloody good.

On Anzac Day the boys straightened their backs and stepped firmly for a march past, then down to the RSL where the President blessed us with drinks on the house.

Our excursion to the Ginger Factory and the Big Pineapple was very pleasant and educational and George Coulson gave a good commentary on the bus.

On Saturday afternoon, after a bus trip to the Glass House Mountains and an excellent lunch at the Nambour RSL, I said farewell and was on my way to Sydney where my son Peter and his family live and my dear wife was waiting for me.

I would like to thank David and Thais and Vince for the wonderful companionship and rapport we had. To Neil, Ralph, Margaret, Sheila and all the Queensland Branch, thanks for a magnificent job well done.

Thank you and God bless.

Ralph Finkelstein

**Peter Epps
PO Box 39
HILLARYS
WA 6025**

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am replying to some concerned members of the Association re: the memorabilia currently on display at the Army Museum in Fremantle, WA.

Firstly let me explain some facts regarding the Museum.

1. Some people think that the Army fund and run the museum, this is only partially true, they ONLY supply the building and out going costs, power, water and maintenance of the buildings. All other costs incurred are paid for by donations and door takings.

2. The museum is run by a committee headed by a member of the Army appointed by the Commander of Western Region. The rest of the committee are volunteers voted in by the members of the museum. All of the workers at the museum except for the administrator and curator are unpaid volunteers.

3. The land and buildings of the old Artillery Barracks have been heritage listed and as the Army now has a policy to preserve their history, the museum will be there for future generations of Australians to enjoy.

The \$5 000 that was donated to the museum is a once off amount and the unit will not have to pay for any further costs associated to your collection. The money was used for the 2 display cabinets which cost approx \$1500 each, part of a full size case to display Joe Poyntons Victory Parade Uniform on a life size dummy and the balance was used for lighting, security and the storage of items not currently on display.

Any future costs incurred in the cleaning and preservation of the 2/2 memorabilia is met by the museum funds. As an example, the preservation of one sheet of A4 paper is approx \$15.00.

The display cases are of the highest order and blend in with the theme of the Original Artillery Barracks which are being renovated back to original condition.

Hoping this dispels the fears that some members have, knowing that their hard earned money is being put to good use by allowing your collection to be preserved for posterity and that future generations of Australians will know that the Second Second Commando Squadron holds a very special place in Australia's Military history.

Yours sincerely,

Peter

THE ARMY MUSEUM of WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Dear Jack

On behalf of the Committee of the Army Museum of WA I would like to sincerely thank you and your members for the very substantial donation of \$2,000 which brings the 2/2nd full contribution to \$5,000. With this money we have been able to establish a dedicated 2/2nd section in the WW2 Gallery. We will also be proceeding with our conservation and storage plan with the remainder of the 2/2nd collection. The money will also guarantee continued support to the collection and a permanent home open to the public.

Jack, could you please emphasise to your members the significance of their donation to the continued progress of the Museum. We intend to eventually represent all units in the Museum and, with their financial help, will complete the task in a far shorter time.

Once again Jack you can rest assured that the 2/2nd collection is now in safe hands. Be also assured that this Museum will be making no further demands to your members for financial support. If they wish to donate on a personal basis every so often we will welcome them.

I look forward to catching up with you again in the near future.

M. J. Malone

Captain, Administrator

GERALDTON NEW

Geraldton City RSL Sub-Branch members were ecstatic at the wonderful response to Anzac Day which attracted between 3,000 and 4,000 people to the main service, followed by about 600 marchers, including Tom Foster and Eric Weller, and about 140 marchers at the Dawn Parade where there were about 200 onlookers. Almost 50 wreaths were laid by the old and the young, including 97 year old Vincenzo 'Jim' Constantino who fought as an ally of the British in Italy in World War I, and tiny tot Carra Haynes who was adorned with an array of medals.

To mark the RAAF 75th anniversary, World War II pilot Alwyn Wheat was on the saluting dais with other VIPs and he also read the Prayer of Remembrance after having been responsible for the fly-over by Chris Shine in his restored Tiger Moth.

I had a yarn with Tom and Eric, proudly wearing their double red diamond ties and looking well. It was good to hear that Tom has had good reports on his medical problems.

At our RSL meeting Eric Weller and Vice-

President Kevin Grey were commended 'for having worked tirelessly to create a really splendid display of the medals and other memorabilia in the War Museum Section of Birdwood House.

Hearty congratulations to Col Doig for his fine Editorial in the Association's 50th year. It brings to mind what was said when our former Secretary, Eddie Carbury, was farewelled before retiring to Perth in 1976. He said he had received his inspiration for service from a question and answer at the formation of the Toc-H Service Organisation by Padre Tubby Clayton in France in World War I. To the initiation question 'What is service?' came the answer 'Service is the rent we pay for our room on earth'. Some of you may have met Eddie of Swan Cottage Homes, Bentley. He was honoured with RSL Life Membership through the East Victoria Park Sub-Branch. He passed away in March.

Our Sub-Branch is full of kindness, it has nominated me for the National Executive Meritorious Medal award.

God bless you all.

Peter Barden

**Brief Report on my part of the
2/2nd's 'Carpentry Aid Project'
on East Timor, 1996
– Viv Paust**

The 2/2nd Commando Association aims to aid the people of East Timor, and became aware of a need for carpentry instruction in the Don Bosco Training Centre at Comoro, a suburb of Dili.

The Training Centre is a live-in compound run by the Salesian Order of the Roman Catholic Church. It is financed and equipped by various benefactors around the world. The Salesians aim to help disadvantaged young people by developing skills that will make them competitive with the 'imported Indonesian work force', mainly from Java.

The carpentry workshop aims to pay its way through commissions for furniture and joinery. It is managed by a young Brother. Seven young men in there have had up to two years experience in woodwork and combine production and instruction to 14 or so trainees. The need was to increase the knowledge of the seven instructors and develop their expertise to pass on this knowledge.

The 2/2nd decided to help in two ways:

1. To provide ten basic tool kits that could be

loaned to any 'graduate' for their initial work 'in the field'.

2. To find a suitable volunteer instructor and finance his visit.

I answered the appeal put over Radio 720's 'Grapevine' programme and became the volunteer instructor. Now retired, I had been a manual arts teacher and university lecturer in furniture design and construction.

As there was no chance of my obtaining a work permit from the Indonesian authorities, I was to travel on the mandatory sixty day visitor arrangement – no visa required. The dates arranged were January 3 to February 29, 1996.

Preparation included counselling by Bob Smyth and John Burrigge on the do's and don'ts in East Timor, and my signing a 'no liability' note to the 2/2nd. Medically, I ensured my inoculations were up to date, equipped myself with a first aid kit and anti-malarial capsules and a mosquito net. I also put together a comprehensive collection of teaching materials and had some input into the purchase of the tool kits. Bob Smyth arranged travel tickets and full insurance cover for me.

To save freight and to have tools on hand, it was decided I should take two sets with me. However, excess baggage charges, corruption at Customs in Kupang and the sheer volume of luggage made it less than a good idea. Also, the tools weren't needed for my work.

When I arrived at the Don Bosco Centre I was greeted by Brother Ephrem Santos (an Administrator and Teacher), Father Walter Van Wouwe (the Principal of the Centre), Brother Evaristo (Manager of the carpentry shop) and Father Manuel (the local Parish Priest, who lived in the compound). All spoke English, but that is rare in East Timor. Meal times became the great place for social interaction.

My accommodation was motel style, with desk, bed, wardrobe, radio and fan in my room adjoined to an en-suite. The routine was

6.30 - 7.00am Breakfast

7.30 - 12 noon and 1.30 - 6.00pm Workshop (no work on Sundays)

12.00 noon - 12.30pm Lunch

7.30 - 8pm Dinner.

Meals were served in the dining room and consisted of a wide variety of meat, fish, rice and vegetable dishes, salads and lots of fruit. I was able to have wine or beer when I pleased. Coffee or tea were only served at breakfast as the Salesians don't want stimulants to affect their sleep in their busy and demanding routine.

My washing and ironing was done for me, but for security and privacy reasons I chose to do my own housework in my accommodation.

The carpentry shop was well equipped with benches, hand tools, fixed machinery and portable power tools. However, most required a lot of maintenance. I decided to bring each machine back to pristine condition and teach my instructors to keep them that way. I also worked on the safety and efficiency ethic in the workshop. Over the time I introduced many jigs and labour saving devices to my keen 'students'.

We settled into a routine of two 45 minute formal lessons a day to the seven instructors, with Brother Ephrem as interpreter. The remainder of my time was spent on individual help, commissioning equipment that hadn't been used and generally improving the organisation in the workshop. Preparation for detailed lessons was also time consuming.

I took on a few projects, such as:

1. Fitting out the carpentry and electrical storerooms with built-in shelving (this became lessons in design, construction and jiggling for a production run).

2. Making work stations for 40 trainees in the electrical workshop, including making and fitting 180 drawers.

3. Constructing a heavy duty wood lathe for the carpentry shop.

4. Making equipment for the local kindergarten and the kindergarten at Atauro Island.

Wood turning was a new experience for them, but so enthusiastic were they that split chisel handles became a thing of the past and some of the furniture they produced had turned components.

During my stay I believe we achieved everything we set out to do. The men learnt an amazing amount in the two months and greatly appreciated what was done for them. I'm sure it wasn't only their knowledge and skills that improved, but their confidence and self esteem also. A bonus, I believe, was that the wider community knew of my visit and took a great interest. Not only was the 'Australian interest' in East Timor in action, but it was seen to be in action. The feedback I received was that it was a morale booster – almost a symbol of hope.

I find it difficult to make recommendations for future projects. The Salesians are very dedicated, capable and efficient people. I would rely on their lead. Finance seems to be relatively easy to get from affluent countries like Japan and USA, and I think the limited resources of the 2/2nd may best be used financing personnel with special skills to pass on, rather than equipment and materials.

Viv Paust,
April 1996.

Dear Viv,

Carpentry Aid Project – Dili East Timor

I wish to acknowledge and thank you for your most comprehensive report.

Your response to our initial enquiry via ABC Radio so greatly assisted our endeavours and warrants the highest praise.

You took on the task with confidence and achieved a magnificent result.

I would think that although many days could be full of interest, it could not be regarded as a holiday.

Your visit will have long lasting benefits to all with whom you made contact in Dili.

Members of our Association are grateful and thank you for your voluntary task carried out in such a thoroughly professional and caring manner.

Our thanks also to Verna for the tolerance and understanding during those two months of your absence.

Most Sincerely

Bob Smyth

Independent Trust Fund

From Air Vice Marshal Alan E Heggen AO, FRAeS, Director

OFFICE OF AUSTRALIAN WAR GRAVES

Dear Mr Carey

Thank you for telephoning me today about progress on the restoration of the memorial at Fatunaba, East Timor.

As I mentioned, the Returned and Services League has advised that a cheque for \$5,000 has been drawn for the League's share of the restoration works. I expect to receive the cheque shortly.

In the meantime, Mr Mike Beauchamp, AUSAID project engineer for the East Timor Water Supply and Sanitary Project, has advised that material required for the restoration work has been ordered. Mr Beauchamp hopes to have the work completed by the end of June and has promised me a completion report in due course.

I will write again once I have Mr Beauchamp's report.

Yours sincerely
ALAN HEGGEN

**COURIER DONATIONS TO
14 MAY, 1996.**

Patsy Thatcher, Alf Grundy, Swampy Marsh, Allan Mitchell, Bev. Flockart, Dulcie Gay, Millie Field, Jack Wicks, June Bennett, Cisco Coles, Bernie Langridge, Joe Poynton, Gerry Maley, Dick Darrington, Bob Smyth, Don Murray, John Poynton, Doc Wheatley, Eric Thornander, Keith Blomeley, Eric Weller, Ian Scott, Ron Neuzerling, Nellie Mullins, Maisie Holder, Bert Price, Ralph Finkelstein, Russ Blanch, Paddie Wilby, Fred Otway, Peter Krause, George Shiels, Snow Wendt, Alan Luby, Eddie Bourke, Bluey Bone, Max Miller, Don Turton, John Burridge, Dusty Studdy, Wilf March, Helen Cowie, Roy & Joyce Martin

**Army Museum Donations
– May 1996**

Jack Peattie

**Independent Trust Fund List No.12
to 14 May, 1996**

Michael, Helen, Sean, Gerald Kenneally	\$500.00	3rd Donation
Archie Campbell	1000 . 00	3rd Donation
Patsy Thatcher	50.00	
Bill Gibbs 2/4th	50.00	
Sisters of the Good Samaritan Qld.	80.00	
Col Doig	1000 . 00	
Ian Scott	137.50	
Royce and Audrey Gardiner 2/4th Qld.	20.00	
Arch Campbell	20.00	
D.M. Murphy 2/4th Qld.	50.00	
G.E. Lambert, Qld.	20.00	
Sister Marella, Qld.	5.00	
Jack Keenahan	80.00	
Anonymous	1000 . 00	
Ken Monk	250.00	
Alan Luby	100 . 00	
Eddie Bourke	50.00	
Ted Quinlan	50.00	
	<u>\$4462.50</u>	

Grand Total – \$23,247.50

Some very generous donations have been received of late from members who have already contributed to the fund. The Fund Committee thanks these members for their generosity.

Ted Monk

SICK PARADE

Jack Hasson is critically ill. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jack and his family during this very difficult time.

Alf Blundy is in Ward 9 at Hollywood and appreciates a visit from his old mates in 'B' Platoon. Alf has had a pretty rough time over a long period but is always cheerful and doesn't let things get him down.

Don Hudson is recovering after a bout of pneumonia. Huddy is another whose health has deteriorated over the past years but can still give plenty of cheek.

Dusty Studdy has had shingles for the past five months which has been giving him hell. His doctor has tried everything to no avail. Dusty reckons just as well the footy season is on, which **does** help.

Mark Jordan is recuperating at home after a recent right hip replacement. His other hip will be done later this year. Mark reckons he will be OK for Anzac Day 1997.

Jess Epps. During the Safari, besides celebrating her 80th birthday, had a couple of nasty turns. The latest news is that she was in Cairns with son Terry, having a ball.

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(08) 95371686 (1998)

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(08) 93700224

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7 Leslie Street
Mandurah 6210

TURNER, Mr C.
Clarrie and Grace
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Mandurah 6210
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Syd
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Castaway Cove
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(07) 54749083

ADAMS, Mr T.B.
Tony and Iris
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Toowong 4066
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CONLEY, Mr R.
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(08) 93009664 (1997)

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(08) 82653561

CRAIG, Mr P.
Phillip and Lorraine
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Wodonga 3690
(060) 563008

FORSYTH, Mrs S.
Sheila
76 Marshall Lane,
Kenmore 4069
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37 Shaw Crescent
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(065) 433864
(02)65433864 (1998)

WILSON, Mr T.K.
Keith and Nola
'Glen Lee' Collie Rd
Gilgandra 2827
(068) 472760
(02) 68472760

TOBIN, Mrs W.
15 Beatrice Street
Burwood 3125
(03) 98893666

ADDITION:

Mr I. Scott
Ian
1001/206 Benboyd Rd
Neutral Bay 2089

PHONE NUMBER:

STUDDY, Mr. R.
P.O. Box 112
Bayswater 6053
(09) 3710814
(08) 93710814

COMING EVENTS

NORMA HASSON SOCIAL

FRIDAY, JULY 5, 1996

AT AIRWAYS HOTEL

195 Adelaide Terrace, Perth

Refreshments from 11 am. Luncheon 12.30 pm.

A Special Function not to be missed.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSOCIATION

will be celebrated at a luncheon on

Friday, October 18, 1996

at the Heritage Reception & Function Centre

44 Charles Street, North Perth

Full details in the August Courier

Due to there being no April Courier, some articles could not be included in this issue but will appear in the August issue.

The Courier Team.
