



# 2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

Print Post approved 637597 / 1646

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

President R. Finkelstein. Secretary J. Carey. Treasurer T. Monk.

**Vol. 124**

**December 1997**

**Price 1c**

## A Christmas Message

### From the President

Christmas is that time of the year when good will and love prevail throughout the Christian world. Families gather with friends to embrace in love and warm friendship and all lives are enhanced. Unfortunately, with bigotry, greed and the continual fighting throughout the world, this beautiful message often appears lost. May Christmas bring its miracle to all mankind so that we can embrace in love and peace.

With the approach of the festive season our thoughts turn to those in hospital. May 1998 ease your discomfort and return you to your loved ones. To those suffering ill health at home, may the good Lord help you to a speedy recovery. To those who have lost loved ones during the year, our deepest sympathy and thoughts are with you.

I doubt that any other association has the deep bonding of our family and the closeness and sincere warmth felt by every one of us. When one passes on we all feel a deep sense of loss. It is unfortunate, however it is God's will and, sadly, being in this age bracket means we see too many of our friends pass on.

May the coming year bring many blessings, much love, happiness and very good health.

#### **The Canberra Safari 10th to 18th March 1998.**

The Committee of Ron and Hazel Morris, Joan Fenwick, Danny and Sunny Daniels, Fred and Erika Bagley, are organising a superb programme. I'm sorry for those who will not be able to attend. When we get together our backs straighten, our steps become firmer as our stories become more fanciful and a wonderful time is always enjoyed by all.

In conclusion, the Committee, Eve and I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a prosperous, happy, healthy New Year. May God bless you all.

*Ralph Finkelstein*

## Vale – Charles Alfred SADLER

Charles was born in Victoria on 6th June, 1915 and died on 8th September last at the age of 82.

The Sadlers were a family of farmers firstly in Goomalling and then at Wongan Hills. Of the six Sadler boys, and one sister, Charles was the last remaining member. He and his brother Stan joined the 2/2nd Independent Company at its formation and both became members of 8 Section. Charles proved an excellent soldier in Timor and New Guinea. His brother Jack manpowered him out of the army in 1944 and Charles remained in Wongan Hills virtually for the rest of his life.

Like many of the Sadler boys, Charles was a quiet man but with a very strong character. He was a sincere, honest man and completely dependable and reliable in a time of emergency. He (and his brother Stan) and their families were strong and generous supporters of the Association and in 1990 were both made Life members. Like so many members of farming communities Charles was a keen sportsman and at various times participated in football, tennis, cricket, golf and bowls. He was a keen East Fremantle football supporter from way back.

Charles married Mavis in 1946 and they were blessed with three children – Joan, Kay and Don. They were, and are, a very close family which will mourn his loss for a very long time. This is demonstrated by the following beautiful and loving memorial to her father which was written by his daughter Joan.

### The Voice of my Father

*The voice of my father sighs with the east wind  
that blows across Danubin Hill.  
As the sun rises, peach and yellow,  
the voice of my father calls with the magpies  
on the lawn,  
whispers through the waving wheat and stirs  
the treetops gently.*

*The strength of my father lives in the rocks  
that tumble across Danubin Hill.  
In the blue arc of the sky  
the strength of my father curves clear and clean.  
It beats with the heat of a February day,  
and soaks the earth with a good winter rain.*

*The love of my father soars with the eagle  
that nests behind Danubin Hill.  
When the sky is inky black in a summer storm  
the love of my father lingers with the smell  
of the rain.  
It glows with the white light of the full moon  
on the paddocks  
and settles with the blanket of night on  
the family and farm that are  
the love of my father.*

This sense of loss is shared by every member of the Association who knew Charles and remember him as a firm and loyal soldier and friend.

The Funeral and Thanksgiving Service for the life of Charles Sadler took place at Karrakatta on 12th September, 1997. Although it was a private funeral Mavis suggested that some of his old Unit might be sad at missing the opportunity to say goodbye. Accordingly, the following attended the ceremony:

Ray Aitken, Tom Bateman, Tony Bowers, Jack and Delys Carey, Jess Epps, Ralph Finkelstein, Tom and Mary Foster, Alby Friend, Reg Harrington, Laurie Harrington, Keith and Val Hayes, Bernie and Babs Langridge, Gerry Maley, Wilf and Lorraine Marsh, Jim McLaughlin, Ted Monk, Joe Poynton, Steve Rogers, Dusty Studdy, Don Turton, Roy Watson and Doc Wheatley. Apologies were tendered by John Burrridge (overseas), Mark Jordan, Don Murray, Bob Smyth, Henry Sproxtton and Clarrie Turner.

Another good man is resting in peace.

We will remember him.

**John Burrridge.**

**Mrs M. Sadler  
PO Box 108  
Wongan Hills 6603**

Dear Jack and all the 2/2 families who have had us in your thoughts, sent messages and attended the funeral of my much loved husband Charles, the father and grandfather of our children and grand children.

From us all, our sincere thanks.

With love,

**Mavis Sadler**

PS: We hope to see some of you at Kings Park in November.

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## Vale: Kenneth James MONK 4.8.1921 - 18.9.1997

Ken was born in Cheltenham and went to the local state school until he was 10 years old, then the family moved to a farm at Athlone and he went to the Athlone state school. On leaving school Ken worked on Margaret's family farm at North Poowong. He joined the local Militia Battalion in 1938. He joined the 2/2nd in Timor in December 1941 with other reinforcements and stayed with the Unit until the end of the war. He was a very good and reliable member of 3 Section 'A' Troop throughout the war years, reaching the rank of sergeant. He was discharged in January 1946 and returned to Athlone.

Ken married Margaret in April 1947 and moved on to their own farm in Poowong East. It was very hard work getting established, living in a humble dwelling and they had to carry the milk by hand from the milking shed to the roadway for pick up in the early years until they had a very nice house built later. In the meantime they had four wonderful children, Barbara, Elva, Colin and Robert – a very loving and well knit family. Olive and I and our three children had many a great time visiting them.

Ken and Margaret were great supporters of our Association and hardly missed a function and went to most of our safaris around Australia and Ken served on our committee until his passing.

We of the 2/2nd have lost a good comrade and friend and he will be sadly missed. We extend our deepest sympathies to Margaret and family.

Ken was a good man, soldier, father and I have lost a good mate.

Vale Ken

Harry Botterill

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### Vale: WX11951 Jack WICKS 13.8.1922 - 20.9.1997

Jack was born in Bassendean, W.A., the youngest of four children, and had a close knit caring family. He was only six years old when his father died from double pneumonia and in those days it was a hard row to hoe without the breadwinner.

Jack attended school at Bassendean and for a short period at Guildford, leaving at the age of fourteen to start work. He had various jobs from working for a butcher in Inglewood, a short time at the Midland Workshops and Fowlers Engineering at Bayswater.

Jack joined the AIF in April 1941 at the age of 18 and was drafted into the 7th reinforcement for the 2/28th Bn. After a few weeks Jack was getting itchy feet and when recruiting began for a special hush crowd he quickly volunteered and within days was on his way to Wilsons Promontory in Victoria. On the formation of the 2/2 Independent Company Jack became an original member of 9 Section 'C' Platoon and remained with that Section until the Company was disbanded in Rabaul, so becoming one of the few who served in the same Section from go to wo.

As a young man he was extremely fit and took the rigorous training at Wilsons Prom. with ease. After completing training the Company enjoyed two weeks leave back in the West, followed by a few weeks at Wayville, South Australia and then to Katherine in the N.T.,

finally arriving at Koepang in Timor on 12th December, 1941. A few days later Jack's platoon embarked for Dili in Portuguese Timor and established camp alongside the aerodrome in a coconut plantation. The mosquitoes were prolific and the water situation was grim and Jack was among the earlier ones to succumb to dysentery and malaria. He was so thin every bone in his body was visible and we thought he may die. After a few weeks in the hills at Three Spurs Camp he gradually regained his health just in time for the arrival of the Japs.

Jack was a good soldier and became an important cog in 9 Section. He was well liked and respected for his quiet courage and willingness to accept any task allocated to him. He carried on in the same vein through New Guinea and finally New Britain and could look back on a job well done.

After discharge from the Army Jack found it hard to settle down and his wandering took him as far as N.S.W. After returning to W.A. he met and married Hazel Johnson, also of Bassendean, in 1949. They had the tragedy of losing their first born daughter Robin soon after birth and while Hazel was still very ill in hospital Jack had the sad task of handling the funeral all on his own. They were later blessed with a son and three daughters and became a united family as they are to this day.

Jack had various jobs in the metropolitan area and at one stage owned his own truck which was fully engaged carting steel and metal castings to and from Chadfields Engineering Works at Bassendean. Later on he took the family to the wheat belt and was share farming for some time. Eventually they moved to Albany and, as Jack had a boiler attendant's ticket he was able to secure a job in charge of the engine room on a whale chaser. The family spent six or seven years at Albany during which time Jack was chosen to go to Durban in South Africa to help bring back a new whale chaser. The little ship sailed a long way south before heading for Australia and was quite an adventure. During all these years Jack had a problem with alcohol and heavy smoking. With a lot of help from Hazel he overcame the alcohol and at the time of his death had had nearly 20 years of total abstinence. However, smoking was a different matter and he could not beat the addiction to nicotine which, I am sure very much contributed to his death.

Jack finally returned to the metropolitan area and spent some time employed by Tomlinsons Steel Industries in Welshpool.

As the years passed we could all see that Jack was gradually losing weight and the old sparkle was gone from his face. After several visits to hospitals he was finally diagnosed with renal cancer. By this time it was too far advanced to

treat and he and Hazel decided that he would go home and stay to the end. Never once did he complain or show any anger at what fate had handed out to him. His entire family were of immense support and he finally succumbed to a combination of all his ailments on September 20, 1997.

The funeral held at Guildford cemetery was attended by a large gathering and members of the 2/2 were well represented by Jack and Delys Carey, Keith and Val Hayes, John and Olive Chalwell, Colleen and Jeanette Strickland, Jess Epps, Don Turton, Ralph Finkelstein, Ted Monk, Les Halse, Ron Neuzerling, Doc Wheatley, Dusty Studdy, Tony Bowers, Joe Poynton, Bernie Langridge, Don Murray, Bill Howell, Bob Smyth, Harry Sproxtton, Don May and Tom Bateman.

Jack was well thought of by us all and after a varied and adventurous life has gone to a very well earned rest.

**Harry Sproxtton**

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### Victorian News:

We were all saddened to hear of the passing of Ken Monk. It came as a real shock as he seemed so well at his 50th wedding anniversary a few months ago.

The funeral service was held at Scots Presbyterian Church at Drouin on September 23rd and then on to the Drouin lawn cemetery for burial and short RSL Service. Around 300 people attended which reflects the great respect they have for Ken and Margaret. The 2/2nd was represented by Rolf Baldwin, Beryl Boast, Bluey and Mary Bone, Ed Bourke, Harry and Olive Botterill, Fred Broadhurst, Dave Brown, Jock and Faye Campbell, Arch and Dawn Claney, Leith Cooper, Alf Harper, Bruce and Lorraine McLaren, Pat Petersen, John and Cath Roberts, John Southwell, Wilma Tobin, George Veitch. Apologies and deepest sympathies were received from Jack Fox, Tom Nisbet, Syd Humphreys, Nina Grachan, Peter Krause, George Robinson, Stan Whitford, Alan Luby and all members of the 2/2nd family in New South Wales.

Bill Tucker is in Tocumwal Hospital confined to a wheelchair. He can speak a little and write a little but is quite cheerful and would like to have visitors.

Sep Wilson is in Como Hospital, Parkdale. His emphysema condition has him going to hospital every so often. When I called to see him he was in good spirits – he has a great sense of humour and sends his regards to everyone. It would be good if some of our

members could call on him. He would be glad to see anyone.

Arch Claney had a spur removed from his shoulder and now has his arm in a sling and is a walking wounded and grounded as he cannot drive but otherwise he is OK. Dawn has taken over the driving duties and she is looking good. It was great to see them both.

Beryl Boast has just returned from a holiday in Queensland and she is OK. Marg. Cooper is due to have an operation on her back and we wish her well and a speedy recovery.

**Harry Botterill**

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### Queensland News.

We have had two get-togethers since our last epistle. The first was at Golden Beach Caloundra and we were delighted to welcome Jack Fox and Joan Fenwick.

Unfortunately the weather was not the best, cold and windy, but good cheer, steak and sausages etc. made up for it. The local contingent comprised Ron Archer and Lyn Love, Col and Jeanette Andrew, Neil and Margaret Hooper, George and Bettye Coulson, and Ralph and Sheila Conley.

Winter and other ills resulted in apologies from Butch and Pat Barnier, Gordon and Joan Stanley, Jack and Beryl Steen, Alex and Esse Veodevin, Edna Vandeleur, Theo Adams, Mervyn Murphy, and Tony and Iris Adams.

It was great to see Jack and Joan looking so well and the day passed in remembering old friends and enjoying each others company.

### September 1997.

Our second effort was at North Pine Dam picnic area and this time the day was perfect sunny and clear blue sky. All were in good form and Hoop looked almost brand new. Butch has also staged a good recovery and enjoyed an ale or two. Theo Adams while not sparking on all cylinders was as chirpy as always.

Those on the field were Col and Jeanette Andrew, Ron Archer and Lyn Love, Theo Adams, Butch and Pat Barnier, Neil and Margaret Hooper, Mervyn Murphy, Gordon and Joan Stanley, Jack and Beryl Steen, and Ralph and Sheila Conley. Apologies were from Tony and Iris Adams and George and Bettye Coulson.

Good fellowship was enjoyed and our thoughts were with those members nationwide who are not well and those good mates who have passed on.

We have an update on the Canberra Safari

and Ron and his committee have provided an interesting programme. Hopefully there will be a strong attendance.

We plan to have our Xmas blowout at the Hooper residence on Monday 1st. December commencing at 1100 hrs. It will be difficult to surpass last year's seafood menu but we are in with a chance!

Best wishes to all.

**Ralph Conley.**

### N.S.W. News:

There is very little of 1997 left and I wonder how many will see the turn of the century and have some distant interest in the Sydney 2000 Olympics!

Here it is a typical early November Spring day – what a bonus, and nothing like the weather forecasters said we would have. You wouldn't want to follow their tips on the Melbourne Cup would you! They remind me of a lot of our politicians, only they do get it right occasionally.

As there were only six of us at our AGM and quarterly meeting there were no ballots for official positions and we all remain as we have been for several years, less one Vice President with the loss of Mick Mannix.

Jack Hartley's health has been somewhat of a worry recently and we can only wish him well and pray that he continues to bounce back.

Ron Trengove is another who hasn't been well but he and Dorothy managed to make a trip overseas during the year, and returned without mishap.

My Edith continues to find more health problems but is also like a tennis ball and able to rebound still, apart from her old bronchial trouble she now has some cardiac fibrillation that increases her pulse rate more than I ever could, but we hope, in spite of having nearly 166 years between us, we will be able to join you at Canberra in 1998.

Have had an enquiry from one of my old ambo mates about a relative, Basil Jones, who was at one time connected with the 2/2nd. From recollections and records I mentioned Alf, Merv, Ken (Blue) and Sid, who came to us from Sparrow Force and was not seen after Timor. If anyone has any other information please let me know.

The Grim Reaper has had a busy time, not only with our members, but also with the other squadrons, and we extend our most sincere condolences to their widows and families. Unfortunately, distance sometimes prevents our attendance at funeral services and the best

we can do is a phone call to express our sympathy. With others it's a matter of not learning of a death until some time later, as happened recently with the passing of Keith Waters (we had him in our address book for years as Watters). After learning of his demise through Joy Martin I contacted his widow Doreen, and ascertained he had died on 20th August in his home town of Wagga Wagga. She also told me her address, 5 Bookara Place, Wagga Wagga, phone (02) 69311537.

Canberra '98 Reunion seems to be shaping up in our usual fashion but many of our regulars are hesitant about nominating. From experience I know how hard it is to get people moving, but I urge those who are contemplating being present to **make your booking**. It's only 41 months away! God willing, we'll be there. It's a good programme and may be our last so let's be in it and make it a great one!!

Edith and I were fortunate enough to enjoy a break from 15-26 August. Flying Qantas we travelled to Tahiti, spent two days at Club Med Village on the island of Moorea. Then we went aboard the largest sailing ship in the world, Club Med II and for the next six days and nights cruised around the Polynesian islands of Raiatea, Huahine, Tahaa, Rangiroa and back to Tahiti where we had two days at Maea Beach.

The cruise was part of a package with a reduction for each year of marriage up to a peak of 30% for which we well and truly qualified, and luckily we were able to enjoy the excellent meals and service provided. Even beer and wines were included, plus a variety of nightly entertainment and daytime activities. A wonderful experience which we are so pleased to have done and only sorry we didn't start cruising 20 years ago. Maybe sometime our Editor will have space to print some particulars about an extraordinary ship.

I guess at our ages a couple of days of jet lag were to be expected and that was so. Naturally we couldn't take part in many of the activities such as scuba diving, canoeing, snorkelling, sail boarding, etc. but we found other interesting things do.

Our Timorese friend Alexander da Tilman, was granted Australian citizenship in October, along with his wife Francesca. Welcome as an Aussie couple. Both are keeping reasonably well.

Our best wishes to everyone for as happy a Christmas as possible, and as good health for which you would hope for 1998.

God bless and good wishes,

**Edith and Alan Luby.**

**CORRESPONDENCE CORNER**

**Mrs J. Martin**  
**PO Box 353**  
**Griffith 2680**  
**1/38 Coolah Street**  
**Griffith 2680**

Dear Friends,

Just how can I express my feelings to all you wonderful 2/2 Commandos and wives who I have met over such a long period and have shared such wonderful safaris together and the comradeship Roy and I shared with you all. Such wonderful people.

My thanks to all for phone calls, sympathy cards and visits at the time of Roy's passing. My family and I miss him so much. A special thank you to Paddy Kenneally for his kind words at Roy's funeral. He has won the hearts of my children. Also, a big thank you to Bill and Coral Coker, Norm and Fran Tillet and Snow Went who represented the 2/2 Commandos. Roy would have been pleased to see at his farewell a packed church and a very large guard of honour of members of Griffith RSL of which Roy was a Life Member.

Thank you all so much from Joy and Family.  
 Please find enclosed cheque for the Courier.

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**Mrs S. Forsyth**  
**76 Marshall Lane**  
**Kenmore 4069**

Enclosed is a cheque for the Courier. I hope this puts me in the 'black' again.

I still miss Col Doig's phone calls!

**Sheila**

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**Mrs I. Elmore**  
**10 Cadorna Street**  
**Mowbray 7245**

Enclosed is a donation towards the Courier.

**Isobel**

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**Dr. L. Poidevin**  
**9 St. Albans Drive**  
**Burnside 5066**

Please accept my cheque towards the cost of my being on your Courier mailing list and any other administrative costs. I enjoy reading the Courier.

**Leslie**

**Mrs S. King**  
**76 Bennett Street**  
**Lake Grace 6535**

At last I'm getting around to one of those 'gunna do' tasks. Enclosed is a cheque towards Courier costs or whatever. Sorry about being so long winded.

Yours sincerely

**Sheila**

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**R. Harrington**  
**Box 35**  
**Bolgart 6568**

I have been intending to write for some time but never get to doing it. Having seen some of the boys at Charlie Sadler's funeral prompted me. There have been too many of those funerals of late. One that may not be known about over here is Keith Waters from Wagga who died about a month ago. He was a very special mate of mine. Apparently he had been sick for a year or so. His wife Doreen now lives at 5 Bokara Place, Wagga Wagga, phone (02) 6931 1537.

I don't get to many of the functions nowadays. There always seems to be a problem to get to Perth or wherever. It's one of the problems of old age – one loses that sense of adventure and confidence.

I recently returned from a trip to Exmouth with Terry who is a ranger and lives out where I like to go fishing. The fish weren't too plentiful. I think the water is too cold. I spent a couple of weeks with Peter and Pat at Broome. It was very windy most of the time but we got to go swimming most days.

It would be nice to be able to write long letters like Paddy or Peter Barden and some of the boys but if I could keep writing I wouldn't be able to think of what to write about.

Congratulations to Archie on his presentation from Legacy. He has put a lot of work into that for many years. Hope you are well Archie, I missed you at Charlie's funeral.

Regards,

**Reg.**

---

**J. W. Steen**  
**37 Chateau St.**  
**Thornlands 4164**

Herewith donation towards the Courier. Sorry for having been remiss but getting old takes away ones memory a bit. Only thought of it now because 'Happy' is heading over west.

Best wishes to all members and their families for the coming Christmas and New Year.

**Beryl and Jack**

**Mrs P. Petersen**  
**Savages Road**  
**Road Fish Creek 3959**

Please find enclosed a donation to cover subscription and costs of Courier would like to express my appreciation to the members of 2/2nd in Victoria who have helped me in any way over the last two years since Bill's demise, especially Leith Cooper and Fred Broadhurst for their efforts to D.V.A.

During the Safari at Maroochydhore the following men gave valuable information about a period of ill health Bill suffered during the war which could be very useful in our quest with the D.V.A. I am very grateful to Alan Luby the late Jim Fenwick and the late Simon (Mick) Mannix.

We are managing O.K. on the farm and seem to be getting more rain than east and west Gippsland, although it has been a vary dry winter for this far south.

Regards to all our friends interstate.

**Pat**

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**Mrs F. Willis**  
**23 Gardiner Street**  
**Belmont 6104**

Thanks for sending me Col Doig's book. Please find enclosed cheque. Any excess of payment for book and postage please make a donation to the Courier.

Yours sincerely

**Flo**

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**Mrs V. Hancock**  
**46B Mount View Terrace**  
**Mt. Pleasant 6153**

Enclosed is a donation towards the Courier. My appreciation to the team for the work involved to keep the Courier flowing into our homes.

Kind regards to all.

Yours sincerely.

**Val**

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**Mrs G. Kirkwood**  
**11/31 Gardner Street**  
**Como 6152**

Herewith a cheque, a long overdue donation to the Courier and which I hope will help towards keeping it coming. Always full of news and enjoyed by me and my family, though very sad to hear of the passing of so many members.

Regards to all.

**Gwenda**

**K. Brown**  
**86 Throsby Street**  
**Fairfield Height 2165**

Please find enclosed cheque for the Courier. I enjoy receiving our magazine but am saddened to see the passing of so many of our mates. Still, we are all in our 70s and 80s.

Age has finally caught up with me and because of a bad back I am finding difficulty in keeping as active as I was

**Keith**

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**Gordon 'Blue' Stanley**  
**30 Franciscea Street**  
**Everton Hills 4053**

Please find enclosed cheque for the Courier. Sorry we have taken a while to get around to it but I'm sure you know how time flies by.

All is well here and there seems to be little news. It's quite a while since we went to a barbecue and saw the lads.

We hope you are all keeping well in the west.

Yours sincerely

Joan Stanley for "Blue" Gordon Stanley

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**Mr A. V. Adams**  
**27 Greenwood Lane**  
**Steels Creek**  
**via Yarra Glen 3775**

Here's a short note to help keep things going. Some have probably forgotten me by now. I was in '8' Section - I think with the Sadler brothers, Doc. Wheatley, Jack Sheehan, Peter Mantle, Andy Smeaton and George Thomas.

Sorry to see so many have passed on. I'm 77 years old now and I've got one acre of garden to look after and it keeps me busy. Keeping in fairly good health.

When I came home from New Guinea I got malaria and a bleeding ulcer. Luckily I brought home atebirin and it cleared up after a few attacks. I think I should have tried for a war pension.

Good news: someone at Yarra Glen won the Lotto. Bad news: it wasn't me!

I think we got one pay when we were on the Dili airstrip, and I remember opening a can of bully beef and dry biscuits for Christmas dinner. We moved on to Three Spurs after that.

I look forward to the Courier and feel ashamed that I couldn't do more to help over the years. You do such good work putting it together. Something to be proud of.

Will sign off now, wishing one and all the best

of everything. I'll try and write more often. Best of luck.

**Alan**

**ED:** Good to hear from you Alan, and we look forward to more letters from you.

**J. P. Kenneally**  
**28 Wilkins Street**  
**Yagoona 2199**

Where do I start? If I spent my time looking for a bit of all round good news, I wouldn't be starting at all. We live in the most advanced technological era in the known history of our world, and it is doubtful if we have ever been in so much trouble, mostly caused by ourselves. "Never let the same bump bump you twice" was an axiom I read somewhere, way back in the dim ages of my school days. We are pretty slow learners.

The sad news was the report of the death of Charlie Sadler in the west and Ken Monk in Victoria. Strangely, there was much in common in both men, not only in being top grade soldiers in the same Unit. It went beyond that to the characteristics that formed the make up of each man. Quiet, unassuming, self reliant and competent men in any project they took on. Both men were products of farming communities and were a credit to their background,

Charlie and his brother Stan served with distinction in 8 Section 'C' Platoon. The brothers were so much alike in looks and traits I thought for years that they were twins. Three Sadler boys served in the 2/2nd. With Charlie's passing an era has ended. To his wife Mavis, and his family we extend our sympathy in such a sad loss. May he rest in peace.

Ken Monk sailed from Darwin on January 16th, 1942 and landed in Dili on January 20th, 1942. He served with Company H.Q. at Railaco for a short period before joining 3 Section 'A' Platoon. When the war terminated in August 1945 Ken, by then corporal, was still a member of 3 Section. He served right through the campaigns of Timor, New Guinea and New Britain and was involved in all the activities of that Section during those three campaigns. His activities with the Unit extended into the post war era as a member of the 2/2 Commando Association, Victorian Branch. I was shocked to hear of his death. He looked so well, strong and durable when I saw him at the Maroochydore Safari last year. His wife Margaret and their children have experienced a sudden and sad loss. May time ease the pain and loss they now feel. May Ken be at peace, a quiet, steadfast, reliable man who will stay in our minds until it is our turn to join him.

Life here proceeds, nothing very exciting. I've been painting and when I was perched on the ladder, 15 feet up, I was shivering and shaking so much the blasted ladder was doing a dance. I expended so much energy dragging myself up and down I shed the bulge I acquired in Ireland last year, so the fear, stress and strain did produce some beneficial results, other than painting.

Nora and the family are keeping well. The grandchildren are surviving the over indulgence showered on them. That, of course, is my own personal opinion, not shared by the other grandparent. Taking a good look at grandchildren in general, their style of living, on a never ending line of receiving, does very little to help them handle the kind of world they will inherit.

The storm will arrive with the Courier!

A couple of Nuns I know were over in Timor recently. Education and health is their interest. They were happy with what they were tackling but under no illusions as to the enormity of the task. Thanks to Jack Carey I received a copy of the assessment of the Cranfields project. It was the brighter side of the news that came my way. All you people connected with the East Timor project are to be congratulated on what you are achieving. Your work and efforts have extended over a number of years now. Bob Smyth has had no easy task in his dealings. The people he has been negotiating with make things as difficult as possible. Good luck Bob, the good Lord must have blessed you with unending patience.

Jack and Maria Hartley called in on the 1st October. Jack had been down to Strathfield for heart tests. The result was not good. Jack has had quite a few health problems. He bears them in his usual stoic manner. It must be galling for a man who has spent his time in so many activities to be now almost house bound.

I'm off. Good health, good luck and happiness to all

**Paddy**

**G. Robinson**  
**2 Constable Drive**  
**Kilsyth 3137**  
**(03) 9728 6972**

A few lines to notify our change of address. The years are finally catching up and we have left the hills for something a bit more level. Dot's arthritis and my couple of bouts of bronchitis told us we are not as fit as we may have thought.

Sold the house in Launching Place and moved into a two bedroom unit at Kirkbrae Retirement



Village and settling in quite comfortably although still unpacking and trying to find room for what we thought was indispensable (Ha Ha Ha).

Enclosed is a donation to be used as the Committee may deem best.

**George**

---

**Mr and Mrs L. Newton**  
**274 Kaolin Street**  
**Broken Hill 2880.**

Dear Len,

Please find enclosed cheque for the Courier (long overdue I know). We both enjoy reading the news. Keep up the good work.

Time simply flies these days. For the last two years we have been constantly on the move. We have been up to Singapore twice this year. David, our elder son, is working up there and last year we were up at Seoul, South Korea, twice – our younger son, Keith is working there – and Singapore twice. We really enjoyed our visits to Korea, Lionel particularly found it most interesting. They have the largest War Museum in the world – every type of aircraft, tanks, 'skud' missiles, even a full size submarine floating in water. Keith got Lionel a pass to the D.M.Z. (de-militarized zone) where they went down one of the many North Korean tunnels dug under the DMZ approximately 35 kms from Seoul. North Korea could (can) move through these tunnels with all equipment and 35,000 troops in an hour, whilst on the south side on the main highway South Korea has built huge overhead concrete structures containing explosives (not very reassuring for me, a mother). The American Army Base right in the centre of Seoul was more my cup of tea – 47,000 Americans living there. It was just like being in America.

Seoul is a very clean city – no unemployment and very safe and friendly people (similar to Singapore in that respect). Keith assures us that the haze – 'smog' to us – is dust from the Gobi Desert.

In a very short period of time a country of 'farmers – peasants' has become highly industrialised. Lionel visited 'SAMSUNG' and 'HYUNDAI' factories – huge establishments with beautifully laid out gardens and modern buildings.

Education is very important and it is the mother's job to encourage the children by taking them to extra night classes so that they attain that all important university degree. The two most common languages are ENGLISH and Korean.

Lionel and I have to visit doctors in Adelaide and Anzac Day coincided with such a visit and Lionel marched with a Combined Commando

group. The Commando Memorial at Keswick Barracks on Anzac Highway is most impressive and has the names of all South Australian Commandos and their individual units.

Unfortunately we will not be able to make the Canberra Safari as we expect to go to Korea and Singapore, health permitting.

Our best wishes to all 2/2 members and families for the Festive Season (almost upon us).

Regards,

**Lionel and Elsie**

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**K. Carthew**  
**18 Brixton Road**  
**Elizabeth North 5113**

A spot of news from the S.A. 'twig' of the Association. I was speaking to Syd McKinley last week – he is now living in S.A. He has had trips to the Daws Road Repatriation Hospital and says that after tests he is not too bad, and he intends to be in W.A. for the Remembrance Day services.

I have had a telephone call from Howard Marks (Karl). He has had some medical problems and is waiting to visit his specialist. He said he may go to the Canberra Safari in March 1998.

On the first Wednesday of each month Ruby and I pick up Alan and Hazel Hollow and we go to the monthly Combined Commando luncheon at the Finsbury Hotel on Hansen Road. This luncheon is an enjoyable outing with our wives. Ruby enjoys the company of the other people who attend. Alan is doing fairly well the first time we picked him up he was using a walking stick but last month he didn't need it, so that's great.

I had a conversation with Lionel Newton from Broken Hill and he and Elsie are doing fine in the health stakes. Bob Williamson is improving in health, his problem with his shoulder has been almost fixed by his own efforts. Bert and Sylvia Bache have had a trip across Australia to Darwin, then down the W.A. coast.

The Combined Commando Association, M and Z Force meet at the Stone of Remembrance at Keswick Army Barracks on November 11th for a memorial service. Last year the Vietnam Veterans Trg group joined with us in the service.

All 2/2nd members over here wish all 2/2nd members around Australia the very best for the Festive Season.

I am still considering the trip to the March Safari.

All the best.

**Kel**

The passing of **Betty Dignum** on October 26th ended a great connection of the 2/2nd Association in South Australia. Betty was a stalwart to the Association. She and Keith had visitors from interstate to their home at Seaton for many years.

After the death of Keith, Betty had many health problems, and was in a nursing home when she passed away.

Members of the South Australian Twig say farewell Betty. May you and Keith be reunited for ever.

Our sympathy to her daughter and son in their loss.

**Kel Carthew**

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## CANBERRA SAFARI – MARCH 10 - 18, 1998

### Confirmed bookings for "Oakford" as at October, 1997

W.A. Ralph Finkelstein, Bernie and Babs Langridge, Wilf and Lorraine March, Robbie and Iris Rowan Robinson, Eric Weller, Jack and Delys Carey.

**Private Accommodation** – Len and Betty Bagley

**Unconfirmed** – Archie Campbell, Dick Darrington, Jessie Epps, Tom and Mary Foster, Stan and Barbara Payne, John and Olive Chalwell.

**N.S.W.** – Bill and Coral Coker, Betty Craig, Marj. Goodacre, Harry and Amyce Handicott, Ken (Blue) and Edith Jones, Joyce Leabetter, Alan and Edith Luby, Joyce Martin, Kath Press, Pat Sullivan, Keith and Nola Wilson, Paddy and Nora Kenneally.

**Victoria** – Leith and Marg. Cooper, Jack Fos.

**Queensland** – Jean Palm, George and Margo Shiels, Jewell Soper.

**Private Accommodation** – Ron Archer.

**Tasmania** – Mas (Bluey) and Noreen Miller.

**A.C.T. Private Accommodation** – Fred and Erika Bagley, Dan and Sunny Daniels, Joan Fenwick, Ron and Hazel Morris.

An exciting programme is being arranged by the Safari Committee who would appreciate receiving the following information as soon as possible:

Those who wish to stay at Oakford in a one bedroom apartment and if a two bedroom apartment is required whether or not you wish to share with others. Please book with Dan Daniels, P.O. Box 156, Hawker, A.C.T. 2614, phone (02) 6254 3536. A deposit of \$100 is required.

Please advise Fred Bagley, 7/63 Pearson Street, Holder, A.C.T. 2611, phone (02) 6288 0102, the way in which you are arriving, e.g. plane, train, bus, name of carrier and time of arrival so that arrangements can be made to meet you.

If you have private accommodation please advise Fred Bagley as above.

The organisers would like to know your plans as soon as possible so that they can arrange functions, transport etc.

### UPDATED ITINERARY

**Tuesday, March 10:** Buffet meal at Eastlake Football Club.

**Wednesday, March 11:** Reception at Government House.

**Thursday, March 12:** Wreath laying ceremony at the National War Memorial attended by the Governor General. Medals to be worn. Official luncheon at the Workers Club.

**Friday, March 13:** Visit to the Prime Minister's Lodge followed by a tour of the Embassies and a visit to the Australian Defence Academy plus light refreshments.

Beating the Retreat ceremony at the Royal Military College, Duntroon

**Saturday, March 14:** Travel by vintage/classic cars to an Official Reception at the ACT Legislative Assembly.

**Sunday, March 15:** Ecumenical Church Service at Duntroon Chapel and Mass. Trip to the Murumbateman Winery for lunch.

**Monday, March 16:** 2/2nd official meeting. Craft session for the ladies. Barbecue at Oakford (weather permitting)

**Tuesday, March 17:** Visit to the Irish Club. Farewell buffet at Eastlake Football Club.

All transport has been arranged and, at this stage it would appear that it will be provided at no cost.

The cost of sight seeing trips on 'free time' will be the responsibility of each person.

Some alcohol will be provided in fridges at no cost for those staying at Oakford.

Bottles of a special port will be available for purchase.

Meals at the Eastlake Football Club, apart from official functions, will be provided, on identification, at a discount of 25%.

### Flight Details from Perth per QANTAS

Flight 480 'Q' Class leaves Perth 6am on Tuesday, 10th March. Arrives Canberra 1.45pm via Melbourne. Fare \$592 return. Special conditions apply.

Fare is non-refundable, however by taking out insurance at \$19 per head late cancellations through illness etc. will be covered.

Bookings must be made 21 days before 10th March and paid for within three days of making the booking. Cheques and credit cards are accepted.

QANTAS has advised that if the booking is left too late the plane could be fully booked. It is advisable to book at least two months before (say early January) to ensure a seat. To make sure of travelling with the group it would be advisable to book by December.

We are hoping to get at least 20 starters on this flight. We will be met at Canberra and taken to the Oakford Gardens.

**To make a booking:** Phone **132624** and ask for Rita (it is not necessary to dial 02). Advise that you are part of the 2/2nd Commando Group and confirm your booking. If Rita is not there someone else will attend to you. You will then be required to pay the \$592 within three days.

Insurance is optional but it is recommended you pay the \$19 per person.

Details of the return flight will be advised later. Should you decide to stay on or fly elsewhere it is up to you to make these arrangements when booking.

If you have any queries I can be contacted on (08) 9332 7050.

**J. W. Carey**

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## Holiday Makers Travel

(Flying QANTAS)

To get the cheapest fares from Perth to Canberra the group must travel on night flights, either through Melbourne or Sydney. Following are the times for both routes

Depart PERTH Monday, March 9th at 11.40pm  
Arrive CANBERRA via SYDNEY Tuesday, March 10th at 9.00am. or Depart PERTH Monday, March 9th at 10.50pm Arrive CANBERRA via MELBOURNE Tuesday, March 10th at 7.20am.

The return journey must also be on a late flight. The last flight out of Canberra for Perth is at 4.50pm daily with a stop in Sydney and then on to Perth, arriving at 7.40pm.

The fare is \$519. It is a very flexible ticket and can be changed up to 4 hours prior to departure time. Booking must be made 7 days prior to flight date. However it is suggested you book at least 30 days prior to travel to ensure that you get your seats. I have not given you flight numbers at this stage as they could change. However, the flight times are the

operating times for the daily QF flights to Canberra from Perth.

To make bookings you may phone Holiday Makers Travel between 8.30am and 5pm Monday to Friday or at my home after 6pm on week days and most times at the weekend on (08) 9535 2601.

\$19 insurance is optional but it is recommended you pay this.

**John Toussaint**

**Director**

Perth Central Railway Station  
Wellington Street  
Perth WA. GPO Box B55,  
Perth WA 6838

Telephone (08) 9421 1220 or (08) 9326 2747.

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On Tuesday, October 7th, 41 members met at the Army Museum of Western Australia in Fremantle on a beautiful Spring morning with an azure blue, smog free sky. We were delighted to see several who had travelled great distances to be there, namely Eric and Twy Smyth from Busselton, Eric Weller from Geraldton and the Greatest! Happy Greenhalgh from N.S.W. Thirteen arrived by coach from Mandurah. Thanks chaps – you're a terrific team,

Mick Malone opened proceedings with a 1939-45 wartime video. It was great to see the young, tall, lean, fit, athletic soldiers. It's hard to believe we were at least as fit as them once.

Jack Carey asked me to make a presentation of our double diamond badge to Les and Verna Cranfield. These two dinky di, wonderful people unselfishly devoted an enormous amount of their time to assist the Timorese in innumerable ways. Receiving the badge is a great honour and Les and Verna are more than deserving recipients. Bob Smyth then presented them with a delightful plaque and explained a little of what the Trust Fund has done to raise \$22,000. Out of this money five shipments of goods were sent to Bishop Carlos XB Belo (Nobel Peace Prize) of the Don Bosco Brotherhood, for distribution. Materials sent were 13,500 used school text books, 400 used nursing text books, 300 used trade books (7 trades), 20 ex-army tents for girl guides and boy scouts, 100 basket and soccer balls, 22 used sewing machines, 13 new knitting machines, \$1,746 worth of corn and vegetable seeds. In addition, a total of 14 shipping pallets of used, but still useable office items – typewriters, computers, copiers, tape recorders and Gestetners etc. were also sent. This is a brief run down on the wonderful job Bob and his Committee have done.

We were then able to wander through the World War II section which was very interesting, however, when we came to the 2/2 display showing the gear we used plus some we captured, I believe it was as good as any there. Bill Haskell showed us the horrors of life as a P.O.W. The life-like plastic models of prisoners with cholera, tropical ulcers etc. was sickening. He exhibited and explained some of the items Dr. 'Weary' Dunlop improvised from rubbish to innovate life saving equipment. His success rate was 65%, a remarkable feat considering he received no medical aid or supplies from the Japanese.

We had a sumptuous BBQ lunch of steak, salads and a long beer etc. Eric Smythe spent some time looking for his name on a captured Japanese flag. "Hey Finky, here's yours!" Eve and I looked and, sure enough there it was, badly faded after 50 years, but still visible, it sat just above Eric's name.

Here's a good one I would like to tell you about my friend Ikey. He had a frightful row with his wife Rachel one morning. As he walked out the door he said "Anyway, you're not much good in bed, so there." After he cooled down he thought what a terrible thing to say to your wife. He tried all day to ring her but she was not to be found. On his way home he bought a bunch of beautiful roses and as he handed them to her he said "Darling. I hope I didn't upset you too much this morning with what I said." She replied "As a matter of fact you did and I was so devastated I went out and got a second opinion."

Now, back to the Museum. After lunch Peter French took us below to view a 1914-18 type trench. He pointed out that it was completely authentic in every way except for the filthy, stinking slush (at times knee deep), enormous rats and the overpowering stench of dead bodies lying close by. He displayed how trenches were hedge hopped and interchangeable with both Allied and German troops, periodically displacing each other as a result of forward thrusts.

We thank Captain Sandy Hay, Don Hall, Cath Properjohn, Adrian Blacker, Bill Haskell and Peter French for a very informative and pleasant day.

In conclusion I would like to thank all of my friends who supported me on my success in becoming President. I'm especially grateful to Alan for the 'Commando News.'

Looking forward to seeing you all in Canberra. God Bless.

**Ralph Finkelstein**

## COMMEMORATIVE SPEECH

by the President, Ralph Finkelstein

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, valued friends of the SAS regiment. As we gather together here at this delightful living memorial it is my privilege to welcome you all to the 49th commemoration service for the 52 of our mates who fell in action.

Under normal circumstances the death of a friend brings with it the grief of loss. The grief is softened, however by the knowledge that the ones we mourn for lived a full span with all the experiences which life has to offer. Friendship brings with it the joy of sharing the good and the bad, the setbacks and the victories. Through enduring friendships we witness the exciting achievements of the technological age in which we live. All this is part of the fulfilment of life.

In solemn reverence we think of our comrades who paid the supreme sacrifice in the islands off our northern shores. They were deprived of the opportunity to live their full span. Theirs was but a brief innings cut short by the cruel fortunes of war. Their ages are emblazoned on the plaques that bear mute testimony to their youth. "Greater love hath no man than to lay down his life for a friend!" To the relatives of the fallen who have suffered deep personal loss we extend our sincere and heartfelt sympathy.

It is fitting that we should also remember those members of our unit who have given the supreme sacrifice since 1945. The herculean task of the Timor, New Guinea and New Britain campaigns has taken its steady toll. Through the activities of this Association we have grown to know them for the fine men that they were. We are much poorer for their passing. They were part of the Aussies of yesteryear, hard working and rough, but fair dinkum. You could rely on the shake of a hand or the giving of his word. They built a true and emancipated Australia for future generations.

With the passing of so many of our members, now totalling over 300 since 1945, and the resulting depletion of our ranks it is most important we receive your continued support for this is our most important service. We have set a firm date of the 3rd Sunday in November of each year for this solemn occasion. There will come a time when you, the friends of the Association, along with hopefully the S.A.S. regiment, will also be called upon to conduct this service. This may not be for some years yet, but that time will surely come. So I appeal to you all to set aside this commemorative afternoon in November in the years ahead.

It is now 52 years since the cessation of the hostilities of World War 2, but the world is still troubled by bigotry, greed, racism and

genocide. Even here in Australia there is the constant reality of racial disharmony, youth unemployment and drug related violence. And yet we live in the land of great opportunity. There is none of the real hunger or social injustice seen in other corners of the world. In many respects we can look forward to the future with optimism. A large proportion of our youth is intelligent, confident and possesses great drive. They know where they are going.

In reality it is fascinating to view the terrific technical advances made since the 1940's. Who would have thought when we returned from war that in a few short years we would be sitting in our lounge rooms watching man walk on the moon? If such enormous steps can be taken in technology, why can't we refrain from greed, bigotry and racism. Why can't we live by the axiom to do unto others as you expect them to do unto you? Not just for the Christmas season, but always, so that we have the hope that we have fought our last war. Then our mates will not have died in vain.

Following the unlawful annexation by Indonesia of East Timor in December 1975 and the subsequent slaughter of many people of all ages, we as an Association had hoped with the passing of time that things would eventually settle down and Indonesia having conquered that very small country would then make an effort to win over the East Timorese people by treating them fairly and giving them at least some form of autonomy in order that they could run their own affairs. Sadly this has not happened. The Military has maintained an iron grip on the situation for 22 years now and their callous and brutal treatment of the indigenous people, particularly the young, has brought about many deaths and resulted in a climate of fear permeating throughout the country. This is a shocking indictment of Indonesian rule. The Association has made approaches to respective Australian Governments over the years, but to no avail – something our leaders cannot be proud of.

The only bright note has been the success, albeit in a small way, of the trust fund in recent years due mainly to the untiring efforts of our trust chairman Bob Smythe assisted by John Burrridge, Ross Shenn, Keith Hayes and others. The 2/2nd has succeeded in bringing some joy to the hearts of these unfortunate people. The contribution made by Viv and Verna Paust in 1996 and Les and Verna Cranfield this year has resulted in many young Timorese having their confidence restored and given them hope for the future. We are all grateful to Viv, Verna, Les, Verna, Bob and his committee for their enormous efforts.

It is very pleasing to see such a good attendance of our widows, country members, friends and the young people in particular.

Thank you for your help over so many years thus allowing us to meet here today to pay tribute to those that have gone to God's rest.

Our most sincere thanks to the S.A.S. regiment for joining us today. Your presence here has added lustre to this special occasion.

Finally I must thank you all for being wonderful people and attending today's service. Thankyou and God Bless.

**The Commemoration Service** held in Lovekin Drive, Kings Park on Sunday, November 16, a perfect Spring day, was well attended by members, wives, families and friends. The men marched in their usual fine style and received a great ovation from all present. The S.A.S.R. provided a catafalque party for the service and invited everyone to their Sergeants Mess at Campbell Barracks for refreshments. As usual, we were made very welcome.

Whilst in Canberra recently Tom Foster obtained a copy of a painting 'Ambush at Nunamogue' by Charles Bush, had it framed and presented it to the S.A.S.

On behalf of Mrs Hazel Wicks, Jack Carey presented a Japanese flag souvenier by her late husband Jack and signed by many members during the New Guinea campaign. Both of these items will be displayed in the S.A.S. Museum.

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**Visit to East Timor by  
AESOP Volunteers  
Les and Verna Cranfield  
February 26 - August 23, 1997  
Assessment at end of Project**

Added to the originally set goals Mr. Les was very useful to the institution in many other practical ways, like furniture making and interior decorations etc. Mr. and Mrs. Les have won the hearts of all those they have come into contact with in Timor. They have been good ambassadors of love, sacrifice and hard work to the students and the people around here. Their patience and love for the poor won them many friends in Timor. While we remain indebted to them and to AESOP for what has been achieved we request AESOP to send Mr Les and his wife once more in October or November to follow up what has been demonstrated and help the agricultural school to be on their own feet. We would appreciate if you could help us with planning and establishing some small business projects for school drop out unemployed youths. I think Mr. Les would be able to enlighten you about this.

Let me congratulate AESOP for spotting these two great ambassadors of Australia. They have

done to the Timorese what many governments and agencies are trying to do. They have stood by and shared with the suffering Timorese, encouraged them, and given them some hope and self respect. This is much more than mere economic or agricultural development. Thanking you,

**Fr. Jose Vataparambil**  
(Director Fuiloro Mission)

**N.B.:** We are very grateful and greatly happy for the inspiring presence of Mrs. Annie among our Timorese young girls. She did not only teach them the skills in sewing and do it to perfection but has instilled in each one a profound sense of self confidence, dedication and love for work and a joyful outlook in life. The language has not been a barrier for she has an incredible knack of communicating. She has deeply touched and inspired our girls. She is the kind of person our Timorese youth needs.

**Sr. Maria Fe C.**

### **Repeat Visit for 3 months end October 1st Week November**

We believe consideration of their return at this time should have priority over any other East Timor project such as welding instructor. The older remaining indigenous population are familiar with starvation conditions and as there is no government welfare the question of food can be a frequent concern. The average villager does not starve but lives on a daily diet of boiled corn and rice, supplemented with pumpkin and amaranthus leaves and any broad leafed plant including certain grasses. Verna says that in her six months visiting villages she did not experience at any time the smell of food cooking.

The Cranfields are extremely hard working and are totally dedicated to their project in which they have achieved most encouraging results.

Members of our Association are grateful for the support AESOP has given to date to the indigenous East Timorese,

**R. N. Smyth**  
Independent Trust

25th September, 1997

The Manager AESOP Ltd., A.C.T.

We acknowledge and thank you for your advice that your organisation has approved the return of volunteers Les and Verna Cranfield to East Timor for a further three months project.

7th November, 1997.

I was joined by Keith and Val Hayes in farewelling Les and Verna at Perth Airport on the 3rd November. They return on the 3rd February, 1998.

**Bob Smyth**

### **Brief Report by Les Cranfield**

Fuiloro is where all our work was taking place. Verna was working at the convent 3/4 kms away. Over the six months Verna had four different sewing classes at Fuiloro. She also had to go back to Dili and teach for a week at Comoro, and also to Vonilale for a week. She was supposed to go back but instead they brought the girls to Fuiloro for a month. It was better that way because the electric power only comes on around 4.30 and then off again around 9.00pm. Verna's days were long, usually between 12-16 hours per day.

I am pleased to say now that if I want a paddock ploughed up I don't have to go and watch them because I know they will do it right for me.

We have achieved something already and it is that for the first time they have been able to have two crops of corn from November to mid August plus a crop of beans. The increase in yields was quite good but I think it could be a bit better yet.

Our six months in East Timor has been the most satisfying project anyone could wish for. We have made many friends with the Timorese people, they are very poor yet very happy people. We feel a great deal for the Timorese people and only hope we can help them in any way we can, for only God knows just how much help they need.

**Les and Verna**

### **2/2 Commando Squadron Timor New Guinea New Britain**

**Presented to Volunteers  
LES and VERNA Cranfield**

**in appreciation of their selfless, dedicated and invaluable contribution on the Island of East Timor, February – August 1997, to the health and welfare of the indigenous East Timorese people. A severely disadvantaged and oppressed people, whose loyal support was a critical factor to the Company's success in resisting the Japanese in the Pacific War 1941-45.**

**Robert N. Smyth**  
Chairman of Trustees  
Independent Trust Fund

**John W. Carey**  
Hon. Secretary  
2/2 Commando  
Association of  
Australia

Dear Bob,

We wish to thank the 2/2 Commando Association and their wives for inviting us to the Army Barracks and barbecue lunch.

The presentation of the certificate and most especially the Double Diamond Badge, was overwhelming. To be so privileged is a humbling experience. Thank you all. We will not let you down.

We do not honestly think you folk realise the pleasure this work gives us and how grateful we are to have been nominated to AESOP by 2/2 Commandos. Thank you.

Sincerely

**Verna and Les Cranfield**

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On Wednesday, October 29th, Les and Verna were farewelled at lunch at the Fremantle Fishing Club by Jack and Delys Carey, John Burridge, Don Turton, Bob and Margaret Smyth.

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### 2/2 Commando's memorial restored

The 2/2nd Commando Company Memorial at Fatunaba in East Timor has recently been restored.

The memorial was dedicated on April 13, 1969 as a symbol of gratitude to the East Timorese people for the courageous assistance given to Australian troops during WWII.

The Memorial – a children's wading pool drinking fountain and shelter – features a commemorative plaque recognising the history behind its creation.

Last year, in response to a request by the 2/2nd Commando Association of Australia, the Office of Australian War Graves (OAWG) arranged the repair work needed on the memorial.

The OAWG enlisted the help of personnel from the East Timor Water Supply and Sanitation Project, an AUSAID initiative, to act as the in country project managers for the repairs.

The repairs, jointly funded by the Returned and Services League of Australia and the OAWG, are now complete.

The 2/2nd Commando Association has engaged the services of the Don Bosco Institute in East Timor to carry out routine maintenance to ensure the Memorial remains an asset to the people of East Timor.

Director of The OAWG, Air Vice-Marshal Alan Heggen, said that the project received "invaluable assistance from Mike Beauchamp of the East Timor Water Supply and Sanitation Project, and personnel from the Australian Embassy in Jakarta."

### Ross Shenn retires as Trustee of 2/2nd Independent Trust.

At the conclusion of the 5-year term which Ross accepted in June 1992, regrettably he has retired his position due to home considerations.

The Association and John Burridge join me in thanking Ross for his invaluable counsel and express best wishes to him and Beth. We are pleased to welcome Keith Hayes who has agreed to fill the vacancy. Keith has been most active in supporting our effort. He recently obtained two sewing machines required by Dili and forwarded them by air – all at his own expense. Thanks Keith and Val.

### Altimeter \$354.

This instrument is required by Fuiloro for measurement of water levels. Les Cranfield procured and is delivering his own cost.

**Bob Smyth. Bro. Ephrem Santos is in Rome for 6 months.**

6.11.1997

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### Sick Parade: 10.11.97

**Jack Fowler** had a stint in the Geraldton and Fremantle Hospitals following the removal of an infected gall bladder. Jack, who will be 86 next April, is back at the Lady Brand Lodge in Three Springs and would welcome calls from his old mates. His phone number is (08) 9954 1106.

**Jessie Epps** recently returned home from her trip to Scotland where she met up with her many relatives of the McLeod Clan and she has succumbed to singles, on top of which she caught the flu. Jessie has a resilient make up and no doubt will be up and about soon.

**Wilf March** has had a run of outs in the health stakes. Wilf is slowly coming good and accepts these set backs as part of getting old.

**Harry Sproxtton** recently spent some time in Hollywood Hospital. He is on the mend but is restricted by his illness.

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Word has been received from Victoria of the death of **George Veitch** who passed away suddenly late in October. A Vale for George will appear in the next Courier.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Dot and the family.

Also we send our sympathy to the family of Alastair MacLachlan who passed away on the 8th November, 1997.

## A FEW WORDS FROM THE EDITOR

As 1997 draws to a close I thank you all for your letters, phone calls and regular donations, without which the Courier could not survive.

I urge you to notify us if you have a change of address. Australia Post charges us for each Courier which is returned and of course no further editions are sent to that address. If you wish to receive the Courier, **let us know your current address and phone number.**

**Christmas Greetings, Good Health and Happiness to everyone from**

**Len and Betty**

May you write many letters to us in 1988!

## Address Book changes

STUDDY, Mr. R. 'Dusty'  
777 Winifred Rd  
Bayswater 6053  
(08) 9371 0814

Serials Section Library and  
Information Service of W.A.  
Alexander Library Building  
Perth Cultural Centre  
Perth 6000

NEWTON Mr. L.  
Lionel and Elsie  
274 Kaolin Street  
Broken Hill 2880  
New phone No. (08) 8087 3060

ROBINSON Mr G.  
George and Dot  
2 Constable Drive  
Kilsyth 3137  
(03) 9728 6992

FOWLER, Mr. J.  
John  
PO Box 80  
Three Springs 6519  
(08) 9954 1106

Victoria Commando Association,  
PO Box 81  
Ashburton 3147

## Additions:

Mr. R. Neuzerling  
Ron  
11/4 Bedingfeld Road  
Pinjarra 6208  
(08) 9531 3321

WILLIS Mrs F.  
Flo  
23 Gardiner Street  
Belmont 6104  
(08) 9277 5503

Mr. H.G. Marks  
Howard  
4/9 Belt Street  
Walkerville 5081  
(08) 8344 3963

Mrs D. Waters  
Doreen  
5 Bookara Place  
Wagga Wagga 2650  
(02) 6931 1537

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Sheila Forsyth, Isobel Elmore, Leslie Poidevin, Sheila King, Pat Petersen, Flo Willis, Val Hancock, Gwenda Kirkwood, Keith Brown, Gordon and Joan Stanley, Joyce Martin and family, Alan Adams, Ralph Conley, Jack and Beryl Steen, Mavis Sadler, Reg. Harrington, George and Dot Robinson, Lionel and Elsie Newton, Tony Adams, Verna Bingham, Ray Cole, Tom Bateman, Albie Friend, Eric and Twy Smyth, Paddy and Nora Kenneally, Jessie Epps, Vince Swann, Russ Blanch, Peter Kraus, George and Gloria Smith, Eric Weller.