



# **2/2 COMMANDO COURIER**

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

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

**Vol. 122**

**MAY 1997**

**Price 1c**

## **COMING EVENTS**

### **NORMA HASSON DAY**

**Friday, July 11th**

**Terrace Hotel, 195 Adelaide Terrace, Perth**  
(Formerly Airways Hotel)

Refreshments from 11.00am, Luncheon 12.30pm.

## **COMMEMORATION SERVICE**

Lovekin Drive, Kings Park

**Sunday, November 16th at 3.00pm**

LEST WE FORGET

## **CHRISTMAS SOCIAL**

### **MANDURAH RSL HALL**

22 Third Avenue Mandurah

**Friday, December 5th**

Refreshments from 11.00am, Luncheon 12.30pm

*This is a special function – do come along and enjoy.  
Please wear your name tags.*

## **1998 SAFARI – CANBERRA**

**March 10 - 18 inclusive**

Refer February Courier for Proposed Programme.  
Future Couriers will contain more details.

**Vale: VX60067 ROY MARTIN**  
**9.12.1922 - 10.2.1997**

Roy was born in Footscray, Victoria, the eldest of nine children. The family returned to Wodonga where Roy grew up. He left school at 13 years of age, like so many of his generation, a victim of the great depression. His first job was as a drover's boy travelling the stock routes of western N.S.W. and Victoria. He experienced hardship, isolation and loneliness.

Roy also developed a sense of optimism and humour, all were to stand him in good stead during his army service in World War II. He joined the A.I.F. in May 1941, was discharged on medical grounds and re-enlisted 7th August, 1941 and volunteered for the Independent Companies. He trained at Foster, sailed from Darwin on January 16th, 1942 for Timor, a member of the first reinforcements for No. 2 Independent Company and landed in Dili, Portuguese Timor on January 20th. A short stay at Three Spurs, then on to Railaco to set up Company H.Q. The Japanese landed a month later and by then Roy was seriously ill. I saw him in Same in April 1942. The strapping 13 stone six footer was reduced to six stone of skin and bone. I thought he was dying. Roy Martin didn't die, he was too tenacious and determined for that. With the help of the Portuguese male nurse in Same he fought his way back to good health. After the August push he and another man were detailed to bring badly needed ammunition to 'B' Platoon at Fatumaquerec. This entailed passing through an area swarming with rebels and pro Japanese Timorese. His companion developed 'sickness' and turned back. Roy kept going on his own and delivered the ammunition. 'Bull' Laidlaw liked what he saw, kept him in 'B' Platoon and posted him to 4 Section. Roy saw the rest of the Timor campaign and the New Guinea and New Britain campaigns out in 4 Section. When the Unit was disbanded in Rabaul in February 1946, Roy was sent to the 13th small ships. He served with that Unit until he was sent home for discharge from the Army on 22nd March, 1946.

He went to work in a munitions factory near Albury. He met and married Joyce on 18th January, 1947. They had two children, Geoffrey and Lynette. Ten years in Wodonga and he joined his friend Alf Hodge in Griffith, working as a shearer for Alf, and the family settled down in Griffith. Roy and Joyce celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on January 18th, 1997 surrounded by their family, grand children and a great grand son. He was then seriously ill. I saw him a week after the celebrations and we talked of the days that are gone, he knew quite well that this time there was no recovery. He wished to be remembered to the men he knew in the 2/2nd

and apologised for not being able to attend the reunion at Maroochydoore. The church was full for his burial service. The Griffith R.S.L. supplied a guard of honour. The 2/2nd was represented by Snow Went, Bill and Coral Coker, Paddy Kenneally. Roy is survived by Joyce, Geoffrey and Lynette and their families, down to a great grand child.

Roy Martin was not only a good soldier. He was a devoted husband, father and a well loved member of the Griffith community. He was awarded an M.I.D. for exceptional devotion to duty in the Timor campaign. We sympathise with his family in their sad loss, remembering also his five surviving brothers and two sisters who paid their final tribute to a well loved brother. May Roy Rest in Peace. He has earned it.

**Paddy Kenneally**

**Vale: NX 38405**  
**ALFRED JAMES HODGE**

Alf Hodge was born in Hillston, N.S.W., in 1914, one of a large family and also a victim of the great depression, he left school at 13 years. He worked on various stations and farms in the Hillston area before the family moved to Griffith in the mid 1930s. He joined the A.I.F. in July 1941. Following initial training at Cowra, he was sent to the 2/1st Medium Artillery Regiment and sailed with that Unit for the middle east in September, 1941. I am sure it was on the Queen Mary, and big and all as that liner was, Alf was violently ill. He hated ship travel, and having done his share of it being carted around the world to fight for Australia, he made absolutely sure on his final return to Australia that he never sailed anywhere again, not even across the canal in Griffith.

On his return to Australia in 1942 he volunteered for the Independent Companies, survived the training at the jungle school and was sent with the 150 reinforcements that joined the 2/2 Independent Company about May 1943. He came to 4 Section 'B' Platoon, sailed with the Unit from Townsville in June, 1943. A short stay in Moresby before flying into Goroka in the central highlands of New Guinea, above and between the highest mountains we had ever seen. Alf was not only averse to sea travel, air travel treated him no better. Alf preferred patrolling, fighting, climbing mountains and fording rivers to travel by sea and air. He was an exceptionally powerful and durable man, a superb bush man, he took the toughest going in his stride. Jungle, mountains, swamps or kunai country, Alf Hodge could walk them forever. His strength, determination and

endurance made him a first class fighting soldier. Like his friend Roy Martin, he was an exceptionally fast runner and surprisingly a very good pole vaulter. I reckon the only pole vaulter in the Unit. Alf served with the 2/2nd in New Guinea and New Britain, returned to Australia and was discharged on February 27th, 1946.

Returning to civilian life he was a wool presser, learned to shear, he and his brother Dave bought a two stand shearing plant, an old Chev. truck and became shearing contractors. Things went well, they upgraded to a four stand mobile unit. In 1958 he drew a soldiers settlement block and remarked 'this is better than winning the lottery.' He farmed rice and retired in 1976.

Alf married Joyce in April 1947. They had two children, Warren and Jillian. On retirement he devoted much of his time to R.S.L. activities, broadcasting on local radio, running the 'Housie' in the R.S.L. Hall, lecturing in schools and organising Anzac ceremonies. He was a quiet man, greatly involved in work for the community in which he lived and highly respected within that community and the surrounding district.

I was with Alf in Griffith three weeks before he died. He drank lemonade while I downed a couple of schooners in the R.S.L. Club. He looked fit and strong, straight backed and broad shouldered. We yarned about old times. Next I saw him after Roy Martin's funeral. Alf was too ill to attend. Snow Went and I called around to his unit where he was calmly making arrangements for his own funeral. He died on February 25th, 1997. Snow Went and I attended the burial in Griffith Lawn Cemetery. A large crowd of mourners, including a guard of honour of R.S.L. members were at the grave side. The Last Post and Reveille rang out as the body was lowered into the grave, one minute's silence and each person's silent farewell to a fine man, a good friend and comrade in peace and war. Alf is survived by his wife Joyce, children Warren and Jillian, their families and his brothers.

Joyce, Warren and Jillian wish to thank all who sent messages and cards expressing sympathy and sorrow in their sad loss.

Alf rests with only one grave separating him from his comrade and friend, Roy Martin. They died within two weeks of each other. May God keep them in His care.

Enclosed is a cheque from Jillian. The family wishes the Courier to be sent to Mrs J. Taylor, 59 Beauty Point Road, Beauty Point via Narooma, 2546.

Joyce Hodge has every Courier they have received, in folders.

**Paddy Kenneally**

I have been so busy writing about the loss of our members in N.S.W., I have not made one remark about my friend Colin Doig. I know all has been said, and no matter how well we have said it, it has been inadequate to portray the influence Col Doig had on the members of the 2/2 Commando Association. When Col was editor of the Courier, no matter what opinion I expressed he published it, irrespective of whether or not he agreed with it. We corresponded for years, we were often poles apart in our opinions, we were both a product of World War I era, but from entirely different backgrounds. It governed much of our outlook which was widely diverse and contrary. It made no difference to our friendship. I miss Col Doig, his humour, expressions and outlook on any and every subject.

**Paddy Kenneally**

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This is a belated tribute to **Stan Wepner** who passed away in early February. The 2/2 Commando Association (Victoria) did not know of his passing because, due to circumstances beyond our control, communication between Stan and us had been difficult.

I knew Stan as a reliable, trustworthy, efficient soldier who quietly did whatever he had to do without complaint, no matter how arduous the circumstances. He was always a very caring person. We shared parcels and news from home, with many a chuckle, both during training and in action in New Guinea. Whenever time and circumstances permitted, he passed time with his mates playing bridge, where he proved to be a formidable opponent.

During several abortive attempts to contact Stan at his farm at Cobbinabbin, Victoria, I learnt that he was highly regarded in the district as an excellent farmer and a quiet, kind friend.

In the late 70s John Roberts and I managed to get in touch with Stan and persuaded him to attend the Anzac Day march and afterwards a 'get together' at John Roberts' property at Coburg. A great time was had by all. We have not seen him since, much to our regret.

Vale, good friend, we shall never forget you.

**Leith Cooper**

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**Vale: ERNIE BINGHAM**

It came as no surprise to all of us who know Bing so well that he wished to slip away as quietly as possible. With that knowledge and his wish the family, relatives and some close friends gave our last farewells to Ernest Ronald Bingham, so affectionately known to all as Bing! on Wednesday the ninth of April.

I felt very proud and honoured that Verna and the family allowed me the privilege to express some of our last farewells to this great mate and friend for he was truly one of nature's best! Never a harsh word, always a helping hand – a tireless worker.

Bing was born on Valentine's Day 1923 and his early life was spent in and around the Maida Vale and Guildford areas. As he said he was a reluctant student and left school the day he turned fourteen and commenced a lifetime of work on which he appeared to thrive.

In his youth he excelled at swimming, loved ballroom dancing, gardening, animals and nature in general. He was a good rugby player and followed the Swan Districts Football Club all his life.

World War II came and when old enough he joined up and spent four and a half years in the 2/2 Commando Squadron in 'A' Tp as a machine gunner. The close friendships made there endured until the end on Saturday 5th of April. During his time in the 2/2 he had considerable success in the Boxing Ring, something his family found hard to visualise knowing his temperament but it was his sport not a battle of hate and his attitude always was to lose his cool would be points against him.

He was proud to be part of the 2/2 Squadron and the love and respect he felt for it and it's members came second only to his family. Oh how he would have loved to have heard the S.A.S. Bugler play his Last Post.

After discharge he joined the Perth Fire Brigade but, as with so many returned men he became restless and after his marriage to Verna, left the city behind and went first to get horticultural experience with Bernie and Babs Langridge and then to Wandering into general farming, Wool Wheat etc for the next forty years. During this time Henry Sproston of 'C' Tp built Ernie and Verna their new house where they lived happily until moving to Safety Bay upon retirement. Bing found it very difficult to leave his property but face it he did, and although he never really settled back into city life he had the ocean which he loved close at hand and discovered he had the ability to work with various local timbers and many of his beautiful pens were given to family and friends.

When told that his health would not improve, he accepted it as he did most things – calmly and quietly. A man with no religious convictions he asked (to use his own words) for a "short and simple send off and would like to be the last to leave."

Bing was like a Pied Piper with children and as they grew up adored him to the last. The garden of roses he planted and tended at the Wandering School is a fine memorial to him and it is the intention of the CWA to plant in the School grounds a tree to his memory.

A man of few words, he led by example and set high standards. His three children and six grandchildren were lucky indeed to have had him always there ready to help. My family and I will always feel indebted to Bing and Verna for the wonderful years of happiness we have had together.

#### Don Turton

The Association was represented by Bob McDonald, Don Turton, Col. Hodson and Jack Carey at the Private funeral.

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#### Vale:

#### LAURENCE SINCLAIR TAPPER

Laurie was born 73 years ago to Mary and Albert Tapper in Williams, a brother to Doreen, Mavis, Bert, Dudley, Joyce, Ron and Neville.

Laurie started school in North Perth and it is understood he was a bit of a rebel in those days. Later, he went to Perth Boys High School until he was 14, succeeding in his school work and enjoying soccer and swimming.

He started working life at the Bottle Exchange, sorting bottles brought in by the marine dealers and feeling lucky to get the work. He volunteered for army service and enlisted in the 6th Field Park Engineers. His brother, Dudley, who was a member of the 2/2 Commando Squadron, claimed Laurie and he joined that Unit, going to 'C' Troop, 8 Section under Lieut. D. Fullarton. Laurie made a lot of mates during those times and was to spend the rest of his life a very dedicated, active member and supporter of the RSL.

He met Grace Robinson at a dance in Perth. They were married in 1949 and, with her three children, Allan, Shirley and Rodney, set up home together in Subiaco. Laurie took up work with the Taxation Department. Maureen was born in 1951. In 1953 they moved to a new home in Manning where Laurie and Grace were to live for the rest of Laurie's life.

Laurie had several occupations until finally settling with Metters Subiaco where he was to remain for 16 years until his retirement in 1987. For the next five years he enjoyed good health but, sadly, as a result of an operation, he was made a paraplegic, losing the use of his legs and becoming wheel chair bound for the rest of his life. His health gradually deteriorated over the next five years. Recently he was hospitalised for what was believed to be a relatively minor problem. He died suddenly, but peacefully, in his sleep on April 14.

Laurie was a great believer in the value of family. He was a good, caring, loving husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. Laurie and Grace were married for 46 years.

He was a stoic man and refused to give in when fate dealt him a bitter blow. His family feared he might lose the will to live when he lost the use of his legs, but he pitched in to help in every way he could in the running of the Manning Bowling Club. In better days he had helped plant the grass and was a foundation member.

Laurie loved crabbing with his brother Neville and sister Joy in Mandurah. The family still laugh about the time when Neville asked Laurie to jump over the side to secure the boat on the shore. Unfortunately there was still 10 feet of water beneath the keel and Laurie was given a chance to inspect the crabs on the bottom at close quarters.

Laurie's cremation service at the Brown Chapel, Karrakatta was well attended and the 2/2nd was represented by Ralph Finkelstein, Paddy King, Jack Carey, Ted Monk, Len and Betty Bagley, Don Turton, Bob Smyth, Don May, Jack Wicks, Keith Hayes, Doc. Wheatley, Joy Chatfield, Nellie Mullins.

#### LEST WE FORGET

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**Mr Brendan Dennis**  
**48 Hazel Grove**  
**TECOMA VIC 3160**

Mr J W Carey

#### 2/2 COMMANDO SQUADRON BOOK

Thank you for sending me the book on the 2/2 Commando Squadron and your letter. I am finding the book fascinating reading, especially the parts about my grandfather Charles Pickering as you would understand.

You requested some information about Charlie's civilian life which I will briefly explain for you.

Charlie married Doris and settled in Burwood, Melbourne, Victoria in 1943 during the war. He had two children – Jennifer and Anne.

He worked as a tram conductor on the Melbourne Trams for some years, then as a Meter Reader for the State Electricity Commission until his retirement

His main hobby was following the AFL football and was especially pleased when the West Coast Eagles came into being, and he followed their progress eagerly.

He died suddenly in October 1995 at home in his sleep after an illness of a few days. He has seven grandchildren, of whom I am the eldest. Although my grandfather didn't like to talk about the war much and would talk of it only in general terms, we came to appreciate the sacrifice he and others like him made for our country.

I am most interested in finding out any more about his military history, so if you know of any other avenue I could try, I would be pleased if you could tell me.

Charlie served in 'B' Platoon in Timor.

Thanks once again for your interest,

Yours faithfully

**Brendan Dennis**

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#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Members of the 2/2 Commando Association, Gentlemen, I extend a warm welcome and thank you for your attendance.

Another year has elapsed and with many wonderful and also sad memories. The passing of so many of our comrades and the end of an era with the call to a higher command for our beloved mentor Col. Doig.

I am most grateful to Secretary, Jack Carey for his assistance and guidance and Delys for her support and a big thank you to all members and their wives whose loyal support make it all worthwhile. To our Treasurer, Ted Monk, who has done an excellent job. To our editorial team of Arch Campbell, Len and Betty Bagley and Gavin Bagley for their continued hard work with the Courier. To the Trust Fund 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 for his work with our memorabilia in relation to the War Museum. To the Kings Park Board for their never ending work with our Memorial in Lovekin Drive 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.

Our heartfelt feelings go 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 1996-97.

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#### Editorial Committee Report – 1996.

Production of the Courier has continued against some severe odds and, as nominated Editor, I would like to pass on my heartfelt

## 2/2 COMMANDO ASSOCIATION

### GENERAL ACCOUNT STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST JANUARY, 1997

RECEIPTS	\$	\$	Less Expenses	\$	\$
<b>Balance at 1.2.96</b>			<b>Government Charges</b>		29.43
General Account	2502.67		<b>Badges</b>		388.25
Town & Country T/D trans to General A/C	2407.37		<b>Address Book</b>		100.00
Town & Country Term Deposit	3444.56		<b>Rent GPO Box</b>		115.00
Loan Queensland Safari	1000.00		<b>Postage and Stationary</b>		150.00
	<u>9354.60</u>	9354.60	<b>Capitation Fee Aust Comm Ass</b>		76.00
<b>Interest Received – General Account</b>	44.59		<b>Advertising Listening Post</b>		20.00
Town & Country Term Deposit	534.67		<b>Kings Park Commemoration Service</b>		97.50
	<u>579.26</u>	579.26	<b>Anzac Day Wreaths</b>		45.00
<b>Sale of Badges</b>	228.00		<b>Donations to Vic. N.S.W. Qld Branches</b>		1000.00
<b>Sale of Poems, Plaques and Earrings</b>	68.00		<b>Bus subsidy Mandurah 2/2</b>		200.00
	<u>296.00</u>	296.00	<b>Wake C. Doig Shenton Park Hotel</b>		500.00
<b>Dept. Vet. Affairs Donation</b>		1000.00	<b>Members Memorials</b>		422.25
<b>Association Events – Expenditure</b>	7013.40			<u>3143.43</u>	3143/43
Receipts	6355.00				
	<u>(658.40)</u>	(658.40)			
<b>Courier Mailing and Publication</b>	4977.82		<b>BALANCE AT 31.1.97</b>		
<b>Courier Donations for year</b>	4925.00		General Account	1419.51	
	<u>(52.82)</u>	(52.82)	Town & Country Term Deposit	3755.70	
<b>Donations to Army Museum</b>	2000.00		Loan Canberra Safari	1000.000	
<b>Receipts</b>	800.00			<u>6,175.21</u>	6175.21
	<u>1200.00</u>	1200.00			<u>9318.64</u>
		<u>\$9318.64</u>			

## 2/2 COMMANDO ASSOCIATION INDEPENDENT TRUST FUND

### STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST JANUARY, 1997

<b>Balances at 1st February, 1996</b>			<b>Less Expenses:</b>			
C/wealth Bank Trust A/C	8041.83		Gov't and Bank Charges	41.86		
Add 1996 Interest	123.76		V. Paust expenses in Dili	275.00		
	<u>8,165.59</u>	8,165.59	Books to East Timor	133.50		
			Tools to East Timor	461.34		
<b>Town &amp; Country Term Dep. 1996, Interest</b>		185.81	Embroidery to East Timor	196.75		
			Overlocker to East Timor	540.55		
<b>Donations Received For the year to 31/1/97</b>		6,119.50	Seeds to East Timor	1744.80		
			Sea Freight to East Timor	2609.69		
		<u>14,470.90</u>	Admin. Phone, Fax, Sundries	825.92		
				<u>6829.41</u>	6829.41	
			<b>Balance as at 31st January, 1997</b>			
			C'wealth Bank Trust Account	1455.68		
			Town & Country Term Deposit	6000.00		
			Plus Interest	185.81		
				<u>7641.49</u>	7641.49	
					<u>14,470.90</u>	

thanks to Len, Betty and Gavin for maintaining its standard and the production timetable.

We are fully aware of the part all the states play in getting the news on the move so we can circulate it to everyone. I am mindful of the tremendous job Len and Betty perform typing, sorting, wrapping, posting and all the extra chores that go with the whole exercise. We have always claimed to be a team whatever the situation and these two stalwarts have enhanced that claim no end. Whatever the composition of the Courier team for 1997, without fear of contradiction, the top guns are Len and Betty. My contribution will have to be where I can fit in. As the years take their toll we must look to members to pitch in so our first class Association continues to function with zest.

Good luck for a great 1997, thanks for all your comradeship.

**Archie Campbell**

## 2/2 COMMANDO ASSOCIATION

### Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31st January, 1997

The chairman and members of the 2/2 Commando Association with pleasure I present to you a statement of Receipts and Payments for the Financial Year ended 31st January, 1997.

Mr John Burrige 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.

The Courier continues to be the lifeline of the Association. Donations received through the year practically covered the cost of mailing and publication.

Five social functions were held during the year –

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

ANZAC DAY

NORMA HASSON SOCIAL

50th ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The highlight of the year being the 50th Anniversary Luncheon with members attending from near and far.

Payments outlaid during the Financial Year show a deficit of \$3,179.39, leaving a credit balance at 31st January, 1997 of \$6,175.21.

My thanks go to all members of the committee for their assistance during the past year.

Gentlemen I am not seeking re-election in 1997 owing to other commitments.

I shall now read the financial report.

Thank you for your attention.

**W. Monk – Hon. Treasurer.**

## 2/2 COMMANDO ASSOCIATION INDEPENDENT TRUST FUND

Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31st January, 1997

Mr Chairman and members of this Association I have pleasure in presenting a statement of Receipts and Payments for the Financial Year ended 31st January, 1997.

This statement has been audited by Mr John Burrige and his certificate has been appended to same.

During the year generous donations to the trust fund were received totalling \$6,119.50 plus interest of \$309.57.

Expenses to East Timor:

Books, Tools, Embroidery, Overlocker, Seeds, Sea Freight and Administration –

TOTAL EXPENSES \$6,829.41

Total assets at 31st January, 1997 \$7,641.49.

I congratulate the Trust committee and members on the excellent achievements they have made during the year in supporting the East Timorese.

My sincere thanks go to all members for the help and support they have given me during my term in office.

The financial report is as follows.

**W. Monk – Hon. Treasurer.**

## NOTES ON THE A.G.M. 1997.

The A.G.M. was held at Anzac Club on Tuesday, March 11 commencing at 11.00am. With President Bill Howell in the chair. There was an attendance of 23 including Peter Barden our country Vice-president of the Northern area. Apologies were received from Arch Campbell, Albie Friend, Clarrie Turner, Charlie King, Gerry Maley, Keith Hayes, Ray Aitken, Dick Darrington, Tom Foster, Blue Pendergrast and Harry Sproxtton.

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP:** Two old stalwarts in Dusty Studdy and Jack Wicks were made Life Members of the Association. Bernie Langridge in nominating Dusty and Jack spoke of the loyal support both had given over the past 50 years. Bernie also nominated Jim Lines of the 2/5th as an Associate Life Member. Jim has been part and parcel of our show for many years and is always on hand to handle our keg problems. President Bill presented the medallions with loud acclamation from all present. The recipients Dusty, Jack and Jim said it was a very proud occasion for them and all were honoured to be made a life member of such a very fine association.

The annual reports were then presented by President Bill, Treasurer Ted Monk, Trust Fund Chairman Bob Smyth, Editor Len Bagley on Arch Campbell's behalf and Auditor and Warden John Burridge.

#### Election of Office Bearers 1997/98.

Mr Don Murray kindly offered to be the returning officer.

The following were elected:

President:	Ralph Finkelstein
Vice-president:	Dick Darrington
Secretary:	Jack Carey
Treasurer:	Ted Monk
Editor:	Len Bagley
Warden:	John Burridge
Auditor:	John Burridge
Courier Committee:	Arch Campbell, Betty Bagley and Gavin Bagley
General Committee:	Don Turton, Wilf March and Les Halse.

All appointments were received with acclamation and Don was thanked for being the returning officer. Arch Campbell who is not enjoying the best of health and who has been editor for the past 16 years, handed over the reins to long serving member Len Bagley. Thanks Arch for a very fine contribution.

#### General Business:

Members agreed to hold our Xmas Social this coming December at Mandurah. Organising of the function to be left in the capable hands of our Mandurah Branch.

It was also agreed to reduce the number of issues of the Courier from six issues to either five or four a year from now on. Rising costs and smaller member numbers and at times difficulty in obtaining sufficient copy were reasons advanced for this decision. It would be left to the discretion of the newly appointed Editor Len and his committee as to whether 5 or 4 issues be produced each year.

Regarding joining up with other Commando Units for the Anzac Day Parade, it was agreed to leave things as they are and review the position at a later time.

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

#### Jack Carey

Dear Friends

I feel very deeply honoured to be selected as President of such a fabulous group of men. A group who were the cream of the Australian Defence Force 1939-45 and a team who refused to surrender although completely cut

off and surrounded by the enemy.

As I stood to attention at the A.G.M. and listened to the tale of those who have passed on this year my throat contracted and a tear welled in my eye. I recalled each and every one of them as healthy virile young men in the bloom of life and with the world at their feet. As I looked around the room at mates of 50 odd years I realised the richness of our Association is something more valuable than all the gold in the world.

One must feel great admiration for Jack Carey. Year after year he continues on as Secretary and guides the Association's affairs with his whole being and great efficiency.

I remember when I joined the 2/2nd in New Guinea. My previous job was an instructional Sergeant Major in Western Command schools. When I was introduced to my new Corporal, J. Carey, I thought what a horrible sloppy beggar. His trouser legs were never in his gaiters and it was lucky when his shirt was completely tucked in. Added to this was his hat strap which always hung limply on the back of his head. What a take!! It didn't take me long to realise how well organised and what a good soldier Jack was. Almost as good a take as Curly O'Neill in the ring, buck toothed skinny kid, who turned into a thrashing machine when the bell rang. Well, my distaste turned into admiration and has continued to grow over the years.

I am confident I will make a good President as long as Jack is there to guide me along the path of Bill Howell and the other illustrious Past Presidents who have served with honour.

To all our friends suffering ill health, may the good Lord help you. God bless.

Ralph Finkelstein

### CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

**Mrs J. Fenwick**  
71 Morgan Crescent  
Canberra 2605

All seems to be going well for Canberra Safari '98. Ron keeps me up to date and when he and Hazel return from Adelaide in March we will have lunch at the East Lakes Football Club to test the service, menu, etc. and I will take a look at the Oakford Serviced Apartments. Jim was happy with that accommodation as is Hazel and also Betty Craig.

Dan and Sunny Daniels celebrated 50 years of marriage a few weeks ago. I saw the notice in the Canberra Times and when I telephoned, could hear all the family voices in the background having fun.



I would very much like to receive the Courier to keep in touch with 2/2 families and doings, please and trust the enclosed cheque will help with postage.

Our son Peter found Archie Campbell's book very interesting and enlightening and passed it on to others

All the best to all in the Association.

Joan

---

**S. B. Marsh**  
**17 McGough St**  
**Glenorchy 7010**

Still enjoy receiving the Courier.

Enclosing a further donation to keep up the good work.

Sorry to learn about the death of Col. Doig. I read the tribute to him with great interest. He will be sadly missed by all his mates.

Best wishes to all.

Joan and Swampy

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**A. B. Beveridge**  
**49 Cary Street**  
**Toronto 2283**

Enclosed is a donation to the Association and I wish all a healthy and prosperous 1997.

Regards.

Andy

---

**Bert Price OAM**  
**Huon Highway**  
**Dover 7117**

Have returned home this day from a reunion of the 2/40 Battalion Old Comrades Association held at Ulverstone over the weekend. Syd (Swampy) Marsh and I travelled up from Hobart together and one of the first we met up with was Berwin Dennis who chastised me for missing out his name of those of the 2/2nd who attended the last reunion in Hobart. Berwin in fact has only missed about three reunions over the past 52 years. Besides Swampy, Berwin and myself, Max (Bluey) Miller and Neil Blight attended. Had not seen Neil for six years. He now has to have walking aids but cheerful as ever. The five of us had a great chat about our time with the 2/2nd in Timor.

Bluey Miller talked about his attendance at 2/2nd Safaris in recent years and how welcome he and Noreen were made and now has convinced Swampy and me to attend the

next Safari in Canberra. Have already talked about it to my wife, Billie, and she is very keen to go, so with her support it looks like we will be there and I am sure Swampy's wife Joan will support him.

It is sad to see so many 2/2nd going to the great vale beyond. To me, and I feel sure to all, Col Doig's passing was a great loss to the 2/2nd. I spent a short time with him when we first got through to East Timor and was with him when we were evacuated.

I still have contact with a small group in Hobart who are very dedicated to the East Timor cause.

Somewhere along the way I have lost my 2/2nd badge (still have my tie pin) so am enclosing a cheque for another. Anything left over can go in as a donation.

Regards to all.

**Bert Price OAM**

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**Rick Dawson**  
**38 Rosella Crescent**  
**Wulagi NT 0812**

Thank you for your letter of last year answering my questions and advising me of Colin Doig's passing. Please pass on my respects to Mr Doig's family.

It is the 20th February as I write and appreciate that, on this 55th anniversary, the thoughts of your members would be with the No. 7 and No. 2 Section members in particular.

I hope to visit East Timor one day and visit the localities occupied by the 2/2nd.

In closing I wish all your members the very best for 1997.

God bless you all.

Rick

---

**R. Morris**  
**53 Hilder St**  
**Weston 2611**

Adelaide is **very hot** but it is good to see our son again.

Everything is going well toward March 1998. Joan Fenwick is fine.

Enclosed is a donation to the Courier.

God bless you all.

Ron

---

**H. Handicott**  
18/151 Denison St  
Hamilton 2303

Thank you for Col's books specially despatched.

We on the east coast are using all the W.A. weather up – high 30° - low 40° and high humidity, yet over the range west of Tamworth have had the cotton flooded – the weather is sure crazy.

We are well enough – some joints creak – spoke to Joyce Smith and Bill Walsh recently – about the same. Hope to make Sydney for Anzac Day.

We saw the Timor report on 'Insight.' You fellows looked much better than Bob Hawke.

Cheque enclosed for books and balance to Courier (terrific staff).

Keep as well as possible. Regards to all.

**Harry and Amyce**

---

**C. King**  
26 Crusader St  
Falcon 6210

Enclosed is a donation for the Courier.

Trusting you are all in good health. Our prayers and sympathy to all who have lost their loved ones. It is sad to see our dear friends passing on.

Good health and happiness to all. God bless.

**Charles, Mary and Paddy**

---

**G. Slade**  
29 Monash Ave  
Lenah Valley 7008

Sorry I have been so long in writing.

Enclosing a donation from Gordon Watts and myself. Many thanks for the Courier which we enjoy receiving. We are able to keep up with news of what the 2/2 boys are doing these days.

Gordon has not had the best of health, his eyes and legs are the problem. He does play bowls occasionally. Nancy and I enjoy good health. We still play bowls at least twice a week.

We enjoyed the Festive Season with our three children and their families. We have six grandchildren. We trust all readers and their families had a great Festive Season and our best wishes to all for a Happy and Healthy 1997.

Hope to make the Safari at Canberra. We will contact the Safari Committee in due time. Have

only attended one Safari and that was 1988 at Philip Island. Had a wonderful time meeting with army mates and their families.

Spotted Paddy Kenneally walking down the city street in Hobart last year. Unfortunately unable to spend much time with him as Nancy had an appointment for physiotherapy and Nora and Paddy were leaving Hobart the next day.

Regard to all members and I wish everyone well

**Gerald**

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**Mrs H. Cowie**  
2/68 Albert St  
Warners Bay 2282

Well, Bill has been gone three years and I have been living here for two years and am just starting to like the place (determined not to!) I often walk down to the waterfront and look across the Lake to memories of the lovely 16 retirement years we had over the other side at Buttaba near Rathmines (an air base during the war) which now has a bowling green and the original airmen's mess as a renovated Club with wonderful lake views and a Memorial. We spent some great times there, Anzac Days etc.

Hope this finds you all in good health. I enjoy the Courier as Bill did – only wish he was still with me. Enclosed is a donation for the Courier.

Kind regards,

**Helen**

---

**Mrs P Brown**  
26 Scadden St  
Wembley 6014

So sorry to hear of Col's death. It seems as though so many members are passing on.

I have enclosed a donation towards the Courier.

Yours truly

**Phyl**

---

**Mrs D. Laing**  
29 Harris Street  
Hackett ACT 2602

Please find enclosed a donation to your Association towards cost of producing the Courier which is a tremendous means of communication to keep your members in touch with each other. Keep up the good work!

Yours sincerely,

**Dawn**

**Mr. C. A. Thompson**  
**Minkara Retirement Resort**  
**72/10 Minkara Road**  
**Bayview 2104**

The above is my new address on retirement.

Enclosed is a cheque for any appropriate Timor Fund.

Regards

Alan

---

**L. Cooper**  
**8 Hilltop Crescent**  
**Rhyll 3923**

Enclosed is a belated tribute to Stan Wepner. This was compiled in consultation with several of his Victorian friends as well as myself who had the task of putting it together. This proved to be quite an emotional exercise.

Please put the enclosed donation towards Courier costs.

Regards to all.

Leith

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

It has been a very hectic couple of months. The 2/2nd here has lost four of its members since December, all of them prominent and well known men in the Unit and Association. Jim Fenwick and Mick Mannix have, of course, been already recorded in the Courier, and I have given particulars of Roy Martin and Alf Hodge in this issue.

Our family, that is the whole clan, have had an extraordinarily busy March. We landed in Sydney on St. Patrick's Day 1927 from Ireland 70 years ago. Our children did not let it pass unrecorded. They gave us a slap up party in the local parish hall. Sixty odd guests from Rocks and Millers Point days, family and friends. It commenced with Mass at 5 pm in the parish church. It ended at 2 am in the hall, music, singing, dancing, eating, drinking, reminiscing. We built the Harbour Bridge, loaded ships, conned our way through the depression, survived the war and at the heel of the evening wondered where 70 years had gone. A great night, thanks to our children, relatives and friends.

(I bet you had to have a Drover's Breakfast next morning. Ed.)

The 'Australia and East Timor in WW 11' Photographic Exhibition in two sections was held at two venues under two different titles.

**Venue 1:** The theatre foyer, Parliament House, Canberra, **Venue 2:** Pilgrim Hall, Uniting Church, 69 Northbourne Avenue, Canberra. The reason. The Government ordered that subject matter be extensively curtailed, censorship was akin to war time, The Howard Government made absolutely certain that anything pertaining to post 1975 Timor was not on display. The Government could do nothing about the photos exhibited at Pilgrim House. Despite Government intervention it was the best exhibition on the subject I have seen. I speak from experience, as I saw it in Darwin, Parliament House, Sydney (state) and in Hobart. If it has not been shown in the west, it would be worth exhibiting.

Two of Nora's brothers and their wives have been holidaying here all through March. They have been enthralled with all they have seen in Sydney, the south coast and Canberra, critical of one aspect of Australian life only. Our pubs are dull, dreary, just places for drinking. No music, singing, dancing or "Craik." I suppose they are right. There certainly is little spark in them. We are used to them.

Our visitors returned to Ireland wishing they could take some of Australia with them, particularly our sunshine.

Paddy

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**W. Connell**  
**62/112 Whites Rd**  
**Manly 4179**

When it comes to writing letters my husband seems to have a permanently broken arm.

We want to notify you of our change of address, as above.

Bill says he thinks he owes money for paper and postage etc so I am enclosing a cheque. I hope that makes him financial again.

We are very happy here in the Retirement Village at Manly and hope we are spared for a few more years.

Sincerely,

Irma (for Bill Connell)

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**Mrs J. Taylor**  
**59 Beauty Point Rd,**  
**Beauty Point via Narooma 2546**

Thank you for your kind message of sympathy from the WA members on the passing of Dad and husband, Alf.

Obviously Dad hadn't changed much - he was a quiet, caring, hard working family and community man who will be sorely missed by us all.

He was always a proud member of the 2/2 Unit and it was of great comfort to us to hear from you.

Regards,

**Jillian Taylor, Joyce and Warren Hodge**

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Dear Sir,

I want to thank you for sending me your Courier. Though all too often it causes me much sadness when I hear of the passing of men I have learned to respect; I always find some information in the publication that helps me in my researches. Though my most fruitful time for searching out facts has been spent in Australian Archives and in the Canberra War Memorial, the long talks I had with Col Doig and others have helped me gain many valuable insights.

I have just completed my first novel on Timor, it is due to be published in September 1997. I am now preparing my second novel which will be set mainly in Timor during World War 2. I am coming to Perth in April for my son's graduation in Law and will be there from 18th - 24th. I would love to meet with any of your members who would care to have a good old chin-wag with me - my son's graduation is on the 21st so I will be busy all that day celebrating, but any other time I will be free.

I'll be staying with Evan Shackleton telephone 389 9483 Unit 11, 153 Fairway Street, Nedlands WA 6008.

I found it very interesting to read the excellent letter to the Prime Minister by Mr. Howell and the reply from Mr. Ruddock. It seems that the Australian government regards Timorese as Portuguese when they request Australian citizenship; but when it comes to stealing their oil they are regarded as Indonesians!

Obrigado diak!

**Shirley Shackleton**

337 Dorcas Street  
South Melbourne 3205

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### VICTORIAN NEWS

Recently Norm and Fran Tillet were down for a week. I took Norm to see Don Freyer as Norm had not seen him for some time and was anxious to see how he was going. They were great mates and used to see a lot of football and cricket when Don was in good health and up at Wangaratta. Don was very pleased to see Norm and although he cannot speak too well it was obvious that Don knew him and I really think he was pleased as he does not see many of the boys and it must make it easier on him to have visitors.

Norm was also hoping to see Sep Wilson but unfortunately Sep was very ill at the time and I think Norm may have spoken to him by phone later on. Sep has since come good and is a lot better. We also missed Jack Fox as he was out. Plays a lot of bowls and keeps on the go and is looking well.

We were all very sorry to hear of the passing on of Roy Martin and Alf Hodge within a few days of each other. Our deepest sympathy to both families.

Olive and I are both well.

**Harry Botterill**

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### MANDURAH NEWS

At the Mandurah Branch A.G.M. in January we were delighted when Paddy King, son of Charles and Mary, accepted the position of Chairman of the Branch.

We have been hoping the sons of members would take an active part in Association activities to give the 'senior gentlemen' a break, and now it's happening with Peter Epps doing a fine job with the Army Museum, Gavin Bagley doing likewise with production of the Courier and Paddy capably handling the affairs of our little Branch at Mandurah. and we thank them all.

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### N.S.W. NEWS

Edith spent 12 days in Manly Hospital for intravenous antibiotic therapy in an attempt to clear up a long term infection and hopefully with a future projection to keep her bronchial problem under control. She is improving slowly and is thankful for the phone calls and cards she has received from the 2/2 family.

Unfortunately, we have had our share of losses of good and faithful members, firstly Roy Martin and then Alf Hodge, also of Griffith. We were not able to attend the farewells personally, but have been in touch. Our commiserations to both widows and families, and thanks to those who attended to represent the 2/2nd.

The Timor Photographic Exhibition at Manly Library in February appeared to go off very well. We were accorded a very warm, but wet reception by Mayor Sue Sacker and reports say it was well attended. It has now moved on to Canberra. Tom Uren, ex MLA, opened the display in his inimitable manner but as neither Carlos Periera nor Gordon Hart were able to attend I had to speak for all three. We made it eventually and had many compliments paid by the comprehensive community group in attendance.

On February 3 a number of us attended a Reception in Canberra arranged by the Portuguese Ambassador to celebrate the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Bishop Belos in Timor and Jose Ramos Horta in Australia. Apart from myself, Ron Trengove, Denny Dennis, Gordon Hart, 2/4th and a local 2/4th whose name I can't recall, were present for a delightful evening. Also Dr. Vartsy Vlazna from the East Timorese Justice Lobby, Sr. Josephine and St. Catherine from the Institute of East Timorese Studies, plus many others from diplomatic and aid groups.

At her invitation I stayed overnight with Joan Fenwick and was afforded the usual kind hospitality. We had time to talk and on the way to the train terminus she drove by the '98 Safari units – no time to visit but they look impressive – and only three floors high! I spoke to Danny and Ron by phone and they suggest anyone who has problems with stairs should make early bookings for ground or first floor units.

For our quarterly meeting at Arncliffe RSL Club we managed a crowd of six – myself, Jack Hartley, Bill Coker, Snow Went, Ron Hilliard and Ray Cole. Our numbers are certainly thinning. Jack has not been very well. Allan Addison has many problems, the main one being painful leg muscles that prevent him playing golf. Vince Walsh is severely incapacitated. Sid Dubber is confined to a wheelchair as a result of a severe stroke. Aren't we lucky to be alive and able to move about!

Our recent National President and Secretary of N.S.W. Commando Association, had an unfortunate – but bloody LUCKY – accident when on a shooting camp he copped one in his right shoulder – NOT IN THE FOOT! After spending time in Sydney Hospital he is home convalescing. In the meantime the National A.G.M. has been held and Judge Harry Emery is the new President. Harry served in 2/5 Squadron.

Anzac Day. A reminder to all N.S.W. members, our usual format will apply. 0815 assemble at Commando Memorial, Martin Place for wreath laying. Move to March assembly area, corner Elizabeth and Hunter Streets. On completion of March, gather at our usual watering hole for refreshments. Proceed to Circular Quay for Reunion on Ferry – cost still \$20 which includes food, beverages, Harbour Cruise. Hope to see you there!

As a point of interest to our bowling members, until last year our local Association held a Veterans and a Super Veterans Day annually. Numbers are so depleted that they are now combined and can only fill three greens. Typical isn't it.

Many thanks to those who keep in pretty regular contact by whatever means. We hope to see as many as possible in Canberra this time next year and in the meantime, God bless, keep as well as you can for as long as you can.

**Bye for now – Alan Luby**

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The following appeared in the *"Manly Daily"*

Former Labor Federal Minister Tom Uren was a prisoner of war in West Timor during World War 11. He knows first hand what it's like to live under constant threat of death.

Fittingly, Mr. Uren opened an exhibition of East Timor photographs at Manly Library. The exhibition – Your Friends Will Not Forget You – shows scenes from Australia's occupation of East Timor during World War 11 and has been erected to educate the people of Manly, on the sacrifices and commitment given by many of the Timorese people.

'An exhibition like this is always a great reminder of the moral debt all Australians owe to the East Timorese' Mr. Uren said. They (the East Timorese) really stuck as allies (to the Australian commandos) and suffered greatly.

Greens councillor Brad Gilleatt, who suggested the exhibition be staged in Manly, agreed that Australia had a debt to pay the Timorese.

Alan Luby was a World War 11 commando and member of the 2/2 Independent (Double Reds) company which went to Timor in 1942. The Dee Why resident was also at the opening of the exhibition. Mr. Luby gave an account of his platoon's involvement in East Timor, often referring to people who appeared in photographs hanging in the room. He had returned to East Timor many years after the Australian occupation and noted how quickly people out of line were dealt with by ruling Indonesian government forces.

Talking on the possibility of Timorese illegal immigrants coming to Australia: 'This (retribution by the Indonesian Government) is why it would be dangerous for people here now seeking asylum if they were to be returned (to Timor). It (deportation) would be resisted by us and other support we could whip up. That's for sure.

Councillor Godfrey Bigot who supported Mr. Gilleatt's suggestion for Manly to host the East Timor exhibition, said he hoped it would inspire more on the Timor issue. He said a space was being sought to host the controversial Dili massacre photographic exhibition also offered to Manly.

**P. Barden**  
1/101 Francis St  
Geraldton 6530

At the outset let me heartily congratulate Delys Carey on receiving an Associate Life Membership badge of our wonderful Association. It is because of people like Jack and Delys that the Double Red Diamond Association is second to none.

Those of you who have had the pleasure of visiting Sun City Geraldton over the years will realise that Birdwood House is one of its most conspicuous buildings. However, time catches up with all of us and our RSL Sub-Branch in conjunction with Rotary is working on a restoration plan for this 62-year-old building. It is named after Field Marshal Sir William Birdwood, Commander of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps at Gallipoli and "Baron of Anzac and Totnes."

Birdwood House is owned by the people of Geraldton and is governed by a 1929 Act of Parliament that is administered through the Geraldton Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen's Memorial Institute Trust on which I have been a ratepayer representative since 1979. I've heard a lot about the Association's wonderful museum at Fremantle and would point out that we are also extremely proud of our vastly-upgraded Memorabilia display at Birdwood House,

Remember Robin Hood and Sherwood Forest? Well, our Sub-Branch has had the pleasure of the company of Bill Spendlove of Nottingham, England, who served in the Sherwood Foresters' Regiment in World War 11. Bill took part in a "Reunion of a lifetime," with his brother John, who migrated to Australia in 1948 after serving in the Royal Marines. He was greatly impressed by the huge number of community organisations that are available for the benefit of the young and the old.

I recently had the pleasure of compiling a news item about the prestigious Mullewa Gift foot race of yesteryear which, with a first prize of one-hundred pounds was second only to the Stawell Gift of Victoria. I did this in association with the Australian Athletic Confederation's award the Lions Club received for the best Australian sports meeting in 1995 – Mullewa's Centenary Year. My father Ernie Barden, was on the Mullewa Gift Sports Committee as far back as 1926-27. It was reintroduced at the 1986 Mullewa Show and was won in 1990 by WA international Dean Capobianco,

God bless you all.

**Peter Barden**

### **Brief Report to 2/2 Commando Association, Australia**

Dear Bob and all our good friends of the 2/2nd. A few lines to let you know what is happening up here. Firstly, all the vegetable seeds I brought up in November have been keeping the College here at Fuiloro supplied with vegetables. I picked up the seeds that came up by ship and will be soon planting them out.

Father Jose is most grateful for what the 2/2 Association has done for them. Fuiloro area is like being in heaven, everybody is so friendly and warm. The work we did up here in November has turned out very well. We achieved a 33-1/3% increase in grain yield. The local government want to harvest our plots from our November planting to see what the yield is. If the Mayor is happy he will supply fertiliser for the villages.

Regards to all.

**Les**

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To our 2/2 Family (that is what you are to us)

Firstly, we sincerely thank you for nominating us to A.E.S.O.P. and making this experience possible. Have never known such happiness and appreciation and Timor is so beautiful.

First week spent at Don Bosco Comoro in Dili. Maintained four machines firstly, then down to pattern and sewing instruction. Whilst there we met the different scout groups with the leader wishing us to pass on their thanks for all the camping gear, balls etc. I personally want you to know just what a difference the overlocker you supplied will make to their work in Dili. Have spent the best part of two days of instruction on it. Two of the electric machines you folk sent are here in Fuiloro (where we have been these past two weeks, and now I have completely mastered them) are absolutely magic! Del, if only you could have seen the girls the first day with the electric machines (never having used one at all) and this evening 17 school skirts from primary through to senior were completed plus 7 part done. All to my standard! These ladies in Fuiloro hand embroider and sew daily, nine all told. Our aim is to keep the two best, who are exceptionally good, at the convent to go on teaching more and more students, whilst the others return to their villages and teach sewing to groups. Sister Marie Fe, the Principal of the school, has already put in a request to be taught sewing on three free days she has prior to Easter (students will be on vacation. Just pray our visa is extended this end by the Indonesian Government. Aesop have sent us until 24th August but really the visa only had

five weeks on it! Ian Muirden had written on a fax it would be extended this end.

The school wants to be self supporting as far as uniforms go in the girls skirts and boys trousers. At the moment they have been buying from outside.

If possible, could you write to the Catholic Ladies Sewing Group who supplied three or 4 machines and a typewriter. If only they could see the faces! Del, D.M.C. fantastic, as were all those Singer dressmaking books etc. Have taught these ladies here to knit! Didn't think they would be interested. Understatement, they love it!

Our two books on 'Tetum Language' have been marvellous. Col. gave Les his and mine was sent by Paddy Kenneally and they have been fantastic. Have never felt so rewarded.

Fond regards to all.

**Verna.** (Go by 'Annie' as they know me at home)

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The following appeared in the 'West Australian' on Saturday, February 15, 1997:

Genial diggers who fought in Portuguese (now East) Timor during War 11 had a few laughs as they reminisced at the Perth Club luncheon for Nobel laureate Jose Ramos Horta this week. The crusty former commandos remembered that the locals in the mountains seemed to have had no word for 'flat' or 'level' and would recommend a track as 'easy' despite it being near vertical. The joke at the time among the Aussies was that to get around you had to have one leg longer than the other – and the longer one better be downhill.

---

Dear Bob,

I take this occasion to thank the 2/2nd for so many things you have done and are doing on our behalf. Actually, you have done them already but the effects and the responses are just coming in. During a get-together of school heads, I get a thank you call from a school, a visit from a teacher, thanking me for having sent them the books or the balls or the other school/printing equipment you had sent over last year and the other year. I tell them that it has nothing to do with me but your group that has done the big work of collecting them and sending through Singapore. I asked them to write in their thanks to your address; hopefully, some of them would do that.

The Bishop just made an official visit of our area. (I am sending some pictures.) I had

briefed him about the activities done by the 2/2nd. He distributed some of the balls. Then he asked that he make a quick visit into the campsite of the scouts. The bishop must have seen the tents spread out near the school's soccer field. This was not part of the itinerary. It caught some of the boys and girls by surprise. The Bishop looked into some of the tents, checked their food supply and was laughing and making encouraging comments to the little ones.

I told him too of the sewing machines but since it was a Sunday, our workshop was closed. So he did not have the chance to have a look. He was happy that you are onto scholarships too. Later I will see when I could send you some pictures of the sewing room.

Greetings to everybody

**Ephrem**

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## INDEPENDENT TRUST

The dozen or so Faxes, letters etc. which we have inflicted on Len and his Courier team tell it all. Reports from Ephrem reflect thanks and appreciation for the assortment of Tents, play balls, sewing machines, copiers, books and particularly garden and crop seeds. The reports from Les and Verna (call me Annie) Cranfield warms the heart. They appear captivated with East Timor. The Don Bosco Agricultural school at Fuiloro is somewhat isolated from outside communication. Many letters may not survive the East Timor postal system but the Postcard expressing a few pleasantries could get through and would I am sure, be appreciated. Please do it.

**Les and Verna Cranfield  
Advisers**

**Don Bosco Agricultural School  
FUILORO TIMUR, TIMOR  
INDONESIA**

## HAND PROPELLED GARDEN SEEDERS

Following Les Cranfield's use of these units at the W.A. University's experimental Agricultural school and his recommendation, we ordered 4 from the Indiana USA Manufacturer. They are currently at Jakarta en route while a significant figure representing "duty" or "charges" or whatever else they call it up there is calculated. Our C.I.F. JKTA cost is A \$634.90¢ compared to an ex store Perth quote of A \$800.

Thanks to all contributors.

**Bob Smyth**

## SICK PARADE

**Wilf March** is doing well after an eye operation but has to take things easy for a while.

**Happy Greenhalgh** has been in the wars. Following on from a prostate operation, Happy suffered a severe attack of rheumatoid arthritis, so much so, he had to cancel his intended trip to the west for Anzac Day. Naturally, Happy is a disappointed man as is his old mate Harry Sproxton who was looking forward to Happy's visit. Better days are ahead Happy.

**Dulcie Ryan** is recuperating back home after spending six weeks in Hollywood Hospital following a fall. Dulcie spent 12 hours on the floor in her unit before she received any attention. Dulcie who has had more than her fair share of set-backs in life is in good spirits and is still giving plenty of cheek. She is now looking forward to a left knee restoration shortly. Good luck Dulcie.

**Neil Hooper** has also had a bad run of outs health wise but is on the road back. His old 2 Section mate, **Tony Bowers** was hospitalised recently following a heart attack. Tony is making a good recovery. We wish the two big men well!

**Gerry Maley** is another who spent a couple of weeks in Hollywood following a leg operation which went wrong. Gerry was in a lot of pain for over a week but is gradually coming good. Hope to see you back on deck soon Gerry.

Others who are making progress, albeit very slowly, are **Jim Cullen** who had a stroke, and **Spriggy McDonald** who had heart surgery last November and it was a case of touch and go at the time. He has lost a lot of weight and has to take things quietly. His wife, Betty, is also far from well, which makes life pretty difficult in the McDonald household. Our thoughts are with you both at this testing time.

Members who are booked to go into hospital are asked to let someone on the Committee know so visits can be arranged. This applies to all state branches. Quite often members spend long stints in hospital without the Association being aware. It is appreciated some members may prefer privacy but the offer is there should you require it.

## TRUST FUND DONATIONS

### List No. 16

Andy Beveridge \$100.  
Alan Thompson \$50

## COURIER DONATIONS

### To April 1997.

Andy Beveridge, Swampy Marsh, Joan Fenwick, Charles, Mary and Paddy King, Phyl Brown, Ron Dook, Gordon Watts, Gerald Slade, Bert Price, Ron Morris, Helen Cowie, Bob Tillet, Harry Handicott, Wilf March, Dick Fitzgerald, Ron Neuzerling, Peter Barden, Ray Parry, Ralph Finkelstein, Jack Wicks, Jim McLaughlin, Doc Wheatley, Don Murray, Roy Watson, Tony Bowers, Joe Poynton, Bob Smyth, Leith Cooper, Dawn Laing, Bill Connell, Jillian Taylor, George Timms, Cisco Coles.

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mrs J. Martin,  
Joyce  
P.O. Box 353  
Griffith 2680  
(069) 622 225. (02) 6962 2225 (1998)

Mr. W. J. Connell  
Bill and Irma  
62/112 Whites Rd  
Manly, 4179

Mr. C. A. Thompson  
Alan and Vida  
72/10 Minkara  
Bayview 2104  
(02) 9999 3056

Mrs J. Taylor  
Jillian  
59 Beauty Point Rd  
Beauty Point  
Via Narooma 2546  
(Mrs Joy Hodge's daughter)