



# **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. 126**

**JUNE 1998**

**Price 1c**

## **COMING EVENTS**

### **NORMA HASSON DAY**

**FRIDAY, JULY 3rd**

**Terrace Hotel, 195 Adelaide Terrace, Perth**

Refreshments from 11am – Luncheon 12.30pm

## **COMMEMORATION SERVICE**

**Lovekin Drive, Kings Park**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15th at 3pm**

**Lest We Forget**

## **CHRISTMAS SOCIAL**

**MANDURAH RSL HALL**

**22 Third Avenue, Mandurah**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4th**

Refreshments from 11am – Luncheon 12.30pm

Please wear your name tags.

## VALE LEW THOMPSON WX12320

It is with great regret we advise of the death of our old comrade Lew who passed away peacefully at the Swan Districts Hospital on 7th February, 1998 at the age of 90 years. Lewis William Paton Thompson was born in Bombay, India on 3rd October, 1907. Not a great deal is known of his early life but we understand he went to South Africa as a young man and spent some years working on an uncle's farm. From there he went to W.A. in the late 20's where he joined his father who ran the old Mt. Lawley Ice Works and as well did refrigeration repair work, which Lew soon picked up. It was here he met a lass working in the office one Una Thomson. Lew courted Una and they were married in September 1941 while Lew was on his pre-embarkation leave. Their marriage went on to last for over 56 years until Lew's passing. Sadly their only child – a son Gilbert – died in his mid thirties with leukemia.

Lew enlisted in the A.I.F. in May 1941 and found his way as an original member of the 2/2nd as a sapper under Don Turton. Lew turned out to be a good sapper. His quiet efficient manner and easy to get on with attitude endeared him to his sapper mates. Don Turton tells of a humorous incident in the early stages of the Timor campaign when an intended ambush went wrong and everyone was ordered to move out, which they did except Lew who was left behind with his machine gun. Fortunately he made it back okay and when asked why he didn't move out his laconic reply was "you know I'm deaf!" After Timor Lew became attached to the 116th Light A.A. Regiment and was eventually discharged in January, 1944.

After the war Lew tried his hand at farming on a property at Mooliabeenie but later gave this away and moved to Wannamal where he and Una took over the Post Office and the school bus contract with Una running the Post Office and Lew driving the bus. Son Gilbert also helped out. The business turned out a winner. Lew and Una were highly respected in the district with both taking an active interest in the local affairs of the community. Finally the years caught up with them and they retired to a unit at Midvale and later to the Morrison Lodge at Midland. In their latter years Jess Epps was kind enough to remain our main contact with Lew and Una.

Lew was always a loyal supporter of the Association and was made a Life Member in 1994. He made a practice of coming down regularly to our annual reunion and commemoration services. He was a lovable and generous man. Don Turton gave a fine eulogy to Lew at the funeral service at Karrakatta on 11th Feb. He and Gerry Green were pall bearers. A nice tribute was also paid

to Lew from a local resident of Wannamal. A good number of country people came down for the service showing the esteem which both he and Una were held by the people they were associated with for so many years.

Thirteen of our members were present, plus Jessie Epps and Lorraine March.

So passed our oldest W.A. member.

To Una, his devoted wife and other relatives we extend our deepest sympathy.

Lest We Forget

**J. W. Carey**

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To members of the 2/2 Commando Association.

Your kind expressions of sympathy are sincerely appreciated.

Sorry I did not get to see more of you.

**Una Thompson**

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## CANBERRA SAFARI 1998

**Day 1.** The usual happy getting together of old friends, some not seen for many years, the excitement increasing as more and more arrived, some independently and others taking advantage of the hospitable Canberrans who transported them from planes and trains to their accommodation.

In the evening the excitement continued as everyone gathered at the Eastlake Football Club for a buffet meal served by the friendly staff who endeared themselves to us all.

**Day 2.** A day of rest until 5pm when it was off to a reception at Government House where we were greeted by the Governor General, Sir William Deane and his charming wife who were most hospitable and made us feel at ease. An enjoyable visit.

**Day 3.** The magnificent wreath laying ceremony held at the National War Memorial. A most impressive and moving occasion. This was followed by the official luncheon.

**Day 4.** An interesting visit to the Prime Minister's Lodge where we enjoyed afternoon tea and a stroll around the gardens.

In the evening the splendid Beating the Retreat at the Royal Military College, Duntroon. A fine musical presentation concluded with Tchaikowski's 1812 Overture. A truly splendid event. Afterwards we enjoyed the hospitality of the Senior NCO's Mess.

**Day 5.** This was a fun day when we were transported by vintage/classic cars to an official reception at the Legislative Assembly where

we were welcomed by Brendan Smyth representing the Chief Minister and members of the Assembly. This was a very pleasant visit during which Alan Luby presented Brendan with a Double Diamond plaque crafted by Fred Janvrin.

**Day 6.** A visit to the Changi Chapel and an ecumenical church service at Duntroon in the morning and a pleasant coach trip to the Murrumbateman Winery where a delicious luncheon was enjoyed, along with some very acceptable wines.

**Day 7.** The official meeting in the morning when it was decided that the 2000 Safari will be held in Hobart Tasmania. Arrangements are in the capable hands of Bert Price. A barbecue was enjoyed in the evening.

**Day 8. St. Patrick's Day.** A coach trip to the Federation Square Shopping Centre in the morning and a very happy visit to the Irish Club in the afternoon.

The farewell buffet in the evening ended another enjoyable Safari. As we were saying our farewells we were all hoping to be together again in Hobart in the year 2000.

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### Meeting held in Canberra at 10.00am March 16, 1998

Present: Jack Carey, 'Happy' Greenhalgh, Bill Coker, Ron Andrews, Eric Weller, Lionel Newton, Harry Handicott, Len Bagley, Stan Payne, Bert Price, Tony Bowers, Bill Rowan-Robinson, George Shiels, Bernie Langridge, John Chalwell, Keith Wilson, Wilf March, Paddy Kenneally, Dick Darrington, Dan Daniels, Alan Luby, Fred Bagley, Ron Morris, Ed Bourke, Ron Archer, Tom Foster.

The meeting opened with the Ode recited by Jack Carey.

Len Bagley gave a report on the Courier in which he gave an indication of the numbers of copies distributed, by states, and said that on average the Courier cost \$1000 per issue. He proposed that the frequency of issue should be changed from every two months to every three months because of lack of copy. This proposal was supported unanimously.

Jack Carey gave a brief description of what was happening with the Trust Fund. He indicated that the Fund had been very active in helping the East Timorese people through the supply of books etc, and volunteers from Australia teaching them various skills. Bernie Langridge proposed a vote of thanks for the work done by Bob Smyth, Chairman of the Fund. Seconded by 'Happy' Greenhalgh, carried unanimously.

General Business: Len Bagley urged everyone

to keep their address books up to date by using the information supplied in each issue of the Courier.

**Safari:** Len Bagley proposed that another Safari be held in two years time. Dan Daniels seconded the motion which was carried unanimously. It was suggested that Victoria should be the venue but the representative of that State said there were only two people available to organise it and that would not be sufficient.

Jack Carey suggested that Tasmania could be considered as a suitable venue for the next Safari which could possibly be organised by a combination of 2/2nd members, the Tasmanian Tourist Bureau, the RSL and members of the 2/40th Battalion. After favourable discussion, Bert Price agreed with this suggestion and said he was quite happy to proceed with the necessary arrangements for a Safari in Hobart. He will keep members advised of progress per the Courier. Jack then moved that the next Safari be held in Tasmania in March 2000. This was seconded by Bernie Langridge and carried unanimously.

A representative of each State gave a brief description of happenings in their State, involving people and events.

Jack Carey said that his committee often had trouble preparing the Vales for deceased members because of lack of background on the persons concerned. He suggested that members should prepare their own Vale and either leave it with their wives, family, etc. or send it to the Editor of the Courier.

Ron Morris gave a personal explanation about the attendance of his daughter, grandson and granddaughter at the official luncheon. Because of his close association with the caterer his family were not charged.

'Happy' Greenhalgh moved a vote of thanks to the ACT Committee for a job well done in organising the Canberra Safari. This was seconded by Paddy Kenneally and carried unanimously.

Ron Morris sought permission to represent the 2/2nd Association at other meetings such as those of the Australian Commando Association. The meeting could see no problem in this request.

The meeting closed at 11.30am.

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### To the Committee, Canberra Safari 1998

It is with sincere regret that I will not be with you during this wonderful week.

I can only wish the 2/2nd Commando Association, their ladies and one and all a wonderful time and all to enjoy the proceedings in the best of health.

As Lloyd George said 'The surest road to success is preparation.' I know the committee did this extremely well.

A final note to let you know I'll be there to take P.T. at the next Safari.

God bless you all.

**Ralph Finkelstein**

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The following letters were received by the organising committee –

**Governor-General Sir William Deane  
Government House, Canberra.**

Dear Mr Morris,

Thank you for your letter of 24 March and the enclosed group photograph of the men of the 2/2 Commando Unit which I greatly appreciated receiving.

Yours sincerely,

**William Deane**

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**Warrant Officer,  
P.W. Rosemond, OAM  
Army Headquarters, Canberra.**

My congratulations. The Memorial Service for the 2/2nd and 2/5th Squadrons was a remarkable tribute to comrades. The fact that so many attended, from all over Australia demonstrated the close bonds and determination of the members and their families.

The luncheon for the 2/2nd Squadron was a fitting tribute to a very close group of outstanding Australians. I thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and the company.

You should feel extremely proud of your achievement and the success of your coordination and efforts.

Sincerely,

**Peter Rosemond**

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**Major General T. F. Cade**

My warmest thanks and appreciation to the President and members of the 2/2 Commando Association for inviting me to be with you all for such an impressive and enjoyable reunion.

The Wreath Laying Ceremony and the delightful luncheon that followed were most enjoyable.

Sincerely,

**General Tim**

**Kate Carnell, MLA  
Canberra ACT**

Dear Ron,

Thank you for your letter of 28 March, 1998 expressing your thanks for the reception hosted by Mr Brendan Smyth on 14 March, 1998 as part of the Association's safari in Canberra.

I understand that the safari was a resounding success and I commend you on organising such a busy program. With such a successful visit and with the Association members looking so well, I am sure there will be many more safaris! I am particularly pleased the reception at the Legislative Assembly was such a success.

Yours sincerely,

**Kate Karnell MLA,  
Chief Minister**

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**W. March,  
3 Bricknell Rd,  
Attadale, 6156**

Dear Hazel and Ron,

Thank you for looking after us so well, for our well being, comfort and enjoyment and friendship over the years with our fellow 2/2 men and women and yourself.

Great Safari.

**Lorraine and Wilf**

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**B. C. Langridge  
18 Pleasant Grove Circle  
Mandurah 6210**

Dear Hazel and Ron,

Thank you for all you did to make our stay in Canberra so memorable. It was a 'once in a lifetime' experience and we do appreciate the time and effort that went into the planning of such a successful safari.

Sincerely,

**Babs and Bernie**

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**Mrs Colleen Thurgar AM,  
State President, RSL,  
Canberra, ACT.**

Dear Ron,

Thank you for inviting me to join yourself and members of the 2/2 Commando Association at your official luncheon on the 12th March, 1998.

Sincerely,

**Colleen Thurgar**



## A. G. M. 1998.

The A.G.M. of the W.A. Branch was held at Anzac Club on Tuesday, 14th April. The attendance of 15 members was disappointing but is indicative of the advancing years and our diminishing numbers. Nevertheless, it was a good meeting. Bernie Langridge kindly offered to be chairman for the meeting with our president unable to attend through illness and our vice-president Dick Darrington being away in the country for Easter.

Two popular members in Albie Friend and Ray Parry were made life members and presented with their life membership medallions by Bernie. Albie and Ray have been loyal and generous members for the past 52 years and were worthy recipients of the honour. Both expressed their sincere thanks for being made life members. Mick Holland was also made a life member but because of illness was unable to be present to receive his medallion. The report from the president, treasurer, Trust Fund chairman, editor, auditor and warden were presented. All were quality reports and a tribute to the presenters. The Association is indeed fortunate to have such a capable and dedicated crew in charge of its affairs.

The election of office bearers for 1998/99 followed.

Those elected were:

President	R. Finkelstein
Vice-president	R. Darrington
Secretary	J. Carey
Treasurer	W. Monk
Editor	L. Bagley
Warden	J. Burridge
Auditor	J. Burridge
Courier Committee	B. Bagley, G. Bagley
General Committee	Messrs D. Turton, W. March, L. Halse

Under general business on Mr Smyth's recommendation Les and Verna Cranfield and Viv and Verna Paust were made honorary members of the Association for their contribution on our behalf to the people of East Timor. All four are good people. It was agreed that we should hold our Xmas Social at Mandurah as was the case last year. Thanks go the Mandurah Branch for their support. The Association is to have a plaque made up to present to the Carine High School. Every year the children place a flower at the foot of each of the trees in our Honour Avenue section in Kings Park.

Apologies for the A.G.M. were tendered by A. Campbell, H. Sproxton, M. Holland, D. Study, S. Payne, T. Bowers, G. Maley, J. Poynton, D. Darrington, R. Finkelstein.

**J. W. Carey**

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1997/98.

In submitting my annual report I regret I am unable to attend the 1998 A.G.M. because of health reasons and I thank you all for attending and your continued support.

My first year as your President was a wonderful experience and I am grateful for the cooperation and assistance I received from my committee. They are a great group.

Sadly 1997/98 saw the passing of 15 of our members Australia wide. Our numbers, as to be expected, are diminishing year by year and I understand the total left would now be approximately 180 members. On the other hand our widows are increasing, the heartening thing being the loyal support they continue to give the Association. May God bless them all.

Socially we had another good year. The Norma Hasson Day was a very happy mid year function – may it continue so. The visit to the Fremantle Army Museum in October was another successful function being well attended and enabling members to view our exhibit at the museum. The Xmas social at Mandurah with an attendance of 55 was a great day thanks to a concerted effort by the Mandurah branch.

Though our numbers were down we continued the tradition of taking part in the Anzac Day march under the unit flag. A very pleasant gathering afterwards at the Terrace Hotel made for a great day. The honour of laying a wreath at the dawn service was an uplifting experience and a proud moment for me. John Burridge and Bob Smyth also laid a wreath at the S.A.S. Regiments Dawn Service and for that I thank them.

The commemoration service held on Sunday, 16th November was also a rewarding service for the family and myself. It was well attended and the presence of these fine young men from the S.A.S. Regiment added that little extra which makes our service very special. I appeal to all members and their families to reserve the 3rd Sunday of November in the years ahead for our commemoration service in Lovekin Drive. We must never forget those who gave so much for us.

Unfortunately I was unable to attend the Canberra Safari held last month but I understand it was a great success with the highlight being an audience with the Governor General and his wife, Sir William and Lady Deane. To be granted this honour was a nice tribute to our Association. Our thanks to the Canberra committee who did a fine job in setting up the Safari.

I would like to thank the Courier committee – Len, Betty and Gavin for their continued good

work in publishing the Courier. You are asked to contribute news to make a difficult job a little easier for them. I would also like to congratulate Bob Smyth for the first class job he has done and is continuing to do as chairman of our Trust Fund. A modest man, Bob has overcome some big hurdles to set up the Trust Fund which is now obtaining some pleasing results. Credit is also due to his committee in John Burrridge and Keith Hayes and that fine trio in Viv Paust and Les and Verna Cranfield.

In conclusion I extend my sympathy to all those who have lost loved ones in the past year. To all those on the sick list I hope things improve and life becomes more enjoyable. It has been a great honour to have served as president for such a fine association.

God bless you all.

**Ralph Finkelstein\***  
**President**

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### Editor's Report

Thanks to all the donors and scribes, for without them the Courier would cease to exist. The distribution is – WA 142, NSW 103, Victoria 59, Queensland 46, South Australia 17, Tasmania 11, Northern Territory 1 and England 1. A total of 380 at a cost of \$1000 per issue.

It has been decided that there will be four issues per year, March, June, September and December, commencing this year.

Please notify us of any changes of your address or alterations in any way to ensure you receive your copy. If a Courier is "returned to sender," it has to be paid for and no further copies will be issued.

Your address book is a vital part of keeping in touch with one another, so it is important to keep it up to date. Each Courier contains a list of address changes for you to do just that.

It would be appreciated if correspondents could have their copy in by the "Dead Line" which appears in every Courier, to make sure of publication.

This may all sound like a lecture but believe me, it is to help you and certainly make it easier for us.

The Courier Team are the 3 B's: Gavin computerises the address labels, Betty deciphers and types all copy to be sent to the printer, I am the general hand, stapler, folder, wrapper, sorter and mailer, etc. We are fortunate to have Geoff, Rhonda and Barry of Barron Press who have given us excellent service for many years.

For and on behalf of the Courier Team, please keep writing.

**Len Bagley**

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### 2/2 COMMANDO ASSOCIATION

#### GENERAL ACCOUNT

#### TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st JANUARY, 1998

Mr Chairman and members of this association I have pleasure in presenting to you a Statement of Receipts and Payments for the financial year ended 31st January, 1998.

Mr John Burrridge 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.

Four social functions were held during the past year –

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
ANZAC DAY  
NORMA HASSON SOCIAL  
FREMANTLE ARMY MUSEUM

The Annual Christmas Party was held at Mandurah.

Payments outlaid during the financial year show a deficit of \$1186.69, leaving a credit balance at 31st January, 1998 of \$4988.52.

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

I shall now read the financial report.

**W. Monk, Hon. Treasurer**

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### 2/2 COMMANDO ASSOCIATION

#### INDEPENDENT TRUST FUND

#### TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st JANUARY, 1998

Mr Chairman and members of this association I have pleasure in presenting to you a Statement of Receipts and Payments for the financial year ended 31st January, 1998.

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

During the past year donations to the Trust Fund totalled \$2,100.00, plus interest of \$245.38. Expenses to Est Timor were \$2,411.71. Total assets at 31st January, 1998 were \$7,575.16.

I congratulate the Trust committee for the sterling work they have done over the past year, with special thanks to Les and Verna Cranfield for their outstanding achievements in East Timor.

The financial report is as follows:

**W. Monk, Hon. Treasurer**

## 2/2 COMMANDO ASSOCIATION

## GENERAL ACCOUNT STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST JANUARY, 1998

RECEIPTS	\$	\$	Less Expenses	\$	\$
<b>Balance at 1.2.97</b>			Courier Mailing and Publication	3885.66	
General Account	1419.51		Courier and Phone call donations	<u>3718.00</u>	
Town & Country T/D trans to General A/C	2200.00			167.66	167.66
Town & Country Term Deposit	1555.70				
Loan Canberra Safari	<u>1000.00</u>		Government Charges	20.71	20.71
	<u>6175.21</u>	6175.21	Rent GPO Box	120.00	
			Advertising Listening Post	20.00	
<b>Interest Received – General Account</b>	27.00		GPO Couriers Returned	2.25	
Town & Country Term Deposit	<u>145.32</u>		Capitation Fee Aust. Comm. Assoc.	68.00	
	172.32	172.32	Anzac Day Wreaths	57.50	
			Postage and Stationary	150.00	
<b>Sale of Badges</b>	28.00	28.00	Donation to S.A.S. Museum Appeal	500.00	
			Members Memorials	<u>287.00</u>	
				1204.75	1204.75
<b>Assocation Events –</b>			<b>BALANCE AT 31.1.98</b>		
Receipts and Christmas donation	2113.00		General Account	2287.50	
Expenditure	<u>2106.89</u>		Town & Country Term Deposit	1701.02	
	6.11	6/11	Loan Canberra Safari	<u>1000.000</u>	
				4,988.52	4988.52
					<u>6381.64</u>
		<u>\$6381.64</u>			

2/2 COMMANDO ASSOCIATION INDEPENDENT TRUST FUND  
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST JANUARY, 1998

<b>Balances at 1st February, 1997</b>			<b>Less Expenses:</b>		
C/wealth Bank Trust A/C	1455.68		Gov't Charges	8.45	
Town & Country T/D trans to Trust Account	3000.00		Excess Air Freight to Dili	180.00	
Town & Country Term Deposit	<u>3185.81</u>		4 Garden Seeders	634.90	
	7641.49	7641.49	Freight on 4 Garden Seeders	250	
			Electric Fence Energiser	259.00	
<b>Interest Received</b>			Reticulation and Drippers	222.60	
Commonwealth Bank Trust Account	47.99		Freight labels, paint and sundries	153.30	
Town & Country Term Deposit	<u>197.39</u>		Admin. Phone, Fax, Sundries	<u>703.46</u>	
	245.38	245.38		2411.71	2411.71
			<b>Balance as at 31st January, 1998</b>		
<b>Donations Received For the year to 31/1/98</b>		2100.00	Commonwealth Bank Trust Account	4191.96	
		<u>9986.87</u>	Town & Country Term Deposit	<u>3383.20</u>	
				7575.16	7575.16
					<u>9986.87</u>

## ANZAC DAY 1998

A big crowd attended the Dawn Service at Kings Park. Keith Hayes, deputising for our President Ralph Finkelstein who is making a steady recovery from a major operation, laid a beautiful double red diamond wreath on behalf of the Association.

Later in the morning 18 members took part in the march under pleasant conditions. Keith Hayes was to the fore again leading our group, with John Chalwell doing his usual sterling job as flag bearer. Joe Poynton was the marker and next to him was Susan Leppard (Jack Wicks daughter) who marched with us this year as a mark of respect for her late father. Joe didn't mind having a nice young lady accompanying him down the Terrace. Shades of the past! It was a good march and once again our band, the Salvation Army Citadel Band, did a top job. Sam Fulbrook was a notable addition and it was great to see him again. Gerry Maley, Dick Darrington, Eric Thorlander, Dusty Studdy and Vince Swann were unable to march but caught up with us later.

Following the service on the Esplanade we spent three pleasant hours at the Terrace Hotel. Twenty two made it, including our old friend John Lillie of the 3rd Company. It is always nice to catch up with John. Gordon Robbins, an old mate of the late George Fletcher, also joined us. Mike Hindmarsh, the C.O. of the S.A.S. Regiment, and R.S.M. Greg Jack were good enough to come along and spend 3/4 hour meeting members. This gesture was very much appreciated. The demeanour of the S.A.S. people never fails to impress. What a great Unit they are. A first class luncheon and the cold refreshments topped off another quieter but very pleasant Anzac Day.

Our thanks go to Verna Bingham's daughter Shirley, for providing two magnificent wreaths for the day, to John Burridge for doing the honours and laying a wreath at the S.A.S. dawn service at Campbell Barracks and to the Terrace Hotel staff for looking after us so well.

Apologies were tendered by nine members who couldn't make it.

**Jack Carey**

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## ANZAC DAY in MANDURAH

The day began with more than 800 people attending the Dawn Service at the War Memorial. Later, the Memorial was packed when a record 5000 listened to Sir Charles Court give an inspiring address.

2/2nd men who marched were Clarrie Turner,

Len Bagley, Charles King and son Paddy who laid the wreath, Bill Howell and sons Lee and Ray who carried the banner, and Dick Fitzgerald, ex 2/5th.

A pleasant surprise was the attendance of Les and Verna Cranfield and Verna's mother who all came down from Shoalwater and were very impressed with the march and the service.

There was a large gathering at the RSL hall afterwards. A wonderful Anzac Day with the real feeling of comradeship at its best.

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## INDEPENDENT TRUST

### DROUGHT

Reports of the drought conditions in Indonesia were of concern to us following the departure of Les and Verna Cranfield.

It was difficult to get reliable information from areas of our interest. Media drought reports coincided with a vital growing period whereby tenfold grain improvement were envisaged. No news for some weeks of Father Jose who does not enjoy good health. Fortunately rain did fall at Fuiloro and the crop should still reach expectations.

### CORN HARVESTER, SILAGE MAKER HYDRAULIC BUILDING BLOCK MACHINE

#### Quotes for "Used plant in good condition"

We searched by phone and via ABC radio "Country Hour," areas around Australia for the first two items. A prospect is at Kararoy Queensland. However we have had to advise Fr. Jose that assessment of value – reconditioning, preparation and transport to Gladstone for shipment to Darwin and Surabaya, for transshipment to Kupang or Dili, would make it unviable.

The Indonesian owned shipping service (to which we have been confined) from Singapore to Dili, has been suspended, "until currency problems have improved."

### PALLETS FOR DILI

Keith Hayes is storing a 2 pallet load of some 45 typewriters plus projectors, speakers, a video camera, loads of paper etc. which he has collected. Also 2 large cartons of good dress materials donated following a news and radio programme featuring Les and Verna Cranfield's voluntary efforts in East Timor.

### FOOD – SEED PROGRAMME

In view of the priority rating of the commodity and the opportunity of producing it using Les Cranfield's improved methods of cultivation, we obtained from Symonds Seeds \$4,713 of seeds suitable for the area.

These have been delivered to Keith Hayes for packing and storage pending delivery to Fr. Jose who will be distributing them to appropriate areas.

It comprises – Runner beans 25kg - \$204, 18 other varieties of seeds total only 19 k.g. for a value of \$4,509. Keith will parcel the sealed bags and cartons into 5kg lots. They will be hand delivered in Dili via air passengers luggage.

The carrier will need to be non indigenous to better cope with any pressure or intimidation passing through Customs. If you know anyone visiting East Timor in the future please contact Keith Hayes (08) 9361 3122 or Bob Smyth (08) 9386 3314.

#### **WELDER INSTRUCTOR DON BOSCO – DILI**

At this time 22/4/98 AESOP have agree to this programme and will endeavour to locate a suitable person for the project of 6 months.

Plans and hopes for a highly skilled instructor from a Victorian TAFE centre did not materialise.

#### **INTERPLAST**

We have submitted photographs taken by Verna Cranfield of 3 children afflicted with acutely disfiguring cleft palate syndrome.

We have suggested that if a team visit to East Timor is not approved by P.E.R.A.P.I. (Indonesian Plastic Surgeons) or Indonesian administration that the children be brought down to Australia for operations.

#### **SOCIAL**

On 25/2/98 some 24 members and wives and Viv and Verna Paust, welcomed back Les and Verna for lunch at the Fremantle Sailing club.

But Verna and Les then had the same group down to a magnificent lunch and Les's fridge at their seaside home at Shoalwater on Friday 3/4/98. Many thanks Verna and Les.

#### **HONORARY MEMBERS**

Viv and Verna Paust and Les and Verna Cranfield have frequently expressed their pleasure in being associated with our 2/2nd Association. We are most grateful to each of them for their outstanding contribution in assisting our efforts to ensure that the indigenous East Timorese know that the 2/2nd has not forgotten them.

We are pleased therefore that at our Annual General meeting a unanimous vote welcomed Viv and Verna and Les and Verna as Honorary members of the 2/2nd Commando Association of Australia.

Many thanks to all donors. Best wishes.

**Bob Smyth**

**R. N. Smyth**  
128 Dalkeith Rd  
Nedlands 6009.

Ms. Marion Wright  
Director, Interplast Australia  
Royal Australian College of Surgeons  
Spring Street  
Melbourne, 2000.

Dear Marion,

#### **Re: Congenital problem East Timor**

You will recall the difficulties in 1994 in obtaining Indonesian approval for an Interplast programme in East Timor. We accordingly had to withdraw our offer of funding which has been applied to alternative projects. A report is attached.

We appreciate and thank you for your Annual Report which reflects the magnificent efforts of teams of Interplast volunteers.

We hope that you will review the possibility of Interplast assistance to East Timor. It is emphasised that the need of the indigenous people is far greater than any who are not living in daily fear of the oppressive surveillance of an intimidating military presence.

The photos enclosed could be discussed by the Interplast Board when next reviewing a training programme for PERAPI members. Should PERAPI or Indonesian Administration resist as expected, a programme for East Timor, then surely it is only fair that these three unfortunate children be brought down to Australia for their turn.

You may wish to contact Les and Verna Cranfield, 6 Third Avenue, Shoalwater, 6169. Phone/Fax (08) 9528 3832

Yours sincerely,

**Bob Smyth**  
**Independent Trust Fund**

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#### **QUEENSLAND NEWS**

Apparently my report on our Xmas function at the Hooper residence went amiss so belated as it may be here it is again.

As forecast in previous correspondence the menu comprised succulent oysters, prawns, and crabs together with cold cuts and salads for those unable to handle seafood. Delicious cakes and fresh fruit capped the repast and the usual copious supply of beverages was appreciated because the day, 1st December was HOT.

Neil and Margaret were gracious hosts and we were all appreciative of their efforts on our behalf to make the day memorable.

Those present were Tony and Iris Adams, Neil and Margaret Hooper, Jack and Beryl Steen, Margaret and John Evans (friends of the Steens), Happy Greenhalgh, Russ Blanch, Ralph and Sheila Conley, their daughter Janis and grand-daughter Kate, George and Bettye Coulson, Theo Adams, Col and Jeanette Andrew, Butch and Pat Barnier, Gordon, Joan and Helen Stanley, Alex and Esse Veovodin, Edna Vandeleur, Ron Archer and Lyn Love, Murvyn Murphy, Fred Otway and Paddy Wilby.

The function began at 11am. and by 4pm it was apparent the day had been a beauty. Neil and Margaret were thanked profusely and I am sure they needed no rocking to sleep that night.

On 2nd February the team got together at North Pine Dam for a Barbeque. The day was part of a continuing period of very hot weather but the company was good and the beverages cold. We passed on current information from the west and remembered those no longer with us, told a few reasonably good stories and said a word or two about politicians, particularly those involved in caring for and fostering Indonesian relationships.

The group comprised Theo Adams, Col and Jeanette Andrew, Ron Archer and Lyn Love, Butch and Pat Barnier, George and Bettye Coulson, Neil and Margaret Hooper, Jack and Beryl Steen and their friends John and Margaret Evans, Edna Vandeleur, and Ralph and Sheila Conley.

Apologies were received from Tony Adams, Murvyn Murphy, Gordon and Joan Stanley, and Alex and Esse Veovodin. Also I neglected to include Iris Adams from the above because I do not know how to reverse this highly technical processor.

A highlight of the day was George Coulson's 75th. Birthday! Well done George. May you have many more happy days.

The next item on the agenda is the Canberra Safari which some of us will attend.

Well it was great to see a lot of our old friends in Canberra and congratulations are due to Ron Morris and his committee for the success of the event.

The Queensland Contingent was small in numbers but proud to represent those who were unable to attend for various reasons. On the sick list were Bettye Coulson with a broken leg, Iris Adams who has had a spell in Hospital. Bettye hopes to have the plaster removed next week and word has it that George has been TERRIFIC in the house.

Our Safari reps were Ron Archer and Lyn Love, Murvyn Murphy, George and Margo Shiels, Neil and Margaret Hooper, Ralph and Sheila Conley. An old mate Doug Flaherty and

his wife Jean who live near Ballina N.S.W. were graciously accepted and attended the various functions with the exception of the ceremony at the War Memorial.

Doug was a member of 2/1st Fortress Engineers based in Koepang and was able to describe in detail the action in which the 2/40th. Bn. combined with other units, engaged the Japanese landing forces and Paratroops at Baboe. He, with 30 others escaped while Japanese aircraft bombed both Japanese and Australian troops at the surrender site after three days of fighting. His group were at large for some weeks before being recaptured. Coincidentally he joined Merv Ryan in the POW camp at Kalapa Lima near Koepang. An interesting account.

Following the Safari, Neil Hooper, Margaret, Sheila, Peter and Pat Campbell and I travelled down the Murray Valley Highway to the Eyre Peninsular. Cowell was to be the place to catch the King George Whiting and crabs but conditions and professionals resulted in travel to Tumbay Bay where indeed we had some good fishing and landed quite a few KG's. By Qld. whiting standards they were monsters!

We all enjoyed ourselves and went on for a day at Port Lincoln a lovely city where we said cheers to Peter and Pat who were wending their way home via Coffin Bay, Streaky Bay, and Ceduna.

My speedo showed on return we had travelled 6500 k's. More about the rest of the trip later.

Once again the troops met for a barbeque at North Pine Dam on Monday 11th. May. Sheila and I were unable to attend because my sister passed away after a long illness. The funeral was in Orange N.S.W. at that time.

The barbeque was not as well attended as it normally is due to absences from town and indisposition. Present were Jack and Beryl Steen, Ron Archer and Lyn Love, Merv Murphy, George and Bettye Coulson, Gordon and Joan Stanley, and Neil and Margaret Hooper.

Apologies were received from Theo Adams who is not in the best shape, Edna Vandeleur, transport difficulties, Col and Jeanette Andrew, Alex and Esse Veovodin, Butch and Pat Barnier, Butch had a visit to the Repatriation Hospital for a checkup, John and Margaret Evans, friends of the Steens and Tony and Iris Adams, Iris has not enjoyed the best of health recently.

According to Hoop the day was enjoyed by all, friends were remembered and his latest news from the West passed on. We are all pleased that Tony Bowers is on the mend and thoughts are with Ralph Finklestein wishing him a rapid return to form.

Our next get together is planned for Monday 20th. July at North Pine Dam and we would be delighted if any visitors to the Sunshine State escaping Wintery Weather in the South and other places could join us then. Neil Hooper suggests we advise the dates of our future meetings in the event members are travelling. My eldest son Paul and wife Pam departed Brisbane on the 8th. May for a tour around Australia. He says they will be away for six months spending most time in the Territory and the West. Half his luck!

Best wishes to you all. Our thoughts are with those who are battling illness.

**Ralph Conley.**

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## VICTORIAN NEWS

Anzac Day dawned wet and miserable – typically Melbourne weather with a lot of drizzle but not much volume. A small contingent of five 2/2 members assembled in Flinders Street to march off at 9.45am in drizzling rain. Present were Rolph Baldwin, Alf Harper, John Southwell, Barry Botterill, Leith Cooper. (Margaret, my daughter, marched with me as a carer to hold my head above the water if I collapsed).

On arrival at the approaches to the shrine the rain stopped and we were able to remove rain coats and march to attention to the forecourt to give the 'eyes right' to the Governor.

As we marched off to the Salvation Army tea, coffee and biscuits, the rain started again so we walked off to the Commando Reunion dinner at Eden on the Park, 8 Queens Road, Albert Park. An excellent meal and drinks awaited us, though our numbers again were down on last year, Fred Broadhurst and Bruce McLaren joined us at the dinner which was enjoyed by all.

Recently I called briefly on Tom Nisbet who seemed in good spirits, helped no doubt by his faithful dog 'Bones' who takes him for a walk each morning.

Bill Tucker is still in the annexe Tocumwal Hospital under intensive care. His daughter Jill comes up from Melbourne regularly to visit him and takes him in a wheel chair to visit his home which is nearby.

David Brown has sold his property on the Island and is now living in Blackburn.

The drought has eased here but we still need more rain (I sound like a farmer). However, we have had some marvellous weather and the country looks quite green.

**Leith Cooper**

## GERALDTON NEWS

The Geraldton City RSL Sub-Branch paid a special tribute to 99 year old Vincenzo 'Jim' Constantino when I briefly referred to his strong support of our Anzac Day observances when laying a wreath from his wheelchair, supported by his son Vince from Perth and Italian President Charlie Mangano. We also extended best wishes for his 100th birthday on November 18. Jim is the last of six Geraldton citizens who were awarded 'Cavaliere Di Vittorio Veneto' gold medals by the Italian Government in 1976 for their service as allies of the British in WWI. This represents a Knight of Vittorio Veneto, a northern Italian area where the British and Italians defeated the Austrians in 1918.

Sharing the main Anzac Day address in support of the motto 'Their Service – Our Heritage' Thomas Kavanagh and Julie Creek of Nagle Catholic College were acclaimed by the crowd of about 2000. Our Women's Auxiliary were extremely busy at the traditional gunfire breakfast with 170 ex-service personnel and others. They included Father Michael Morrissey of Geraldton who was elevated to Major and is Coordinating Chaplain for 13 Brigade RWAR in which there are five Chaplains.

Our main parade was led by WW2 10th Light Horse veteran Owen Fitzpatrick and companion Terry Obst. Capt. W.C. Robinson of that Regiment was Geraldton's first RSL President in 1917. Among the marchers was Eric Weller who had been featured in a newspaper photo in association with Legacy Badge Day which was highly successful.

I was presented with a 50 year continuous service certificate from RSL National Headquarters and I expressed my appreciation of the wonderful support I have received over the years.

Geraldton was privileged to have the first WA showing of the Australian War Memorial's travelling exhibition 'Ivor Hele, the Heroic Figure' which featured more than 60 magnificent drawings and paintings by the official war artist. General Blamey talked Hele into becoming an official war artist, promoting him to Lieutenant in the 2/48th Battalion and providing him with a batman and materials. He continued through the war in the Middle East and Africa before going to New Guinea to produce further paintings for the Australian War Memorial and he recorded war activities in Korea as a Major. The AWM is of special interest to Geraldton because the Korean exhibit includes the metal lined vest worn by our RSL Secretary, Brian Cooper in 1953 when he won the Military Medal for an outstanding example of cool, cheerful and courageous



leadership which was a splendid inspiration to his Section and the US Marines.

A long time friend phoned me after reading about the deterioration of our RSL building, Birdwood House which is owned by the people of Geraldton. He sent me a cheque for tens of thousands of dollars to have the work done by a first class tradesman using the best of materials. Then the Lions Club offered to attend to the kitchen and other parts of the interior of the 1935 building.

Hearty congratulations to Jack Carey for his Editorial regarding the Courier which he appropriately described as the lifeblood of the Association. God bless you all and please let your Editor know of any items of interest in which you or other members are involved.

Peter

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### N.S.W. NEWS

I guess it is going to take some time to get used to quarterly publications of our unique and wonderful Courier. Early in the year I thought it would be an idea to diarise happenings as they occurred, but that soon fell flat so will try to maintain some kind of orderly sequence.

In February my Edith spent 12 days in hospital on an intensive course of intravenous antibiotics for a severe reinfection in her lungs. This proved pretty effective in the long term, coupled with her wonderful fighting spirit and determination, and we were both able to make the Canberra Safari and enjoy the overall programme, except for the last day.

We thought the Safari was an excellent event and well up to previous standards. In particular the combined commemoration service with the 2/5 Squadron at the Australian War Memorial (and we've got to admit, they did outshine us with their uniformity of dress!). The receptions at Yarralumla by the Governor-General (he told me that in Sydney Uni days he was a member of Dee Why Surf Club), the Lodge, albeit minus the Prime Minister, ADFA, the RMC AND THE Legislative Council. The accommodation at Oakford was top class and very convenient and our transport was superb. Sadly, we were so depleted in numbers, understandable with our losses since the '96 Reunion, which makes us realise how lucky we were to be able to enjoy loving friendship at least one more time with the 2/2 family. We can but hope that there will be enough able people left to make Hobart 2000 Safari a viable proposition. Our congratulations and thanks must go to the small, but enthusiastic Committee who put it together. Our apologies to those we missed out on saying farewell, we trust everyone returned home safely.

**Anzac Day.** Once again we were blessed with excellent weather and a large crowd were in the city to support the veterans. On parade were Jack Hartley, Ray Cole, Paddy Kenneally, Harry Handicott, Snow Went, Alan Luby, with associates Ray Whitely, Alan Gray, Robert Gregg and Diedre Teague (Ward) Jim Walker (son of Mac Walker, CO 4th AIC) and his son David also joined us for the day. It was interesting and pleasing that ALL 7 of us from NSW who made the trip to Timor in 1995 were present.

In response to my appeal for a cover for my 'Independent Company' I was delighted with the number of replies from many parts of Australia, some from people I hadn't seen or heard of for years, such as Norm Nicolay and Paddy Wilby. Once again this proves the value of our Courier and the fact that people do read it and take action when necessary. My sincere thanks to all of you. I was also able to have a photocopy done for Jack Hartley.

In March we reported the death of Linda Da Luza. Sadly, we now report that Patricio (Pat) passed away on Easter Sunday and was cremated on April 18th. The church at Villawood was packed with Portuguese Timorese friends, relatives and others. Jack and Maria Hartley, Paddy Kenneally and I represented 2/2 Association. Gordon Hart from 2/4th and members of 'Z' Special Unit Association were present. Pat was probably our best contact with the Timorese over recent years and was a delightful host who loved to get together whenever he could for a luncheon meeting. May he Rest in Peace with his beloved Linda.

Our sick list remains pretty much the same. Frank (Curly) O'Neill has had another trip to Hospital, returned home for recuperation, as has Jack Hartley.

I was in touch with Arch Campbell who is back home after his recent operation and he sounded quite cheerful.

Our greetings to everyone and best wishes for your good health, as good as it can be.

Alan

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The Secretary,  
2/2 Commando Association of Australia

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Ex Nurses Association, Busselton, I am writing to thank your Association for their very generous donation to the Australian Service Nurses' National Memorial in Canberra. We shall be forwarding the monies collected in due course to the Royal College of Nursing. I enclose a receipt for your records.



With all good wishes to your members.

Yours faithfully,

**S. A. Stocks**  
**Hon. Secretary**

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Thanks to Theo Adams and Happy Greenhalgh for letting us know that Queensland members were invited to help Peter Hearle celebrate his 80th birthday at the home of his grandson in Strathpine on May 30th. We all wish you well Peter.

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### WANTED TO BUY

John Burrridge has been a collector all his life. He needs one coin to fill his Timor Collection. It is the bronze 10 AVOS dated 1945. He will pay \$10 for one in poor condition and up to \$60 for one in good condition. How about looking in that bottom drawer.

**John Burrridge,**  
**4 Adams Road,**  
**Dalkeith, 6009**  
**(08) 9386 3737.**

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### CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

**L. E. Coker**  
**11 Kameruka Rd**  
**Northbridge 2063**

Dear Folks. Another great Safari has come and gone. As most members on Safari knew, I was going into hospital the next day after we arrived home for a bowel operation. A stay of two nights finished up nine nights. The operation was a success and given the all clear from pathology. Then the water works played up – another operation, a rebore I believe is the popular name. Everything appears to be OK now.

It is not until one has a stint in hospital that one realises what wonderful people the hospital staff are, especially the nurses who are a special race on their own.

Safari. We had a lovely room and thoroughly enjoyed the company of Margaret Monk and Joyce Martin. I must say there was plenty of easy talking. Joyce had the bad luck of being called to Sydney on the last night owing to her sister being flown from Griffith to the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney.

The Committee, as usual, did a marvellous job. We think the highlight was the reception at Government House. The Governor General and his wife were free and easy. Nellie Mullins

has a photo taken with the Governor General. The next day he spoke well at the War Memorial service.

Another pleasant couple of hours was an unexpected stop over at the Royal Canberra Yacht Club where the pokies were good to our ladies. It was a splendid get together and gives thoughts for future functions.

The next Safari is to be in Hobart because of the spontaneous reception by everyone in Canberra that these shows will keep on.

Have had several calls from well wishers – many thanks. Love to everyone and will write again soon.

**Bill and Coral**

---

**L. Cranfield**  
**6 Third Ave**  
**Shoalwater 6169.**

Dear Len,

Please accept a donation for the Courier. We thoroughly enjoy reading of your activities both past and present. Joan Stanley's writing on their trip to Timor in 1971 could well have been present day. Could picture it well!

We are proud to be associated in any way with the 2/2nd Commandos. Thank you.

Sincerely,

**Verna and Les**

---

**Mrs M. Monk**  
**Wayside Delivery**  
**Poowong 3988**

Dear 2/2nd friends everywhere.

What a wonderful time we all had at the Canberra Safari, and I would like to thank everyone for their special kindness to me. It has been very hard coping without my dear Ken. I do miss him so very much and was undecided about joining the Safari. However, different ones persuaded me and I enjoyed all the activities and meeting again our wonderful 2/2nd friends.

I am coping quite well at home and am very thankful that I have a wonderful family. Robert, Cathy and family live within a few minutes and Colin, Joan and girls a little further away so I see some of them every day which is very helpful. Barbara in Melbourne is just a phone call away and Elva in Vietnam keeps in touch by FAX.

Thanks to the good people who keep the Courier going. It is a great little paper and keeps us all in touch.

My best wishes to all for what is left of 1998.  
How quickly time flies by.

Enclosed is a donation for the Courier.

**Margaret**

---

**A. Beveridge**  
**49 Carr St Toronto 2283**

Enclosed is a cheque for the Association to be used any way you wish.

Regards,

**Andy**

---

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

Enclosing a donation for the Courier with all good wishes for 1998. Keep up the good work.

Unfortunately I was unable to get to the Canberra Safari – hope it was a great success.

Sincerely,

**Syd.**

---

**Robert Gregg,**  
**PO Box 68,**  
**Beresfield 2322**

Dear Sir

I wish to become a subscriber to the 2/2 Commando Courier. Alan Luby has kindly passed on some issues to me. I was honoured to visit Timor in 1995 with a group of veterans and saw at first hand some of the problems facing that ruggedly beautiful island.

Enclosed is a cheque to cover subscription.

Best wishes,

**Robert**

---

**H. W. Price**  
**Main Road**  
**Dover 7117**

Dear Jack,

A note to ask for another 2/2 lapel badge. It is peculiar how I lost the last one. My son who works for the National Parks at Hastings was showing visitors through the Hastings caves and he heard Timor mentioned and asked the tourist if he was a Timor veteran. He was told that the person flew with the Hudson No. 2 and 13 Lockheed Hudson Squadrons and was a navigator, Flight Officer Ken Duff. My son rang me and said Ken Duff was having lunch at Dover so I grabbed my 2/2 badge and went off

to find him. I missed him and when I got home had lost my badge.

Ken Duff has sent my son two short books. Ken had about 20 trips over Timor, dropping supplies and bombing raids.

Regards,

**Bert**

---

**R. Archer**  
**36 Soudan St.**  
**Toowong 4066**

Dear Fred and Erika,

A very big thank you to you and the committee for a great safari. Nothing was too much trouble for any of you and the planning and arrangements all went wonderfully well. Congratulations.

**Ron and Lyn**

---

**A. Thomson**  
**PO Box 145**  
**Capel 6271**

A few lines to let you know we are still in the land of the living. Also enclosing a donation for the Courier.

Our regards to all Unit members. I guess you see Clarrie and Grace Turner more now that they live in Mandurah. We miss them popping in for a coffee. Alex still has problems with his knee but otherwise OK.

Peppermint Grove Beach is growing, with new houses going up all the time. It was so much nicer before it started progressing, but I suppose that's life. You can't stop progress. Bunbury, Busselton and Dunsborough are all turning into small cities over run with tourists.

All our family are doing fine. All grandchildren in their teens and have got driver's licences, but we do have 4 great grandies which keep us on our toes.

Our regards to all members.

**Wyn and Alex**

---

**H.W. Price OAM**  
**Huon Highway**  
**Dover 7117**

Dear Dick,

Have just about settled down after our Safari. Was not well for some time after I got home – stomach trouble plus head aches. Seem to be all right now.

Enclosing some photos that will be of interest

to you and Tony which you can pass on to him.

We are all getting ready for Anzac Day and I am pretty well involved in our little township. We usually get over a hundred at the Dawn Service plus a few more at 10.15am.

Have made a few enquiries about Safari 2000. Had a look at Oakford apartments in Hobart – they are built over the water. Very nice but expensive unless we can get a good discount. Waiting to hear from Jack Carey.

Give my regards to all 2/2nd as you meet up with them.

Regards.

**Bert**

---

**T. Cholerton**  
**16 Wirraway Ave.**  
**Evans Head 2473**

We were very sorry to miss out on the Canberra Safari but Pat is quite unsettled these days. Also, the medicos were playing around with my prostate – successfully, I guess, as I am still here and reasonably fit, as are Di and Julie.

Hap Greenhalgh rang me with a full report on Canberra and we are now enjoying a visit from Jessie Epps with further news of same, complete with great photo of the happy participants.

We are now getting some action on Pat's problems and are hopeful things will improve.

Best wishes to all.

**Ted**

---

**P. Campbell**  
**30 Castletown Quays**  
**Esperance 6450**

We are back to a nice rain, all coming green and farmers working their paddocks madly.

We would like to extend a big thank you to all who made the Canberra Safari such a great success. It was wonderful having the Army bus to pick us up so no hassles.

It was great meeting all old friends and we look forward to doing same in two years time, if all going well.

We will be leaving on 20th May to meet friends and go to our usual place at Exmouth. Will meet Reg Harrington there. Looking forward to fishing, it is so different from Esperance, and nice and warm when it's cold at home. Enclosed cheque for whatever. Regards to all.

**Peter and Pat**

**P. Alexander**  
**170 Forrest St**  
**Palmyra 6157**

Enclosed is a cheque for the Courier.

Look forward to Keith Hayes calling in.

Best wishes to Ron Dook and Arch.

**Peter**

---

**C. Andrew**  
**15 Iron Bark Rd**  
**Caloundra 4551**

Dear Ralph,

Sorry I was unable to attend the Safari. I wish all who attended all the best.

Have contacted Curley Davies widow Lois. She would like to receive the Courier so I am passing on her address.

Enclosed is a cheque for the Courier.

All the best to everyone.

**Col.**

---

**Mrs K. Sargeant**  
**25 Thomas St**  
**Gympie 4570.**

Dear Jack,

You may be sick of hearing from me but I feel I must write again in reply to your comment on receiving my last letter. You say I could be right when I assert it was my name used when contact with Australia was made on the 19th April, 1942. I can assure you I am right and I've always known it was Jack who was at the transmitter that night. The name 'Joan' seems to have been the name used which has been the main reason for the confusion.

It was the fictitious name given to a fictitious Cpt. Bill Jones written in several newspapers when news of Timor first hit the headlines on 31 December, 1941 and 1 January, 1943. In some, the correct version was given and in others the following questions and answers were asked Q. Is Cpt Bill Jones there? A. Yes. Bring him to the transmitter. Q. What is the name of your wife? A. Joan etc. etc. As I have repeated many times over the years, there was never any Cpt Bill Jones there, it was dreamt up by some reporter.

I have copies of several papers sent to me from different place and I've also photos and a copy of the wireless section of the film 'Men of Timor' taken by the late Damien Parer, with Jack's and my names on it.

It's a pity all the men involved with Winnie with exception of Cpt George Parker, are dead.

If anyone would care to phone me on (07) 5482 3794 at night I will be happy to talk to them. After 7pm.

It is a pity authors did not get their facts right but I guess understandable, given circumstances at that time.

Jack never asked for any kudos and would only ever say he went to Timor to do his bit for Australia and was pleased with what he did. He had nothing but praise for the 'Men of Timor' who did such a courageous job whilst there.

Sincerely,

**Kathleen**

---

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

I've been intending to write for some time, but as my father would say 'you keep putting it on the long finger.' Speaking of my father reminds me of Paddy Kenneally's story of his arrival here from Ireland. I think my father may have been a fellow passenger. My mother, sister and I arrived 18 months later from Tipperary via an uncle's home in London.

Last year wasn't one to rejoice about in our household, Dorothy being very ill for the first six months and only after a drastic loss of weight was she diagnosed with breast cancer. She is improving now, particularly after another ten days in hospital recently for a series of tests which resulted in changed medication to which she has responded.

I was looking forward to a flying visit to Canberra to renew acquaintances with blokes I haven't seen for decades, but circumstances decided otherwise. We had a visit recently from Doug and Shirley Dixon whom we hadn't seen for about 15 years. Both looked very well but I gather Alan Dixon is in very poor health. Haven't heard from Jim Cullen in a long while.

I was saddened to read of Charlie Sadler's death. He took me under his wing when I joined the unit and impressed me greatly.

I trust the Canberra reunion was a great success. My best wishes to all. Maybe one of these days I will achieve my hopes of visiting Perth.

I await with interest Paddy K's comments on the waterfront imbroglio.

Enclosed is a donation towards Courier costs and whatever you see fit.

Regards,

**Pat**

---

**D. Brown**  
**39 Surrey Rd.**  
**Blacktown 3130**

Dear Jack,

Thank you so much for your letter. I was so saddened by my inability to attend the safari but unfortunately we were in the process of packing our belongings in order to move back to the city at the above address, when I tripped and fell, managing to crack a few ribs and gash my leg. I was still determined to come but the doctor was right, I could hardly move without pain for the next three weeks.

We are currently building a small two bedroom unit here.

Thais and I are both quite well, with only the normal problems associated with our age group but who knows – we are enjoying the (now).

I enclose herewith a contribution to the beloved Courier and so look forward to the next issue with all the doings at the safari.

Best wishes to you and Delys and all the boys over there. I hope Finky is behaving himself as your President.

Sincerely,

**David and Thais**

---

**L. Cranfield**  
**6 Third Avenue**  
**Shoalwater 6169**

Dear Jack,

Received your letter and we both feel honoured to be associated with the 2/2nd. We feel we both owe a lot to your group for being able to do work for other people in most unfortunate situations. A lot of people in Australia have no idea how life goes on up there.

Yours faithfully,

**Les and Verna**

---

**V. Paust**  
**3 Vestey Court**  
**Duncraig 6023**

Dear Jack,

Since coming into contact with the 2/2nd Verna and I have felt an affinity with the group, its ideals and its individual members.

Your Association has previously shown its appreciation of my stint in East Timor in many ways, not the least of which was including us in the celebration of your 50th Anniversary.

To further honour us with honorary membership of the Association is as overwhelming as it is fantastic. Thank you, and we pledge our continued support.

Sincerely,

Viv

---

**R. Finkelstein**  
317/130 Cresswell Rd  
Dianella 6062

Dear friends,

Hi there! I'm back, proof that only the good die young. Was most disappointed, after looking so forward to the Safari, to be forced into hospital. News from the grapevine informed me that the whole show was wonderful and, as anticipated, marvelously well organised.

Eve and I would like to thank all of our wonderful friends for their letters, phone calls, good wishes and gifts during period of convalescence.

God bless, and keep well.

Ralph

---

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

Dear Jack and Delys,

What a great time was had by all!! Many thanks for the note paper, it will be put to good use as we have over thirty thank you letters to write.

Enclosed is a cheque for \$1,150.00 being repayment of \$1,000 loan and payment for books. The other cheque for \$350.00 is \$50.00 for books and refund of deposits paid by R. Finkelstein, K. Jones and D. Brown.

Hope you are both keeping well,

Ron and Hazel.

---

**R. Morris**  
53 Hilder Street  
Weston ACT

His Excellency Sir William Deane A.C. K.B.E.  
Government House, Canberra.

Your Excellency,

The 2/2 Commando Association Safari Committee has requested that I thank you most sincerely, on their behalf and members of the Association. Your generosity in entertaining them at Government House and your presence at the wreath laying ceremony were highlights of a great reunion. You will be interested to know, Sir, that members have decided that their reunion in the year 2000 will be held in

Tasmania.

At the request of the members I enclose a group photograph taken on the steps of Duntroon Chapel on March 15, 1998.

God bless you both. Sincerely,

**R.G. Morris, JP**  
Convenor.

---

**K. Wilson**  
"Glen Lee" Collie Rd  
Yilgandra 2827

We wish to say a big thank you to everyone who arranged a wonderful Safari at Canberra. The committee did a great job.

It was a warm feeling to see so many familiar faces and dear friends. We had a most enjoyable time (especially the vintage car ride).

We had a safe trip home, called in briefly to see friends at Cowra. Everything still so dry, no rain as yet but always hoping. Must come soon.

Kindest regards to all.

Nola and Keith

---

**L. Newton**  
274 Kaolin Street  
Broken Hill 2880

Dear Jack,

I received the copy of Colin's book – many thanks for posting it on so soon. The chap who requested it, Norm Parish, lives at Balaklava, South Australia, and knew Hec. Hemstridge and his wife very well. He also had to give a talk at a Legacy meeting. I told him all I knew and he was going to get the rest from the book. He said that he had a book which he loaned to someone and it was never returned. I guess this happens quite a lot.

It was good to see you at the Canberra Safari. We may go to Singapore and Korea to visit our family – more so the grand children than anyone else.

I rang Jack Fowler recently and it was great to talk to him. He still seems to be his bright old self as I knew him years ago.

All the best to Delys and yourself.

Lionel

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**Mrs D. Veitch**  
40 Barkly St  
Sunbury 3429

I am Dorothy Veitch, wife of the late George James and wish to thank you for George's write up in the Courier.

I certainly love to read the Double Diamond Courier, so please keep it coming. I have enclosed a cheque to help.

Say hello to Arch Campbell and Gerry Maley, both were Melbourne members before going over to W.A.

Cheerio to all and good health to all members.

**Dorothy**

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**G. F. Greenhalgh**  
**7 Cypress St.**  
**MacLean 2463**

Dear Len,

The Canberra Safari was an example of top organisation. Right from the meeting of planes, trains and buses to the getting folk to their departure venues. Everything went like clock work and all concerned deserve full praise.

Always great to see members again and for me highlights like visiting Government House and the Beating the Retreat stood out.

Canberra has had some rain as has the rest of N.S.W. and things are looking much better. Right here on the north coast of NSW we're having typical autumn weather of cool nights and days around the 24°.

I've been ringing around the traps and herewith my Sit Rep for this part of the world. In alphabetical order.

**Russ Blanch** of Bangalow has just had a week at Brooms Head with son John from Sydney. John up to try and get some stress and smog out of him. We had some nice rain that week so not many fish but John didn't mind. He rested. They got a couple of feeds. Russ is well and, as usual at this time of the year, flat out getting his garden ready for the spring garden competition. He won just about everything last year and reckons they'll try to knock him off his perch this year. I'm thinking of getting a safari together to have a look at it in the spring if he'll supply the hot scones and lamingtons. Russ keeps well but with his diabetes can't see the Jack too well at bowls these days.

**Ted Cholerton** from Evans Head is keeping well and tells me he had a visit from Jessie Epps recently.

**Jim Cullen** from Kyogle is battling on after a stroke a while back but is wonderfully supported by his wife Beryl. He loves to hear from old mates.

**Norm Demmery** from Coutts Crossing which is situated about fifteen minutes from Grafton is well after a couple of heart attacks which he says weren't too bad. Norm left us after Dumpu and was sent back to Australia 'B' class. Norm was only 17 when he joined us in Timor with

the first reinforcements. He has a couple of sons and a daughter at Coutts Crossing so has plenty of support. He would like to be remembered to old 6 Section mates, particularly Eric Thornander and Bluey Miller (Max).

**Eric Herd** of Iluka not far from me. Ex 2/40th and travelling pretty well, still having a round of golf. Eric was with 9 Section with Sprocky and Carey and those other city boys. 'C' Platoon did a top job on the western O'Pips of Dili but didn't get much recognition of it. Lack of good Sit Reps?

**Ken (Bluey) Jones** now of Barraba but an old north coaster from Dorrigo. He and wife Edith are reasonably well now after both having recent illnesses. Ken says they've had quite good rains.

**George Parker** of Broadwater. You will remember he was Captain of Sigs from the Dutch end on Timor. It was George who had the codes for the contact with Australia. The report that they used his wife's name was quite wrong as he wasn't married at the time. George was in charge of Sigs for 7 Division when we were in the Ramu Valley. He tells me that when General George Vasey discovered he knew our mob in Timor he asked him would he like to visit there. When he said yes, George Vasey got his pilot to take him to Fata that day and pick him up the following day. This was the sort of gesture for which George so well liked by his troops.

**Tom Yates** from Kyogle is well but disappointed he didn't get to Canberra. He was meant to be in Goulburn at that time and was going to have a few days with us but struck car trouble. Tom took up bowls on retirement and reckons he wished he'd started earlier. Where have I heard that before?

I'm well, Len, at time of writing and wish to be remembered to all. I had hoped to get to the West for Anzac Day but it was not to be. I'll get over as soon as I can.

Good wishes to all and particularly those of you who work to get our Courier out.

**'Happy'**

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Thanks 'Hap' for the newsy sit rep which reached us in good time after your second visit to the Post Office. Keep up the good work.

**ED.**

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**R. Andrews**  
**124 Turton Rd.**  
**Waratah 2298**

Dear Friends of the 2/2 Commandos.

I was a 'reo' for the 2/2nd at Port Moresby. We were sent there for the 3rd and 5th companies

but they were going on leave and we were not needed so young Bill Petersen and I joined the DC3's dropping supplies over Wau, Kokoda and Salamoa twice a day. Prior to that I was a Bombardier in the Royal Australian Artillery at North Head, Middle Head and Cape Banks. Saw the mini subs come around the Heads, had them in our sights but were told to let them get caught in the boom across the harbour. You probably know what happened then – sank a ferry with a lot of naval ratings on board.

Was at Faita and Shaky Ridge for a while then went on leave before the rest of the Company. Returned to Bulolo then came back to Australia. There was a reshuffle of Sigs at Strathpine and I finished up as a Trooper for the remainder of the war, in New Britain with 'A' Troop.

I attended the Safari in Canberra and it was a good experience – met many whom I had not seen since 1946.

Am reading Archie Campbell's account of 7 Section in Timor and find it very interesting. New Guinea and New Britain were a picnic compared to Timor.

Enclosing a donation for the Courier. May God be always with you until we meet again.

Sincerely

Ron

## 2 Goldsworthy Crescent Glenelg North S.A. 5045

Dear Jack,

I do not have much news of great interest to anyone so this letter will be brief.

I am still in reasonably good health for my 79 years and hoping for many more. My wife unfortunately is

having a bad run at present and we seem to spend most of our time visiting various medical practioners who charge like the proverbial wounded bull.

I see Kel Carthew occasionally, the last time being at the Anzac Day march, where we represented the Unit.

Also Carl Marks and I get together at intervals when circumstances permit, and Allan Hollow and I keep in touch by Phone.

Fred Growns was in Adelaide recently and he and I had a beer and a natter about old times.

Since the DOIG died I rely on the odd phone call from Don Turton and the printed info in the Courier to keep up with the doings of the men of the greatest unit in the Services. A Cheque is enclosed to help with the costs of that wonderful paper, and many thanks to all those

who, over many years have put in so much voluntary time to keep it going and interesting.

All the best to all from Bob Williamson.

Mrs D. Parkin

Please find attached a small donation towards the continuation of your enjoyable magazine.

My Dad, William Seymour Wallis (Wilbur) WX 9580 unfortunately passed away back in 1983 but your magazine is always read and enjoyed by all of his family. My mother, Daphne, particularly looks forward to receiving it and reading about the people, the places, and the events after which she forwards it on to myself and my twin brothers, Donald and Robert.

Like most of our Aussie heroes, it was like extracting teeth to get Dad to tell us very much about his time in Timor, so I particularly find it interesting to read about those people he spent that time with. I at least feel like I know Archie Campbell because that is one name which brings pangs of familiarity to me when I read his name.

My only sadness is to read each time of the passing of more members.

Please keep up the good work and pass on to everyone our best wishes for a healthy 1998.

Yours sincerely

Denise Parkin (nee Wallis)

B. O'Neil  
23 Kilcainr Place  
Greenwood W.A. 6024  
(08) 9448 6566

Dear Mr Carey,

I was very pleased to read the article in the "West Australian" by Andre Malan on 14 March, 1998, concerning the good work organised by the 2/2nd Commando Association in East Timor, also the help provided by Les and Verna Cranfield, to the people of East Timor. It is surprising that such a large increase in the production of corn has been achieved by Les, particularly as they are a subsistence community.

As an honour to my old work mate, Colin Doig, and a neighbour for thirty odd years, in Floreat Park, I am enclosing a cheque, from my wife and myself as a donation to Les and Verna to further help in their good work.

I did not know how to forward this donation to the Cranfields, so I thought you would ensure it would reach them, after obtaining your address from the "Listening Post."

Yours sincerely,

Bill

**Mrs B. Sadler  
PO Box 24  
Wongan Hills**

Here we are into the fifth month of the year and once again another safari behind you all. Mavis and I received a visit from Tom and Mary Foster who were on their way home from Canberra and over a cup of tea they gave us a run down on their enjoyable trip. It was great to see them.

Another Anzac Day has passed – we in Wongan had a large crowd at the Dawn Service – lots of young people present. After the service the R and SL invited the public to join them at breakfast at the Fire Brigade Station. I arrived home in time to see on T.V. part of the march through the city. In the evening they showed the Dawn Service at Kings Park and the camera turned on the 2/2 wreath

The local R and SL sub-branch decided last year to raise some money to send a couple of teenagers on the 'Quiet Lion Tour' to Thailand. By the end of the year we had enough money to send four, and Michael, Peter's eldest son, was one of the lucky ones to be chosen. It was certainly a wonderful opportunity for them to chat to the men who had worked on the Burma Railway and Hellfire Pass and to be present at the opening of the museum by our P.M.

Some farmers have received good opening rains to get started on seeding canola and lupins – others not so fortunate.

It is a lovely autumn day here and I'm hoping to head out to the garden which needs some attention.

Look forward to the next Courier to read about the Canberra Safari.

Cheers, regards to all.

**Blanche**

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**J. Peattie  
11 Denne Street  
West Tamworth 2340**

Dear Len,

We are back home again after three trips to the specialist in Newcastle for Marj's treatment that started at Canberra Safari time. Luckily, after the operation and check up all is well again for another couple of years and Marj. is walking well again.

We called in to see Joyce Smith while down in Newcastle and she seems to be going along well. It was good to see Joyce and catch up on things as we had not seen her since Maroochydhore.

We had plans to visit Harry and Amyce

Handicott but we had a prang in a roundabout that put a stop to driving till we headed for home. Luckily nobody was hurt.

Ron and Dorothy Trengove called in before we left for Newcastle on the last occasion. It was great to see them again. Ron drove all the way here from Sydney in a day, which is no mean feat. He looks well and with all his troubles is as bright as ever. Dorothy has had health problems too but it looks as though she might be on the right medication at last.

All the best to those in the West. It's great to see you keeping 'The Courier' going to keep us all in touch after all these years.

Enclosed donation for wherever needed most.

**Jack**

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### Courier Donations:

Wilf March, Robert Gregg, Les Halse, Pip Dunkley, Colleen Strickland, Bill and Elvie Howell, Col. Andrew, Alex and Wyn Thomson, 'Cisco' Coles, Ron Dook, Peter Alexander, John Burrige, Margaret Monk, Eddy Bourke, George and Margo Shiels, Kath Press, Keith and Nola Wilson, Joan Fenwick, Tom Foster, Bonnie Snowdon, Jan Garland, Betty Craig, Harry Handicott, Dorothy Veitch, Ron Andrews, Les and Verna Cranfield, Denise Parkin, Nellie Mullins, Bernie Langridge, Ray Parry, Dick Darrington Vince Swann, Dusty Studdy, Robert McDonald, John Lillie, Jim McLaughlin, Doc Wheatley, John Chalwell, Peter and Pat Campbell, David and Thais Brown, Ted and Dianne Cholerton, Bob Williamson, Pat Costello, Bill and Coral Coker, Andy Beveridge, Jack Peattie.

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### Trust Fund Donations:

Jack Donaldson, friend of the Association \$100.00, Happy Greenhalgh \$1000.00, Keith and Nola Wilson \$50.00, Bill O'Neil (2/5th) \$30.00, Wilf March \$50.00, Andy Beveridge \$100.00.

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### "TIMOR REVISITED 1995"

The above video is out on loan.

Would the borrower please return to

**ALAN LUBY**

**6/35 Richmond Avenue, Dee Why, 2099**

**Phone (02) 9981 3287**

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## News on Members:

It was nice to see Peter Campbell and Vince Swann, both up from Esperance, at our Anzac Day march and get-together. Vince, who has angina, couldn't march but enjoyed the social at the Terrace Hotel. Peter was in good spirits as always. Both reported useful rain in their district which is a promising start for that area. Pat Campbell filled in the day with Helen and the family enjoying the sights of Perth.

Another welcome face on Anzac Day was that of Eric Thornander, a former Kalgoorlie identity. Eric, now 87, enjoys nothing better than having a few beers with his old mates whenever he feels up to it. Hope to see you again soon Eric.

Ray Aitken handled the march OK. Ray is no chicken and the lengthy march must be a challenge for him every year. Ray was impressed with the Governor's address, as were most of our members.

Sam Fullbrook, who had an exhibition at Cottesloe in April, took the opportunity to join us on Anzac Day. Sam looked well. He is reasonably fit and retains his confident manner. He has come a long way from his 'The Emu and the Aeroplane' days. I noticed that Henry Sproton still had a copy of this painting on his wall. I hope all the other lucky raffle winners still have theirs on display. We did quite well out of that raffle, thanks to Sam.

The Mandurah 2/2s responded well on Anzac Day with Joe Poynton, Jim Lines, Gerry Maley, Bob McDonald, Don Murray and Bernie Langridge in attendance. Thanks for making the trip chaps.

Mick Holland's Life Membership badge was presented to him by Len Bagley at the Mandurah Branch May meeting. Congratulations Mick – you and Jean have been long time supporters of the Association.

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## EXTENSION OF THE GOLD CARD TO AUSTRALIAN VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II, AGED 70 YEARS AND OVER WITH QUALIFYING SERVICE FROM THAT CONFLICT

### IMPLEMENTATION DATE

1st January, 1999.

### COMMON QUESTIONS:

**Q.** What is a Gold Card?

**A.** A Gold Card is the gold coloured "Repatriation Health Card – For All Conditions" issued by the Department of Veterans' Affairs. This card enables the holder to access the full range of Repatriation health care benefits.

Health care benefits include private patient hospital care, choice of doctor, pharmaceuticals at the concessional rate, optical care, physiotherapy, dental care, podiatry care and products and chiropractic services, for all medical conditions, irrespective of whether they are war-caused or not.

**Q.** Who is entitled to full Repatriation health care under the new arrangements?

**A.** Under the new arrangements, Australian veterans of World War II (including Australian mariners), aged 70 years and over who have qualifying service as a result of service during World War II, are now entitled to the Gold Card. This applies irrespective of each person's income and assets, or whether they have a war-caused incapacity or injury.

**Q.** When does the new health care entitlement commence?

**A.** The new health care entitlements for the Gold Card commence on 1 January, 1999. For veterans applying for the Gold Card under the new arrangements, the date of entitlement will be the date of application or 1 January, 1999, whichever is the later.

**Q.** Why won't the Gold Card be available until 1 January, 1999?

**A.** The necessary legislation needs to be passed by the Parliament and veterans need to have sufficient time to lodge their application for a Gold Card and have their World War II qualifying service determined before a Gold Card can be issued to them.

**Q.** What is World War II qualifying service?

**A.** Generally, World War II qualifying service is service by Australian veterans while in danger from hostile forces of the enemy. Most of those World War II veterans have this qualifying service as a result of their service outside Australia during the period of hostilities from 3 September, 1939 to 29 October 1945 (inclusive).

Certain World War II service within Australia while in danger from hostile forces of the enemy is also classified as qualifying service.

## SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ON VETERANS' ELIGIBILITY FOR THE GOLD CARD

**Q.** Do I have to have a war-caused disability to be entitled to the Gold Card under the new arrangements?

**A.** No, you do not need to have any disabilities accepted as war caused to be entitled to a Gold Card under the new arrangements.

**Q.** Is the Gold Card under the new arrangements means tested?

**A.** The Government has decided to extend

Gold Card entitlement to all Australian veterans aged 70 years or over with World War II qualifying service regardless of their income and assets.

**Q.** Do I need to apply for the Gold Card?

**A.** You may not need to apply for the Gold Card. If you are already receiving a service pension on the basis of your World War II service, but have not previously been entitled to a Gold Card, and you are aged 70 years or over, the Gold Card will be sent to you automatically.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs is also aware from its records that there are many veterans receiving a DVA pension, but not a Service Pension, who may also qualify under these new arrangements. Where these veterans are able to be identified from the Department's records, the Department will be writing to them and inviting them to lodge a claim.

If you consider that you fit into one of the above groups, but do not hear from the Department by the end of July 1998, you should contact the Department on the **GOLD CARD HOTLINE 1300 555 125**.

All other veterans who believe that they may meet the criteria, need to apply by lodging an application form with the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

The application form for the Gold Card will be available by telephoning the Department of Veterans' Affairs on the **GOLD CARD HOTLINE** for the cost of a local call.

Gold Card benefits under the new arrangements are to commence from 1 January, 1999 or from the date your application form is received by the Department, whichever is the later date.

**Q.** I have World War II qualifying service and a White Card – do I need to apply for a Gold Card?

**A.** If you already receive Service Pension then you need not apply as your Gold Card will automatically be sent to you.

If you do not have Service Pension but you receive a Disability Pension we will write to you inviting you to apply for a Gold Card.

If you do not receive any pension from DVA you will need to apply for a Gold Card.

**Q.** I have World War II qualifying service but I don't get a Service Pension. Am I eligible for the Gold Card?

**A.** Provided you are 70 years of age or over, you will now be eligible for the Gold Card even if Service Pension is not payable. Under these new arrangements, your financial circumstances will not affect your entitlement to the Gold Card.

**Q.** I have been told previously that I do NOT have World War II qualifying service. Should I apply for a Gold Card?

**A.** If you have new information relevant to your World War II qualifying service, you may wish to apply for a Gold Card and you should include that new information with your application form.

**Q.** Do I have to re-apply if I have been told previously that I DO have World War II qualifying service?

**A.** If you have World War II qualifying service and do not currently receive a pension from the Department of Veterans' Affairs you should apply for the Gold Card.

**Q.** I served with the British or Allied forces. Am I eligible for a Gold Card?

**A.** You are not eligible for a Gold Card under these new arrangements if you are a Commonwealth or Allied veteran who served with a Commonwealth or Allied force during World War II.

There are, however, some veterans who had a close connection to Australia before enlisting in Commonwealth or allied forces. If you consider that these circumstances apply to you and that you might be eligible, you should contact the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

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## Sick Parade:

**President Ralph Finkelstein** is making steady progress following a major operation in March which prevented him from going to the Safari and the Anzac Day functions. A thrombosis in the right leg has delayed his recovery but Ralph is confident he will overcome his problem and be back in action shortly. Meanwhile, Eve is spoiling him rotten, which Finky doesn't mind one bit.

**Dick Darrington** is another on the Executive who has been under the knife. Varicose veins in both legs was Dick's problem. However, he assures us he is on the road back. He is not a man to complain of his setbacks – a strong silent type is our Dick who is our popular Vice President.

**Les Halse** who has had more than his share of misfortune in recent years, had a nasty growth removed from his lip in May. Les is as tough as old boots and is making satisfactory progress. We hope it doesn't spoil your good looks Les.

**Arch Campbell** spent five weeks in Hollywood Hospital recently, following a collapse at his home in Sorrento. Arch has decided to sell his place and move closer to the Big Smoke. A nice unit in the Salvation Army village in Nedlands should make life more amenable for

Arch. John Burrridge has been to the fore helping Arch resettle – thanks John. We hope to see more of Arch once he is comfortably established in his new unit.

**Ron Dook** is another who has more downs than ups. He has been hacked around a fair bit in his many visits to Hollywood but still retains his good sense of humour. A top East Perth footballer in his day, Ron still follows the A.F.L. and is a good judge of the game.

**Peter Alexander** has not been enjoying the best of health of late. Peter spent over 3 1/2 years as a P.O.W. after being captured in Timor. After reading his story in Colin Doig's last issue of the history of the old Unit it is remarkable that Peter is still on deck. It must have been his determination to get his golf handicap down that has kept him going so long. Good for you Peter.

**Theo Adams** has had another visit to Hospital for heart observation. He is glad to be home now and, as usual, he makes light of his problem and sounds in good spirits. Keep smiling Theo.

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**SEPTEMBER  
COURIER  
DEADLINE**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 25th**

**ADDRESS BOOK CHANGES:**

Mr R. Watson  
Roy  
Riverview Lodge  
Wittenoom Street  
Collie 6225

Mr. J. McLaughlin  
Jim  
Elimatta Homes  
35/8 Bradford Street  
Mt. Lawley 6050

Mr. D. Brown  
David and Thais  
39 Surrey Road  
Blacktown 3130

Mr. E. Thornander  
Eric  
4 Canungra Road  
City Beach 6015  
(08) 9385 8556

Mr. G. O. Timms  
George and Nancy  
48 Lockhart Street  
Como 6152

**ADDITIONS:**

Ms J. Garland  
Jan  
P0 Box 611  
Ferry Hills 4055

Mr. P. Garland  
Phillip  
20 Paxton Street  
Denman 2328

Mr. R. Gregg  
Robert  
P0 Box 68  
Beresfield 2322

Mr. D. Bowden  
Don  
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Kelmscott 6111

Mrs L. Davies  
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