



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.

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Price 1c

COMING EVENTS

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.

Please notify Jack Carey of your intention to attend the Christmas Luncheon

NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 27th

This is essential for catering purposes.

Vale: THOMAS KEITH WILSON

On the 21st July, Elsie and I attended the church service and funeral of our late mate Keith Wilson at the Presbyterian Church at Gilgandra. It was a packed church in spite of the heavy rains and floods and quite a number of the local RSL members were present.

We met Keith's widow Nola and his daughter Tracey, and sons David and Michael, also Keith's two brothers. His family is a great credit to him.

Keith owned a large property just this side of Gilgandra, stocked with sheep, cattle and horses. After having a good look around I realised just how much he and Nola have done over the years. I am thankful that he was able to attend the Canberra Safari earlier this year, as it must have taken some great effort for him to get there.

I first met Keith at the Caulfield staging camp in Victoria in 1942 when, with others, we were taken to Foster on Wilsons Promontory to do our Independent training. Midway through the course we were called upon to help some others to unload a large ocean going ship which had run aground on the ninety mile beach. The 'Wharfies' who were to unload it took one look and gave the job to us mugs. It was loaded with canteen stores and bombs for Darwin, all packed in chaff. Combustion was taking place, causing steam and fog to be given off. After a few weeks of living with the insets and sand, we completed the job and the ship was re-floated. The man in charge was the Salvage Captain who recovered the gold out of the 'Niagara' when she went down over near New Zealand some years earlier.

We completed the course and were moved up to Canungra as instructors in a jungle warfare training camp. There were a few tents there, but nothing else, as it was just starting up and things were nice and rough there. We were then sent to New Guinea as reinforcements to the 25th Independent Co. who were about to come home on leave, so we stayed on and finally joined the 2/2 Independent Co., later to become the 2/2 Commando Squadron. This was a wise move I consider. We went through New Guinea in different sections, and I know Keith's section didn't have easy going all the time.

After two years we were all at Lae ready to come home on a well deserved rest when Keith and I were called out and sent up to Madang to act as escort and guides for the War Graves Unit to retrieve the bodies of our dead who were buried up in the Bismark and Finisterre Mountains, and the Ramu Valley. This was the worst part of the war for both of us.

While doing this recovery job I recall taking a

short cut down the mountain via a large waterfall. After getting half way I found that I couldn't go either up or down so there was nothing to do but sit and hope that Keith would return and get me out of the mess I had got myself into. After about an hour's wait Keith came down and passed his rifle down and helped me get back up top. There were no more short cuts for me after that.

They flew us home in a Biscuit Bomber – a DC3, which dropped supplies at Milne Bay. There was a large hole in the middle of the plane, and supplies were kicked out at about a height of 100 ft. or less. We then flew home to Townsville. This was a rather frightening experience as we had to sit on either side of this hole with only the seat to hang on to.

Nobody at Townsville knew the whereabouts of our unit, so they gave us a rail warrant each and sent us up to Cairns. After a week of looking around we were sent down to Brisbane then on to Sydney where Keith met one of the lads who was on leave. By now we were almost flat broke and were only too pleased to hear that the Unit was on leave and was to reform at Strathpine in Queensland. From there we were given 42 days leave and rejoined them in time to go to New Britain.

After being discharged I lost contact with Keith until the Safari at Port Macquarie and since then at Busselton and recently at the Canberra Safari.

I give thanks that I had the great pleasure of knowing Keith as I could not have wished for a better mate while on active service.

Lionel Newton

ED: Nola and the family deeply appreciated Lionel and Elsie making the long trip from Broken Hill to Gilgandra to pay their respects to Keith and to represent the Association at his funeral.

The Association extends its heartfelt sympathy to Nola, David, Julie, Michael and other members of the family. They don't come any better than Keith Wilson. May he rest in peace.

Lest We Forget

EULOGY FOR THOMAS KEITH WILSON

6/2/23 - 17/7/98

Thomas Keith Wilson was born 6th February, 1923 at Kensington in Sydney. He was the eldest of four sons born to Thomas and Ellen Wilson.

After leaving school he worked for Claude

Neon signs on their service truck. During this time he played sports at a high level. At one stage he played Rugby League First Grade for the South Sydney Rabbits.

Dad joined the Army in 1942 and went into the A.S.C. unit and then volunteered for the independent companies. A few months later he became an instructor. He was then sent to New Guinea where he served in the 2/2 Commandos.

This unit had the distinction of having served on the front line longer than any other unit in the A.I.F. in the Second World War. Whilst serving in the Army, Dad was given the nickname HORSE as he had always had a love for horses. In actual fact, while all the other men had pin-up girls over their beds, Dad had a picture of a Clydesdale colt over his.

After being discharged from the Army in June 1946 he took a Rural Training course at Glen Innes, N.S.W. which is where he met and later married Mum in 1951.

They then moved to Kyogle to work on a cattle property where they stayed for 2 years. From there they went to a dairy farm which they worked on a half share basis. This was where their first son, David, was born in 1955.

Mum and Dad stayed at the dairy farm for seven years and then took up the offer to buy a Soldier Settlers Block at Gilgandra, which they named "Glen-Lee." I was born in 1961 and my sister, Julie, was born in 1966. While we were growing up Dad supported the Gilgandra Pony Club and at one stage was their President.

Dad's life revolved around "Glen-Lee" and he worked from dawn to dusk changing it from its run-down state to a model farm. He eradicated the many burrs solely by hoe, as he didn't like chemicals. It wasn't unusual for him to wear a hoe down to its handle.

The Glen-Lee A.S.H. (Australian Stock Horse) stud was founded in 1973 and under Dad's guidance has become one of the most renowned studs in Australia for its performances in the showing and campdraft arenas.

This year Dad's mare, Glen-Lee Rivoli Mahogany, won the Supreme Led Exhibition at the A.S.H. National Championships which meant a lot to him as she was his pride and joy.

Dad very seldom spoke of his experiences during the War but always spoke highly of his mates whom he shared these years with. Every second year Dad had a reunion with these men, which was held in a different state each time. This was an important part of his life as he thought the world of his mates.

Dad spent most of his time on Glen-Lee and didn't feel the need to leave there. He believed

there was no substitute for hard work and lived by this motto. I have never seen anyone work like him. His ambition was to sow pasture grasses and make his paddocks productive. He succeeded in this and his trials proved beneficial to the whole area.

Dad was an unassuming man, a quiet man, but when he spoke everyone listened. He will be remembered as a loving husband, Father and friend whom we all loved dearly.

Michael Wilson, 17/7/98.

Vale: ROY (Plugger) WATSON

29/12/1921 - 10/7/1998

Roy William Watson was born in Wyalkatchem, W.A. The family moved to Esperance when the children were young and this was where Roy commenced his schooling. Roy's parents died when he was very young and he then went to live with his uncle and auntie. This was a difficult time for him but adversity helped to mould the strong, independent character Roy possessed. It was right in the middle of the great depression and things were really tough.

On finishing school Roy took on a job of digging spuds at Bengier. It was there he met 'Dutchy' Holland and a friendship developed which was to last 60 years. Roy enlisted in the 2nd AIF in May 1941. The army had a ready made fighting man in Roy.

He was hard, tough, fearless, a true product of the Depression. As WX13118 Roy volunteered for the hush hush crowd at Northam and went to Wilsons Promontory where, after six weeks intensive training he became a member of the No. 2 Australian Independent Company in No. 2 Section.

It was here he met up with Joe Poynton, Don Hudson, Tony Bowers and others, beginning a mateship broken only by his demise. Roy served with No. 2 Section in East Timor, a campaign in which the Section won great fame for displaying courage and initiative in the defence of the airfield in Dili. They were given an impossible task but did their job well and had the honour of being the first Section to meet the Japanese in battle. Roy, who Tony Bowers claims did not know the meaning of fear, was a good soldier.

After Timor he went on to serve with the Unit in New Guinea and New Britain as a corporal in his beloved 2 Section. In New Guinea he caught scrub typhus and was flown out to Port Moresby. He was very ill. He lost over five stone and nearly died. His toughness saw him through and he was able to rejoin the Unit while still in New Guinea. He was discharged on 21/3/1945.

Roy was good in the ring and a regular member of the Unit's boxing troupe. When Roy was in action it was always a good fight. Real toe to toe stuff with plenty of blows being exchanged. Roy had more wins than losses and could stand up to punishment. On leave he enjoyed his beer and loved the odd stoush. Joe often had to give him a thump to pull him into gear and in his prime Joe's thumps hurt.

After his discharge when he was 25, Roy got a job in the Collie coal mines. It was in Collie that he met the beautiful Vera Ede whom he married on 7th March 1947. They had five lovely children, Alexia, Graham, Leonie, Coralie and Pamela.

Roy was a good sportsman, excelling at football. He led the railway team to three premierships in the 1950s and had the distinction of playing on Lou Richards when Collingwood played a south west combined team. They finished up getting stuck into one another. He later took up umpiring and few challenged his decisions.

The family moved to Fremantle in the 60's where Roy tried his hand at crayfishing and then driving for the Melville Council and finally with Western Hygienic Transport with whom he spent many years until he had a severe heart attack which brought on his retirement.

Roy was a crack fisherman and could catch fish when others could not even get a bite. He became an expert at catching squid and the money earned helped augment his pension. He and Vera (a delightful person) moved to Mandurah in 1977 where he spent most of his remaining days. When Vera and Roy separated he began drinking heavily which eventually affected his health. A back operation was only partly successful.

In 1997, following the death of his good mate Don Hudson, he moved back to Collie. He was reunited with his children, by then four lovely ladies and a fine young man in Graham. Vera deserves great credit for bringing up such a wonderful family.

Roy died in Hollywood Hospital following a relapse after an operation. His funeral was held on a sunny winter day at the Collie Cemetery on 16th July. Joe, Tony and Jim Lines were among the pall bearers. Roy's brother in law, Denny Atkinson did a fine job handling the service and Jack Carey spoke of Roy's army service.

The Association was represented by Don and Dawn May, 'Dutchy' and Jean Holland, Jack and Delys Carey, Bernie Langridge, Tony Bowers, Jim Lines, Bill and Elvie Howell, Joe and Helen Poynton, Helen's sister Betty, her daughter Julie Ann and grandchildren Kate and Zeb. Helen's brother, Dave O'Brien, representing Western Transport, also attended

along with two other drivers. There was also a large crowd of family friends and Roy's former football mates. So passed one of the great characters of the old Unit. The Association extends its deepest sympathy to Vera and the family.

After the funeral all present adjourned to the local football club for lunch and refreshments. Roy would have liked that!

Lest We Forget

Jack Carey

Vale: SYDNEY ROY (Swampy) MARSH

18/5/1917 - 22/6/1998

Sydney, affectionately known as 'Swampy' began his army career with the militia in 1940 when his brother Gordon joined the AIF in 1940 and was posted to the 2/12th Battalion. Sydney tried to join him but was unsuccessful. He eventually joined up with the 2/40th Btn at Noonamah N.T. early in 1941.

The 2/40th was sent to West Timor in December 1941 and the 2/2nd joined them. When the Japanese invaded Timor on 19th February 1942, Sydney was in hospital at Champlong east of Koepang. He eventually made his way, along with others, to the border and finally joined up with the 2/2nd and spent the next nine months with that Unit. Following the Timor campaign after a brief leave, he was transferred to the 2/12th Btn and caught up with his brother Gordon. The 2/12th saw service in the Finnisteres late in 1943. It was here his brother was killed in action. After New Guinea the 2/12th last campaign was in Borneo at Balikpapan. Sydney was discharged from the army in December 1945, having had the distinction of serving with the 2/40th, the 2/2nd Independent Coy and the 2/12 Btn. 'Swampy' was a good soldier and enjoyed his stint with Campbell Rodd's Section in Timor.

Sydney married his sweetheart since school days, Joan, on 22nd November 1945 and they were blessed with a lovely family of six sons and one daughter. All the Marsh family have done well in life with daughter Lyndell excelling in athletics as a runner. Sydney worked at the zinc works for 36 years. He was a member of the Claremont RSL and always attended the reunions of his old battalions. As a member of our Association he looked forward to the Courier and was a very generous supporter of the Association.

Sydney passed away on the 20th June 1998 and his funeral service was held on 26th June at St. Johns Catholic Church, Glenorchy. Father Greg conducted the homily, son Derek the eulogy and Bert Price spoke on Sydney's

war service of which he and the family were always proud. 'Will You Love Me' was sung by his grandson Lachlan Marsh and was very special. A large gathering of his friends attended the service and was indicative of the high esteem in which Swampy was held. He was laid to rest in the Pontville Cemetery with the Claremont RSLA Sub-Branch conducting the oration and in the presence of the 2/40th Battalion flag bearers. A white dove was released as a sign of peace.

To Joan and the family the Association extends its deepest sympathy. 'Swampy' was a great Australian. May He Rest in Peace.

Lest We Forget

Bert Price

Vale: FRED GROWNS

WX13539

Enlisted AIF May 1941. Served in 2 Section in Timor, New Guinea, New Britain. Discharged 9th November 1945.

Fred was born in Fremantle 30/12/1920 to Miriam and Fred Grows, followed shortly after by brother John Leslie.

During R and R in Adelaide Fred met up with friends of the family and subsequently married their daughter Hazel in 1944.

He worked in a quarry in South Australia and had two children, Bill in 1946 and Lyndall in 1949. He and Hazel moved to WA in 1953 to work on his parents farm in Ballidu.

Fred suffered a fractured ankle and threatened below knee amputation while repairing a tractor tyre. He recuperated for many months in Shenton Park Rehab. Not long after his return to the farm he relocated with his wife and children to Kwinana Industrial area in 1961.

He was employed by BHP Steel Mill at Kwinana, working his way from labourer in the blast furnace to Transport Supervisor, a position he was extremely proud of as he had no formal trade, with experience only in farming and war service.

His son married and produced a son, Andrew, and his daughter married and produced Steven, Robyn and Dean.

His son, Bill died suddenly in 1994 followed six months later by his brother, John and he lovingly nursed his wife, Hazel until her death exactly 12 months after Bill in 1995.

In retirement he enjoyed partly restoring an 'A' model Ford, assisted in the restoration of Sloan's Pioneer Cottage in Kwinana, restored and donated horse-drawn farm machinery and early engines. Following Hazel's love of

antique dolls and prams, he tried his hand at, and mastered, restoring antique prams.

In recent years he became engrossed with his computer. He was asked by Colin Doig to print his association with the native boys in Timor, which he did, and was then prompted by me to write his war service experiences, copies of which are still in demand by family and friends.

He lived 37 years in the same house in Kwinana.

He endured a failing heart for five years before succumbing on 6th August, 1998 at Fremantle Hospital.

I am so grateful that I was asked to write the above. Dad was extremely proud of being a 2/2 Commando and I know he would be proud to wear the Double Reds on his final farewell. I was asked if I would like the Last Post played but I declined, I trust I have not offended anyone in any way.

I would like to express my gratitude and pride in Dad. He was one of life's gentlemen and a man from an era never to be repeated. I am so happy there were others who knew and respected him as I did.

Yours respectfully

Lyndall Fletcher

Fred's funeral was held at the East Rockingham Cemetery on 13th August, 1998. The Association was represented by Gerry and Lal Green, Joe and Helen Poynton, Don Turton, Bernie Langridge, Jessie Epps and Keith Hayes.

CHARLIE ANDERSON

Charlie joined the Unit at Larrimah in December 1942 just after our return from Timor. He went on to serve with us in New Guinea and New Britain. Charlie was more affectionately known as "Darkie" by his mates and was a popular member of the Unit. A strong man who laughed easily, tough as nails but with a big heart, Charlie was a top soldier – one of the best. He tried his hand at many jobs after the war and when the Korean War broke out rejoined the army. He was seriously wounded in action in Korea and came home with a hole in his stomach which he never complained about. Fit again he returned to Korea only to catch the dreaded Manchurian Fever. His weight dropped from 14 stone to 7 stone. His toughness saw him survive.

After Korea he became an army instructor and then came Malaya. Charlie volunteered for Malaya by which time he was a Sergeant. Tragically he was killed in the Malayan jungle leading a fighting patrol. He was 31. This was on the 4th March 1956. So died a hero and great bloke – a great Australian.

Curly O'Neill, his good mate, wrote a moving tribute to Charlie in the Sunday Telegraph issue dated 11th March, 1956. It was straight from the heart.

At our July committee meeting following the suggestion of Jack Carey it was unanimously agreed that Charlie's name be read out at our commemoration services held in Kings Park in November every year along with those members of the unit killed on service. It was something we could have done long ago but no one thought of it.

LEST WE FORGET

Jack Carey

N.S.W. NEWS

I guess on this occasion the sad news should have priority and I refer particularly to the recent death of Keith Wilson at his home a short distance out of Gilgandra. Unfortunately, because of health reasons and appointments, no one from Sydney area was able to travel the 340 miles for his last farewell. We made our condolences to Nola and the family by phone. However we are grateful that Lionel and Elsie Newton were able to attend and represent the 2/2 family. Thank you both.

Through the 'Last Post' section of our RSL paper 'Reveille' we also learned of the passing of Tom Tierney. My contact at DVA advised that he died on 6th December, 1997, and that his wife died several years ago. Fred Janvrin, who lives in a nearby suburb has been trying to obtain information but all he knows is that there are two daughters – no addresses. For his own reasons Tom has never kept in real contact – the odd Anzac Day years ago – a couple of days at the first Canberra Safari and that's about the sum of it. Some of us phoned him at various times to keep in touch and maybe attend events but to no avail. We can but hope he was not a lonely soul.

We were also saddened to learn of the passing in WA of an original 'character,' Roy Watson. Our sincere condolences to his family.

On the local scene, the Timorese Festival set down for 16th May was almost a washout with heavy rain from early morning until mid-afternoon. The dignitaries made their speeches to a large number of Timorese, mostly performers and parents. The Nuns from the

Mary McKillop Institute for East Timorese Studies were also predominant, members of the Australia/East Timorese Association who had set up stalls to attract the public (who unfortunately didn't turn up) Gordon Hart, 2/4th, Bill and Freda Tomasetti and myself. Chris Masters and his ABC Four Corners team were present and did some interviews but because of conditions cut short on time and said they would follow up with us at home but there's been no further word. I haven't seen anything on their programme but Jim Whaley did an excellent segment on the visit of a trio of people who visited East Timor and brought back a very incisive report. I managed to obtain a copy of the report for posterity.

The visit to No. 1 Commando Coy Open Day was, as usual a most interesting event, particularly the modern equipment now available to our Services. I still reckon the Owen Gun takes some beating. The Company is planning on making a video from those who have served in any theatre of war, and their experiences for both training and posterity purposes. For anyone interested in participating the contact is Sgt. David Savvas, phone (02) 9960 9292, who will follow up.

In regard to the extension of the Gold Card (even with its time factors) I believe we should pay tribute to the National Commando Association and people like Judge Harry Emery, Ray Warren and Andy Pirie for the representations they made to Minister Bruce Scott to obtain the result which for sure will be of immense benefit to many veterans.

Sick List. I'm pleased to report that Jack Hartley has shown a significant improvement over the past four months – keep it up Jack! Fred Janvrin is back to bowls after his 5th knee operation – must be that 'kneemonia!' Wife Norma has also proven a top bowler. Frank O'Neill is home after an operation. Ron Trengove is currently (August 10) in Hornsby Hospital and doing it tough. He had some heart surgery at the Sydney San a few weeks back, was sent to Lady Davidson for R and R but was only there for a short time when he began to go downhill. I'm in regular touch with Dorothy who has her own share of health problems, so we can but hope some improvement is on the way.

My Edith is recovering from a recent fall – no broken bones but more visits to the M.D. She is due to enter hospital on the 18th for a new socket in her right hip. She had a full replacement 15 years ago and its worn enough to be a major problem Too much for WD40.

A couple of dates for our local stalwarts to note on calendars: **Dili Massacre Remembrance Mass 14th November, 11am, St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney.**

NSW Commando Association Christmas Lunch, 19th November, 11.30am for 12noon, Paddington RSL Club. Members, wives, widows, friends, welcome. Let me know!!

2/2 Commando Association NSW Branch Christmas Lunch, 5th December, 11.30am for 12 noon, Dee Why RSL. Members, wives, widows, family and friends all welcome. Let me know!!!

Edith joins me in sending love and best wishes to everyone.

Alan Luby

Norma Hasson Day

Get-together at the Terrace Hotel, Perth

This ever popular event attracted 48 people from near and far. Our ladies appreciated the orchid corsages presented to them by Kaye Hanson on behalf of the Hasson family.

The Terrace Hotel is a first class venue and the friendly staff served us a superb three course meal and a good time was had by all.

VICTORIAN NEWS

Don Freyer celebrated his 76th birthday recently. Joan had him home with all the family present and it was great to see the delight on Don's face. He hasn't been able to talk for some time but he is very aware of what goes on around him.

Jack Fox has gone on his yearly jaunt to Queensland where he will no doubt meet up with some of the boys from up there.

John Roberts has been in and out of hospital with blood clot troubles but seems to be holding his own.

Tom Nisbet is pretty good at present.

Olive and I are going along quietly. Olive still has trouble with her sinuses but it appears it is a very bad time for this trouble.

That is all the news for now – regards to all.

Harry Botterill

Commando Ass'n (Vic)
551 Burwood Highway
Vermont South 3133
(03) 9803 8746

Dear Jack,

You will be happy to know that we have received assurances from the General Manager, Parks and Gardens that there is no

wish to alter the terms, conditions and access of our organisation with regard to the occupancy of the permanent memorial site at Tidal River, Wilsons Promontory. This is in response to a letter from us expressing misgivings about the future of 'The Prom' which seems to be heading for private administration. Our trip down there is to take place on November 15 this year and your members should be notified that reservations are now open for places on the tourist coach. These should be placed with Les Poulson as soon as possible to enable us to hire an extra vehicle if necessary. Remember, reservations are firm only if they come with cheque and/or money order.

The July Committee meeting discussed the problem of berets. We have at present only six berets complete with metal logo and the discussion was whether or not we should run down the stock and round this operation out or, with the aid of interstate associations, place an order for logos - minimum order is 100 off – we have no worry on berets. They may be ordered as we need same. I am writing to all interstate bodies for their views. If you decide to participate would ask for a cheque to accompany your order.

Best regards to you and yours and the Association Interstate Family.

Bruce Coleman – Hon. Secretary

CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

J. P. Kenneally,
6 Kenneally Court,
Cork Hill, Youghal,
CO, Cork, Ireland.

The Editor,

Today, Bastille Day, over two hundred years ago, the French changed the course of history everywhere when they stormed and captured the Bastille. It had a profound effect in Ireland as well. Eleven years later the Irish had their own rebellion in the quest for Fraternity, Equality and Freedom. About all we got was a huge crop of hangings and political prisoners, a few thousand of whom were transported to Botany Bay, thus providing the first skilled farm labour for the struggling colony or prison without walls. The squatocracy was thrilled, Free Skilled Farm Workers. The Governor was not equally so. Four thousand rebels on his hands and he with a small force and twelve thousand miles from home and reinforcements. His worst fears were realised, his rebels rebelled once more. There were more hangings and floggings galore. Freedom, Equality and Fraternity had to wait many years before arriving in Botany

Le Tour de France commenced in Dublin on the 10th, a token stage of 5.8km to introduce the riders. Stage 1, 180.5km round Wicklow. Stage 2, 205.5 km Enniscorthy to Cork. Those two stages passed through much of the 1798 rebel country. More importantly, Tony and Carol Bowers, Peter and Pat Campbell passed over the same route in 1978. Wonder if they remember it?

The tour passed through here. I watched it sitting on the wall of the house we lived in way back in 1924. A beautiful day, blue sky, sunshine, bunting and flags flying from all the houses and business premises, everyone out enfeite. The pubs, restaurants and refreshment shops only, open for business, and they did plenty. I'll bet they wished it was 'Le Tour de France' every day. A flash of colour and the riders are gone. The Irish stage of the tour ended just west of Cork City. By the time I put this in the post the contenders will be in France and probably finished the first leg of the French tour. When they finish on 2nd August, 1998 they will have covered 3,850km. The financial reward must be pretty good.

The Irish summer is, as I expected, not good, it does not matter, we have covered a lot of territory. Ireland isn't a big country and it is easy to travel around, with interesting places, both scenically and historically round every bend of the road, in every village and town. This time I made sure I got to Mallin Head, the most northerly part of Ireland. From there Scotland is a hop, step and jump to the east. North and west just thousands of miles of Atlantic Ocean up into the Arctic and west to America.

In a couple of weeks we will be going west to New York. After that a long haul home to Australia, and it will be long, as we will be flying out of London for the flight to Australia. The only thing I like about aeroplanes is they get me there quickly, otherwise I would prefer to sign on a ship and work my way - I prefer crew to passengers.

A peace of sorts in Ulster. The marching season is in full swing. It lasts from some time in May until the end of August, marching and banging drums all over Ulster and into the neighbouring counties in the Republic. They certainly celebrate King William and the Boyne. Ironically, their forebears only played a very minor part in that battle. I am pretty certain that most of them have no knowledge of the fact that the Pope of the day was on King William's side. The Pope and Louis 14th were at loggerheads at the time. The French of course supported James the second. There it was, a multi-racial battle, a mixture of Dutch, English, French, Scots, Irish and Germans, all mixed up in each side, tearing each other apart, little dreaming the Scots-Irish element would still be doing so 307 years later.

This end of Ireland life is serene. Like every country, drugs are a huge problem, and like every country the powers that be seem powerless to combat them. Drugs generate millions of pounds/dollars. Consequently, human nature being what it is the drug barons have no difficulty corrupting law and order from the highest to the lowest, and that is not restricted to law enforcement officers.

This country is booming. The building industry cannot get enough tradesmen for its needs. Hotels, apartments, housing going up everywhere. Real estate prices have gone through the roof. That is the case everywhere, towns, villages, country, holiday places as well as the cities. There is a warning there too, if people care to heed it. There are no new factories, industries or businesses being commenced, or built. There could be some real cheap real estate going some time in the future.

I've had snippets of Australian news from the family. We don't seem to have improved much in the 'Lucky Country.' One morsel of news was Australia is pushing its frontiers further out in all directions per medium of its sea bed claims. Holy Mother, how much more do we want? We have nine governments for about 18 million square miles of land, resources galore, and we want more just to prop up the mis-governments we have. If we are a well governed country I'd hate to see how we would fare if we didn't possess the resources we have.

France, the outsider, won the world cup, beating the favourite Brazil. I've seen enough soccer to last me for what time I have. The only code of football I know that can be played at a walk, and often is. Frenchmen won because they kept attacking. I don't know, I'm not an authority.

Nora is well, and looking forward to going home. I don't care either way, I reckon as long as you have the currency you can live anywhere. There are advantages and disadvantages no matter where we are. I expect the latter are easier to contend with in the land we call home.

From all reports, and they have been regular Helen, Sean, Gerald Michael and the grandchildren are well. Life doesn't change just because the oldies take off. That's something that's closer rather than further away on a permanent basis anyway. That is not said in gloom.

From my view its been a great walk down a long road, mostly filled with people its a pleasure to meet and know, with far more good times than otherwise, and strangely, the people I've met on that road, the ones that really suffered radiated the most tolerance and

cheerfulness, more so than many of us more fortunate people.

I'm off. Best wishes to all.

Paddy

**R. Archer,
36 Soudan St,
Toowong, 3066**

A short note to say how wonderful it was being all together once more at Canberra, although we had many thoughts of those who just couldn't make it for one reason or another. The organisers did a really good job and are to be congratulated.

My daughter, Lyndall, who lives in Canberra, wrote a poem about our safari and I quote part thereof:

*A pilgrimage this visit
Old mates regrouped
For recognition and fellowship.*

*A special time snatched
Where schedules allowed
Moments to be savoured.*

*Ripe days, some too warm
Restful silent nights
To dream and rise refreshed.*

*Closer together although apart
Into separate worlds
Until another day, another meeting.*

Ron and Lyn

**H. Botterill,
2/1 Erans Ave,
Moorabbin, 3189**

Recently Olive and I stayed with Margaret Monk for a few days and visited Jock and Faye Campbell and on to see John and Cath Roberts. Next day we had lunch with Pat Petersen at Fish Creek. Pat is keeping very well and is kept busy with her family. Jock and Faye were looking well and John and Cath were as well as could be expected – they have had their troubles with sickness but are bearing up. Margaret gave us all the news about the Safari and showed us photos etc. Apparently it was a very good show (isn't it always).

I have been to see Don Fryer and he is just the same – cannot speak very much but always manages a smile and seems to know what is going on.

All the best,

Harry

**F. Broadhurst,
140 Christmas St,
Fairfield, 3078**

Dear Len and Betty

Everyone down here is as well as can be expected. We are back to our normal winter, cold, frosty, foggy, rain and more rain, we are loving it? Really brass monkey weather, those in the repair of brass objects this year will make a fortune. I was concerned about Bluey and Mary Bone, they were in the flood area, but a phone call assured me they were on high ground. Both sounded very chirpy and sent their regards to all.

Sorry I could not make it to Safari. My mobility about 5 out of 10 with pain. I missed all your happy smiling faces, had a couple of new jokes to tell you that would have been a first for the Safari.

Saw Tom Nisbet recently. He is looking good, had a long chat and the world is now back on its axis.

Great news to read 2/2nd, 2/40th and RSL have combined to stage our next Safari in Tassy, also that the Canberra Safari was a great success. It is always gratifying for the organisers when given high praise for a job well done. Congratulations Canberra Committee.

Mavis is fighting fit and I am on light duties, no concreting until further notice. We both wish good health and happiness to the 2/2nd family for 1998.

Kind regards,

Fred

**Wongan Hills RSL Sub Branch,
PO Box 264,
Wongan Hills, 6603**

Dear Bob,

Further to my recent telephone call I enclose a cheque from the Wongan Hills Sub Branch of the RSL for the purpose of the welfare of the needy people of Timor.

It was most interesting to hear of the excellent work that your Association is carrying out in that region. As you are aware, we have the widows of two members of the 2/2 who attend our Branch meetings. We would be most interested to hear more of what is being done by you for the Timorese and what is being planned to be done.

Should it ever be practical or possible it would be very good to have someone attend one of our meetings and give us a first hand account. I do realise that this may be a little much to ask so please do not feel that there is any pressure

or obligation. We wish you well with your work for the people of Timor and trust that your members enjoy good health.

Yours faithfully

Brian Donnellan, Secretary

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

Anzac Day brought back a lot of sad and glad memories. I hope all the boys enjoyed it as much as I did. Such a lovely view from the Speers Point Cenotaph overlooking our beautiful Lake Macquarie, with the sounds of the bugle across the water (many a tear for our lost loved ones).

Wishing you all good health. Enclosed is a donation.

Helen Cowie

K. Carthew
18 Brixton Rd
Elizabeth North 5113

We are having monthly luncheons which are well patronised by all members of different companies from the 2/2 - 2/10 plus some 'Z' members.

Alan Hollow, Howard Marks, myself and our wives had a get-together with Ron and Hazel Morris who were in Adelaide to see their son. We had an enjoyable luncheon at the Finsbury Hotel.

I was re-elected President of the Commando Association (S.A.) for the next two years.

Best wishes to all.

Kel

Mrs L. Love
28/67 Rolleston St
Keperra 4054

Dear Mr Monk

I enclose a donation for your Independent Trust Fund.

I am the partner of one of your Brisbane members, Ron Archer, and with Ron attended the Safari in Canberra in March.

The work of the Association in regard to the East Timorese people is to be commended and I extend best wishes to your group.

Yours sincerely,

Lyn

A. Mitchell
10 Covey St
West Chermide 4032

Dear Jack

Received your letter and was surprised to hear of Keith Wilson's death. To me he was one of the very best as a man and soldier. We got along so well and it brings back a lot of memories of the campaign that I did with the Unit in 9 Section. He will be greatly missed.

Joan and I are getting along alright. Things do change as the years so by – too quickly really. I haven't had a car for over two years. It is not safe for me to drive owing to glaucoma. I've lost the sight from the side so I have tunnel sight. Am also handicapped with my leg but can get around with difficulty. I attend the local RSL Club and meet Butch Barnier and Theo Adams most times. They use a bus and pick us up for the meetings.

I have not attended many of the safaris as it is hard for us to get to them.

Give my regards to all WA members. We may get a chance to get over there again one day.

Alan

A. Bowers
9 Talbot Close
Mandurah 6210

A short note to thank the Committee for the Canberra Safari for putting on one of the best safaris. Would like to give a special thanks to Ron Morris and Fred Bagley. We can't do without good workers as Col Doig would say. The highlight in my view would be Beating the Retreat at Duntroon and I must say I was proud to be an Australian after visiting Government House.

Would like to thank Bert Price and Dick Darrington, my flat mates for putting up with me the last few days as I was not feeling the best. In fact I got pretty crook when I got home.

Enclosed is a cheque for the Courier.

Yours sincerely

Tony

G. Smith
37 Shaw Crescent
Mussellbrook 2333

Dear Members and Friends

Once again we were unable to attend a safari due to Gloria being in hospital – an operation on the foot this time. After six weeks in plaster she is now walking quite well. Glad so many were able to attend and enjoy the company of their mates in Canberra.

We are again at The Willows Gem Fields in Queensland. I'm digging plenty of dirt but not finding as many sapphires as last year. We will have been here 14 weeks this trip and enjoying the company of folks calling in from every state as they tour Australia with their vans. Most are our retired age group. We enjoy the winter weather here as so much warmer than at home.

We appreciate receiving the Courier to keep in touch with friends made within the Association and we enclose a cheque toward its continuation.

Our best wishes for good health to all members.

George and Gloria.

Mrs B. Craig
PO Box 234
Young 2594

After the Canberra Safari I flew to Adelaide and had a long time with the family. While there I had a throat infection and Janette, Stan, Donna and Marc looked after me very well. I had to spend an extra 10 days in Adelaide when I took some prescription tablets that were different from my usual ones and they made me sick.

Spent six days with Joan Fenwick in Canberra and had a lovely afternoon with Ron and Hazel Norris and Fred and Erika Bagley.

I went by train to visit Phillip and Lorraine in Wodonga and celebrated my birthday there. 'Macka' Garry McClelland visited while I was there - he always says he's my second son. Many of you have met him too.

Have been back and forth to doctors and for blood tests (42) and everything has come back 100%. Recently I went to a specialist in Canberra and I have Alopecia (my hair is falling out). I stayed with Joan and saw all her family and they are all well. Joan was going to Queensland for about a month.

I was hoping to get back into bowls and was able to play twice a week for three weeks but then had to have more tests. The specialist has now told me my medication is causing my hair loss so I will have to wear a wig as it will take 12 months for my hair to recover.

No sale on the house as yet but one day someone will come out of the blue and buy it and then I can move to Adelaide.

Still doing some of the teaching at dancing but letting others take over - they all say I'm still the boss but I don't know.

Have applied for a gold card - wish me luck.

Hope everyone is well.

Betty

Mrs D. Laing
16/5 Tauss Place
Bruce ACT 2617

Dear Jack,

Please find donation to help with the good work of the Association.

It was very pleasing to see so many participating in the Safari in Canberra. Although I could not take part in all the activities I followed your publicity in the local newspapers and was very moved to be part of the memorial service at the Australian War Memorial.

My very best wishes for the success of your future activities.

Dawn.

F. Otway,
47 Carrara Street,
Mt. Gravatt 4122

Dear Archie/Len

It is a long time since I put pen to paper, so here goes. I spend a fair bit of time playing tennis, and one day another tennis player, knowing my background in the army, loaned me a book about POW's in Japan during the last war. I think it was written by the son of one of the prisoners who had returned from Japan. These prisoners were slave labourers for seven days a week, long days at that, continually beaten, ill clothed for the cold climate, ill fed. They were forced to work in the ship yards in Japan. Mention was made about two prisoners who were picked up by a Jap submarine in the Timor Sea on their way to Australia. The names quoted in the book were Charlie Dodge and Ted Potts from No. 1 Section of 'A' Platoon, who were in Koepang when the 2/40th Battalion was decimated. When the war finished the guards just left them and cleared out. The few hundred prisoners who were left made their way to Tokyo and contacted the Americans and then home. I have heard about a few thousand prisoners, some were in the coal mines. I have never heard of any guards being punished for their brutal treatment.

I have received some literature about the family history from my brother in Gosnells. I believe some of the Otway family from the Onslow District have the whole history, the Irish part anyway, and know where my great grandfather had his first block of land in Australia. It makes fascinating reading. I always liked history at school and got good marks in the exams. The Saxons from the Rhine Valley were invited by the early Britons to settle in the south of England in the 4th

century. The history of the most ancient Anglo/Saxon surname of Otway reaches far into the chronicles of the Saxon race. The chronicles compiled by monks in the 10th century now repose in the British Museum. Such ancient manuscripts as the Domesday Book 1086. The Assize Rolls 1202. Curia Regis Rolls – Pipe Roll 1221. Eynsham Cartulary (Oxford Historical Society) 1228. Assize Rolls Lancashire 1260 Roger Otway. These all mention the name of Otway. In 1296 Peter Otway witnessed a deed in York. In 1316 Adam Otway witnessed a deed in Kirby in Kendale. Roger Otway is mentioned in various villages, hunted and carried away deer. In 1390 Agnes Otway is shown in the Will of Thomas De Roos as leasing 1 Burgage , Rent 2 pence at Easter and 8 pence at Michaelmas.

The names of the contemporary tenants of Stavely are preserved in an inquest taken in the court of Stagely on the feast of St. Leonard the Abbot, 6th November 1396 by the oath of Thomas Otway (amongst many others). 1481 Robert Otway witnessed a claim by John Lute, a citizen of London against William Malton at Shirburn. 1501 John Otway holds, of Cockersand Abbey, a toft and 3 acres of land in Burbrunne for 3 shillings rent. 1357 as above. Some signatures of John Otway County of Sussex in 1326. In 1400 Richard Otway County of Yorkshire. Such is some of the history known by me of the early Otways.

In 1526 Roger Otway entered St John's College in Cambridge. He became a fellow of the college on the lupon foundation. In 1582 Geoffrey Otway was the original governor of Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School at Kirby Lonsdale. About 1600 Thomas Otway inherited Beckside Hall. Another Thomas Otway was born at Trotton on 3rd March 1652. He was educated at Winchester and Christ Church in 1669. He was a friend of Charles the 2nd and was also a poet and a dramatist. He was a friend of Nell Gwynne and was her Power of Attorney over her affairs in her later years. He is buried in the church yard of St. Clement Danes. His portrait is at Bretby Castle, Derbyshire. Roger Otway was governor of Sedburgh School and died 1648. Thomas Otway died 1693, educated at Winchester to Christ College Cambridge. He was Rector of St. Botolphs Bishopsgate. In the House of Lords as the Bishop of Ossory.

John Otway was born 1620 at Beckside Hall. He went to St John's College, Cambridge in 1635. He was instrumental in bringing over two regiments to the Royal cause. On the return of Charles II, John was knighted, made a member of the King's counsel, Vice Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Chancellor of the county of Palatine of Durham. I have left out a lot, so far this is the English side of the Otways.

In about 1640 some Otways migrated to Ireland. A John Otway married Mary, daughter of Colonel John White of Knockhorlen near Nenagh. James Otway of Knockalton married Elizabeth Vickers daughter of Captain Vickers of the Queen's County of Holyhead Pickets. He died in 1773. Colonel John Otway was a brother of Thomas the Bishop of Ossory, as suggested by the Irish Genealogical Office in Dublin Castle. Firth and Davis' Regimental History of Cromwell's army mentions John as a captain at Muster in Dublin in 1648, D. Murphy, in 'Cromwell in Ireland' (published 1883) refers to Captain Otway who brought news of victory at Baggotrath and so received a gift of 200 pounds from Cromwell. In 1665 John Otway received a grant of the manor and castle of cloghonan in the Barony of Upper Ormond in the county of Tipperary, including 3,776 acres of land. Colonel John Otway renamed the castle 'Castle Otway' which was burnt down on 1921, and so it goes on and on. I will have to cut it short. The landed Gentry of Ireland has five pages of the Otways. They are in the History of Ireland and England. There are family tombs at Knightsbridge, London, family Crest and records around the two countries in churches etc, but nothing much in Australia. My great grandfather arrived in Perth from Ireland on 16th October, 1841. Mary Murphy arrived from Ireland 13th January 1853. Thomas Otway, farm labourer, married Mary Murphy in 1855 at York. He was a protestant farmer and at the York census in 1859, had 13 acres of wheat, 4 acres of barley, 4 acres of green crops, 3 acres clearing, 3 horses, 100 sheep, 22 pigs.

There was no Trinity College at Dublin for Thomas Otway. I think he was the product of some hanky panky business between the master of the Manor and a servant maid. Such is life. Paddy Wilby has written a book and had it published.

There are only a few of us old soldiers in Brisbane and Ralph Conley keeps you informed. I missed you Archie at the Maroochydhore Safari. Paddy Wilby and I went up on Anzac Day but we did not have enough time to see and talk to everyone.

Your old mate

Fred

**R. Harrington,
McPherson St,
Bolgart 6568**

I received the ever welcome Courier a couple of days ago in Exmouth.

It seems the Safari was a great success and it makes me a bit sad at not being part of it, but

for several reasons I didn't go over, not the least of them that I spent a lot of time with my daughter at Bunbury over Christmas and then was to Exmouth to baby-sit Terry's house while he went on holidays, but I will be stacking the pennies to go to Hobart 2000. In the meantime I am spending a fair bit of time out fishing, with varying amounts of success.

I can't remember how long it is since I sent some money to make sure the Courier keeps coming along. All power to those stalwarts who keep it going.

I won't be home for the Norma Hasson Day but will surely be at Lovekin Drive on 15th November.

Regards

Reg

**Mrs B. Hopkins,
14A Norman St,
Bentley 6102**

Very disappointed but will have to miss catching up with all friends on Norma Hasson Day. Please accept my apology and kindly give my sincere regards to one and all.

Enclosed is a cheque towards Courier expenses.

Sincerely,

Betty

**W. Rowan-Robinson,
5 Rowan Close,
Bridgetown 6255**

Not really much news for the Courier as I'm the only one left in this part of the world.

My slight stroke has left me a little shaky and left side not so good and has affected eye and ear. However, I'm getting better and we are still going up to Asia for a rest in the warmth, but not much touring. Of course I have had to cut back on work, both for myself and community work. The Agricultural Society had asked me to make some seats of my special design. Fortunately I got them finished before my stroke, eight of them. These seats are made of 2" jarrah and I have them all over the town, parks and gardens etc., all 97 of them.

Enclosed is a donation for the Courier.

Bill

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

Dear Jack and Len,

Changi Chapel

The Canberra Safari participants and some other members of our Association are aware that this was the original chapel and it has been carefully transferred and re-erected at

Duntroon Military College. However, perhaps many may not be aware that the Singaporeans have built an exact replica and erected it on the same original site. I sometimes wonder if this was done to commemorate our POW's or is it meant as just one of very many tourist attractions for which that country is famous? I hope and pray it is the former. At the same time I should add that this tiny republic's very large war cemetery which includes many Australians is a particular credit to them.

Do hope Arch Campbell has settled into his unit and will be able to make a new life for himself. Also that President 'Finky' is making good recovery progress, slow though it be. In fact, am sure that the fitter mates will be looking forward to more of his P.T. Parades!

With best wishes to all members near and far.

Ron and Lyn

**I. Scott,
1001/206 Ben Boyd Rd,
Neutral Bay 2089**

From the enclosed cheque would you please deduct my sub to the Courier and place balance to the Trust Fund.

I found the March Editorial most interesting and feel that all those people, both past and present, who have done such a colossal job in the production, editing, distribution etc. of the Courier deserve the highest praise and thanks for the magnificent contribution they have made in keeping together for over 50 years such a closely knit group of those who served in the various operations involving the Unit.

Are tie pins still available, if so would you please forward one to me, plus the account for same.

Kind regards.

Ian

**Max Miller
156 Wilson St.
Burnie 7320**

Dear Jack,

Thanks for your letter. Noreen and I were very disappointed having to miss the Canberra Safari as we were looking forward to it. The original Safari we attended was at Canberra and I think that was one of the best we had been to.

We were lucky regarding the accident that we were not hurt more. I suffered whiplash and a slight heart problem that put me in the Launceston Hospital for five days and the

Burnie one for two. I still have slight whiplash. Noreen suffered bruising to the chest where the seat belt caught her.

I had a letter from Bert Price but I have not much to offer being at the opposite end of the state, and I don't know very much about Hobart.

Except for a bit of a heart problem my health is not too bad. Noreen is crippled with arthritis and finds it hard to get around.

Please remember us to everyone.

Max

G. Greenhalgh
7 Cypress St
Maclean 2463

Dear Len,

Sit Rep. from the north coast of NSW. You may have had a report from the Queensland blokes telling you of Peter Hearle's 80th at his son's place at Strathpine. Not the Strathpine we knew but a thriving suburb with the usual shopping centres etc. Jack Steen, Blue Stanley, Theo Adams and I represented the Sigs and Basher came along to make a speech and make derogatory remarks about us Mexicans from below the border. Altogether it was a very satisfactory get-together and with all Peter's children, grand children etc. he would have been quite delighted.

Since the last Courier the troops seem to be carrying on OK. Jim Cullen is much the same but hopeful that the therapist can do some good. Beryl remains a tower of strength and its pretty obvious that the wives of members have certainly been great backstops. Norm Demmery is going pretty well although the 'flu gave him a bit of a battering and has taken a bit of shaking off. I tried to ring Tom Yates at Kyogle but have been unable to get through. Jean's birthday is on the 6th July, the same as mine but there was no answer to the phone then either. They have a son in at Goulburn but I hope they haven't gone down there. It's a cold place and down south has copped more than its fair share of weather.

Russ Blanch has had a couple of days in bed with a crook hip. He thinks it must be arthritis. Has had a spot of trouble with his eyes due to diabetes but at the moment has some relief.

Ted Cholerton had a cataract op. in July and is recovering fairly well and travelling pretty well for a bloke over 80.

Ken and Enid Jones from Barraba missed out on the floods, which is a blessing but I'll bet some of them out that way will have a terrific Spring.

My neck of the woods looks good. We don't want a lot of rain at this time. Cane harvesting is in full swing.

As the bloke said 'at time of writing' I'm in good health and enjoying my bowls a couple of times a week and the vegie garden is about as good as I've ever had.

Regards to the West and I have plans to be over there in October, all being well.

'Happy'

ED: We look forward to seeing you WEST of the border in October 'Hap'

S. Knight
7-50 Beach Pde
Cotton Tree 4558

My name is Stephen Knight, my wife is the grand daughter of Francis Peter Hearle, or 'Daddles' as he is affectionately known to his extended family. It is some 12 months ago that he moved from Nudgee to the Tweed in northern NSW. It was at this time that I started to discover a part of his life that for reasons he keeps close to him lifted my love and respect for him to unthinkable new heights. When cleaning our one of his cupboards we located a summer and winter jacket from the Australian Army and on its shoulders were patches with two red diamonds. Inside the pocket we found an old box with medals inside and ribbons unattached. Inside another pocket was a Smith and Wesson pistol with a rope attached wrapped up in a decaying bandage. There was also a Japanese Samurai sword in its case. I was dumbfounded, we had a hero in the family and I didn't know for the 13 years I had known him. All that his children could offer me was that he fought in WWII in the Pacific.

I made enquiries in various departments and found out as much as I could. I arranged to send the five service medals that were due to him to be sent up and affixed to a pin. With the help of many of his family a display cabinet was made and his jackets ceremoniously placed inside with the medals attached to the pocket. Photos, belts, compasses were found in various family hidey holes. Books and other information are still being collected. There were two main reasons for doing this. One was to display and cherish historical items that belonged to Peter. The second was to enlighten and educate his children, grand children, great grand children and his future descendants of the way life was in those years, including the great sacrifices the men and women made and were prepared to make for our freedom. But ironically to distinguish this time, he was a member of the famous Double Diamonds, the greatest fighting Unit the Japanese had the displeasure of combating.

We thought it would be appropriate to present this display as an 80th birthday present for him on the 31st May 1998.

I then tracked down, and was privileged to meet Mr Tony Adams and with his help I was able to also invite Mr and Mrs Neil Hooper, Mr Russel Blanch, Mr George Greenhalgh, Mr and Mrs Jack Steen, Mr and Mrs Gordon Stanley and Mr Theo Adams to his 80th birthday. Include other long and lost friends, great food, a live 4 piece jazz band, it was a day to remember. I would like to thank those wonderful people for making Peter's 80th a fantastic day. Your presence meant a lot to him and his family.

I don't intend to stop there, I want the efforts and memories of the Double Diamonds to live on for generations. I would be happy to liaise with anyone who could assist me with obtaining further literature or offering memories including life in Australia for the wives, parents and/or children.

I would also be extremely grateful if someone could advise me how I can obtain a copy of 'A History of the 2nd Independent Company and 2/2 Commando Squadron' written by C. D. Doig.

Lastly, I would like to subscribe to the 2/2 Commando Courier. Please accept the enclosed donation.

Forever indebted to the Double Diamonds

Stephen Knight

**Thanks to all correspondents.
May your pens never run dry. ED.**

**DEADLINE FOR
DECEMBER COURIER –
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24th**

Papua New Guinea Tidal Wave Disaster

This tragedy which took place in the Aitape region on Friday, 17th July deeply shocked the Australian people and offers for help soon came flooding in. As the Unit had served in New Guinea in the Ramu River area in 1943/44, it was only fitting that our Association should contribute to this worthy and needy cause. After contacting my Executive who all agreed we should assist, it was arranged for our Treasurer and Secretary to have a quick phone around to members seeking donations. Calls were also received from members asking

if we intended to do something for the people in the devastated area of the huge wave. The Mandurah Branch were to the fore early in the piece collecting \$100 at their meeting on 23rd July. The ring around was completed within a few days. Our members responded generously and \$1800 was promised, most of which has now been received. \$200 was added from Association funds and a cheque for \$2,000 was sent to the Australian Red Cross Papua New Guinea Tidal Wave Disaster Appeal on 29th July, 12 days after the tragedy.

Ted and Jack were not able to phone all members in such a short time and we apologise to anyone who was not contacted.

Our Treasurer, Ted Monk, has sent a letter of thanks to all donors with receipts attached.

I personally would like to thank all those who donated and our Treasurer and Secretary. Well Done!

**R. Finkelstein
President**

The Secretary, Australian Red Cross PNG Tidal Wave Appeal

Dear Sir,

The 2/2 Commandos served in 1941 for a 12 month period in Timor finally escaping in '42. We feel deeply indebted to the Timorese for their loyalty and constant life saving help. As a result we now render them considerable ongoing assistance. We also spent 15 months in Papua New Guinea during 1943/44. The local natives presented us with enormous co-operation and aid as they did to all Australian troops during those dark years. At full strength the 2/2 Commandos numbered 284, however our numbers have since been depleted to less than half this total. Despite this our group are pleased to be able to donate \$2000 to our former allies and friends to assist them in the hour of greatest need resulting from this horrific, tragic disaster.

Yours sincerely,
**Ralph Finkelstein
President**

Dear Mr Finkelstein

Thank you for support of the relief work Red Cross is undertaking in the wake of the devastating tidal waves in Papua New Guinea. The loss and suffering of the Papua New Guinean people is hard to comprehend, and for many the physical and emotional scars will never heal. In the short term, Red Cross is

addressing the immediate needs of the people by providing emergency supplies such as reconstruction kits, tools and food parcels. Thank you again for your support - your donation has made a difference.

Yours sincerely,

J. Morrison, Chairman.

M. L. Wheatler
226 Fulham St
Cloverdale 6105

Re: Papua-New Guinea Tidal Wave Disaster.

Dear Jack,

I'm pleased to hear that you have started things rolling. After the drought and El Niño, the poor devils have really had the works. That's about all I' up to just now. I'll be seeing the doctor this afternoon.

Cheque enclosed.

All the best to you and the boys.

'Doc'

J. S. and O. Chalwell
20 Kyle Court
Joondalup WA 6027

Dear Jack,

Thank you for the opportunity to donate to such a worthwhile cause. Olive and I gladly donate to your appeal for the devastated people of Aitape, N.G. Yours is the first request we have had to help.

Regards,

'Tich and Olive'

G. Green
25B Seaforth Rd
Shoalwater 6169

Dear Jack,

Herewith cheques towards Commando Association and New Guinea disaster. A nice gesture from the Association. Wouldn't like the same happening in Rockingham and you would probably love a good surfing beach in Bateman!

Regards,

Gerry Green

We regret to advise of the passing of Beryl, widow of Arthur Smith, recently. Her funeral was attended by Clarrie and Grace Turner, Len and Betty Bagley, Bernie and Babs Langridge, Mick and Jean Holland, Helen Poynton, Jessie Epps, Charles, Mary and Paddy King.

Timor Memories – July 1942 – 'Indian Joe'

We were doing our stint of duty at Daralau, this particular morning I was keeping an eye on the rear of the Observation Post when I saw this lone figure coming up the track – it was Indian Joe. I last sighted him in Dili 7 months ago. I thought, there's our prisoner and he is walking right into our arms. I called to the boys that we had a visitor. He was asked what he was doing in this area and where he was going. He replied that he came to Daralau to visit us, say hello to our boys, then return to Dili. Corporal Ted Loud asked him how he knew we were here. He replied that some Timorese friends had told him. The next question – what about the Japanese? 'No no,' said Indian Joe, 'hey do not know' Then I addressed Ted and said 'as soon as this bastard gets back to Dili everybody in the city will know.' I implored Ted and the boys of 5 Section not to allow him to return to Dili. I pointed out that we had been trying for months to take a prisoner, with no success and here we had a chap right on our doorstep who would probably know more about what was going on in Dili than the average Jap soldier, not to mention a fair knowledge of the disposition of the Japanese units in and around Dili. Indian Joe understood much of what I was saying and as a consequence was showing signs of unease. However, my request to detain that gentleman fell on deaf ears. All I could do was watch him walk away. A few paces before he disappeared around a bend in the track he looked back. I could not help but say 'you can count your blessings fella.'

Next morning at dawn I was on my way to an OP much closer to the city. There were two. It was no easy task to reach them. We had to cross the main Dili-Manatuto road and avoid being seen by the pro Japanese Timor youths who manned a telephone in a grass and bamboo hut which was situated a few yards from the road. The road at that point went through a cutting and the lushness of the flora in the vicinity could be best described as a jungle, but once out in the open it was a different story. There were trees, but not much in the way of undergrowth. We had occupied the OP for an hour or so when we heard Japanese artillery open fire. It was around 0900 hours. From the smoke and dust created by the exploding shells it had to be Daralau. We learned later that Harold Brooker, who was manning the OP at the time, yelled out that pussy was having kittens (he always referred to the Jap artillery and A.A. pieces as pussy). Within seconds there was very accurate artillery fire being brought to bear on Daralau. There were a few scratches shared by the boys but nothing of a serious nature. So much for Indian Joe who paid us a social call the

morning before. He never extended us the courtesy of a second visit.

Note: Indian Joe was the driver of a charbano in Dili. Soon after our landing there in December 1941, we occasionally had need of his services.

Ray Parry

News on Members:

Don May, who attended Roy Watson's funeral at Collie with his wife Dawn, has had a long association with this coal mining town. Don's grandfather on his mother's side, Arthur (Scotty) Wilson OBE, was the Labor Member for Collie from 1907-1947. On his retirement Don's father Harry May succeeded him and held the seat from 1947-1971, truly a remarkable record. Don was also a Labor man, serving the district of Manning from 1962-1977. He was Minister for Mines in the Tonkin government. Don's mother, Elizabeth, had the unique distinction of being the daughter of Scotty, the wife of Harry and the mother, all politicians, surely a record worthy of the Guinness Book of Records. Tom Bateman, a good mate of Don's was also in politics, representing the shire of Canning for 18 years. Tom was Government Whip in the Burke government.

It was nice to see Jack Fowler make the trip from Three Springs to attend the Norma Hasson Social. Jack, who is 86, looked hale and hearty and enjoyed meeting up with his old mates, in particular Joe and Tony from 2 Section. Jack is being well looked after at the Lady Brand Lodge at Three Springs, and loves the place. Another popular country couple, Stan and Barbara Payne, came down from Merredin to attend the Social. Although it meant getting up at 5am to catch the early train, they thought it was worth the effort. With members as keen as the Paynes it is no wonder the Association is so strong. Thanks to them both for a wonderful effort. Stan said the Merredin district has had good rains and prospects are bright, although wool prices are a big worry.

Peter and Pat Campbell always spend part of the winter months at Exmouth, a popular fishing town in the northwest of WA. When out fishing recently with Pat, Peter hooked a big trevally. He said it was so big it dragged his boat around the harbour for some time before he landed it. Well done Peter. Members beware! When you see Peter coming your way in future reach for the ear plugs – you know what he will want to talk about!

On Vales:

Notification of the passing of five more good men since our last Courier has been received with deep regret. The members concerned were Tom Tierney who died last December, Sydney Marsh in June, Roy Watson and Keith Wilson in July and Fred Grows in August.

Vales are now a regular feature of the Courier and unfortunately will continue to be so. It may be of some consolation to the loved ones of deceased members that they at least have a Vale in the form of a brief but genuine tribute paid to them in our little paper. Not many people have Vales. These are generally reserved for those prominent in the country's affairs. The suggestion that members write their own Vale (see June Courier) has some merit and it certainly makes it easier for our Editor Len, to know what they achieved in their lifetime. Writing your own Vale also has some advantages for the writer and you could die happy, knowing that all the nice things you wrote about yourself would appear in print on your demise. So, get busy with biro and paper and knock up a couple of pages. Don't overdo it – be dinkum. Pop it in the top drawer or send it to Len and hope it doesn't appear in the Courier for quite some time.

God bless.

Jack Carey

TASSIE SAFARI – YEAR 2000

At the general meeting held in Canberra in March it was agreed to hold the next Safari in Hobart early in the year 2000.

Bert Price, who was the only Tassie member present, kindly offered to help set up the Safari and on his return to Hobart started things moving. Unfortunately he took ill after arriving home and after coming good had the misfortune to be involved in a car accident from which he is now recovering. He still found time to look around for accommodation and has narrowed the field down to a couple of venues. Gerry Slade has offered to assist Bert and the two plan to get stuck into setting up the Safari shortly. Gerry had a knee operation in June but is making good progress. Bert is a capable organiser and was awarded an O.A.M. in the 1980's for his contribution to community affairs in Tasmania. They should make a good team.

It is intended to launch the Safari in the December Courier when the accommodation venue and time of the Safari will be named. The itinerary will follow later, probably in the June or September 1999 Courier.

So, we will meet up again in 2000, God willing. It will be different again from the Canberra

Safari which was so well organised by Ron, Hazel, Dan, Sunny, Joan, Fred and Erika.

Start saving and planning right now – they are all great events!

Jack Carey

INDEPENDENT TRUST

WELDER INSTRUCTOR

Don Bosco Comoro Dili

Sponsored by A.E.S.O.P. the volunteer, according to Bro. Ephrem Santos, arrived and is conducting training sessions in the new workshop.

SHIPMENT No. 6 for Dili

36 cartons of 3 mtr cube packed and stored by Keith Hayes for some 5 months in his garage were trucked to Darwin. Then transshipped by a small vessel to Kupang West Timor (ETA 108/) from where they were to be trucked to Dili this week.

The movement was planned to coincide with the arrival of Les Cranfield to Dili. It will be the first time that we are able to personally check and report on each item in the shipment after release from customs. The vegetable seeds (A\$4713) are vital to Les's programme

Fr. Jose phoned Les to advise the shipment has arrived in Dili "by ship" (9 days from Darwin, presumably barge from Kupang, and is now in customs.

Les and Verna arrive in Dili on Friday (via Denpasar) for another 3 months at Fuiloro.

The success of this shipment via an alternative route to the hitherto costly and often slow method controlled by Dili based Indonesian "interests" via Singapore, will depend on the condition on receipt from customs. Other factors will be whether contents are intact, the transshipment and handling charges and finally customs.

Thursday 20/8/98. At time of writing for this Courier deadline, John Burrridge and I are leaving to join Keith and Val Hayes and others to farewell Les and Verna at the airport.

They carry with them again, the gratitude and best wishes of all our 2/2nd members and associates. Shipped via: CSA Shipping, Darwin Australia. Transit via CSA Kupang West Timor. Road to Fr. Jose Vattaparambil C/- Don Bosco DILI East Timor.

36 cartons containing: 23 Typewriters, 26 Portable typewriters, 3 Sewing machines, 1 Video camera, 1 Overhead projector, 1 Printer, 1 Sound system, 5 Assorted fabrics for sewing classes, 1 Vegetable seeds beans, 1 Vegetable seeds assorted 11 tins 25 pkts, 1

Tracing frame, 1 +2 Typing paper, 1 Calculator 1 x \$1, Cord 1 x \$5 foot pedals, 1 Gestetner parts, 1 Books English by Maureen Hewitt.

INDEPENDENT TRUST

Some 4 months ago we were approached by a well known TV Channel to have two of our Timor veterans visit Timor to coincide with the Cranfield visit and our current shipment to do a documentary on the 2/2nd Aid programme.

Following an urgent request to renew passports and health clearances, Keith Hayes and Jack Carey did so.

Unfortunately within a few days we had a call to advise that following the Jakarta upheaval, Indonesian Administration which had approved, withdrew permission for the visit.

Paddy Kenneally

By the time this is printed Paddy will have inserted himself once more into areas familiar to him 57 years ago. He will be visiting a number of villages dear to his heart and hopefully will elude once more those who may wish he was not there.

Congratulations Paddy and our best wishes that your visit is interesting, informative, and satisfying. We will gladly anticipate your newsworthy report in due course

The Fordschmid Family, Switzerland

Dear Mr Smyth

Our Aunt and Uncle, Verna and Les Cranfield, have told us a lot about the work being done to help the plight in Timor. We'd like to make this small donation in the hope that its of some help.

Yours sincerely,

Corrine, Livius and Callia

Dear Corrine, Livius and Callia

The Independent Trust of our Association has been dedicated to assist the deprived and oppressed indigenous people of East Timor in recognition of the invaluable help given to our members in the war years. However, our help has had a greater impact following the visits to that area by volunteers including your Uncle and Aunt. We are grateful for their unselfish most effective endeavours. We are deeply appreciative and thank you for your kind gesture in contributing \$50 to our fund from a country so remote from the daily problems of

the unfortunate indigenous East Timorese. We are pleased you enjoyed your visit to Australia.

Yours sincerely

Bob Smyth

**Pat and Lynda Curtin,
PO Box 144
Beverley 6304**

Enclosed is a cheque for \$750 that Les and Verna Cranfield asked me to forward to the 2/2 Commando Association with the request that they would put it to good use helping the East Timorese people. Les left a shotgun with us years ago and I received the above amount from the Buy-Back Scheme recently. When I offered it to Les and Verna they refused until I suggested it be put to good use in East Timor and it was then they suggested that I send it to the 2/2 Commando Association via you.

We wish you the best with your good work. Kind regards,

Pat and Lynda

Dear Les and Verna

re Cheque from Pat and Lynda Curtin

The indigenous East Timorese supported by their devoted protectors and carers, the Salesian Brothers, are already heavily indebted to you to enhance the quality of their lives. However, that you should also donate \$750 to our fund is almost beyond comprehension. It is a surprise to all our membership who gratefully acknowledge and thank you for your most generous gift.

On the eve of your fourth departure for another three months of voluntary work in East Timor, please also accept the best wishes of the 2/2 membership for a most successful, healthy, even though challenging, satisfying visit.

Yours sincerely,

Bob

Sick Parade:

Tom Foster who has a severe angina problem underwent a new type of heart exploration and operation at Royal Perth Hospital recently with a panel of heart specialists from all over Australia monitoring the proceedings. Tom was conscious during the operation and got a bit edgy when the specialist doing the op. would stop every now and then and ask the observers for comments or suggestions. He is now recuperating after the nerve wracking

experience. Tom has a lovely property below Geraldton and breeds top grade lambs.

Bill Rowan-Robinson had a stroke in June. He is a pretty tough customer and though far from well is still keen to carry on with his work for the less fortunate in his home town, Bridgetown. Over a long period Bill and Iris have worked tirelessly in community affairs. He was awarded an OAM some years ago for his charitable efforts. We wish him well for his 80th birthday in October.

Spare a thought for **Bill Tucker** who is laid up in Hospital in the Tocumwal NSW. He is completely immobilised and cannot speak but still can hear and understand what visitors are saying. Don't forget Bill in your prayers as he needs them now more than ever.

Arch Campbell is showing signs of improvement and has moved into a care situation in the Salvation Army Western Hostel in Nedlands directly opposite Hollywood Hospital. He is looking forward to making new friends in his new surroundings, not that he has ever been short of friends.

Jack Hartley, whose future looked grim a few months ago, is improving and has put on a few pounds of late. May you continue to improve Jack and may life become more pleasant for you.

Don and Barbara Young are not going too well. Barbara is in hospital with heart problems. Don is having mobility trouble and cannot drive his car. May things improve for you both in the very near future.

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