



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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

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President's Christmas Message

Well, members and friends, we are approaching another Christmas Festive Season and the special magic Millenium 2000 New Year.

We will gladly leave behind the terrible events our East Timorese friends have had forced on them during this year and hope for a better future for them, with peace and happiness.

I feel the hurt of the loss of our friends who have passed on this year and hope that in the new year all members and their families will be blessed with happiness and excellent health.

We are looking forward to our Hobart Safari in March 2000 which promises to be most enjoyable.

My thanks to the Committee for their efficient performance and support as always and I wish all members and families a Merry Christmas and Healthy, Happy and Prosperous year 2000.

Dick Darrington

VALE:

This is the eulogy I gave at the funeral of Archie Campbell who died at 1.10pm on Saturday, October 2nd, aged 83.

'Ladies and Gentlemen, Archie Campbell would be ashamed of me if he saw me reading his obituary from written notes. He himself was a good after dinner ad-lib speaker who scorned the use of notes. My excuse is that if I spoke from the heart on this particular occasion I might possibly choke up a bit.

Archie and I met at Northam camp in 1940 and have been the closest of friends ever since, for over 59 years. He wasn't just a friend but a very personal and loyal one. My eldest son is named after Arch and so is his eldest son.

Arch was a great soldier who lost nearly all his Section in a tragic event when they were slaughtered by the Japanese at the beginning of the East Timor campaign. This event scarred him deeply and he made a resolve to repay that loss by devoting much of his time after the war to helping the widows and children of ex-servicemen – in other words, Legacy. He joined Legacy in Sydney in 1947 and remained in it for 52 years. He moved to Melbourne and then back to Perth. His service to Legacy was exceptional; he never refused a job of any description; he was a Legatee who was devoted to his many 'families' and helped the widows and children with all those attendant problems that the lack of a father occasions. He was a Legatee who was involved in the whole broad spectrum of Legacy; he was Honorary Secretary for many years and became President in 1966.

Everything Archie did he did well. Playing footy for East Perth in the pre-war days he played well. Even earlier, when playing junior cricket with the Parry Street mob, he played brilliantly and with great effort and enthusiasm – at least that is what he told me! I did not know him in those days.

Quite apart from his work with Legacy he was a strong supporter and worker for our Army Unit Association – 2/2nd Commando Squadron. The big number of his comrades who are here today and who formed the guard of honour outside confirms the high regard in which he was held – particularly when we reflect that our numbers are getting less very quickly each year. Arch was Editor of the Courier for 14 years. The Courier is the Unit newsletter sent out regularly to members and friends. He was President in 1987, 1988 and 1989 and was made a Life Member in 1984. He was a very generous contributor to the Association and also to the Unit Trust Fund which has been sending and arranging humanitarian aid to the indigenous Timorese for 8 years.

Many who are here today will have read his book 'The Double Reds of Timor.' In typical Campbell fashion he arranged that half the proceeds should go to Legacy and the other half to our Association. In a preface to his book Archie paid a special tribute to his late wife May, who pre-deceased him some 18 years ago. May was one of the famous Pearce sisters of hockey renown. She was a wonderful Person and each of them was worthy of the other. Unfortunately they had no children.

Unfortunately, the last few years of Archie's life were not as rewarding or pleasant for him as the earlier years. Chronic arthritis, minor strokes, a major stroke and a massive heart attack all combined to make life very unrewarding for one who deserved much better. It was the heart attack which caused his death three days later. However, during my visits with Keith Hayes to Archie's little room at Weston Hostel Salvation Army we used to reminisce about happier times. Archie had plenty of laughter left in him. A few years back he and I had a wonderful trip to the Canadian Rockies and then a week in Alaska with a fantastic sea voyage from and back to Vancouver. It was fortunate that we had that experience as shortly afterwards his health began to decline.

I could go on a lot longer of course but have been warned that our time within this building is very restricted.

And so, all of you here knew Archie and I know you join me when I say that a very good and loyal and generous man has left us and our community is the poorer because of it. Thank you.

John Burrridge

Lest We Forget

The following were present at Archie's funeral service on Wednesday, 6th October – Ray Aitken, Len and Betty Bagley, Tom Bateman, Tony Bowers, John Burrridge, Jack and Delys Carey, John and Olive Chalwell, Dick Darrington, Ron Dook, 'Pip' Dunkley, Peter, Sue and Jess Epps, Gerry and Lal Green, Les Halse, Laurie Harrington, Roy Hanson, Keith and Val Hayes, Bill and Elvie Howell, Charlie and Paddy King, Bernie and Babs Langridge, John Lillie, Wilf and Lorraine March, Ted and Peg Monk, Nellie Mullins, Don and Ida Murray, Ray Parry, Joe and Helen Poynton and daughter Julie Ann, Steve Rogers, Les Cranfield, Bob Smyth, Eric and Twy Smyth, 'Dusty' Studdy, Clarrie Turner and Don Turton. Apologies were tendered by Don May, Alby Friend, Gerry Maley, Harry Sproxtton, 'Doc' Wheatley and Stan Payne.

Our members formed a Guard of Honour, John Burridge paid a fitting tribute to Arch in his eulogy, Ted Monk said the Ode. It was a moving farewell to a wonderful man. The Queensland Branch members provided a nice tribute with a lovely floral arrangement which the family appreciated.

VALE

Mick Morgan – X9954

We regret to advise of the passing of Mick at Hollywood Hospital on 21st October. He was 87. Harold John (Mick) Morgan was born in Northam, W.A. on 18th August, 1912. His father died when Mick was 5 years old and the family moved to South Fremantle. Mick had 2 brothers and 2 sisters. From that time on he became and remained a true blue Fremantlite. He attended school at Fremantle Boys and later worked as a sign writer with Pelless, leading drapery store in Fremantle. He later became their head window dresser. As a youth Mick, with his slim athletic build, excelled at tennis and rowing and played football with South Fremantle ex-scholars. He was also a good dancer and loved fishing.

Early in 1941 he enlisted in the 2nd AIF, volunteered for the hush group and ended up as a Lance Sergeant in No. 4 Section 'B' Platoon under Tom Nisbet. He was wounded early in the Timor campaign when 4 Section was involved in a fierce encounter with he Japs at Bazaar Tete. This resulted in the loss of Paddy Knight and Eric Mitchell while Alan Hollow and Eddie Craighill were also badly wounded. Mick won his commission in the field in July 1942 and was awarded a M.I.D. for bravery. He went on to serve in New Guinea and New Britain until his discharge in November, 1945. He was a top soldier and well respected in the Unit.

On his return home Mick married Jean Campbell (Archie's sister), a marriage which lasted over 50 years and was blessed with 2 children, John and Janet. He returned to work with Pelless but in the 1950's joined the Fremantle Tally Clerks Union with which he remained until his retirement in his sixties.

Mick and Jean built a nice comfortable home in Daly Street, South Fremantle and lived there happily for over 40 years.

Mick was a one eyed supporter of South Fremantle and could be quite vocal at times. He became a President and Life Member of the Fremantle Social Club and continued to enjoy fishing at Robbs Jetty. His son recalled being dinked on Mick's bike as a boy to favourite fishing spots. Shift work prevented him from taking an active part in the running of

the Association but he and Jean attended most of our socials and some safaris. He carried our flag on Anzac Days for over 30 years and was made a life member in 1982. Many an Anzac Day finished up in a Perth pub late in the evening with Mick, who had a good voice, rendering his old favourite ~~he Japs at Bazaar Tete~~ ~~he Japs at Bazaar Tete~~. This ~~was~~ ~~was~~ in the loss of Paddy 'Why does the dustman get it all.' Ah, those were the days!

Mick and Jean moved to the Italian Village in White Gum Valley a few years back where they continued to enjoy life until Jean's death in 1998. Mick had several health problems in his latter years. A painful back injury and increasing deafness made life difficult at times. He had a close shave when an aneurysm in his stomach burst when in his late 70's.

Members will recall with pleasure his 80th birthday party at Cicerellos in 1992. However, the loss of Jean took its toll and he simply faded away at the end.

The Association was represented at his funeral service by Ray Aitken, Tom Bateman, Jack and Delys Carey Dick Darrington, Jess Epps, Keith Hayes, Jean Holland, Bill and Elvie Howell, Charlie and Paddy King, Bernie and Babs Langridge, Jim Lines, Don May, Joe and Helen Poynton, Ray Parry, Bob Smyth, Eric Smyth, Henry Sproxton, George Greenhalgh, Don Turton, Doc Wheatley – there was also a number of apologies. Janet and John spoke with feeling and great love of their father, then followed The Last Post, The Ode and Reveille. The Association extends its condolences to Janet, John and family.

J. Carey

VALE

Roydon Septimus Wilson (Sep)

30.3.1913 - 2.10.1999

Sep was born in a little timber town in Western Australia. He was one of 11 children and survived all of them but one, his sister Nell who lives in Western Australia and is 91 years old. Sep attended primary school in Marinup. At 14 years he left school and began life in the outback. During this time he became a cook on various sheep stations until the great depression struck and he carried his swag through the outback of Western Australia doing different jobs and eventually made his way to Kalgoorlie where, with 2 of his brothers, Maurie and Fred, acquired a gold treatment plant at Mt. Munger. He enlisted in the army and came to Victoria and Wilsons Promontory with No. 2 Independent Coy, later to be 2/2nd Commando Squadron. He served in Timor, New Guinea and New Britain and rose to the rank of

Sergeant and was a very good soldier, well respected by all his mates.

Sep met Monica Mary Nugent when on leave in Melbourne and they were married after the war at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

After the War Sep worked for large heavy earth moving equipment companies such as Roche Bros. and Thiess Bros. until a serious back injury forced him into early retirement.

Monica and Sep were married for 54 years – he had great love for his family, his dear wife, much loved daughter Gaye, wonderful son-in-law Brian and took much pride in his 3 grand children, Sarah, Phoebe and Mark.

Sep became extremely ill last September and spent time in several hospitals and finally at the Valley Hospital. He had an incredible will to live right to the end.

The funeral service was held at St. Agnes Church, Highbett on 5th October and afterwards at Springvale Crematorium. The following Association members attended – Bruce McLaren, Alf Harper, Eddy Bourke, Fred Broadhurst, John Southwell, Leith Cooper who paid tribute to Sep at the church service on behalf of the 2/2, and Harry and Olive Botterill. There were a number of apologies. The Association extends its deepest sympathy to Monie, Gaye, Brian and family.

Lest We Forget

Harry Botterill

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

21/11/99

Our first official commemoration service was held in this hallowed avenue on the 26th February, 1950 which makes today's service the 50th anniversary of an event which is rightly regarded as the most important gathering on the Association's calendar. Every year now for the past 50 years we have assembled here to honour our fallen. Our feelings today are just as they were at our very first service; that is one of sadness and pride for those splendid young men who laid down their lives in World War II for the freedom we enjoy in this great country of ours.

Today we pause and reflect on the magnitude of the sacrifice made by those young men, our former mates, whose names are enshrined on the plaques at the foot of the trees in this lovely avenue. We remember them as they were, full of spirit, energetic, eagerly looking forward to the task ahead of defending our shores against a fanatical enemy. It was our privilege to share with them the dangers of the time. We mourn

their passing and salute them. To the the families of those who paid the supreme sacrifice we offer our sincere sympathy. It is only fitting today that we should also remember those members, now totalling 332, who have passed away since the war ended. Every year sees a diminution in our ranks. All were fine Australian citizens who played their part in the building of our country. To their loved ones we offer our sympathy. With many of our remaining members suffering from indifferent health problems, some more serious than others, our role as an active association is gradually slowing down. This is to be expected. The support of our growing list of widows is therefore most important. We are grateful for their support in the past and ask that they continue to maintain their interest in the Association.

And what of future services? It is the hope and earnest wish of the Association that this Commemorative Service will continue on well into the next millennium. It would be nice to think that when the time comes the sons, daughters and even grandchildren of our members will be prepared to take over the reins to ensure this happens.

Recently the world population reached a staggering 6000 million which makes our 19 million look small indeed. Six weeks from now the world will be celebrating the advent of the year 2000 the end of the second millennium. Throughout Australia people will be partying on making the most of this significant occasion. As surviving veterans we have a lot to be thankful for. We enjoy great freedoms in a wonderful country. Our early years in the first half of this century included two world wars and the Great Depression. In spite of these calamities we remember this era with mixed emotions, some good some not so good. Difficult times very often bring out the best in people. As Australians we should be proud of the way in which our people responded to the challenging and often daunting problems which confronted our nation during those crucial times. It saw Australians at their best.

The last half of this century has to many of us been a time of bewildering change. The rapid progress in technology, health, education standards, the sciences, space exploration, computers and the Internet etc. has left our generation floundering wondering what to expect next. It has brought prosperity and higher living standards. Women have leapt into prominence in all spheres of work. The world is a smaller place and people are travelling more thus broadening their outlook on life. People are living longer and in the main are enjoying a better quality of life. On the debit side are social problems in the form of drugs, crimes of violence, the road toll while youth

unemployment is a big worry. Our youth of today are fine young people. They should be given every encouragement to carry on their education at the highest levels available so they will be well equipped to face, with confidence, the challenges the new millennium will bring. As our citizens of tomorrow, the future of Australia is in their hands and we can only wish them well in the exciting times before them.

The 31st October saw the last of the Indonesian Army leave East Timor thus ending nearly 24 years of unlawful occupation of that small country. The East Timorese people can at last begin to enjoy the sweet taste of freedom something they have been denied for nearly 400 years. Our Association has followed closely, often to the point of despair, the terrible ordeal these good people have endured at the hands of their former oppressors. The winning of their independence can be best described as a modern day miracle. That it has come to pass is still hard to believe. The suffering and carnage in East Timor in recent months will not be easily forgotten but at last there is hope and promise of better things to come for the people. The 2/2nd has steadfastly supported their Timorese friends from the very beginning and did what it could, within its limitations, to assist them in their struggle for independence. The Independent Trust Fund has proved to be successful in giving aid and hope to a grateful people. Thanks to the generosity of members and friends and the tireless efforts of the Fund committee under the capable chairmanship of Mr Bob Smyth and his fellow members Mr John Burridge, Mr Keith Hayes and formerly Mr Ross Shenn, much good has been accomplished and will continue to be done. Thanks are also due to our honorary members in Viv Paust and Les and Verna Cranfield who went to Timor and taught the people skills in carpentry and agricultural methods. At this present moment Les is in Los Palos busy helping to sow crops before the rains come. What fine ambassadors they have been for Australia. Our army under Major General Cosgrove, which includes members of the S.A.S. Regiment, is doing a first class job in East Timor. We wish them continued success and a safe return home when their task is done.

Before reading out the names of our fallen I thank you all for coming, it gives us a great lift.

Thanks are also extended to the fine young men making up today's catafalque party.

Dick Darrington,
President

A. Luby
6/35 Richmond Ave
Dee Why 2099

Dear Editor,

Paddy did a good job with his excellent paper to the Senate Enquiry into East Timor, not that it would have much worth in the light of more recent events, and what dramatic events they have been and perhaps influenced not only our near north but the U.N. and the people they represent. Certainly it has provoked a previously modest groundswell of support for Timorese into a national tidal wave of enthusiasm when the populace were made aware that there was another holocaust and a barbaric burnt-earth policy being carried out, literally on our doorstep. At last too, we found we have a PM with enough guts to take some positive action and get the U.N. people off their collective bums with action that should have been taken 24 years ago.

By way of assisting AID funds there was a highly advertised gala concert held at the Sydney Opera House recently and another similar event is to be held at Manly on 28th November in support of the Josephite Order and their medical aid.

I understand the Timorese have settled in to East Hills Army Barracks very well.

Harry Handicott keeps in regular contact and provides a relay station to our northern members. Amyce doesn't enjoy the best of health but gets around. John 'Snow' Went has sold his home and plans to move back to Newcastle.

Recently, Bill Tomasetti was presented with a Life Membership badge in appreciation of his long and faithful efforts as a member.

As far as formal meetings are concerned this year has not been a good one, what with illnesses, operations and the more permanent departures, like many of our kindred groups, it has been impossible at times to raise even a small quorum. Hence our main form of contact has been the telephone.

Sick Report: Jack Hartley has sounded much better recently and is still beating the odds. Ron Hilliard has been in and out of hospital with a recurring heart problem. He's home and seems to be making a good recovery. Bill Coker is another member who has required heart surgery and ran into unexpected problems. In October he was transferred from North Shore Hospital to Castlegreg Private which is only a short distance from his home. Present symptoms point to a good recovery. Ron Trengove has moved up to the Newcastle area to be closer to sons Shane and Garth and will advise his address in due course. Still has many problems. Frank O'Neill is managing to

remain at home with the help of his faithful carers, Verena and Nancy. Ray Cole is showing some signs of the old timers disease but can still manage a phone conversation. We were sad to hear of the passing of that lovely person Joy Martin. One can only say what a beautiful person she was and may she Rest in Peace with her beloved Roy. Queensland and the West have had more than a fair share of casualty reports, with many of our dear and faithful stalwarts passing on. Too many to name and they have been mentioned on other pages so suffice to say we mourn their passing and send our condolences to respective families and pray that they Rest in Peace.

The Luby's: In mid July Edith was enjoying a reasonably good spell with her old bronchial problem so we took a punt and booked a cruise on the 'Norwegian Star' 13 days from Darwin to Sydney via Milne Bay (P.N.G.) from 27 August to 9 September. We could have had a special deal on flight and accommodation in Darwin but I elected to stay at the Alatai Holiday Apartments where we stayed in '95 and is owned and staffed by Timorese. To have a break after the long flight we went up on 25 August and were met by Alvano Inglis who gave us a wonderfully warm welcome. On the 26th Alvano and his lovely wife Lucy took us to dinner at 'Tims' a fairly new and the biggest seafood smorgasbord restaurant I've ever seen! We appreciated their hospitality, especially as the Portuguese/Darwin community were preparing for a visit by their National leaders, including Bishop Belos and Jose Ramos Horta on the following day. We were sorry that we were unable to accept their invitation to stay. My aim was to have a leisurely look around Darwin but Edith suffered a relapse and we spent most of our time at doctors and pharmacists. I did manage to speak on the phone with Frank Geddes, ex Secretary Darwin and N.T. R.S.L. with whom I maintain contact. He told me he had a feeling but could not say positively that Arthur Cullen had passed away 2-3 years ago. I had no luck with any of the other Portos or Jack Porter 2/8 Sqdn. During our all too short stay it was obvious that Darwin continues to grow as a dynamic thriving city, attracting more tourists year by year. On Friday 27th our host Aldo personally drove us to the new harbour and wharf to join a lovely ship which was to be our home until 9th September. We sailed out of Darwin on a brilliant sunny day. No flaming sunset as about that time the clouds came over. For 2 days we cruised through placid waters and the beautiful Torres Strait Islands to Milne Bay a familiar area during WWII, where we spent an interesting day. Departing at 1500 hours we passed through the China Strait and enjoyed a great view of the Samur Islands and many others. Nothing has changed much in

that area in 55 years except for Coca Cola, Pepsi and frozen foods. From there we cruised southward, spending a day each at Cairns, Townsville, Hamilton Island, Fraser Island, Brisbane and home to Sydney.

There were many interesting people on board, including many war veterans from 39/45, a few from the Vietnam era and a party of 20 from RAAF Association W.A. Branch. There was also a retired Brigadier Peter Badman who gave 4 lectures on the war in the Pacific and Asian areas which were most interesting.

On the 7th September we were cruising off the (very wet) Sunshine coast towards Brisbane just after dawn. At 0630 the Brig. had organised a Commemoration Service as near as possible over the area where the Hospital Ship 'Centaur' was sunk by a Jap submarine on 14 May, 1943. I was given the honour of casting overboard a wreath and reciting the Ode of Remembrance. This was a significant occasion for me as most of those who perished belonged to the 2/12 Field Ambulance, the original Unit from which the great Paff and I had volunteered for Independent Companies on 1st March, 1941. Others you would recall from the 2/12 who joined us in Timor were Joe Morrissey and Harry Fredericks,

all three have long since done their last patrol. Overall the cruise was well worthwhile in spite of our handicaps. Accommodation, 4 decks above the water line was very comfy, even with twin beds. 2 portholes and easy access to every facility. Meals and service were excellent and the crew from the Captain down, most courteous and efficient. We are so glad we were able to make it.

Love and best wishes, keep up the good work, to you all.

Sincerely,

Alan

W.W.2 Commando honoured with knife.

Past and present special forces soldiers came together recently to honour the legendary exploits of Australia's WW2 commandos.

CO 1 Cdo Regt Lt-Col Jeremy Logan presented a WW2-era Sykes Fairburn fighting knife to Alan Luby representing the NSW Commando Association to honour the efforts of the WW2 independent commando companies.

The presentation highlighted the significant role of commandos in Australian military history and the continuing relationship with their modern day equivalents.

WAR MEDALS

For those members who may have lost their war medal issue it is possible to have them replaced. Some may never have claimed them, although this is hard to imagine. Members should write to The Army Medals Section, GPO Box 5108BB, Melbourne, Victoria 3001 and obtain a form for the replacement of lost or stolen medals

Order of entitlement for issue of deceased members medals is beneficiary under will, widow or widower, son or daughter, stepson or stepdaughter, grandson or granddaughter, father or mother, brother or sister, nephew or niece.

J. P. Kenneally
28 Wilkins St.
Yagoona 2199

Dear Editor,

Long time no write but when the Postie only delivers every three months, long time makes little difference. The sad part of it is, the mortality rate that appears every three months is staggering and furthermore increases the sorrow we feel at each loss.

Ray Aitken rang me about the passing of Mick Morgan. Like Ray, Mick was an NCO in 4 Section. He was wounded in the action at Bagartoete in March 1942, rejoined the Section at Hatu-udo in time to move up to Aileu, Lilitai and Remexio end of April early May 1942. He took part in the Dili raid May 16th 1942 and until the August offensive served with 4 Section in the Remexio Daralau, Combera area, then Lilitai, Turiscai, Fatu-Maquerec. In November Lieut-Colonel Spence returned to Australia causing a major reshuffle throughout the Unit. Major Callinan moved to Force HQ as overall commander of Lancer Force, the new code name for the combined 2/4th, 2/2nd Independent Coys then serving in Portuguese Timor. Captain Laidlaw took over command of the 2/2nd Lieut. Nisbet commanded 'B' Platoon and Sgt. Morgan promoted to Lieut Commander No. 4 Section which was moved east to cover the Baucau-Viqueque road and was based at Assu Rua until December when it moved down to the Qualan river, next stop Darwin.

Mick commanded 4 Section during the New Guinea campaign in the Ramu Valley in 1943-44. He left the Unit at I in March 1944 to return and do an officers school in Australia. He rejoined the Unit at Strathpine in Queensland at the end of 1944. He then took over 1 Section 'A' Troop and served in New Britain until his return to Australia at the end of the war. Pre war Mick worked in a drapery in Fremantle, post war he joined the tally clerks Union and

worked as a cargo tally clerk on the Fremantle waterfront until retirement. To his son and daughter Nora and I extend our deepest sympathy. May he rest in peace. Mick had a long life and he lived it well. He enjoyed company and the camaraderie of the men he served with, a song, a drink and a laugh, a good game of football and South Fremantle Club going well, and all was fine with the world.

It's been a momentous year for the people of East Timor. For the first time in their history they were given the opportunity to decide their destiny. With courage, fortitude and determination they took it. On August 30th they voted overwhelmingly for independence. Along the mountain roads and tracks they walked to cast their votes, knowing full well their vote for freedom would bring horrendous retribution upon themselves from the Indonesian military and pro-integration militias. They had endured nearly 25 years of terror death and persecution inflicted by a powerful invader. They stood alone and unprotected by our so called lovers of freedom and democracy of the powerful western world. Their only protection in the referendum unarmed electoral observers of the U.N. The whole world knew what would happen if the vote was pro-independence and looked on and watched it happen. It was too late when the so-called peace force moved in. Talk about Nero playing the fiddle whilst Rome burned, that was negligible compared to the World's stance on East Timor since 1975. Oh well, we are there now, let us hope we at least make a good if belated job of it and I don't mean Australia alone.

Bill Coker much improved but that is only in comparison to what he was. Bill is an unflappable kind of bloke. The way he put it to me was 'Paddy, at one stage I thought I'd never see the front door again.' He has had a tough time - 8 days in intensive care. Thank God things look better for him now.

Ron Hilliard also on the road to recovery, he has had another by-pass operation. It will be a while before he is mobile.

Jack Hartley - Well Jack certainly proved the doctor wrong by just on 2 years up to date. Perhaps all round Jack has suffered more than most. He has borne this serious condition stoically.

'Curly' O'Neill another who has carried on despite serious health problems, physically far from well, his mind is razor sharp. He reads prodigiously, subscribes to a London newspaper and keeps well abreast of English and European developments, his other great interest classical music. His boyhood friend Merv. has also been on the sick list for months but is on the mend now.

My clan has little to complain about. Nora is kept busy with many things. Michael back in

Australia working in Melbourne at present but will finish there the middle of November. It also means finish. The job put him in New York for 2 1/2 years plus visits to London, Ireland and New Zealand all expense and good pay. Sean still in the Northern Territory driving a massive road train hauling ore from the mine to the mill out in the Tanami desert, Sean likes far away places so its no hardship. Gerald in Sydney still running his tow truck business and he's welcome to it, that is a real dog eat dog game and the devil take the hindmost. Helen is in Canberra, they did a half round Australia trip as far north and west as Kununurra then back through South Australia to Canberra. Peter took a video of the trip, not too bad as videos go and frankly most of them aren't much. It takes a good discerning camera man to shoot a good video. Most of my photographs are headless. I'd have made a good camera man to Henry VIII if I and cameras had been around in the 1500's.

We beat the Springboks, not a very impressive display. A total of 48 points by both teams and not a single try scored by either. Rugby League – the Poms hopeless. Follower Rupert has ruined Rugby League, and despite all the hoo hah, Rugby Union is not doing all that well. The game may have originated at Rugby but I'm damned if they can play the game and that includes the Welsh, Irish and Scots. Kick it out, time out, stacks on the mill and kick again. Last night there was 100 minutes of football and not a try scored. All penalty goals and two field goals and a Welsh Ref. nearly blowing the whistle apart, and missing off side play everywhere.

Joyce Martin passed away. It was quite a shock – Coral Coker had said she was on the sick list but we didn't know how serious it was. Joyce was well known and liked by the NSW members and their families she and Roy were regulars at all our safaris. Now that Joyce has gone another link with our past has been severed. Our sympathy goes out to the family which extends to a great grandchild. Rest in peace Joyce, you and Roy are united once more.

'Snow' Went is leaving Sydney and heading back to Newcastle, the town of his youth. Ron Trengove has also moved to Newcastle. I wish them well. 'Snow' is going back to a place completely changed, the furnaces at the steel works I am afraid quenched for ever.

Enough. I'm off and may all our members and their families have a most enjoyable Christmas and a nostalgic farewell to the 1900's. What a century! For better or worse, I think the most eventful up to date in the world's history.

Good luck and God bless.

Paddy

**The Prime Minister
The Hon. John Howard MP
Parliament House
Canberra ACT**

Dear Prime Minister

Members of our Association served with distinction in Timor, New Guinea and New Britain in World War II. We have followed closely the events in East Timor since the unlawful annexation of that country by Indonesia in December 1975 and have been appalled by the cruel and inhumane treatment of the East Timorese by the military regime since that period.

A redeeming feature of the sad saga of events over the past few weeks has seen the efforts made by you and your Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Downer, to bring to an end the carnage and suffering inflicted on a defenceless people by a cowardly and treacherous militia force aided and abetted by the T.N.I. You have both worked tirelessly to find a solution to a very difficult problem and we thank and commend you and Mr Downer for what you have achieved in a short time.

As Prime Minister of our wonderful country you have shown yourself to be a man of great compassion and I'm sure all fair minded Australians and that includes the veterans of my Association will be forever grateful to you for that.

Well done John! Well done Alexander!

**R. Darrington
President
2/2nd Commando Association of Australia**

Dear Mr Darrington

Thank you for your letter of support regarding East Timor.

I share your obvious concern at the plight of the East Timorese people.

You will be aware of the Government's constant efforts to secure international support for a peacekeeping force to go into East Timor. Fortunately, that goal has now been achieved through the Security Council of the United Nations, and Australia is leading the peacekeeping force, contributing up to 4,500 personnel.

All people of good will want peace and order restored to East Timor and the people of that community allowed to enjoy the freedom they clearly desire.

I know that the thoughts and prayers of Australians will be with our forces as they go about their important but dangerous mission.

Yours sincerely,

John Howard

**Major General Peter Cosgrove M.C.
Leader of United Nations Peacekeeping
Forces to East Timor.**

We congratulate and honour each and every man of your Australian Contingent in the pursuit of peace for the people of East Timor.

We are confident that each man will, to the ultimate level of his ability do his job well whilst upholding the finest tradition of Australian Fighting Forces.

God speed and our prayers for a safe return.

**President and members 2/2nd Commando
Association of Australia**

(East Timor 1941/42)

**Major General Peter Cosgrove
Department of Defence
Canberra ACT**

Dear General

The members of our Association, and particularly those who fought in East Timor in 1942, extend to you and all members of your force our very best wishes for a successful and speedy campaign.

Knowing the territory we appreciate the difficulties. Knowing the East Timor people who supported our units so magnificently we know you will have their wholehearted support.

To you and your entire force, good luck and may God be with you.

Yours very sincerely,

**H. C. Emery
President**

Australian Commando Association

**K. Withers SPT Coy 3RAR
OP Warden AFP05
International Mail Centre
Sydney 2890**

To The President and members Australian Commando Association.

Your fax has arrived in East Timor among a great many others.

I have taken upon myself to reply to a number of the children, families and organisations who have sent their best wishes and prayers to us. The opportunity to tread the ground and possibly emulate the deeds of M and Z Special Units or the 2/2nd is an honour we prize highly.

I have previously had the honour of commanding the catafalque party for the 2/2nd

at a memorial in Kings Park, Western Australia and a similar activity for M and Z Special Unit at Garden Island Naval Base, Western Australia so, as you can understand, I am delighted to be here and writing to you blokes.

The stories related to me by the men of the 2/2nd at the Campbell Barracks Sergeant's Mess were incredible and, I am sure, understated insofar as the hardship and gallantry displayed.

We hope to route the bastards who have attacked these defenceless people who have so many Aussie characteristics (resolute and defiant).

We also hope that our presence now will go some way to repaying their kindness and support given so many years ago to you blokes, albeit 25 years late, when it was needed.

To you and your entire membership, thank you and Peace be with you.

Kevin Withers

**G. Greenhalgh
P.O. Box 1
Maclean 2463**

Dear Len,

The members of the NSW North Coast Sub-Section have been contacted and all seem to be in reasonable condition, taking into consideration age etc. We all drink light beer now you know. I well remember when the light came in and one of my old bowling mates made the remark or Foreign Affairs, Mr I'm getting home for tea on time and not half as stupid.' Relatively, I suppose.

I made a quick trip to the West in October. Left home on the 16th and back on the 31st. I found Sprocko much improved although by no means 100% He still has periodic attacks of temporary blindness which of course inhibits his driving a bit. I attended Mick Morgan's funeral and saw a few of the old mates. Particularly pleased to see Don May whom I hadn't seen since 1945. Us old Sigs are hanging on well.

I was interested to read in the last Courier Jack Reid's remarks about Pilger's book 'Hidden Agendas.' I began reading James Dunn's book 'Timor a People Betrayed.' Keith Hayes had loaned it to Harry and I only got half way through. I've got a copy on order. I commend it to anyone and everyone. ABC published it and last printing was in 1996. You won't be disappointed.

Russ Blanch had a trip to Sydney in October about his eyes. The specialist gave him a good

going over and a reasonably good report. He goes back again in January. Ted Cholerton continues to improve and I'm pleased to hear it. The road to Hell is paved with good intentions so I'm told. There must be some paving between here and Evans Head I think. I do intend to get up there one day Cholly. The news from Beryl Cullen is much the same. Jim's doing it pretty hard but Beryl says he's better in the mornings but as the day goes on he gets a bit tired. He has all our best wishes. Eric and Lorraine Herd are well, both playing golf and keeping fit. We're still trying to arrange a get together one day. Ren and Edith Jones still going well and looking forward to Hobart. Ken says they are probably having the best season on record at Barraba. It must look well as its pretty fair country around there. A fairly big cattle man told him about a disease and Ken told him half his herd had copped it too, but the other one was OK. Keep those smarties for when you buy me a beer in Hobart.

Jack Steen is going alright. He's always 'going alright.' Has a bit of shortness of breath but is working on that with his doctor. I must tell you – Jack's sons took his medals to be mounted for posterity and the grand kids. All 14 - medals that is. The bloke doubted the authenticity of the many so checked on army records. Not only found the number to be correct but also found that Jack had been awarded an M.I.D. he knew nothing about. Good on you Beryl, where's yours.

Tom Yates just returned from a trip to Goulbourn for a grand son's 21st birthday. The lad took crook and was raced to the hospital with appendicitis. He went crook because all his mates were drinking his beer. Things don't change much although as mates we'd never have done that. I remember when Campbell Rodd got married his father-in-law asked Bloss and me to look after the grog. Good Lord, talk about the fox looking after the chickens. Poor old Bloss has gone so there's no way I'll ever find out where we finished up.

I think you must have Jonah'd me Len. The day after you rang I copped the flu again. I say again as it's the third time since I had the needle which was the first needle I've ever had. I don't pretend to know what that all means but I'm a bit wary of those needles. I had a rotten weekend being too obstinate to go to the Doc. on Thursday or Friday. Got the antibiotics today and hoping they bring me back to the land of the living.

Regards to all,

'Happy'

R. Archer
36 Soudan St

Toowong 4066

Dear Len,

We have all been very saddened by the loss of so many of our mates recently, particularly Archie Campbell who did so much good during the whole of his life that I reckon it would need a bigger book than our good Lord has to fit it all in.

Best wishes to all our surviving mates, those who are well and more particularly those not so well. Cheers.

Ron

H. Handicott
18/151 Denison St
Hamilton 2303

Dear Jack,

Greetings to all – if only we could write letters like Paddy the Courier crew would never have any time off, but keep going Paddy.

We are looking forward to Hobart. Amyce and I had a 10 day cruise on the 'Norwegian Star' – were in Hobart for a day.

More bad news with the passing of Arch Campbell and Sep Wilson.

I was introduced to N.G. by Alf Grachan, Alf Coupland and Sep Wilson – They were in charge of our draft.

We are moving into summer with 25° days. No doubt the farmers up the Hunter Valley need rain.

Spoke to Bill Walsh, Ron Andrew and Joyce Smith recently – all as well as can be expected as the saying goes. The winter knocked a lot of seniors about.

Have enclosed a cheque, some for Timor and the rest for the Courier. Amyce and I wish all the compliments of the season. Keep well.

Sincerely,

Amyce and Harry.

Correspondence Corner

A. Campbell,
417/31 Williams Rd,
Nedlands 6009
27/8/99.

Dear Jack,

I enclose cheque for \$735 being a donation to Association funds. As I understand that Association funds are not nearly as healthy as

in past years I would like this donation to assist with the publication of the Courier.

The \$735 comes from the sale of my book, proceeds of which split between our Unit and Legacy. There will be more later.

Best wishes,

Arch

**Mrs N. Timms,
4/48 Lockhart St.
Como 6153.**

Enclosed is a cheque towards the Courier. Thank you to all who attended George's funeral. Life is very lonely and empty without his guidance and wisdom. My son, Lindsay Timms, would like to receive the Courier.

Sincerely,

Nancy

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

Dear Mr Carey,

Thanks for your letter. My note was going to be a very happy one, at seeing you boys on ABC visiting Timor, but I'm afraid it has turned sour with the way things are going on at the moment. I hope it can be resolved quickly.

My husband Bill never talked much about the war. I don't think he was in Timor, but New Guinea etc. as a signaller and Trooper. I have the book written by C. D. Doig which put me in the picture of Timor and also the Diary of Darwin's attacks, so I am really interested in the news. It will bring memories back to you boys, I guess and wishing our young ones the best.

Enclosed is a donation. Good health to all.

Helen

Norma Hasson Social

Blessed with a nice sunny winters day our traditional Norma Hasson Social was held at the Terrace Hotel, Perth on Friday, 2nd July. An attendance of 43, including Tom and Mary Foster and Vince Swann from the country was most satisfactory and a good time was had by all. Len did a top job as MC and kept things moving along nicely and we were well looked after by Zul, the Catering Manager and his staff.

Kay Hanson kindly provided a corsage for the

ladies and a delightful meal topped off a great day – one of our best.

The Mandurah Branch was well represented with 16 members and their ladies. Among others present were Ken and Rhonda Hasson, Fred and Robyn Hasson, Ray Aitken and Colleen Ward, Jess Epps, Dulcie Ryan, Mark and Elsie Jordan, Edna Fullarton, Nellie Mullins, Dick Darrington and Rose.

Our thanks go to those who helped make the social so successful.

Jack Carey

**Mrs Y. Walsh
PO Box 6
St Pauls 2031**

I am writing to let you know that Vince Walsh has finally reached 80 years. He has the usual collection of ailments: hypertension, diabetes, heart attack, failing sight but, within himself is still hale and hearty and Vince does his best to maintain a cheerful outlook.

May I wish all members of the wonderful 2/2 the best of luck and health as we enter the new millennium.

Good wishes to you all.

I am happy to enclose my contribution to the 2/2 fund.

Yvonne

To 2/2nd with every good wish.

"Yesterday is history, tomorrow a mystery, today is a gift that's why its called the present" (anon)

Yvonne Langley-Walsh 1999.

ED: Please accept our apologies for the omission of the above two items from the September edition of The Courier.

**R. Conley
2/61 Pacific Drive
Banksia Beach
Bribie Island 4507**

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter. Herewith our cheque for the wreath. It was a sad day for the Unit and from press clippings Tony Adams received it was a large funeral indeed. He will be sadly missed.

Eighteen including wives attended a barbecue

on October 18th at Redcliff and it was good to see Margaret Hooper and Pat Barnier looking so well. Our Christmas function is planned for 6th December at Bribie Surf Club, a top eatery. The restaurant overlooks the beach and Moreton Island, a great setting.

I was able to let the troop know news from the West and Alan Luby keeps me up with NSW news.

See you both in Hobart!

Love to you both,

Ralph and Sheila

**Nina Grachan
15 Banksia Court
Wheelers Hill 3150**

Dear Ted, Committee and 2/2 family.

Enclosed my donation to Courier for whatever?

I read with sadness the loss of so many companions in recent Couriers. To all dear members whose loved ones have departed, my sympathy and prayers reach out to you.

Sadly, the ranks of the 2/2 are quietly closing, there will be celebrations from above as their friends of bygone years enter those Hallowed Gates. As I write, two more special friends have left us. Dear Sep Wilson and Arch Campbell. May their dear souls Rest in Peace.

Wishing you one and all a happy and safe Christmas plus every blessing, especially so, good health.

Sincerely,

Nina

To all members of the 2/2nd Association

Thank you for your kind expressions of sympathy. Your understanding is greatly appreciated by myself and my family.

Pat Fitzgerald

**I. Ronald
5 Westmoat Close
Westgate Road
Beckenham Kent BR3 5BX**

The Editor,

Dear Sir,

A word at last from England. Margaret is very well and I am fairly well, thank goodness.

We went again to Founder's Day at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea and again the old soldiers carried themselves with pride, in their colourful

uniforms. The Prince of Wales gave an excellent speech he spoke to people afterwards, showing himself as a caring thoughtful man.

The Courier is arriving regularly for which I am grateful. It is very sad to see so many of our old comrades passing on.

Some of our papers here are giving a good coverage of the East Timor troubles which we are watching rather anxiously.

We are booked for the Hobart Safari and I am hoping to see a few familiar faces there. Enclosed is something for the Courier.

Yours faithfully,

Ian

Dear Jack,

All the best to you and Delys from Margaret and me. Looking forward to seeing you in Hobart.

With kind regards,

Ian

**B. McLaren
13A Grange Rd
Kew 3101**

Dear Jack,

How sad to read in the September Courier yet again the passing of so many of our comrades. One must realise at our age the body is falling away but we who are left must soldier on. The Timor situation is, to say at the least, now getting support after so much procrastination. What hell they have been through.

I am enclosing a cheque for general funds. Leave this to you and our great committee of loyal workers to decide.

All the best,

Bruce

**Mrs E. Finkelstein,
317/130 Cresswell Road
Dianella 6062**

It is time again for festivities and cheer. Christmas rolls into New Year and with each passing season God decides which of us he will take into his heavenly kingdom. Sadly for me, this year has meant the loss of my dearest Ralphie. I know he has joined with God in Heaven and is truly happy. I know also that he would love to wish all his many friends in the

2/2 Commandos much love and good wishes over the coming year. They were like brothers to him and he always spoke of them as family.

Once again I'd like to thank all of those from the 2/2 for their support in these times and wish you a wonderful year ahead.

Regards,

Eve

P. Bridges
150 West Road
Bassendean 6054

Dear Mr Carey,

Peter Epps kindly gave me your contact address.

Please find enclosed cheque for the Timor Trust. We owe the people of East Timor a huge debt of gratitude for their support and suffering on our behalf in 1942/43.

There are few things that I feel shame about as an Australian and the fact that our troops were not sent in, and on the ground, immediately after the August election is one of them. I am pleased we are finally present and at how well things have gone. To give the Indonesians 3 weeks to murder, rape and plunder, as well as time to dispose of bodies was a monstrous betrayal on our part. I am pleased to be able to offer this contribution to the Trust and know you will get it to where it will be needed.

Yours sincerely,

Paul – 9377 1914

P. Campbell
30 Castletown Quays
Esperance 6450

Dear Jack,

Please find enclosed cheque for Courier or whatever.

We would like to put our names down for the flight to and from Tasmania.

We have only been home about 6 weeks after a lovely time at Cape Range National Park Exmouth. Plenty of fishing and meeting old friends.

Have just seen Tony Bowers and Joe and Helen Poynton both looking well. Peter sees quite a bit of Jeff Swann who is hoping to go to Tassie if well enough.

We are interested in our local racing this year as we hope to have a young horse called Mallet Raider starting.

Peter is quite well and we are heading for Mundrabilla on the Nullabor for a few days fishing as well as seeing John at Fraser Range.

Regards to all,

Peter and Pat

Ron Archer,
36 Soudan Street
Toowong 4066.

Dear Len,

A member of our 1st Independent Coy, Peter Cossey, recently drew my attention to the undermentioned grave in the war graves section of our local cemetery – "WX 9291 Private G. Mulqueeney, 2/2 Ind. Co. 22 March, 1943 Age 37." Lyn Love and I inspected this grave and confirm the above plus the additional information at the cemetery, "son of Thomas Henry and Rosa Mary Mulqueeney." Thought this may be of interest for your records.

Tony Adams says Iris is a little better but still a full time job. The Andrews have not long been home from their round Australia trip and loved their fortnight with mates at Perth. Col's doctor has given him a clean slate. The Conleys are well and as always very busy. The Coulsons lead busy lives. George has had problems with his nose and back – the former is under control but the latter requires further treatment. Margaret Hooper had a bad attack of flu but is over the worst now. The Stanleys are well, they visited Fiji recently but sadly their daughter Anne (Melbourne) passed away recently. They were with her for some time before she died. Gordon said the name 'Mulqueeney' rings a bell and thinks his Christian name was 'George.' Pat Barnier is well and trying hard to adjust to not having Butch around. Jack Steen is having heart problems and is receiving treatment at present as hopefully it will be an alternative for a by-pass.

This is all the local news at the moment. We are all very sorry to hear of our mates passing away in other parts of Australia and those who are trying desperately hard to keep well.

Cheers and best wishes to all our members

Ron

Jean Coles
30 Church St.
East Branston 2335

I am writing on behalf of my father Mervyn 'Cisco' Coles, previously of 29 High St. Greta

NSW. Would you please change his address to Mainland Nursing Home, Broughton Street, Rutherford 2320. Also Dad asked me to sent \$10 to the Courier as he does each year.

Yours faithfully,

Jean.

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

Dear 2/2nd Friends.

I have a new man in my life and it is really wonderful not to feel lonely any more. Don's wife, Isabel passed away just two days after Ken. We have all known each other for always and so Don and I have a lot of mutual friends. Our sons were school mates and back in September 1946 we were in the same Debutante Ball at Poowong. Ken was my partner and Don partnered his sister. We have booked and are looking forward to the Tasmania Safari. We had a trip to Queensland in July/August and called on some of the 2/2 folk. We stayed a night with dear Joyce Martin in Griffith. She was so happy in her lovely unit and I felt so sad when I heard of her death. We had enjoyed many happy times together and I will miss her very much. We visited Nola Wilson at Gilgandra and met her son David, his wife and new baby girl. David is Australia's Stock Horse Champion and travels extensively, drafting events. The next 2/2 stop was at Barraba to see Ken and Edith Jones. They are planning to go to Hobart in March. The highlight of the trip was seeing Don's grand daughter Nikki who is in the army and was stationed at Oakey at that time. She is to be transferred to Perth soon so next year we may be going to the west for our holiday. We visited my nephew, his wife and family at Hope Island Resort and stayed with Harry and Olive Botterill's daughter Glenda and family at Helensvale. We had lunch with Bettye and George Coulson one day and they had invited Peter McCracken and his cousin who were holidaying nearby so it was nice to see them too. We missed Happy Greenhalgh when we stopped in Maclean on our way home. We saw a number of friends in the month we were away. It was lovely to get back to the wonderful green hills of home after almost 6,500 kms of travelling. Recently we went to the wedding of Colin and Joân's elder daughter Tenielle. She is the first of my 9 grandies to be married. I have 3 grand daughters in the UK at present. Barbara's Angela is in Edinburgh working for the Council and her sister Megan is a Nanny in London. Elva's girl Catherine is working at a nursing home near London but will be home in time to start a Primary Teachers course at

Melbourne University next year.

I am enclosing a donation for the Courier. Don joins me in sending our Seasons Greetings to all 2/2 folk everywhere and our very best wishes to all for health and happiness in 2000.

Margaret

Thanks Australia

I came to Australia in 1939 as a 12 year old girl after fleeing the horror of the nazi invasion of my beloved homeland of Czechoslovakia.

This was a harrowing experience that many sympathise with but few truly understand. Escape was almost impossible and it was only my father's determination and perseverance that allowed us to obtain one of only 10 entrance permits for tradesmen.

The real purpose of this letter is to express my appreciation to Australia and Australians for allowing me refuge in this wonderful country. Since our arrival nearly 60 years ago I have been allowed the freedom and kindness that only a great country could offer. Over time my admiration has only grown and I must admit I am confused by the general discontent over our standard of living.

There are many things in our favour. However, when reading the newspaper or hearing people talk, you would think that we were still locked into the Great Depression. This is a wonderful, special country and we all need to realise it.

Once again, thank you Australia.

**Eve Finkelstein,
Dianella**

**Peter Jackson
Hon. Sec. 2/4th Aust Commando
Association
17 Myrtle Grove
Altona 3018**

Dear Jack,

Attached is a cheque for \$100 towards Trust Fund for the people of Timor. We will be forwarding a further donation from the fund raiser within 3 to 4 weeks. Decision will be made at our AGM. The committee has allotted an amount but this has to be ratified by our members. Trust things will settle down soon in Timor.

Regards,

Peter

A. Warner
8 Taarnby Drive
Salisbury Downs S.A. 5108

To Jack Carey,

I am hoping you can enlighten me on whether the British Light A.A. Battery that Field Marshall Wavell ordered from Java early 1942 to go to Timor turned up. I am asking because my grandfather was part of that British Light A.A. Battery which became POW's. He was imprisoned in Java then sent to Japan to work in the coal mines. That is all I know about him as he passed away in the early 60's when I was young. I hope you or other members of the 2/2 Commandos can help me as I am interested in military and WWII military collectables. Hope to hear from you. Thanks.

Andrew Warner

A letter has been sent to Mr Warner. If any members who were in West Timor in February 1942 have any knowledge of the deeds of the 79th Light AA Battery it would be appreciated if you would drop him a line.

G. E. Pendergrast
29 Dodd Street
Dongara 6525

Dear Jack,

It's about time I sent some cash to the Association. At last something is being done for Timor and I am hoping everything will go the right way now.

Yours faithfully,

Blue

Fay Campbell
RSD5880 Old Sale Rd.
Brandy Creek via Warragul

Dear Members,

Enclosed is a Sub/Donation and I would like to thank 2/2 members for your kindness and support in the past and in the future also, I know.

With warm regards,

Fay

D. Daniels
21 Mackinalty St
Scullin 2614

Dear Jack,

I do apologise for being so long in writing this letter. We were in Melbourne for a week for our grand daughter's baptism and it took quite a while to recover from the trip. We drove down

with help from our daughter but we have decided not to drive such a long distance again, its much too exhausting, especially for the wife.

About the C.A.R.E. business. Will Hallrahan invited me to attend the War Memorial along with a few others to witness the signatures of the representatives of R.S.L. and C.A.R.E. Australia, both having agreed to join forces to raise funds for the people of East Timor. They had evidently seen the article in the local paper and were impressed with the fact this army unit and its members were helping the Timorese all those years. Willie met me outside and on entering I found Major-General Peter Phillips (who remembered me from Duntroon) and Mr Charles Tapp, National Director of C.A.R.E. Australia, and a large number of photographers who took many pictures. Peter signed the large document on behalf of R.S.L., Charles Tapp signed for C.A.R.E. Australia and I signed as witness only to the agreement. I was not chosen for this task for personal reasons, it was because I am the only 2/2 rep. left in A.C.T. It was the work of you 2/2nd boys in W.A who have assisted the Timor people so much over many years, to you goes the honour of witness to this special event. I had a long talk with Will after the ceremony and he was eager to hear about the work you have been doing. He said to tell you to apply to him (he is in charge of Direct Mail) for help with postage of the Courier. I took my copy of the Courier with me and they were impressed with the idea of keeping in close touch with the boys and particularly with the widows. It would be good if we could get help with postage. It does get more expensive every year it seems. Will said if you had any machines which were bound for Timor and remained languishing on the wharf at Darwin he could arrange to have them picked up and moved over. I hope when you write to him he will make all this info clear.

(By now I guess maybe if things were moved to Timor already those aggressive militias would have grabbed them anyway).

You are aware that I am a delegate on the K.O.C. Australia which meets twice a year and this group gathers information from all states to present to the relevant ministers, especially in relation to Vet. affairs and Veterans, so if you have any particular matter you would like presented I could do that. Matters concerned must be tabled a week before. Prior to the last meeting Harry sent a matter he wanted tabled and I had to hurry over to R.S.L. headquarters personally to make sure it was accepted. Harry Emery QC is the member I represent. Next meeting will be early next year.

I am sending the C.A.R.E. envelope and coupon for your perusal only. Both the Director and Will have an address for further

communication. I am also enclosing a letter I received from Harry at the last minute (because of its late arrival from overseas) from one of the soldiers in Timor. I think it is great and chances are you already have a copy.

Anyway, I am forwarding same in case. It would be unthinkable for the main players to miss out.

I note with sadness more of our members passing on. We all have this to face at our age don't we.

Would you please pass on to our members there our very best wishes and hopes for a good festive season in '99.

We still hope to make it to Tassie.

With very best wishes to you and Del.

Sincerely,

D. Daniels

'Combined Ops'

"Dangerous Dick"

It's Seniors Health Week again and I am joining in some of the fitness events planned.

I am starting to feel wonderfully well and fit after being subjected to two hip replacements. I feel comfortable and healthy and am walking with ease. I'll be running next! Anybody thinking of having a hip replacement operation should have it done. There are too many problems to overcome if you don't have it done. Quite a few members have mentioned that they have thought of a hip replacement. Those who do so will benefit from the operation and become mentally and physically a dangerous person again.

I had a win on the Melbourne Cup this year, the first one for years.

Now that the Race is over we have the Christmas Festive Season to think about.

It would be lovely if we could arrange a New Year 2000 Millennium party for the 2/2 Commando members - a cheap and lively one to suit everybody's pocket.

Anyway, I am looking forward to the Hobart Safari - it can't come soon enough. I can do with a holiday right now after being confined to the house over two years. I've got a ticket to Adelaide to use up before the end of the year - a lovely place to visit.

Dick Darrington

Dear Mr Carey,

I am writing to notify a change of address for the Courier. My new address is 4 Parkland Trail, Canning Vale 6155. Telephone (08) 9456 1126

I also wish to make a donation for East Timor relief and would like to place the money where it makes a difference directly rather than through one of the big agencies who seem to take such a 'cut off the top.' Could you please let me know the best way to go about this. Yours sincerely,

Helen Mumme

**F. Otway,
47 Carrara Street
Mount Gravatt 4122**

Dear Len,

On August 12th I went to the Gold Coast to meet some 'Z' Special ex members who had been invited to the Royal Pines Golf Resort by Mr Doug Hearpes, an ex 'Z' Special member who has been tracing the graves of those killed in action. He has a book of about 70 ex members, from various cemeteries. Doug was only interested in the 'Z' Special graves and plaques. As I looked through the various cemeteries I saw one photo with two 'Z' Special names on the top list of a plaque. Under these two names were the following names at Adelaide River Cemetery in the N.T. A plaque is an honour board for those bodies that have never been found, hence there is no grave. I suppose the executors of past and present 2/2 Commandos know where our dead soldiers are buried. I never have and have just assumed that they were buried in such and such a country. These are the names - Staff Sgt Walker, L/Sgt Chiswell, Cpl Simpson, Pte Alrey, Pte Alexander, Pte Alford, Pte Chalmers, Pte Growder, Pte Gannon, Pte Hogg, Pte Lane, Pte Marriot, Pte Murray, Pte Pollard, Pte Smeaton, Pte Stanton, Pte Swift, Pte Smith. There could be a separate plaque for Paddy Knight, Tarzan Yates, Charlie Dodge, Ted Potts and one of the Waller boys. Des Lilya is buried in the Allied War Cemetery on Labuan Island in Borneo. I looked at these names and thought it was wrong because Peter Alexander is still alive. I looked in my pay book and the list of originals in Timor. I found that we had two Alexanders - I had forgotten about this. Fred Smith was killed on the Dili Drome. He used to teach me ballroom dancing in Perth before we joined up. I also knew and remember Sig Gannon, and Sig Bayliss from the dance halls before we joined up. My pay book says the date of Attestation was 2/5/41 and I joined camp 2/5/41. First pay 9/5/41 at Northam W.A. I was classed as a first class marksman 100. I

was in 'C' Company the 2nd training battalion at Northam. My next pays were at Northam, Caulfield, Foster, Wayville where I had some good times where a flagon of beer fitted into my great coat. Katherine is the next pay entry which was later crossed out by W. Thomasetti. How are you old mate, I saw you on TV recently with Ray Parry, Jack Carey and Ray Aitken. Koepang was also crossed out by Capt Laidlaw. The next pay was in Dili in January 1942.

Barry Lawrence and I joined 'Z' Special and left New Guinea from Lae in a Sunderland flying boat and were at a dance in Townsville that night. We did our parachute training at Richmond Air Force Base and were trained to land in enemy territory by boat, plane or submarine. Barry parachuted into Timor and was captured. Des Lilya was killed when the plane taking him to Timor crashed. The Japs had broken our intelligence of the operations in Timor only, and every operation was known to them. When doing parachute training we had 4 or 5 Portuguese and Timorese and men from Malaya, Borneo etc who spoke Malay. We also had a Padre we called Jumping Jesus. We started our jumps by one soldier going out at the dropping zone. We would then fly around and one more would go out then two would go then five and finally we just ran out into space. I always seemed to be behind Jumping Jesus and was always pushing him to get a move on. I hurt my knee and was not allowed to do the final jump and had get a doctor's certificate before I could do another jump. I was lucky it was Dr. McInerney who saw me and passed me as fit to jump. End of story.

I might see some of you at the Tassie Safari.

Fred

Australian Dictionary of Biography

Research School of Social Sciences
the Australian National University
Canberra ACT 0200
Phone (02) 6249 2676

General Editor: Professor John Ritchie
Deputy General Editor: Dr Di Langmore
28 October, 1999

Mr J.W. Carey
13 Stoddart Way
Bateman WA 7155

Dear Sir,

I have recently been in touch with Mr. J. Daniels, Secretary of the ACT Branch of the Australian Commando Association and it is on his advice that I write to ask whether the following notice could be included in the next

issue of your branch newsletter:

'The Australian Dictionary of Biography plans to include in a forthcoming volume an article on Major Norman Isaac Winning, MBE (1906-1950), who gave distinguished service with the 2/5th and 2/8th Commando Squadrons in New Guinea during the Second World War. We would be grateful to hear from members of your Association who have information about this officer's pre and post-war career. In particular we are keen to contact any family members, especially his wife who we have been unable to trace after her husband was killed by insurgents in Java. Would anyone able to assist please write to the General Editor ADB, RASS, Australian National University ACT 0200, marking your letter for my attention.

Thanking you for any assistance which you can give in this matter.

Dr Chris Coulthard-Clark

Research Editor.

Of Catalinas, Beaufighters, Liberators and Flying Fortresses

Catalina crewman Bernard Harte's article in the September Courier was of great interest in describing the evacuation of the 13 sick and wounded of the 2/2nd from East Timor. Also the report of the ill fated mission of Wing commander Chapman and Catalina crew at Gasmata New Britain 8/3/1943.

During a boring period in transit at Murray Barracks Port Moresby in a draft for the 2/5 Coy, in the Wau area I was interested to hear that one of our team had joined a Liberator crew on the skip bombing of a ship in Wewak harbour.

I had had a frustrating 2 years in the RAAF trying to get into pilot training and finally rejection on medical grounds (eyesight). The only flying was joy riding with old friend Ian (Tiny) Wilkins while he trained at Pt. Cook. (Ian who died last March, later flew a Beaufighter on strafing runs over Timor).

The B17 USAF 43rd bomb group HQ was based at Jackson, 7 mile. Following a number of visits, I was advised by a Squadron operations officer, Captain Williams (de Wolf) that if approval was given by the 5th Air Force HQ ops officer, I could possibly do a mission. Some 4 jeep rides later located the 5th A.F. HQ.

I was able to convince Ops officer Major Scott, that although I had not fired a 50 calibre Browning waist gun, my thorough guerrilla warfare training would have to be invaluable to the surviving crew if we were shot down over

the jungle. (He possibly wondered why he had not thought of the idea himself.)

The following day I reported the OK back to Capt. Williams. A stretcher was provided by a crew member I had befriended and if a mission was on where a reserve waist gun position was available and the crew captain approved, I would be wakened some 2 hours before take off.

My own flight LOG of 39 hours 35 min. covers 2 bombing raids on Rabaul and 3 armed reces, which would possibly have been/more than mild interest to Aust. Army HQ, if they had become aware.

Absences from Murray Barracks when observed, were covered by the explanation of a failure to get a jeep back from the 7 mile picture show and so I had to camp up there overnight.

The first mission 28/2/1943, with 1st Lt. Trigg 63 Sqdn. on an armed recce, was notable when the bombardier pressed the wrong side button uttering a very clear "s - - -" and sending the 450 gal. reserve bomb bay fuel tank in the general direction of a ship in Finschafen Harbour. The 4 x 500 lbs on the other side of the bomb bay then followed, resuming standard procedure.

On our return to Pt. Moresby the crewman on the opposite waist gun couldn't convince me that we were short of fuel because it was logical to pull my leg. To avoid the high climb over the Owen Stanley's the return was a considerable distance South but lower altitude. It was only on the ground that the crew Captain 1st Lt. Trigg confirmed what had happened.

To return to Bernard Harte's article on the missing Catalina and crew at Gasmata 8/3/1943.

On 1/4/1943 I joined 1st Lt. Glen Lewis 65 Sqdn for an armed recce and bombing of Gasmata. At the briefing we were asked to conduct a search for signs of a RAAF Catalina which was reported missing in the Gasmata area a few weeks earlier. The Ops. Officer emphasised the invaluable rescue work done by the Australian Catalina crews. A thorough search at low level over coast and lagoon was unsuccessful. We unloaded 8 x 500 lbs on the air strip and surrounds.

The B17 LOG came to an end when I returned from an armed recce with Capt Cromer of 65 sqdn on 18/4/1943. We had been searching unsuccessfully for a JAP convoy reported as having left or due to leave Rabaul for New Guinea.

On arriving at Murray Barracks I was somewhat dismayed to discover our 2/5 draft had been lifted to Wau at dawn that day. Scotty Holland and I were stripped of our wings by

being appointed in charge of the camp orderly office 24 hours each day until drafted. The 2/2nd arrived in Port Moresby and effected a rescue 2 weeks later. Dan Thomas (Daniel) may be encouraged to write a few lines about a Liberator skip bombing a ship in Wewak harbour.

Bob Smyth

4/11/1999

2/2 Back On Their Own And A Change Of Name

It was on the 6th October, 1943 that Generals Vasey and Wootton (9th Div.) received a communication to the effect that the 2/2nd, 2/4th, 2/6th and 2/7th Independent Coys. "will be redesignated forthwith" 2/2nd, 2/4th, 2/6th, 2/7th Australian Cavalry (Commando) Squadrons.

Since the beginning of the year the term "Commando" had been increasingly used to describe a member of an Independent Coy. The term was an alien one for the Australian Army and the tasks undertaken by the Independent Coy. since the beginning of the war against the Japanese had little in common with the tasks carried out by British Commandos, although on some occasions there were striking similarities with those of the original Boer Commandos. In the short space of two years Independent Coys. had built up a proud reputation and tradition. The men regarded the term "Independent Coy" as a much better description of what they did than the terms "Cavalry" and "Commando" and in the main resented the change of title.

There was little they could do about it, however, except to record any displeasure at the change in War Diaries. Eventually the term Cavalry fell into disuse in the Squadrons. But from henceforth Privates would become Troopers. The original intention was to brigade the Squadrons into Regiments of three but this never happened to 2/2nd Commando Squadron or 2/8th Commando Squadron.

Back in the Kesawai area, "A" Platoon having found the area was deserted by the Japs and mainly in the hands of the 7th Div. were brought back to the Bena Bena Goroka area to protect the strips at Goroka and Asoloka and also keep an eye on the Yank radar station which had been established at Goroka. But the main idea was for them to have a well-earned spell after their arduous patrolling and campaigning in their area of responsibility.

Some of the difficulties experienced by the men generally while on patrol had to do with problems of diet and health hazards. To take

us back a bit to earlier patrols the Coy. ran in with its first trouble with Scrub Typhus. Pte. Roy Watson and Pte. "Buller" Tait were the first to succumb to this dread disease. Scrub Typhus is a real killer, not many who contract it survive. We were lucky that we never lost anyone who came down with it. This fact can be attributed to Capt. McInerney's influence. While in Moresby he had arranged for a doctor who had been working in New Guinea for many years to speak to the troops regarding the Scrub Typhus. The message he hammered home was that the main thing to do on or just after patrol if anyone showed any signs or symptoms of anything like Malaria was to discourage them from making any physical effort; they were to be treated as stretcher cases. Physical effort, he stressed, was the real killer.

So when Watson and Tait developed these symptoms on patrol we were prepared and forewarned – they were carried back and not much later evacuated to Moresby for full treatment. Both responded and returned to the Unit. And there were others who contracted the disease; Pte. Chaplin on a patrol and Spr. "Tex" Richards who was sent to Lae for hospital treatment for something or other and caught it while he was a patient there. This eventuality was not so unusual because the whole Lae area was riddled with rotting Jap corpses which provided the necessary carrion for the Typhus mite to become infected.

The typhus mite is a very small red mite which lives in the kunai grass and areas of them could quite easily be seen. In itself it was harmless; a person could ingest pure mite without any ill effects. Once it came into contact with carrion of any sort or rats its bite was terrifically dangerous.

Timor Memories Series 6 From West to East

The 21st Fortress Coy was an engineer unit attached to 21st Heavy Battery which established a 2x6" Gun battery at Kalapa Koepang. We left Darwin with other units of Sparrow Force on 9 December, 1941. My unit shipped on Westralia an armed merchant cruiser. The Battery was established after some weeks of effort and disruption by daily air raids firstly by Zero fighters a couple of times a day then by formations of 27 Bombers which concentrated on the Battery and the RAAF at Penfui Airport. Our role in the event of a Japanese attack was to defend the harbour and local area and in the event we were overcome to retire and assist the 2/40 Infantry Battalion in the defence of the aerodrome in an infantry role. My action duty was to organise transport for this operation.

On the evening of 18 February, 1942 my CO Platoon Rex Ramacom advised a Japanese attack and landing was imminent and instructed me to put plans in motion for the possible move to the aerodrome if this became necessary. I marshalled a number of trucks under cover of large trees some 400 yards from the Battery over the main road to Babau instructing the driver to remain at the alert until further orders. They had been briefed on the route to the airport. My vehicle a 1 ton Chev. utility had been pre loaded with security material, admin. documents, personnel records and other items which in due course were to be handed to Bde HQ at Champlong some 30 to 40 miles east of Koepang. I returned to the Battery and just before daylight heavy gun fire was experienced and at dawn aircraft began to bomb the area. I was ordered to get the security material to HQ and return to supervise the transport of troops in the event a retirement to the aerodrome became necessary. I advised the truck drivers to stand by and await my return or further orders.

I picked up two sick soldiers on the road, Sapper Murphy and Dick Pepper. As we approached Babau we experienced heavy fire by Zeros and took evasive action from time to time leaving the road which was really a narrow embankment. A number of what we thought were bombers overhead were in fact transport dropping paratroops. I arrived at Champlong some time on the afternoon of February 19 and reported to Major Timothy Cape, the Bde Major. He signed for the material and I advised him I was returning to my unit. At this time an ambulance arrived with the Battery Commander Major Wilson who was critically wounded by a bomb or shell splinters as the Battery was attacked. He died shortly after.

Major Cape instructed me to remain at Champlong as the Japanese had outflanked the 2/40th and cut the road. I remained at Champlong with Bde HQ until the 21 of February when it was decided that all mobile personnel (the force hospital was based at Champlong) would move to Soe 25 miles east in the high country. My vehicle was part of the transport required. On arrival at Soe, a Dutch administration mountain rest area, we sat in the shade of huge trees in the main road and after some hours of inaction word was received from Brigadier Veal that further movement to Atambua near the border of Portuguese Timor was to take place.

With Butch Barnier at the wheel of a 3-ton truck we loaded about 30 troops and drove through the night to Atambua. En route Lt. Colin Doig and some troops laid demolition charges on bridges behind us. This delayed the Japanese movement east for some time. On arrival at Atambua which was a well established Dutch

barracks, there was an issue of emergency rations and distribution of Dutch guilders and a statement by the Brigadier that the situation was now "every man for himself." I took part in disabling the vehicles and I understand a large radio transmitter was also rendered unserviceable. Contrary to some idle talk later those who had weapons had retained them together with ammunition and in my case, some hand grenades. Rumour was that evacuation may be possible from Beco on the north coast. Several of us decided to reconnoitre the area and set out for the coast. We survived for about two weeks patrolling the coast toward Occussi, a Portuguese enclave and made contact with a Dutch army encampment where European officers and their wives and families were living. Later one of my group, Sapper Ernie Oath decided he would be better off and joined their group against my advice. He was later taken prisoner.

The area was very poor and dry and food virtually non-existent so we decided Portuguese Timor was our best option. In the meantime another group had, under the guidance of Mal English, attempted to sail to an off shore island in a native constructed outrigger they had financed. It was an ill-fated venture. A group of 6 or 7 of us returned to the outskirts of Atamboia which was virtually deserted, and struck out for Portuguese Timor. Our time on the north coast in heavily infested mosquito country had led to the onset of malaria and this manifested itself in me at Atagile, a village not far over the border. I spent a dreadful 3 or 4 days laid low in a native hut. The boys stuck by me and we progressed through Lebos and Lolotoi where, after meeting a 2/2nd Independent Company patrol, we were directed to make to the east. On arrival I reported to Lt. Doig and later asked to pick 10 men from those who had found their way from Atambua over the previous days (I had my Sgts chevrons inked to my shirt, otherwise Col. Doig would not have had any idea of anyone with ranks among us). This I did and from memory they included Butch Barnier 2/11 Engineer, Athol Richards 2/40 Bn. Reg. Griffith, Ed Falenx, Cec Kow a cook, Lt. Jack Laffy asked if I had weapons experience and could carry out a compass traverse with the men selected and after information about the 2/2nd and its role was ordered to Atsabe to report to Lt. Don Turton as a section in the newly formed 'D' Platoon under his command. A pleasant couple of hours was spent at Bobonaro en route. On reporting to Don Turton I was instructed to proceed to Let Foho as a base and to patrol the area toward Eramera and Hatolia and Talo area. Ted 'Smash' Hodgson joined us a week or so later. At this stage we had no radio and communication was by native

runner. We continued patrolling the area as far north as Vila Maria and east to Hatobuilico. Many trips to pick up supplies from Kara and Vigilant were made. A place of wonder was the Bamboo forests of Fatacuik en route to Betano. We had several slashes with Japanese patrols including one long range Bren-gun engagement which was successful. Smash was a good soldier and his sense of humour did a lot to help maintain morale.

During the August push by the Japanese, Smash became separated from our patrol and we took up a position in a village perched on the pinnacle of rock formation in the Aileu area. Our plan was to wait 24 hours for Smash to rendezvous with us. Early the next morning we were mortared and the village set on fire. No sign of Smash and total rations of one long sock full of sugar. I decided to withdraw toward Atsabe. A lucky descent down an almost vertical cliff to avoid confrontations with the enemy and we reached the outskirts of Atsabe in darkness about 8pm. Atsabe was deserted and not having contact with any other section decided to scale Hato Bulico at night. What a climb. We found the posts deserted and decided to wait 24 hours for Smash Hodgson. Next morning a strange figure appeared at the crest of the gap in the mountain. It was Smash in a sorry physical state. After his capture by pro-Japanese natives and subsequent interrogation by the Japanese unit commander he was released with a note asking for Don Turton's surrender together with all troops. Details of Smash's sojourn with the Japs are already recorded elsewhere.

During our stay at Letfoho we had an on/off relationship with the Chief (Secondary Chief) Djochean (no doubt a derivation of Joachim). His usual attire was a black alpaca coat with a red check sarong, a pair of very small red Aussie army boots, no socks. He usually carried a bamboo cane rather like Charlie Chaplin. We accused him on one occasion of consorting with the Japanese when they were in the area. He was strenuous in his denials. To prove his allegiance he promised us much honey to sweeten our coffee. His offer was accepted with pleasure. The time arranged was 'mono cochrae tucal lima' 5 o'clock tomorrow morning. We marched off accompanied by fetos (women of the village). We came upon a large kapok tree with dozens of large thorns covering the trunk supporting a number of bee hives hanging from major branches. At first light we arranged green bunches of leaves and brush for a smoke fire. We rigged our small hero in odd shorts and a balaclava from a Red Cross parcel no doubt, against the possibility of attack by bees. He was a comical figure as he also wore a large shirt as trousers with his legs through the arms. He cut a few lengths of bamboo and the

laterals became steps as he tied lengths to the tree to act as a ladder. The first branch was all of 15 feet from the ground. We lit the fire and raised smoke. He mounted the ladder armed with his large catana (knife). The women stood with large woven baskets under the hives as he slowly edged his way on his stomach over the thorns on the branch toward the hives hanging under the branch. His idea was to cut the hive loose for the women to catch it in the baskets as it fell. An early morning breeze sprang up at the critical time and the brush and leaves burst into flame, no smoke, angry bees. In this time, wrapped in all our surplus gear and wreathed in dense smoke Kjochean was quite uncomfortable. Our ribald remarks in tetum as to his courage did not make him feel any better. As he was about to slide his knife under the branch to free the hive the smoke was replaced by flame. He decided to quit but our ribbing spurred him on and the bees decided to investigate the disturbance. They descended on him enmasse. He valiantly made the cut, the comb dropped and the women and our Section broke all records in departing the scene. Poor Djochean, deserted in his hour of need finally touched ground and took off at great speed telling the world in tetum what a great bunch of bastards we were. He was well and truly stung and our relations with him took some time to recover. The honey was finally gathered and enjoyed!

Time wore on and with ulcers, malaria and other tropical skin problems our stamina diminished and eventually the word came to head toward Same for a possible evacuation. Our Section headed for Maubisse spending a night in a pottery shed with the threats and abuse of Timor Fuiks (wild men) in our ears. These Timorese were pro Japanese. Next morning through Aitutre to Same. On reporting to Lt. Col Doig he instructed me to take the Section to the Same saddle and observe Japanese movements. During the night we saw several red verrey lights but nothing eventuated. At daylight we returned to Same. I was asked to take a couple of men down the road a mile or so to tell Sgt. Gordon Stanley to close down his signal set and return to Same. Gordon said no, he was only taking orders from higher authority and would remain. He did and much to his discomfort as he missed evacuation and was virtually on his own for some time after our departure.

While waiting our turn to leave the Same area for Betano on the south coast we were ambushed by Japanese and were fortunate to evade them by leap frogging over the river bank. From there we reached the coast and were evacuated to Darwin on board the Dutch destroyer 'Tjerk Hedges.'

I first met up with Timorese who were later to become 'creados' at Letfoho. Our experiences

with Dutch Timorese who were paid by Japanese for Australian troops reported and captured was such that initially I did not trust them. However, as time passed and health and strength deteriorated it was evident they were extremely loyal and helpful and in due course we gave in and each man became the 'tuan' or boss to his creado. Fortunately the young man declaring himself mine was a scholar, son of a chief and ready to fight anyone any time in defence of his 'Aussies.' His name was Santos Juaney Da Silva and he set out to teach me tetum so that in a relatively short time we communicated well. Together with Smash Hodgson's Gabriel they formed a pair who were always keen, sometimes too much to 'hop the skill' on the Japs and Timor Fuiks. Santos and I on two occasions when separated from the Section, travelled long distances at night and his skill and terrain knowledge were instrumental in re-joining the boys. During and after the August 'push' by the Japanese I suggested he would be killed by them if captured for helping us he replied quite freely 'if you die tuan, I also die.' I think the most emotional moments of my life were when I said goodbye on the beach at Betano the night of our evacuation. I enquired of him in particular on a revisit to Timor in 1964 with no result. Probably he was killed after our evacuation. They gave their lives for us.

Ralph Conley NX38656
Staff Sergeant
2/2 Fortress Company A.I.F.

Independent Trust

The 30/8 Independence ballot which occurred a few weeks after the arrival of the 5 shipping containers in Dili, precipitated a dramatic change to the lives and future of the East Timorese and their beloved country. I will not repeat details of what has received excellent coverage by all categories of media.

Our objective remained to effect delivery of the last shipment. We finally succumbed to volunteer Les Cranfield's pleas to facilitate his re-entry to East Timor. Before the ballot we considered that an Australian at Fuiloro would be targeted by the rampant militia, a belief subsequently reinforced by the killing of 3 nuns, 3 seminarians and 5 companions travelling by car at Fuiloro. Les was free to go but AESOP also had reservations and could not get him a visa. He became frustrated and depressed. We judged that a visa would no longer be required if we could contact Fr. Jose to obtain a request from Interfet or U.N. for Les Cranfield's presence to put in a crop, but communication lines were nil. Army Darwin tried but couldn't help. We finally, via AUSTAID Perth, then Canberra and then Darwin and

UNO World Food Programme, spoke to the man who authorises all passengers on the two, twice daily flights between Darwin and Bacau. He undertook priority emergency access for Les Cranfield.

Next, a call to our friends at AESOP who agreed to cover the fares to Darwin and all other incidentals including insurance etc. Les was met by a joyful Fr. Jose in Bacau on 19th October.

The missing 20' container returned? stolen? salvaged? and now located at Kupang West Timor, hopefully will return to Dili. We are working on it. The container has essential panels etc. for silos required now for grain storage. Les has been promised corn seed from U.N.

Fuiloro Agricultural School. All of the convent buildings constructed 8 years ago, including the dormitory for 80 girls and the workshop, were destroyed. Fortunately, all of the 600 boys at the Don Bosco Fuiloro were sent home to villages and all other students and staff took to the forest 2 weeks before the ballot. Many boys are feared lost in the militias rampaging and indiscriminate shooting.

For those who may care to support volunteer Les with a card or note of cheer, his address is – Les Cranfield, Volunteer, Agricultural Consultant, DON BOSCO FUILORO EAST TIMOR via DARWIN **NOT NOW INDONESIA**. It is unlikely that mail communication would be available for some 3 weeks.

We thank all donors to our fund who are acknowledge elsewhere in this Courier by treasurer Ted Monk. The Trust Account Balance 29th October is \$6,497.19 which covers all current commitments. However, please don't overlook our Courier which is our life blood of communication, is frequently of concern and constantly requires an infusion.

Bob Smyth

Fuiloro, East Timor

Dear Bob

Could you write to Mother Superior of Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco Phnom Peng Cambodia, and ask for permission for Sr. Marie/Fe of the Orphanage in Laga to return with me to Australia on the 20th December, and returning, around the 15th January to Timor.

It needs to be on a 2/2nd Commando Assoc. letterhead and stating we would like Sr. Marie/Fe to assist us in promoting the orphans of Timor Appeal.

The Mother Superior will be in East Timor on the first week of December 1999 and if she approves, she will tell Sr. Marie/Fe while she is here.

Sr. Maria/Fe is in charge of the Orphanage in

Laga, she has been through a harrowing time and very lucky to be alive, not so for some of the other Sisters. She was supposed to meet them at a certain spot, but when she arrived they were not there, so she left. They turned up just after Sr. Marie/Fe left. They were ambushed and shot, and then pushed into the river. (The News Service reported a total of 11 were killed – RNS)

Also if we could arrange to have an interview with papers or talk back radio or similar. At the moment people from Baucau to areas past here are worse off than before. They have nothing to eat and every day there are families who are losing members through sickness and malnutrition.

Sr. and I were coming back from Laga this afternoon and were stopped in one village and asked to Baptise a small baby who had already died through lack of food. The sight of that child just lying there will always be in my mind. I asked the villagers there if they had received any food from U.N. the same answer I got from all the villages out here NO.

If you could do this for us Bob it would be great and we could actually tell some people, how a lot of money could be better allocated.

Regards

Les.

Following receipt of the foregoing on Friday pm 12/11/99 we phoned the appropriate U.N. office in Darwin and repeated details given by Les Cranfield. A reply phone call later advised that a boat load of food would be arriving Com (INDO Military landing near Fuiloro), the following day, Saturday or Sunday.

To inform L.C. we pursued various channels of ABC radio, finally Radio Australia Melbourne. Showing interest in L.C.'s story, they agreed to report the Com shipment at the end of their overseas news report. We are hoping that someone in the Fuiloro area still has a radio.

Bob Smyth

Pars on People:

It was nice to see Pip Dunkley, son of the legendary 'Doc' Roger Dunkley at Arch Campbell's funeral. Pip, who with Barbara had just spent 4 months overseas, is the spitting image of his late father.

Margaret Blomfield, widow of Max, sends her kindest regards to all 2/2 members. Margaret will be shifting house soon and gets much pleasure in reading the Courier.

Keith and Val Hayes have moved from East Victoria Park where they have been living for the past 42 years, to the Collier Park Village in

Como, joining Edna Fullarton and Isobel Servante-McCaul. It must be a good spot.

Congratulations to Eric Weller and Patricia Sullivan (sister of Marj. Goodacre) who were married on 26th August. The happy couple intend to spend part of the year in Geraldton WA, and part in Ryde NSW. We wish them good luck for the future.

Eric Smyth who attended Arch's funeral looks a picture of health. His sister Billie has not been well and we trust she is feeling better now.

In October John BurrIDGE spent 3 weeks touring Morocco, Spain and Portugal. Lucky John!

Sick Parade: Hollywood Hospital has been home from home for a number of our members over recent months including Don Young, a hip replacement, Don May, a heart condition, Gwenda Kirkwood, a foot problem, Stan Payne, a hernia op, Don Turton, a hip replacement. All are back home recuperating. We stress if any member is hospitalised, make sure you let someone on the Committee know so we can arrange for someone to visit you. Wilf March is still battling the Big C. It has been good to see him attending committee meetings again. Dusty Studdy has a number of health problems including shingles. He is trying for a disability pension, something he should have done years ago.

Ron Morris suffered a major heart attack while holidaying at Tweed Heads in November. It was Ron's second close shave in a matter of months. Ron and Hazel are hoping to be back home in Canberra soon. There's no place like home Ron. We hope the coming year sees you back to Your old form.

**The Editor and his
Courier Team Gavin and
Betty thank members for
your newsy
contributions during the
year and wish you all a
Jolly Christmas and a
Healthy New Year.**

Address Changes

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Courier Donations

Archie Campbell, Fred Otway, Nancy Timms, Margaret Blomfield, Helen Cowie, Gerry Green, Ian Ronald, Bruce McLaren, Faye Campbell, Ron Archer, Harry Handicott, P. and N. Kenneally, P. and P. Campbell, Blue Pendergrast, Nina Grachan, Cisco Coles, Margaret Monk, Alan Luby, Arthur Littler, Syd McKinley.

Trust Fund Donations

Doc Wheatley \$250, Ex Capt Harold Rowell (RAAF) \$500, Gerry Green \$100, Bruce McLaren \$200, 2/4 Commando Association Victoria \$100, Harry Handicott \$50, P. and N. Kenneally \$50, P. Bridges \$100., W. O'Neil \$30.

COMING EVENTS

HOBART SAFARI 8th - 15th March 2000

Have you booked for the big event yet? Send \$50 to

**The Manager Hobart Motor Inn,
167 Macquarie Street, Hobart 7000**

You can book up until as late as the 29th February, 2000 but it is advisable to do so before Christmas. Approximately 60 members, wives and friends will be attending from other states, so be in this happy get-together. If Ian and Margaret Ronald can come from England you should be able to make it. Latest starters include Ralph and Sheila Conley, Queensland; Len and Betty Bagley, Dick Darrington and Jim Lines, W.A.; Blue and Mary Bone, Victoria; Harry and Amyce Handicott, Marje Goodacre and Pat Sullivan, N.S.W.

See you in Hobart

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Tuesday, April 11, 2000

11am at Anzac House

Refreshments and snacks to follow

This is an important meeting – please attend

ANZAC DAY TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2000

Assemble in our usual place on St. George's Terrace at 9.30am

March off at 10.00am

**Get-together after the Parade at
Airways Hotel, 195 Adelaide Terrace**
