



# **2/2 COMMANDO COURIER**

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

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

**Vol. 130**

**JUNE 1999**

**Price 1c**

## **COMING EVENTS**

### **NORMA HASSON SOCIAL**

**TERRACE HOTEL**

**195 Adelaide Terrace, Perth**

**FRIDAY, JULY 2nd, 1999**

Refreshments from 11am – Luncheon 12.30pm

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## **COMMEMORATION SERVICE**

**Lovekin Drive, Kings Park, Perth**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21st at 3pm**

**Lest We Forget**

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## **HOBART SAFARI**

**MARCH 8th - 15th, 2000**

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**Don't forget to mark these important dates on your calendars.**

**Vale**  
**Roy Duncan 'Jock' CAMPBELL**

31.7.23 - 11.1.99

Jock was born 31.7.23. There were two boys and three girls in the family. Jock attended the Sandringham State School and Melbourne Grammar School from 1937 to 1940. He joined the Army in 1943 and came to the Unit in New Guinea in 1944 and served until the end of the war and was discharged August 1946. He married Faye at the Melbourne Grammar School chapel in December 1955. Jock had a mixed business/milk bar at Seaford and then bought a property at Pearceedale where Jock and Faye worked very hard to improve this property of many acres into a beautiful garden with several ponds which attracted a great variety of birds which they both loved. The Victorian Association had visits to this property which were enjoyed by all. They moved to Brandy Creek just out of Warragul to another property of some acres and again worked very hard to have a beautiful garden.

In earlier years Jock did a lot of sailing in the jubilee class at Sandringham Yacht Club and he also played football with Sandringham in the Victorian Association competition.

Jock was a good supporter of our Association and was Secretary for some time. He was a good soldier and wonderful husband and will be sadly missed by all. Our sympathy goes to his loving wife Faye.

The funeral was held at Handleys Funeral Parlour and the old Warragul cemetery on February 25th. Members who attended – Harry and Olive Botterill, Leith Cooper, John and Cath Roberts, Margaret Monk and son Robert, John and Shirley Southwell. Margaret made a sheaf of flowers for the Association and we thank her for this thoughtful gesture.

**Lest We Forget**

**Harry Botterill**

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**Vale – George WILSON**

WX13085

We regret to report that George passed away on 4th April last in his 80th year. George was a young boy when he came from England to WA. He spent some time at Fairbridge Farm as a youth which prepared him well for his working life. He worked on a dairy farm in the south west before enlisting in the 2nd AIF. George served with the Unit in Timor in the RAMC Section and became Doc Dunkley's right hand man. He looked after the Doc's needs while the Doc looked after everyone else's.

After the war George worked as a barman at the Augusta Hotel for some time until he took up the job of driving Swan Taxis. He continued taxi driving until his retirement.

George met and married Betty in 1958 while on his taxi run and they settled in Manning, a suburb north of the Canning River. He was a quiet, reserved man and for reasons best known to himself did not maintain contact with the Association although he received the Courier from its inception. He never forgot his Fairbridge Farm days and did a lot of work for Fairbridge.

Doc Wheatley, Keith Hayes and Tom Bateman represented the Association at a service held on 8th April, before a private funeral. Doc said The Ode and Betty and the family appreciated having the Unit flag displayed. Our sympathy is extended to Betty and family.

**Lest We Forget**

**Jack Carey**

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**Vale – John HARDING**

WX13750

After wondering whatever happened to John, better known as Jack or Pop to his army mates, we have finally established that he passed away in England on 9th December, 1982 and is buried in Colchester, an agricultural centre in the county of Essex. Jack would have been in his early seventies when he died.

Jack served in Timor in 1941/42. Known as 'Pop' to his mates in 9 Section he was a quiet but capable man, a good soldier and well respected in the Section. After the war he attended a number of our early reunions but then we lost track of him. An earlier address book showed his address as J. F. Harding School Bus Service, Kalannie, a town 310ks north east of Perth. He settled there in the 1950s and set in the town's first lighting plant in 1965. He went into partnership with Wally Ashworth and with the plant and bus service which he sold in 1973, did very well. He then opened up a small grocery shop which also did well.

Jack took a keen interest in the activities in the town and gave a lot of his time serving on various committees. He was patron of the football club and became a popular and respected figure in Kalannie. He sold up his business interests and moved to Perth in the 1970s, staying for a time in Rockingham and West Perth. He spent two years in New Zealand in 1977/79 and returned to the country of his origin, England. He did a lot of travelling in Europe in the years before his death.

Mrs Janet Ashworth who lives in Perth said Jack was a great correspondent and his letters on his travels were most interesting. Janet and her husband, along with other former Kalannie residents are trying to get the present Kalannie Council to honour Jack for his contribution to that town.

Jack (Pop) a diabetic, never married and had a brother Barry who is deceased.

**Lest We Forget**

**Jack Carey**

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### **Vale – George Stanley WHITFORD**

Stan was born in Yarraville on 18th May, 1912, the third eldest of ten children. The family moved to a farm at Beech Forest, later to Shepparton then to a dairy farm at Welchpool and eventually back to Shepparton in the late 20s.

After completing Grade 7, Stan became the breadwinner of his family and also pursued his interest in bike racing, competing in the Melbourne to Warnambool and Sydney to Melbourne bike races. He joined the Victorian Police Force and later the State Electricity Commission, working in the open cut at Yallourn and then on to the Snowy Mountain Scheme at Bogong.

On 26th October, 1940 Stan married Agnes Moloney at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne.

Stan joined the army on 26th December 1941 and served with the 2/2 Commando Unit in New Guinea towards the end of that campaign and later with the 2/5 Commando Unit, serving two periods of 10 and 11 months in New Guinea and then up in Canungra Queensland training Commando Units. He was promoted to Lieutenant on 1st August, 1943 and was acting Major on his discharge on 8th January, 1946.

Post war years saw Stan and his wife share farming in Tongala then moving to Strathmerton in 1948 to a soldier settlement farm of 120 acres. After rearing and educating six children (the eldest son Stanley, served in Vietnam) they decided on a change of direction and moved to Wonthaggi where they owned a sports store. In 1968 they returned to Melbourne where they moved extensively, running motels. They both retired in 1975, played bowls and enjoyed having their family around them. In 1991 they moved to a retirement village in Benalla where they enjoyed helping others.

Stan passed away on 10th October, 1998, outliving his beloved wife by six weeks.

**Lest We Forget**

**Harry Botterill**

### **Vale – Sig. A. R. ADDISON**

**VX42059**

Born 5th January, 1920, died 31st March 1999.

Allan Addison was an original member of No. 2 Australian Independent Company. He served in Timor, New Guinea and Borneo. In Timor he served with the Sig. Section. He also had a trade grouping and besides being a Sig. he also attended to the battery charger that serviced the wireless transmitting and receiving sets. I remember him at Railaco prior to the Japanese landing, also at Vila Marie after the landing when H.Q. comprised a sputtering battery charger and our C.O. Major Spence, sheltering under a spread ground sheet and the rain pouring down on all.

Allan led a lonely life at times, as he travelled from platoon to platoon recharging the batteries, accompanied by Timorese carriers to transport the charger and fuel. He did not always arrive at the destination he was detailed to when he set out, the position could change quickly and walking into a position that was held by No. 2 Company men that morning could quite easily be held by Japanese in the afternoon. On one occasion he arrived in Hato Bullico – no Aussies, the place was swarming with 'Emma Fuik' Timorese rebels. That was only part of the risks he faced as he travelled the mountain tracks of Timor. He served with the Unit in New Guinea until it was reorganised. There was no place for his trade grouping so he was, in modern parlance, 'made redundant.' He departed from the Unit at Faita on foot for Dumpu. Back in Australia he joined a 9th Division unit, serving in Labuan and mainland Borneo where he was when the war ended on 15th August 1945.

Postwar he worked for Telecom until he took early retirement. He was a very keen three times a week golfer so he had plenty of exercise and his hobby was tracing and recording his family history.

Allan was an active member of our Association until ill health overtook him. He served one term as president of the NSW Branch.

He married Mary in May 1950 and they had three sons. He was buried on April 7th, 1999. Considering the paucity of members these days, the Unit was well represented by Alan Luby, Bill Coker, 'Snow' Went, Jack Hartley and Paddy Kenneally. To his wife Mary and sons John, Brian and Greg, we extend our deepest sympathy in their sad loss.

May Allan Rest in Peace, a fine home loving man and a good mate.

**Lest We Forget**

**Paddy Kenneally**

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### Vale – Eric THORNANDER – WX13481

Eric, our oldest WA member, passed away peacefully at Hollywood Hospital on 10th May. He would have been 88 on 28th June. The youngest of four children, he was born in Bayswater, WA. The family moved to Westonia, a mining town, where his parents ran a drapery store. A family split up when Eric was 11 resulted in his being put under the care of a family friend, Arthur Riddle, at Forrest Grove near Margaret River. He attended the local school, his teacher being John Tonkin, later to become a Labor Premier in WA. He had a nasty accident which resulted in a badly lacerated arm. Fortunately Mr Tonkin was able to get him to hospital quickly. Eric became a 'True Believer,' no doubt influenced by John Tonkin's kind act. He left school at 14 and tried his hand at cooking, farming and even possum trapping. In the late 1930s he went to Kalgoorlie, working as a miner. He enlisted in the 2nd AIF early in 1941 and joined the 2nd Independent Company. He went on to serve in Timor and New Guinea. Eric was a good soldier and was well respected by his mates in 'B' Platoon. When discharged in 1945 he returned to Kalgoorlie and married Molly Flynn with whom he had corresponded during the war years. There were four children, Glenn, Warrick, Marcia and Jillian as a result of their marriage. The family moved to Collie, another mining town in 1948 where Eric worked long shifts as a coal truck driver. He built up a nice garden complete with fruit trees, in his spare time but unfortunately Molly, who suffered from asthma could not handle the cold weather in Collie so the family moved back to Kalgoorlie. Eric found his niche as a salesman with John Allan and Co., a big electrical goods business where he proved to be a top salesman and won a number of interstate holidays and becoming a well known identity in the town. In 1981 he and Molly retired to Perth to be near their family. Molly died in 1985 following a massive asthma attack. Eric went on to spend the next ten years staying with Jillian and Tony. He was a great favourite with his nine grandchildren.

He could knock up a good tune on his mouth organ which the children loved. His health deteriorated in his latter years and he needed a wheel chair to move about. He was a loyal member of our Association for over 50 years and was made a life member in 1997.

Eric's funeral was held at Karrakatta on the 13th May. Keith Hayes, Ralph Finkelstein, Doc Wheatley, Bob Smyth, Henry Sproxton Don Turton and Jack Carey represented the Association and Ralph said The Ode. Deepest sympathy is extended to the Thornander family. So passes another good Australian.

**Lest We Forget**

J. Carey

### Vale – Bob McDONALD

The Association lost one of its stalwarts when Bob passed away suddenly at home on the 9th May. Bob, or 'Spriggy' as he was more affectionately known, was a loyal supporter of the Association since it began in 1946. He served on the Committee for 15 years, was a Vice President in 1956-57 and 1970 and President for three years, 1960, 61 and 62. He was made a life member in 1963 – an outstanding record indeed!

Bob was born in Bassendean 23rd November, 1922. He was a keen sportsman at school, excelling at cricket and football. He obtained a job with the Swan Timber Co. on leaving school and worked with them until he enlisted late in 1941. He served with the 2/2nd in 'A' Platoon in New Guinea and New Britain. A good soldier, he got on well with his mates in No. 3 Section. On his discharge he resumed with his old Company which was later taken over by Douglas Jones and Stegbar Joinery. A good worker, he was made a foreman and continued in that position until his retirement. At the local dance he met Betty, fell in love and married and they settled in Bassendean.

During the early post war years he played 'A' grade cricket with Bassendean/Bayswater Club and was a more than useful opening batsman. He also played football in the local Association. Eventually they moved to a nice home in Karrinyup, a suburb north of the river, where he took up pennant bowls, playing for the North Beach Club. After his retirement Bob and Betty settled in at Warnbro, south of the river. Bob continued with bowling and became a keen fisherman. Unfortunately Betty was not enjoying the best of health and Bob developed a heart complaint. In the late 1980s these problems necessitated them moving to the RSL War Veterans Home at Meadow Springs in Mandurah. Both continued to have indifferent health but Bob continued to maintain his Association interests. He attended the 2/2nd Mandurah Branch functions.

There were no children by the marriage but Bob was devoted to his step son Neil, and brought him up as he would have his own son. He was always a man of high principles and loved having a beer or two with his 2/2nd mates, and told a good story.

Bob's funeral was held at the Fremantle Crematorium on Friday, 14th May. Association members to pay their respects were Gerry and Dot Maley, Bill and Elvie Howell, Len Bagley, Clarrie Turner, Jess Epps, his old mate Colin Hodson, John Burrige, Keith Hayes, Don Turton, Jack Carey. Len said The Ode. There were also a number of apologies. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Betty, Neil and family.

**Lest We Forget**

J. Carey

We regret to advise of the passing of four of our lady members recently –

Muriel Aitken, wife of Ray  
Dorothy Trengove, wife of Ron  
Flo Willis, widow of Bill  
Sylvia Walsh, widow of Alf

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Ray, Ron and all the families of the deceased.

J. Carey

**R. Aitken**  
**11 Patula Place**  
**Menora 6050**

Dear Len and Betty

I am taking the liberty of sending a copy of the Eulogy composed and read by Eric Kelly at Muriel's funeral. I know many people were very impressed with both its simplicity and its sincerity.

E. R. Kelly was not, only my ex monitor of years gone by but he was the State's last Commissioner for Arbitration before the economic rationalists destroyed our industrial laws.

Should you wish to use in the Courier, don't hesitate.

Kind regards,

Ray

#### MURIEL AITKEN

Muriel's life had entered its 85th year when it ended. I first met her when she was 33. We became friends and remained friends throughout her life.

Even so, to be chosen by her family to deliver this eulogy knowing, as I do, the love and respect they bore for her, is a great honour.

To believe, as in all humility I do, that Muriel would have approved of that choice, is a benediction.

But to assume that in the space of a few minutes I could do justice to the life that was Muriel Aitken, to the spirit that was Muriel Aitken, to the character that was Muriel Aitken would be to insult the memory of a rare gentlewoman.

So I shall not attempt to do that.

Instead, as I recount some personal experiences and recall a few facts, let us think of loyalty, of constancy, of dignity, of serenity, of compassion and forgiveness, of steadfast adherence to moral principles, of self-sacrifice, of unsullied intelligence, of instinctive wisdom. Let us think of those things and then add to them an unremitting willingness to learn, a

remarkable capacity to teach, a joy in all things beautiful and a bubbling sense of humour. Then we will have some conception of the wonderful person that endowed and enriched the lives of Ray and Craig and Jenny and their families, of her sisters, of those who were her friends and of those who were fortunate enough to be taught by her.

No-one seems to have much good to say about the education department so it was almost certainly chance rather than any intention to do me a favour that caused me to be sent in 1947 to work with Ray in the school attached to Seaforth Boys Home at Gosnells. We lived fairly close to one another and we took the bus along Albany Highway to the gate of the property and then had a walk of half a mile or so to the school. It proved to be an instructive half mile, for I soon came to realise that under Ray's pretty rough and ready exterior lurked an immense store and love of knowledge – of English literature, Shakespeare and the poets, history, geography, politics – indeed, there seemed scarcely a subject on which Ray was unable to make informed comment. But not always. There were some days on which a grunt was the only response to my attempts at conversation. The first time that happened I was pretty concerned, thinking that I must have given some offence or done something wrong. But gradually I came to understand that Ray was not entirely the sensitive new age guy that he later became. The drums of war still rang in his ears and camaraderie with his mates from the 2/2nd commando battalion often claimed him. And the day that followed was always a bad day at Black Rock.

Oddly enough, it was a 2/2nd Dinner that made the half mile the setting in which baby-sitting was first mentioned. Ray was desperately keen to have Muriel accompany him to the dinner. Muriel was reluctant to go unless Ray could come up with a responsible person to take care of Craig (3) and Jenny (about 8 months). Why Ray should have thought that a callow youth of 19 with no experience of infants would fit that description and how he persuaded Muriel that I would, still entirely escapes me. But persuade her he did. And that, as I recall, was how I came to meet Muriel and how I came to know Craig and Jenny, so to speak, from the bottom up.

This was amended in delivery of the eulogy when it came back to me in the nick of time that Craig was already in to little jocks and was fiercely independent about his personal affairs.

For Muriel, those bottoms were the most precious bottoms in the world. At relevant times they had to be anointed with oil and no nappy was to touch them unless it had been ironed dry and smooth and folded just so. Of course,

that was long before the advent of disposable nappies, but even if they had been available I doubt that Muriel would have used them, partly because it would have removed the element of self sacrifice that was, for her, such an important element in loving care, and partly because she considered boiling the nappies to be essential for reasons of hygiene.

Hygiene was high on Muriel's list of life's essentials. Germs were her only enemies. Have you washed your hands – with soap? – was the question invariably asked of the children before they were allowed to touch their food. Pots and pans had to be scoured with steel wool and soap until they shone.

But I am getting ahead of myself. Ray and Muriel returned from the 2/2nd dinner to find their children safe and sound and from that time on I found myself a regular visitor to the Aitken home. We enjoyed one another's company and strange though it may seem I enjoyed looking after Craig and Jenny. And I continued to be trusted to do that, even after I had dropped Craig on his head on a concrete path.

For reasons that are of no importance today I have not seen nearly as much of Ray and Muriel over recent years as I would have liked but I take comfort from the belief that directly and indirectly I made life a little easier and more pleasant for them at a time when it was needed. that it was appreciated I have never been left in any doubt.

It would be gilding the lily to say that at the tender age of 19 I was conscious of all the qualities that I have earlier ascribed to Muriel, but I recognised, even then, that when I was with her I was in the presence of a very special person. And it was a joy to me that when she later came to know the young woman who became my wife, they found in each other the qualities that I had found in each of them.

Victoria, Gabriella and Stuart all are old enough to have been touched by those virtues of their grandmother and will have their own private thoughts of what she meant to them. I'm sure that Daniel will need no urging to make Alexandra and Connor aware, as time goes by, of the wonderful qualities of their great-grandmother.

Muriel lost her mother when she was only 20. be sure to tell all the children that she had to comfort a distraught father and act as surrogate mother to her 2 younger sisters, that she brought them up in the paths of righteousness and was rewarded with the nickname "Old Hawkeye."

Tell them, because it is also true, that she was a brilliant teacher and that, at a time when the education department gave teachers a mark for performance, she always obtained the

maximum possible mark for females – 86. Males could be given a mark of 89, a fact which justifiably stirred the feminist in her.

Tell them, too, that she was one of the first women to defy education department rules, and the strictures of her headmaster who also happened to be her husband, by wearing tailored slacks in school, not because she wanted to be defiant, or a feminist, but because she wanted to be warm and could not see the sense in being otherwise.

Tell them that though she appeared frail she was an accomplished hockey player and in sport or in life never shirked a responsibility.

Tell them, because it is again true, that she seldom lost an argument but that, gracious in victory, she rarely sought to have the last word. Tell them that she took people as she found them, without regard for colour or creed.

If you want them to have a chuckle at her expense, tell them that although she matriculated with a distinction in agricultural science she did not know which way up to plant a bean while her husband, without such academic distinction, went on to become a noted horticulturalist.

Be sure to tell them that she finished her teaching career as headmistress of St Mary's Anglican Primary School and that to her last day no misdemeanour, no defection escaped her notice. She was "Old Hawkeye" to the end. but every class she ever taught lamented her going.

Above all, tell them that in 56 years of married life Ray and Muriel argued with each other, sometimes angered each other, fussed over each other, cared for each other and, to the end, were devoted to each other.

Muriel Aitken's life is ended but she will never be forgotten by those who knew her.

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**David Field FAICD  
19 Turramurra Avenue  
Turramurra 2074**

Dear Mr Darrington,

I wanted to write and express my thanks to the Association for recording and extending my sympathy in the March 99 Courier following my Mother's death in December last year. I very much appreciated NSW Chairman Alan Luby phoning me following my Mother's death. The Association was represented at the funeral service by my family's close friends, over many years, Ray and Diana Cole.

As you will well know my father Robert (Bob) Cedric Palmer Field passed away in 1981. Since that time and until her death my mother took a real and genuine interest in the activities

of the Association. In the last couple of years I would often read the Courier to her and she would recall with great affection friends of many years.

I also want to take the opportunity to pay the warmest tribute to the care, attention and love shown to my Mother by Tony and Iris Adams of Brisbane. Ever since my father's death Tony and Iris kept in constant touch with my mother always concerned for her wellbeing. Over several years mum would drive from her home in Sydney or Coffs Harbour to Townsville to stay with her sister, Belle and escape the winter months. On all of these trips she would stay a night with Tony and Iris and delight in their good company. To me Tony and Iris epitomise all the wonderful characteristics of members of the 2/2 Commando Squadron. The kindness and friendship they so willingly gave to my mother was so valued by her over many years.

All my life I have heard stories from my parents of the 2/2. I was so pleased when for Christmas 1996 my mother gave me a copy of Archie Campbell's wonderful book 'The Double Reds of Timor.' I was delighted that mum arranged for Archie to write a message and sign it. ... He wrote "In memory of your Dad, a great mate in the 2/2 Commando Squadron, Best wishes, Archie Campbell, 8/11/96.' I am aware Archie is in a Salvation Army Hospital in Perth and send my thanks to him for taking the time to write the message to me in his wonderful book.

I appreciated my name being added to the mailing list and will look forward to continuing to read the Courier. I have enclosed a small donation.

With kindest regards to all members of the 2/2 Commando Squadron and their families.

David Field

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### AGM 1999 WA Branch

The AGM was held at Anzac Club on Tuesday, 9th March, with 16 members in attendance – Messrs Finkelstein, Bagley, Bowers, Burrigge, Carey, Chalwell, Halse, Hayes, Langridge, Maley, Murray, Poynton, Shenn, Smyth, Studdy, Wheatley. Apologies were received from Messrs Aitken, A. Campbell, Darrington, Dook, Harrington, McLaughlin, March, Monk, Sproxtton, Turner.

On the recommendation of the Committee, John Chalwell and Ross Shenn were made life members of the Association. President Ralph Finkelstein presented John and Ross with their life membership medallions. John, who is our flag bearer on official occasions, has been a loyal and supportive member for many years

as has Ross who served on the Trust Fund Committee for a number of years. Both recipients expressed their great pleasure and honour to be made life members of the Association.

Reports were presented – the President's, the Treasurer's by Mr Burrigge (as Mr Monk was laid up with a virus) the Editor's and the Trust Fund. These appear in this Courier.

The election of office bearers for 1999/2000 was carried out by Returning Officer Don Murray, as follows: President R. Darrington, Vice President vacant, Secretary J. Carey, Treasurer W. Monk, Editor L. Bagley, Warden J. Chalwell, Auditor J. Burrigge, Courier Committee Mrs B. Bagley, G. Bagley, General Committee L. Halse, J. Chalwell (with 2 vacancies).

Under General Business, members were advised that Mr Peter Epps had kindly offered to provide two cars for those members who were unable to march but wanted to take part in the Anzac Day Parade.

Members were also asked to continue with their financial support for the Courier and to contribute news items for our paper. Those members who intend going to the Hobart Safari in March 2000 were asked to make their bookings promptly.

Before the meeting concluded Mr Langridge moved that a vote of appreciation be recorded in the Minutes to our retiring President Ralph who had done a first class job despite having a major operation in March 1998. This was carried unanimously with acclamation. Mr Finkelstein said it had been a great honour to serve as President of such a fine Association.

J. W. Carey

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### PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1998 - 99

Once again I submit my annual report though it has been marred by my ill health. Despite this the committee continued without a hiccup and I'd like to pass on my sincere thanks to each and every one of them. Also many thanks to Jack and Delys Carey, and like the late Col Doig, they live, eat and breathe the 2/2nd; hence our depth and vibrancy. Much gratitude must also go to Ted Monk who so kindly assisted us by taking on the treasurer's job; he uncomplainingly remains there still. Special acknowledgement to Bob Smyth and his band of merry men who have devoted so many hours to both scrounging and packing containers for Timor. Then there is the Bagley family, Len, Betty and Gavin. They carry on year after year supplying us with our very good publication. There is no way the 2/2 can possibly express their gratitude sufficiently.

Thank you to Bob and Margaret for a lovely morning tea at your house for Father Jose and Les Cranfield upon their return from purchasing machinery in Queensland for Timor. Ralph Conley ably assisted Les and the Father. It was a rare privilege for the Perth members who met Father Jose as he is a delightful and dedicated gentleman.

It is with deep regret that I announce the passing of 12 members over the last 12 months. To our sick and hospitalised, God bless and may you have a speedy recovery.

Anzac Day was a very pleasant day and fortunately we were blessed with fine weather. Keith Hayes led the march very capably and 22 members finally feasted on a hot, sumptuous luncheon at the Terrace Hotel. Norma Hasson's mid year social was well attended and another excellent meal was served up at the Terrace Hotel. Special mention must be made of Len Bagley who did a more than competent job in his capacity as M.C. The social agenda continued with another superb day at Mandurah. Forty nine members attended and a good time and great food was enjoyed by all. Paddy and his committee did a fine job; congratulations. The Commemoration Service was held in Lovekin Drive, Kings Park. A large gathering of members and wives, widows, children and grand children were in attendance; fortunately the weather was magnificent again. Thanks to Joe Burridge for marshalling the parade and to the S.A.S. for their strong and continued support in providing the catafalque party. We especially appreciated their kind invitation to the Sergeant's Mess for refreshments afterwards.

In reviewing the year's events and contributions it would be remiss of me not to thank Viv and Verna Paust and Les and Verna Cranfield. We owe them an enormous debt for their continued support. It's individuals like these and numerous others that are the lifeblood of the 2/2 Commandos. Donations are also a critical aspect and without them we would shrivel and disappear. Sadly it is the same individuals who give over and over again and it appears nothing has changed over the last fifty years. Some have never given even a cent so this year please dig deep, we really require your support.

As you may be aware last year was one of mixed fortunes for me personally. A life threatening illness lead to a serious operation and pain was a constant bedfellow for much of the time. Eve, my wonderful wife, was like a guardian angel and proved to be more than I could have wished for. I feel I can never repay her for her love and kindness. She was a nurse, sergeant major and stalwart in the truest sense. Hopefully this year will see me solidly back on my feet and marching with the best of you.

Over the last couple of years I am proud to have had the privilege of serving as President of such a unique and fantastic group of people. Thanks for your support and I wish you and your families good health; God bless you all.

**Ralph Finkelstein**

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## Editor's Report

Thanks to all members who have donated and those who have taken time to keep in touch with old friends via the Courier, and Alan Luby, Harry Botterill, Ralph Conley, Peter Barden, Happy Greenhalgh who have brought us news from their respective States, and Paddy Kenneally who keeps us in touch with happenings **everywhere!**

Of special interest was a series of articles by Ray Parry about some of his experiences in Timor.

Geographically, we are all so far apart and our Courier provides a means of communication – it doesn't matter how short your letters are, they are all important.

Do let us know of any changes in your address and keep your address books up to date, and keep the Courier Team busy by sending us lots of letters.

**Len Bagley**

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## 2/2 Commando Association General Account

Treasurers Report For The Year Ended 31st January, 1999

Mr Chairman and members of this Association I have pleasure in presenting to you a Statement of Receipts and Payments for the Financial Year ended 31st January, 1999.

Mr John Burridge has audited the accounts and appended his certificate to the original statement which is available for inspection by any member who may wish to do so.

Three social functions were held during the year.

### Annual General Meeting Anzac Day Celebration Norma Hasson Social

The Annual Christmas Party was held at Mandurah.

The overall shortfall for the year was \$1,382.63. Leaving a credit balance at 31st January, 1999 of \$3,605.89.

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

I shall now read the financial report.

**W. Monk**  
**Hon. Treasurer**



## GENERAL ACCOUNT

### STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST JANUARY, 1999

	\$	\$		\$	\$
<b>Balance at 1.2.98</b>			<b>Less Expenses</b>		
General Account	2287.50		Courier Printing and Posting		4276.47
Town & Country Term Deposit	1701.02		Association Events		1841.10
Loan Canberra Safari	1000.00		Red Cross Tidal Wave Donation	2000.00	
	<u>4988.52</u>	4988.52	Red Cross Tidal Wave Appeal	1755.10	
				<u>245.66</u>	245.00
			Rent GPO Box	120.00	
			Advertising Listening Post	20.00	
			Capitation Fee Aust Comm Assoc	62.00	
			Anzac Day Wreaths	120.00	
			Lapel and Life Membership Badges	490.50	
			Photo Reprint Nunamouge Ambush	455.00	
			500 Letterheads	50.00	
			Donations Nurses Association	100.00	
			Postage and Stationary	150.00	
			Government Tax	28.76	
			Members Memorials	142.20	
				<u>1738.46</u>	1738.46
			<b>BALANCE AT 31.1.99</b>		
			General Account	1832.56	
			Town & Country Term Deposit	1773.33	
				<u>3,605.89</u>	3605.89
					<u>11,706.92</u>
		<u>\$11,706.92</u>			
<b>RECEIPTS</b>					
<b>Interest – General Account</b>	2.09				
Town & Country Term Deposit	72.31				
	<u>74.40</u>	74.40			
Courier Donations		4595.00			
Association Events		1700.00			
Sale of Badges	149.00				
Sale of Poems	200.00				
	<u>349.00</u>	349.00			

## INDEPENDENT TRUST FUND

### STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST JANUARY, 1999

<b>Balances at 1st February, 1998</b>			<b>Less Expenses:</b>		
C/wealth Bank Trust A/C	4191.96		Seeds to East Timor	4712.90	
Town & Country T/D trans to Trust Account	3383.20		Typing and Sew Mach, Seeds to East Timor	532.00	
Town & Country T/D int trans to Trust Account	72.36		Cartons, Labels etc	108.10	
	<u>7647.52</u>	7647.52	Freight Shipping Darwin to Kupang	497.93	
			Admin. Phone, Fax, Typing and Postage	812.72	
			Government Charges	11.43	
				<u>6675.08</u>	6675.08
Interest Commonwealth Bank Trust Account		3.46			
			<b>Balance as at 31st January, 1999</b>		
Donations Received For the year to 31/1/99		4689.00	Commonwealth Bank Trust Account		5664.90
		<u>12,339.98</u>			<u>12,339.98</u>

## Independent Trust Fund

Treasurers Report for the Year Ended 31st January, 1999

Mr Chairman and Members of this Association I have pleasure in presenting a Statement of Receipts and Payments for the Financial Year ending 31st January, 1999.

This Statement has been audited by Mr John Burridge and his certificate has been appended to same.

During the past year donations to the Trust Fund totalled \$4,689.00. Expenses to East Timor \$6,675.08. Total assets at 31st January, 1999 \$5,664.90.

A Stirling job has been done by the Trust Committee over the past year and great credit must go to Les and Verna Cranfield for the wonderful work they have carried out for the East Timorese.

**W. Monk**

**Hon. Treasurer**

## Victorian News

### Anzac Day 1999

We were blessed with a beautiful day, lovely sunshine and a very enjoyable reunion after the march at Eden on the Park with the combined commando associations. There were four of us in the march to the Shrine – Rolf Baldwin, Leith Cooper, John Southwell and Harry Botterill. At the reunion after the march we were joined by Bruce McLaren, Jack Fox and Fred Broadhurst.

Our numbers are shrinking each year and it was noticed that the overall numbers of the combined commandos were also down. We were informed that 56 members had passed on since the last Anzac Day, and I noticed that a lot of the boys who did march were showing their years and quite a few were really struggling, but their spirit was 100%

It was pleasing to see an increase in the number of people who watched the march and we were cheered and clapped all the way to the Shrine, especially by the children who showed great enthusiasm.

We had apologies from Tom Nisbet who is finding it hard to get about, Alf Harper – same complaint, and John Roberts who has had another stroke and is a very sick boy. He is at present in Cedar Court Hospital and would appreciate seeing anyone who can get to visit him.

**Harry Botterill**

## NSW News

A few weeks ago the Adjutant of No. 1 Commando Regiment phoned President Roy to advise that the C.O. wished to make a presentation to our NSW Association and stressed that he would like to hand it over to a veteran who had served in Portuguese Timor in 1942. As his Vice President, I was pleased that Roy nominated me for the pleasurable task. The Adj., Lt. Michelle Davidson, duly teed up with me for transport to and from the H.Q. at Randwick on the morning of April 22nd. I was greeted and introduced to all staff on duty, and while the TV crews from channels 7 and 10 were setting up, had time to be briefed over a cup of coffee.

The C.O., Lt-Col. Jeremy Logan, then formally handed to me a handsome timber shield 38x19 cms, upon which is mounted a metal regimental badge, a Fairbairn-Sykes dagger (original issue type) and a plaque which reads – 'To the members of the NSW Commando Association in recognition of our historical roots and ongoing bond of service. From No. 1 Commando Regiment, Anzac Day 1999. I responded suitably and thanked the Colonel on behalf of the Association. The presentation was shown for about 10 seconds on the evening news by both stations. Also present was a photographer from the Defence Department who took some stills, of which we have been promised copies.

The problems of autonomy or independence for East Timor have been well aired and printed by the media in recent times and is of extreme interest to those of us who survived in 1942, solely because of the aid given by the Portuguese Timorese people who paid dearly for that aid when we were withdrawn.

Unlike some of the other Nations where assistance was given to Australian troops in 1939-45 and other times, Timor has been conveniently forgotten by successive Australian Governments, especially in 1974 and 1975 when they were in dire need of help, which appeals fell on deaf ears.

Speaking in Sydney recently with some of the Timorese leaders, they are optimistic about the way things are progressing and hopeful of a peaceful and lasting solution. From our point of view it is interesting to observe the much changed attitudes of our political leaders and their offshoots. We can but hope they're fair dinkum,

On the local scene there has been a mix of joy and pain. Firstly because most of us survived one of the worst Aprils in memory – talk about April showers!! We hope none of our members or widows were among those badly affected by rain and hail.

Once again we were blessed on Anzac Day with mostly sunshine for our service, the march and our ferry reunion. We only managed to have six of our own on parade plus friends Alan Gray, Ray Whitely and Jim Walker, son of Major Mac Walker 2/4th, from Melbourne, and Brian Addison. A most enjoyable day and it was pleasing to see so many more from No. 1 Commando Company and Association joining with us.

Sadly, we lost Allan Addison on April 1st after a long illness. Allan was an original Sig. and Radio Technician who did a great job in Timor and New Guinea. Later he served as a divisional Sig. in Tarakan and Borneo. He wrote a fascinating story (unpublished) of his wartime exploits. May he Rest in Peace.

On April 15th Dorothy Trengove, wife of Ron, passed away at the Nursing Home, Minkara Village. Dorothy was a lovely caring person who will be sadly missed by all the 2/2 family. May she also Rest in Peace.

**Alan Luby**

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### Geraldton News

At the AGM of Geraldton City RSL Sub Branch I had the pleasure of presenting to the Curator of our wonderful memorabilia section, Kevin Grey (ex 39th Battalion of Kokoda fame) a copy of a document made available by Alan Luby and passed on by Tom Foster. Headed 'Instrument of Surrender' the document says that after 1,346 days, five hours and 14 minutes, World War II, Pacific ended officially at 0904 September 2, 1945 with the signing of this Instrument of Surrender on the battleship USS Missouri anchored in Tokyo Bay. On board to sign or observe the signing were representatives of the allied nations. The ceremony was conducted by General of the Army, Douglas MacArthur, Supreme Commander. Signing for the US was Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Commander in Chief Pacific and Pacific Ocean areas, who said 'They fought together as brothers in arms, they died together and now they sleep side by side. To them we have a solemn obligation to ensure that their sacrifice will help make this a better and safer world in which to live.'

Geraldton City RSL Sub Branch would like to thank Alan and Tom for making a copy of this document available to a Sub Branch which has won the prestigious Colonel Collett Cup 25 times as the outstanding country Sub Branch. I have again made a submission for this annual competition.

We were delighted with the response to both services on Anzac Day and it was great to see youngsters proudly wearing their fathers and

grandfathers medals. For the second successive year the main Anzac Day address was given by two secondary college students, this year it was the Head Boy and Girl of Geraldton Secondary College, Ryan Fletcher and Popsy Ihanimo, who handled their job in an excellent manner.

In one of my previews I said that those being remembered by 2/2nd Association members on Anzac Day would include our RSL President of 1955-56, the late Jack Denman MC, and other former Association stalwarts. Proudly wearing the medals of his uncle Sgt. Roy Thompson who paid the supreme sacrifice three days after landing at Gallipoli, was RSL member Graeme Perham and Senior Vice President Kevin Grey who have had the new Memorabilia Room named after them because of their outstanding service to this section of Birdwood House.

We have a new RSL President, Vietnam veteran Charlie Britt, ex RAN, who is on the engineering staff of the City of Geraldton and whose high qualifications will be of great value to our organisation.

I have just attended a meeting at the Civic Centre in an endeavour to obtain funding towards improvements to Birdwood House a 1935 building named after General Birdwood who commanded the Anzacs at Gallipoli. Major improvements have been carried out through the efforts of the Sub Branch and the Lions Club and a \$20,000 donation by a wonderful friend of mine who wishes to remain anonymous. God Bless him.

Unfortunately, my wife Joan has suffered a stroke but she is receiving wonderful attention at St John of God Hospital and is making good progress. The physiotherapists do a great job.

God Bless you all.

**Peter Barden**

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### Anzac Day Perth 1999

A large crowd attended the dawn service at Kings Park on a cool, brisk Autumn morning to pay homage to our fallen. Peter Epps laid a wreath on behalf of the Association. Peter never misses the Dawn Service and we appreciate his acting on our behalf.

Bob Smyth represented the Association at the S.A.S. Regiment's Dawn Service at Campbell Barracks. He also laid a wreath for us and we thank him for that.

The march, held in glorious weather, later in the morning went off well. Proudly led by Ray Aitken, making light of his 83 years, followed by our regular flag bearer John Chalwell and a group of 21 members and friends of the 2/2nd

received a great reception from the big crowd lining the Terrace. I'm sure the three ladies in our group, Pat Giles, Jack Wick's daughter Christine and Eric Weller's granddaughter Julie, would have enjoyed the experience. The Salvation Army Fortress Band who led our section did a sterling job which made keeping in step an easy task.

After a long, drawn out service on the esplanade, members adjourned to the Terrace Hotel for our time honoured get-together. Our new President, Dick Darrington, extended a warm welcome to the new C.O. of the W.A.S. Regiment, Lt-Col. Tim McOwan, Major Bill Bryden, RSM Greg Jack and WO2 Bob McCabe, who were good enough to come along to meet our members. The new C.O. is keen to maintain the good relationship which exists between the 2/2nd and the S.A.S., which was most encouraging to hear. What a fine Regiment they are!

The presence of four country members, Tom Foster and Eric Weller from Geraldton, Vince Swann from Esperance and Stan Payne from Merredin was appreciated as was that of the six Mandurah members who attended. Twenty two, including our old friend John Lillie of the 3rd Company and 'Happy' Greenhalgh from New South Wales sat down to an enjoyable luncheon. 'Doc' Wheatley, who was in rare form livened up proceedings with his rendition of a few old stories. And so passed another Anzac Day, our 53rd as an Association.

Apologies were received from 10 members, most of whom were not well enough to attend. With our numbers in the march getting fewer each year the time is not that far away when we will have to consider joining the other Commando Associations to ensure a representative gathering for future Anzac Day marches.

**J. Carey**

### **Anzac Day Mandurah**

Four members were present at the Dawn Service and took part in the march with Len Bagley leading. Lee and Ross Howell carried the banner and Paddy King laid the wreath. After a lengthy service, during which the RAAF provided a Fly Past, the men gathered at the RSL Hall for refreshments, good food and good company including other members of the King family.

Entertainment was provided by the Wanneroo Pipe Band and two up was played – and Paddy couldn't stop smiling! A good time was had by all.

**ED: I think we finished at 6pm!!**

**Mr and Mrs G. Slade  
29 Monash Ave,  
Lenah Valley 7008**

Dear Jack and Friends,

Sorry I have been so long in writing. Gerald does very little writing because his hand is rather shaky. He has had a rough time over the past 15 months with improvement slow but sure. Hopefully it will not be long before he is OK. His main problem has been osteoporosis, he is having special tablets for this. Recently he turned incorrectly, causing muscle spasms, this is still troubling him but some improvement. He has contact with Bert Price on a regular basis and Bert has been absolutely fantastic in arranging so much for the Safari 2000. He has such a wealth of knowledge regarding planning a reunion. Gerald is very appreciative of all he has done, many occasions Gerald has not been able to meet with Bert to organise plans.

On a sad note we report the passing of Rex Gordon Watts on the 19th April, 1999 as a result of cancer. Gordon did not enjoy the best of health for a few years, cancer was only a short illness. Gordon first met Gerald in New Britain. Gordon attended the Safari in South Australia.

Gerald says hello to Alan and Edith Luby. He received the message from Bert.

Enclosed is a donation towards the Courier. Keep up the good work. We look forward to receiving it each issue, it keeps Gerald informed of all that is happening.

We say hello to all members and wish all good health.

Regards to Delys and yourself, Keep well.

Looking forward to Safari 2000.

Regards to all, yours sincerely,

**Gerald and Nancy**

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

You should be here now in autumn – the weather has been great.

Anzac Day in Dover was well attended – in fact up in numbers. I gave the dawn service address and could not resist a little about East Timor, which was well received. My grand daughter Deena, with her friend Erin sang the National Anthem at the morning service – maybe they could sing at our memorial service.

Attended our R and SLA State Congress, it was well attended and the question on East Timor was on the agenda. I was asked to speak on same but really it was too sudden and could not say what I really wanted to.

Billie and I are both well for our ages – cleaning up our gardens now with the weather so good.

I keep in touch with Joan Marsh and she is well but of course misses Swampy so much. Have been in touch with her son Rod and he is going to meet up with Gerry and me as soon as possible, but being in different locations it's not always possible.

Regards to all.

**Bert**

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## Hobart Safari

### 8th-15th March, 2000

Things are moving along nicely, The itinerary which will appear in the September Courier is being finalised and bookings, although somewhat on the slow side, are coming in. To date 30 people have confirmed their bookings. Names of those attending will also appear in the September Courier.

Members and friends are asked to make their bookings promptly.

All you have to do is send a cheque for \$50 as a deposit to

**The Manager  
Hobart Motor Inn  
167 Macquarie Street  
HOBART 7000  
Phone – (03) 6234 4422**

Mention that you are part of the 2/2nd group and state whether you want a room with a view or one on a lower floor.

Bert Price and his small Committee said the 2/40 Btn. Association and the local RSL Clubs all want to do something to make our visit an enjoyable and memorable one.

Included in the itinerary will be a Memorial Service, an Official Dinner, trips to Port Arthur and Cadburys, a Civic Reception plus more. So, open your purse strings and Be in it. Remember, you can't take it with you.

**J. Carey**

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## Colour Patches

Ray Parry has had a supply of our Double Red Diamond Colour Patches made up.

If you would like a pair, send a \$5 note or money order in a stamped addressed envelope to R. Parry c/- Box T1646, GPO PERTH 6001 and Ray will send you the patches by return mail.

**J. P. Kenneally  
28 Wilkins St  
Yagoona 2199  
May 4, 1999**

Dear Len

Well, the great day came and went, all the 2/2nd could muster for the march would not have constituted one rank. Alan, 'Snow Went', myself, Jack Hartley – now pardon the memory and lay the blame on Anno Domini, but I do think Bill Coker and Fred Janvrin were also among the gallant band. The beer just doesn't taste the same any more, that is on Anzac Day. There is a lot of sadness which seems to be more acute on the day. The result of age, or is it just being more aware of the tragedy of war brought home to us as we view the world of today. So much bloody misery being inflicted everywhere by every side and all claiming they are doing it in the cause of humanity. Tell it to the birds, and in case anyone is under any illusions, I'm including our side in the inflicting.

A mixed bag of news, much of it not the best. Dorothy Trengove passed away at the end of a long bout of ill health. Ron and Dorothy have had a rough road to travel over the last few years, both suffering from poor health.

Alan and Edith Luby, Bill and Coral Coker, 'Snow' Went, Jack Hartley and I attended the funeral service at Mona Vale. To Ron, Garth and Shane we extend our sympathy in their sad loss. Garth and Shane are looking wonderful, tall, lean and athletic. Long may it be so. Jack Hartley is still fighting on. I remember the prediction Jack's doctor made over 18 months ago. Jack has sure turned his judgement and prediction upside down. 'Good on you mate.' Edith Luby is another defying the medicos. I got into a political argument with her and fled the field. I had most certainly braved a tigress and paid the price. Coral Coker shattered her left elbow in a fall. Now she has a new one so Bill will have to be careful of left hooks or straight lefts. Curly O'Neill has been in hospital again, he hasn't been faring all that well, his mobility curtailed, but not his brain. He reads a lot, always did, and is well up with current affairs and an excellent memory. His mate, Merv. Clarke (Squirt Johnson) has also had a stay in hospital in Nowra. All well now. Squirt has his life in good order, swims all year round, a walk through the reserve, a siesta and then a noggin or two before evening. Haste and panic were never in his vocabulary. He wouldn't move back to the helter skelter of Sydney life for a mountain of gold.

I was home early from Heroes Day. As previously stated, the nourishment was lifeless. I was glad to leave it behind me. All the best to our members everywhere. I will write to John and Cath Roberts. John has had

his share of hard going since that accident a few years back.

**Paddy**

---

**G. Greenhalgh  
7 Cypress St.  
Maclean 2463**

Well, I've been there, done that and returned. I had a wonderful three weeks in the golden west. It was good to find Sprocky much improved from my October visit. Whilst not 100%, he was able to move about more easily. We visited Ray Aitken and swapped yarns for a couple of hours and had a lovely lunch with Jack and Delys Carey. No wonder Carey looks like a barrel if he gets tucker served up like that all the time. I must slip in a commendation to Jack for the work he has done and is still doing for the Association. The same must be said for Bob Smyth, ably supported by Keith Hayes and John Burrige with regard to the Timor funding. We are very lucky to have blokes like these.

Harry and I had a trip up to Geraldton to see his daughter and called in at Three Springs to see John (Chook) Fowler. He looked very well and reckons he is being looked after very well. He certainly looked it too. He was 87 on the 24th April. We had a look at Moora where the Moore river did so much damage and I must say their clean up work must have been remarkable as you couldn't see any apparent traces of the damage done. I believe much help was given by Apex, Lions etc., bus loaded from Perth on weekends.

I marched on Anzac Day with the boys, led by Ray Aitken with Tich as usual carrying the Banner. We had a top meal at the Terrace Hotel and watched Paddy on SBS. Good job mate, voted by all. We were blessed with good weather and the biggest crowd I have seen at a Perth march. A top day.

I got home to rain and more rain. Not a bit like the west where we had 21 sunny days. I mowed my lawn 12 days after getting home.

Russ Blanch is a bit sour on the weather too, as its preventing him getting his plants in for his Spring display. Russ had a cataract op. at St. Vincents, Lismore, and that won't help as he has to keep his head up with no lifting. The eye bloke assured him its been a good job.

Ted Cholerton has been in Lismore Base Hospital with pneumonia.

Tom Yates is hard to get on the phone but Jean says they are both well and Tom was playing bowls when I rang. I'll catch him later. Hope he won.

I talked to Ken Jones recently and kept him up to date with things in the west. He and Enid are both well.

I contacted Beryl Cullen on my return home. Jim and Beryl are always keen to know how Sprocky is. Jim is still keeping on with Beryl's help but is finding it fairly hard going. 9 Section were a good bunch. I think even Carey got a guernsey. I can still see or remember big Tom Crouch getting us over the water on our way to Fatu Besse that night.

Not 100 Dalmatians but only one ran in front of me on Tuesday in the rain. I missed the dog but unfortunately the bloke behind didn't miss me. He was too close. When I get the car fixed I'll try and get to see Jim.

Jack and Beryl Steen are well. I don't think Jack would tell me if he wasn't anyway. He always says 'I'm going alright. I hope to see them shortly.

Ray Parry's notes sure bring back memories. In the 4th Coy book there's a good drawing of Fatu Merkerique by Curly Papworth. The sig hut housed the sigs plus the python mentioned although I reckon he was only about ten feet long. I had the wog for ten days and couldn't even keep a cup of coffee down. My only source of entertainment was the python which lived in the rafters. I'm very glad he stayed there too, although Aitken says he'd not have harmed me (he didn't sleep in that hut, by the way). Boy Coates finally mixed some eggs and buffalo milk into a custard which I kept down – I'm still here.

Regards to all.

**'Happy.'**

---

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

Dear Friends, Greetings and Easter blessings to all.

Enclosed is a donation towards cost of the Courier and congratulations to those who give time and energy to keep us in touch with health, joys and sorrows of 2/2 Commando families far and near.

Hazel and Ron Morris, Erika and Fred Bagley and I recently got together for afternoon tea, to reminisce over the 1998 Canberra Safari and talk of the Hobart Safari.

Paddy Kenneally kindly paid me a visit which I enjoyed – he is always so interesting.

Looking forward to the birth in June of 11th grandchild.

Betty Craig spent a day with me enroute to Adelaide. It was good to see Betty looking so well.

Three Queensland friends were in Canberra for dedication of the new AWAS Centre and War

Memorial. They came with two bus loads of ex AWAS. One of the ladies served with my two sisters who were with sigs in Townsville from 1942 to 1945 and she and I did a two year working tour of Australia afterwards.

Sincere sympathy to all whose loved ones have left us for a better life.

God bless,

**Joan**

---

**G. and H. Cluett  
11 Foxton Street  
Maddington 6109**

Enclosed is a cheque being donations for the Courier and Timor Trust Fund.

We so enjoy all the articles in the Courier and the happenings of the 2/2 Commandos. The spirit of you men still inspires us of the second generation.

God bless and keep you all.

**Geoff and Helen (niece of Charlie Stanton)**

---

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

Enclosed is a donation to the Courier. I enjoy reading it. Best wishes to everyone.

**Keith**

---

**Mrs D. Boyland  
25/7 Trinity Village  
Beddi Road  
Duncraig**

Dear Jack,

I thought the last Courier was very interesting, re Timor. Through our church we are interested in Timor, also several of our parishioners help a missionary group. I do hope the problems up there can be settled successfully soon.

Enclosed is a cheque, some for the Courier and some for the Timor fund.

Regards to all, Yours sincerely,

**Dot**

---

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

Dear Jack,

The enclosed cheque for the Association is to be split as you wish.

Regards to all.

**Andy**

---

**Robert Gregg  
PO Box 68  
Beresfield 2322**

Please find enclosed cheque for my subscription to 2/2 Commando Courier and the remainder may be used to assist any project in East Timor. I found the articles in the March issue very interesting and informative.

My best wishes to all concerned. Yours sincerely,

**Robert**

---

**Elvie Hovell  
68 Randell Street  
Mandurah 6210**

Dear Ted

Enclosed find donation for the Courier and the rest for Timor Fund.

Bill is much better than he was, thank God, but we don't hear that special laugh very often these days.

All the best to you and Peg.

**Elvie**

---

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

Dear Jack,

We thoroughly enjoyed the last Courier, specially Paddy's letter about Timor.

We have been over to Mandurah a couple of times, once to Tony Bowers 80th birthday and once to go crabbing. Stayed at Miami Caravan Park with an old friend and got a nice number of crabs. Saw Joe and Helen Poynton who are looking well.

Peter is a man of leisure now – has sold the farm so we are just about to start travelling again. At the moment getting a few alterations and painting done to the house.

All farmers having a bad time getting rid of green weeds as we have had rain for the last six weeks.

Peter sees Jeff Swann occasionally, specially when the races are on.

We are both keeping well. Booking in to go to Hobart. Just hope we can go.

Regards to all.

**Peter and Pat**

---

**R. Dook**  
6 Arlington Drive  
Willeton 6155

Enclosing a donation for the Courier. Thank you.

Regards,

**Ron**

---

**R. and B. Shenn**  
2/1 Kilpa Court  
City Beach 6015

Please find enclosed cheque for the Courier.

Regards to all.

**Beth and Ross**

---

**Mrs R. Moar**  
58 St David's Road  
Haberfield 2045

Please find enclosed two cheques, one for the Courier (from my mother Nancy Teague) and one for the Trust Fund from my mother and myself. I have enjoyed being kept up to date on your good work for the East Timorese through articles in the Courier. Let's hope the movement towards independence is successful and that aid can become more open and widespread throughout the community in the near future. All the best.

**Rosslyn Moar**

---

**R. Morris**  
53 Hilder Street  
Weston ACT 2611

Hazel and I have both had the dreaded bug but are now much better. Joan Fenwick has also been rather sick with the same germ but is feeling somewhat better now.

It hardly seems almost a year since you were all in Canberra, how time flies!!

Enclosed is my donation to the Courier. I also enclose a letter received from Bubbles Kneen, the lady who organised the wreath to be laid for her relative Major Paul Kneen, which was laid at our War Memorial.

I am still President of our local Commando Association although numbers are dwindling fast. We should have about 10 marching on Anzac Day.

Hope to make Tasmania in 2000.

God bless you all.

**Ron and Hazel**

**Mrs M. Shiels**  
Box 374  
PO Bowen 4805

Dear Len,

A short note to include with cuttings from our local paper that I thought might interest members of the 2/2nd. Also enclosed is a cheque towards the cost of the Courier

George and I are both doing well and will see you at the next Safari.

**Margo**

**RSL Legend Honoured**

By David Anthony

It was fitting that George Shiels was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal on the 80th anniversary of the Returned Services League in Australia and Bowen. He has served the organisation for more than 50 of those years.

Mr Shiels was so honoured at a special dinner at the Castle Motor Lodge at a conference of the RSL's North Queensland district.

The immediate past president of the RSL's Queensland branch, Mr Eric Kay, made the presentation, reading from a lengthy citation covering Mr Shiels half-century of commitment not just to the RSL but several other community and industry organisations as well.

Several RSL delegates commented that the award should have been awarded to Mr Shiels' wife Margo. Mrs Shiels, a survivor of the celebrated Los Banos evacuation in the Phillipines during World War II, was acknowledged for her staunch support of her husband's committed involvement with the RSL. In fact, as Mr Shiels admitted, Mrs Shiels had encouraged him to join the RSL when they returned to Bowen after the war. Mr Shiels is the second RSL member in Bowen to receive this prestigious medal. He acknowledged the many years of service Mr Jack Kent, the first Bowenite to receive the award, made to the RSL and the Bowen community.

'He was Treasurer of the RSL for about the same length of time as I was secretary,' Mr Shiels said about an old mate.

The Bowen sub-branch was founded in 1919, the same year the national organisation was established. 'We are older than the Townsville sub-branch which was formed in 1920' Mr Shiels said.

Mr Shiels was born and bred in Bowen, saw wartime service in Papua New Guinea and New Britain with the 2/2 Commando Squadron from 1942. The squadron had previously made a name for itself when it served for 12 months in Timor without surrendering to the Japanese.

On his return to Bowen where he and Margo



settled, Mr Shiels became involved with the local RSL. According to the citation, compiled and written by Margo, Mr Shiels took up the position of secretary two years after joining. He continued in this role until 1957. He remained a committee member and served as president from 1965 to 1969. In 1973 he took up the position of secretary and has served in the capacity to this day.

He was given life membership of the RSL in 1966.

From the early 1980s to 1993, Mr Shiels was nominated to the RSL's northern district council as country vice-president.

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

Dear Jack

From enclosed cheque please deduct my subscription to the Courier and place balance to the Trust Fund.

Mr best wishes (albeit belated) to you for 1999 and to all the others whose hard work and dedication bring about the continuing production of the Courier.

Sincerely,

Ian

**Mrs F. Lucas**  
2/34 Duncan St  
Huskisson 2540

The Editor,

Dear Len,

Thank you for sending me the Courier. Would you please send it to the above address from now on.

My best wishes to you all.

Sincerely,

**Flora Lucas (nee Hallinan)**

**Mrs J. M. Taylor**  
59 Beauty Pt. Rd  
Beauty Point 2546

Please find enclosed a donation to the Courier. I will no longer require the Courier to be sent.

I wish you all well.

Regards

Jillian

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

Dear Jack,

My writing is improving but it generally gets worse as I write.

Eyesight is also a problem, both of these are left overs from the stroke I had nearly a year ago, not my previous illness. Am getting over that and feeling a new man. Everyone tells me how well I'm looking and I feel so much better that it is hard to believe. When I came out of hospital I was as thin as a rake, now I'm eating like a horse and putting on a kg per week. Driving is still a problem, which makes things difficult at times.

No news of our mob, none left down this part of the world now.

Hope to be in Perth soon and will try and contact George Timms, have had no news of him of late. I have not been to Perth since my 80th birthday party but I can travel now without any problems.

Hoping all is well with both of you.

**Bill**

Some time before he died in August last year, Fred Grows, who served in No. 2 Section in Timor, New Guinea and New Britain, wrote the following article on his young Creado, Berimou who served him so faithfully during the Timor campaign in 1942. It is a very good write up and I'm sure it will be of great interest to our readers and will no doubt bring back memories to those who also had a creado in those difficult days.

**J. Carey**

### **Series 4 Timor Memories** **My Friend 'Berimou'**

When we arrived in Timor we were instructed to avoid contact with the natives and this carried on into East Timor. The section I was in (2 Section A Platoon) was camped first of all on Cactus Flats and then on the Dili aerodrome. We saw very few natives except, on occasions, in Dili at the cock fights and the markets etc.

Not being able to converse, little contact was made and so we were quite ignorant of the language and the customs of the Timorese. Consequently, in the exodus from Dili when we were avoiding Jap patrols, we were unable to distinguish the difference between Japanese and Timorese 'chatter' and had to avoid them all. In retrospect, it is obvious that this was a very shortsighted policy as, even a rudimentary knowledge of the native language early, would

have been a Godsend. Of course we didn't know then that we would be living with them.

It was quite some time after the Drome episode when we were at Anaro that some of the lads started to acquire 'creados', mostly young native boys, to carry gear, etc.

I was approached by a Timorese lad, a fairly tall, skinny 12 year old with a wide, cheeky grin who made it known that he wanted to be my Creado. His name was Berimou and he came from the village of Orvulo, near Artsabe which had been overrun by the Japs. He wanted no pay, just wanted to help.

I didn't have much gear – it was all lost on the Dili Drome – but I was grateful for his assistance as I was physically weak due to recurring malaria and dysentery, a legacy of the Cactus Flats period). Berimou looked after my bits and pieces except for my rifle, ammo and a small haversack of personal papers. He also helped with the Section's gear and with scrounging for food.

In the beginning we communicated mainly by signs but gradually we picked up sufficient words of each other's language to make ourselves understood. Of course, they picked up the great Australian expletives first. I will remember them calling each other 'bloody black bastards' while talking at their sing-songs at night.

The Creados were very loyal to their 'patron' or 'tuan' and would often be heard boasting about, or defending the attitudes of their Boss. They would become worried if, having been sent to a safe place when action was imminent, they didn't know where Boss was. A case in point was when we moved out of Maliana and set up an ambush position in the saddle on the road to Bobonara. I was sent to Rita Bau to tell the Sigs there to get the radio set out to Morobo. However, on the way I slipped off the mountain track in the dark and fell on to rocks, fracturing a bone in one ankle and spraining the other. This was about half a mile from the village so I hobbled there to find it abandoned.

I did find a horse and managed to catch it and rode it to Morobo to rejoin the Section. The point being that when the Section arrived and I was missing, Berimou was distraught and wanted to search for me but was restrained. In any case, I turned up half a day later, complete with a horse. That made his day because now he was a horse owner as well, so we set off for the hospital at Same.

Berimou's help was invaluable on that trip because we were restricted to obscure mountain tracks due to the presence of Jap patrols. I could not possibly have found my own way or managed the horse or found food without him. While at Doc Dunkley's hospital both Berimou and the horse came in handy as

we had to make several hurried moves to other locations because of Jap activities, some at night. Doc and the lads needed all the help they could get.

Berimou was a boy with a cheerful disposition and very few things worried him. One time he took leave of absence to visit his village but when he returned he was very subdued. He told that his whole village – family and all – had been wiped out by the Japs. He believed his association with us was the cause as, natives who befriended the Japs had been initiating these actions. However, this made Berimou all the more determined to help us against the Nips.

We were at Betano when the 'Voyager' went aground and we had the task of moving the 2/4th Coy. gear in a hurry. Berimou came into his own. He loved to boss the other natives around and took to running packhorse teams (at least once under aircraft fire) like a duck to water. There was always a couple of us with the train but Berimou was 'boss of the boys.' Of course, in this incident, we were only part of an estimated 400 natives and horses.

When we were told we were to be evacuated we asked if the Creados could come with us. We were told that it was not possible and we then realised that we would eventually be deserting them, leaving them to their own devices, although Headquarters said they would do all they could for them.

The night of the evacuation arrived and, as we prepared to leave, I told Berimou what we were doing. I wrote out an ownership receipt for the horse, a Surat (letter of commendation for all his help) and gave him everything I owned – horse, gear, money, etc. – everything except for a small haversack with personal papers. Said goodbye and swam out in the darkness to the boats of the 'T jerk Heddes'.

The Creados were of tremendous help to all of us in many other ways besides carrying. They helped us to enlist the aid of villagers where we were camped, helped in procuring food, obtained information on the whereabouts of the Japs and their informers, etc.

All in all, without the help of the East Timorese natives generally, we certainly would not have survived.

**Fred Grown**

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The following is a submission written by Ray Aitken on East Timor and is part of an overall submission made through the Association to a Federal Senate Committee which is conducting an enquiry into East Timor. Submissions have also been made by John Burrige, Bob Smyth and Jack Carey.

Ray's article shows his great knowledge of the history of East Timor and its people. I'm sure it will be enlightening to both Courier readers and members of the Senate Committee.

Jack Carey

## Senate Enquiry Into East Timor Economic Social and Political Conditions

Writing without real knowledge of the effect of approximately a quarter of a century of occupation by the Indonesians, it is difficult to assess the current situation. Suffice to say that judged on known history, conditions in the forties and latterly in the sixties, it is doubtful if East Timor could support a greater population than, say, one million. This number is arrived at by accepting that the most likely development would be simply an improved form of subsistence agriculture with the most likely growth industry to be tourism for which the territory is well adapted.

East Timor has some very great national disabilities. It is by definition one of the most mountainous countries of the world, ranging from sea level to 3600 metres-plus – in less than 35 kilometres. This makes for a rocky terrain, large areas of which are not arable. The steepness of the rivers and the cutting shale carried by the water renders even river banks comparatively sterile. The wet season is reliable and for this reason, East Timor is capable of feeding itself provided the population is not too large.

The greatest help Australia could give would be improved strains of rice, maize, millet, coffee, sugar cane etc., and particularly the necessary experimental set-up to evaluate new strains and get their production off the ground. It is ironic that considerable Australian help has been given by Australia to Indonesian interests in West Timor. Sandalwood – Santalum Album – the Indian sandalwood – once grew in Timor in profusion and led to the Sandalwood Wars: these were the conflicts in which mixed blood adventurers – the Topazes – were successful in struggles against the Dutch, Javanese et al. Many Timorese families of today are direct descendants of Topaze mercenaries.

Regarding social and political conditions in East Timor it must be stressed that tribal allegiance is very strong. In East Timor, there are at least 32 dialects which might, under some circumstances, be classified as languages. The Lingua Franca is Tetum in at least three forms. The Portuguese laid the foundation for better inter-tribal relationships, although it took 400 years to reach the point today when tribal problems are no longer very troublesome. The Portuguese were partly to

blame for the long delay in reaching virtual harmony. Over the years, they probably welcomed tribal friction which made their own position secure in that they could play one tribe against the other. Certainly today Timorese of disparate tribes mix freely – particularly educated Timorese. In any case, they have a history of dropping tribal problems for the greater good. It was not only the Mambai who took up arms against the Portuguese in the great revolution of 1912. The blood of the regiments of African soldiery still flows in some Timor families. It is significant that the Portuguese used troops from Mozambique against the Timorese. In more modern times, the Position was sometimes reversed.

The Timorese are logical people and can be united when it suits them. The one area exception to this statement is in the hills above Liquica – the section of territory surrounding the village of Maubara. We, the 2/2nd Commando Squadron found the Maubarans uncooperative in 1942. Now in 1999, the Indonesians are arming them to drum up a fictitious civil war. This is a minor problem and is motivated largely by fear of reprisal. Independence would not make the Maubarans feel safe as their more modern crimes are haunting them.

To understand the Timorese political and social status, it is necessary to have some knowledge of the history of the country. Largely, the Timorese economy is based on subsistence farming. Where this has grown into large plantings of coconuts, coffee, maize and rice, to make a wider commercial-style farming, most of it has been in the hands of the Mestizo – the families of mixed blood. Many of these families date from pre-Portuguese times and are vestigial remains of the Topazes. These were previously mentioned as having successfully beaten the Dutch, established control of the indigenous Timorese but then succumbing to Christianity rather than the Portuguese. This group was then enlarged by intermarriage with Portuguese and, as a result, acquired increasing status. In the 1940's, it was the aim of many Mestizo girls to marry a Portuguese officer as a means of lifting her personal status and the prestige of her family. Another more recent development has been the rise of other mixed-blood families of far more modern origins. After the 1926-1934 so called communisto revolutions in Lisbon, Portugal (which was one of the first countries to forego capital punishment) substituted exile to colonies for life. Mozambique received the biggest share but Timor also received a significant number of the deportados who were kept under fairly strict control by the Portuguese administration. Those with known skills were able to assume positions of importance and by marriage to native

Timorese, to acquire land. In the case of one at least (Costa Alves), he had become both a plantation owner, owner too of the Mirramar Tourist Hotel, and under a more modern and liberal-minded Government of the sixties had become Minister for Agriculture. Manuel Carrascalao had become Minister for Trade. Mario, eldest son of the latter, became the first Governor under Indonesia of Timor. In passing, it is significant of the stature of this man that he has spoken out against the excesses of the Indonesian military and that, in more recent times, has been spoken of as an acceptable leader for an independent Timor.

It is necessary to understand another facet of Timorese history. When the liberalising of the Portuguese at home began to take place in the early seventies, a number of political parties arose in Timor. They were too numerous to list here but three of them seem important – viz Fretilin, UDT, and Apodeti. The first and largest by many thousands was Fretilin (Falintal as it is now known) – largely indigenous Timorese but with a strong admixture of educated Mestizo. UDT was largely Mestizo which supported Fretilin (Falintal) but listed continued ties with Portugal as its first preference. Apodeti was a party said to have never exceeded 60 members and whose preferred position was for union with Indonesia.

When it became obvious that Portugal had a revolution at home, UDT and Fretilin (Falintal) formed a coalition to be ready to take over. To drum up Australian support, UDT sent a deputation to Eastern Australia and Fretilin (Falintal) sent one to Western Australia. UDT was advised by people in Australia – both ex-service and political – to go home and break the coalition or the “natives” would take over. This was stupid advice given by stupid and bigoted people. It led to catastrophe.

The Fretilin (Falintal) delegation of two, being Jose Xavier Dos Amaral and Alakatiri, the shadow Foreign Minister, arrived in Darwin and were met by Vic Williams, a member of the Australian Communist Party. He ushered them south to a momentous meeting chaired by Gordon Mackintosh. The 2/2nd were asked to send delegates of whom I was one. When I asked where were the Liberal Party representatives, Vic Williams did not understand my question. Amaral did understand it and was horrified when he realised he would be putting his case to only one side of Australian politics. These two delegates from Timor were two of the people classified by Whitlam as “thugs.” They were my house guests for a week and were joined by Nicolao Lobato – Fretilin (Falintal) Commander-in-Chief who was killed much later in an ambush on the slopes of Mount Cablac. They were gentle people. Amaral was trained

for the priesthood but never ordained. Alakatiri, the Arab, was quiet, considered and thoughtful. Nicolao Lobato and I had met in 1967 at the small military outpost at Bazartete where he was a sergeant but in command of the detachment. I met him again at the unveiling of our memorial at Fatunaba in 1969. Nicolao was of mixed blood but he shared the aspirations of all loyal Timorese, namely to be independent. On my phone, Amaral heard that UDT had broken the coalition and established government in Dili. I organised the plane flights and my three guests headed back to Timor. Within a few days, Fretilin (Falintal), led by Nicolao Lobato, had driven out UDT and, in the least bloody civil war, had established the Government of Timor with Amaral as President.

A comment on the advice received in Australia by the UDT delegation: I cannot conceive how the people who gave it can sleep with their conscience. The people who gave the advice that the “natives” would take over were equally culpable as those who tendered their advice on colour or religious grounds. Those who spoke on military grounds were just stupid. Anyone with a modest knowledge of Timor would have known that the official army was almost all Timorese and Fretilin (Falintal) to a man, and that Nicolao Lobato was a highly trained leader. The result of any conflict was a foregone conclusion – Fretilin (Falintal) would certainly prevail.

The “civil war” and the fact that many UDT, including most of its active participants, fled across the border into West Timor, gave the Indonesians a talking point against Fretilin (Falintal). They took advantage of the earlier declaration by Whitlam that he saw the future of East Timor as an Indonesian province. They then took further advantage of the dismissal of Whitlam and the feebleness of Fraser’s caretaker Government to time their border attack. Better armed than the Timorese and in greater active soldier numbers, they were soon successful in causing the remaining active Fretilin (Falintal) troopers to take to the hills – largely as the 2/2nd Commando Squadron had done 33 years before. The fact that Fretilin or Falintal still has active remnants speaks highly of their military resolve and their knowledge of guerrilla warfare.

Regarding human rights one can only say that, in honest terms, human rights have been abrogated in East Timor. Torture, imprisonment and death have been the fate of many Timorese. Land confiscation has allowed many farmers to be dispossessed to make way for transmigration of many admixtures of races. From Bali, Sulawesi et al have come people to occupy confiscated land.

### **Indonesia's Military Presence and Reports of Ongoing Conflict**

Many people have died by the heavy-handed bestiality of Abri. Indonesia hides this ruthless oppression and series of political murders behind the specious explanations of Ali Alatas. The military powers are not anxious to depart from Timor. There is too much corrupt money and equally corrupt privileges to be lost if Timor becomes independent. The ongoing conflict in East Timor has been marked by lack of unbiased reporting. In aggregate, the conflict has led to outcomes far worse than Santa Cruz.

### **The Prospects for a Just and Lasting Settlement**

I believe that the only possibility for a just and lasting peace for East Timor is independence this year with a supervisory UNO commission. It is imperative that there is an immediate withdrawal by Abri, disarming of the Indonesian sponsored dissidents in the border provinces and the prevention of any form of reprisals. Once this disarming takes place, the total withdrawal of Indonesian troops should follow quickly and the gap should be filled by an armed UNO peacekeeping force which should include Australians.

### **Australia's Humanitarian and Development Assistance**

At the moment, it is negligible and should be boosted dramatically. At present, it appears little more than that provided by some individual Australians and moneys provided by the 2/2nd Commando Association raised by donations from members and particularly the estate of the late Colin Douglas Doig. The Commando Association has organised arrangements whereby three highly skilled and selfless volunteers have visited Timor and spent months instructing indigenous Timorese in carpentry, woodwork and particularly the growing of crops of maize and vegetables. I understand the Commando Association is preparing a submission to you and this will provide details of the many forms of assistance which that organisation has promoted.

### **The Timor Gap (Zone of Co-Operation Treaty)**

On independence it would appear that this treaty would need to be re-written between three parties, viz Indonesia, Timor Leste (Portuguese for East Timor) and Australia. Presumably the shares in any future outcome would be Indonesia 1/4, Timor Leste 1/4, Australia 1/2. That may be oversimplified but should be a good platform for negotiation. It would seem to indicate that the new nation from being poverty-stricken could become comparatively rich and have a future towards self-supporting status.

### **Past and Present Australian Government Policy Towards East Timor**

What can one say? Previously Australia was completely against independence for East Timor, and this attitude was unchanged over the years until the recent developments and turbulence created by Suharto's downfall. Then Howard and Downer re-read the Timor Gap treaty and talked of a lengthy period of autonomy. Now it is back to independence. Two weeks ago, it was no armed troops (Downer). Now one doesn't know. The argument that we mustn't get an Australian soldier killed – used by Downer – is ironical when remembering the sending of conscripts to Vietnam to engage in a war for which there was little justification and certainly no hope of success.

### **OE-CUSSI**

There is no mention of Oe-Cussi in this paper. This is because the status of the enclave is not available to me. There is no doubt that, historically and legally, the enclave is part of East Timor. What the present aspirations of the people may be I have no means of knowing.

This submission has been authorised by the Executive Commission of the 2/2nd Commando Association of Australia

### **Ray Aitken**

11 Patula Place  
Mt Lawley WA 6050  
(Member of 2/2nd Commando Association)  
22 March, 1999

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## **EAST TIMOR STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE**

**MELBOURNE 5-9 APRIL 1999**

This conference, held against the current escalation of violence in the territory, was the second phase of CNRT preparations for independent government in East Timor. It was the follow on to the Algarve conference held in Portugal last October. The Algarve conference had decided on the ideological basis of a constitution (called the Magna Carta) based on a vision of a free, independent, peaceful and democratic East Timor with all citizens equal before the law and where all people have equal opportunity to participate in and contribute to all aspects of society. The Algarvae conference also nominated eight key sectors for careful planning. These were Governance/Public Administration, Law and the judicial system, Economics, Agriculture, Health, Education, Mass communications and Infrastructure/Environment, with specific attention to gender, culture and human rights in all these areas.

The conference in Melbourne addressed the task of providing a blue-print for all of these sectors for a future East Timor in a practical, consistent and coherent manner with input of a high calibre. More than 200 participants were involved in these sectoral planning closed workshop sessions. There were a large contingent of Timorese from Timor (over 40) who were joined by Timorese from all states of Australia, from Indonesia, Mozambique, Portugal and England. Helping them, at their request, were a handful of Australian advisers (Les Cranfield in the Agriculture Sector and Patsy Thatcher in the Health Sector were two of these) and people from a number of international development agencies and international non government organisations. Three languages were used, Tetum, Portuguese and English with constant moving between languages.

The teams in the various sectors worked long hours over the last four days and mapped out quite detailed plans for the immediate transitional period as well as plans, goals and strategies for long-term development. From the strategic development plans ongoing task-forces were initiated. These task-forces, in the months ahead, will continue on with even more detailed planning in consultation with and support from the international community.

The first day of the conference was separate from the rest of the working week, but it set the tone by the quality of the speakers and the ideas suggested. The conference was launched by an elder of the Wurundjejeri people, the traditional owners of the land where the conference opened, and by Mr Joao Nunes, a traditional Mambai Lia Na'in (keeper of the word) who came from East Timor especially for this ceremony.

After the opening ceremony there were keynote addresses, firstly from Justice Marcus Einfield who focussed on the Legal system and then from Dr Robert Wolfram from Fiji who focussed on Public Administration. The quality of the questions addressed to these two speakers left no doubt that the audience were erudite thinkers who had obviously thought long and hard about an independent East Timor, the type of constitution and legal system they would like, and the responsibilities associated with nation-hood.

The rest of the first day was devoted to papers from invited experts on a variety of topics, mostly to do with theoretical study models that might be helpful, such as economic policy options, development models, health systems, educational systems, gender issues, environmental issues. The only practical 'hands on' paper delivered was on Agriculture. This was from Les Cranfield and it attracted a great deal of interest from the Timor contingent

who chased Les for days to talk to him and seek out his advice.

The success of the conference must surely demonstrate to the international community that the East Timorese (several embassies from Canberra had observers there) are ready to undertake the work of nation building in a responsible, prudent and inclusive manner. It should also help reassure East Timor's neighbours that far from being a basket-case East Timor has the human assets able to plan for and implement a peaceful future, if they are given a fair go.

**Patsy Thatcher**

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## INDEPENDENT TRUST AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT

Fr. Jose and Les Cranfield completed a most successful visit to Kingaroy Queensland in February.

Because of the most generous support of Les Stevens of Ellis Equipment and particularly farmer, Barrie Sturmer, they secured a large variety of used equipment at most attractive prices - list attached.

When conditioned and assembled, the equipment will greatly assist food production in the Fuloro area.

A fax from Les. S. today a-views the 2 x 20' containers are moving by road to Darwin ETA 17th May. They should be in Dili within a few further weeks when it is hoped they can be economically moved through customs and safely onto Fuloro.

Volunteer Les. C. will be a major influence in the unpacking, checking and assembly and finally application and demonstration of use.

Additional new equipment including urgently needed silos were ordered from Smorgon Cyclone W.A. and Victoria and is being shipped separately.

Though we have given assistance with planning, the cost of the goods and freight etc. to land in Dili, is all covered by USA AID through Fr. Jose.

### SEEDS AND DRESS MATERIALS

\$2,700 of seeds from Symonds which is currently being categorised in codes (to hopefully baffle Indonesian customs) and delivered to the indefatigable Keith Hayes. Keith will repack and enclose with a mountain of clothes (personally made up by volunteer Verna Cranfield) and dress material.

Keith will prepare manifests for his shipment which should again let light into his garage. The goods will be loaded to Darwin for transshipment via our good friend Mario.

### DONATIONS TO TRUST FUND

Fellow trustees Keith Hayes and John Burrige join me to thank those separately acknowledged in treasurer Ted Monk's list. Particular mention is made of Ray Aitken's most generous recent donation of \$2000 which follows his earlier contributions. Ray is currently in hospital. We wish him an early return to home and good health.

#### Bob Smyth

**Ellis Equipment Kingaroy, Queensland**  
for delivery to Don Bosco Agricultural School,  
East Timor

1 model 69 rectangle hay baler New Holland \$2500; 1 model 453 sickle mower \$1,500; 1 Tonutti 4 wheel finger 3 point mount ground drive \$1050; 2 Lang and Walker single row corn pickers trail type \$2000; 1 Grassland Forage Chopper \$100; 1 Echo Peanut Chain type Peanut Puller and Cutter Tractor \$1200; 1 4 row Lilliston Rolling Cultivator \$5500; 1 Alfa Laval Hammer Mill \$1200; 4 4 metre x 50 metre rolls Silage Plastic \$380 -  
**Total: A\$15,430**

**From: Fiona Bricknell**  
**Senior Project Manager**  
**AESOP Canberra**

Dear Bob

I refer to your letter of 10 May and the request for the return to Fuiloro of Les and Verna Cranfield.

We are very supportive of continuing the assistance to the Don Bosco Schools and welcome the opportunity to remain involved. However, following discussions with the Indonesia desk officers in Foreign Affairs and AusAID, we believe the project should be delayed until at least early July when the UN civilian police are deployed. At present, Foreign Affairs has a travel warning in place for Timor and believe the situation to be very volatile and potentially very dangerous.

It is also our understanding that the Indonesian Embassy in Canberra is not issuing visas at present, except for essential travel. We believe this restriction will be lifted once the UN civilian police are in place.

I would be grateful if you would advise if you wish us to transmit this decision to Father Jose or if you would rather discuss it with him.

We all hope that the situation will improve quickly and we, along with all other concerned Australians, will be able to continue the assistance to the Timorese people.

### A Good Result:

Father Jose Vattaparambk, a 52 year old Indian Priest and a member of the Salesian Order made a quick trip to Australia in late

February and early March to buy farming machinery for the Salesian run Agricultural College in Los Palos in the eastern end of East Timor. Father Jose, a tall, lean man with a good sense of humour has been serving the people of East Timor since 1985. He stayed with Les and Verna Cranfield during his three week stay. On 23rd February he and Les flew to Brisbane and were met by Ralph and Sheila Conley who had driven in from Bribie Island. They took Father and Les for a drive to show them the sights of Brisbane and then to their motel which Ralph had kindly arranged. As they were going by bus to Kingaroy (Joe's country) the next day Ralph also covered ticketing arrangements. Father Jose and Les were very grateful for the Conleys' kindness. Things went according to Hoyle and they were able to get a good deal buying second hand machinery. They returned to Perth on the Friday and, after negotiating more successful deals buying more machinery Father Jose returned to Dili on 3rd March. Having a beer and a sandwich at the Careys' after a busy day, Father Jose said 'Your country is a paradise.' His brief visit enabled him to realise the vastness of our country and the great freedom we enjoy and take for granted. He told an amusing story, saying a few years ago he was on the phone talking to his brother in India. After a short time there was a click and a voice broke in saying 'speak Bahasa Indonesia.' He said he was flabbergasted, said a few words in Bahasa as directed and then carried on as before. He said his brother did not understand Indonesian so there was no point in speaking it. Can you imagine this happening in Australia?

Unfortunately, Trust Chairman Bob Smyth was in hospital during Father's visit

Father Jose wished to thank all members and people he met during his brief visit. He said he received cooperation and encouragement from everyone he met which included members of the Timorese. Special thanks go to Ralph and Sheila Conley, Keith Hayes, and our two wonderful ambassadors, Les and Verna Cranfield

Two container loads of machinery will be sent from Darwin to Dili in June.

**J. Carey**

### Sick Parade

**Ted Monk** has been on the sick list for over 3 months. He developed chronic diarrhoea which is still troubling him and which his specialist cannot stop. He has lost nearly 12kgs and has been in and out of Hollywood Hospital which is a big strain and worry for Peg and the family. Ted is bearing up well but the experience has knocked him about.

**Wilf March** is still having chemo treatment. He goes into Hollywood for five days for treatment and is home for 27 days. He has had four lots and will finish a course of six treatments in July. Wilf is bearing up well and would welcome a few calls at home on (08) 9330 3131 from his old sapper mates.

**Grace Turner** is back home after six weeks in Fremantle Hospital with a nervous complaint. Grace looks well in herself but as we know, nervous conditions are difficult to cope with. Clarrie was glad for them to be back in Mandurah. We hope Grace is soon back to her sparkling self.

**Peter Alexander**, one of the Unit's great survivors and former POW, Peter, who lost his wife some years ago, is suffering from Parkinsons disease which makes living alone hard going. Peter retains his great sense of humour, saying that after taking considerable time to set a mouse trap he finally succeeded in setting it and caught the mouse. His family want him to move to Kalgoorlie and stay with them but Peter likes his present home too much.

**Ray Aitken**. Shortly after leading our Anzac Day march Ray underwent major heart surgery in the Mount Hospital. It was a critical and risky operation but Ray came through OK and is making good progress. Ray, who has been a generous benefactor to the Timorese over many years wants to be around to see the East Timorese get their independence – as do we all.

**Don Turton**, while not the man he was, is making good progress from his stroke. He has regained his car licence and has taken on a short hair terrier 'Charlie' as a companion. Don, who was a generous host to many visitors to his Keysbrook property which he has now sold, is not short of helpers but still likes doing things his own way.

**Bill Rowan-Robinson** has made a remarkable recovery while **Henry Sproxtion and Jim McLaughlin** are getting by.

## Address Changes

Mrs F. Lucas  
Flora  
2/34 Duncan Street  
Huskisson 2540

Mrs M. Addison  
Mary  
35 Railway Parade  
Bankstown 2200

Mrs F. Campbell  
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## Trust Fund Donations

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**September Courier Deadline –  
Monday, August 23rd**