



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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

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President's Christmas Message

The Festive Season is practically upon us, another year has gone by and many of us have enjoyed watching the wonderful Olympics and Paralympics held in Sydney - the best of all time, when athletes and volunteers from all over the world showed us what good will and sportsmanship can achieve if we all work and play together.

Soon the joyful bells of Christmas will ring out their message of good will and we will all join together to wish each other good health and happiness.

This is also a time for us to thank our ladies and carers for their loyalty and support and for looking after those of us who are not enjoying the best of health. Best wishes to all for a Healthy, Happy, Prosperous New Year.

Dick Darrington

Vale Reg Griffiths. NX417 5

It is with much regret we advise of the death of Reg on 4th September last. Reg, our oldest member turned 93 on 6th June this year. He battled courageously against cancer over a long period but it beat him in the end. Reg was with the Australian Army Service Corps, which was attached to Sparrow Force's 2/40th Battalion. At the time of the Jap invasion of West Timor he was 2 I.C. of the field bakery and as he later said "When the Japs landed the bakery closed and I baked no more bread." However he had grown up in the bush and was used to handling guns and rifles and soon adapted to his new role as an infantryman. Reg was one of the lucky ones who made it to Beco, eventually crossing the border and joining up with the 2/2nd in March 1942. He spent the next nine months serving in D. Platoon under Don Turton whom he admired greatly. After returning to Australia Reg, who was then 35 years old, went on to serve in many units before his discharge in April 1944 through ill health. Reg always retained his interest in the Association, was a loyal and generous supporter of the Association and kept in touch with Don and Ralph Conley up until his death. In a letter to the Courier in September 1999 he tells of his walk over Tulleys Hill near Luton on his 92nd Birthday. Not a bad effort for an old digger! He was then living alone and doing his own cooking. He often walked near the Murrumbidgee River for exercise where the blue gums were growing and the birds singing. The Association offers sincere condolences to his daughter, Jenny and family. Lest we forget.

Jack Carey.

N.B. Jenny has kindly provided a resume of her father's life.

**Vale Reginald Clarence Griffiths.
6.6.1907 - 4.9.2000.**

Dad was born in Junee a son of a farming family. Aged 12 years Dad left school to seek his fortune. He travelled and worked his way to the Riverina where he tried his hand at share farming with his brother Hessel and his dad with growing rice. Dad had numerous farms during his life, with fruit, sheep and wheat, but it was when he had a menswear store in Leeton, N.S.W. was where he met Miss Hilda Beaupert. Dad married Hilda in 1934 and they spent 64 happy years together.

Dad enlisted on the 4.8.1941 and served until 6.4.1944. On enlistment Dad was a baker by trade and the first month of army life was spent in a bakery in Alice Springs after travelling there by the old "Ghan" train. He then went on to Darwin in the A.A.S.C. a member of Sparrow Force. Dad served in Timor from 8. 12.41-1 1 . 12.42 mainly with the 2/2nd Independent Company, being evacuated on the Dutch destroyer "Tjerk Hiddes" arriving in Darwin after 26 hours at sea being away 1 year 3 days. Dad served in several camps in Australia, including Birdum, Mt. Isa, Townsville, Brisbane and The Canungra Jungle School, before being discharged on the 6.4.1944 due to ill health. Dad was a member of the R.S.L. for 50 years. Returning to Leeton after the war, Dad set about earning a quid. My earliest memories are of a fruit farm in Yanco where Dad grew oranges and peaches, from there he had a soldiers settlers farm in Coleabally with sheep and wheat. Dad eventually sold this farm and retired in Leeton. As time marched on Dad took care of Mum when she had continuous strokes until her death in 1998. This year Dad had the biggest battle to fight, cancer. The disease claimed my dad on the 4.9.2000. Dad fought with all the courage and determination he had always portrayed throughout his life in all areas that he held dear. My fondest memory of Dad will always be watching him march each Anzac Day with his mates. Dad, you are now in Glory with your mates, Mum, and your family, now is the time for rest. At peace.

Your loving daughter, Jenny.

It is with much regret we advise of the passing of the following ladies: Mrs Peggy McPhee, Queensland, Widow of Ian Mrs Pat Giles, W.A., Widow of Bernie Mrs Betty McDonald, W.A., Widow of Bob Mrs Maizie Clayton, W.A., Sister of the late Dick McKenzie.

All were loyal supporters of the Association.

The Association extends deepest sympathy to the families of the bereaved.

J. Carey.

Dear Len,

Enclosed is eulogy for our dad Ron Trengove who passed away in July.

For those who did not know, dad moved up here to Newcastle in October last year to be near myself and Debbie (my wife). It was good for us all in that he could be closer to us and my brother Garth who now lives on the NSW North Coast.

During this time his sight deteriorated somewhat and looking after himself was becoming more difficult despite the extra assistance he was receiving. In late May he fell and broke his wrist and this put him in hospital for four weeks.

From there he was transferred to Hamilton Nursing Home where he was fairly comfortable and even quite chirpy for a while being surrounded by mostly female patients and staff.

Unfortunately the secondary tumours from the prostate cancer and a persistent pneumonia finally took their toll on 22 July and he passed away at 12.30 in the night.

He did not wish for a funeral but in lieu of that he requested people make a donation to cancer research through the Cancer Foundation and that his ashes be spread on the sea.

Myself, my brother and my wife cast his ashes on Tuesday 25 July on a very balmy afternoon several kilometres off Newcastle. Conditions were near perfect with a flat sea and moderate offshore breeze in bright sunny conditions. His ashes created a quite spectacular luminescent plume as they sank and spread in the clear blue ocean beneath our drifting boat. Just as this was finishing a RAAF Hornet fighter did a low level pass directly overhead. We thought this very apt for an ex-commando and wondered how they knew of the occasion. Dad would have been very pleased with the whole show and it helped ease our sadness of the past few days.

We send you best wishes on his behalf and enclose a donation for the Courier.

Yours sincerely,

Shane and Garth Trengove.

Ronald Claude Trengove 24.3.1920 - 22.7.2000.

Dad arrived in Australia from England when he was 8 years old. He never considered himself a 'Pom' and eschewed the British and royalty alike with considerable passion. He felt Australia

should have its own flag, anthem and independent self image from as far back as we can remember.

This was just one of the many strong views Dad had on a very wide range of social and political issues. He expounded these frequently at the dinner table or gatherings of friends and family. Never reticent to expound his views this could subdue many a gathering when these issues were raised. As youngsters this could leave us quite perplexed as to "what is he going on about?". It wasn't until much later that the light began to appear for us that on many of these issues Dad was ahead of his time as well considerably away from the mainstream of popular views. This perhaps was Dad's credo, 'Dare to be Different'.

Dad certainly was quite different from just about any of his peers that we can remember. From our time growing up and beyond his value system was very strongly based on honesty, integrity and quality.

To be honest in your dealings with other people in all facets of life was a strong requirement for Dad. Woe betide any salesman or politician who misled him face to face. A very pointed request for honest dealing would then ensue. He also hated any kind of cheating in sport and was quite disgusted at the way sport changed as commercialisation set in from the 70's onwards.

Dad had a real thing for doing a quality job and buying quality goods. Just about everything we owned or was built for us had to be of a high standard. Because of this we had a different house, car, appliances and even holidays when compared to our friends and relatives. If the average things were not good enough for Dad then he sought out the better ones within the limit of the family budget. We can look back and see how mum and dad must have worked very hard to obtain the extra money to have all of these things for us.

His wish to live somewhere special near the sea led him to Mona Vale where those who knew it, saw how good a place it was. This meant that we had a very special place to grow up in. We spent a lot of time as kids looking out to sea for 'our ship to come in'. That 'ship never came in, but in many other ways our ship had already come in. This place providing us with such a great environment and many good friends and neighbours to grow up with on the northern beaches of Sydney.

Dad spent a lot of his spare time building. Mostly this was on our house but he also found time to help build our grandmother's family weekender at Jervis Bay, the Sydney County Council ski lodge at Perisher Valley and the Mona Vale Scout Hall. All of these projects provided opportunities to visit other places and provide many lasting memories of weekend and holiday trips away.

Dad's time in Timor was life changing for him as war service was for so many others. Most notably it made him eternally grateful to the Timorese for saving his life and many others through the privations the natives themselves had to endure. We grew up hearing more about Timor than anyone else we ever knew until it came to prominence in 1975. Because of his interest we were fortunate enough to go there in 1995 and get some idea of what the geography and the people were like. Not many Australians have had this exposure to Timor and probably don't relate to Timor the way people descended from 2/2 parents do.

Dad loved Mum enormously and couldn't do enough for her. They did many wonderful things together and she enjoyed the 2/2 Safaris as much as Dad did. He missed her terribly when she passed away last year and this probably contributed to his fairly short time after her as much as any of his ailments.

We can be thankful that despite his foibles Dad gave us the best life he could and tried extremely hard to provide the best for us in all respects. This is a lasting legacy and we are very grateful for all that he did for us. Thanks

Dad, may you rest in peace and take comfort that we know how much you did for us .

Shane and Garth Trengove.

Vale Ron Andrews.

We regret to advise that Ron passed away on the 23rd September last. Ron took ill suddenly on the Thursday suffering severe abdominal pains caused by an obstruction of the bowel and died in the Newcastle Hospital on the Saturday morning two days later. It came as a great shock to his family and friends as up until then he had been a very fit man for his 85 years. Ron was born in Lithgow, N.S.W. on the 5th April, 1915. As a youth he took up bike riding. The hilly surrounds, tough on bike riders proved no trouble and Ron ended up a top class professional rider

winning his share of races. He joined the 2/2nd in New Guinea as a signaller, having learnt his craft at the old Marconi Institute in Sydney. Along with others he had been posted to the 2/7th Squadron who we were to relieve. While we awaited transport from Port Moresby, the Bull accepted the group into the 2/2nd to build it up to full strength. When in Moresby Ron and others were detailed each day to load the D.C.3s with supplies and take part in the supply drops. What a "hairy" experience it must have been to push loads out over the drop zones with no safety harness! Ron was a good sig. and soon fitted in well with the more seasoned campaigners like Happy Greenhalgh, Harry Botterill and Co. He was nicknamed "Speed" for reasons best known to his section. After his discharge in 1946 Ron attended the Avondale College run by the 7th Day Adventists at Cooranbong, south west of Newcastle. This town is the main centre of the Adventists in N.S.W. and has a large breakfast cereal producing plant, a college, museum and aviation school. and other facilities is very well run. He then moved to their factory at Lewisham working there for a time. Later he joined the N.S.Wales Railways and ended his days at their Cardiff workshop at Newcastle.

Ron married Eileen Perry late in life and they had a daughter Carol. He continued with his cycling and walking and retained his fitness to the end. He was a devout 7th Day Adventist and a man of high principles. Ron was a good supporter of the Association and attended a number of our safaris. He was a bird lover and kept aviaries of canaries and finches. A miniature corgi was another favourite pet. Ron was also a keen dancer and enjoyed dancing in competitions. Quiet and unassuming, he was an interesting man to talk to when he loosened up. He had the joyful experience of holding his grandchild Reiley who was born not long before he passed on. In a letter which appeared in the June Courier he closed by saying "I am looking forward to seeing you again, down by the Murray/Darling in the sweet bye & bye." It was not to be. The good Lord claimed him thus ending the life of a fine Christian man.

Harry Handicott and Snow Went attended Ron's burial service at the Adventist's cemetery at Cooranbong on the 26th September and laid a nice Waratah wreath on our behalf. The Association extends its deepest sympathy to Eileen, Carol and family. Lest We Forget.

A.Luby, J. Carey

IN LOVING MEMORY OF JOHN HARTLEY.

To our friends of the 2/2nd. I am writing to express my thanks for the kindness of our many friends and relatives who shared our deep sorrow, gave us comfort and sustained us in the loss of our beloved John Hartley.

I always knew that my husband John was a special man who worked hard throughout his life to take care of his family and contributed his skills to the growth of our country Australia. His passing is not merely a loss to us, his wife and children, but a loss to all who knew him throughout his 78 years.

The pain of losing him is so great and we miss him so much, but we also know that his last years were filled with his own terrible pain from serious illness, and we try to accept that he is finally at rest and free of his own suffering.

We shall never forget the messages of comfort and support received from all over Australia from family members, John's comrades-in-arms, the many friends we have had the privilege of knowing through our years in Cabramatta and Fairfield and the many others who share our grief. So many people have expressed their genuine sympathies in so many ways - through their consoling messages, their attendance at John's funeral and burial and at the luncheon held afterwards to share memories together. I take comfort in knowing that John was a good man who is now at peace with God and that he was also a special man who had many, many friends who also cherish his memory.

I shall always remember your friendship and kindness and I hope you will stay in touch with the Hartley family.

The men of the 2/2 meant so much to John throughout his life.

Maria Hartley and family.

LEST WE FORGET

A. Mitchell, 2/35 Canberra Tce, Caloundra 4551

Dear Jack & Delys, I'm writing to ask if you could send me a plaque of the old Unit as I would like to donate one to the Caloundra RSL Branch. If one is available please tell me what it will cost.

I'm having trouble writing for I fell over again and broke a blood vessel in my left eye and I have glaucoma which makes it terribly hard to see, even with glasses it is no good.

Enclosed is a cheque towards the Courier. Now that I've told you a little about myself, how are you and all the members. In the last Courier I noticed three members have passed on. As its hard for me to put words to paper I will close, wishing you all our kindest regards from Joan and Allan .

J.P. Kenneally, 28 Wilkins St., Yagoona 2199.

The Editor, All this being done in a hurry at the tail end of my life, I'm inundated with social engagements. I'll end up being a butterfly or an alcoholic. Family clan gathering yesterday when the northern reaches branch rubbed shoulders with the not quite poverty stricken western branch. Unfortunately it didn't last long enough and we just failed to solve all the world's problems before wending our way to our tribal lands. There must have been a few rebellions overnight because I picked up this morning's paper and the world was back where it was 24 hours previously.

Nora and I attended the Commemoration Mass for the victims of the Dili Massacre, November 12th 1991 at St. Mary's Cathedral yesterday. The magnificent Timorese choir, Hananu (Timor Sings) provided the singing of the appropriate responses. It was very emotionl for many members of the choir, as many had family, friends and in one case a brother killed that day.

Next Sunday I will be attending St. Patrick's old boys reunion Mass at St. Patrick's Church in the Rocks, followed by a long, long breakfast at the Catholic Club. There will be eight or so of us who went to school at St. Pats in the 1920's.

One has to be careful with the lies when recounting deeds of "Deringo Do", all have good memories and, having been born, bred and raised in the Rocks and Millers Point, they are quite blunt in their corrections.

All our family are well, kept busy in their various vocations. We should all be in the one area, round about the Christmas festivities, probably somewhere on the south coast.

Speaking of Christmas, may all our members and their families have a joyful and contented Noel, and may the new century treat all kindly and bless us with reasonable good health, after all it is many, many decades ago since we were wild and woolly youngsters

I am enclosing a cutting from the N.S.W. Commando News written by Alan Luby. Alan travelled to the Hobart reunion with Ron 'Speed' Andrews. He must have spoken more about his life on that trip than in all his 84 years, and fortunately for us, otherwise we would have known very little about one of the quietest men I ever knew. Ironically, I knew him way back in the 1930s, only on a nodding acquaintance. I would see him at various dance venues in the Lower North Shore. He kept to himself. He was a superb dancer, in an age of great dancers, modern, ballroom or old time, it was all one to Ron. He spoke little, but all we young bucks were green with envy. The girls were literally queued up to dance with him. He was first class in an era when dancing involved grace of movement and rhythm, not just standing on the one spot wagging your bum and shuffling your feet.

Another to pass on was Ray Cole who was dead and buried before we knew about it. It was a private funeral. The last time I saw Ray was almost two years ago at a meeting with Bishop Belo at the former customs house in Circular Quay. His sight was failing badly then. Ray was content to just sit and listen, his appearance as always most impressive. I am sure the members of "C" Platoon will have more knowledge of Ray than I.

I'm off. Good fortune and good health along your various roads.

Paddy Kenneally

G. Greenhalgh, Maclean 2463

Dear Len. The night of Melbourne Cup day and my only betting day of the year. Just as well cos I'm a no hoper punter. Got five back from an outlay of fifty. You've got to keep the TAB going. It was good to have a chat with you on my visit west. I hope you are still getting better each day. I also had a chat with Don May. Last year was the first time I had seen Don since 1945. (That was at Mick Morgan's funeral). I saw Percy McPhee this time for the first time in 55 years. Going well and still working, for himself of course, that's why he doesn't knock off I guess. It was wonderful to see him after all those years. Don Turton took me to see him and Verna and Les Cranfield. We didn't have a lot of time as we had arranged to have lunch with Verna Bingham at Safety Bay. We all enjoyed a lovely Chinese meal

there.

Harry Sproxton had an eye op. while I was over and we had some fun reminding each other of the times to put drops in his eye. Six times a day for four days, then four times a day. It would be terrible trying to do it on your own. Harry is picking up pretty well. Keith and Val. called - they are a nice couple and seem to be in remarkably good health. Ted Cholerton has had a cancer removed from his bowel and he has got an all clear from his doctors. Ted will be 85 on the 24th November so we all hope you see many more birthdays mate. Russ Blanch is still having trouble with his eyes and also having slight turns which his doctors appear to be having difficulty to diagnose. Is still gardening but toning it down a bit. Ken and Edith Jones both well and looking forward to visiting Peter and Pat Campbell at Esperance. Leaving on 16th November and believe there and back by the time you read this in the Courier hopefully. Had a yarn with Eric Herd. He and Lorraine both well and better punters than I am. They backed Brewl Jack and Beryl Steen both well. Jack much better and tells me he can get out into the garden now. They are looking forward to a spot of fishing at Iluka. Must be serious cos a little bird told me he's borrowing Blanchies yabby pump. Tom and Jean Yates are well. I have the utmost difficulty catching them on the phone. I'm OK. Had a good trip west and now preparing to go to Melbourne for a few days at Christmas.

To all a healthy Christmas and New Year. Regards, Happy.

Mrs M.C. Monk, 200 Olsens Rd., Poowong East 3988

Dear 2/2 Friends, Well, Christmas will soon be here so its that time again when we all get busy with our pens and send greetings and best wishes in all directions. We have had a very busy and interesting year and Don has enjoyed getting to know a lot of Ken's wonderful mates, their wives and families. The Safari in Hobart was great from the weather to the company and thanks go to Bert and Billie Price and crew who organised everything so well.

Our thoughts go to all those who have lost loved ones during the year but time catches up with us all.

Don and I had a wonderful trip to the sunny west

in September. We drove across and it is a great experience. Left home on the morning of September 10th and arrived at Don's grand daughter's in Como at 5pm on the 13th. Nikki is a corporal in the army and since we left Perth she has gone to Timor for at least six months. We enjoyed visiting quite a number of 2/2nd members and even were in Mandurah for a meeting which was nice. We took it leisurely coming home and after staying with the Langridges at Mandurah, the Smyths at Busselton and the Campbells at Esperance, we got to Madura for the first overnight and through to Streaky Bay after Ceduna and around the coast via Port Lincoln, Whyalla etc. to Port Augusta, then out through the hills into the wheat country of South Australia, then via the Barossa Valley over the Murray at Mannum and called on relatives in Victoria's western district, and home. We were away 42 weeks and enjoyed it all.

It is wet here, countryside looks wonderful but we all yearn for some sunshine and warmth so as harvesting can get under way. Don and I thank everyone again for their hospitality and we wish all members everywhere the Season's Greetings.

With our best wishes to all, Margaret Monk and Don Thomson.

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

Dear Jack, Iris is writing this note for me. I have been sick in the Bunbury Regional Hospital and am now back in the Bridgetown Hospital. Bernie and Babs Langridge called in to see me in Bunbury and have been keeping in touch with Iris.

Am enclosing a cheque, donation for the Courier and \$725 for the Timor Trust Fund

Yours faithfully, Iris.

C. Andrew, 15 Ironbark Rd., Caloundra 4551.

Dear Jack, Hoping this finds everybody as healthy as possible, unfortunately in diminishing numbers. Enclosed is a donation for the Courier and \$50 for the Timor Trust Fund.

All the best. Regards, Col.

Mrs N. Timms, 4/48 Lockhart St., Como 6152

Dear Jack, Enclosed is a donation for the Courier. I have a friend at Mandurah and I may try to attend the Christmas luncheon. Life is lonely without George (Pat) but I've realised I have to get on with the living. I am well except that my walking is slow.

Sincerely, Nancy.

Mr. J. Steen, 37 Chateau St., Thornlands 4164

Jack, Herewith cheque for Courier. Sorry I have been so long in forwarding it, and the only excuse I can offer is that I have not been well for some time but am slowly picking up and hope the coming year is better.

We wish all members, wives and families a very happy Christmas and may the coming years be kind to you all.

Best wishes, Beryl and Jack.

Mrs J. Scott, 213 Tranby Units, Rowethorpe, Bentley 6102

Dear Mr Carey, Enclosed is a donation towards the Courier. I appreciate receiving it regularly and especially reading of the various projects that the 2/2 have become involved in with regard to East Timor. I do wish good health to all members.

Yours sincerely, Joan.

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

Dear Jack, Its high time I wrote. Many have written praising Bert Price for his Hobart Safari so I must add ours. We are looking forward to Mildura - haven't been there so here's hoping. Snow Went and I attended Ron Trengove's funeral and on 27 September we attended the funeral of one of our Sigs, Ron (Speed) Andrews. He got sick on the Thursday and passed away on the Saturday. We took a Double Diamond wreath and card sent by the Association.

Bill Walsh has seen the heart doctor who suggests a bypass. Will keep you posted. Joyce Smith is going along steady. Like most of us glad the winter is over.

Amyce and I are going north on 11 October, one son three hours S.W. of Gove in Arnhem Land,

another in Townsville and daughter in Ipswich between Brisbane and Toowoomba. They want to know when we are shifting up.

We wish all a happy Christmas and a healthy 2001, and a big thanks to the Courier staff.

Enclosing a cheque, half Courier, half Timor fund.

Regards to all, Amyce and Harry.

T. Adams, 7/40 Glen Rd, Toowong 4066

Dear Len, When I was speaking to Mary McKenzie to wish her well on her birthday that I learned you were in hospital, so I phoned Betty immediately to hear you were due home that day. I hope you are now fully recovered - you have had a bad time. Incidentally, Mary and I celebrate our birthdays on the same day and reckon 1918 was a vintage year!! You and your team do a terrific job with the Courier. I intended writing after receiving Vol. 134 and now have Vol. 135. Each issue seems to me to be more interesting than the last and I congratulate you all most sincerely. We would not be able to keep in touch personally with everyone and it is just wonderful to read all the letters and snippets about one and all.

You will be pleased to hear Iris is no longer confined to a wheel chair and gets around using a walker. For the first time in years we were able to attend our get together in August and have the 11 December ringed in our diary for the Christmas function. It was good seeing everyone and they made Iris so welcome. There are no friends like old friends. Through you I would like to send regards and best wishes to all who are having a tough time healthwise. Would you please direct the enclosed donation to whatever area you think needs it. Also enclosed is a cutting entitled 'A Grandmother in Traffic' which I found amusing.

Mrs Peggy McPhee passed away recently. Her husband was the late Dr. Ian McPhee.

Regards, "Basher"

T.J. Pulleine, 23 Cook Crescent, Young 2594

Dear Jack, Just a short note. I'm still kicking, having good and bad days. It's great to see the Timorese taking part in the Olympics. It's wonderful to see Project Timor being so successful. There are some wonderful people

still left in the world, God bless them. Am enclosing a donation - put it where it is needed most.

Yours sincerely, Tom

The Shannons, 319 Brisbane St., Launceston 7250

Please find enclosed a donation to the 2/2 Commando Courier. Thank you for sending it to me. I know Dad, Murv. Murphy, held very dear the 2/2.

Regards, Rosie Shannon (nee Murphy)

Mrs H. Mumme, 1 Centella Circle, Canning Vale 6155, phone 9456 1126.

Dear Sir, I am writing to notify my change of address, as above. Also enclosed is donation for the Courier.

Yours sincerely, Helen Mumme.

M.I. Lindsay, 3 Roper St., Vincentia 2540

Dear Jack, Enclosed donation for Courier. I dislike writing. Remember me to all that are left. All the best, Mal. NB Mal was a Bren gunner in 9 Section and a good one at that.

G. Smith, 37 Shaw Crescent, Muswellbrook 2333.

Dear Jack, The year has got away so quickly it will soon be Christmas again. Please find enclosed our cheque toward the Courier which we both look forward to receiving. Best regards to all, George

K. & R. Hanson, 50 Bunya St., Noranda 6062

Dear Delys & Jack, Please find enclosed our cheque for the Courier. We have heard from Doug and he sent us a copy of his story from the local paper which I thought you may be interested in reading.

We are proud grandparents again to another boy, Jack Thomas, to our daughter Julie and Harry in Geraldton in July so I had a couple of weeks

up there looking after Dylan. They are such a joy. Now we are getting ready for our youngest son Ian and Meaghan getting married on 11.11.00.

Hope this finds you all in good health. Love, Kay & Roy.

A. & W Thomson, P0 Box 145 Capel 6271

Dear Jack, Thought it about time we put pen to paper and let you know we are still in the land of the living. Enclosed is a donation for the Association. Alex and I are keeping fairly well, just a few problems here and there. Alex knees give him a bit of pain which I suppose most have in old age. Alex will be 80 next July.

We are still living at Peppermint Grove Beach, the weather has been a bit rough at times this winter but lovely Spring weather now. Give our regards to all members. Yours sincerely Alex & Wyn.

E.A. Clayton, 2 Knapton St., Busselton 6280.

Just a note to advise you that my wife Maizie passed away on the 29th September. She has been receiving the Courier from you for some time, which she always enjoyed reading. I would like you to cancel the journal but I would sincerely like to thank you all for giving her that interest in her brother's Association. Her brother was Dick McKenzie. I am enclosing a donation for the 2/2nd Association. Yours sincerely, Ernie Clayton.

Mrs B. Craig, P.O. Box 49, Bethanga 3691.

Dear Jack,

I thought it was time I wrote to let you know where I am now living. Phillip sold my house at Young and his house at Wodonga and bought a home in Bethanga. The home has a lovely Unit (Granny's Flat) which is now my home. Bethanga is a quiet, friendly village about 30 minutes drive from Wodonga and we all like it.

I have given up teaching dancing and am now involved with the local church. We have a nice store and a Post Office and my daily walk to get the paper is good exercise for me. Lorraine runs the book shop at the University so is always busy. Phillip is part time with the Army. He has boats

and he and his friends go fishing and we all like fish.

It is great to see the Hume Weir full of water after being so low for four years.

At present I'm with Janette, Stan and family and will soon be going to Joan Fenwick in Canberra when I will have a check up at the Canberra Hospital.

I hope everyone is well, every good wish to you all.

Sincerely, Betty

Mr. K. Jones, Gibrigil, Barraba 2347

Dear Jack, Enclosed is a donation.

On our return from Tasmania my wife Edith had a mammogram and was diagnosed with breast cancer, which we could have done without, consequently we spent six weeks in Brisbane with Edith having radiotherapy.

While she was having treatment my right knee collapsed so I decided to have a complete new artificial knee put in, that was done on August 30, and I can now walk quite normally and ride my exercise bike, it is quite remarkable what the medical profession can do these days.

Have been talking to Happy Greenhalgh recently and he is well and going to the West soon.

Well, Jack, haven't any more news. Hope things are going well for all. Yours sincerely, Ken Jones

R. Archer, 3/36 Soudan St., Toowong 4066.

Dear Len, Thought members might be interested in a recent newspaper write-up on our one and only SAM. As one of our mates put it, our Sam doesn't make any money out of these resales at high prices, but perhaps, knowing Sam, he's slipped a few of his unsold paintings in to add to the exhibition! He must be rushed with his Queensland visits because we don't seem to hear or see him.

We had a really beaut Unit barbecue recently. The numbers were just about a record, but am sure Ralph will give you a full report.

Cheers and best wishes to all members of our large Association Family.

Yours sincerely, Ron.

Extract from The Courier Mail: Anyone who takes a close look at the history of Australian art must be convinced that Sam Fullbrook shouldn't exist.

A lyrical colourist seems a most unlikely member of the top rank of Australian painters, dominated as it is by macho expressionists like Drysdale, Nolan, Percival, Tucker and Boyd. Fullbrook's gentle childlike pictures also seem a strange output for a man whose CV ranges from being a World War II Commando, wharfie, cane cutter, stockman, miner and timber getter. But the pictures exist to prove Fullbrook's status, and a selection of them covering 50 years is on show at the Philip Bacon Galleries.

Fullbrook was born in Sydney in 1922, and during war service in New Guinea discovered reading and painting through Army Adult Education. After the War he studied art with William Dargie at the National Gallery of Victoria School under a servicemens training scheme. Then began a solid painting apprenticeship, in the city and as far away as Pilbara, Western Australia, and the development of a style that has been described as "haiku like". Fullbrook approaches all his subjects, whether the figure, landscape, still life or animals, in a deceptively simple way. In fact, it is highly complex.

He says he hopes to combine in his work tenderness, sweetness, charm, clarity, succinctness, love, passion and religion. His strength lies in a mastery of colour and brushwork, a technique that is applied effortlessly.

he leaned out of his window and screamed "For the love of God! Go! Go! Jesus Christ! Go!" "What an exuberant cheer leader he was for Jesus!

Everyone started honking. I just leaned out of my window and started waving and smiling at all these loving people. I even honked my horn a few times to share in the celebration. There must have been a man from Florida back there because I heard him yelling something about a "sunny beach". I saw another man waving in a funny way with only his middle finger stuck up in the air. I asked my teenage grandson in the back seat what that meant. He said it was probably a Hawaiian good luck sign or something. I've never met anyone from Hawaii so I leaned out of the window and gave the good luck sign back. My grandson burst out laughing even he was enjoying this religious experience! A couple of people were so caught up in the joy of the moment they got out of their cars and started walking towards me. I bet they wanted to pray or ask what church I attended, but this was when I noticed that the light had changed so I waved to all my sisters and brothers, grinned and drove on through the intersection. I noticed that I was the only car that got through the intersection before the light changed again. I felt sad that I had to leave them after all the love we had shared so I slowed the car down, leaned out of the window and gave them all the Hawaiian good luck sign one last time as I drove away. Praise the Lord for such wonderful folks.
Love, Grandma

LETTER FROM GRANDMA:

The other day I went to a local Christian bookshop and saw a "Honk if you Love Jesus" bumper sticker. I was feeling particularly sassy that day because I had just come from a thrilling choir performance followed by a thunderous prayer meeting, so I bought the sticker and put it on my bumper. Boy! Am I glad I did! What an uplifting experience followed! I was stopped at a red light at a busy intersection, just lost in thought about the Lord and how good He is...I didn't notice that the light had changed.

It is a good thing someone else loves Jesus because if he hadn't honked I'd never have noticed the lights had changed. I found LOTS of people love Jesus. While I was sitting there a man behind started honking like crazy and then

GERALDTON NEWS:

Paddy Kenneally's reference in the last Courier to WWI having begun on 4/8/1914 brought to mind one of the latest additions to our wonderful display of memorabilia at Birdwood House. It's a well preserved six penny souvenir program containing the words and music of the song "I've a Home in West Australia" that was sung at Blackboy army training camp and at patriotic functions in WWI. Many soldiers from Geraldton and other parts of the Midwest region would have been among those to sing the song, including 20 year old Roy Thompson of Geraldton who paid the supreme sacrifice on 28/4/1915, 3 days after he and brother Claude of the 11th Bn. landed at Gallipoli. There is a constant reminder

of this sacrifice through the use of Roy's Gallipoli bugle on Anzac Day and at other commemorative services, as a result of the generosity of his nephew, RSL Treasurer Graeme Perham. My wife Joan said her mother used to sing that song because she had a special interest in WWI, her 4 brothers, Harry, Steve, Lou and Bob McGlinn and her father, James McGlinn all served in the war and they all came home.

I'm sure you were all delighted to hear that the RSL's 2000 Anzac Peace Prize was won by the new Army Chief Lt.General Peter Cosgrove AC MC in recognition of his outstanding contribution as Commander of the International Force for East Timor. It was presented by WA's new Governor, Geraldton born Lt.-General John Sanderson AC, after officially opening the 85th National Congress at Government House Ball Room. The Congress wants the Federal Government to introduce a National Service scheme for all Australians over 18, with no exemptions and to earmark at least an additional 1 billion dollars in the Defence Budget for 2000-2002 and build in a gradual rise over the following years. It will also urge all levels of government to support and encourage the building of the Melbourne to Darwin rail link, both for the development of Inland Australia and the defence of the nation. It also supports the concept of an Australian Coastguard system, and calls on the Federal Government to take immediate steps to deport all illegal boat people to their own countries, confiscating any assets they have towards compensation for expenses incurred.

Our RSL President, Charlie Britt, was responsible for a motion carried in WA and nationally, supporting Geraldton RSL in the lobbying of State and Federal governments to have the section of North-West Coastal Highway between Geraldton and Carnarvon renamed HMAS Sydney 11 Highway. The object is to perpetuate the memory of the 645 crew members of the "Sydney" who lost their lives on 19/11/41, somewhere off this section of the WA coast, following an engagement with the German raider "Kormoran" which had been disguised. Such a development will also have a strong association with Geraldton plans for a November 2001 opening of a comprehensive HMAS Sydney 11 memorial project on Mt. Scott on the 60th anniversary of Australia's greatest maritime disaster. In addition, State Executive approved of a design Geraldton RSL President Charlie

Britt, for a commemorative plaque to be installed at the undercroft of the WA War Memorial in Kings Park, honouring the "Sydney" and its crew.

I would like to congratulate Eric Weller on his initiative which, as a result of a chat with a neighbour concerning the grim situation in East Timor, was delighted to learn that two container loads of fishing gear donated by local fishermen had been sent to Timor under the United Nations Fisheries project to educate the Timorese in good fishing practices. The "Geraldton Guardian" newspaper company is also helping the Timorese by providing computers and other equipment to help the newspaper company whose property was considerably damaged. I can't help thinking that such gestures are inspired by the great contribution by the 2/2nd Commando Association and its dedicated workers to whom I say: "We salute you".

Peter Barden

Mrs D.B. Cole, 23 Yarabah Ave. Gordon 2072

Dear Jack, Many thanks for your card and kind words on behalf of the 2/2nd Commando Association. It is so sad that Ray has gone but it was the right time. I would like him to be remembered with joy and laughter. With this he would be pleased.

Regards, Diana

PO Box 556,
Bribie Island Queensland 4507

9.11.00

Dear Len,

Greetings to all. Not a lot to report this time because like all States we are getting a little thin on the ground! Our last barbeque meeting at North Pine Dam on 29th August was fairly well attended. It was great to see Tony and Iris Adams who had not been well for some time. Iris looked her old self and enjoyed being with us for the day.

Those present included: Ron Archer, Paddy Wilby, Tony and Iris Adams, Margaret Hooper, Pat Barnier, Col and Jeanette Andrew, Jack and Beryl Steen, their friends John and Margaret Allen, Bettye and George Coulson now both in much better health, Joan Stanley and lovely

daughter Helen off duty from her usual high flying days with Qantas, and Sheila and me.

The day was fine and the company in good spirits. We remembered those unfortunately not with us and passed on news from other areas which comes to us from fellows like Happy Greenhalgh and Alan Luby. Harry Handicott was recently in Queensland and sorry to say Sheila and I were not home when he rang. He is a great guy..

Leith Cooper and I have had several telephone chats about the proposed Mildura Safari. Leith has done some preparatory work on accommodation and things to do in the area. He has not been able to make a planned trip with Bluey Bone due illness of both parties, but expects to resume efforts in January/February. If possible I may make a visit with them at a later date.

Our Xmas get together will be on 11 th December at the Bribie Island Surf Club restaurant the same venue as last year. Nothing parochial about this it is because they looked after us so well .Ron Archer has advised that Margaret Gibson and her daughter will be attending again and that is great news.

News from Timor in the last issue of the Courier was very interesting particularly the story of the problems caused by flooding rains and the ingenious ways Les Cranfield and his helpers overcame their difficulties.

Best wishes to all and a speedy return to good health to those who are having a hard time .

Warmest regards.

Ralph Conley

PRESIDENTS ADDRESS.

51st Commemoration Service, Lovekin Drive, Kings Park 19th Nov 2000

Today's service, our 51st the last of the 20th century, is a time of reflection. For a brief period we are asked to pause and consider the true significance of this occasion. It brings to mind events of nearly six decades ago when as young men, with our country in a state of war, we answered the call, as did thousands of other young men and women, to defend Australia.

Our unit the 2/2nd Independent Company, a small group of some 300 men, formed in July 1941, faced its real first test early in 1942 in the

Timor Campaign. Against almost insurmountable odds and great hardship the Company performed very creditably and young men died. Today they rest in war cemeteries in Ambon, Indonesia and Adelaide River, Australia. On its return to Australia in December 1942 the company reformed to become the 2/2nd Commando Squadron and within six months was back on active service in New Guinea. Here in rugged conditions and further hardships, the squadron again performed creditably and more young died. Their remains rest in the Lae Cemetery in New Guinea. Thankfully our final campaign in New Britain saw the end of nearly 4 ears of bitter conflict against a cruel and fanatical enemy.

Today as we have done for the past 50 years, we remember, with great affection and pride the young men, our former comrades who paid the supreme sacrifice. As Australians we have always enjoyed our freedom. We regard it as a priceless gift worth defending even with our lives. The monuments and resting places to our fallen in many foreign lands and throughout the length and breadth of this great continent bears testimony to this.

In this peaceful honour avenue, at the foot of each of these elegant sugar gum trees, is a plaque bearing the name of a young man of the 2/2nd who never returned. We may gather some solace in knowing that whilst Kings Park remains Kings Park these plaques will be here in perpetuity. Years from now after we have moved on people will pass this way, pause, read the plaques and reflect on the sacrifices made by these young Australians long ago. They will never be forgotten. We offer our condolences to the relatives of the fallen. We also honour the 350 members who have passed on since World War II. They were all fine Australians, many of whom played an important part in the setting up and running of this Association. We remember them too, with great affection and pride. Our condolences are extended to their loved ones of whom some are present today.

The East Timorese people have had their independence for a little over a year. They are at last beginning to enjoy their new freedom. Given time the memories of the great injustices they endured under 24 years of Indonesian rule will gradually fade away. A tremendous amount of hard work needs to be done before these good people attain a better quality of life but it will come. The voluntary help given by the people in all walks of life e.g. trade unions, schools, church

groups, sporting bodies, business houses etc and individual citizens has been amazing. Container load after container load of all descriptions of goods, clothes, books, toys, farm equipment, boats, sporting gear, medical supplies, foodstuffs, and it goes on and on have been donated. The generosity of our people is an indication of the special feeling they hold for the people of East Timor. The wonderful reception given to the handful of East Timorese who proudly represented their country at the Olympic Games opening ceremony and especially that given to the lone handicapped Timorese at the Paralympic Games was a heart warming experience to witness.

A tribute should be paid to the Australian Army personnel for the outstanding job they have done since their arrival in East Timor in September 1999. Their presence has given the people a great morale boost. Their kindness to the children in particular and friendly approach to the people in general is a credit to them. They are continuing to do a first class job ; in the dangerous border area. As soldiers they are as good as they come. We salute them.

The Trust Fund Committee, now in its ninth year, continues its good work assisting Agricultural School of some 960 students in the Lospalos area, Bob Smyth, John Burrige and Keith Hayes are to be commended for their efforts over a long period. Les Cranfield and Lindsay Bennett, a former S.A.S. member, also made a worthwhile contribution during the past year and we thank them for that. A highlight of the year was the trip by six veterans, Paddy, Ray, Bob, Tom, Keith and John along with Bart for the rededication of the memorial at Fatunaba in April. All agreed it was an unforgettable experience.

The first of January 2001 will mark the dawn of the 21st century and beginning of the 3rd millennium. These events will be celebrated world wide by its six billion people. As veterans we can expect to see very little of the new century. If the progress of mankind in this century is any criteria then the present and future generations are in for exciting times in their lifetime. Not that life will be without problems. They always exist. We sometimes wonder if the peoples of this planet will ever live in peace in harmony together,. The good Lord's words "Blessed are the peacemakers, they shall be counted the children of God," seems to have fallen on deaf ears. We despair at time of the

terrible things that go on around us. The growing gap between the haves and the have nots is a concern for many fair minded citizens. Maybe those that have more than they need could be a little more charitable to those in need of more. It's worth thinking about. As elderly citizens we never cease to worry about the future of our offspring. How they will fare when we are gone and will they cope with the changing times. History has shown that each generation has the capacity to look after itself. Our young people are capable and possess the know how to meet the challenges ahead with confidence.

As Australians we are fortunate to live in a wonderful country. A land blessed with an abundance of everything, a great climate, high living standards with 70% of the population owning their own homes, and a social security system second to none. We have a lot to be thankful for. There are those who decry our immigration policy and resent the influx of people from other lands. We should bear in mind that Australia, the sixth biggest country in the world with a population of only 19 million, is seen by many living in less fortunate circumstances as a land of opportunity and an ideal place to settle and raise a family. The mix of our population will continue to change whether we like it or not. The great virtue of tolerance, something that is not easy to cultivate, should be one we strive to achieve. January One will also be the centenary of the Federation of Commonwealth of Australia, our first step to nationhood. What a memorable 100 years it's been!

To conclude, I would like to thank you for being here today. The 3rd Sunday in November has come to mean a lot to us. I ask that you mark the 3rd Sunday in November of each year on your calendar and endeavour to continue to attend this service. As our numbers diminish we look forward to others to take up the reins and thus ensure it is carried on well into the 21st century. I would also like to convey my thanks to the Kings Park and Botanical Gardens Board, the S.A.S. Catafalque Party members and the bugler for their help in the conducting of our service. Also to our warden, Mr Chalwell and Mr Smyth-for their effort in replacing the poles supporting our boards with new ones.

I will now read out the names of our fallen. Will you all please stand.

R. Darrington.
President

Major Doug Hasson.

Extracts from an article in the Cairns Post dated 9/9/2000:

Doug Hasson was born at Wongan Hills on 26th March 1958 and moved to Perth with his family when he was three. A scholarship to the Royal Military College Duntroon sent him on his way and he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree (Military) with a rank of Lieutenant in the class of 1980. He married during his first posting in Brisbane where he was a Platoon Commander and was promoted to Captain for his next posting in an administration office in Port Wakefield in South Australia where his first son Ryan was born in 1984. He spent six weeks in England on Exercise Lionheart. Next stop was Townsville where Doug was an Intelligence Officer and where his second son Trent was born. Two years later he was sent to a RAAF Language school to learn Bahasa Indonesian and in 1989 spent four weeks in Indonesia testing his new found skills. He then spent a year at Rockhampton as adjutant of the 41st Battalion. This was followed by three years at RAAF Richmond as Ground Liaison Officer and found his language skills very useful, especially in the withdrawal of our troops from Somalia. Interpreting in different exercises. Next stop was Canberra where he was Enemy Planner for Operation Kangaroo in 1995, a joint four week exercise conducted in remote North Queensland by the Australian Defence Forces and involving all levels of defence including visitors from U.S.A., Singapore and Malaysian Defence Forces. He then stayed on in Canberra in Army H. Q. for three years. Now a Major Doug is the C.O. of the 51st Battalion's Bravo Company at WEIPA, a position he has held for the past two years. He was granted leave to go to East Timor in the aftermath of the conflict that divided the country last year. He was part of a unit that included soldiers from the Phillipines, Bangkok, Brazil and Pakistan. "We spent our days patrolling in vehicles talking and liaising with the villagers about their needs and problems" said Doug. "When I was stationed in Ermera, a rural town west of Dili, it was close to where my late father Jack, a member of 2 section had been." He made contact with three or four people who helped his father's unit, the 2/2nd Independent Company back in 1942. His experience with the United Nations Peace Keeping Force as a volunteer military observer in East Timor was one of the greatest experiences of his life. "I even have a God-daughter in East Timor. She was

born on January 26th. I helped the family out of a difficult situation one night and they made me her God-father." says Doug proudly. Now 42 Doug will be going to Papua New Guinea to work in the defence training centre in Lae for two years under the Defence Co-operation Scheme. From there Doug hopes to obtain some kind of work overseas with the United Nations. "I think that's become one of my strengths particularly since the East Timor experience," he says "That definitely had a positive effect on me." Doug certainly has crammed a lot into his military career since graduation in 1980.

Jack Carey.

HISTORY OF THE HONOUR AVENUES IN KINGS PARK & BOTANIC GARDENS

MAY DRIVE - LOVEKIN DRIVE - MARRI WALK

The planting of trees as a dedication to individual service personnel who gave their lives while serving their country seems to be an entirely Australian innovation. This unique practice originated in Ballarat, Victoria when in 1917 Mrs. Tilly Thompson, of E. Lucas & Co. Clothing Manufacturers, proposed to her 500 "Lucas girls" on the staff that they raise funds to plant an avenue of trees to honour the local men who had been killed in the war. This they did and by 1919 they had planted 3, 912 trees along 22.4km of the Western Highway. In all at least 128 avenues were planted in Victoria between 1917 and 1921 virtually every one a community effort.

When Mr. Arthur Lovekin (President of the Kings Park Board) visited England in 1914 he was struck by the grandeur of the Royal Oaks in Great Windsor Park. Keeping in mind Kings Park he took the liberty of writing to Queen Mary who agreed to send at a later date, a parcel of acorns from the Royal Oaks to Kings Park. When they arrived the park superintendent Mr. Heath planted them, and although most sprouted many failed to thrive. Very few of the Royal Acorns survived and replacement acorns were obtained through Archbishop Riley from an oak in Bishop's House garden that had been planted some 60 years earlier.

The idea of an Honour Avenue was taken up by Mr. Lovekin and submitted to the Kings Park Board who agreed in 1918 for 404 Oak trees to be planted in May Drive from the Lord Forrest Statue to Saw Avenue. The dedication on 3rd

August 1919 the 5th anniversary of the declaration of war took place in the presence of His Excellency the Governor Sir William McCartney. Relatives lined up along the May Drive and when they approached their tree walked over and tied the oak to a stake. At the base of each tree was a plaque giving full details regarding the deceased serviceman to whose memory it was dedicated.

During the dedication ceremony a message from Queen Mary was read:

"May these fine oaks grow and flourish for many years, and stand as a reminder to generations to come of the devotion and loyalty of those brave sons of the Empire who gave their lives in the cause of justice and freedom".

The second half of ay Drive from Saw Avenue to Poole Avenue was planted with 280 Plane trees, oaks were no longer available, and those planted in 1919 were not thriving. A dedication ceremony was held on 7th November 1920.

In 1922 the West Perth Sub-Branch of the R.S.L. later known as the Public Service Sub-Branch and today Hlghgate Sub-Branch, undertook to assist the Board in the maintenance of the Honour Avenues. This association continues to this day with the continual upkeep of the plaques.

The Board decided to clear a road through the middle of the Park in 1920 however this did not commence until 1927 and was completed in 1932. Progress was slow owing to lack of Government funds.

This roadway was named in honour of Arthur Lovekin who died in 1931 and it was his wish that it also be an Honour Avenue.

In 1932 340 Sugar Gums were planted of which the first 100 were dedicated to First World War dead. By 1948 all trees were well established and 200 were dedicated on 5th December 1932 to those who died in W II. There were many dedications over the years until all trees were used in the Honour Avenues of Lovekin, May, Poole Triangle and May Circle.

All the Oak and Plane trees had to be replaced eventually and May Drive was replanted with euc Botrioides the seeds of which came from the huge tree still growing in May Circle

In 1998 because of increasing requests from relatives for plaques, a new Honour Avenue has opened off May Drive into Marri Walk. It carries 28 plaques and when completed will have 60

plaques bringing the total number to 2000 in the Park.

In the undercroft of the State War Memorial the walls of which are faced with marble tablets, list under their units, the names of 6896 Western Australian servicemen and women who were killed in action or died as a result of war wounds during the 1914/18 war.

Also honoured on marble tablets are the names of soldiers who died during the conflicts in Korea, Malaya, Borneo and Vietnam.

Bronze Rolls of Honour on the entrance walls of the undercroft list the names of approximately 4000 service men and women killed in action in the 1939/45 war.

N.B. This interesting excerpt from the Kings Park archive was kindly provided by Margaret Smyth, a member of the Friends of Kings Park group. Thanks Margaret.

ED.

Timor Memories. Series 9 . "Food for Thought". Former Sapper Paddy Wilby, a great yarn spinner, relates a humorous account of an incident in the sapper section in May 1942. It is a little gem and reads:-

My stint with the main pony track train had come to an end . We had moved all our reserve ammo, grenades, firearms and explosives to our mountain hideout roughly in the centre of Portuguese East Timor. It was time for me to rejoice the rest of the sapper section preparing explosive charges for blowing up bridges, culverts or anything else in the need of such treatment. There was also food foraging, fighting and reconnaissance patrols, setting up observation posts, (O.Pips) where necessary. I don't know about the rest of you blokes but there was never a dull moment in the sapper section. We were always doing or appearing to be doing something.

I caught up with my mob at the 5 sisters, a group of bamboo and huts to the east of Atsabe. They had just returned from a fight with the Japs up on Hatolia Ridge. As well as being riddled with Malaria, they were lousy, half starved and rebellious. They had found some old hard corn in one of the huts and were boiling it up to soften it so they could eat it. But above all they were badly in need of a few hours rest as they had

been patrolling and fighting for a week or more and it was really beginning to show.

Lieut. Don Turton, in charge of our sapper section, was trying to eat a cob of hard uncooked corn without much success. He turned to me and said "Paddy, lately you've spent a lot of time in, out and around the Hatolia area. You should know it pretty well." I said "I certainly do." He then said "Grab your gear, we are off to set up an O. Pip on a mountain saddle in that area." With that the mob roared out "Don and his Saddle Sitting Sappers!" Don gave a weak smile. He knew they were having a shot at him and there was little he could do about it. At least they hadn't completely lost their sense of humour and that may be what made him attempt a smile. With Don still hanging onto his useless cob of corn we set out for the mountain saddle at Luckyarma, above Hatolia. Don instructed the others to follow on after they had recuperated. Meanwhile he and I would set up the O. Pip at Luckyarma. On the walk there, though keeping an eye out for Japs or any other unwelcomes, Don started to reminisce on the things we had achieved since the Japs landed. That we were on the way to becoming a well organised fighting force that the Japs and others would learn to respect. Amongst all Don's other talents he was certainly a morale builder. He sounded very impressive as I was only a half trained soldier. I'd come to the Unit before it went on pre-em leave and was always at a loss trying to fully understand what the expertly trained blokes of our unit were doing at times, thus I didn't have the comprehension of the other blokes. But one thing I did know was that morale is everything. Without it you can't do much at all. Morale is therefore very important and unbeknown to me then we rekindled that morale a few hours later in the sapper section through a most unusual occurrence started by Don. Well we suspect him. One of the first things I learnt when I joined the 8th division engineers training camp before joining the 2/2nd was this. If ever you're in any trouble or have a complaint make sure your officer knows about it as he can usually help you. The mark of a good officer is measured by the way he looks after his men.

When Don and I arrived at Luckyarma Saddle to set up the O. Pip, he gave me his field glasses so that I could see the road out of Hatolia and other interesting places the

Japs might use. Meanwhile he went off down to a native village nearby trying to rustle up

something to cook for the rest of the section when they arrived. I was doing my scan when a small whippet type of dog came up to me. I patted it and after a while it became very friendly doing the usual puppy antics. Don came back to the O.Pip telling me that the village looked as though it had been recently deserted. No people anywhere but there was plenty of water and cooking pots, a fire still warm, no food but a lot of young pumpkin vines, chillies, mint, thyme and some other herbs and a few sweet potato roots. He said he thought he would be able to make up some sort of a stew from all that to feed the section later on. So away went the master cook to prepare the meal. I found out later that half the village inhabitants had gone to the markets in Atsabe and the other half had gone to a funeral, hence the unoccupied appearance of their village.

After about an hour or so the aroma of Don's stew wafted up to the O.Pip. I thought what a stew this is going to be. The feed of a lifetime. The section came wandering in twos. First Bluey and Babe, then Dum Dum and Bye,Bye, then Stricky and Wilf, Alby and Boy, Alf and Jeeves, Slim and Epsy, Smash and Jerry. A few others followed Old Lew, Grandpa Brown, Tex & Ritchie. By this time they were all following their noses and the closer they got to our new camp the faster they went. I didn't notice the little puppy dog about the O.Pip. Not to worry, he'd turn up later on somewhere. Nearly all our section were knockabout types and had cast iron constitutions, would eat anything, and drink almost any type of water without any ill effects but not Alby who had a rather genteel upbringing. Don came around placing the men in defensive positions and told them to go down to the village one by one for a good square meal but not to leave any positions unguarded. So away went one of each twosome. Bluey and Babe already had eaten their meal and were sent up to the O.Pip to relieve me. When I got down to the village Alby was there and so was Don ladelling out his famous stew into dixies. Everyone appeared to be enjoying it (within limits) but not Alby who seemed a bit wary. It was then I made a big mistake. I said to Don "I wonder where the little pup got to?" he looked at me both dogish and sheepish at the same time and tried to smile but couldn't. Alby exclaimed "What? Was there a little dog here when you arrived and he's not here now?" I said "That's right Alby, a real playful little fellow too." Alby then said "If he's not about he

must be there!" as he pointed to the pot of stew. Then he began heaving his meal up and between heaves he kept saying "You bastard Don, you'll kill us all yet, don't eat it, don't eat it!" The rest of us were not to be dissuaded. Some even lined up for seconds. Even Grandpa Brown had seconds. He said I'm disappointed in you Alby. Don has gone to a lot of trouble to cook us up a decent meal and you're wasting it." Now this was a grand statement coming from Grandpa Brown who nearly always disagreed with whatever Don did. It made Don's day. At long last they were about to smoke the pipe of peace. It's marvellous what an empty belly will do! I could see that Don was angling to get me aside and deny any remarks about the puppy dog being there and I wasn't giving him the chance to do just that. So he used another approach in front of the mob. He said "Paddy, you've had several attacks of severe Malaria and if it's left to go untreated for a long time it can play havoc with the victim's mind, where they begin to imagine things. Now you didn't see a puppy here did you? Neither did it go into the stew because it never existed." I said "Well what sort of meat did you use in the stew? It certainly wasn't a rabbit as there's never been any on the island." He said "That I agree." I then said "Anything for a quiet life Don. We'll have it your way and let matters rest at that while everyone is in good spirits." The matter was never mentioned again until now, 53 years later. And now it's up to you to decide whether the then Lieut, later Major Don Turton ever cooked up a dog stew to save his men from starvation in May 1942.

Bow wow wow, bow wow, bow wow, bow wow. I wonder what caused this to happen? It must have been something I ate years ago!

Regards, Paddy Wilby. October 1995.

N.B. Five years on Paddy Wilby is still alive and kicking in Wynnum, Queensland. He has written a book or two and still tells a good story.

Don Turton, a retired farmer, will be 83 on the 13th January next year. Don, a very active man, suffered a stroke in February 1999 which slowed him right up. He has fought back and has resumed his early morning (5am) walks which is a good sign. Jerry Green, "Boy" Howell, Wilf March, Blue Pendergast, Tex Richards, Bob Williamson and Howard Marks, most with health problems are still on deck.

Bill Epps, Slim James, Alby Martin, George Strickland, Lew Thompson, Bill Bennett, Dick Adams, Smash Hodgson, Grandpa Brown, Jim Veal, Alf Grachan and Babe Teague, all great blokes are gone. God bless them

Jack Carey.

Ms. Judith A Hamilton
Information Centre
Rabobank International London Branch
Thames Court One Queenhithe
LONDON EC4V 3RL

Dear Ms Hamilton
re DONATION EAST TIMOR

We acknowledge and thank you for your Bank's donation of 500 pounds to our Independent Trust Fund. Your gift assists our efforts to recognise the invaluable help given to our members by the East Timorese during the Pacific war.

In recent years with help from AESOP Business Volunteers P/L of Canberra, we have sponsored Tech Training and Agricultural volunteer specialists, the latter resulting in dramatic increases in crop yields.

Last month we forwarded 74 soccer, volley and basket balls and 200 tennis balls. Recently \$3,685. of vegetable seeds.

Since inception of the Trust in 1992 our policy has been not to seek funds outside our own membership. However, although that policy remains, with the thinning of ranks, we are most appreciative in accepting and thanking you for your most generous contribution.

Sincerely,

Robert N. Smyth

Independent Trust Fund

(A similar letter of acknowledgement and thanks to the Bank's Sydney office for their donation of \$250.00)

Dr. Fr. Jojo
re Sports Balls

We have finally despatched the long promised shipment. We have been advised from one area that they would be subject to Customs

examination. However to facilitate checking etc, we have enclosed the suppliers original invoices. It is hoped that the ratio of types and sizes is satisfactory. The suppliers had to substitute for the size 4 soccer balls which were out of stock at time of despatch.

IDENTIFICATION You will see that each ball (except tennis) is stencilled with our Unit colour patch which our team required to apply on deflated balls, sometimes with less than professional results (as John Burridge's shirt, Keith Hayes's cuffs and my overalls would show).

DELIVERY The three cartons were delivered on Wednesday 18th October to the Special Air Service Association with whom we have a relationship (they also are forwarding donated goods to East Timor). The shipment may go via Army or civilian channels. However kindly advise the state of contents on arrival and whether or not they were intact. The date of your receipt would also be of interest to us. We are enclosing copy of a letter to Fr. Jose concerning vegetable seeds.

Our members join me in wishing many additional happy hours to you and the children following the opening of the ball cartons.

Sincerely

B Smyth.

Independent Trust Fund

SLATER GARTRELL SPORTS Midland W.A.

To 2/2nd Commando Association

Invoice 1448 24/10/2000

Qty	Description	Unit Price	Extension
10	Sz.3 Rubber Soccer Balls "Ringmaster"	10.00	100.00
20	Sz.5 Rubber Soccer Balls	13.00	260.00
10	Mini Pink Volleyballs "Molten"	8.00	80.00
20	Rubber Volleyballs	12.00	240.00
2	Sz.5 Rubber Basket Balls "Molten"	12.00	24.00
2	Sz 6 "	12.00	24.00
6	Sz 7 "	12.00	72.00
10	dozen Tennis Balls	11.00	110.00
5	Velcro Catch Sets "Ringmaster"	10.00	50.00
3	Hand pumps	10.00	30.00

4 2 Soccer, 1 Basket, 1 volley
Balls (inc.G.S.T.)

50.60
\$1,040.60

Fr. Jose Vattaparambil
Don Bosco Agricultural School
FUILORO
C/- Don Bosco COMORO
Box 108 PO Dili EAST TIMOR

Dear Fr Jose

re Vegetable Seeds

Our suppliers Symonds are still putting together the current order of approximately \$2,500 to \$3,000 which is sourced from their Melbourne warehouse. I have asked several times for a faxed pro forma. the current delay is for the capsican component. We have eliminated the small Romo tomatoes and also all of the three beans.

We hope to include some carrot seeds. There has not been mention of rock and water melon, both of which are big crops at Kununurra in Western Australia across the Timor Sea from Timor. Pollination at Kununurra the growers have over 2,500 bee hives in their area averaging 2 to 3 hives per hectare The procedure is claimed to be absolutely imperative for the success of their vegetable production.

Has the subject been investigated in East Timor Do there appear to be numbers of bees (assume forest bees) pollinating crops ?

When the current seed order is ready we will likely send it as the last one via the S.A.S. but unless they are keen to deliver it to Fulloro will have it delivered via Fr. Edmund at Comoro.

Rice Crop Mehara

What was the final yield ? Despite the most unseasonal rain will there be another crop put in at Mehara?

Fr. Jose, we have assumed that you have not moved on yet, (Les thought November) but have directed a copy of this letter to Fr. Jojo for follow up if necessary.

Trusting that you are in good health and with our best wishes.

Sincerely

Bob Smyth, Independent Trust Fund

Symonds Seeds 5 Hutton St. Osborne Park W.A.

Invoice 53880 24/10/2000 Supplied to 2/2nd Commando Association.

Produce Description	Price.	Qty	Sup.Qty	Price.Line	Value
Okra - Clemson Spineliss	kg	87.50	2	4 x 500	175.00
Chinese Cabbage - Blues	500 g	181.00	.5	1 x 500	181.00
Silverbeet - Fordhook					
Giant	kg	73.00	2	2 x 1 kg	146.00
Cucumber -Marketmore	kg	165.00	1	2 x 500	165.00
Capsicum Green Giant	kg	375.00	1	2 x 500	375.00
Pak Choi - Kanton	kg	206.00	1	2 x 500	206.00
Pak Choi - Shanghai	kg	185.00	1	2 x 500	185.00
Zucchini - Blackjack	kg	227.00	1	2 x 500	227.00
Carrot - Western Red	kg	112.00	2	4 x 500	224.00
Cabbage Greengold	250 g	312.00	.25	1 x 250	312.00
Lettuce - Cos Caesar	500 g	365.00	.5	1 x 500	365.00
Eggplant - Market					
Supreme	500 g	290.00	.55	1 x 550	290.00
Tomato Intrigue (1000 Seeds)		187.00	.005		
			Env1 x 005		187.00
Tomato Burnlex Bounty (200,000 seeds)		312.00	1	<u>2 x 500</u>	<u>312.00</u>
			27 packages		3,350.00
			G S T		<u>335.00</u>
			TOTAL		\$3,685.00

Patsy Thatcher visited East Timor in September last. following are some of her observations whilst there which should be of interest to readers.

Dear Jack and Delys

Just a brief report following the recent quick trip to Timor and mostly concerning the deal with the school system in the Dare area. The World Bank employs Filomena as a project officer. He also fortuitously lives in the Dare area. Filomena speaks excellent English and I have given him your phone number and address Jack. The memorial when I visited was clean and tidy but there seemed to be some blockage of the drainage system.

I met with Filomeno Da Cruz who is neither a priest nor a brother (amazing how wrong reliable information can be when one is dealing by phone). He is the Timorese co-ordinator of the school system in the Dare area. The World Bank employs Filomena as a project officer. He also fortuitously lives in the Dare area. Filomena speaks excellent English and I have given him your phone number and address Jack. The memorial when I visited was clean and tidy but there seemed to be some blockage of the drainage system.

The school concerned is the primary school at Nahaek, the closest school to the memorial. The

memorial is actually in the precinct of Nahaek. The headmistress of the Nallaek Primary School is Francohla DoCarmo. Filomena is keen to get the local people as well as the children to adopt the memorial as part of their responsibility. He feels the best way to do this (remember Timorese social systems are based on mutual reciprocity) and I have to agree, is to have the school supported in some way by people in Australia and the 'diggers' seem the most appropriate. However, I did not commit in any way merely said I would forward on requests.

The school also wants to set up a twin friendship school with a primary school in Perth so that the children will learn to develop good relations by writing to each other, sharing experiences, perhaps visits by teachers and or students from Australia in the future. Have any of our blokes got grandchildren or even great grandchildren attending a primary school that might be interested?

The beginning of the school year is the 1st of October in Timor and this year they to begin on that date even though their building is not finished. Building materials are extremely

expensive as were mostly everything else. Even at the native markets food was about the same cost as here in Australia. In the Supermarket known as Hey Mister, they charged like a herd of wounded buffalo, except for Portuguese sardines. They were cheaper. I ate a lot of them!

Filomeno has opened an account in the name of the School and my arrangement with him is that at the end of our financial year the Oan Klak Trust will transfer whatever the interest on \$10,000 AUS is for that year

• into that fund. The next payment will be the 1st July 2001.

I managed to travel to Aileu, Maubisse and Ainaro. Maubisse very little damage but substantial in Aileu and huge amount in Ainaro. Not much help getting through to the interior in spite of more UN four wheel drives than one imagines there are in the whole world. Another day I went LeteFoho way to a village called Olpana that is another two hours walk on from LeteFoho up the mountain. I wonder if any of our blokes remember it? What a marvellous view from there, looking straight across at MT. Ramaleu. Talked to two very old men in the village, the only really old people there. They remembered that when they were young kids Australian soldiers were there and used to play with them. As one of them commented the first and last white people to do so. The people in these remote mountain villages are doing it hard, but I guess they always have. There was no water and no power in this place. Two hours down the road and two hours back up to bring water. Of course it was the women and kids carrying the water. We took a large cardboard box of sliced white bread in. You should have seen those kids tuck into it. Made it look like a bunch of our kids getting stuck into chocolate and ice-cream.

The FALANTIL soldiers (Timorese army) were in cantonment at Aileu. I was very impressed with their toughness, discipline, professionalism and their politeness. They looked extremely spruce, wearing new Portuguese army uniforms, shoes shining, pressed shirts, pants etc, clean gear etc. I am sure if they let these blokes go after the militias then it would be all over in a couple of weeks. Since the 'UN people were murdered recently the powers that be have had the sense to invite a number of experienced FALANTIL soldiers over to the border as advisors'. In both the areas I went into the remote parts of the

mountains the locals told us of militias hiding nearby. They were waiting for troops to arrive so that they could do them in. Everywhere I went people spontaneously talked positively about the Australian soldiers. No doubt about their popularity.

There seems to have been a great deal of time and effort employed in planning infrastructures that as yet haven't materialized. For example the banking system. The protocols for the banking system have been written, the safeguards for depositors etc put into place in law, transparency procedures put in place. The sort of stuff the Thais and the Indonesians didn't do and led to the recent Asian economic melt down due to cronyism and flight of capital. In other words all the book part of it has been done or is in the final preparation stage. Once that is finished then a three tier banking system will be implemented. Jose Ramos Horta is using his Nobel peace prize money to put in a banking system similar to the Gramoyn bank that was so successfully set up in Bangladesh. The Gramoyn Bank, that started off with capital of US\$100 lending amounts of \$10 a minimal rate of interest to some village women (I'm not sure if lending solely to women is Horta's intention) on the poverty line allowing them to finance a way of earning a living for themselves and their families). No bank buildings, or expensive infrastructure, but lending at village level, collecting repayments each week/month. The Gramoyn bank, now at least a decade old, has a 98% successful repayment rate and is credited with lifting many thousands of people out of abject poverty. As people progress upwards then they need a second tier banking system, probably similar to what each of us uses where the amount you can borrow is much larger. Then a third tier would be required for larger businesses etc. Those doing the planning, usually Australian expatriates, are trying to get it right, because they realise this will be Timor's only chance.

There are other examples such as preparation for participatory local government. This is well advanced, but has had some interesting teething problems. Particularly since people are not used to being in a position to make decisions. In the past the Liurais or the local government official made these decisions. Now all the adults in a village must take part. Some of the local decisions made have been interesting and I would suggest have the propensity to cause much disorder. For example many Timorese who

had been transferred from their villages in the mountains, by the Indonesians under their internal transmegrassi plan, to land in areas in valleys and plains now want to return home and rebuild their original villages in the mountains. They see themselves as primarily mountain farmers not plains dweller/farmers. CNRT doesn't want them to return because the land where they are now is viable and the mountain areas, agriculturally, are not. Also they don't want to set up more villages because of the attendant administrative and service costs etc. Their policy is to rationalize the ones already set up. Interesting times ahead - the Timorese still have to learn that political pluralism and democracy has a huge cost and I'm not sure they understand this.

Patsy.

Sick List.

Bill Howell has had a rough time of it health wise over the past four months. Bill had a diseased kidney removed in September and not long after suffered a minor stroke. An old sapper, Bill is as tough as they come and has a great sense of humour which helps to keep him going. His devoted wife Elvie and the family ensure that Bill is well looked after. Keep your chin up Bill.

Our editor Len Bagley is another Mandurah member who has been in the wars. A double hernia and bowel operation on the same day in October knocked the stuffing out of him. He is now making a good recovery and can still handle his Courier duties capably. Len is also active on the local R.S.L. scene. Betty is a great backstop for Len.

Peter Alexander, who has had more than his share of health problems over the years had a stroke early in November. A P.O.W. survivor and a great little battler, he has plenty to contend with between Parkinson's disease and his stroke. Peter is handling his trials well and retains a bright outlook on life. He will be 83 in April. His good mate Keith Hayes sees Peter regularly and does what he can for him. Our thoughts are with you Pete.

Genial John Burridge is another who spent some time in Hollywood Hospital for an operation to remove blood clots behind his left knee. It came on John quite suddenly and he was on the operating table in next to no time. John loves

his bowls and expects to be back in action soon. after a patient wait Henry Sproxtton finally had his eye operation in mid October. Henry is coping well and is starting to feel a little better.

Charlie King and Wilf March continue their battle with the "big C". Charlie and Wilf have both adopted a positive outlook and we admire them for that. Good luck to you both.

Two of our ladies are also in the news. Mary Bone fell and broke her hip in September and Val Hayes also had a fall and broke two bones in her right foot. Both are making a good recovery.

On the good news side Ted Monk after enduring nearly 3 years of a mystery illness is finally coming good and is beginning to feel like his old self again. Ted has been a great worker for the Association over many years. Good luck Ted.

Bill Rowan-Robinson has had a torrid time health-wise of late. Bill spent two weeks in the Bunbury Regional Hospital then three weeks in his local Bridgetown Hospital in October/November with a blood clot and serious kidney complaint. Iris, his devoted wife of 56 years said it will be some time before he is up and about again. He has lost a lot of weight but is determined to beat his problem and resume an active life. Good luck Bill.

Safari 2002.

Because of illness among members of the small Victorian committee headed by Leith Cooper, arrangements on the dates of the Mildura Safari have been delayed. Leith expects to have some definite news for the March 2001 Courier. This will still give members interested in attending plenty of time to decide on the trip. Future Couriers will keep members up to date on arrangements as the Safari draws closer.

Birthday Boys.

Two of our evergreens had birthdays recently. Doc Wheatley turned 88 on 28th October and Ray Aitken 85 on 7th November. Congratulations!

Jack Fox turned 88 on 20th November, Rolf Baldwin will be 91 on 16th December. Well lived Jack and Baldy. It must be that bracing Victorian climate!

Christmas greetings have been received from Blanche Sadler and Nora and Paddy Kenneally. The Courier Team, Len, Gavin & Betty, thank you

all for your newsy letters and generous donations. We wish you a Joyful Christmas and a Healthy, Happy Year 2001.

COURIER DONATIONS: Alex & Wyn Thomson, Roy & Kaye Hanson, Ken & Edith Jones, Tony & Iris Adams, Mal. Lindsay, E.A. Clayton, George & Gloria Smith, Harry & Amyce Handicott, Ray Parry, Russ Blanch, Shane & Garth Trengove, Peter Krause, Helen Mumme, Rosie Shannon, Tom Pulliene, Alan & Joan Mitchell, Col. & Jeanette Andrew, Bill & Iris Rowan Robinson, Ralph & Sheila Conley, Nancy Timms, Blanche Sadler, Jack & Beryl Steen, Joan Scott, Paddy & Nora Kenneally.

TRUST FUND DONATIONS: Alan Luby \$50, Arch Campbell Estate \$200, Ray Parry \$50, Primary Industry Bank of NSW \$250, RABO Bank Group, London (500 pounds) \$1,356. Col. Andrew \$50, Bill Rowan-Robinson \$725, RSL Nedlands Sub-Branch ex Servicewomen \$50, Harry & Amyce Handicott \$25, Paddy Kenneally \$50.

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John BurrIDGE tells the story about his son John known as 'Blue', a big Vietnam veteran.

He was awakened recently at 2am with the strident ringing of his phone. A voice said "CIB here. Do you own a 4 wheel drive vehicle registration number XYZ etc. '! ?.

"Yes" replied Blue .

"Were you driving past Hungry Jacks in Stirling Hwy . at approximately 1.15am" ?

"Yes, what 'is the score . "

"We had a report phoned in giving your vehicle number and that the person sitting next to the driver was wearing a balaclava - could you explain"?"

"Balaclava! That was my rottweiler who always sits up front next to me".

(Blue 's face is hidden behind a mass of hair growth that could have further complicated identification).

Self Publishing your story!

Ever since Albert Facey wrote "A Fortunate Life." more and more people are writing down their family history or memoirs.

One such author Kevin Lehane put this in his Foreword:

"The BBC-TV documentary series "The Human Body" mentioned in one episode that the average person will have two children. It also claimed that he or she will probably have (on average) four grandchildren and ultimately, eight great-grandchildren. The documentary then gave an insight to most peoples' lack of knowledge of their forebears. It claimed that years later, probably none of these great-grandchildren will be likely to know even the names of their great-grandparents, let alone knowing anything about them." Kevin Lehane 'Swinging through Life'

The 20th Century has been unprecedented in terms of change and progress in virtually any field one can think of. Yet, there is a risk that the events of that century will be remembered but the people are forgotten.

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WEST AUSTRALIAN MEMBERS:

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

TO BE HELD AT

MANDURAH SUB BRANCH of the R&SL

22 Third Avenue, MANDURAH

on FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2000

Refreshments from 11am. Luncheon 12.30pm

Please notify Jack Carey or Len Bagley
of your intention to attend this enjoyable function.
This is most essential for catering purposes.

PLEASE NOTE

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on

TUESDAY, 13th March 2001

commencing at 11am

At the Anzac Club, St. Georges Terrace, Perth

Light refreshments and snacks to follow.

Please keep this date in mind and do your very
best to be there.