

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 134

JUNE 2000

Price 10c

COMING EVENTS

NORMA HASSON DAY

Friday, July 7th

**Terrace Hotel, 195 Adelaide Terrace, Perth
Refreshments from 11am. Luncheon 12.30pm.**

COMMEMORATION SERVICE

Lovekin Drive, Kings Park

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER

19th at 3pm Lest We Forget

Please remember these important dates

Vale: Harold Robert Montgomery (Jim) Cullen
NX44493 7.5.1918 - 9.4.2000

Jim was born at Casino of a farming family. He was one of four children, three boys and a girl. His mother's family name was Montgomery. Jim married Beryl on 12th April 1947 and they had a daughter Catriona and a son Neil who farms nearby. They raised cattle on their property at Afterlee near Kyogle, called 'Brigadoon'. Jim became a very well respected citizen of the Kyogle area both as a man and also a well known cattle judge. Jim came to Timor with the first reinforcements in January 1942 and joined 9 Section 'C' Platoon. About May 1942 Jim became very sick with malaria and dysentery and was evacuated to Australia. He was about seven stone at that stage. He rejoined the Unit in the Ramu Valley about Christmas 1943 and had only been back a short time when he had the base plug of a grenade go through his body. Cleaning grenades in a hut at Nokai a bloke dropped a smoking grenade. Jim attempted to throw it out but it exploded before clearing the hut. After about ten weeks hospitalisation Jim was back to take part in the Jappa patrol. He continued with 9 Section right through and at the finish was Senior NC0 in that Section. We've lost a good soldier and a good mate. The members of our Association extend our deepest sympathy to Beryl,

Catriona and Neil.

Lest We Forget.

George Greenhalgh

Harold Robert Montgomery, alias Jim Cullen

(a comment in itself on Dad's approach to life) - husband, father, brother, friend, confidant and a unique person in his own right! Our Dad was a paradox, simple yet complicated, a visionary in many ways. Dad understood what it meant to be a Cullen/Montgomery! He aspired to his Scottish, Irish traits (I was always Lassie), and held his siblings and theirs in the dearest, closest regard. The bonds were special ... they all knew, they understood and they cared even though they said what they thought. A solution was never far away - just ask them! He was one of the softest, gentlest people you would choose to meet - we had more pet calves, chooks and waifs than you could imagine ... many of whom qualified for old age benefits ... yet in other ways he was a tough, resilient man who loved a good stoush or challenge. In fact he thrived upon it and often sought it out. Dad could always see the big picture and I'm sure he was one of those tagged

individuals on many a politician's computer screen. However, regardless, he demanded respect and in numerous ways provided an insight into issues in a way, which many people found inspirational. Dad was an idealist and a mentor to both young and old. People sought him out and Dad was always willing to share. Words were never lacking and advice was always forthcoming. The land was in Dad's blood, it was his passion. He created through blood sweat and tears Brigadoon. He hung in even though it wasn't always a bed of roses. He loved his cattle, dogs, horses and the bush - it was in his blood. Even when we went on holidays we always ended up looking in butcher's shop windows (often the beef wasn't up to scratch), checking out the land, following cattle sales or simply chatting to the old bushies. Dad took his soapbox everywhere. Telstra loved him! Although not an Adonis (togas and shorts were never Dad's style), in many ways he was a philosopher and a dreamer. Dad was more at home on a horse than in a car. His horse was always on automatic pilot and we used to listen for his whistle at the end of each day. Unfortunately, cars and technology were not Dad's forte~. A ride in the car with Dad was an experience destined to increase one's blood pressure. Mum more than once scored the award for patience, tolerance

and simply survival as Dad commented on everything else but the road and where he was going. I guess Dad is the only person I know who used to get on his horse with a step ladder- even the horse understood! Dad valued people. Friendship and loyalty were important to dad. Dad's army mates and his experiences during World War II in the Pacific, bear testimony not only to his tenacity and courage, but his willingness to create and nurture camaraderie and mateship. Actually the term larrikin springs to mind! Dad quite often tempted fate - we only knew what he wanted us to know. He was his own person; he took a risk - who else was playing footie at 45 years? He knew he would be OK, Neil and I were cringing, waiting to pick up the pieces. He demolished the other team and went on to create Kyogle Junior Rugby League.

Dad was ahead of his time - he was a snag.... sensitive new age guy.... yet in many ways he was a gentleman of the old world. His relationship with Mum was one to envy - friendship, love, respect and an admiration for each other which defies words. A powerful love, a creative vision of how soul mates can share and grow together.

Both Neil and I have tried to replicate many of these special qualities. Jim Cullen was special and we've all been lucky and privileged to be touched by him and share his life. He was a good bloke, a gentleman, and a dreamer but most importantly he was our Dad - one of nature's gentleman.

And finally...

A man does as he must regardless of all the pressures, judgements and expectations. He does this because he believes dreams are guidelines to his destiny and he is a person in his own right. Jim Cullen, Dad, thankyou for a celebration, thankyou for being you and thankyou for sharing a wonderful life.

Catriona Moore

A.G.M. 2/2nd Commando Association 4.4.2000

The 54th Annual General Meeting of the W. A. Branch was held at the Anzac Club on Tuesday 4th April beginning at 1 lam. President Dick Darrington chaired the meeting.

PRESENT: Messrs R. Darrington, R. Aitken, L. Bagley, T. Bowers, J. BurrIDGE, J. Carey, K. Hayes, L. Halse, B. Langridge, T. Monk, G. Maley, J. Poynton, R. Parry, R. Smyth, D. Studdy and D. Turton.

APOLOGIES; J. Chalwell, T. Bateman, D. May, H. Sproxton, J. Lines, M. Wheatley, A. Friend, W. March, C. Turner, D. Murray, R. Shenn & W. Howell.

LIFEMEMBERSHIP; On the recommendation of the committee Gavin Bagley, Len's son, was made an honorary life member of the Association. Gavin has been a member of the Courier committee for the past ten years and does a top job in the setting up of the Courier. Work commitments precluded Gavin from attending the A. G. M. to receive his medallion and this will now be presented at our Nonna Hasson social in July.

REPORTS were presented by President Dick Darrington, Editor Len Bagley, Treasurer Ted Monk and Chairman of the Trust Fund, Bob Smyth. All covered the Associations past years activities and appear in the Courier. Our Auditor Mr BurrIDGE said it was pleasing to see an improvement in our financial position and complimented retiring Treasurer Ted Monk in the manner the books had been presented. All reports were received with acclamation

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Mr Aitken, the returning officer, declared the following elected for 2000/2001.

President	R. Darrington.
Vice President	R. Parry
Secretary	J. Carey
Treasurer	Vacant
Editor	L. Bagley
Warden	J. Chalwell
Auditor	J. BurrIDGE
Courier Committee	Mrs B. Bagley, G. Bagley
General Committee	L.Halse, R. Turton, W. March.

All appointments were received with acclamation.

The Trust Fund members of Bob Smyth, John BurrIDGE and Keith Hayes, a voluntary body carry on as in past years.. Their efforts are appreciated by all members.

GENERAL BUSINESS; Following discussions re Anzac day and future Anzac services it was agreed that we approach other commando units and suggest to them that from April 2001 we march as a group rather than as individual units. The sharp decline in numbers brought about this move. The kind offer of Mr Peter Epps to

provide a mini bus to take up to five members who wished to take part in the parade was received with appreciation. Three members present indicated they would take up his offer. It was also agreed our members should take precedence in the order of march over relatives of members marching.

Timor Trip.

The five members leaving for an 8 day trip to East Timor for the rededication service of the memorial on Thursday 1 3th April were wished God speed and a safe return. Those going were Bob Smyth, John BurrIDGE, Ray Aitken, Keith Hayes and Tom Foster. Paddy Kenneally would join the group at Darwin. .

Kings Park Sign Boards: John Chalwell, our warden, had kindly offered to refurbish our two boards in Lovekin Drive for Anzac Day.

Honorary Life Member; A recommendation from J. Carey that John Lillie be made an honorary life member of the Association was agreed to unanimously by those present

Army Barracks. Mr Carey had there was a move for the Army Museum site the mantle to be sold

2/2nd COMMANDO ASSOCIATION**GENERAL ACCOUNT****STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31 st. JANUARY 2000**

BALANCE AT 1 st. FEBUARY 1999		
GENERAL ACCOUNT	1,832-56	
TOWN AND COUNTRY		
TERM DEPT. TO GENERAL ACCOUNT	<u>1 791-59</u>	
	3,624-15	3,624-1 5

RECEIPTS

INTEREST GENERAL ACCOUNT	2-11	
COURIER DONATIONS	5,555-00	
ASSOCIATION EVENTS	2,502-00	
SALE OF CAMPBELL BOOKS	800-00	
SALE OF SMAILES POEMS	40-00	
RAFFLE REPRINTS NUNAMOUGE AMBUSH	<u>133-00</u>	
	9,032-11	<u>9.032-11</u>
		<u>12.656-26</u>

LESS EXPENSES

COURIER PRINTING AND POSTING	4,668-23	
ASSOCIATION EVENTS	2,849-00	
RENT G.P.O. BOX	125-00	
ADVERTISING LISTENING POST	20-00	
CAPITATION FEE AUST. COMM. ASSOC.	57-00	
DONATION TO ANZAC DAY	50-00	
ANZAC DAY WREATHS	110-00	
PHONE POSTAGE AND STATIONERY	150-00	
GOVT. TAX	27-10	
MEMBERS MEMORIALS	<u>396-90</u>	
	8,453-23	8,453-23

BALANCE AS AT 31 st. JANUARY 2000		
GENERAL ACCOUNT	3,203-03	
LOAN TASMANIA SAFARI	1 000-00	
.TOTAL ASSETS AT 31 st. JANUARY 2000	<u>4,203-03</u>	4 203-03
		<u>12.656-26</u>

2/2nd~ COMMANDO ASSOCIATION
INDEPENDENT TRUST FUND
STATEMENTS OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31st.JANUARY 2000.

BALANCE AT 1st. FEBUARY 1999.		
COMMONWEALTH BANK TRUST ACCOUNT	5,664-90	

RECEIPTS.

INTEREST COMMONWEALTH BANK TRUST ACCOUNT	6-56	
REIMBURSED AIR FARES = FATHER JOSE	1,700-00	
DONATIONS RECIEVED FOR THE YEAR TO 31-1-2000	5,865-00	
	<u>7,571-56</u>	<u>7 571-56</u>
		<u>13.236-46</u>

LESS EXPENSES.

SEEDS AND FREIGHTTO EASTTIMOR	3,152-00	
DON BOSCO FUILOORO HOUSEHOLD ITEMS	1,000-00	
AIR FARES TO BRISBANE = FATHER JO AND LES	1,762-00	
BROADWAY SECRETARIAL SERVICES	148-00	
ADMIN. PHONE, FAX AND POSTAGE	487-67	
GOVT. TAX	<u>14-09</u>	
	6,563-76	<u>6,563-76</u>
BALANCE AS AT 31 st. JANUARY 2000		
COMMONWEALTH BANK TRUST ACCOUNT		<u>6,672-70</u>
		13.236-46

President's Report

I have much pleasure in presenting my annual report of the activities of the Association for the past year. I regret to report the passing of 22 of our members including 10 members from W.A. This is our greatest loss in any one year and it affected us all. The year also saw the passing of wives of members and we extend our condolences to all the families concerned. I underwent two hip replacement operations during the year and was unable to attend some committee meetings, and I thank my committee for carrying on and being so helpful. Anzac Day went very well. Peter Epps laid a wreath on our behalf at the Dawn Service in Kings Park, while Bob Smyth did the honours at the S.A.S. Service at Campbell Barracks. My thanks to Peter and Bob. Twenty one members took part in the Anzac Day March, proudly led by Ray Aitken, followed by our Flag Bearer John Chalwell. The get-together at the Terrace Hotel was a happy occasion when I had the privilege of welcoming the new C.O. of the S.A.S. Regiment, Lieut-Colonel Tim McOwan, Major Bill Bryden, RSM Greg Jack and W.O.II Bob McCabe. Luncheon and refreshments topped a great day. Norma Hasson luncheon in July was a happy get-together with 43 members and ladies attending, including Tom and Mary Foster and Vince Swann from the country area. Lovely corsages provided by Kay Hasson were well received by the ladies. With Len, our M.C. in good form, good food and refreshments and good company it was most enjoyable. Our 50th Commemoration Service was a very emotional time, held on Sunday, 21st November. It was pleasing to see such a good attendance, especially the number of young people. The support of our country members and our widows was reassuring. The Catafalque Party and Bugler, David Cocks did a first class job and

we are indeed fortunate to have their services. The gettogether in the Sergeants Mess was, as we have come to expect, very pleasant. Our functions for the year concluded with the Christmas Social at the Terrace Hotel, a very happy event with 42 members and ladies in attendance. I would like to thank all who contributed to this day, it was really something to remember. In conclusion I would like to make a special mention of the Courier Team, the Bagley Family, for the excellent work they do to produce four good Couriers each year. Well done, Len, Betty and Gavin. Also, Bob Smyth, John Burrridge and Keith Hayes, and not forgetting Les Cranfield for contributions to the Timor Fund. The winning of independence by the East Timorese people in August was wonderful for our members who have supported these people throughout their struggle.

It has been an interesting year for me and a great honour to be President of our great Association.

Dick Darrington President

Editor's Report

The Courier is the communication medium posted to 380 people throughout Australia and England every 3 months. Copy is supplied by you, the recipients, including 6 regular contributors.

Operating costs are forever on the rise for both postage and printing. As a result, enquiries were made of the computer process of printing, which we are now using. Not only is it quicker, it's also cheaper.

Address changes are listed in each Courier to enable you to keep your address book up to date. If you are moving or have moved please let us know your new address and phone number.

Donations are very much appreciated and keep

the Treasurer smiling.

So, from Betty, Gavin and myself - 'Please keep writing'.

Len Bagley

Anzac Day Perth 2000

A near record crowd attended the dawn service in Kings Park. Peter Epps laid a wreath on our behalf while Bob Smyth and John Burrridge did the honours at the Special Air Service Regiments dawn service at Campbell Barracks laying a lovely double red diamond wreath. Our thanks go to Peter, Bob and John for a fine early morning effort. Only 14 members took part in the march. Unfortunately our president, Dick Darrington, took ill just prior to the 25th and Bob Smyth was called upon to lead the parade. John Chalwell did his customary good job as flag bearer. The less said about the march the better. The new arrangement of entering the Esplanade caused congestion and holdups which flowed back down the line. As a result we must have halted at least eight times before passing the official dais. It was not one of our best displays. On the other hand the service on the Esplanade was excellent. We were seated, had a front line view and appreciated the Governor Major General Jeffreys fine address his last before he steps down. Peter Epps provided a mini bus, which Gerry Maley, Bernie Langridge, Stan Payne and Don Turton took advantage of. Also marching with us were Neil McDonald and his daughter, Christine Wicks, Eric Wellers granddaughter and Helen Poynton with her two young grandsons who looked great in their mini army uniforms.

Twenty two sat down for lunch at the Terrace Hotel at 1.10pm. A friendly invasion by a group of the S.A.S. men led by their C.O. Lieut.Col. Tim McOwan, his deputy Major Bill Bryden and R. S.M. Genn Hibbert along with the president Bart Mavrick and vice-president Mick Malone of the S.A.S. Association and others soon had the room abuzz with conversation. A special guest was Dekka, the Falintil Commander in the South West Division of East Timor. He is over here receiving medical treatment after spending the last eight years fighting the T.N.I.. Through an interpreter Dekka had an interesting half hour session with our members. Mick Malone introduced the group and the C.O. Mike made a brief speech thanking the 2/2nd for their hospitality. So passed a very pleasant half hour.

It was nice to see country stalwarts in Tom Foster,

Stan Payne, Vince Swann, Terry Paull and Peter Campbell enjoying themselves. Terry turned 80 on the 12th April and is wearing well. Eric Weller who marched could not make the luncheon. Others present were Joe Poynton, Bernie Langridge, Don Turton, John Burrridge, Bob Smyth, Jim Lines, Dick Redell, Laurie Harrington, Ray Parry, Ted Monk, Tony Bowers, Don Murray, Dusty Studdy, Doc Wheatley and his friend Peter Softly, Gerry Maley and Jack Carey. Zul, the catering manager, looked after us well and the meal was up to its usual high standard and so ended our 55~ Anzac Day reunion. Apologies were received from Dick Darrington, Ray Aitken, Henry Sproxtton Wilf March and Ron Dook.

Jack Carey.

Tasmanian Safari March 2000.

The Tassie Safari held in Hobart from 8~ -15th March was a resounding success. It was most enjoyable, represented great value and went off like clockwork. It was a triumph for Bert Price and his handful of helpers and reflected great credit on their organising ability. Well done Bert, Billie, Gerry, Nancy and all those other lovely Tasmanian people. The attendance of 75 people was 15 above the original estimate of 60. Those who attended were: W.A. Len & Betty Bagley, Jack & Delys Carey, John & Olive Chalwell, Peter & Pat Campbell, Joy Chatfield, Dick Darrington, Jess Epps, Tom & Mary Foster, Bernie & Babs Langridge, Nellie Mullins, Stan & Barbara Payne, Eric & Twy Smyth, Pat Sullivan & Eric Weller. N.S.W. Ron Andrews, Bill & Coral Coker, Betty Craig, Marj Goodacre, George Greenhalgh, Harry & Amyce Handicott, Ken & Edith Jones, Paddy & Nora Kenneally, Alan Luby, Joyce Leadbetter, John & Joan Meldrum and KathPress. Victoria: Bluey & Mary Bone, Ed & Dot Bourke, Fred & Mavis Broadhurst, Leith & Marge Cooper, Carlene McDevitt, Margaret Monk & Don Thompson, Pat Petersen & Miriam Van Dyk. Queensland: Ron Archer & Lyn Love, Ralph & Sheila Conley, Alan Mitchell, George & Margo Shiels and Bulla Tait. A.C.T. Dan & Sunny Daniels and Joan Fenwick. S.A. Alan & Hazel Hollow. U. K. Ian & Margaret Ronald. Tasmania: (The Host State); Bert & Billie Price, Tex & Bridget Richards, Gerry & Nancy Slade, Joan Marsh and Noreen Miller.

The Hobart MacQuarie Motor Inn, run by Kevin & Kathy Weekes, proved to be an excellent venue.

The MacQuarie is well located and within a few minutes walking distance from the city. Being all under the one roof and having breakfast together enabled members to renew acquaintances and set the mood for a happy safari. Day 1. The safari began on the evening of Wednesday 8th with a barbecue meal at the Navy Club which was about 5 minutes walk from our motel the Womens Auxiliary, under president Mrs Judith Heath, turned on a nice meal and the president of the club, Mr Andrew Hammond, extended a warm welcome to us all. With plenty of the amber fluid on tap we were soon chatting freely with friends we had not seen for the past two years or even longer. It was a great start to the safari. After paying our dues in the morning we were picked up by Army buses of the 12/40 Battalion at 1 pm. and taken up to see the views of Hobart and the surrounding area featuring Tassie's pride the Derwent River from Mt. Wellington. It was a brisk clear afternoon and great for viewing. We were all impressed with the scenery Then back into the motel by 4pm, and after a brief rest off again to the civic reception at the Hobart Town Hall at 5.30pm. We were met by the Lord Mayor, Rob Valentine and the Lady Mayoress and enjoyed an hour in the company of the mayor and his aldermen. Following the mayor's welcoming speech, Alan Luby responded, presenting his worship with one of Arch Campbell's books and a number of Jim Smaile's poems which I'm sure were appreciated. The food and drinks flowed and it was a very pleasant hour indeed. Another great day!

Day 3. At 10am we were again picked up by the army buses by which time we were getting to know the drivers who were a great bunch. The occasion was our memorial service held at the Derwent Barracks "Koepang Wall" at the headquarters of the 12/40 th Battalion at Glenorchy. We were met by Lieut. Col. Steve Smith the C.O. and his R.S.M. Alan Gillman. The service began at 11am. Following the opening prayer by the army padre, addresses were made by J. Carey, the C.O. Steve Smith and the State President of the R. & S. League, Mr Wally Sutherland. The Australian Rosny Childrens Choir presence and their beautiful singing made a big impression on us all. A moving service ended with the Last Post and Rouse, with Bert Price saying the ode. A presentation was made to the C.O. by Eric Smyth while Dan Daniels presented a copy of Jim's poems to the choir members. The service was followed by a session in the army canteen

and then a tasty barbecue luncheon. So passed a very pleasant 5 hour outing. That evening some members gathered for a sing a long with Marge Cooper leading the way on the piano. A highlight was a duet by Miriam Van Dyk and Paddy Kenneally of Danny Boy, undoubtedly Paddys' favourite air!. Miriam showed her talent by entertaining us with her yodelling.

Day 4. Members took advantage of the free day to visit the Salamanca Markets or take a river trip on the Derwent. 89 people including 12 guests sat down for our official dinner in the Anthony Room at 6.30pm. The task of M.C. was in the capable hands of Mr Bagley and Len did a top job in his customary role. Joan Fenwick said Grace, Bernie Langridge the Loyal Toast, Ralph Conley handled the main toast, the Unit and Association with aplomb. Tom Foster toasted our guests and Paddy Kenneally absent friends. All five did a great job.. Life membership medallions were presented to Bert Price, Tex Richards and Bulla Tait all worthy recipients of the honour. Eric Smyth's recounting of the humorous incident involving the sheep stolen and barbecued by the boys of "B" platoon at Terowie back in 1941, in which the late Paddy Knight had a hand, brought back fond memories and went over well. It was a convivial and happy evening which I'm sure everyone enjoyed.

Day 5. On Sunday 12th March at 2pm an ecumenical remembrance service for deceased members was held in St. Joseph's church which is just across the road from our motel. The service was jointly conducted by the Rev. Canon David Lewis and the Rev. Father Delaney. It was a most impressive ceremony. The two readings were made by Ian and Margaret Ronald and were very well delivered. Canon Lewis gave a thought provoking address on the subject of "Courage". Dan Daniels read out the names of the 32 members who had passed on since our Canberra Safari in 1998. Father Delaney led the prayers and 2 hymns were sung. The church kindly provided an organist. St. Josephs has a great tradition having been built in 1846. After the service we all adjourned to the Navy Club and were treated to a delightful afternoon tea provided by the ladies auxiliary. There were goodies galore, some of which found their way back to our motel rooms ! Day 6. An early 8am start and we were on our way to the historical site of Port Arthur. The weather was overcast with a few light showers but this did not dampen the spirits. Our two guides knew their subject matter well and we

gained a good insight into the terrible hardships which the convicts had inflicted on them in those early days. The old buildings were well worth seeing and many were well preserved. A short harbour cruise finished off an interesting morning. Lunch followed at the Tasman Ex Service Club. Mrs Wendy Wade and her ladies auxiliary put on a delightful meal and Maurice Hallam, the club president, made a welcoming speech. Ralph Conley responded presenting Maurice with one of Archie's books. The good ladies could not do enough for us and made our two hours at the club a happy time. It was a weary but contented group of 2/2nd who arrived back at the motel at 5pm.

Day 7 (14th) In the morning a meeting was held and we had a group photo taken by the local paper, "The Mercury". Shortly after noon we were on our way to Cadbury Schweppes at Claremont. Practically everyone who goes to Hobart visits Cadburys and the conducted tours are well organised. About 2 kilometres is covered inspecting the factory. Tasty chocolate samples were provided which those with a sweet tooth took full advantage. It was quite a place employing over 550 people. Needless to say most members left well stocked up with their Cadbury's favourites. In the evening over 60 members enjoyed a meal together in the Anthony room. So ended another great day.

Day 8 . (15th) The final day consisted of a bus trip to the Huon Valley, a couple of hours run from Hobart . The warm welcome we received from the ladies auxiliary led by president Mrs Dorothy Blake set the scene for a memorable outing. The meal was really something. We were literally overwhelmed with the hospitality tendered us. Food was aplenty, ask Tex Richards who had no less than 3 helpings of sweets! After lunch we had a good old singalong with the music provided by Cyril Edwards and his wife. A presentation was made to the club president by Harry Handicott. Our sendoff was as equally enthusiastic as our welcome - what friendly people these Tasmanians are! The farewell at the Navy Club in the evening was a happy nostalgic affair. Another nice meal was followed by presentations to those good people who had made our stay in Hobart such a happy and harmonious one. Bert Price, his wife Billie, Gerry Slade and his wife Nancy(who was unable to be present) were presented with gifts chosen by our ladies. Presentations were also made to Mrs Heath, Mr Andrew Hammond, R.S.M. Alan Gillman and our five bus drivers who had looked after us so well throughout our many bus

trips. Len was also given a gift for his contribution as our M.C. The evening and safari closed with the singing of Auld Lange Syne. It had been a wonderful 7 days.

J. Carey.

Address delivered at the Association's memorial service held at Derwent Barracks, Glenorchy Headquarters of the 12/40th Battalion on 10/3/2000.

The 23rd Brigade-A Brief History.

This morning I would like to pay tribute to the 23rd Brigade of which our old unit the then No 2 Independent Company had the privilege of serving with in 1941/42. 58 years ago on the 12th March 1942 the Allied Forces in Java surrendered to the Japanese Army at Bandung. In less than 14 weeks the Japanese thrust south East Asia had succeeded in occupying Malaysia, Singapore, Java and its adjacent islands and Rabaul, the capital of the Mandated Territory of New Guinea. A truly remarkable feat!

In February 1941 the 22nd Brigade of the 8th Division was posted to Singapore. The 27th Brigade followed in August 1941. The remaining Brigade the 23rd made up of the 2/21st, 2/22nd and 2/40th battalions raised in Victoria and Tasmania had a different role to fill. The 22nd Battalion, Lark Force, under Lieut. Col. Carr was posted to Rabaul in March-April 1941 while the 2/21st, 2/40th were held in reserve in the Northern Territory. When war broke out with Japan on 7th Dec. 1941 the 2/21st Battalion, Gull Force, under Lieut. Col. Roach was posted to Ambon and the 2/40th Battalion, Sparrow Force, under Lieut. Col. Leggatt to Timor. Each battalion had supporting groups attached by way of engineers, field ambulances, signallers, heavy batteries, light AA batteries etc and the two newly formed Independent Companies. No 1 Company attached to Lark Force went to Kavieng, New Ireland and No 2 Company of Sparrow Force to Portuguese East Timor, a neutral country.

By the 1st January 1942 the three garrison forces were busy preparing for the inevitable onslaught. They did not have long to wait. Frequent air raids, increasing in intensity, began early in January on all three bases.

Rabaul was the first to fall. Invaded on the 23rd January 1942, the air support of 4 Hudsons and 10 Wirraways were no match for the faster Zero fighters and were quickly disposed of. Lacking naval or air support and hopelessly outnumbered the men of the 2/22nd resisted valiantly but had no option other than to surrender after a few days

fighting. The No 1 Independent Company on New Ireland suffered a similar fate. Some 400 of the main group managed to escape down the Gazelle Peninsular to New Guinea. The massacre of 160 young Australians at the Tol Plantation, Wide Bay early in February after they had surrendered was a grim indication of what lay ahead for those in captivity. A further disaster befell the men of the 2/22nd and No 1 Independent Company when the Montevideo Maru en route to Japan loaded with 850 POWs and 200 civilians was sunk off Luzon in the South China Sea with a total loss of life, by a U.S. submarine operating from Fremantle.

On Ambon Lieut. Col. Roach realizing the precarious position Gull Force was in, signalled to army headquarters in Melbourne on 13th January recommending the immediate withdrawal of his battalion. This resulted in his recall and replacement by Major Scott. On the 15th January General, later Field Marshall Wavell who was C.O. of all operations said quote "Quite appreciate feelings of lonely garrison but I am sure Australians will put up a stout fight whatever happens", well may he have added "And may the good Lord help them!" The Japanese invaded Ambon on 30th January. The men of the 2/21st put up a stout resistance but lacking air or naval support and hopelessly outnumbered surrendered within a few days. Once again the brutality of the Japanese was demonstrated when 300 Australians were executed at Laha on Ambon between 15th to 20th February for no apparent reason.

On the 19th February the Japanese launched a devastating raid on Darwin to ensure their invasion of Timor on the same day proceeded unimpeded. Paratroops were used for the first time in the invasion of whom the men of Sparrow Force took a high toll. The 2/40th without air or naval support fought bravely but in the end, as was the case in Rabaul and Ambon was finally overcome by sheer weight of numbers and surrendered. Over 200 men succeeded in crossing into East Timor and joined up with the 2nd Independent Company. The defeat of the three battalions resulted in 3266 men becoming prisoners of war going on to spend 3 _ years often under hellish conditions in prison camps. These privations for long periods resulted in the deaths of many of the POWs while many others on returning to civilian life continued to have severe health problems. 1544 men who left Australia with the brigade never returned. A mortality rate of over 30%.

The No 2 Independent Company operating in East Timor was fortunate enough to make it back to Australia intact in December 1942 after an

arduous 10 months campaign. Their exploits in East Timor have been well documented and the help they received from the East Timorese in those difficult times is well known and acknowledged. The men of the Company have never forgotten their debt to these people and it has been gratifying for those still alive to see the East Timorese win their independence. A valiant Navy and support from the R.A.A.F. also helped the Unit to make it back home. The company was reformed early in 1943. 140 of the originals were replaced by splendid young men eager to do their share for Australia. The Company went on to spend over 14 months in New Guinea from July 1943 and saw the war out in New Britain as the 2/2nd Commando Squadron.

The Company at least had the satisfaction of seeing the humiliation of the defeated Japanese Force numbering over 90 000 in the Rabaul area. The wheel had completed a full turn.

Reflecting on the tragedy which was the 23rd Brigades lot, one may ask what possessed the Generals of the day to place so many young men in such impossible situations. Surely they were entitled to at least be given a chance. Had the brigade been sent intact to New Guinea early in 1942 when troops were badly needed, they would have acquitted themselves well. Of this I have no doubt but it was not to be. Victims of the politics of war and the mistakes of others they paid for with their most precious gift-their lives.

One can imagine the outcry there would be today if it was even suggested our troops be placed in a situation similar to that of the men of the 23rd Brigade. It just would not happen.

In April the men and women who served in East Timor since last September will be honored with a ticker tape parade in Sydney and rightfully so. Well trained, well equipped and well led by a fine leader in Major General Cosgrove, the troops carried out their duties to the letter and that's how it should be. Their presence in East Timor lifted the morale of a down trodden people giving them hope for the future.

Today's generation and generations to come should be made aware of the sacrifices made and the heroic deeds done by the men of the 23rd Brigade and all those who defended this great country of ours in those more difficult times.

In the words of our own C.J.Dennis- "I dips me lid to the men of the 23rd they were the salt of the earth".

J.W.Carey

Hon. Secretary 2/2nd Commando Association of Australia.

Hobart General Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held at the Macquarie Motor Inn on Tuesday, 14/3/2000. There were 29 members and 11 ladies present. The Chairman, Mr Price, declared the meeting open at 9.40 am and asked all to stand for the Ode and a brief silence in memory of Departed Comrades.

Business Arising: Courier. Mr Bagley, our Editor, gave a run down on present position of the Courier. There were 4 quarterly issues of 380 copies. A change of printers for the March issue had reduced the printing costs and the Association was trying to get Veteran Affairs to meet the postage costs but to date no success. Len appealed to all members to write in more often and said he would especially like to hear from those who had served in New Guinea and New Britain. The ladies were also asked to contribute items such as wedding anniversaries etc. The Courier is there for the benefit of everyone but letters are essential to maintain the standard of the paper. In supporting Mr Bagley, Mr Carey said it was surprising how little we knew about many of our members and we want to hear more from them.

Nurses Memorial Canberra: Mrs Twy Smyth said the donation of \$150 from the Association for the Nurses Memorial appeal, via her Busselton Sub Branch had made her proud to be part of the Association. The Memorial in Canberra, now completed, was something special and Twy advised those visiting Canberra to be certain to see it.

Next Safari: Mr Bagley said, as the next Safari may well be the last, he would like to see it held in W.A. A five day cruise on the Murray River was suggested but members thought it may not work out as we would be too confined and likely to get bored. Mrs Epps said Kangaroo Island would be a good place to stay while others mentioned Mildura or Swan Hill. After much discussion a motion was put that the next Safari be held at Kangaroo Island or Mildura (proposed by Mr Cooper). On a show of hands Mildura won the vote comfortably. Mr Conley kindly offered to sound out a contact in Mildura re accommodation. Messrs Bone, Bourke and Daniels also offered to assist in the setting up of the Safari if it was found to be suitable. May seemed to be the most suitable month weather wise so it could well be 'Mildura in May 2002'. If things work out one thing that was clear is that those present wanted the Safaris to continue for as long as possible.

Honorary Life Membership: Mr Langridge moved, seconded Mr Foster, that Mr Ron Morris be made an Honorary Life Member of the Association. Mr Langridge said Mr Morris had done a wonderful job in helping to set up the two very successful Safaris held in Canberra in 1986 and 1998 and was worthy of a Life Membership medallion. The motion was put and carried unanimously with acclamation.

Memorial Rededication: Mr Carey said the Army had gone ahead and restored the Memorial dedicated to the East Timorese people in April 1969, which had fallen into disrepair. The service was set for the 13th April this year and the Army had invited six members of the Association to attend - most of the costs to be met by the Army. Because of the short notice given, the Committee in W.A. made a quick decision to select Messrs Bob Smyth, John Burrridge, Keith Hayes, Ray Aitken, Tom Foster and Paddy Kenneally to represent the Association. It was proposed to also visit the Los Palos Agricultural School where Les Cranfield is at present working. Mr Carey asked the meeting to endorse the Committee's action which was generously given by those present.

General: Mr Luby said the New South Wales Commando Association had raised over \$2000 for aid to East Timor and further appeals were under way.

Mr Carey said the continued support of our widows who were growing in numbers, was essential if the Association was to continue. It was pleasing to see such a good roll up of widows at the Safari and enjoying one another's company so well.

Before the meeting closed it was moved Mr Broadhurst, seconded Mr Kenneally that a vote of thanks be recorded in the minutes in recognition of the tremendous job done by the organiser, Mr Bert Price, in setting up the Safari. The motion was carried with loud acclamation.

In closing the meeting at 10.50 am, Bert Price thanked members and said it had been his privilege to do what he and his small committee had done for such a fine Association.

Bert Price, Main Road, Dover 7117

The Editor, 2/2 Commando Courier

The Safari 2000 in Hobart is over, but what a great experience it was for Billie, Nancy and Gerry Slade and myself. It was very special to be with such wonderful people and enjoy our get togethers and

the bus tours - with our drivers - and see the drivers at Port Arthur look after our members in the wheel chairs. It was a first time for Billie to meet up with the members and she was so pleased how easy it was to talk to everyone. We have to thank Jack Carey for sending out all the thank you letters to those who helped arrange the Safari. Our local man, David Clark, who helped with letters, programs etc., was pleased with his thank you, especially coming from Western Australia under our official letter head. He has put it away in his special book - thanks Jack and Delys.

I have been contacted by Mr John Opie, ex army, re the program - 'The Anzac Spirit' for school children - where they take a special war event each year and program it for Anzac Day. John is also involved with the War Museum at Anglesea Barracks, Hobart, where a duplicate of the wireless 'Winnie the War Winner' is on display. Next year, 2001, John's Committee will feature our actions in East Timor in 1942. There will be an exhibition in the Museum at Anglesea Barracks and a story written and sent to schools etc. and invitations to see the displays- between 1st March to 30th April. John now asks for the 2/2nd Association to forward any letters, photos, personal stories, episodes, either to him or myself. All items will be well looked after and returned where required. It would be nice if we could have photos etc of Peter Epps Museum. John wants to start on the program 1st September so we should all get out our thinking caps and see what we can do to make the program a success. Remember, this is for the school students who at this time are wanting these types of projects.

Getting back to the Safari - Had a letter from the Rosny Childrens Choir, some of them sang at our service at Derwent Barracks. They want to know more about the 2/2nd and they enjoyed being part of the service and it was so different from their usual functions - they took part in a memorial service at Port Arthur recently. We had a good Anzac Day at Dover with record attendances at all services. I gave the 'Dawn Service Address' and, with recent East Timor activities, made mention of our time there.

R.S.M.12/40 Battalion Alan Gillman, has obtained two books - The Australian Army in Profile 1999, which I will post out soon.

Have phoned Gerry and Nancy Slade occasionally and both are about the same in health. Billie and I intend to have lunch with them

soon and finalise 'Safari' monies etc. Billie and I are going along pretty good except I had eye and teeth problems - means a lot of travelling to Hobart, but over the worst so will be able to settle back into routine again, with our gardens and R&SLA work.

We had that special Tasmanian weather for our Safari and it has continued on and now a record dry in some areas.

It was good to know some of our members were able to go back to Timor recently and will look forward to their experiences.

Billie and I send our regards to all members and look forward to Safari 2002.

Bert & Billie Price

G. Slade,

29 Monash Avenue, Lenah Valley 7008.

Dear Jack, I am writing this on behalf of Gerald as he does not like writing letters. This is to let you know how pleased we were to be able to get to some of the Safari events. It was great meeting up with so many ex-Commandos, their wives, widows and friends. It was such a long time since we last met, at Phillip Island, and we must say all looked so good and healthy. We were so disappointed we were unable to participate in all events. Had we been fit we would have stayed at the Motel with the group. So sorry we couldn't help Bert and Billie with the preparations. They did a fantastic job. Fortunately, you had good weather and the Motel was so central. We thank you sincerely for the gifts you presented to us. It was a wonderful gesture but we didn't feel we deserved them.

We are very slowly improving. Gerald put on a little weight. My improvement is slow and will be for quite some time. Do hope all comes out well in the end. We are hoping to make it to the Safari in Victoria in 2002.

Regards and Best Wishes to all. Gerry & Nancy

J. Smith,

79 Bungary Road, Norah Head, 2263

Just a short note, partly due to my mother's disability in writing and partly that I would also like to receive the Courier myself. Enclosed is a donation to cover the cost of adding my name to your mailing list and also continue delivery of same to my mother, Joyce.

Yours sincerely, Jim Smith.

CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

Mrs M. McKenzie**5 Wendlebury Way, Eden Hill, 6054**

Dear Len & Betty,

Enclosed please find cheque, half for the Courier & half for the Trust Fund. Wishing all a happy 'Safari'. Love, Mary.

A. Beveridge**49 Carey St., Toronto 2283**

Dear Jack,

The enclosed cheque is for use by the Association for any purpose. Regards, Andy.

J. Keenahan**30 Duncan St. Huskisson 2540**

Dear Jack,

It is with regret that I have finally come to a decision re the Safari. For the past months I have not had a good run, with health, stomach problems plus 'by-pass & blood pressure. Jean & I were both hoping things would clear up but no such luck. We both wish one & all a great time. Jack & Jean

R. Dook,**6 Arlington Drive, Willetton 6155**

Dear Ted,

Sorry to hear that you were not well enough to attend the S.A.S. function recently. Hope you have recovered.

Enclosed is a donation for the Courier.

Best of luck & health,

Ron

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

Dear Jack,

Here is a cheque, half for the Association & half for the Trust Fund. I like receiving the Courier to keep up with the news. I keep in contact with the Crossing family. It was nice of them to come to the Memorial Service. They enjoyed it very much.

My daughter was in Melbourne recently & called on Harry & Olive Botterill. She said they were both well.

Cheers,

Dot

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

Dear Jack,

I feel very honoured yet humble to have been appointed to Life Membership of the Association. I just could not believe that you would bestow such an honour on me and now that I am proudly wearing the badge on my jacket I am just beginning to realise how proud I am of this presentation and 'presentation' it really was. Joan Fenwick came to our home for afternoon tea, we both stood up and Joan, with pin in hand said 'I am very proud and honoured to confer on you Ron the Honorary Life Membership badge of the 2/2nd Commando Association of Australia' (hug and Kiss). Applause from Hazel.

Congratulations to Bert Price for the wonderful Safari he organised in Hobart. I am sure a great time was had by all, even the weather was kind to you. I hope to be fit enough to join you all should you decide on Mildura for your next Safari.

Please remember I am here in Canberra for the Association and will always do my best to assist you all in any way. The new RSM of the S.A.S. Glen Hibberd, otherwise known as 'Porky' is a great friend of mine and I am sure would extend the hospitality of his regiment to you all. Please get in touch with him.

Kind regards to Mick Malone.

God bless you all.

Ron.

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

Dear friends of the 2/2 Commando Association. Jack asked me to pen a few lines for the Courier. As someone said at Canberra, 'even if you only write your own obituary, it may be interesting' I must say I enjoyed my stay in Tassie. My heart was strangely warmed at times, especially by those lovely people who looked after us - something money can't supply, although it is a necessity that can't be overlooked at times. I wish

to thank Bert Price for the hard slog he put into organising the programme. Also it was great meeting Alan Luby, Tom & Mary Foster, Bill Petersen's widow Pat & her sister Miriam. I was closely associated with Bill at Moresby. We flew together on the DC3's biscuit bombers over Wau, Salamaua & Kokoda, dropping to the 17th Brigade, also my friend Ralph Conley & wife Sheila, many others which space & time won't permit me to mention (not forgetting Barbara Payne). Blessed be the ties that bind us. Unfortunately I caught the flu on the super sonics flying back home.

Apart from my church work (S.D.A.) my main interests are with my wife Eileen, & daughter Carol who is expecting a child soon. My pets consist of a miniature corgi, aquariums & canaries & finches in aviaries. I also believe in plenty of walking & cycling (have been a professional in the past riding in the Goulbourn to Sydney classic & club championships).

I promised Jack I would try to contact Jeff Laidlaw's son who lives at Adamstown not far from where I reside, & Andy Beveridge at Toronto.

I will round off this letter by saying that I am looking forward to seeing you again 'Down by the Murray Darling in the sweet Bye & Bye.

Enclosed is a donation for the Courier.

Sincerely, Ron.

T.J. Pulleine,

23 Cooks Crescent Young 2594

Dear Jack

I hope this note finds all in the 2/2 OK. Enclosed is a cheque for the Courier & the Timor Appeal. The Courier is fantastic & so are all those who have kept it alive over the years.

Sincerely, Tom

R.T. Yates,

184 Summerland Way, Kyogle 2474

Dear Jack

Enclosed is a cheque for the Courier. Jean & I lead a quiet life but do keep reasonably good health.

Regards & best wishes,

Tom

T. Cholerton,

16 Wirraway Ave, Evans 2473

Dear Courier,

Afraid we could not make the Hobart Safari as I am still too crook to travel but our thoughts are with all who make the event.

We have been fortunate enough to get Pat into a Group Home in Grafton. He has been there for about a year & has settled down very well. He came home for a fortnight over Christmas & New Year & we are expecting him home again for his birthday. Di & Julie are very well.

Cheque herewith for the Courier.

Had a short visit from Paddy Kenneally recently. A neighbour who was here at the time said she likes coming to the Cholertons as they have such interesting visitors!

Best wishes to all members from Ted & Di.

S.E. PAYNE,

Box 351, Merredin 6415

Dear Jack, George Timms son called in on his way to Kalgoorlie. He wanted a copy of Archie's book & I told him it would cost him a donation He gave me a donation so I am sending it & I added a bit. Some for Trust Fund & some for Courier. Stan.

L. Cranfield,

6 Third Ave, Shoalwater, 6169

Dear Jack & Del, Please find enclosed cheque for the Trust Fund. Hope you had a truly wonderful time at the Hobart Safari. Always with best wishes & fondness to you both,

Verna & Les.

Mrs G. Kirkwood,

11/31 Gardner St., Como 6152

Enclosed herewith a donation for the Courier.

Kind regards to all.

Gwenda

I. Scott,

1001/206 BenBoyd Road, Neutral Bay 2089

Dear Jack,

Enclosed please find cheque, the disposal of same I shall leave to you.

I recently have had my memories of Timor days vividly refreshed by regular EMAIL and photos from Dili of various areas of East Timor sent to me by my son in law who was Naval Component Commander INTERFET. One of his interesting experiences was diving with Navy divers on the old wreck of HMAS Voyager at Betano and then observing the underwater detonation of the unexploded ordnance (ammunition, depth charges etc) which, after 57 years still created a terrific blast. I think Interfet have done an excellent job in their restoration of peace in East Timor and full credit for that success I feel goes to Major-General Peter Cosgrove AM MC who was not only a very capable Force Commander but also a diplomat of high distinction in the manner in which he handled the extensive negotiations with those Indonesians in the early days of the Force's peace keeping activities.

Sincere best wishes for 2000.

Ian

P. Mantle,

19 Arnold Street, Allora 4362

Dear Jack, Enclosed cheque for Courier.

Ophthalmologist diagnosed incipient glaucoma, so now I'm licensed to drive only in daylight. Otherwise my day to day health is good. Doctor said I have the same blood pressure as the angels, but loads are getting heavier and distances are further. Not like the chap whose doctor said he'd have to take one tablet every day for the rest of his life...then gave him a prescription marked 'NO REPEATS'.

Twice I have won raffles of meat in quantity and asked the local clergy if there was a family in need to have some of it. Both times no. Seems that there are no poor around these parts. Different elsewhere of course. I recently heard the Secretary General of U.N. say that one half of the people in today's world have never received a telephone call.

Life drifts along very pleasantly. My main single interest is cooking - and eating it. I comb the op shops for cookery books and do dishes of many different countries. Although Allora is not far below Tropic of Capricorn, we do get some cold nights and often during this rather odd summer I used the electric blanket. Still, as the superstitious actor said 'You can't make a Hamlet without breaking a leg.

Peter.

Mrs M. Blomfield,

602 Head Street, Forster, 2428

I am writing to let you know my change of address from Sirius Key to the above. My phone number is the same - 0265548738. Moving has been a dreadful business but with help from family and friends I am about 3/4 settled in my new Unit. Sincerely, Margaret

Mrs V. Nichols,

102/250 Baltimore Pde, Merriwa 6030

Dear Mr Carey,

Enclosed is a cheque for \$25 for your Association. As my husband Malcolm Nichols passed away years ago I feel that your very good newspaper is of not a great deal of interest to me now.

Thanking you for your past interest and good health to all your members.

Yours sincerely, Verna Nichols

**Mrs J. Laurence-Rogers 1/154 Sydney Road,
Fairlight 2094**

Dear Mr Carey,

I am writing on behalf of my father Reg. Griffiths of Leeton. As from 8th February he will be at the Jean Colvin Hospital, 9 Loftus Road, Darling Point 2027. Dad has not had the best of health for a couple of years. His strong determination and hearty spirit have kept him responding to treatment. He often tells me of his exploits on Timor with his mates and now it is that toughness brought out of him by his Captain Don Turton that is allowing him to keep fighting and receiving treatment. His mates are very important to him and he enjoys a chat and reading about them in the Courier. I am enclosing \$20 as I would like to be placed on the mailing list for the Courier. Thank you.

Yours faithfully, Janette Laurence-Rogers.

Ed: Don Turton and Ralph Conley have been in touch with Reg. who is having a pretty tough time. Chin up Reg.

Mrs R. Moar,

58 St. David's Rd, Haberfield 2045

Dear Mr Monk,

The enclosed cheque is a donation from my

mother Nancy Teague (wife of Babe Teague) and myself for the Independent Trust Fund (\$100) and the Courier (\$50). Thank you for all the hard work that goes into both these ventures. We are both pleased to hear such first hand reports of the situation in East Timor - more informative and personal than those in the mainstream media - although saddened by the destruction that has taken place.

Thanks to all in the Association. Rosslyn Moar (and Nancy Teague)

T.J. Pulleine,

23 Cook Cresc., Young 2594 Phone 02 63827092

Dear Jack,

Thanks for the letter. I must keep sending more donations to make up for the years I couldn't afford to, having a large family (14) and grand and great grand children in the 50s. I don't get a lot of time to myself, however I'm quite happy with my life. Enclosing a cheque for \$30, 10 for the Courier and 20 for the Timor Fund. I've always donated to Austek but my small donations wouldn't pay for the elaborate pamphlets they keep sending out soliciting funds. I always give to the Salvos but last year they wrote to me asking why I hadn't donated to the Red Shield appeal. I had, but they didn't have me down on their computer, hence the letter asking for donations. Needless to say, I didn't reply. I have thoughts about how greedy Society has become. The modern Aussie seems to worship the dollar above everything and has no respect or compassion for fellow Aussies. However, we have to learn to live with it I suppose.

Health wise I have a few problems, respiratory, emphysema, high blood pressure, oedema, back and hip problems, otherwise I'm 100% I have an oxygen cylinder for travelling, an oxy generator for mainly night time and a CPAP machine for the sleep problems both through the one mask. Day time I'm not too bad as long as I don't over do it. I still live alone and do most of my cleaning, washing and cooking. I prefer to be independent, I guess I've had it fairly easy compared to a lot of others I read about in the Courier. I had a grandson in Timor, he is my namesake, so two of us with the same names have been in Timor. It's a terrible tragedy what has happened over there to those wonderful people. I do wonder though, how much they have changed after the last thirty years, somehow I feel some of the mud of Indonesia will stick, it's so bad that the

Indonesians were of such a violent nature, how they will ever make a true nation out of so many languages, religions and cultures, seems to me impossible. Time, of course will tell. I could go on for hours about it, but I'll leave it there just hoping all will be well in the long run.

Yours sincerely, Tom

G. Shiels,

P.O. Box 374, Bowen, 4805

Phone 07 4785 1265

Dear Jack,

Just a short note to express my congratulations on another very successful Safari. Bert Price and his assistants performed an excellent operation. I doubt if anything could have been better organised and controlled. Margo and I thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. We spent another enjoyable week around Launceston with Margo's friend Bob Barnes who was in the same Jap internment camp in the Phillipines. We spent a fortnight in Victoria and were able to have a pleasant day with Margaret Monk and Don Thomson. We have finally managed to settle down and get the place ship shape again. We have had all the rain we need and now have beautiful cool sunny days. At present awaiting a break in the south easterly strong wind warning as I hope to catch a few Reef fish.

A reprint of Margo's book 'Bends in the Road' is being processed and should be available for sale early in June. The cost is \$18 including postage. To purchase same please contact her at the above address or phone number.

I hope to see you all at the next safari if not before.

Regards, George Shiels.

L. Cooper,

Unit 41, 48-80 Settlement Rd, Cowes, 3922

(03) 59522646

Dear Jack,

After arriving back in Victoria after the Safari, we had a frantic period of packing up from 8 Hilltop Cresc. Rhyll and moved to this new address on 8th April. Though far from settled in our new unit we are operating - disposing of much we have valued over the years and fitting in to a new way of life. The big change is moving from 26 squares plus a 20'x20' garage into 10 squares and carport. Since returning I have attended the doctor with my leg diagnosed as a compression stress

fracture of the shin bone. I escaped having it in plaster and it is gradually improving as long as I do not walk **down** hills or stairs.

I am not marching in Melbourne this year as the leg would not stand it, so will attend the local service.

Regards to the W.A. group.

Leith

Dear Jack,

Congratulations to everyone for the wonderful Safari. It was great to see so many friends so pleased to see one another and everyone so happy to be there. Joan Fenwick and I had an extra day and were met at Canberra by Joan's daughter and family. They helped us unpack - the children had a great time and of course we had to sort it all out later but a lovely time was spent by us all.

Have been busy since I came home after staying with Joan for a few days. Phillip came to Canberra and spent a few days at Army Barracks. Then home to Young and this time I received a good report on the re-doing of my cancer. Good to hear all was OK and we hope it will last as long as the last time. All signs are good so I am very lucky - 22 years since the first time, so here's hoping!!!

We have sold my house and it looks like Phillip has sold his too. Next thing is packing up. Phillip has been granted leave for 2/3 months so all should be OK. He has purchased a home at Bathugra about 20 minutes by car from Wodonga, a 3 bedroom house with a granny flat attached so I have a complete home. Most of my furniture will go into the home - a few things to sell, but we will take it slowly and get settled.

Phillip has applied for a PO Box and I will let you know the address as soon as possible.

Janette is driving over from Adelaide for school holidays and will help sort out her things from the house. She and Phillip will organise the packing etc. and arrange the move. I guess I'll be pleased to be settled again and I'm sure we will all be glad when it's over. I'm very pleased about it all and looking forward to the move.

I am sending a cheque for \$100 from the three of us, Betty, Phillip and Janette, we all enjoy the Courier, it is very special to us all.

Best wishes to everyone and as soon as possible I will be in touch. Sincerely,

Betty Craig

J.Jones,

1/1 Kinkora Rd, Hawthorn, 3122

Dear Jack,

I am enclosing \$250 - \$200 to the 2/2nd Trust Fund and the remainder to enable you to keep the Courier alive and well. (It rather puts my effort to shame but then I do the lot with the exception of folding and at almost 81 its a bit of a grind but I get a lot of satisfaction by keeping in touch. I read pages 16 and 17 of your March Courier and was impressed by what your Association has done and is doing in East Timor. I, and I am sure all 2/4thers who served on Timor will be very happy and thankful to know that the 2/2nd and the 2/4th will be mentioned on the 'Fatunaba Memorial Dili. I feel I may have started a further feeling of brotherhood between our two Associations when I suggested that any donation from the 2/4th or its members be sent to your Association. I am always glad that as Eng. Sergeant, I and my section, after we landed, relied on 'The Bull'to break us into the routine of 'B' Platoon's experience and knowledge. This, when we eventually took over undoubtedly saved quite a few lives.

Jack, you will remember towns such as Betano, Fatucauc, Alas, Same, Fai Nai, Mindello, Turisca, Ailalec, Fatu Maquerec, Punar, Cribas, Laclo, and the areas around Remexio. Each of these always brings back memories, one I didn't mention was Quicras, perhaps to most of us and particularly those who had to swim, out past the breakers to get to the ship's brig, although I remember stripping off and going down to the beach after that the next thing I remember is clambering up the nets, passing through the first black out curtain where a sailor put a cigarette in my mouth and then nearly got thrown off my feet as the 'Arunta' took off, what a lot of memories.

If you can ever get to see Norm Nicolay and Gordon Williams just tell them that Dee and I are always thinking of them.

Yours sincerely, John.

Australian Commando Association including M&Z Special Units

Notification of Office Bearers year 2000, resulting from the Annual General Meeting of the Australian Commando Association, held at Duntroon ACT on March 7, 2000:

President Mr William HARDGRAVE (Qld)

Vice President: The Hon. Harry EMERY QC (NSW)
 Hon. Secretary/Hon. Treasurer Mr George Buckingham (Qld)

Executive Member: Mr. Harry PHILLIPS (ACT)

Executive Member: Mr. Andy PIRIE (NSW).

There are now four members of the Executive Committee, their surnames appearing in capital letters.

Sincerely, George Buckingham, Hon. Secretary

J.P. Kenneally,

28 Wilkins St., Yagoona 2199. 3.2.2000

Dear Len,

I took a trip up along the north coast & it was more mobile than sedentary. Called in to see Bill & Beryl Walsh at Kempsey. Both looking hale & hearty, Bill, however, had a close call & spent a long time in hospital. His appearance belies his actual state of health. Bill can handle it, as he said 'as long as I don't attempt too much physical activities I'm OK.'

Noel Buckman at Stuarts Point was next stop. Buck & I were in the same Section, he was in fact my main reason for going walkabout. I heard he wasn't too good & unfortunately the message was true. Buck has had a tough road to follow over the last few years & it has taken its toll. He accepts his state of health stoically & with patience. He has two strong props in his wife Marie & son Paul. He lacks neither care nor devotion. They make a great team.

I reckoned I may as well keep heading north, so set out for Maclean & Happy Greenhalgh. Nothing wrong with him now. He told me that for the first time in his life he had a flu injection & finished up with the father of all flu attacks. He was a bit worried about his pet frog, & that was about the sum total of Happy's worries. He told about his trip west & how Harry Sproxton was feeling.

On to Evans Head, Ted & Dianne Cholerton unchanged. Ted reckons he is a bit weak in the legs - he climbed the stairs far better than I. The family is really well & live in a gorgeous part of the coast. They just have to walk to the headland at the top of the street & look upon mile after mile of unspoilt beach, the sands fringed by miles of coastal bush & clear, unpolluted ocean. I reckon the whole of the Australian eastern coast line is beyond compare, beaches, headlands &

mountain ranges & fine rivers. Ted & Dianne picked a lovely spot in which to live when they left the inland. Turned west after Evans Head, over the coastal range, the country looked a picture, we had good rains. Lismore is one country centre that is expanding. I hadn't been through that part for years - Mt. Lindsay towering above. God only knows how many sunrises I saw over that mountain in 1938 & 1939 when I was working in the McPherson ranges along the border country. I went back into the area high up in the mountains on a plateau that once supported about 14 families on dairy farms & they were big families. Today only 2 families left there, the rest all gone. A stranger from over the border owns the lot, grows potatoes & raises beef cattle, & certainly doesn't support 14 families. I played football & cricket there in 1938/39 & we won the comp. in both sports. I'm about the only one left - I didn't meet a soul I played with. Even two of the pubs were gone. I met grand sons & daughters. Over to Warwick & met a couple I knew pre-war. That was a happy interlude, both long, long time friends & about to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. I headed south for home. Back in Sydney Nora & I went down the south coast, Bowly Point. Met up with Helen, Peter & family, Gerald, Donna & their family. Sean was down from Alice Springs with his family, Michael was there, so it was Christmas all over again.

Returned to Sydney in time to attend a surprise party for Jack & Maria's 45th wedding anniversary put on by their children. There were Hartleys there, Maria's sisters & children & down from Newcastle was Snowy Went, looking as dapper, healthy & handsome as ever. Snow has one complaint - he has not caught up with the social life of Newcastle yet, hence he misses the two & three nights a week he would spend dancing & cheering up the life of every unattached female he met. There are no dull moments when Snow Went is about. I hope his social life has taken a change for the better! Chris Hartley gave a wonderful, true speech, thanking his parents for the life they gave him, his brothers & sister, & the devotion & care expended on them. Jack, who has not enjoyed the best of health for years, really came to life & enjoyed the company. Congratulations to him & Maria & best wishes for the future.

Saw 'Drip' Hilliard recently - you couldn't subdue 'Drip' if you hit him with a sledge hammer. He hasn't had an easy time but he & Pat take whatever comes in their stride, no lamenting, just cheerful good humour. Also saw Curly O'Neill. He

& Varina faring reasonably well despite a few stiff hurdles along the way. Both avid, selective readers, keep well up with current events, not only here but in Europe & whilst not as physically active, Curly certainly keeps his mind & brain active.

Nora sends her best wishes & joins me in wishing all happiness & reasonable health for 2000 & on.

Paddy

A.S. Luby,

6/35 Richmond Ave, Dee Why 2099

Dear Len,

After having a cataract removal and lens implant in April and due to have my right eye done, our readers who have had similar operations will know how difficult it is to read and/or write. This being the case I hope you and Betty are able to decipher this surat without too much trouble. In regard to the March Courier, you may recall that I told you I had written a NSW report - well, the Easter Bunny turned up with it in a drawer in my desk! Strange ain't it!! However, we did have my contribution of the Gen. Cosgrove papers and his Remembrance Day address and an addition by our great country member, George 'Happy' Greenhalgh. There's no doubt our Courier is our main life line these days to keep in contact with those who remain and their families.

Hobart Safari 2000: What a wonderful success it proved to be, and once again showed what can be done by a small number of very dedicated people like Bert and Billie Price and family, Gerry Slade and all the other people involved who helped to make it such an enjoyable event. We offer them our most sincere congratulations. I'm only sorry that my Edith could not be with us but her Specialist said a big no to long travel by any means.

Timor Events: Once again I'm sure the recent trip by our great aid group will be well reported and as much as many of us would have wished to be there for many of the functions we also realise that there must be restrictions on numbers for many reasons. It is a great pity that the media did not give the re-dedication of our Memorial much greater coverage when even the ABC ignored it. At least we have had contact with some of the people who have spent time over there in one capacity or another, and some of them joined us on Anzac Day. The Westpac Bank in George Street, Sydney made their Anzac feature for this

year 2000, on Timor with many photos of 1942 and 1999, uniforms, arms, singers and dancers focussed on Timor from 10th to 28th April. The Guest of Honour for the official opening was Major-General Cosgrove who gave his usual inspiring address. There were five of us present from 2/2 Company - Ken Jones, Hap Greenhalgh and Bill Tomasetti from the country, Jack Hartley and myself from the City area. Gordon Hart, Kevin Rix and Wilf Roberts were also present and after the official formalities were completed the General asked that we all assemble at a central point where he met us individually and chatted with us for about 15 minutes. I presented him with one of our mini colour patch pins which he said he would wear with pride, and placed it on his collar under his red tab. I also gave him a copy of Jim Smailes Poems. Like everyone, we reckoned this meeting was one of the highlights of our lifetimes.

While Ken was down we presented him with a Life Membership Badge of the 2/2 Association. We had previously done the same for Bill Tomasetti about the turn of the Century.

On the 19th April my brother John and I had a better look at the Timor display in the City, then stood outside the bank and cheered the various services as they marched so proudly for their welcome home from Timor Parade. This was probably the biggest march of servicemen and women in uniform through Sydney since the 6th and 7th Divisions return from the Middle East in 1942/43. For such a Parade too, they did not carry any arms!!

Anzac Day: Like many other parts of Australia our Anzac Day weather turned lousy to say the least. Fortunately it remained fine during our own Memorial Service at Martin Place but then deteriorated. Indicative of the times, and this is reflected with all Unit groups, we had only Harry Handicott, Col. Holley and myself on parade, supported by my brother Alan Gray of Wollongong, and Nancy Teagues three daughters. 'Snow' Went joined the march along the track but I missed him as he broke off and went out to see Jack Hartley. No.1. Cdo. Regt, No. 1 Cdo Coy, Z Special Unit and Chindits were all represented and for those of us who couldn't see the distance we had a mini bus provided. Our friend Jim Walker was also up from Melbourne to spend the day with us. The Reunion on the ferry was spoilt somewhat by the weather and caused many to arrive home much earlier than usual.

Sick Report: After the Safari Bill Coker had to

cancel a planned tour of Tassie but after lengthy tests seems to be improving. Luckily he ignored the advice and diagnosis of a Hobart GP and came back to his own L.M.O. Ray Cole, Ron Trengove, Frank O'Neill and Jack Hartley-y remain pretty much the same as usual. My Edith has been able to control her hip which dislocated three times around Christmas and New Year, but now has to have a toe amputated (Tomaine Poison) and a cortisone injection into her right shoulder. Her Ortho Specialist spent six weeks in Timor during October/November with an army medical team, so we have a long consultation!

We were all saddened to hear that our old mate Jim Cullen of Kyogle had gone on that last patrol after a long illness. Over the years because of distance and farm commitments we didn't see much of Jim and Beryl. As is generally the case these days, because of physical restrictions it was not possible for anyone from Sydney area to attend his funeral service but we had some phone contact with Beryl. May Jim's soul Rest in Peace. Best wishes to all.

Alan

P.O. Box 1, Maclean, NSW

Dear Len, I'm sorry to have to report the passing of Jim Cullen, a good soldier and good mate. He fought right up to the end after a stroke four years ago. He passed away at Kyogle on the 9th April. I am enclosing for inclusion in the Courier the eulogy delivered by his daughter Catriona Moore to a full congregation at the Kyogle Uniting Church on Thursday, 13th April, 2000. I spoke of Jim's war service. The Association was represented by Russ Blanch, Tom Yates and myself. Ted Cholerton sent his apologies. Beryl would be grateful if you would continue to send the Courier.

Ken Jones and I attended the official viewing of an exhibition called 'Traditions' at the invitation of the Westpac branch of the R.S.L. held at Bank's Sydney office on 17th April from 6pm to 7.30pm. It consisted of photos etc from INTERNET and 2nd World War Timor. Guest of Honour was Major General Cosgrove who addressed the gathering prior to the viewing and was kind enough to talk with 2/2 and 2/4 blokes towards the end of the evening. That gesture was very much appreciated as he's a very busy man. 22 members who attended were Blue and I from the country and Alan Luby, Jack Hartley from the city and Bill Tomasetti from the Blue Mountain area. All looked

reasonably well, Ken having recovered from a virus he'd picked up in Tassie. He spent five days in hospital in Launceston after the Safari. Edith, who accompanied Ken to Sydney, is quite well. Russ Blanch is OK but not impressed with our wet weather as it is impeding his preparation for his Spring flower display.. Ted Cholerton going reasonably well. He drove his car to Church on Sunday morning, the first time he's driven the car for twelve months. Keep it going Cholly. Jack Steen had to attend the doctor for some fluid tablets and reckons he has lost some weight as a consequence. Jack and Beryl may get down my way soon. Good weather coming I'll bet on it. Tom & Jean Yates still going strong. Jean said they were off to Mothers Day at the Bowling Club on Sunday. The men usually wait on the women on that day and a good time is had by all. It was good seeing the Sydney blokes. Luby looked extremely fit and Jack Hartley still keeping going. I hadn't seen Bill Tomasetti since Port Macquarie 1992 so that was good too.

Regards to all.

'Happy'

Geraldton News

Congratulations to Ray Aitken, Tom Foster, Keith Hayes, Bob Smyth, John Burrigge and Paddy Kenneally on their representation at the special memorial re-dedication service in East Timor on April 13, exactly 30 years to the day the memorial was dedicated to the East Timorese people by our Association for the courageous help they provided in WW2. I had much pleasure in providing the 'Geraldton Guardian' newspaper with a story on the subject headed 'Vets Back From Timor'. I also had the privilege of compiling a story headed 'Commando Company Not Forgotten' including information from our 'Courier' about Major General Peter Cosgrove extending best wishes to Association members and assuring them that their courage and sacrifice in WW2 had not been forgotten in East Timor. This item also referred to restoration plans for the memorial and the Association's great work through its East Timor Trust Fund and the voluntary efforts in Perth and East Timor.

Anzac Day 2000 was a 'beauty' at Geraldton with about 2000 paying their respects, estimated at 500 at the Dawn Service and 1500 at the main service. 150 vets took part in the main procession including those in 7 vintage vehicles including

Lloyd Hart 's 1928 Buick and Roger Morris ' 1928 Rugby and I had the privilege of being in the front vehicle, Mark Hatch's 1948 Willys Jeep. 192 vets marched in the dawn parade (including myself as it was a much shorter march). 16 year old Irene Davies of City Band played the Last Post and Reveille for the first time at an Anzac Day Dawn Service on the Gallipoli bugle of Roy Thompson who paid the supreme sacrifice three days after the 1915 landing. Keith Elder of Shenton Park, ex-RAN, read one of his many poems 'Our Unknown Soldier', having received a letter of thanks from Windsor Castle for what was described as a beautiful book of poetry he composed in honour of the Queen's recent visit to Australia.

A record number of 48 wreaths were laid at the main service, including representation from 16 schools. Wreaths were laid by brothers Drew Bailey aged 12 and Ryan Bailey aged 9 of Bluff Point School, who, under the RSL Community Link Programme are researching the lives of Edwin James White of the 10th Light Horse Regiment in WWI killed in action in 1915, and Jack Rollo of the same Regiment who died in 1919. The floral tributes also included one in memory of former Mullewa farmer John Eakins who served in the same regiment in Gallipoli, as did Capt. W.C. Robinson who, in 1917 became the first President of what was then called the Geraldton branch of the Returned Soldiers Association. Inspiring addresses were given by RSL President Charlie Britt, Mayor Phil Cooper and Geraldton Grammar School students Nathanael Buma and Casey Maddren. Members of the Kruta family proudly wore the WW2 medals of the late Frank Kruta (one of my bowling mates) whose unique service as a distinguished fighter pilot included service in the Czech, French, British and Russian Air Forces, and also in the French Foreign Legion. Apart from wearing their own medals, 3 Geraldton Vets were proudly displaying DCMs, second only to the Victoria Cross, Julius Ingvarson had the DCM and Bar won by his father 'Yak' Ingvarson on the western front, Dave Morgan, his father's DCM won in France in 1917, and Roy Fletcher, the DCM of grandfather W.E. Fox, won in 1919 fighting against the Communists in Red Russia.

I had the pleasure of meeting Jack and Delys Carey's son John, a 'Sunday Times' Journalist, when the 'Duyfken' replica arrived at Geraldton, and introduced him to Max Cramer, discoverer of the 1629 wreck of the 'Batavia' at the Abrolhos Islands in 1963, a story that I gave to the world,

which was of immense interest because of its association with mutiny, massacre or men, women and children, torture and execution and final rescue after six months on the islands. Hearty congratulations to John Carey for his excellent coverage of the 'Duyfken' voyage.

God bless all members of our wonderful 2/2 Association and their families and supporters.

Peter Barden

TIMOR TRIP 10TH-18TH APRIL 2000

We flew Qantas Perth - Alice Springs - Darwin and then Darwin - Dili by Airnorth. We came exactly the same way home with an overnight stay for one night in Darwin each way.

Accommodation in Darwin was very good at R.A.A.F. Officers mess at Winnellie.

In Dili we were guests of H. Q. Force Logistics Support Group, with whom we had been negotiating about the Memorial rededication for several months. This unit is headed by Col. Davie who has two 2 I/Cs - Lt. Col. Dave Moylan and Lt. Col. Di Gallach. Main organisers were Major Paul Smith, Cpl. Ken Martin and Cpl. Kate McGrath (who is Mrs. Kate Sobolewski, but keeps her maiden name in the army). She, though only a Corporal, seemed to have a lot of authority and gave "orders" to the drivers, who included:-

Capt. Steve Goodall Maj. Max Haldene The medical officer was Capt. David Harding-Smith. The R.S.M. was WO 1 Steve Hunter.

Each of the seven of us had a "minder" who was generally a driver but who also sort of looked after us in the mess etc. My minder was Steve Goodall. We stayed in the Timor Lodge - an Australian owned group of small rooms joined in groups of 8. Communal showers and toilets, but beautifully air-conditioned. We had to turn them off halfway through each night otherwise we would have frozen.

We had breakfast in the Lodge dining room, lunch either in Logistics mess or on the road with army rations and dinner again in the mess. No booze in the mess but after dinner we would go to the little outside army bar. Troops are allowed 2 cans of beer or one 375ml of wine every day, officers the same. The wine was Jacobs Creek Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon.

The mess was a pretty rough affair with a canvas roof but the choice of food was very good indeed. Underfoot it was very wet as the rainy season

just wouldn't stop.

The supreme command in East Timor is U.N.T.A.E.T. - United Nations Transitional Administration of East Timor. The Commander is a Phillipino at the moment, with Major General Mike Smith - an Australian - as 2 I/C.

On the first day we were driven around Dili and visited Mr. James Battley. Australia does not yet, of course, have a consul and Mr. Battley is Chief of the Australian Mission, and lives with a small staff in "Mission House". He told us much of what was going on in Dili and shouted us all a beer.

We then visited the area where the 17 metre high statue of Christ looks out over the ocean. It was erected by the Indonesians.

One very curious aspect to the recent mayhem and slaughter in East Timor, and for which I could get no definite reason, was that despite the murder of many nuns and priests, the Churches in East Timor were not vandalised or desecrated by the Indonesians or the Timorese Militia (those E. Timorese who had been either bribed or frightened into becoming pro-Jakarta). Maybe whoever was in command of the Indonesian troops and militia (?General Wiranto) figured that by leaving the R.C. Churches untouched, any goodwill engendered by the erection of the Christ statue might be retained. Perhaps we will never know the real reason.

Bob Smyth, Keith Hayes and Paddy Kenneally went up the 14 stages to the top. The rest of us reneged!

Dili in 1942 was just a village with perhaps 3000 population. Today it is very big and would take 10 minutes to drive from one end to the other. Of course, 8 or 9 out of every 10 buildings were trashed by the Indonesians. It is a slow business getting the repairs done, and two of the main obstacles are the title to the land and lack of cash to rebuild and refurbish, even if the title deeds have survived. The Indonesians burnt all records and the problems will take a long time to sort out.

The worst affected by the Indonesian rampage were the native "umas" or thatched homes. Although some miraculously escaped, the bulk were torched so easily. Right now one can see the umas being replaced. U.N.T.A.E.T. is supplying 35000 huts. They supply the galvanised iron for the roofs, the steel uprights, and the cement for the floor. The erection is done by the Timorese themselves, which is a good idea as it gives them some employment and a sense of

being useful. Murray Thornton's Timor Aid is supplying 5000 huts in Ainaro, Same and Suai.

There is a Portuguese Bank in Dili at the moment, but it pays no interest on deposits. Wespak opens 3 days a week - no transactions, just changing money. Indonesian rupiah still mainly in use. Australian money and American not wanted for the time being. Portuguese escudos not popular either.

The Dili market is now open every week. Australian money can be changed there for rupiah, but at poor rates. People are selling local produce, cigarettes, beer etc. at road stalls. One or two primitive shops and bars were noticed. One placard outside a dingy looking repaired building with burnt galvanised iron replaced walls, said - 'very cold beer' in English.

On the second day we visited Bazar-Tete. This was of particular interest to Ray and Paddy who were with B Platoon in the action where Paddy Knight and Eric Mitchell were killed and three others wounded. The village of Bazar-Tete seemed to be crammed full of children. Indeed we were told there are three hundred kids at the school. We met the chief of the village and distributed little gifts to the children. We had all taken with us dollar and two dollar coins, but these were not as happily received as sticky sweets and little cheap bracelets. The Army provided tucker for us which we ate overlooking Railaco only four miles distant as the crow flies, but too far away to visit that day. We completed the day by going up to Fatunaba to prepare ourselves for the rededication ceremony the next day.

The rededication was held on Thursday 1 3th April - exactly 31 years to the day since its original dedication.

As a guestimate, I would think there were 1000 - 1500 Timorese there. Many stayed shyly among the trees but plenty turned up for the barbecue food after the ceremony! It rained steadily during the ceremony but this did not dampen spirits and may even have added solemnity to the occasion.

A welcoming address to all guests was given by Lt. Col. Dave Moylan, then the keynote address by Major Gen. Mike Smith.

I was seated between Maj. Gen. Smith and the local Timorese leader whose name I forget. We all sat in the front row to the plaque. Our speeches were then made: First by Tommy Foster with a brief history of the Unit. Second by me on the origin and the construction of the Memorial. Thirdly by

Ray Aitken, who supported my remarks and closed with a message in the Tetum language. The Fatunaba Memorial Pool was then blessed by Chaplain J.C. Willmont. The official unveiling of the plaque was then done by Col. Fred Davie and myself. Finally there was the laying of wreaths by individuals including all of us.

The rededication ceremony was on Thursday and on Friday morning we set off for Fuiloro at 9.30a.m. We were in 3 vehicles - one was a utility which took one passenger, and the other two were bigger, and each could carry three passengers plus the driver.

The vehicles are owned by Timor Aid - an organisation helped by Murray Thornton, son of our own Norm Thornton of 4 Section.

The first thing to strike us was the way the local people, adults and children, ran out to the roadside to wave, cheer, laugh and smile as we passed. They also tried "high fives" if we put a hand out the window. Even babies in arms waved. I am sure that the first thing a baby is taught now is to wave at any vehicle that passes. This is so different from when the Indonesians were in E. Timor. Then it was heads down or back turned and even a scamper off into the bush in fright.

Whenever we stopped, children came from near and far, adults too and complete families. One of our drivers, John Lewis (son of past N.S.W. premier Tom Lewis) spoke good Tetum. When he told the story of the 2/2nd the reaction was extraordinary. The very small children were not very interested as they did not understand, the eyes of the middleaged children widened (how could these men be so old?), the young adults were very interested as they knew their history and some of them had fathers or relations who were Creados to us in 1942. Some of the very old embraced us - it was very emotional.

Creado is a Portuguese word and means "servant". In 1942, every soldier had a creado. They all volunteered and it was socially distinguished to be a creado even though some were only 10 years old.

Our trip East, took us through Manatuto, along the north coast to the country's second biggest town, Baucau, where we halted for half an hour. Baucau has an airstrip and used to be regularly used from Darwin. I had previously flown to Baucau in 1966, 1969 and 1974 and passengers were then flown to Dili in Tiger moths. In 1974 I remember our pilot could not land at Baucau as a

truck was parked in the middle of the strip. He was an Englishman and he said to us passengers "those chappies don't seem to be ready for us so we'll just toddle up the coast a bit 'till they wake up". My late wife Joan, was with me on that occasion.

Baucau was not as badly trashed by the Indonesians as was Dili, but other big towns and villages in the East were badly devastated. Another little mystery to which no-one seemed to have an answer. Baucau is a most attractive town and it was a blessing that the destruction was, relatively only, not so severe.

Then on through another big town, Lautem, and finally we reached Fuiloro, our destination, at 2p.m. - right on schedule. The village of Fuiloro has little except the very big Don Bosco Agricultural School run by the Salesian order of the Roman Catholic Church. It is here that Les Cranfield is working. He is a Perth man and used to be manager of University of W.A. Agricultural Faculty.

Nine years ago our Army Association -2/2nd Commando Association - formed the Independent Trust to render as much humanitarian and financial aid to the Timorese as possible. This is a long story on its own, but of immediate interest is that Les Cranfield is on his sixth visit to Fuiloro and has worked there a total of more than 18 months in periods of 3, 4 and 6 months. Amongst other things he has increased corn yields tenfold - not 10 percent but tenfold.

Our accommodation at Fuiloro was very good and although there was no airconditioning, each bedroom was mosquito wired. We ate in the dining room with Father Jose, Father Jo Jo and all the staff.

I should have mentioned earlier that our party consisted of Ray Aitken 84, Paddy Kenneally 84, Bob Smyth 82, Tom Foster 80, myself 82 and Keith Hayes 80. Also with us was Bart Mavrick aged 52, Chairman of S.A.S. Association in W.A. . Bart is an ex Vietnam veteran and was with us all the way on our Timor trip. Bart could not accompany us in our drive East, as he had to visit Balibo to see some of the S.A.S. troops. Balibo is the village where the five Australian newspapermen were murdered in 1974. Bart did get up to Fuiloro for one day accompanied by Peter Luttlely who works in the customs in Dili and they had one day with us and met Les Cranfield and all the personnel at Don Bosco. Murray Thornton and his two drivers, Richard Luxton and John Lewis, also stayed with

us so Don Bosco had 9 visitors in all.

Our first very pleasant task was to unload about one hundredweight of soap we had been carrying. Bob Smyth had told us soap was short in Fuiloro, so we all took plenty, but Tom Foster didn't fool around. He got about a hundredweight from a producer in Geraldton, but we all had to carry it. Thanks Tom!

After settling in, our first visit was to Los Palos a neighbouring township. From the roadside was a loud yell and Paddy was claimed by a Timorese student he met several years ago in Dublin. What a small world! I have a photo' of them meeting each other.

The next day we visited what used to be, and is still shown on some maps, as a large inland sea but which has not been in flood since 1977. Les says the only explanation is that the area is subject to earthquakes and these may have upset the nature of the area. It is here that Les is experimenting with rice and the first crop will come off in about 3 weeks. There is plenty of fresh water and the area could become a giant rice bowl in years to come.

Our next visit was to Tutuala, the eastern tip of the island. Breathtaking views and a lovely old Portuguese house which used to be the holiday home of the Portuguese administrator years ago.

On the way to Tutuala, we experienced a most emotional meeting. In the village of Somocho, Les called out to a small boy, aged about 3 years. The boy turned and yelled "Mister Les" and ran to him and hugged him. This little boy had been in his father's arms when he was shot by the militia. The boy was covered in blood but not wounded. The father fell but was not dead, so the militia finished him off but spared the child. I have a photo' of the boy - Talicori - in Les' arms.

There were other cries of "Mister Les" in other nearby villages, and this wonderful man is obviously loved by all the Timorese children he comes into contact with. In addition to working 6 days a week, he gives up his spare time in organising sports such as soccer and basket ball for the kids.

On Saturday night there was a big church service in the meeting hall which was decked out to resemble a church. The church was not used as the congregation was far too big, as next day was Palm Sunday. At the conclusion of the service, Father Jose asked us to assemble outside the hall. We were then invited to sit in chairs in a row

in front of the altar. Father Jose introduced us all individually to the congregation to thunderous applause. We spoke either odd words of Tetum or in English, and young girls then draped hand-woven scarves around our necks. It was very emotional indeed.

On Sunday, our last day, we visited the port of Com, and then headed west for Dili. From Baucau we deviated south to Venilale where there is a big Catholic organisation, very similar to Don Bosco, but run only by sisters. There is an orphanage of 130 children - all girls - with whom we hope to organise a visit by I.N.T.E.R.P.L.A.S.T as there are quite a few cleft palates and hair lips among the children.

We were pretty tired when we got back to Dili at about 5.30. We had 10 minutes to freshen up, then on to the mess for dinner. Then to the canteen for a few drinks. There were a few speeches and gifts of army memorabilia from the Logistics group to each of us.

We slept well that night, and the next morning they took us to the airport for our flight to Darwin. Each way on this trip we travelled in an E.M.B. 120 Brasilia - a small twinprop. Plane. Murray's sister Colleen had arrived the day before. She works with Murray in Timor Aid. It was "hello" to Colleen and many thanks to Murray and off we went.

The grateful thanks of our whole party go firstly to Colonel Davie and officers and all troops in Force Logistics Support Group, who made all arrangements for us and looked after us so well. Logistics could not be responsible for us during our trip east to Fuiloro, so we are very much indebted to Murray Thornton and his two companions, who drove us through Manatuto, Bacau, and Lautem to Fuiloro and then back to Dili, with a deviation to Venilale. The total of nine who were in our party in Fuiloro are most grateful to Father Jojo and Jose and the Don Bosco Agricultural School for their excellent accommodation and meals. Many thanks also go to Qantas, who supplied air travel to and from Darwin, Airnorth who supplied travel to and from Darwin and Dili, the Northern Territory Government who arranged the setting of the new plaque and many of the refurbishments to the Memorial, Wattyl Paints who supplied paint and chlorinated rubber membrane for the Memorial and to Timor Lodge who supplied bed and breakfast during our stay in Dili. But, particularly to Logistics who organised the whole visit.

The best way to describe this week in Timor is to make the observation that, like Martin Luther King, everyone has a dream. And the dream that we six fellows have always held has at last been realised: and not only realised but also shared with about one million other people - the Timorese - who for the first time in nearly 500 years, can now - or very shortly - enjoy freedom and independence.

As far as we six are concerned, we have been the guests of the Australian Army in Timor, whose hospitality has been absolutely wonderful. With the Army's help and the aid and cooperation of Murray Thornton of Timor Aid, we have enjoyed a week which we will never forget. Other organisations have contributed very substantial financial support. These include Qantas, Airnorth, Wattyl Paints, Timor Lodge, the Northern Territory Government and the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Most of this support covered our travel costs and accommodation, and some was directed towards the refurbishment of the Memorial.

Four things in particular gave us the greatest pleasure on this trip.

Firstly, we have had the opportunity of visiting areas which some 58 years ago were areas in which we were engaged in the war against Japan.

Secondly, we have been able to visit, for the first time, the most Eastern area of the territory, where most of the humanitarian aid by our Independent Trust has been targeted.

Thirdly, we have reveled in another absolute pleasure. Wherever any vehicle now moves in East Timor, people run to the roadside to wave excitedly with those big wide smiles and their beautiful teeth. This shows that at last, after 24 years of Indonesian brutality, the people are happy again.

Fourthly, but by no means less importantly, was the rededication service on 13th April of the Memorial which 31 years ago our Unit, with Government help, dedicated to the people of East Timor, without whose devotion and bravery, the Unit would have been annihilated.

Perhaps my only regret is that Archie Campbell and other friends were not here to accompany us.

Yes it was a wonderful week and we can only pray that the enormous and quite understandable problems which face the Timorese, will be

overcome without too much delay, so that the world's newest little nation will arise happy and strong to take its rightful place in the world.

JOHN BURRIDGE

P.S. Since writing the above, I have again read my report on my first revisit to Timor in the Courier in July 1966. The comparisons are interesting.

**Lt-Col. Dave Moylan,
Force Logistics Support Group**

**A.F.P.O. 5
I.M.C. 2890**

Dear Dave,

On behalf of the 2/2nd members whom you entertained so magnificently last month I am writing to express our joint thanks. There were of course a great number who contributed to the success of that wonderful week but we all, particularly Bob Smyth, realise the vital role you played in the early difficult arrangements. I have written also to Paul Smith and Ken Martin as those two, with you were our anchorhold at the time when the whole visit was teetering on abolition.

I understand that some of our members are writing direct to their 'minders' but I would be grateful if you would be kind enough to pass on our grateful thanks to all who were involved.

I have written more fully to the C.O. Fred Davie to cover a few special points

With every good wish and again our heartfelt thanks

John Burridge, Past President.

**Col. Greg Baker,
Australian National Command Element c/-
U.N.T.A.E.T. A.F.P.O.5 I.M.C.2890**

Dear Greg,

Thank you for the part you played in making our recent visit to Dili so successful. All the members of our 2/2nd group enjoyed our week in East Timor immensely and we certainly had a great evening with you in the canteen.

Our visit, and stay with, the Don Bosco Agricultural College in Fuiloro was very enlightening. What our little organisation, the 2/2nd Independent Trust has achieved is really an eye-opener. We have had our representative, Les Cranfield, up there

on six occasions for a total period of over eighteen months. The second rice crop comes off in two weeks. Crops of corn have increased tenfold - not ten percent but tenfold - and production of most other vegetables have been a great success. Les gets no pay but his airfares are paid by AESOP.

One cannot help but wonder if CARE and other big organisations could adopt a more 'hands-on' approach.

I passed on your regards to Blue who heartily reciprocates! He still visits S.A.S. every Friday evening.

Best wishes and thanks again from all of us.

John Burridge

Past President

R. Baldwin,

2 Kyle Avenue, Belmont, 3216

Dear Jack,

At long last I'm round to writing to you. They say that old blokes are inclined to be loquacious and I'm ready enough to acknowledge the charge as far as the spoken word is concerned. Not for the written word, though! The older I grow the more dilatory I become until I begin to fear that I may be suffering from plumophobia or fear and hatred of the pen.

What drives me to write now is the death early this year of Paul Costelloe, a close friend of mine and Bernie Callinan's. Not many in W.A. would have known him though he had been a member of the Association ever since the War and took a keen and loyal interest in all our doings here in Victoria. You see he was not actually a member of the Unit but served throughout the War as a staff officer on one and another of the larger formations. It was in this way that he came to be a comrade of ours, for he was sent over from Darwin to study our requirements at about the same time, I think, as the 2/4 came over in H.M.A.S. 'Voyager' to relieve us. In this I am open to correction, however, for my memory of the details of his arrival and departure are hazy. What is extremely vivid, on the other hand is my memory of a fine soldier and a most congenial comrade. Rapidly and without a word or a hint of surprise or complaint he accepted the discomforts and risks of our rather precarious existence and soon had the air of a seasoned veteran of such conditions. My position on the Q side of things brought us in close contact for one of his main tasks was to ascertain what were our requirements in stores and

equipment and in what form they should be landed to give us the best chance of distributing them quickly and efficiently. I greatly admired the natural and enthusiastic way in which he moved over the country with me and how quickly he grasped the details of a line of supply that knew nothing of motor vehicles and depended entirely on ponies and man carrying. It took him no time, for instance, to appreciate the fact that for us ammunition presented particular problems. The average pony could manage two cases of .303 ammunition, one on each side of its pack saddle. The same did not hold, however, for the heavier cases of tommy gun cartridges. Two of them were quite beyond the power of an ordinary pony and we had no way of balancing one case on the top of a pack saddle. The answer was to open the cases in Darwin and repack them so that they were light enough to be handled in the same way as those of .303 ammunition. When he went back to Australia we missed him sadly but the compensation was that we knew we had a friend in the headquarters above us who knew and understood our problems and would do his capable best to help where he could.

These recollections are very scrappy but I would like you to put the gist of them in The Courier. Paul died on 25th January.

Now for the present. Paul is survived by his widow Nancy, a delightful lady, and three sons. Nancy's address is 34 Roseville Retirement Village, 130 King Street, Doncaster 3109. I'm sure she would be very happy to have her new address in the address book.

You can guess how I would have liked to be on the Hobart Safari but my travelling days are over. I managed, however to get up to Melbourne to have a couple of hours with the Smyths and the Fosters on their way back to the West. What a welcome chance and how the tongues wagged!

All the best, Jack and thanks for the fine work you are doing with the Courier. As ever, your old bush mate, Baldy.

From Major General Mike Smith AM

Deputy Force Commander, United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor Peace Keeping Force Headquarters.

Mr. John Burridge

Dear John, I want to personally thank you for coming to East Timor to attend the rededication of the 2/2 Memorial. Your presence not only greatly added to a moving ceremony, but also made an impact on a new generation of diggers

in East Timor. All of us here felt honoured and privileged to have participated with you.

In case you were unaware, Paddy was successful with his visit to the Irish Platoon in Taroman. He also made it to the Anzac Day Dawn Service where his presence was greatly appreciated.

I apologise for missing your departure as I wanted the chance to say goodbye. I hope you had a wonderful visit, and wish you good health for the future. Duty First! Mike

**From: Major General P.J. Cosgrove, AC, MC.
Land Commander Australia,
Victoria Barracks, Paddington NSW 2021**

The President, 2/2nd Commando Association.

Dear Mr. Darrington

Many thanks to you and the members of 2/2nd Commando Association and their ladies for the kind words and sentiments on my tour of duty in East Timor. Your good wishes and support have fortified the resolve and commitment of the men and women of INTERFET. Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,
Peter Cosgrove

From LES CRANFIELD

My return trip to East Timor in February was a very busy 8 weeks and also the wettest March and April they have had in years. Now that they have had a wet season since I left in January, the country has lost most of its scorched earth look. But it still shows evidence of what has happened.

The missing container or rather some of its contents have been found. The missing winches needed to erect the silos have put a stop to plans as each silo weighs just over 2 tonne. Most things are built from the bottom up, but silos have to be assembled by starting with the roof then lift each section up to bolt it to the next section.

The missing parts for the sawmill have delayed cutting timber for buildings around the area.

There are still groups of people visiting and making assessments and wanting discussions about Agriculture. Not as many now as back in December. I was approached and asked if I would work for the World Bank in East Timor on their agriculture programme.

I would like to take this opportunity through the 2/2nd Asscn. to thank Murray Thornton travelling six hours from Same to Fuiloro to bring me a message about the trip the 2/2nd Association members were to take to Timor. It was a very pleasant surprise. Prior to this good bit of news we were all disappointed at Fuiloro, as we were told their trip had been cancelled. I am sure there will be a good report on their visit to Timor.

I have enjoyed my trips to East Timor and have felt honoured to be able to represent the 2/2nd Commando Association.

LES CRANFIELD.

FAX TO

H.Q. Force Logistics Support Group

Major Paul Smith DILI

FROM 08 9386 3314

Bob Smyth

DATE 8/5/2000

Dear Paul

DON BOSCO AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL -
FUILORO

We have problems at Don Bosco, Fuiloro and wish to bring them to the attention of authorities that we feel should help. Referring to CARE and or I.C.R.C.

Following the rampage, important components of silos delivered to Fuiloro were missing.

The concrete foundations were laid by volunteer Les Cranfield but the 2 tonne units have to be assembled with the aid of winches now being delivered.

The 90ha 200 tonne rice crop is due for the harvest in 2 to 3 weeks and requires a foreman to supervise the harvester. Alternatively the crop of 200 tonnes would have to be stripped by hand by villagers, a most laborious method causing considerable loss of grain.

Les Cranfield, regrettably will not be returning to East Timor

We are currently appointing a volunteer to visit Fuiloro for three months to complete the silos and attend to numerous workshop duties.

We hope to also locate and send a volunteer to supervise the working and maintenance of the harvester and farm machinery.

Unfortunately AESOP Business Volunteers P/L of A.C.T. who customarily sponsor the volunteer by covering Air fares and insurance, advise us that their budget is filled until July 2000.

Should our Independent Trust decide to meet travel costs of approximately \$1,500. for each volunteer, it is not the category of expense we normally can cover considering our funds are derived from our members, most of whom live on pensions.

Of further concern is the lack of insurance cover for the volunteers.

We are prepared to advance the fares providing we are reimbursed, but from which source? Surely from the funds donated by nations world wide for the rehabilitation of East Timor?

971 children at Don Bosco **Fuiloro and also many surrounding villages** depend on that 90 ha rice for food.

CARE and I.C.R.C. have a deplorable record of assistance to date in helping at Fuiloro. Despite their operatives visiting, asking numerous questions, filling in reports for base, but do substantially nothing to assist. Not even any feed back.

More resources should be applied to help those who can help themselves.

For more than 50 years the Salesians, an authoritative-intelligent, knowledgeable group of people of Don Bosco, have performed an admirable function in the face of extreme adversity, intolerance and prejudice from Indonesian Administration.

Time is critical . To whom do we appeal for assistance? Your reply by return would be appreciated.

From Friday 12th May I will be absent for 2 weeks. John Burrige will deal with the desk in the meantime.

Yours Sincerely

R.N.Smyth

Independent Trust

2/2nd Commando Association of Australia

Copy to Senator The Hon. Ian Campbell

Senator for Western Australia

Parliament House

DON BOSCO AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL, FUILORO EAST TIMOR 11/5/2000

Les Cranfield completed his last visit under difficult conditions. We appreciate and thank him again for another sterling effort.

Replacement lifting gear to complete silo erection is being delivered with another volunteer, Lindsay "Bennie" Bennett. He was appointed by John Burrige and Les Cranfield today and will leave for East Timor approximately 2~ 25th May. Bennie will complete the silos and tackle the care and maintenance and storage, of considerable items of machinery and equipment requiring attention.

This could include repair and provision of storage sheds.

Postcards Please

Bennie is ex S.A.S. and highly recommended by Bart Mavrick, S.A.S. President. A postcard please: Lindsay Bennett Volunteer Consultant Don Bosco Agricultural School FUILORO , EAST TIMOR

It is pleasing to report that Les. will do another visit and we are now planning his return. Fr. Jose is waiting for his expertise for rice harvesting. Many thanks Les and Verna.

Of concern to us is the availability of funding to cover fares and insurance.

Because of demands on their services AESOP cannot help due to their budget having been exceeded for the year to 30/6/2000.

We have appealed via some diligent work done by F.L.S.G. Dili to CARE and ICRC (Red Cross) in East Timor. They have the delegation from UNTAET to care for "Food & Agriculture" for Fuiloro, Los Palos (LAUTEM) region. However they advise they cannot help with funding. We are now seeking assistance in an approach to Canberra.

Because of the critical requirement we are funding the fares in the expectation of reimbursement because it is not the category of expenditure to which our limited funds should have to be applied.

However to obtain insurance to a level of protection normally given to AESOP volunteers, remains a concern.

Bob Smyth

VISIT TO REDEDICATE DILI MEMORIAL - ORGANISED BY A.D.F. H.Q. F.L.S.G. - DILI

The H.Q. office of A.D.F. Force Logistics Support

Group in Dili, East Timor, advised us of considerable voluntary work being done on Sundays or in volunteers own time, to restore the 2/2nd Commando Memorial on the mountainside overlooking Dili. They were assisted by the No. 17 Construction Squadron.

A party of 6 members of our Association was invited to attend a rededication of the Memorial which we had attended 13/4/1969. Our members were Ray Aitken, John Burrige, Tom Foster, Keith Hayes, and Paddy Kenneally. Though a "New Guinea, New Britain" man, I was included due to Independent Trust development in East Timor, and also as delegated administrator of travel arrangements.

Donor contributions by participating organisations including Watty's, QANTAS, Air North, Timor Lodge, and D.V.A., A.D.F. F.L.S.G. , ensured negligible cost to the veterans.

The Party had necessary medical needles, brought passports up to date and had bags packed. Then a message was received from Dili a week prior to departure, that the visit was cancelled, we assumed due to security concern.

We immediately appealed our problem to Western Australian Senator Ian Campbell. Only by his prompt intervention on our behalf to John Moore, Minister of Defence was the visit restored. However three more days elapsed due to there not being time allowed to visit Don Bosco Agricultural School at Fuloro, which had been a focus of our Independent Trust Fund aid for some 6 years.

Murray Thornton, son of our deceased member Norm, rescued the position again by undertaking to provide transport for the 5 hour drive to Fuloro. At 9.30p.m. Thursday 6/4/2000 we received approval to leave on 10/4/2000. Many thanks Murray.

Then followed a totally absorbing, entertaining and memorable 7 days. It was emphasised by the high level of care, respect and privilege accorded us by all ranks of H.O. Force Logistics Support Group and associated personnel.

The detail of the visit is covered in John Burrige's excellent accompanying report

Bob Smyth

A Great Occasion

As guests of the Special Air Service Association our members, wives and friends enjoyed a wonderful outing at "The House" headquarters at Campbell Barracks, on Sunday 20th February. A luncheon barbecue was organised to welcome home a unit

of the S.A.S. Regiment who had just completed their tour of duty in East Timor. Approximately 60 from our group attended and the hospitality was almost overwhelming. Bart Mavrick, the President of the Association extended a warm welcome to the 2/2nd, following up with a \$1000 donation to the Trust Fund, to which Bob Smyth, the Trust Chairman, made an able response. The C.O. of the S.A.S.R. followed, extolling the deeds of the Unit in East Timor back in 1942, to which John Burrige replied. This was followed by a tasty barbecue with ample refreshments laid on. Our members took the opportunity to mingle with the young members of the S.A.S. just back from Timor, and swapped stories of times and places. It was a memorable four hours, one of our better functions. We are indebted to the S.A.S. Association for including us in this important occasion acknowledging the good work done by the fine young men of the S.A.S.R. in the service of their country. Thanks a million Bart, Mick and all those who contributed to the outing.

J.W. Carey

Mr Bart Mavrick, President, Australian S.A.S. Association, W.A. Branch, Campbell Barracks, Swanbourne

Dear Bart,

On behalf of our members and myself I would like to thank you and your committee for the wonderful day we had at 'The House' It was indeed a memorable occasion. Your welcoming speech, the generous presentation of \$1000 for our Trust Fund, and the complimentary remarks on the deeds of the old Unit by the C.O. Tim McOwan had us all blushing. We are not used to such treatment.

A top luncheon, along with ample refreshments and the friendly attention given to us by your voluntary staff of S.A.S. veterans were very much appreciated

Yours sincerely,

R.J. Darrington

President

Sick Parade: A week after returning from his nostalgic trip to East Timor, Ray Aitken caught pneumonia and spent a week in the Mount Hospital. Ray is home recuperating and looking forward to his 85th birthday.

President Dick Darrington recently spent 8 days in Hollywood Hospital recovering from a bout of pneumonia. Dick was unable to attend and lead the march on Anzac Day because of his illness, which

was bad luck. He is a tough character and all members will be pleased to know he is coming good. Dick had the honour of laying a wreath at the Association's Memorial Service at Glenorchy during the Safari. Sorry for not mentioning this in the write up Dick.

Jim McLaughlin who had a bad stroke 18 months ago, is still in the Midland Nursing Home. Jim has lost a lot of weight and is in a very frail condition. Any of his old mates who have an hour to spare are asked to drop in and see him.

Peter Alexander is now back at his home in Palmyra and is battling on. Peter is looking forward to trying a new tablet which lessens the problems of Parkinsons Disease from which he suffers.

Jim Lines recently underwent a serious operation for a bowel condition. Jim is an evergreen and will bounce back no doubt. Good luck to you Jim.

Wilf March hasn't had the best of runs over recent months with his battle with cancer. It has meant he has been unable to attend Association functions which Lorraine and he enjoy so much. We hope things begin to improve for you soon Wilf.

Eric Weller, who marched on Anzac Day, is receiving radium treatment daily for a malignant growth which he had removed shortly after returning home from the Safari. With Pat looking after him Eric is determined to make it.

Edith Jones, wife of Ken 'Blue' Jones had an operation in Tamworth Hospital recently and is having further treatment at a Brisbane hospital.

Courier Donations: Peter Krause, Stan Payne, Arch Campbell Estate, Bob Williamson, Janette Laurence-Rogers, Ed. Bourke, Kath Press, Tex & Bridget Richards, Gerry Slade, George & Margo Shiels, Ralph Conley, Bluey Bone, Danny Daniels, Nellie Mullins, Fred Broadhurst, Eric Weller, Anon., Andy Beveridge, Dot Boyland, Ted Cholerton, Harold Garnett, John Jones (2/4th), Gwenda Kirkward, Peter Mantle, Ian Scott, Tom Yeates, Tom Pulliene, Ron Andrews, Les Halse, Mary McKenzie, Ray Parry, Percy McPhee, Betty, Phillip & Janette Craig, Tom Foster, Bernie Langridge, Gerry Maley, Bob Smyth, 'Dusty' Studdy, Vince Swann, 'Doc' Wheatley, Terry Paull, Verna Nichols, Nancy Teague & Rosslyn Moar, Peter Barden, Bill Rowan-Robinson, Jim Smith.

Trust Fund Donations: Andy Beveridge \$100, Les & Verna Cranfield \$50, Kath Press \$250, 'Happy' Greenhaigh \$1,000, Ralph Conley \$100, Alan Hollow \$50, Joyce Leadbitter \$50, John Jones (2/

4th) \$200, Ian Scott \$50, S.A.S. Association of W.A. \$1000, Tom Pulliene, \$20, Mary McKenzie \$50, Don Turton \$1000, Tom Foster \$500, Gerry Maley \$25, Nancy Teague & Rosslyn Moar \$100, Stan Payne \$100, Dot Boyland \$50.

September Courier Deadline - Thursday, August 17th.

Address Changes:

Mrs N. Costelloe Nancy 34/130 King Street Roseville Retirement Village East Doncaster, 3109. (03)98420863.

Mrs B. Cullen Beryl
RMB 760 'Afterlee' Kyogle 2474.

Mrs Laurence-Rogers
Janette
1/154 Sydney Road
Fairlight 2094

Mr V. Paust
Viv. & Verna
Lot 142 Sandpiper Mews
Bindoon 6502
(08) 95761439

Mr J. Smith
Jim
79 Bungary Road
Norah Head 2263

Mr L.N.R. Cooper
Leith & Marj.
Unit 41, 48-80 Settlement Rd
Coves 3922
(03) 59522646

Mr R.W. Parry
Ray
10 Letchworth Centre Ave.
Salter Point 6152
(08)94502539

Mrs M. Blomfield
Margaret
602 Head Street
Forster 2428

Mr H. Garnett
Harold
Tri Care Nursing Centre
Riveraine Ave.
Warana 4575



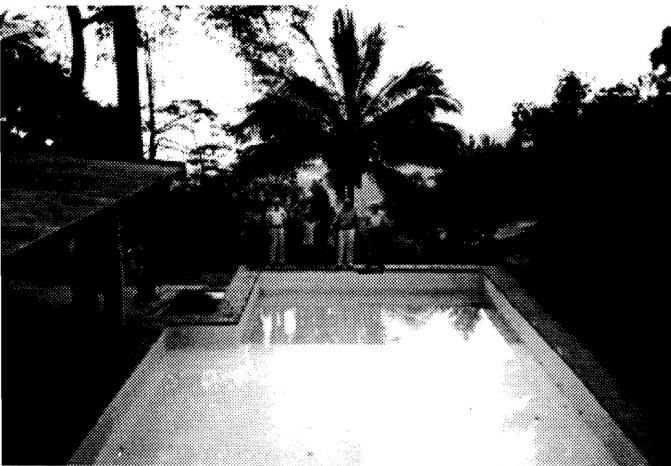
Murray Thornton, John Burrige, Les Cranfield, Bart Mavrick, Richard Luxton at Fuloro



Bob Smyth, Paddy Kenneally, Tom Foster, John Burrige, Bart Mavrick, Rau Aitken, Keith Hayes with Kate.



“Mr Les” with Talicori (refer John Burrige Tutuala report)



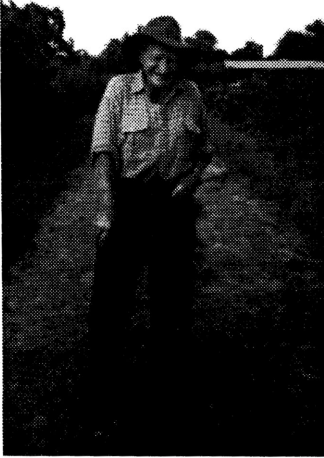
*"The Memorial Pool"
Paddy Kenneally, Tom
Foster, Ray Aitken, John
Burridge, Keith Hayes*



*At Mehara rice field
Keith Hayes, Paddy
Kenneally, Tom Foster, Les
Cranfield, Ray Aitken*



*Les Cranfield and John
Burridge at Governors holiday
shack Tutuala.*



Paddy

LATE NEWS

Volunteers - Fares and Insurance expenditure.
We have received assurance that we will be reimbursed.

Thanks to the following who were instrumental in our pursuit.

1. AESOP
2. AUSTAID
3. AUSTRALIAN VOLUNTEERS INTERNATIONAL
4. Major Paul SMITH H.Q. F.L.S.G. DILI
5. Senator Ian CAMPBELL (Member for WA)

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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