



# **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

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## **W.A. BRANCH COMING EVENTS**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT ANZAC HOUSE**

**TUESDAY, 11th APRIL at 11.00am**

Followed by refreshments & snacks

**PLEASE MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO ATTEND**

**THIS IMPORTANT MEETING**

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## **ANZAC DAY**

**TUESDAY APRIL 25th**

Assemble in our usual place in St Georges Terrace

at 9.30 am

**MARCH OFF at 9.45am**

Get together after the parade at the Terrace Hotel 195 Adelaide Terrace

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## VALE: GORDON HISLOP

WX12319

We regret to advise of the passing of Gordon at the Manjimup Hospital on 21st September 1999 at the age of 78. Gordon was born in Scotland on 9th June 1921 & came to W.A. with his family when he was 7 years old. He had a sister & 2 brothers. After a time in Spearwood the family moved to Kalgoorlie. Gordon worked in the mines prior to enlisting in the 2nd AIF in May 1941. He was an original member of the old Unit, serving in '1' Section 'A' Platoon in Timor, New Guinea & New Britain. He was discharged from the army in November 1945. Gordon was a good soldier though Tom Foster said he could be a bit wayward at times. He & Charlie McCaffrey (who died in 1992) were great mates.

On leave from Timor he married his sweetheart Mary, & they had a daughter, Bonnie, who now lives at Manjimup.

Gordon, a rolling stone, tried his hand at many things. He was a miner at Kalgoorlie & worked in the Collie coal mines for a time. Strongly built & tough, he enjoyed his beer. Known as 'Slops' after the last 4 letters of his name he could knock up a good tune on the mouth organ & told a good yarn. His daughter Bonnie said she was called 'Slops' at school, which she didn't mind.

Gordon eventually tried his hand in the hotel game & went on to manage hotels in Carnamah, on the Nullabor, in Queensland & the north west quite successfully. He also managed the Manjimup Hotel for many years & had many a session with Gordon Rowley & Tom Crouch reminiscing on army days.

He took a keen interest in all sport & supported the old Dean Mill Football Club & in latter years the 'Manji Tigers'.

Apart from attending a few earlier reunions, unfortunately we saw very little of Gordon over the years. A heavy smoker, he developed lung cancer & though he remained strong to the end it eventually beat him. Gordon was interred in the Manjimup cemetery on 24th September & rests close to my old mate Tom Crouch.

The Association extends its sincere sympathy to Bonnie & family.

Lest We Forget

J.W. Carey

## COMMEMORATION SERVICE

The Association held its 50th Anniversary service for our Fallen on Sunday, 21st November in Kings Park. In warm sunny conditions the attendance of approximately 110 people was most encouraging. The service commenced at 3pm with the 4 members of the catafalque party under Sergeant Barton taking up their positions around our memorial. President Dick Darrington delivered a fine address & read out the names of the 50 men of the Unit who paid the supreme sacrifice serving in the old Unit. This was followed by the Ode, the Last Post & Reveille. So ended a brief but moving ceremony. The march up & down our Honour Avenue section in Lovekin Drive was a bit of a Dad's Army affair & something which must be improved upon for future services. With many members unable to march, sons of members were invited to join in & this helped to make up the numbers. 40 attended the traditional get-together at the S.A.S. Sergeants Mess at Swanbourne from 4pm to 6pm, which is always a most enjoyable function. The Association extends its thanks to the S.A.S. Regiment for providing the catafalque party, the speaker system & lectern. Thanks also to the Australian Army band for providing a first class bugler & the Botanic Gardens & Parks Authority for closing the drive to vehicles during the service. This came as a result of Blanche Sadler's initiative & we thank her for that. We appreciate the support of our country members in the Foster, Payne & Sadler families. Syd McKinley made the trip from South Australia by road & Bulla Tate's lovely daughter Vicky came all the way from Queensland for the service & it was nice to meet up with them. Viv & Verna Paust, now living at Bindoon, were also among the many loyal supporters who came along for this important occasion. The presence of quite a few young people was great & augurs well for future commemoration services held on the 3rd Sunday of November every year.

J.W. Carey

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## CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

Our Christmas Social held at the Terrace Hotel on Friday, 3rd December was a most enjoyable occasion. The pre-luncheon drinks soon had those present in a genial festive mood. Len, our capable M.C. read out the list of apologies prior to lunch, & also conveyed good will messages

received from the Queensland & N.S.W. Branches, which was a nice gesture. Dick, our popular President, extended the Seasons greetings to all present. Zul, the Catering Manager & his staff did a first class job looking after us oldies & the food was up to its usual high standard. The setting for our small group is ideal & one we should retain for as long as we last. The attendance of 42 was down slightly, due to some unavoidable last minute cancellations. It was a great little show & everyone left in a happy frame of mind. Thanks go to Delys for providing the nice table settings, & to Ted, our hard working Treasurer. Those present were Ray Aitken, Olive Thornton, Joe Ward, Len & Betty Bagley, John Burrige, Jack & Delys Carey, Ted & Peg Monk, Jess Epps, Keith & Val Hayes, Betty Hopkins, Roy & Kaye Hanson, Bill & Elvie Howell, Charlie, Mary & Paddy King, Mark & Elsie Jordan, Nellie Mullins, June Ramsay, Jean Holland, Ray Parry, Vince Swann, Clarrie & Grace Turner, Don Turton, Joy Chatfield, Doc Wheatley, Dusty Studdy, Joe & Helen Poynton, Jim Lines, Dick Darrington, & Rose, Laurie & Terry Harrington & Terry's friend Donna Robinson

J.W. Carey

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## INTERFET EAST TIMOR

Dear Mr Luby.

You may be aware, through the media, of a Remembrance Day ceremony conducted by the International Force for East Timor (Interfet) at the 2/2nd Independent Company memorial on the road to Dare, East Timor, on November 11.

I considered it a great honour to stand before your memorial & give the Remembrance Day Address. I also had the privilege to lay a wreath with Mr Rufino Alves Corriea, an East Timorese man who fought with you against the Japanese. He is now aged 75, but his memories of you & your comrades are strong. He holds you all in great esteem & still has a 1942 photograph of himself & Lieutenant Tom Nisbet as his most treasured possession.

Your members would be pleased to know that the memorial plaque & pool were not damaged by the recent violence. Also, the Australian Army's 145 Signals Squadron is about to start a cleanup of the memorial site. I understand they have an affiliation with the 2/2nd Commando Association,

so you can be assured they will put much care & effort into the task.

I have enclosed a copy of the Remembrance Day Order of Service & the address I gave that morning. It was a moving ceremony, knowing that we stood near the site of one of your observation posts, & it was indeed a good & fitting place for your commemoration.

Please pass on my regards & best wishes to the members of the 2/2nd Commando Association, & let them know their courage & sacrifice have not been forgotten here.

Yours sincerely,  
Peter Cosgrove, AM, MC  
Major General, Commander  
International Force for East Timor

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## INTERFET TO HOLD REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY

The haunting tones of the Last Post will sound over the hills of Dili tomorrow (Thursday, 11 November 1999) when a Remembrance Day ceremony is conducted by various nations from within INTERFET.

Remembrance Day marks the time & date when the Armistice was signed to end the First World War. This occurred at 11 am on 11 November, 1918, bringing to a close 4 years of conflict that claimed the lives of millions. Since then, Remembrance Day has been observed by many nations as a focus for recalling the tragedy of all wars. The ceremony, on the road up to Dare, will involve contingents of soldiers from the United Kingdom, the United States, France, New Zealand, Ireland, Canada & Australia. They will gather at a small memorial & pool dedicated to the people of East Timor. This was built at the roadside by veterans of the Australian Army's 2/2nd Independent Company. The company, part of a force of Australians that fought in East Timor against the Japanese during World War Two, never forgot the great sacrifices made by the East Timorese who helped them.

The ceremony starts at 10.50am with ceremonial guard parties from each nation forming around the memorial plaque. Prayers will be led by INTERFET Chaplain Len Eacott followed by an address by the Commander of INTERFET, Major

General Peter Cosgrove. Wreaths of native flora will be laid by contingent commanders. A bugler from the British Army will sound the Last Post before the traditional two minutes silence at 11am. One last bugle call, called Reveille or the Rouse, will end the ceremony. Reveille is traditionally sounded by the military at dawn. As such, it has come to symbolise the birth of a new day & the promise that it holds.

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### **REMEMBRANCE DAY 1999 IN DILI COMINTERFET ADDRESS**

Ladies & gentlemen.

Welcome to the commemoration of Remembrance Day here in East Timor.

Remembrance Day evokes memories of war, as does this small place on this small island. On this day & at this time 81 years ago many of our forefathers stood on battlefields half a world away, in reverent silence, a mixture of the joy of survival & the sadness of bereavement, as a great war ended.

In this place, 57 years ago, with the great assistance & stoic courage of the East Timorese. Australians of the 2/2nd Independent Company maintained an observation post overlooking Dili for month after month while being hunted by a resolute & relentless adversary. The symbols you see here mark the presence then of those brave men. This then is a place of soldiers, where the work & the courage of soldiers has found expression. It is of course primarily a place of the people of East Timor & a reminder of their great & patient fortitude & forbearance. It is a good & fitting place for our commemoration.

Last year on this day, I gave a Remembrance day address to a similar multi national military group & today has such resonance with that occasion, I will recall some of my remarks then. "Historians may quibble about the causes of conflict, particularly the likes of the Great War but we here all know that the men & women who donned their countries' uniform did so not for politics or economics or for territory or revenge but for an idea: the notion that if some people are oppressed all are oppressed.

That idea stirs & motivates & unites all of us here today, just as it inspired our ancestors. It is why

we are in uniform & why we especially honour our predecessors.

We are united in the determination that the ideals & freedoms that our great societies embody shall endure; that service in that cause remains an honourable & vital pursuit; that we share these beliefs fortified by the strongest friendships forged in war & nourished in peace." So we stand, warriors from across the world & from East Timor, alongside the ordinary people of this beautiful sad place, remembering our war dead, why they gave their lives & the heritage they created.

In this place of old soldiers do you think they would approve of our presence & of the work we are doing? I think they would.

May they rest in peace, .

PJCosgrove

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### **GERALDTON NEWS:**

Let me heartily congratulate President Dick Darrington on the address he gave at the Commemoration Service in Lovekin Drive, Kings Park, & it was great to be able to read your tribute in the December Courier. I apologise for not being represented in that Courier but it resulted from health problems. I was in Perth for what was to be my 3 day, 3 monthly visit for Chelation therapy when my angina problem developed. I was taken to Hollywood on September 6 & then transferred to Royal Perth Hospital where, on September 9 I had a quadruple heart operation by a surgeon from Mount Hospital Medical Centre. It was 6 weeks before I was allowed to fly back to Geraldton. I am not rushing things but the surgeon recommended that after I settle down, I have my feet & legs checked by a surgeon at Royal Perth Hospital. My wife, Joan has recovered after 7 weeks in hospital in May/June & has resumed her social activities, shopping visits & car usage.

I haven't been able to catch up with Eric Weller to congratulate him on his marriage to Patricia Sullivan of Ryde, NSW, but have been told that Eric introduced Pat to members of Geraldton Laurel Club. Eric, as a Legatee, assisted widows at Geraldton.

For health reasons I have resigned as a ratepayer-representative on the Birdwood House Trust that governs our 1935 RSL Headquarters under a 1929 Act of Parliament. I received a lovely letter from Mayor Phil Cooper thanking me for my long

membership from 15.12.76 & for what he described as my dedication to the position. I was covering the Town Council meeting as ABC Regional Journalist when Mayor Chas Mildwaters asked me to fill the vacancy & I was appointed there & then. The late Nip Cunningham's brother Bill, was the other ratepayer representative on the Birdwood House Trust & he passed away in September. Our RSL has nominated 2 ratepayer members. Some of you would have met Bill Cunningham who was a Freeman of the City of Geraldton & holder of the British Empire Medal & numerous Life Memberships.

Our RSL has taken action to have the section of North-West Highway between Geraldton & Carnarvon renamed 'HMAS Sydney II Memorial Highway in conjunction with the comprehensive Sydney II memorial planned for Geraldton's Mount Scott & the existing Sydney II memorial wall at Carnarvon. A dedication stone was erected on Mount Scott in 1998 & the project received a boost in 1999 after WA Museum management went against a Federal Parliamentary Inquiry recommendation to construct the official national Memorial at the new \$35 million Maritime Museum planned for Fremantle.

RSL State President Ken Bladen congratulated our Sub-Branch on being the first in WA to launch the RSL Community Link Program that was introduced in Queensland. Brothers Drew (12) & Ryan (8) Bailey are researching respectively the lives of Edwin White & Jack Rollo of the 10th Light Horse Regiment & with their badges will represent the deceased World War I veterans on such occasions as Anzac Day. Primary & Secondary schools have been invited to seek the 2 inaugural RSL Community Link awards to be given by our Sub-Branch for researching the military & social life of a veteran up to his or her death, with a summary to be read out on Anzac Day.

My sister Betty Hopkins, widow of John (Irish) attended the Memorial Service in Kings Park with Val & Keith Hayes. She also attended the Christmas luncheon at the Terrace Hotel & thoroughly enjoyed herself.

I received a lovely Christmas card & letter from Margo & George Shiels of Bowen, Queensland. They both had a fulfilling year which included attendance at the Santo Tomas/Los Banos 54th Reunion in San Diego.

Margo's autobiography was launched by Mayor Mike Brunner of Bowen & copies can be obtained for \$18 post free by writing to the author, P0 Box

374 Bowen, Qld, 4805.

God bless members & supporters of our wonderful Association.

Peter Barden

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## G. Greenhalgh - Maclean.

Dear Len,

Herewith your report from God's own country, which is not going to be a lot different from my last Sit-Rep.

We are all still on deck I'm happy to report, although a couple of months older & having seen another Christmas & New Year. I hope all had an enjoyable one. I had 10 days in Melbourne & whilst there Harry Botterill & I visited Tom Nisbet whom I thought looked remarkably well. We gassed for 3 hours so he must be well to keep up with my yacking. Carey always reckons he can't get off the phone when I ring but I tell him he's not paying for it. Good job too, as it'd be 'G'day, how are ya & good bye. Still got his first zac, Carey. I'll make him buy me a beer in Hobart though. Just kidding - about the zac, I mean.

Tom Yates had a nice bout of the flu but luckily is now on the tail end of it. Both Tom & Jean have had a few ups & downs lately but are getting along fairly well now.

Jim Cullen is much the same according to Beryl. Some days better than others. Still being looked after well at the Kyogle Hospital. Beryl goes in every day. He has our thoughts.

Ted Cholerton is racing around in a motorised scooter, probably terrifying everyone. I imagine there would be a big crowd at Evans Head over the holidays. Its a very popular holiday resort & very nice too. Cholly & Dianne are reasonably well.

Russ Blanch is feeling a lot better & is going to Sydney to an eye specialist this month. I promised Russ I wouldn't tell any one about him getting up in the middle of the night in a blackout & getting lost in his own lounge room. I'm just telling every one! That's different. I hope he will still go to Tassie with me.

Jack & Beryl Steen still going strong. I must get up to see them when the weather cools down. Jack's a pretty good cook. I should say a very good cook & there's a certain amount of attraction there for a very limited chef like me.

Ken Jones was to have been over this way for a few days with his son but it fell through. Very sorry he couldn't make it but perhaps it was for the best as we had a very wet week followed by 4 very hot stinkers. Ken & Edith are well.

I had a visit from Paddy for an hour or so, on his way to Warwick. He looks very well & we had a pleasant yarn. I'm sorry he couldn't stay longer. He was going to call on Ted Cholerton only an hour or so from me.

I'm pleased to report that I recovered from the flu previously reported which left me deaf in the left lug & partially so in the other. The deafness lasted a couple of months ~ made me realise what an affliction deafness must be, second only to blindness I reckon.

All the best to everyone & I'm looking forward to seeing you all at Hobart.

'Happy'

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**J.C. BurrIDGE**  
**4 Adams Road**  
**Dalkeith 6009**

Recently I had the good fortune to enjoy a holiday in Spain, Portugal & Morocco spread over 3 weeks. It was a W.A. Newspaper Group, at least as far as Madrid, when we were taken over by the big UK Travel Group - Trafalgar. Again, I was fortunate in having a good friend as a travelling companion - Max Mitchell Burden. This not only was a great saving financially, for both of us but also it can get lonely in the evenings if travelling alone.

From Madrid it was coach for the whole 3 weeks. When we crossed the Mediterranean by ferry the coach travelled with us to Tangiers in Morocco. But first we had 2 days in Madrid at leisure & we saw a lot of the city. The underground is clean & very competent. The city sight seeing buses were very good, enabling you to drop off if one spot particularly took your attention & then pick up the next bus 45 minutes later. Although not patrons of the arts we had to see El Prado where paintings by Titian, Raphael, El Greco, Rembrandt & many other famous painters are housed. Not to visit El Prado when in Madrid would be like visiting London & not seeing Westminster Abbey.

Spain, in general, has like all European nations suffered repeatedly by warfare over the ages. Indeed, Spain seems to have suffered very badly

for, according to our guide, throughout the last 2,000 years invasions & civil wars have been more or less constant. Romans, then Teutonic vandals, then Visigoths & then in 711AD the Moslem Moorish invasion during which most of Southern Spain came under Moorish rule. This continued for nearly 500 years until finally in 1492 the last bastion of Moorish power - Granada - fell to a Christian army. Isn't it amazing? If you study the history of any European country you find the same thing. 2,000 years of butchery. If there is no outside country to fight well then, just form a breakaway group & butcher each other. Let's hope that Australia with its short history will escape the genocide & fratricide which has bedevilled most of the world for so long.

From Madrid we bussed to Toledo & then Granada for an overnight stay. Both these cities were under Moorish control for centuries & the buildings reflect that occupation. The Church of Santo Tome in Toledo houses one of the four greatest works of art in the world. The painting by El Greco of 'The Burial of Count Orgaz'. El Greco was not his real name & means 'The Greek'. His real name was Kyriakos Theotokopoulos but the Spaniards called him Domenico. I bet he preferred El Greco!

In Granada the main attraction was the exquisite Alhambra Palace. This was the former palace & citadel of the Moorish kings of Granada & was built between 1248 & 1354. Part was destroyed by the Spanish in 1491 but what remains is by far the bigger part. The intricate Fresco work on the outer walls, the inner walls & the ceilings are so incredibly beautiful that even a philistine like myself was completely dumfounded.

Next stop was Torremelinos on the Mediterranean & a famous resort on the Costa Del Sol. A remarkable fish meal was an enormous bass-like fish encrusted with salt. It was then barbequed the salt & skin was removed. Absolutely YUMMY.

We then piled on to the ferry which was very large but unfortunately not made in W.A. We passed Gibraltar of which I took a photo. Arrived at Tangiers after 22 hour trip then on to the bus again for a drive to Fez, the ancient capital of Morocco. Morocco, being a Muslim country, does not sell liquor in the shops or bazaars. However, we were allowed to take in plenty of duty-free without question, like me, is prone to snakebite & we took a litre of whisky each. The hotels in which we stayed in Morocco (indeed in Spain & Portugal too) were very good - mainly 5 star. The Moroccan hotels supplied beer & wine at meals & had cosy

little bars. All this was of course for Christians ~ other faiths but not Muslims.

There was great excitement in the streets as the new king was visiting Fez. His father had died recently. I thought I had taken a great photo of him as the motor cavalcade swept by. Alas, I photographed an empty space between two limousines.

I will not go into detail regarding the cities we visited otherwise this Courier article would be too long. Suffice to say we visited Casablanca, Marrakesh & the capital Rabat, before boarding the ferry again at Tangiers. We spent several hours in a genuine Berber village, not at all touristy. It was carved into a mountain-side & was very primitive. When the rains come it must be absolutely dreadful. The Berbers are a wild nonconformist people & were the original inhabitants of the area. Most have converted to the Muslim faith but they remain aloof & keep to themselves.

We saw the much discussed casbah in most of the cities. The casbah is an ancient fort now usually transformed into a bazaar.

The word Medina is often used in describing parts of North African towns. It means the oldest part of each city. The Medina in Marrakesh was particularly memorable. Foodstuffs of all description were on sale with shops on both sides of the very narrow 'streets'. Our health department would not have been happy with the hygiene but luckily, ~ strangely, hardly a fly was to be seen.

At one big souk or marketplace the joint was really jumping. Live animals, snake charmers, dancers, fortune tellers. Max ~ I had a photo with a snake hanging round our necks.

At night we had occasional banquets like roast suckling pig with belly dancers, singers & contortionists. Always there was plenty of booze for us unbelievers but I failed to find any expressions of distaste or aversion in the faces or manners of our hosts such as I experienced years ago in the Arabian Gulf ports.

We travelled long distances between the main cities through vast areas of farmlands & then steep ascents through the Rif & Atlas mountains. Seemingly there were millions of Australian eucalypts planted close together to get rid of the high water table & consequent malaria which was rife in the lowlands.

Back on the ferry, another view of Gibraltar & there we were back in Spain again.

On to the beautiful city of Seville & then a long bus trip to Lisbon, capital of Portugal. Unfortunately we saw little of Portugal other than Lisbon & a lot of the countryside between Lisbon & Madrid. Portugal is the biggest producer of cork from the cork oak trees in the world. Also there were vast areas of olives, & the usual eucalypts seen everywhere in Portugal, Spain & Morocco. The way they harvest the olives high up on the mountain slopes is interesting. They lay a long plastic sheet from high up right down to the ground level. Then they shake the trees & the olives just cascade down the sheeting & are gathered at the end of their journey.

We had one more night in Madrid & then a plane to London. Three days in London with a small shower one morning & clear skies & no rain for the rest of the time. Not bad for London surely in early November. We enjoyed the brief stay in London although everything is terribly expensive.

Finally came the plane home via Singapore. Very wearying as we travelled economy, but it was great to get home to nice warm weather & familiar surroundings.

John BurrIDGE

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Peter Jackson, Secretary,  
2/4 Aust Commando Sqn  
17 Myrtle Grove,  
Altona, Vic. 3018

Association

Dear Peter,

Thank you very much for your generous donation of \$1000 to the Trust Fund. A gift of this size is very welcome indeed as the call for assistance from Timor is particularly great at this time, as you can imagine.

Would you please pass on to your President, Committee & general members our warmest thanks for your two most appreciated contributions.

When you have a moment to spare would you please drop Jack Carey a line giving the names & addresses of any 2/4 members residing in WA. Our Association Committee feels somewhat embarrassed that we have lost contact with those few we met occasionally some years back.

Every good wish & again many thanks.

John BurrIDGE for the  
Independent Trust.

It is no secret that Associations such as ours find it increasingly difficult each year to retain liquidity & to maintain the interest & comradeship among our members. The interest is being maintained today by three things - the Independent Trust, the Courier & by hard working office bearers & Committee.

One of the few disappointing features of our Association is that there are some members, fortunately small in number, who take very little or no interest at all in our affairs. These members receive every copy of the Courier issued but do not respond by either sending a short letter of appreciation & to tell us how they are or, more importantly, sending a donation to help defray the costs.

The Association is going through a difficult time financially & a few donations from hitherto non-contributors would be very welcome.

This appeal must in no way be construed as a general appeal to those many members, wives, children & friends who every year help to keep our Association buoyant. It is aimed only at noncontributors or those who, over the last 50 years, have given very occasionally. So, chaps what about it?

John BurrIDGE Auditor 3.12.99.

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**Bill O'Neil**  
**23 Kilcairn Place,**  
**Greenwood 6024**  
**Ph 08 9448 6566**

Dear Mr Carey

Independent Trust Fund

Referring to your letter of 9 Dec 1998, attached is a further cheque for \$30 from my wife & myself, as a donation to your Association's Independent Trust Fund to assist the excellent field work of Les & Verna Cranfield & others, in helping the people of East Timor, as sponsored by your 2/2 Commando Association. In view of the recent events which have transpired in East Timor & the presence of our Australian Diggers, it would appear that the lives of the natives of East Timor would be enhanced.

As previously mentioned this donation is to honour my old work mate, Colin Doig, who was also a neighbour of 30 odd years. These thoughts come to mind around Christmas each year, especially

as these East Timorese people did so much to, assist your comrades during the war.

Wishing all the best to your Association's future efforts.

Yours sincerely  
Bill O'Neil, WX41403

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### **The Thorntons**

Colleen & Murray completed their assignment as UNAMET volunteers to observe the 30/8 Independent ballot, they were assigned Suai, a most volatile town close to the West Timor border. They left following the ballot, fortunately before the church massacre of women & children & Frs. Hilario, Francisco & Dewanto. Thanks to Colleen for invaluable daily internet East Timor reports.

Murray has returned to Dili and is active in housing construction.

We admire and congratulate them both for their contribution.

R.N.S.

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We regret to advise of the passing of two very staunch supporters in October 1999 -Dulcie Ryan widow of Mervyn & Joyce Martin widow of Roy. The Association extends its deepest sympathy to the Ryan & Martin families.

We also offer our condolences to Fred Emery QC, President of the Australian Commando Association, who lost his wife Sheila in September 1999.

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

Congratulations to the people of East Timor. Your spiritual leader Bishop Belo & resistance leader Xanana Gusmo exhorted you to vote with courage & conviction in the referendum on August 30, 1999. Voting overwhelmingly for Freedom & Independence, you displayed the courage & determination with which you endured 25 years of brutal military persecution.

We, the men the people of East Timor fed, sheltered, helped & suffered so much for, during World War II assure you of our continued support

& assistance as you rebuild your lives & Homeland in peace & unity, guided by your trusted Civil & Spiritual Leaders.

Viva Timor Leste.

Paddy Kenneally on behalf of the 2/2 Commando Association of Australia.

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**Mrs J. Chatfield,  
19 Jacaranda Court,  
4 Bedingfeld Road,  
Pinjarra 6208**

Dear Jack. Enclosed is a donation for the 2/2 Association.

Thank you very much for the social events that you have arranged for all members. I am privileged to attend, enjoying myself very much. Its always great to be with such nice people. I'm looking forward to meeting many more in Tasmania in March. Hoping those planning on going will be well enough to attend & for those not going I wish them good health.

Best wishes to all members for Christmas & New Year.

Fond regards, Joy Chatfield

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Dear Len & Betty,

It was sad news indeed to hear you say our dear friend Joyce Martin had passed away. Joyce was a lovely lady & with her devoted husband, the late Roy, they always helped to make the Safaris very happy ones - they were friendly & nice to everyone. I was looking forward to meeting her in Tasmania but sadly it is not to be. I say a sad farewell to a great 2/2 Commando's wife & friend. God bless her & keep her & her grieving family in his precious care. Thank you Betty for letting me know of her passing. I'm sure you will miss her just as much as I do. We both know it was good to look forward to seeing her as she always made the Safaris so much nicer by her presence.

Loving memories of our friend Joyce Martin - I extend my deepest sympathy to her family.

Yours truly, Joy

**Mrs V. Cranfield  
6 Third Ave.  
Shoalwater 6169**

Dear Len & Betty,

May we wish you health, happiness & the very best for the year 2000.

Enclosed donation for Courier. This news filled little booklet is a delight to receive. This week I unashamedly wept big, rolling tears at Eve's open farewell to Ralph, & then, to top it off her 'Thanks to Australia'. I served Eve, for many years, in Myers - a truly gracious customer & Lady.

Happy Christmas, fond regards,

Verna & Les

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**Mrs M. Blomfield  
12 Sirius Key  
Forster 2428**

Dear Mr Carey,

Thank you for your kind thoughtful letter. I will be glad to continue getting the Courier. When I move in February I am going into a unit in Forster as my home here is too much for me - the garden really, as I've been a mad keen gardener in the past & have made too much work for myself. I'm in the middle of cleaning out cupboards & drawers & its amazing what junk - some good, some useless one accumulates. I will be going from a 4 bedroom 2 storey house to a 2 bedroom unit, so I guess my 3 boys & their families will relieve me of quite a lot of furniture. I will send my new address when I know it myself.

Yours sincerely, Margaret

---

**VR & VD Paust  
Lot 142 Sandpiper Mews  
Bindoon 6502**

We have finally moved into the house I started building shortly after my return from East Timor.

Sincerely, Viv.

**Syd McKinley**  
**32 Limbert Ave.**  
**Seacombe Gardens 5047**

Excuse the brevity, but no news is good news they say.

Enclosed is a cheque for the Courier or whatever.

Best wishes to all, Syd

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Mrs O. Thornton  
PO Box 81  
Denmark 6333

Enclosed is a donation for the 2/2 Commando Association.

My son is currently in Timor working with Timor Aid helping with the re-building programme

Yours sincerely, Olive

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**R. Trengove**  
**1/40 Bruce Street**  
**Cooks Hill 2300**

Dear friends,

This is a short note to let those who don't know that I have moved to Newcastle to be near my son Shane & his wife & closer to my other son Garth who now lives on the NSW North Coast. As some of you may know Dorothy passed away in April last year & I sold up in Sydney & moved up here in October. To those who have caught up with me & called or sent letters & cards, especially at Christmas, many thanks indeed for keeping in touch & conveying your wishes. Healthwise I'm getting by but failing eyesight is quite a restriction on what I can do. One of my great joys, reading, is now quite difficult & writing is much the same. Please forgive me if I don't send any letters or cards. My phone number is 0249 293719 ~ any calls are most welcome.

Best wishes to you all.

Ron

---

R. Archer  
36 Soudan St.  
Toowong 4066

Dear Jack & Delys.

Thank you very much for your Christmas card and your remembrances.

There was a very good roll up this year for our Christmas luncheon. It was especially nice to welcome some of our mates' widows & their families, including Margaret Hooper & Neil's son & his wife, Pat Barnier with her daughter & grand daughter, Edna Vandeleur & Dorothy Gibson (formerly Spence) as our special guest.

After almost 4 years the building on my site is under way, 2 town houses & I villa. The expected completion date is BY the end of February.

We are interested to come to Hobart BUT as you will understand it is a bit early yet to make a final decision. It's good to see the growing support for our 2000 Safari.

Seasons greetings to all members & hopefully improved health for all our mates who have had a bad 1999.

Cheers from Ron & Lyn.

---

S. Warbrick,  
137137 Chinderah Bay Drive,  
Chinderah 2487

Peter Hearle has asked me to write to you & notify you of his change of address. We haven't actually moved, the Pacific Highway did, 4 years ago. Now they have renamed & numbered the street where we live. We still have the pleasure of living on the banks of the Tweed River looking at Mount Warning. I read the Courier to Peter, his vision has not been very good for some years. Thank you for sending it & we wish you all happy new year.

Yours sincerely, Sylvia

---

Mrs K. Sargeant  
25 Thomas St.  
Gympie 4670

How the years seem to fly as one gets older. It has not been a good year for me because of ill health. However, I'm still here & hoping for a better year in 2000.

I was able to visit the Australian War Memorial in February & was invited to the preview of the new gallery where 'Winnie the War Winner' has pride of place in one section. I had been corresponding with the Head Historian about Timor & Jack's involvement in 'Winnie' & I was so pleased to meet up with those in charge, even though I ended up

seeing the gallery in a wheel chair. On my return home I spent 5 weeks in hospital & am only just beginning to feel a bit better.

I felt very proud when I received a Certificate of Appreciation for the help I had given them. Like me, I am sure all the men who survived Timor in 1942 are very sad to see what has happened in East Timor & I sincerely hope the Timorese people will get all the help possible to help rebuild their land.

I feel very sad when I read the Courier & see 'Vale' to so many of your members. I know all members were thankful for the help given by the Timorese all those years ago to help them survive. It is because of them & 'Winnie the War Winner' that so many were able to return home.

I sincerely hope those of you who can still get together had a very happy Christmas & I wish you good health in 2000.

Enclosed is a cheque towards the Courier.

Sincerely, Kathleen

---

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

were received from:

Anne, Allan & Carmel Ryan (Anne is Gerry Haire's sister),

Blanche Sadler,

Kathleen Sargeant,

Members of the 1st Commando Regiment,

Viv & Verna Paust,

Dulcie Gay,

Dan & Sunny Daniels,

Dale & Helen (Australian Red Cross.)

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## A 'GOLDEN DAY' IN MANDURAH

On a sunny Saturday, January 8th, 2000, 90 family & friends including 10 of Bernie's 2/2nd mates, gathered at the Langridge home to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of Bernie & Babs, & what a golden event it was. They are indeed a lovely family.

Refreshments & delicious eats were served by charming young grand daughters & great grand daughters.

The following tribute was written by daughter Gem Mackenroth & read out by grand daughter Lizzy Mackenroth:

It was the forties where we begin, when Babs started to get under Bernie's skin. This strong young man sporting a working man's tan, fell for this dark eyed beauty even tho' her home be in the city.

Time & distance caused him no comment, the city no argument. With letters of gentle persuasion he convinced her farm life had no comparison.

The wedding day was set, January, & the groom began to sweat. Harold assured him things really weren't that dim. Babs was there! Looking wonderful with wet hair. Corsages & hats & gloves were worn for this ceremony of love.

The day has gone all too soon & its off on their honeymoon. Albany, & somewhere cool. If you think it was uneventful, you're a fool. Bernie rolled the little ute, pushed it back up & it went like a beat.

Donnybrook, Bab's new home, paddocks where milking cows would roam. Her city life far, far away. But a trooper she was & ne'er did she stray.

Next March, Kim's arrival & many congrats brought friends new & old around for a chat. 3 boys in 4 years brought Bernie & Babs many joys, few tears. Handsome young lads, good workers like their dad.

The peace all went with the next big event - the 'Bubs' arrived. All hands on deck ensured they thrived. The boys made much complaint that the girls talked without constraint. Babs kept the peace, sent the boys to the paddocks for release.

The family grew up with not too many a hiccup. They spread far & wide, finding new lands to reside. With Gem, Erica, Kim, Lex & David came friends, spouses & grand kids. Nan & Pop as they are known, are cherished & adored, their love renown.

Babs & Bernie remain, seldom do you hear them complain. Together 50 years on, wondering I'm sure, where have the years gone.

CONGRATULATIONS. Good health, much love for the years here on.

---

## TIMOR MEMORIES SERIES 7.

'Recollections' by Rolph Baldwin.

In the early part of the war a Lieutenant on the reserve of officers, aged 30 & in a reserved occupation to boot was a drug on the market. It

was J.R.D. who solved that one for me by introducing me to Freddy Spencer-Chapman. The result was that I called up as a Fieldcraft Instructor under Freddy. There were two of us, the other being David Dexter (Old Geelong Grammar) who came to the position by quite a different channel. In that position we stayed together during the training of the officers & NCOs of the first & second Independent Companies, later Commando Squadrons, & were posted together to the 2/2 Aust Independent Company quite an adventure for 2 Victorians to serve in a unit that was overwhelmingly Western Australian. Together we shared the long, rigorous winters training on Wilson Prom which was odd training for the tropics but nevertheless, served its purpose well, for the real hardships of that apprenticeship formed a very cohesive unit. Dexter & I were together all through Timor.

It was as well for us that it was formed as soon as the war with Japan broke out we were shipped across to Timor, first for only a few days to the western part & then to the eastern end which was then Portuguese. In some ways we were on easy street for we never suffered serious bombing nor shelling & casualties were comparatively light. On the other hand we shared a small territory with vastly superior numbers of the enemy, we had to live mostly off the land under the same conditions as the natives did, our line of communication with Australia was non-existent for 6 weeks at the beginning of 1942 & was never better than tenuous & these conditions had to be endured for nearly a year without any leave or rest, with rations becoming poorer all the time & the health of us all deteriorating. The story is told in 'Independent Company' by Bernard Callinan which appeared in 1953 & in Timor 1942 by Wray which was published in 1992 so I shall not attempt to summarise but merely mention a few incidents in which I was personally concerned.

When the Japanese first arrived in Dili the Independent Co. was dispersed in the hills surrounding the town except for one section (an officer & 20 men) which manned the airfield. This section fought fiercely from midnight until the early hours of the morning then blew the numerous demolition charges which had already been set & in the resulting confusion, vanished into the hills behind the town. After taking a while to consolidate their position in Dili the Japanese came out into

the hills to search for their elusive enemy. There, of course, they were met by the 'ambush & vanish' tactics in which the Independents had been trained, & suffered heavy casualties from an enemy they did not see. After their first burst of activity, the company broke contact, except for maintaining a few observation groups & made clear away, over the central range of rugged mountains to previously selected places in the southern part of the island where we could regroup & prepare ourselves for the next phase. This was a jump into the unknown for the selection of bases had been made off the map without any chance of reconnaissance.

Bobanaro was the place that fell to my lot & there I presented myself after a couple of days spent in moving under cover of darkness & lying up near native villages during daylight, living the while on such provisions as we could buy from the Timorese. By this time these people had accepted us as friendly but we still did not know how we should be received by the Portuguese. So it was with some inward trepidation & very conscious of our bush ranger appearance that I marched into the square of the first Portuguese posto that I had seen, with the platoon sergeant & a couple of men for escort. All doubts were groundless, however. Senor Souza was provincial governor of a province of perhaps 300,000 people, very pro-British in his outlook & most cordial in his reception of people who were technically invaders. My escort was handed over to the hospitality of the local military detachment & I was taken into his own household for lunch. To one who had been living hard for some weeks & absolutely native for the last few days it was indeed a shock to see neatly uniformed servants, crisp white napery to sit in a capacious leather easy chair & be offered his choice of Fosters or Johnnie Walker with an accompanying tray of delicious sandwiches. Such luxury could not last & we were soon back to the bush but the impression is still strong.

At this time Koepang had already fallen & with that had gone our only link with Australia so that we were lost to the people at home & they were similarly denied any means of telling us of their situation. All we knew of the war situation was what we could hear from our Portuguese friends. During the six weeks of this silence I had gravitated to the position at Company HQ & so was privy to a wildly exciting moment when 'Winnie the War Winner' by a near miracle

managed to establish contact with Darwin.

Even more memorable was quite a while after when RAAF Hudsons came over & dropped some of the supplies we so urgently needed, boots, medical supplies & best of all, silver money with which to buy food from the natives.

For a while after this our fortunes brightened. The platoon were all situated in tactically useful positions where the food supply was adequate & could carry out vigorously their roles of observation & harassment. This they did to such effect that in August the Japanese set out on a full scale, well co-ordinated effort to round up their tormentors. With probably 2500 first rate troops in five columns converging on a centre from as many points of the compass they gradually forced the Australians inwards. Finally they were in the position where they were denied the possibility of hit & run & would have to engage their enemy in pitched battle which could only end in surrender or annihilation. On what seemed the vital night at about midnight I was standing chatting with the CO 'It looks now like the last man & the last cartridge' said he & almost as he spoke a big green rocket went up.

Mentally finger on trigger we waited for what seemed the inevitable but nothing happened. Then at first light our patrols went out & gradually it was confirmed that the unbelievable had happened - the enemy had simply vanished. Nor was this only temporary, over days it became clear that they had actually gone back to Dili & we could carry on our little war under something like the old terms.

This we did for another month or so when we faced our next great excitement, that the 2/4 Independent Company, a unit identical with our own in numbers & organisation had arrived on the island. Their arrival provided me with another set of vivid memories for it fell to my lot to be the OC beach during their landing. This was a complicated task. For one thing the troops coming ashore would have no transport to convey their stores & for another they would have no idea of how to find their way to the positions they were to occupy. To cope with this each section of the 2/2 Company had to provide two guides & such a such number of ponies & have them at the designed beach at an appointed time., There were many difficulties involved for it was a matter of moving a total of 400 ponies from several directions to the one point without arousing the suspicion of the enemy & then, when they had arrived at the beach, keeping them hidden & fed

& watered until they were needed. As this had to be managed on a large tract of flat ground about two thirds of which supported a scrub not unlike a big tea tree or old man mallee, providing good cover from the air whilst the remainder was scattered patches of kunai grass.

The fixed point in regard to movement was that a Japanese reconnaissance plane came along regularly every morning soon after sun rise. The troop ship was to be the destroyer HMAS Voyager & of course she would have to come in after dark & be away before first light.

By the night Voyager was due, all was ready when we struck our first difficulty in the shape of a signal which said that her departure was to be delayed by 24 hours, but the hiding, feeding & watering of the ponies for the extra day was managed. Then came the actual night. Voyager arrived punctually & the disembarkation went on smoothly from my point of view.

As each 2/4 section came ashore it was met by the 2/2 representative concerned, carried its stores to the waiting ponies & went on its way. Keeping an eye on this kept me pretty well occupied but towards the end it seemed to me that the ship was coming pretty close inshore. Then, as the last troops were on the beach I went along to the Commander of the ship for a few words. From him I had the devastating news that the ship was aground & unable to move herself.

On our feet we concocted the plan that enough men would be left aboard to fight the ack-ack guns against the certain air attack next daylight & that the rest of the sailors, unarmed, for the ship carried only a few rifles, would occupy the hiding places of the horses. We hoped against hope that there would be no land attack &, in fact, none did come while the sailors were ashore. By the time all the sailors were in their new quarters it was full light & soon after the 'chaffcutter' as we called the plane, came over & went back to Dili. Later came the bombers. A stranded ship would be an easy target but they scored only a couple of hits & one bomber was smoking so heavily that we felt the natives were right when they reported it destroyed. In the afternoon the Commander of the Voyager had her engines destroyed & the poor old ship was fired. Red hot rivets flying from her plates were a sight to remember. During the night two corvettes took off the sailors. Next day another soldier & I had the eerie task of going back to the ship to look for a signals book that it was thought might have been left behind.

The Timor part of my recollections ends with the beach on the south coast of the island as we waited for the destroyer HMAS Arunta to take us off. The 2/2 Company had already gone in December 1942 but my great friend Bernard Callinan who was originally 2/IC of the 2/2 had become Commanding Officer of the combined 2/2 & 2/4 Companies & stayed on with me as Adjutant till the 2/4 came off in January 1943. We were separated on the beach & I was on my own as, in nothing more than filthy old shirt & a pair of old ragged drill trousers, I went up the scramble nets & fell asleep on the first flat piece of deck I could find. None of us wore badges of rank then so it was some time before I was found & taken along to the ward room where I met a similarly bedraggled Bernard. What would you like to drink? Would you have a Pym's No. 1? & of course the Navy had.

That concludes these recollections for I spent 1943-45 as a staff officer in Melbourne, New Guinea, the Tableland & then New Guinea again. Finally, by an odd quirk of fortune I fetched up after the Japanese surrender in Rabaul where I met old comrades in what had become the 2/2 Aust Commando Squadron & was shipped home with them in December 1945.

**Captain R.R. Baldwin VX50054**

**NB: Baldy, as he is affectionately known, turned 90 on 16 December 1999.**

**Congratulations Baldy**

**Jack Carey**

---

Fax just received from Colleen Thornton Ward whose brother Murray is on a voluntary foreman rebuilding mission in East Timor. Their late father Norm was a member of 4 Section in East Timor and New Guinea.

Dear Bob

Thought this might interest you. Spoke with Murray last night. You could hear the rain pouring down, a rat had even come in out of the rain! Murray had a bit of excitement yesterday in Comoro. They were coming back from the airport when they spotted a group of fellows with machetes chasing people. Murray stopped and luckily the vehicle behind Murray had Australian soldiers in with automatics. Murray said things are moving very slowly over there.

He is working with the son of Nicole Gonsalves. Murray got him a job with Timoraid, Nicole was dad's creado in WWII. It is wonderful to think that two men who had such a close relationship in 1942 now have their sons working together for a free East Timor. Murray is teaching him to drive but they nearly had a head on with an army truck the other day. Murray said that Nicole kept dad alive but his son Januario may kill him with his driving!!!.

Hope this finds you well - Colleen 8/2/2000

---

## **A.E.S.O.P. CANBERRA**

DATE : 7/2/1999

Dear Ms. Conley

re Volunteer Les Cranfield - EAST TIMOR

We wish to make application for your sponsorship for Les Cranfield for a 2 month visit to East Timor.

Following my conversation with Fiona Bricknell on 28th January, we were disappointed to learn certain factors could prejudice a favourable decision.

Since inception of our Trust Fund in 1992 our endeavours have not been without difficulty. Whilst we were viewed with suspicion by Indonesia's military and administration, we were frequently reminded that Canberra based influences (not A.E.S.O.P.) perceived us as a team of Ramboes who could dismantle fragile Australian Indonesian relations.

Our approach via Indonesian channels has always been with the utmost openness and discretion and in fact, as though with professional courtesy, our consignments, have generally been received intact. An exception is a 20' Container of farm machinery side tracked to West Timor during the rampage but which is hoped to be received by Fr. Jose next week.

## **COMMUNICATION**

A crippling effect of the military rampage in East Timor was the total elimination of communication. Although having greater effect in remote areas, it curtailed to non UNAMET/military operatives all

calls except prohibitive costs of satellite.

Today there is not even a UN organised one person tent in East Timor to accept mail from any non UN service personnel to place in a sack on a Darwin bound cargo boat in Dili harbour.

For you to receive the necessary request from Fr. Jose for a further visit of Les Cranfield we asked Fr. Jose to give the FAX to Fr. Wong of Dili to take to Jakarta on his next visit from where it would be faxed to you.

#### AESOP Contribution

The AESOP sponsorship of Les and Verna Cranfield has been phenomenally successful in demonstrating improved methods of Agriculture, which in uninterrupted conditions, produces food at up to 8 to 10 times previous yields. (Where are you UN?)

The AESOP contribution to place the Cranfields in East Timor. The assistance by US AID to pay for the used farm machinery from Queensland and its transport to Dili. The 2/2nd Commando Association who supplied amenities and substantial amounts of seed and coordinated location and supply of goods and services.

Finally the major contributors, volunteers Les and Verna Cranfield for patience and application in demonstrating in frequently arduous conditions, revolutionary methods of grain and vegetable production.

We understand that Les and Verna have separately written you reporting on difficulties of Les's last visit.

We respectfully request that you review your consideration to sponsor Les Cranfield for a further visit of 8 weeks duration.

We feel confident he will respect and adhere to his utmost ability the conditions as required by you.

Yours sincerely

R.N.Smyth

INDEPENDENT TRUST FUND

## FINAL NOTICE HOBART SAFARI 8th - 15th MARCH.

By the time this Courier is in the mail the Safari will be about to commence. It is still not too late to join in with the 70 other interstate and overseas members who are coming to Hobart. Bert Price has done a great job setting up the Safari, which we are looking forward to immensely. Ring the manager of the Hobart Motor Inn 167 MacQuarie St, Hobart on 036234 4422 for last minute accommodation and ring either Qantas or Ansett re flight bookings.

#### Pars on People.

Reg Griffiths of Leeton, N.S.W., who is into his nineties, spent some time in St. Vincent's Hospital receiving treatment for a chest tumour. Reg is a survivor and is confident of being around for a few more years.

Les Halse, our long time committee member, turned 80 on Dec. 8th. Don Young and the late Gordon Barnes birthdays were on the same date. Les looks well following a major operation and the loss of his beloved Edna a few years back. He has 23 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren - probably an Association record!

We regret to advise of the passing of Pam Swann after a long illness. Deepest sympathy is extended to Vince and family.

Courier Donations: Could you please add Stan Payne, Reg Griffiths, Bob Williamson and Peter Krause to the March list.

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## WELCOME HOME LES.

The Independent Trust members and wives, Jack Carey and Del together with Viv & Verna Paust welcomed the return of Les Cranfield who with Verna joined us at the Fremantle Sailing Club for lunch. We expressed appreciation and thanks to Les for another magnificent effort. Also present by invitation were Bart Mavrick W.A. Branch President of the Australian S.A.S. Association and Deputy President Mick Malone. For many years Mick has been administrator of the Army Museum. Areas of considerable mutual interest were discussed.

BOB SMYTH

**"THE LIFE SAVER" from AUSTRALIA**

.This is a story of a Hammer Mill, which was grinding grain etc. in Australia for animal feed. But at Fuloro it is used for turning corn kernal into flour for villagers. The women started bringing in their corn to be turned into flour, walking from villages 10 to 15 km distant. The people coming grew and grew and we had to start up the tractor on and off all day long. We put on a starting time so that they were all there at one time. Their usual method was to pound the corn with a stick in a hollow tree log. This would only crack-the kernal. They then boiled it for eating.

The corn harvester could not so far be used in the field because the villagers beat us to the last lot of corn to be harvested. They were starving. All the corn at Fuloro which has been harvested is still on the cob and has to be hand rubbed out. So we set the harvester up along side the corn shed and I showed them how and where to drop the cobs into the machine. They were amazed to see the grain going into one box and the rubbish going out the back. All at a rate of 3 to 4 tonnes per hour. It saves hours and hours of sitting and rubbing grain off with the fingers.

When they first saw the machine working and how quick it was they all started to do a jig around it with a big smile on their faces. Even Fr. Jose started to jig with a smile and said "We have a life saver here". I hadn't seen him so excited. With obvious delight he repeated the word "incredible, incredible, incredible. This then became the word of the day with the East Timorese working on this \$1,200 secondhand wonder machine from Australia

LES CRANFIELD 14/1/2000

Captain K. Martin  
Operation Stabilise  
H.Q. FLSD  
Dili

**FATUNABA MEMORIAL DILI.**

Dear Captain Martin

The dedication of the above memorial was carried out on Sunday 13th April 1969 ~ 30 years ago. Since that time the memorial, especially during

the years of occupation by Indonesia from Dec. 1975 to Oct. 1999, has fallen into a state of disrepair. Advice from you that your unit and the 17th Construction Squadron have kindly volunteered to restore the memorial to somewhere near its former standard was gratifying news for the members of our Association. We appreciate your action immensely.

Regarding the original plaques. These were made up in Western Australia and comprised two brass plaques coated with a bronze finish with the lettering incised, one being in Portuguese and the other in English. When installed they were placed side by side with a brass base and cemented in with bolts. This did not prevent them from being removed by someone in the early 1980s. Negotiations between Jakarta and Australia resulted in two new plaques made from marble being installed on 25th May 1983. They were not up to the standard of the original ones but were better than nothing at all.

The original wording on the plaques was:-

To the Portuguese People  
Everywhere  
From Minho to Timor.

This memorial has been given for your use by the people of Australia in gratitude for the help you gave our soldiers during the Second World War 1939 - 1945 and particularly to the people of Timor. From the men of the 2/2 Commando Independent Company who served here in 1942.

Now that the East Timorese people have won their independence the original wording is no longer applicable. We would like to see the wording simple and to the point and suggest the following:-

To all the peoples of East Timor this memorial and resting place is given to them for their use by the Australian people in grateful recognition of their assistance to Australian soldiers especially the members of the 2/2nd and 2/4th Independent Companies during the Second World War.

One plaque to be in English and the other in Tetum. The Tetum plaque should show East Timor as Timor Loro-Sae. It would be preferable for the plaques to be of brass, coated with bronze with the lettering incised. If you have anything you would like to query or discuss on this please phone me on 08 9332.7050.

This memorial was of our undertaking and for this reason we would like to see the new wording on the plaques as proposed.

You also mentioned the possibility of a special re-dedication service being held when the restoration work is completed sometime in March, having a few of our members attend the service. I have four members in mind who may be willing to make the trip if well enough. I would like to discuss this matter with you in the near future.

Thank you once again for your interest in a project which is close to our hearts.

Yours sincerely

J.W. Carey Hon. Secretary.

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## **EAST TIMOR visit LES CRANFIELD 18/10/1999 — 14/1/2000**

Report for 2/2nd Commando Association 14/1/2000

I arrived Darwin 18/10/1999 and contacted U.N. who were most helpful. Left Darwin on a 35 passenger flight to Baucau where I was met by Fr. Jose.

Some places in Baucau were burnt but Baucau fared pretty well. Heading east villages after villages were just black ashes. Numerous dead cattle and pigs etc. lay alongside the roads. After Lautem we stopped where Fr. Jose showed me where the Sisters and young Brothers were shot in their vehicle and the vehicle was pushed into the river. The next day Fr. Jose and some of the boys had to retrieve the bodies from the bottom of the muddy water. Six were recovered, three were Nuns from Baucau. They are now buried inside the gates at Fuiloro. As we neared Fuiloro the worse things became. Families we had known for years have lost everything except the clothes they wore. A lot were trucked to West Timor and haven't been heard of since. At Fuiloro the Sister Convent including the girl's dormitory, kitchen, classrooms, and Verna's sewing rooms are all gone. The sewing machines are just a melted mess. When I got there, one couldn't be blamed for shedding a few tears. I was surprised that the people could still smile and laugh when they greeted me.

Don Bosco in Comoro Dili is a disaster. The only

workshop that wasn't torched was (Viv Paust's) wood working shop.

### FUILORO FARM MACHINERY PROGRAMME

I was able to assemble most of the machinery. There are only (2) to finish for which we are waiting some bearings. We took the first harvester out to test it on a remaining third of the corn crop. As we arrived the last of a large group of villagers were leaving with our corn. Nothing was said as they were starving.

The missing sea container is still in West Timor (Kupang). I had help from UNIFET. They said if Fr. Jose can get it to the border of West Timor they will ensure that it crosses the border. They will truck it to Dili and then air lift it to Fuiloro. That container is delaying a lot of work. The 6 silo can't be started until it arrives.

The Mission and others were promised seed. The people supplying were told it was imperative to deliver before the wet season started. Like most items promised, it came too late and we got only half the area sown to corn. We managed to sow 90 hectares of dry rice at Methara - an increase of 20 ha.

Two weeks before I left I asked Fr. Jose to request Ellis Machinery in Queensland to send the rice harvester immediately in time for the rice harvest.

The vegetable seed sent by the 2/2nd Association was most welcome. I couldn't locate five varieties which probably got mislaid in the forest before the burning started.

### MACHINERY AT FUILORO (Use of)

They will need instruction to operate them.

COMMUNICATION is hopeless. There are no phones, unless its satellite which is very expensive and mostly very poor reception. Scarce items are candles to toilet paper and water for washing and bathroom use.

It will be nearly two years before the Timorese form their own Government. There will be a few revolts before then. The U.N. cannot hold their heads up too high on the project. What I have seen of their efforts in three months was a shambles. I will finish on that note.

Les Cranfield

## A GOOD ASIAN NEIGHBOUR

(02)49293719

The influential "Asian Wall Street Journal," Singapore wrote on 5.10.99 "Whatever mistakes past and present governments may have made, when the moment for decisive action came, Australia alone rose to the challenge. Only with the intervention in East Timor, has Australia actually met and passed the real test of being a good Asian neighbour"

**Bob Smyth**

Mr F.P. Hearle  
Peter  
137/37 Chinderah Bay Drive  
Chinderah 2487

Mrs M. Wilson  
Monica  
Unit 111  
Cumberland Retirement Village  
Whatley Drive  
Whealers Hill 3150

Mr J. Meldrum  
John & Joan  
56A Victoria Street  
Revesby 2212

Mr J. Went  
John  
4/54 Johnathon Street  
Eleebana 2282  
(02) 49481716

**Courier Donations** Pip Dunkley, Alan Luby, Blanch Sadler Kath Sargeant, Olive Thornton, Val Hayes, George & Betty Coulson Jess Epps, Mark & Elsie Jordan, Helen Poynton, 'Dusty' Studdy, Vince Swann, Doc Wheatley Joy Chatfield, Mavis Sadler, Imprimatur Books, J.C. Burrridge, Dulcie Gay, N.A. Kanganas, J. Burrridge Jnr., Nola Wilson, P. Thatcher Ted Monk, Joan Fenwick, Verna & Les Cranfield.

**Trust Fund Donations**

2/4 Commando Association Victoria \$1000,  
P. Thatcher \$50.

**Address Changes**

Mr K.M. Hayes  
Keith & Val  
61/31 McNabb Loop  
Como 6152  
(08)93130361

Mr H. Sproxton  
Henry  
239 Ruislip St  
Wembley 6014  
(08)93876889

Mr H.R. Hayes  
13 Quarndon Close  
Carine 6020

Mr L.B. Robson  
11 Breadsell Close  
Carine 6020

Mr T.S. Hayes  
6 McAlvay Way  
Ranford 6155

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

Mrs J. Chatfield  
Joy  
Unit 19 Jacaranda Court  
4 Beddingfeld Rd  
Pinjarra 6208  
(08)95313983

Mr R. Trengove  
1/40 Bruce Street  
Cooks Hill 2300

**June Courier Deadline****WEDNESDAY, MAY 17th**

## STOP PRESS

**Les Cranfield 6th Timor visit** AESOP Business Volunteers Ltd. Canberra approved our last funding application and Les arrives Dili Tuesday 21st February, from where he will be rushed to Fuloro. Fr. Jose phoned Bob Smyth and advised the rains are easing and the corn crop is drying out which reduces value for silage.

### **Rice Harvester from Kingaroy Queensland**

Les is advised by Ellis Machinery that the large pre used **rice harvester is in top** condition and should be on the road to Darwin on Wednesday 16th February. The machine is too big for container use so will need to go as deck cargo. Rooney's weekly deck cargo and shipping service is via Com (close to Fuloro)

This latest item which would normally cost over \$100,000 new and which also is funded by U.S. Aid could land at Fuloro for less than A\$8,000.

With Les Cranfield's setting up and providing no damage in transit has occurred, it will be in time for the 90 ha rice harvest at Mehara. An extra 20 ha was prepared and sown without fertiliser. A visiting U.N. representative consultant had recommended cancelling the dry rice planting and reverting to the laborious paddy field method.

### **U.N. in East Timor**

Despite the enormous task of U.N. via its numerous agencies and also of the multitude of Charitable organisations from around the world, considerable criticism has been expressed. One area of resentment from the East Timorese is the cost of the affluent style of foreign staff living in comfortable hotel rooms accompanied with high standards of food and beverage. Also equipped with new 4 wheel drive vehicles etc.

However, U.N. has not a reserve of volunteers with suitable background prepared to fly immediately to a sometimes remote and dangerous trouble spot anywhere in the world. Therefore they must have people who can be relied on to unquestionably go to a job at short notice. Such people have to be professionals on contract and be paid accordingly. The quality of their performance could be a reflection on their administrators.

Unfortunately there are many reports of U.N. and N.G.O. staff not making allowance for local and immediate conditions of need. Unlike the Les Cranfields they are unable to recognise today's

problems which unattended, can multiply those of the next agricultural season.

The international agencies representatives follow their own agendas too often without conversing and listening to an authoritative, intelligent, knowledgeable group of people who have, in the face of extreme adversity, intolerance and often prejudice from Indonesian Administration, performed an admirable function for 50 years. I refer to the Don Bosco Salesians of East Timor.

With recognition and assistance, the Fuloro agricultural programme could be repeated over most of the arable areas of East Timor, sufficient to eliminate hunger and malnutrition which occurs too often due to unseasonal conditions. With full bellies, villagers could then be encouraged to follow income earning activity such as sugar, coffee, horticulture, working on government projects and eventually competing with Indonesia and other Asian countries in garment manufacture.

Bob Smyth

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## VICTORIAN NEWS

Olive and I stayed with Margaret Monk and Ron Thompson for the weekend Nov. 20th-21st. Margaret took us to see John Roberts on the Saturday. Johnny was looking pretty good and he was able to make conversation and was very alert in mind just has to take his time talking. On the Sunday we went down to Wilson Prom. for the annual Memorial Day at the cairn there - was not the best of days and it rained during the ceremony but we still enjoyed it. Fred Broadhurst and Margaret & Don, Olive & I and Pat Petersen were the only members from the Unit. In fact numbers were down all over must be a sign we are all getting older. We had a marvellous day for our Xmas luncheon on De. 6th. The weather was good, the meal perfect, the turn-up great. The following were present:- Rolf Baldwin, Fred & Mavis Broadhurst, Beryl Boast, Harry Olive Botterill, Eddie & Dot Bourke and friend Carlene (from Tassie), Leith & Marge Cooper, Jack Fox, Joan Fryer, Nina Grachan, Alf Harper Margaret Monk & Don Thompson, Pat Petersen and sister Miriam, John & Cath Roberts and son Craig who did a great job bringing John and Cath down and Johnny really enjoyed himself and everybody else was pleased to see them. Also there was Wilma Tobin and son Warwick was great to see the two)

Dot Veitch and daughter Sue? John Shirley Southwell. Leth Cooper presented Eddie Dourke with his Life membership badge. Well done Eddie and congratulations. Apologies were received from Bluey Mary Bone, Arch & Dawn Claney, Dulcie Gray, Win Humphries, Bruce Loralne MacLaren, Tom Nisbet, George & Dot Robinson, Bluey & Aynsley Sargeant, Wal & Betty Kerr (thanks for your donation Wal) and Eilleen Sharp. A wonderful day and a great roll up. Happy Greenhalgh was down in Melbourne for his usual Xmas visit and he wanted to see Tom Nisbet, so arranged a day and called in on Tom one afternoon and had a wonderful three hours with him who was in pretty good form, Discussed all subjects, fought the campaigns again, good and bad times many laughs - how to straighten out Australia's woes. Even worked out the way to handle the boat people. It as a great time and Tom really enjoyed the visit. That's all the news for now, I wish everybody a happy and safe New Year.

Harry Botterill.

#### **Glenelg North S.A. 5045 7/2000**

Dear Jack, A few lines to let you know I'm keeping very well taking into consideration the years that have flown by and the various ways we have found to damage our constitutions. My wife has been very sick over the past two years and still *has many medical problems*. I spoke with Kel Carthew and Carl Marls last week Kel and Ruky are O.K. But Carl has a heart problem and will go into Repat Hospital this week. I hope they can give him lots of help. He has had a bad run over the last few years and deserves better. I'm still enjoying cold VB and room temp. Red wine on a daily basis and recently sold my old Computer and Printer and bought a new outfit so I could get on the Internet. I am slowly learning and having a little success and a lot of errors. I keep in touch with Don Turton by means of the occasional phone call. Don will be O.K. he was always tough as old boots. I enclose a Cheque to help the Courier going and to say thank you to those who have put so much time over the years into keeping the Courier going

Best wishes to all from Bob Williamson

## **NORMA HASSON SOCIAL**

This will be held on

**Friday, 7th July at the Terrace Hotel**

Pre luncheon drinks from 11am

Lunch at 12.30pm

This is always a great day, so be in it.

**PLEASE KEEP THESE EVENTS IN MIND.**