



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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President R. Parry, Secretary J. Carey, Editor D. Carey

Vol 138

DECEMBER 2001

Christmas Message.

To our members who were once a superbly trained and disciplined company of men, and to your families, may you be blessed with a wonderful Christmas and the happiest of New Years. In the past we have experienced Christmas and New Year in some far away places.

Today we enjoy the festivities in more comfortable surroundings with family and friends.

In recent times there have been many proud infantry Battalion associations that have closed their books. It says a lot for those of the 2/2nd who have selflessly devoted their time and energy to keep the Association a viable one. Considering our numbers it is all the more meritorious that we are still an active body. That says much for the quality of the men of our Unit.

To all, I pray that the future years hold much contentment and good health. May your guardian angel continue to watch over you.

I close my seasonal greeting with Ray Aitken's translation of the Timorese words that many of you may remember.

Go with God my friends,
But watch the track well.

Ray Parry, President

Reminder!

Mildura Safari.

Wednesday 1st May to Tuesday 8th May 2002

Venue: The Grand Hotel, Seventh St., Mildura.

P.O. Box 800. 3502

Rates: Standard Room	\$48.50 per person sharing
	\$66.00 " " single.
Grand Room	\$63.00 " " sharing.
	\$79.50 " " single.

Rates include breakfast

Book by ringing 03 - 5023.0511

Or toll free reservations 1800.034.228

Or enclose \$50 deposit to above Box No.

Planned Itinerary (subject to alteration)

Wed.1 st May	Members book in.6.30pm	Welcome social at the hotel.
Thurs. 2 nd May	Murray River trip Lunch at Trentham Winery Estate.	Evening free.
Fri.3 rd May	Commemoration service 11am	Followed by luncheon local RSL.
Sat.4 th May	Day free. Evening Official	Dinner. 6.30pm at the Hotel.
Sun.5 th May	Morning free. 3pm Ecumenical Church Service	Followed by afternoon tea.
		Evening free.
Mon.6 th May	Bus day trip to Wentworth	Lunch included.
Tues.7 th May	Am. General Meeting. Afternoon free	6.30pm. Wind-up Social at Hotel.

Barbecue facilities are available at the Hotel and the Committee has plans to have one or two BBQs on the free evenings.

The committee also intends to try and arrange a civic reception on Friday 3rd May between 5-6pm. It promises to be a very good Safari. The Grand Hotel has excellent facilities and many of our functions will be held there. It will not be too demanding and there is plenty of free time to relax.

Your committee appeals to all those members, Victorian, South Australian and New South Wales in particular to book in as it well maybe our last safari.

It would be advisable to withhold plane bookings until the new Ansett Group is up and running when fares will be competitive.

Bluey Bone, Ed Bourke and Leith Cooper, the committee organisers are at present plagued with ill health but intend to visit Mildura early in the New Year to finalise the itinerary arrangements.

So make their day and book in now!

Those people booked in for the Sarafi at the Grand Hotel as at 25.Nov. 2001 are:

Bert & Sylvia Bache, Maureen Baker, Fred & Mavis Broadhurst, Jack & Delys Carey, John & Olive Chalwell, Arch & Dawn Claney, Bill & Coral Coker, Dick Darrington, Dan & Sunny Daniels, Jess Epps, George Greenhalgh, Harry & Amyce Handicott, Mark & Elsie Jordan, Paddy & Nora Kenneally, Bernie & Babs Langridge, Alan & Edith Luby, Margaret Monk & Don Thomson, Nellie Mullins, Pat Petersen & Miriam Van Dyke.

Total 33

Vale Keith Brown NX 49761.

Keith was born in the Snowy Mountains town of Tumut, NSW on the 14th May 1921. When he was fourteen he came to Sydney in search of work, staying with his grandparents in Fairfield in those days an outer suburb of Sydney. Work was hard to come by. He was fortunate he got a job in a factory in Mascot. Long hours, long distance and long in time to and from. However it was a job. Boys and girls expected little during the depression era of 1930s. They were neither choosy nor critical. They took what they could get and made the best of it.

War erupted in September 1939. If Adolf Hitler did nothing else he put the industrial world back in work. Keith joined the army in 1941, then volunteered for the Independent Companies. Went to Foster, then Woodside near Adelaide, back to Foster, more travelling than training. 31st December he left Foster with four officers and fifty ORs as reinforcements to No. 2 Independent Company then occupying Dili, Portuguese Timor. The Reos. arrived there on January 20th 1942. Moved to Three Spurs, then onto to Railaco to establish a camp for company headquarters, and ostensibly to continue a training program that never was and didn't eventuate for this body of men.

The Japanese arrived in Dili on the night of 19/20th February 1942. The only Australian opposition came from No 2 section defending the drome near Dili. They suffered casualties, Jack Hartley, Keith Brown, Tom Mildren and Harry Cole were sent from the Reos to "A" Platoon and joined the remnants of 2 section on a ridge between Railaco and Tocolulli on the Ermera Road. No 2 section and "A" Platoon ambushed the Japanese there on March 3rd or 4th 1942. It was a good and successful ambush inflicting heavy losses on the enemy and no casualties to the "A" Platoon men. Keith served right through the Timor campaign with No 2 Section.

He did not return to the Unit after Timor,

being boarded "B" class. He served with a base unit at Ipswich Queensland. On the termination of the war in the Pacific, Keith volunteered for the occupation force for Japan. Whilst in Ipswich he had learned carpentry and joinery in that trade category he was accepted in the B.C.O.F. On return from Japan he continued in the Permanent Army, was due for re-enlistment in August 1951.

The army wanted him to accept a reduction in rank (he was by then a Corporal) Keith refused and asked for his discharge as he was not re-enlisting. He was discharged from the army 23rd August 1951.

He had married his wife Winifred in St. Andrews Church, Parramatta on the 21st December 1949. On return to civilian life he carried on in the building trade. He was a good tradesman; highly regarded for his ability and reliability, consequently when any slumps hit the industry he was kept in constant work. He left private industry and took a position as maintenance man with the Fairfield City Council and remained there until retirement. As stated he had little contact with our Association nor did he join an RSL. When younger he had played Rugby League and cricket and was proficient in both games.

He and Winifred had no children. That void in their lives was filled by nieces and nephews who spoke glowingly of their Uncle Keith and the time spent in his and their Aunt Winifred's company.

As Keith died suddenly from a complaint not previously recorded an autopsy was held. This revealed Keith died from a combination of at least 3 heart complaints any of, which can prove fatal. In layman's language he had a partial collapse of the wall of the heart and a massive haemorrhage. It happened as Keith was preparing to have a shave and shower on 29th October. He was 80 years of age.

To Winifred and his extended family of

nieces and nephews we extend our deepest sympathy on their sad and unexpected loss. Lest We Forget.

P. Kenneally.

Vale Don May 23.9.2001.

It is with great sadness that I say farewell to a mate of many years.

Don was born in Collie on the 15th February 1924 and attended school there. He worked in the Collie Mines and was with the W.A. Govt. Railways when he enlisted, joining the 2/2nd in 1944 as a signaller. Don was a good soldier and fitted in well with the sigs team. After the War he rejoined the W.A.G.R., but it was inevitable he would enter politics. His grandfather Scotty Wilson O.B.E. held the Collie seat for Labor for 39 years until 1948 and Don's father Harry then took over and held the seat for 30 years until 1977. Don's mother therefore had the unique distinction of having her father, husband and son as politicians. It should be noted that Don and his dad were the first father and son to be represented in the W.A. Parliament together. A proud record indeed. Don was also an active J.P. and was always prepared to help his constituents. He had three children, a son and two daughters by his first marriage and in 1977 married Dawn who had three adult children. A caring man, he enjoyed carrying out his public duties and was an able politician.

I first met Don in New Britain when he was a signalman and well I remember the story of Don falling off a limb which overhung a pool that had just been blown for fish by Doug Fullarton, but instead of fish coming to the top of the pool a crocodile appeared - which frightened the hell out of Don, so much so, he fell into the pool with the croc. I think the grenade must have stunned the croc because Don escaped unhurt.

Later I met up again with Don when he was standing for Parliament for the seat of

Canning and it was here I assisted him with doorknocking, pamphlet dropping etc, which helped him to win the seat in 1962, where he worked tirelessly for his electorate and the people he represented. It was a great pity to see him defeated in 1965 by Ross Elliott because Don was such a faithful member for his electorate. However he stood again in 1968 for the seat of Clontarf and was successful.

Following the appointment of the Tonkin Government in 1971 he was appointed Minister for Mines and the North West. He was also Minister for Electricity and unfortunately was again defeated in 1974.

After his retirement from the political fold he became a first class bowler playing in "A" Division for the Manning Club along with Laurie and Dudley Tapper. Don was also an excellent footballer and cricketer representing the Railway Institute many times either in Western Australia or the Eastern States.

I guess I could go on for hours about the exploits of Don, and my association with him but time and space do not permit, except to say I will miss him greatly, but his memory will live forever.

Don developed severe alzheimers in his latter years and passed away peacefully on 23rd September, aged 77. John Burridge, Bob Smyth, Jack Carey, Dusty Studdy, Keith and Val Hayes, Les Cranfield, Doc Wheatley, Tom Bateman, Dick Darrington, Don Turton represented the Association at his funeral with President Ray Parry saying the Ode.

The Association extends its deepest sympathy to Dawn and family in their sad loss.

Lest We Forget.

Tom Bateman.

Vale Steve Rogers WX 11493.

Steve was born at Youanmi, a small town North East of Cue in the Gascoyne District

on 13th April 1920. His family moved to the South West of WA when he was a young boy. The death of his mother not long after resulted in Steve being placed in boarding school in Perth. On leaving school he went to Wiluna a small outback township lying on the edge of the Little Sandy Desert at that time the centre of a rich goldfield. He enlisted in AIF early in 1941, volunteered for the "hush hush" group and became an original member of the Unit. He served in 8 Section under John Burrridge early in Timor but when Arch Campbell's & Section was decimated he was transferred to that Section. Steve did not rejoin the Unit after Timor being classed unfit for overseas service. He served nearly 3 years in Townsville being discharged on 25th July with the rank of Sergeant.

Steve was a good soldier who always gave of his best. Following his discharge he returned to Wiluna and ran his own baking business. In 1946 he met and married Patricia McKenzie in Wiluna, a marriage that lasted over 55 years, being blessed with 6 children, 4 girls and 2 boys and 11 grandchildren. Steve was a devoted father and grandfather. When the gold ran out in Wiluna the family moved to Brunswick Junction in 1951 where he had a bakery business for the next three years. He then tried his hand in the Big Bell mine at Kalgoorlie. After a few years there Steve decided that baking was preferable to working in the mines. He ran bakeries in Burracoppin, Southern Cross and Kalgoorlie for a number of years finally deciding to return to Perth to give his children better opportunities for their education and work. This would have been in the sixties.

In Perth he obtained a job with the West Australian Newspapers in the mailroom working there until he retired at 64 in 1984. Ray Parry, Len Bagley and Wilf March also worked for the West.

Steve and Pat settled in Wanneroo. He was a keen fisherman but also enjoyed prospecting. He often was away for weeks in his caravan

prospecting near Sandstone, an area East of Mt. Magnet. Another hobby of Steve's was pigeon racing. He kept his own birds and was a member of the Wanneroo Racing Pigeon Club for many years. Steve attended the Association's functions from time to time when work permitted and always appreciated his Courier. He had a triple by-pass in 1988, which gave him another 13 years with his family, to whom he was so devoted. He passed away peacefully in the Joondalup Hospital surrounded by his loving family on 1st November. He was 81.

A funeral service was held at Karrakatta on the 8th November. John Burrridge and Jack Carey represented the Association at a brief but very moving service.

The Association extends its deepest sympathy to Patricia and her family on their sad loss.

Lest We Forget.

Jack Carey.

Vale Eric Weller WX 13382.

Eric's daughter, Patricia has kindly provided this biography on her father's life.

Eric was born in Collie, W.A. on the 22nd January 1922 and passed away peacefully in the Woy Woy Nursing Home, N.S.W. on the 30th October 2001, aged 79. He was a hard working father who was my hero.

Eric attended school at Collie. He was a good scholar and loved his sport. He became an apprentice carpenter on leaving school and his football talents soon earned him a place in the Pastime Club in the Bunbury District competition.

He joined the Light Horse at 19 and volunteered for the AIF eventually joining the 2/2nd as an original. Eric saw service in East Timor in 3 Section A Platoon under Clarrie Turner. He was a good soldier and team man. He was transferred to 8 Section C Platoon under Campbell Rodd in New Guinea and under Doug Fullerton in New

Britain. On his discharge early in 1946, now a fully-fledged carpenter, he went back into the building trade eventually becoming a registered full time builder.

Eric met Margaret Sachse whom he married on the 4th November 1946 at Wooroloo. Their union was blessed with 4 children, Patricia, Tony, Ann-Marie and Josephine, 13 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. Established as a builder Eric built houses all over the state. He and Margaret were a great team. While Eric built the houses Margaret did the running around and tendering for the work. A devout Catholic, Eric did a lot of charitable work for the Sisters of St. Dominic and on many occasions he and Margaret looked after children who had no family for their Christmas holidays.

They eventually settled in Geraldton and when work was scarce Eric went up North building houses in the Pilbara and Kimberley Districts.

Margaret and Eric retired in Geraldton where they bought a caravan, making a number of trips around Australia. A foundation member of St. Vincent de Paul at Geraldton, he continued on with his charitable work. He also was a member of Legacy and was kept busy doing odd jobs for war widows. Sadly Margaret passed away in January 1994 thus ending a happy marriage lasting 47 years. Eric met Pat Sullivan at a 2/2nd reunion a few years later. Pat being sister of Marge Goodacre. Eric married Pat in 1998 and moved to Umina, NSW where they spent over two happy years together. Eric lost his son Tony (aged 48) with cancer in February this year and his health began to deteriorate rapidly. He showed great courage to attend our last Anzac Day service in Perth in a wheel chair. He was a loyal member of the Association and was made a life member in 1996 for his service. So passed a good Christian man and a fine Australian.

A thanksgiving mass was held in St. John the Baptist Church in Woy Woy on Friday the 2nd November. The Association was represented by Paddy Kenneally, Snow Went, Harry Handicott and Andy Beveridge. His ashes will be taken to Geraldton and placed with those of Margaret's. The family is having a service in Geraldton early in the New Year.

The Association extends its deepest sympathies to Pat, Patricia, Ann-Marie and Josephine and all the family. Lest We Forget.

Patricia O'Donnell

Jack Carey.

Artie Cullen

Though his Couriers were never returned we had the feeling Artie may have passed on without us knowing. His death has now been confirmed by a contact of ours in Darwin, Mr Peter Spillett. Apparently Artie passed away a long time ago. Peter is trying to find out something more definite on Artie.

Artie served in 7section in New Guinea and New Britain under Tony Adams. A quiet man, Artie was a good soldier and well respected by his section members. If any of his old mates can provide any information on Artie please let us know. Lest We Forget.

A (Darby) Munro.

Another member who has passed on and got under our guard is the late Darby Munro. For some reason unknown to us we have no record of his demise. Darby served with the sigs in New Guinea and New Britain and fitted in well. After the war he took a keen interest in the Victorian Branch's affairs being it's first president in 1947. He served in other positions on the executive being treasurer in 1964/65 and President again in 1968. If any Victorian members could provide any further information on the life of

Darby please drop the editor a line.

Lest We Forget.

It is with regret we advise of the passing of a number of our good ladies.

Colin Hodson's wife Olive who had been ill for a long time passed away in October. The family had a private funeral. To Colin and family we extend our sincere sympathy.

Blue Pendergrast lost his wife Edith in November. Tom & Mary Foster and Peter Barden attended her funeral at Geraldton. To Blue and family we also extend our deepest sympathy.

Joan Marsh, widow of Swampy, Peg McPhee, widow of Ian, Dulcie Gay, widow of Harold and Dorothy Lewis, widow of George all passed on during the past twelve months.

Dorothy, who lived to the grand age of 95, had a private funeral at Fremantle, which was attended by Jess Epps and Jack Carey.

To the families of the above ladies the Association extends its sincere sympathy. May they all Rest in Peace.

Ralph Conley has advised that Fred Bryant passed away on 23rd November. A vale for Fred will appear in the next Courier.

Commemoration Service 2001.

The Associations 52nd Commemoration Service was held in our Honour Avenue in Lovekin Drive, Kings Park on Sunday 18th November.

With ideal sunny conditions and a good attendance of approximately 100 people the service commenced at 3pm. The Catafalque party under Sgt. Shane Saltmarsh took up their positions around our memorial following which President Ray Parry delivered his address. Ray, who spoke with great clarity

and assurance made the focus of his address on the events of 60 years ago in 1942 when Australia faced it's most critical period in it's brief history.

To many, especially the young people present, his brief resume of those difficult times was an eye opener. It was a very fine address. Jess Epps then laid a double red diamond wreath and Ray read out the names of the fallen followed by the ode and lest we forget. The bugler, Dave Scott, played the Last Post and the catafalque party presented arms. A one-minute's silence followed and the Rouse completed a brief but impressive ceremony. The catafalque party received a well earned round of applause as it moved off. Ray then handed over to our marshal for the day John Burrige who mustered those marching with the veterans leading followed by the sons and daughters of members. Fifteen of the twenty three members present marched. John did his best to make it an orderly affair and considering that some were marching for the first time, the march went off reasonably well. The "eyes right" was taken by our president and Sgt. Saltmarsh to conclude the service. All present seemed pleased with the outcome.

After the service we were invited to "The House" at Campbell Barracks by Bart Mavrick, president of the SAS Veterans Association. Approximately 40 accepted the invitation and passed a very pleasant 1 1/2 hours enjoying a lovely afternoon tea and drinks in comfortable surroundings. We can consider ourselves fortunate to have such good friends as the SAS Veterans.

It was encouraging to see a good attendance at the service. Country members in Stan & Barbara Payne, with their son and grandson, Tom Foster, Mavis Sadler and her friends were present as were our Mandurah members while the response from local members and their families was also good. New faces included Gavin Wilkinson, son of Wendell, Dave Friend, Albie's son, and

Greg Tyerman grandson of Alf Corby . All were made welcome.

To all those who came along the committee extends its sincere thanks. Please keep coming, as your support is vital if this memorial service is to carry on well into this century.

We are indebted to the SAS Regiment; the Australian Army Band, the Botanical Gardens and Park Authority, and those of our members involved for their contribution to yet another rewarding commemoration service.

J. Carey.

President's Speech Commemoration Service 18/11/01.

Welcome ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, fellow members of the 2/2nd Commando Association and the Special Air Service Regiment, - it is my privilege to address you on the occasion of the Association's 52nd Commemoration Service.

We gather in this wonderful setting of Honour Avenue in Lovekin Drive to contemplate and reflect and give thanks to the men of our Unit and all other units who paid the supreme sacrifice so that this country would never have to suffer the indignity of being conquered, and that our children would grow up to enjoy the freedom for which our comrades so nobly laid down their lives. All over Australia it was the parents, sisters, brothers, wives and sweethearts who at the loss of loved ones have experienced great sorrow, let them take heart in the fact that if it had not been for the courage of their loved ones our shores may never have been free from an invading force.

Today we also pay tribute to the 360 of our former mates who have passed on since World War II all were fine Australians who contributed much to their country both in wartime and peace. To their loved ones, many of whom are present here today we

extend our sympathy and love. It has been an honour to have known them.

Now nearly sixty years on it is timely to recall the events of those critical early war years.

Moving south and east the Japanese conquered and occupied the islands of Sumatra and Java, at Banka Beach they ordered 17 Australian nursing sisters into the sea and machine gunned them, one survived the carnage - Sister Vivian Bullwinkel.

On the 11th July last year the artist Alston of W.A. Newspapers drew a cartoon of the occasion. Printed on the cartoon were words by the Federal Minister of Veteran Affairs, Bruce Scott which read - no one could have imagined how great the contribution Vivian Bullwinkel Statham would make to Australia's Anzac legend.

Then there were these words:-

They just marched in with their chins up; we waded into the surf and they fired on us, there were no tears, we just accepted it as being our lot. - Vivian Bullwinkel.

That wonderful and remarkable Australian lady passed away in July last year. A State funeral was held in her honour in St. George's Cathedral.

The Japanese have never apologised for that barbaric act. Before and after the bombing of Pearl Harbour on December the 7th 1941, Australia was hard pressed to deploy enough troops along the equator north of our country to prevent an invasion by Japanese units of the Imperial marines and army with the support of their Naval and Air forces.

It was a thin line of khaki that stretched from the Malayan Peninsular and Singapore in the North West, to Timor and Ambon in the North and then East to New Guinea, New Britain, New Ireland, Bougainville and Solomon Islands, further North were the Marianas - where the 1st Independent Company had a small garrison.

For the majority of our forces there was to be no supplies, no reinforcements to replace losses in the field, no naval or air support. The Australian navy had its hands full looking after its own up against a powerful foe. Outgunned, outnumbered the cruiser Perth was sunk in Sunda Straight, as was the U.S.S. Houston, the Dutch cruiser Sourabaya and many other naval vessels suffered the same fate. The Australian airforce also had their problems, like the navy they were opposed to an enemy whose aircraft were far superior and they too were outnumbered. The Australian front line fighter was an aircraft bearing the title "Wirraway". It was designed as a training plane. Our talented well-trained pilots were no match against the well-armed, fast, highly manoeuvrable Zero fighters.

As the days and weeks passed by during December, January and February 1941-42 our casualties mounted and so did the loss of the Islands across the North of Australia. Our men fought valiantly to hold their ground but against powerful opposition, who had the support of naval units and squadrons of aircraft, they were overwhelmed. The surrender of the islands of the Netherlands East Indies and Singapore was inevitable with one exception, the 2nd Independent Company in Portuguese Timor refused to surrender.

In Portuguese Timor we were well aware of the progress the Japanese forces were making. From Java they crossed to Bali, then Lombok and so onto Sumbawa. We knew we did not have long to wait. All that was left between our people and the islands that had been occupied was the Flores group - then it would be our turn.

On the night of February 19th, the Japanese landed a force of 8000 marines and infantry. Landing barges disgorged their cargoes of men onto the beach some 2-3 kilometres south of Dili, at the same time Japanese warships were shelling the city. The marine's first objective was the aerodrome. We had

20 men defending it, 2 section A Platoon.

Heavily outnumbered, they had no alternative but to fall back in the direction of the city after putting up a stout resistance and blowing up the airfield. Most made it to the foothills as the sun appeared over the mountains that overlooked Dili.

A member of our signal section was manning a transmitter in Dili. On the night of the invasion he was trying desperately to make contact with H.Q.s as the building he was occupying was being shelled. There was no one to hear those frantic messages.

The failure to get a message through had a tragic sequence which has been documented in war histories on East Timor, suffice to say the ration truck en route to Dili was stopped and what followed was the massacre of 14 fine Australians. Two survived one of whom, Keith Hayes is present here this afternoon accompanied by his wife Val. He was one of four who faced a Japanese firing squad. Keith's horrific experiences remain with him even to this day. That he survived was due partly to his personal courage and to the assistance of the friendly Timorese people who helped him to their village. Back in the village Berta Martens, the mother of the boys tended his wounds. During the day they would hide him in the forest nearby. Several weeks later they helped him rejoin members of his unit. It was here he received great care under MO Dr. Dunkley and his staff. The other survivor, Peter Alexander was a POW for 3 1/2 years in Changi and on the Burma Railway. Peter who lives in East Fremantle, and Keith remain great mates to this day.

The Japanese Bushido code of the Samurai demands mercy toward a defeated enemy. This code was ignored from the time the first shots were fired. 56 years later Japan still struggles with the dishonour her soldiers heaped upon her.

New Years Day 1942, the Japanese armies were rolling south towards Australia with

crushing force.

On the island of Ambon the 2/21st Australian Infantry Bn. with a handful of supporting troops had been thrown into their path like pebbles in front of a steamroller.

At the same time at Koepang in Dutch Timor, the 2/40th Australian Infantry Bn. Faced a Japanese force of 32,000. They were pounded from the land, sea and air and after 4 days of heavy fighting were forced to surrender.

Japanese forces also overwhelmed the 1st Australian Independent Company with H.Q.s in Kavieng, New Ireland, with groups of men on outlying islands.

At Rabaul in New Britain, the 2/22nd Australian Infantry Bn. faced impossible odds, and they too after heavy fighting were forced to surrender

On the Malayan Peninsular and the island of Singapore we lost an entire Division - The 8th Australian Division.

For our people back home there were two encouraging successes in 1942, the defeat of the Japanese who landed an invasion force at Milne Bay (the first defeat of the Japanese on land), then there were the young men of the 39th Bn. who fought magnificent engagements against the armed enemy on the Kokoda Trail and the Units of the 7th Australian Division who were called on to reinforce them. It was these men who were responsible for denying the Japanese their goal and objective - Port Moresby. The Kokoda Trail led not just to Port Moresby but to Australia and both sides knew it.

There was another heartening signal that reached Darwin one evening in mid 1942 from the 2nd Independent Company in Portuguese Timor. The signal read - Force intact, still fighting; badly need boots, Tommy gun ammunition money and Quinine.

To our thin line of khaki in the islands north of Australia it is said - "Never in the history of the Australian Army had so few men been

asked to do so much with so little against so many."

In Timor our provisions were meagre, soon to be non existent. Japanese aircraft had sunk our supply ship the "Canopus" in the harbour at Koepang in Dutch Timor. It was a small but beautiful ship. Still flying the Dutch flag, the captain tried to make it to the open sea; it was not to be.

Not only did the Unit have to contend with tropical fevers, particularly on and near the coastal areas early in the campaign, there was no medication to arrest or treat the problems. The willpower of the individual was the only hope. There was many a man who engaged the armed enemy in firefights when he was far from well.

Things took a turn for the better when our sigs did a great job building a radio set which enabled the Unit to make contact with Darwin late in April. The set "Winnie the War Winner", a name which will forever be associated with the late Joe Loveless, now holds an honoured position in our National War Museum in Canberra.

On the night of the 16th December 1942, a disciplined, though heavily bearded, mud splattered, exhausted body of men made it to their evacuation point on the south coast of Portuguese Timor to rendezvous with the Dutch destroyer Tjerk Hiddes. It was a little before 0100 hours on the morning of the 17th December, when from the inky blackness a signal light was flashed. We responded by lighting in correct sequence the three bonfires we had prepared. Once recognition was established the

evacuation began. It was imperative that the ship be well clear of the island before dawn.

We arrived in Darwin late afternoon of the 17th as the destroyer displaying the letter and number G 16 on her bow tied up at the wharf.

There were many people who witnessed our arrival, nurses, naval, army and air force personnel. As we disembarked in single file

there was not a sound from the people present. They stood in awe at the sight of those bearded, exhausted soldiers still with the mud of Timor on their bodies and tattered uniforms.

So ended the saga of the men of Timor. Without doubt had it not been for the loyal and wonderful support we received from the East Timorese people we would never have made it back home. To them we owe our eternal thanks.

On its return to Australia the Unit was reformed with many of the originals pulling out with health problems. The addition of some 140 splendid young reinforcements gave the Unit renewed life and by June 1943 it was off again to New Guinea where it served with distinction for over 12 months. The new men proved their worth and were readily accepted into the ranks of the Squadron as it was then known and served out the war in New Britain. The quality of all who served in the Unit in its short 4 1/2 years has resulted in a magnificent Association now in its 56th year.

The Timor scene has changed dramatically for the better over the past two years for which we are all thankful. We look forward with interest and hope that the good people of East Timor, now an independent nation will go on to better things and will one day become a happy and peaceful people. God only knows they deserve at least that.

Our beautiful planet has for centuries overcome many obstacles in its quest for peace. We now have the events of the 11th September that can only be described as a monstrous, barbaric, senseless act of terror. An act

of violence that has cast a pall over the civilised world. There are people who protest against the war on the Taliban in Afghanistan. They should never forget the evil associated with the attack on New York, Washington and the crash site near Pittsburgh Pennsylvania. They should also remember it is a war against terrorism not against a

country or its people.

We note with pride that a contingent of 150 men of the Special Air Services Regiment are on their way to play their part in what surely will be a dirty war. The Association has sent a goodwill message to the men involved reading as follows: -

God Speed, Good Luck and Good Hunting, and remember-

The Fewer Men, the Greater Share of Honour" (Henry V.)

Our thoughts and prayers are of you in the difficult times ahead.

God bless and a safe return.

In concluding I would like to thank the men of the Catafalque Party, the bugler provided by the Australian Army band, the Botanic gardens and park Authority of Kings Park, one and all for your contribution to today's service and all you good people for coming this afternoon. God bless you all.

Ray Parry

Geraldton News.

Many Thanks Jack for giving me the news that life member, Eric Weller of Geraldton and NSW had passed away in that eastern State on October 30 after a long and debilitating illness. Having been told that a mass of Thanksgiving for the 79- year-old's fruitful life, which was full of good deeds for others, was being celebrated in St. John the Baptist Church in Woy Woy, NSW on November 2, I contacted one of his good mates, my Geraldton RSL Vice-President Kevin Grey, who subsequently told me that he had a phone call from Eric's wife Pat who said his ashes would be brought to WA for a service but she didn't say where or when.

Kevin Grey who is also a legatee said that after the demise of his first wife Margaret, Eric proved of great value to war widows because of his skills as a retired builder. He was able to fix many of their household

problems and also help them with paperwork. I never had the opportunity to meet Eric's new wife Pat but it was pleasing to see a picture of the couple in the "Geraldton Guardian" newspaper when family members were involved in a TAFE graduation ceremony. God bless you, Pat for the valuable attention you were able to give Eric during his prolonged illness. As Public Relations Officer for Geraldton RSL I compiled Eric's obituary for the "Geraldton Guardian" under the heading "Commando Fought in Three Campaigns".

Tom and Mary Foster and I attended the cremation service for Edith Pendergrast of Dongara at Geraldton on November 5th. Edie having passed to higher glory in hospital at Geraldton on October 31st. We extend ours and the Association's condolences and best wishes to Edie's husband "Bluey" and other family members who included sons Len and Norm and daughters Karlene and Reyne. Born at Zeehan, Tasmania 78 years ago, the popular Dongara citizen also leaves four grandsons, one granddaughter, one great granddaughter and one great grandson.

During a heart-warming service, funeral celebrant, Vince Calleja said Edie and Gordon ("Bluey") met in an ambulance in Sydney when being taken in uniform from a convalescent camp to hospital for treatment. Knowing her way around at the hospital, Edie took it upon herself to look after Gordon, with cups of tea etcetera. They started seeing each other regularly and five weeks later decided they would buy a wedding ring. Fifty seven years later the marriage was still going strong and Edie had given Gordon instructions that he must live another three years to see in their diamond wedding anniversary.

The funeral celebrant continued: "Edie was a person who loved people and loved to meet people. She was able to give her love and her friendship to people from all walks of life and was never judgemental with her love. As a mum she was the hub of the

family, taking pride in not only her children's accomplishments but also that of her five grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Although not present physically Edie lives on in the hearts of and in the minds of the people whose lives she has touched."

Now onto other subjects, Jack. Hearty congratulations to Joe Poynton in having Mandurah's newest street named after him and to his wife Helen for providing the information that it is the sixth street in Australia named after the family. As I'm typing this item for the Courier I'm looking above my desk at a photo of 14 of us that was taken after a patrol in New Britain which included that great man himself, Joe Poynton. This patrol, that included my great mate the late Arthur Burns, was a great privilege that came about by being with such a highly distinguished soldier, Joe.

Tom and Mary Foster of Huntswell Farm at Allanooka sent their love and best wishes to you all. Tom says its shaping up as the best season in 35 years at this property as far as lupins, wheat, fat lambs and cattle are concerned.

It has been my pleasure to continue to provide numerous items about the magnificent \$1.5 million HMAS Sydney II memorial that will be dedicated at Geraldton's Mount Scott on November 18 followed the next day by a sea service. Our former RSL Secretary Brian Cooper did an enormous amount of work in support of this Geraldton Rotary Club project and our new secretary, Ron Winstone has also done a great job communicating with relatives of lost crewmen who are coming from as far away as Canada.

And to finish off at the invitation of the new Mayor, Mrs Vickie Petersen, I and my wife Joan will be attending the launching of a new book at the Queen Elizabeth II Centre on November 17, by Geraldton born WA Governor Lt-Gen John Sanderson. Produced by the Geraldton Library, it is called "150 Years - 150 Lives" and includes

photo-accompanied references to Your Truly. God bless you all.

Peter Barden.

South Australian News.

Dear Jack, Received the last Courier - very interesting news regarding yourself with the Award in the Queen's Birthday honours. Congratulations, Jack from all the 2/2nd members in South Aust.

The 2/2nd ranks in South Aust. are very slim these days. Majority are over 80 years. I am 79 on December 12th and we are taking things a lot slower than before.

I read the article by Jack Fox's son so I dropped him a line. He seems to be doing well in his new residence.

On Nov. 11th we will gather at the Commando Association Memorial plaque at the Army Barracks Keswick. I consider our Anzac Day the most important of the two. Remembrance Day is for the end of the First World War.

Our monthly luncheons are still being held at the Lakes Hotel West Lakes, where all the Commandos and Z Force personnel meet and enjoy each other's company.

The attack on the Towers in New York created a storm. I have read where the SAS are sending 150 troops; you probably know some of them. Their task will be very hazardous, but they will cope very well.

The Safari at Mildura should be a good one, as I have heard all about Mildura from a friend who goes there once a month. Plenty of activities if one feels fit enough. I hope to be there. Bert Bache has reserved his place for the Safari.

Well Jack, congratulations once again on your award, I only heard about it from the Courier.

I receive the NSW Commando Courier from Alan Luby. He seems to be doing well also

his Edith. It's amazing how sick Edith was and is now back to good health. She has been in good hands the day she married Alan, a good man, many lives saved in the army and his occupation in civvy life before and after the war.

Kel Carthew, Elizabeth Nth.

Queensland News.

We have been having a quiet time in Queensland as far as the Unit is concerned. What with illnesses, absences, inclement weather etc. our regular barbecues have been thin on the ground.

Tony Adams has recovered from his knee surgery and Iris is unfortunately not having the best of health. George Coulson is at home after a stint in hospital and slowly recovering. Ron Archer and Lyn Love dropped in to see us last week. They are well and we had a pleasant time over a cuppa. We are planning a Xmas function at Geebung RSL for 3rd December. Geebung is a northern suburb of Brisbane and not to be confused with the famous Aussie bush poem The Geebung Polo Club!

By this time you will have seen and heard from Happy Greenhalgh currently visiting the West. He is a regular phone correspondent and purveyor of good yarns. Alan Luby also keeps us aware of NSW happenings. Don Turton brightens our day from time to time with a cheery call and it is great that he has recovered his health so well. Not surprising however because of his ever-present optimism.

Sheila and I have made the big decision to move from this island paradise to Forest Place retirement Village at Albany Creek a Brisbane northern suburb. Our house was on the market for two weeks and has now been sold. We settle with the retirement village on 29th October and expect to move during the first two weeks in November. Our address will then be A37 Forest Place, 61

Explorer Drive, Albany Creek, Qld. 4035. I will advise our phone number in due course.

The New York tragedy shows what a troubled world we now live in and one wonders just how long it will be before a major conflict arises. The visions of so called Australians supporting the rights of illegal migrants or so called "Boat People" on televised news programs and worse programmed talk shows indicates we need to be more vigilant than ever if we are to protect our traditional freedom and way of life. The zeal of some politicians in appearing to make entry into Australia on an unrestricted basis the right of these people is of concern.

The old saying "we have seen the best of it" seems appropriate.

Best wishes to all from the Queensland contingent.

Regards, Ralph Conley, Bribie Island Qld.

New South Wales News.

This time two years ago we were looking towards the end of the 1990's. Where has it gone?

Thank God many of us have survived. Life is good even with the travails of aging and we commiserate with those who have lost loved ones during that period.

Optimistically we have booked in for the Mildura Safari and still trying to work out the simplest mode for travel. I would be reluctant to even think about driving there in these times.

I would also appeal to members who have thoughts of attending to please help the organisers get an assessment and "PUT YOUR NOMINATION IN" - I know from experience how frustrating it can be trying to guess, and time is getting away!

The horrifying and tragic events of 14th September in the U.S. are still vivid in our

collective memories, and continue to have effects on our lives in one way or another, as I'm sure they will for probably generations to come.

The daunting task of dealing with the mountain of rubble from the Towers, and their contents is too awesome to contemplate and one can't help but feel for the relatives of those who perished. The U.S. response is drastic but appears to be effective.

We were saddened to learn of the deaths recently of Keith Brown, Eric Weller, Don May and Steve Rogers. Unfortunately because of home needs and appointments I was unable to attend neither Keith's nor Eric's funeral services, which were both held on the same day, Friday 2nd November. Eric's Requiem Mass was at Woy Woy at 1000 hours where we were represented by Marjorie Goodacre, Paddy Kenneally, John "Snow" Went, Harry Handicott and Andy Beveridge, I tried to contact Keith Wilson who lives in the area but received the message "Number disconnected".

Keith Brown was cremated at Leppington Lawn Cemetery at 1400 hours and again we were represented by Paddy Kenneally, Maria and Chris Hartley.

On this occasion Paddy really excelled himself with a supreme effort, as Woy Woy is over 50 miles North of Sydney and Leppington about 35 miles to the South West so between trains and car he spent most of the day on wheels. Well done and thank you for your great effort on our behalf.

When I saw the deletion notice in Sept. Courier for Joan Dixon I became curious and phoned Doug who informed me that she "had passed away some months ago" and her wish was "No fuss".

NSW Sick List as at 19.11.01.

Coral Coker had her spinal operation on 2nd November, has been "straightened up," and has a good prognosis but still in hospital at

19th Nov.

Frank "Curly" O'Neill much the same but battling on in the good care of his "ladies in waiting!"

My own Edith has made a good recovery from her fractured femur but still needs regular attention to her leg ulcers. We find the Home Nursing Service and the Vet. Affairs Home Care Services invaluable.

June Bennett, Betty Devlin and Maria Hartley keep in fairly regular contact. They have their own problems but maintain a good outlook.

In the last copy of our NSW RSL magazine "Reveille" was a photo a 1954 group of National Servicemen (copy enclosed) with one of their instructors Cpl. Charles C. Anderson, who by the service summary caption would surely have to be our "Darcy", who served in No. 1 Section in New Guinea and New Britain. He was killed in action in Malaya.

Our friend Jim Walker recently sent me copies of the routine orders for the many Field Promotions that occurred in Timor 1942 which I shall pass on to you in the near future for perusal and our archives. He also obtained a copy of Bernard Callinan's "Independent Company" for me at the cost of \$50 - it is available to anyone who wants it at that price.

My own request - does anyone out there have a copy of the "CANUNGRA LAMENT" and a "ROUND TUIT" for me?

As you can see my writing is going off so will round it up by wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and as healthy a New Year as possible. I'll try to respond to all cards, if I miss anyone please blame age. Edith sends her love to everyone.

Alan Luby. 19/11/01.

Northern NSW News.

The weather in this part of the world has been very dry since our floods in March but this month we've had a couple of inches of rain. We bushies love to talk about the weather but I also noticed on my recent trip to the Golden West that it was a topic of conversation over there. I believe the driest time since 1914. I enjoyed my visit and it was great to see you all. I don't anticipate getting over again until October next year because of the timing of the Mildura Safari. Some of my plans for that have fallen apart as my friend from Lake Boga whom I was going to pick up and visit at our old home town, passed away suddenly last week.

My Northern NSW mob are all on deck. Jack Steen whilst in hospital after a slight heart attack was found to have diabetes quite severely and is on insulin from now on. I had a chat with Harry Handicott who reported in as being in tip-top condition.

Amyce is having a few ups and downs but if I know her, would bear up pretty stoically. Harry reported that Bill Walsh is taking some time in recovering from the bypass job he had done. Keep battling mate.

In talking to Ted Cholerton he tells me he is feeling pretty good and feels he is improving all the time. He's a Birthday boy on the 24th of this month. Going pretty well mate.

Eric Herd is still going strong and hitting the little white ball occasionally. Not bad for 83 years of age.

Russ Blanch has his summer plants in and quite often has people stop to admire and sometimes put little notes under the door telling him how much enjoyment they get from his garden. And they don't even see the back. It's a nice result though for the time and hard work he puts in.

I've not been able to contact Tom Yates. I suppose he and Jean have gone off visiting their families somewhere.

Beryl Cullen is well and had less rain than we did.

From the best part of Australia, we all wish you other people all the best for Christmas and New Year and may you all keep healthy.

Happy Greenhalgh, Maclean.

Victorian News.

We are having our Christmas luncheon on Monday 3rd December at the Paterson River Country Club. With only nineteen members left there is not a great deal of news from here.

Bluey Bone has had a bad run suffering a heart attack and a mild stroke. Bluey reckons he will come good but will be giving the wood heap a miss from now on!

Congratulations to our oldest member Baldy who will be 92 on the 16th December.

Fred Broadhurst is still battling health problems, which has restricted his activities. Keep your chin up Fred.

Cath Roberts is back home at Neerim South after an enjoyable 4 months in England. Dodging the Victorian winter was an added bonus. The holiday has rejuvenated Cath who will be spending Christmas in WA with her daughter Jane and family.

Lady Naomi Callinan looks forward to her Courier, which is read to her by a member of the family. We hear she has moved to another nursing home but have yet to learn of her new address.

Tom Nisbet had his 82nd birthday on the 12th November. Tom is taking it easy these days after giving great service to the Association over many years.

Taking this opportunity to wish all members and their families all the best for Christmas and the New Year.

Harry Botterill.

Tassie News.

At last pen to paper - this last year we have had our ups and downs - but Billie and I are going fairly well. I had an operation on my hand to straighten the fingers and then repairs to my right knee. Both brought good results. Our

son, John, is also getting better, his last report was very good. Hospital staff call him "Miracle Man".

It was with sadness to know of the passing of Mrs Joan Marsh (Syd "Swampy" Marsh's widow). We talked on the phone with Joan just a few weeks before her death. We did not go to the funeral service as Billie's brother, Harold was very ill at the time and he passed away a short time later. He was ex army, six years service.

Have been in phone contact with Gerry and Nancy Slade, both have their health problems but always happy to have a talk. Last time we talked they were getting ready to go to the "Casino". They live fairly close to it now.

Also been in contact with Tex Richards and he and Bridget are fairly well, of course like most of us have got the "OBE" - Over Bloody Eighty years"

Have made inquiries re Geoff Wood and he is still going okay - phone No. (03) 6429.1254. Had lunch with him in Launceston in February.

Made some inquiries re George Milsom, ex 2/40th and 2/2nd East Timor, it seems he served on with the army and had gone to West Timor with the occupation force after the Japs surrendered. I am waiting on info from another source on this.

The 2/40th Battalion Old Comrades Assoc. are having their 2002 reunion in February. It will be held at Lindisfarne R.S.L. Club just out of Hobart and have booked in.

Looking forward to the 2/2nd Reunion in May in Mildura. Rex and Bridget Richards intend to go. I'm not sure about Gerry and Nancy Slade. Looks like we may miss a couple of days as my granddaughter, Joann gets married on the Saturday and wants us to be there as she has no relatives on her father's side.

Have been talking to Colin Marsh (Syd's son) who passes on his regards to the 2/2nd.

Had a visit from Don Woolley, ex 2/40th Battalion who was with Charlie Dodd when they tried their luck in a boat to escape the Japs but were picked up and taken prisoners in March 1942. I saw both of them in hospital in Balikpapan, Borneo soon after they came

out of the P.O.W. camp. Don and I enlisted on the same day 1st July 1940 - we were together at a machine gun post at Usapa-Besar, West Timor when the Japs started to land. As a driver I was sent back to Champlong with gear and wasn't able to get back to Don. After we came home Don went milling and as a forest ranger it was my job to inspect the mills and bush operations including Dons so we have never lost contact. Now getting closer to the 90 mark Don gets around really well and is a good friend.

Our township of Dover is going fine with the big Atlantic salmon farms, the abalone and crayfish boats, the apple orchards expanding plus big cherry orchards, latest one 120 acres, and the timber and forestry works going well.

Now I have put the pen to paper will try and keep going in future. Regards to all.

Billie and Bert Price.

The Numbers Game!

Due to a printer's error, which was not picked up at our end, the last set of stats kindly and correctly provided by our honorary statistician, Henry Sproxtton, was incorrect. (Ed.)

Figures to the 30th November are:

Members.

Queensland	20
New South Wales.	33
Victoria	20
South Australia	10
West. Australia	46
Tasmania	4
A.C.T.	1
U.K.	1
	135

Current Courier Mailing List.

Members	135
Widows	117
Relatives & Friends	80
	342

We have records of the deaths of 356 members since 1950 and are aware there

are others who have died with whom we have lost contact after 1946. We will endeavour to trace some of these over the next year or two.

Birthday Boys.

Tom Martin	5 th Oct.	85
Bob Smyth	8 th "	84
Len Bagley	13 th "	78
John Chalwell	20 th "	78
Doc. Wheatley	28 th "	89
Clarrie Turner	30 th "	84
Dick Darrington	31 st "	79
Ray Aitken	7 th Nov.	86
Tom Nisbet	12 th "	82
Jack Steen	16 th "	78
Jack Fox	20 th "	89
Ted Cholerton	24 th "	86
Dan Daniels	26 th "	82
Don Young	8 th Dec.	84
Les Halse	8 th "	82
Leith Cooper	8 th "	85
Kel Carthew	12 th "	79
Rolf Baldwin	16 th "	92
Charlie King	28 th "	86
Bill Howell	29 th "	79

Drop me a line or ring 08.9332.7050 and give your birth date for publication in the Courier. Editor.

Sick Parade.

Bruce McLaren's wife, Lorraine said Bruce underwent a successful triple by-pass heart operation recently but suffered a mild stroke whilst on the operating table. As a result Bruce needs further treatment and is at present in the St. George's Hospital in Kew and will be there for some time. Bruce who joined us at Canungra in 1943 will be 77 on the 19th January and is one of the younger brigade. We hope Bruce makes good progress and is home in time for his birthday.

Another Victorian Ed Bourke had a melanoma removed from his left arm late in November. Those of Irish origin are susceptible to skin cancers. Ed had his arm in a sling for a while but so long as he can still sign the cheques Dot is happy!

Wilf March has been on chemo for three years now and goes into Hollywood every five weeks and has his treatment in tablet form. Wilf is given 21 tablets in the morning and 21 in the late afternoon... a total of 210 tablets in the five days he is there! As Wilf is a diabetic his sugar count needs closely monitoring as well. A survivor, Wilf has his good and bad days. A phone call from members helps so don't forget you old sappers!

Bill Howell who has a birthday coming up this month is getting along quietly. Elvie says Bill gives plenty of cheek to his lady carers in the nursing home and is doing as well as can be expected. Good luck Bill.

Charlie King will be 86 this month and is still receiving blood transfusions. Son Paddy says, "Dad still likes working in the backyard!" Charlie was always a good toiler and is a remarkable little bloke. We wish Charlie, Mary and Paddy a Happy Xmas. Harry Sproxton is another battling serious health problems. His blackouts continue and he is also a pill swallower of note. As he lives on his own, Harry is to be admired for the way he keeps going.

Trust Fund History.

Further to Ray Aitken's brief history of the 2/2nd Commando Association in the June Courier, at the Norma Hasson Day luncheon the suggestion was made that we should ensure that the History of the 2/2nd Independent Trust Fund be recorded whilst we are still able.

Chairman at the luncheon, Don Murray, suggested something be put in the next Courier. Here it is, but it is in no way the history I have in mind. We should seek out a budding journalist - even amongst the

Association member's families and turn them loose amongst the Couriers so that step by step the history can be professionally prepared.

The claim that the story of the 2/2nd Independent Trust Fund could be a monument to the 2/2 Commando Association is I believe quite valid and proves the function of the Association was, and is, not only to look after its members but all those it felt some responsibility towards. In my view the contributions made by the members of the 2/2nd Commando Association and others who made cash contributions to establish the Fund and later by the outstanding work done by the Trust Fund Committee in collecting and preparing for shipment and distribution in East Timor of school books of all grades and various other types of school aids was a fine achievement. This was being done under the very noses of the Indonesian invaders and occupiers of the island many years before the island was occupied by the Australian and International forces.

The appeal for funds for the Trust Fund was first launched in the 1991 December Courier. The committee showed great judgement in inviting Bob Smyth to take up the reins as chairman. Bob and his small committee of John Burrige, Keith Hayes and Ross Shenn (since retired) has done a magnificent job in the 10 years the Fund has been going and for this we are truly grateful.

Members should take a bow too for having contributed nearly \$50,000 for this very worthy cause. Bob's latest concept of distributing packages of vegetable seeds to the village people in the remote areas of East Timor is a wonderful idea and is one the Fund intends to focus on over the next few years in cooperation with the Australian Army forces there.

It is a story that should be told in detail and can only respect great credit on the members of the Trust Fund Committee and the overall organising of the venture by the 2/2nd Australia Commando Association.

B.C. Langridge.

The Memorial Plaque.

Our Trust Fund Chairman, Bob Smyth was notified on 6th August last by Greg Wild of Phillips Petroleum that the plaque on the Memorial at Fatunaba above Dili was missing. This was confirmed again on the 25th September by the Northern Territory's Government representative in Dili, Mike Gallagher. Just who removed the plaque is unknown though there has been a few rumours floating around who those responsible may have been. We will probably never know.

Bob advises that following discussion with Mike Gallagher an offer was received from the Favaro Bros. builders in Dili who kindly offered to have the plaque replaced. Gino and Ernesto Favaro are the sons of the late Frank Favaro who passed away in October last year. Frank attended the ceremony when the Memorial was first dedicated back in April 1969. He is in the official photo taken and can be seen holding the Australian flag. Frank Favaro was the owner of a plantation above Dili and also he had the Merrimar Hotel, now the Dili Hotel on the waterfront. This interest in the Memorial has apparently been passed on to his sons and we are grateful for their offer to restore the memorial.

Bob also has a good contact in Darwin in Graham Williams who runs an electrical business. Graham has offered to place a grill over the new plaque when it is restored which should be shortly. Bob is a great negotiator and one who gets results through persistency. We are lucky to have him.

Members will know that the Memorial was rededicated in April 2000 in the presence of six of our veterans.

The original wording was altered slightly and now reads:

**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.

Jack Carey.

Xanana Visits the West.

Saturday night, October 6th afforded a great opportunity to meet Xanana Gusmao and his wife Kirsty Sword Gusmao (and their little baby Alexandre!) It was a dinner held at the University of W.A. in the dining room of St. Colombo, Kingswood College. They were down here for two reasons - fundraising and to tell local people first hand of the past tragedies and future possibilities of East Timor or Timor Loro-Sae. (Timor where the sun comes up) as it is now called.

It was quite an expensive evening which limited the numbers of the 2/2nd who attended. However we were represented by Ray Aitken and his daughter Jenny, Murray Thornton (son of Norm Thornton) Colleen Ward (daughter of Norm Thornton) and her husband Joe, Bob Smyth and John Burrige.

The dinner was well attended and there were approximately 200 present. We soon had a table to ourselves and Xanana, Kirsty (and baby) spent two long periods at our table chatting to us all. They are a delightful couple and passionate in their work towards and belief in the future of their land when it secures full independence next April.

We found it hard to visualise Xanana in his role of Fretlin leader when fighting over such a long period for his beloved country. He is essentially a gentle man and among his many attributes is a leaning towards forgiveness for past wrongs. "What can be achieved," he asks "if we fight and maintain enmity with the Indonesians and the

traitorous Militia? We must try to forget the past and work hard towards a happy and prosperous future for our little country."

Xanana fully realises that East Timor faces many challenges and that the tasks ahead will not be easy and will take quite a long period to reach fruition.

We all enjoyed immensely meeting them both and those that had them, proudly wore the Falintil lapel badge. Bob Smyth presented Xanana with a 2/2nd lapel badge, which he immediately donned.

All of us can only wish them every success and to contribute our little measure of help through the 2/2nd Independent trust Fund. To Xanana, Kirsty and all the people of East Timor we say - "VIVA TIMOR LORO SAE. ITA LA HALUHA".

John BurrIDGE.

Ms. Kirsty Sword Gusmao

23/11/2001

P.O. Box 3

DILI Timor Lorosa'e

Dear Kirsty, December shipment via Lions International:

Further to our letter 15/11/01, enclosed is the list of 35 cartons, which Keith Hayes has delivered to George Garten of Lions International depot at Kwinana, West.Aust.

They will be loaded into a Lions 20' container and shipped to Darwin for transfer via Perkins to Dili.

You met George during you Perth visit. He is able to communicate via your e-mail address, which I gave him.

It will be important to relay the container number and its anticipated movement out of Darwin, for there is now some doubt regarding the presence of Sister Arunta at Dili General Hospital.

Major Ian Muir of Australian National command Element advised me that if he had adequate details of an arriving shipment he would ensure that it would be protected from theft.

None of the cartons detail contents but 11 are addressed with the obsolete name CNRT. 24 are marked ALOLA Foundation. All show "Attention Kirsty Sword Gusmao phone 041 851 7310".

You may prefer alternative markings?

Our best wishes, Sincerely, Bob Smyth, Independent Trust Fund, 2/2nd Commando Association of Australia.

Correspondence.

Joan Fenwick, Canberra..

Dear Jack, Regards to self and Delys and thanks to both and to all those wonderful people responsible, over the years for the Courier, which keeps the 2/2nd in touch. Much appreciated.

The last couple of weeks I have spoken by phone to Betty Craig, Edith Luby, Dot Boyland, Ron and Hazel Morris they are all gradually improving I'm happy to say. George Coulson isn't all that well. He and Bettye have been in their Buderim unit about a week and feel good about it.

Canberra is a picture since the good rains, spring blossom and bulbs everywhere. "Floriade" opens on Saturday.

Elsie Jordan's "Dr. Who" gave me many a laugh. I could relate to most of her Mum's treatments and can add a few more old family cures from the good old days. One pet hate, the Kerosene and fine tooth comb treatment for head lice.

Best wishes to all, Joan Fenwick.

P.S. Trust cheque will help a little re Courier costs. J.F.

George & Gloria Smith, Musswellbrook, N.S.W.

Dear Friends, Each year goes more quickly, guess it's our age showing.

Its time again to wish everyone the best for Christmas and 2002 and just keep on keeping on.

It was with great pleasure that we read of our dear friend Ron Teague's exploits with the pony pack teams. We also enjoyed hearing his wonderful singing as Nance and Ron lived just up the street from us. We spent some great caravan holidays together. Congratulations Joe and Helen on the naming of your street Poynton Way, it sounds great. We look forward to receiving the Courier and hearing news of members we met at reunions.

Attached is our cheque to help toward its printing.

Best regards to all, George.

Wyn & Alex Thomson, Capel, W.A.

Dear Jack & Delys, How are you both, well I hope. We are both well at present. Alex's blood pressure and diabetes seems to be staying at a good level, hopefully it will stay that way. His Dr. is very pleased; he's lost 5 kg so his medication is working.

Both Alex and I would like to congratulate you on the fine job you are both doing with the Courier, it's very interesting and newswy.

Some of our family are going to Geraldton weekend of 18 - 19th November for the HMAS Sydney Memorial service. Alex's brother Archie went down on the Sydney.

Please find enclosed a donation for whatever your needs, looking forward to the next Courier, keep well and look after yourselves. Regards to all 2/2nd Company.

Yours truly, Wyn & Alex Thomson.

P.S. Have rung most Wilkes in our phone book to no avail.

Bettye & George Coulson, Buderim, Qld.

Dear Jack & Delys, Please note change of address. George had a massive heart failure while in Greenslopes Hospital having a spinal cord simulator inserted to relieve the pain in his back and neck, which he has suffered from since his swim across the Ramu River with the 2/2nd in New Guinea all those years ago. He was in hospital for 5 weeks and then we stayed in Brisbane with our daughter Susanne and family for 4 months until we were able to get into a retirement village with red buttons and lots of help.

No more car driving for George, this is worse than all the pain and pills that he has to take each day.

What a good idea from Gavin Bagley that the Association go on the Internet. Coulson@bigpond.com will find us and its easier to spell on the computer.

Good news to hear from Jack Fox. We have missed his visit each year. Peter McCracken, Max & Grace Davies cousin and Ethel McCracken their sister-in-law still motor up from Victoria each year to visit and it was wonderful to see them again in August.

My mother, Nellie Corbett, will be 105 in April. She is still going well getting a bit frail but still on no medication. She must be getting close to being the oldest War Widow from World War One.

Great to get the news in the Courier. We love and admire you all.

Bettye and George.

P.S. George is back in hospital at the Sunshine Coast Hospital at Buderim.

Iris Rowan-Robinson, Bridgetown, W.A.

Dear Jack, Heartiest congratulations on being awarded the OAM. You richly deserve it. Harold would have been ever so pleased. You have done a wonderful job for the 2/2nd

Association and organised help to the people of East Timor with Delys's help.

I was very pleased to receive the 2/2nd Courier in yesterday's mail and must thank Bernie for the very nice write-up about my wonderful husband. Of course I miss him very much but am getting on with life without him and I have a lot of old friends living here at the Retirement Village, and I join in all the events here.

I have recently had a short holiday with my daughter Jan at Ravensthorpe, and I am going to Melbourne next month to spend a little time with my sister. Max has been finalising all Harold's affairs, fortunately he has the time now he has retired from teaching.

I am enclosing a cheque towards the Timor Fund and the Courier.

Best wishes to you both, with love, Iris.

B. Richards, Rowville, Vic.

Dear Sir, Please accept this money order for \$50.00 as a donation for the Courier on behalf of Mrs Joyce Hodgson.

Yours sincerely, B. Richards.

G. Kirkwood, Como, W.A.

Dear Jack, Herewith a helping hand for the Courier.

Hope this one makes the distance to you.

Did enjoy our chat and with Delys too and all the best for the "re-bore"

Regards, Gwenda Kirkwood.**D. Cole, Gordon, N.S.W.**

Enclosed cheque for Courier, with best wishes to you all, Diana Cole.

M. Monk, D. Thomson, Poowong, Vic.

Dear Delys, Jack and 2/2nd friends everywhere, I thought I'd better get busy and write to the Courier. Time gets away and Christmas will soon be here again. Don and

I send greetings to all for Christmas and the New Year - 2002. The September Courier seems bigger than ever and is full of news. It is always good to read about our friends in the 2/2nd. Congratulations to Joe and Helen Poynton for having Mandurah's newest street named in Joe's honour. It was great to see the photo in the Courier.

It is always sad to read of the deaths of members and I was particularly grieved to read that Bill Rowan-Robinson and Gerry Maley had both passed on. The Rowan-Robinson's were special friends and Ken and I visited them on their farm at Bridgetown a good many years ago and they had stayed with us on our farm too. Gerry Maley and one of his boys had an overnight stay with us back in the early fifties and I have a Camellia in the garden that Ken and I bought at Camellia Lodge when we visited the Maleys soon after Gerry and his son were here. My sympathy to Iris and family and Dot and family.

We are having a typical Gippsland spring and everything looks wonderful. The farms are looking good after an unusually dry winter. July was warm and sunny and the plants became very confused and lots flowered a lot earlier than usual.

I spoke to Cath Roberts on the phone today. She is looking great after her recent trip to England. Cath, Fay Campbell and I meet for lunch occasionally and it is nice to get together and have a chat.

Don and I have booked for the Mildura Safari. It will soon come around. We are looking forward to it. Last time I was in Mildura was back in 1957 when we took our young family for a holiday. How the years have flown by and now I have grown up grandchildren. They all keep us busy with 21st birthdays and other milestones in their lives. My eldest grand-daughter Angela rang with the news of her engagement at the weekend. She is Barbara and Owen's eldest daughter.

Next year I will only have one still at school. Robert and Cathy's Amy. She was 15 last month. Her brother Ben and Colin and Joan's Corrima are both in their final year at school. Elva and Rod are still in Vietnam but are hoping for a move soon. They have been there 6 1/2 years.

Congratulations and our very best wishes to Dot Boyland on her 90th from us both.

I will sign off now and once again send season's greetings to all, Margaret Monk & Don Thomson.

J.P. Kenneally, Yagoona, NSW.

Dear Editor, Today call it what you may Armistice Day, Remembrance Day is, the eighty third anniversary of cessation of hostilities in World War I. On the 11th Hour, of the 11th Day of November 1918 the war to end all wars came to an end. It didn't achieve its objective as the future history of the world shows. It changed the map of Europe, and the colonial areas of the world, and the Middle East, as the victors haggled and negotiated as to which nation would take over the former German colonies, and the breaking of the Attoman Empire. Even Australia shared in the spoils. We acquired German New Guinea as a League of Nations trust or mandate.

The ten million dead or what was found of them went into well-kept cemeteries, to be remembered once a year on the 11th November, the reasons or ideals for which they died quickly forgotten only to be resurrected once again in 1939. We won that war also. I may be wrong but I do think it was the first war where civilian casualties exceeded military casualties.

Now of course that mode of waging war is taken for granted. It's called terrorism, civilians die, Big Brother replies by bombing all and sundry as the most powerful nation in the world unleashes its power and calls it retributive justice in the quest to end terrorism. The rest of us take our pick on how we view

the matter. May the dead rest in peace.

I took an early train to Woy Woy. It's a most pleasant train trip. Beautiful stands of trees round the suburbs of Normanhurst and Cheltenham, than on through the rugged country to the Hawkesbury River. Once over the bridge the railway line follows the waterway. Water views and rugged ridges and gullies coming right down to the shoreline. As a family we travelled that trip pre world war II. My mother owned a weekender at Ocean Beach and we spent many holidays and weekends there. My trip this time tinged with sadness.

I attended the requiem mass at Woy Woy for the funeral service of Eric Weller (WX13382). As his army number indicates Eric died far from his state of origin. Eric was an original member of No.2 Australian Independent Company. He served with that company and its changed names from its formation in July 1941 to its disbandment in New Britain 1946. In Timor he was a member of No.3 Section, "A" Platoon in New Guinea and New Britain, 8 Section, "C" Platoon, as it became C. Troop. Members of those sections know far more than I about his army service. I hope some member of them pays a final tribute to their deceased comrade. What I remember of Eric was his prowess as an Aussie Rules player, which isn't surprising. I was in 4 Section "B" Platoon and the only time we were all together as a Unit was our brief stay in Australia, Bulolo in New Guinea after the Ramu Valley campaign, and wars end in Rabaul.

In civilian life Eric was a builder. In Quorn, South Australia Lyle Litchfield told me the best visitor he ever had was Eric Weller. He called in to see Lyle on one of his (Eric's) travels. Lyle was preparing to do house repairs, (from memory I think a new roof) Eric said "I'll do it while I'm here" and he did. I was speaking to some locals in Woy Woy parish church and although Eric did not live for all that long in Woy Woy, these people knew him well. All said he was a good man,

who spent much of his time assisting other people. He suffered much as his health deteriorated prior to his death. Among the mourners I only knew Marge Goodacre, who was, because of Eric's second marriage to her sister Pat, her brother-in-law. Other family members I did not know.

The Unit was represented by Harry Handicott, Andy Bevrige, "Snowy" Went and I. The three former came down from Newcastle to attend. They look fit enough to go climbing all over mountains once more. It was a pleasure to catch up with Andy once more. The last Time I saw him was in Port Macquarie at the 1992 Safari. He is little changed. Our sincere sympathy is extended to Pat and Eric's family. May he rest in peace.

Back to Sydney by train, jump in the car and out to another funeral service at Leppington, south of Liverpool. This time Keith Brown. Many Unit members cannot remember Keith. I do, so did Jack Hartley. The three were in the first batch of reinforcements to No. 2 Independent Company. Keith had little contact with our Association; consequently few could recall him to mind.

As for my own family, all well. Nora in constant touch with all of them and they with us. Sean will be back in Canberra this month. He is finishing up on the job out in the Janimi Desert. New work practises brought in by the mine management cut his time spent with the family in Canberra and be twice as expensive for him. No changes to Helen, Michael, Gerald's pursuit of wages or salary. However there is no such thing as a permanent job, You're there, you're useful and producing dollars for your employer if not on your way. Gerald and Helen being self-employed varies just a little.

Coral Coker recovering from a back operation to relieve almost unbearable pain. We wish her well. I'll see Curly O'Neill tomorrow and the enclosed photograph of No. 2 Section was taken at Fatucauc, Timor shortly before we were evacuated. I've

written the names on the back, I hope correctly, a couple doubtful.

May all have a joyful and happy Christmas with family and friends, and please God may some sanity come to this world of ours and may 2002 bring happiness, stability and reasonable living to all people.

Paddy Kenneally.

Blanche Sadler, Wongan Hills, WA.

Many thanks for the books you forwarded to me, apologies for not acknowledging them before. I gave one to the local museum, who has just received a grant to do some renovations to the "War Room".

The headers came out of mothballs last week, so the boys will be busy for the next six weeks, keeping their fingers crossed that they have no major breaks as parts are always a problem.

I was at an 80th birthday party in Wongan a few months back and ran into a Steve and Pat Rodgers. My friend rang me on Saturday to say he had passed away.

Off to Busselton this year for Christmas. Home for a few days then down to the Burswood for the 3 days of the Hopman Cup.

All the best to you both for Christmas and may you enjoy good health and lots of happiness in 2002. Love and best wishes, Blanche.

To all members of the 2/2nd Commando Association, with warmest wishes for a Christmas bright with promise and a New Year filled with blessings. Blanche Sadler.

Mrs A. O'Connor, 23 Avril St. Busselton, WA.

A donation for the Courier, Merry Xmas to all.

From (Mrs) Augusta O'Connor.

R. Moar, 58 St. David's Rd, Haberfield, NSW.

Dear Jack, Enclosed please find a cheque for the Independent Trust Fund and the Courier from my mother, Nancy Teague.

Our family was delighted to read Paddy Wilby's story "Shades of Caruso" featuring some of the exploits of our father, Babe Teague. Dad never really talked about his war experiences and I think it's sad we only got to know some of his good mates after his funeral so it was a precious gift to us, that little glimpse of his time in Timor.

May I reassure Paddy that Dad did go on to sing again, frequently throughout our lives. We spent many happy evenings as children falling asleep on friends' couches, as Dad and a piano-playing mate would run through their repertoire (which included Rose Marie and Pedro the Fisherman). His legacy to us includes a love of music and a commitment to the Timorese people.

So thank you once again for the Courier. We feel privileged to share in your association's first-hand experiences of Timor, past and present.

Wishing you all the best, Rosslyn Moar (nee Teague).

S. McPhee, 63 Park Rd, Woolloowin, Qld.

Dear Mr Carey, I am Sally McPhee, daughter of Ian McPhee who was with the 2/2nd in New Guinea. He died in 1987. You still have my mother's Peg, on the mailing list and she died last year. I have read the Courier with interest, as some of the names are familiar to me. However mum's mailing address is about to cease redirection so you will need to delete her from you mailing list.

I am enclosing a small cheque for use in whatever way you see fit. I wish the association all the best. Yours sincerely, Sally McPhee.

P. O'Donnell, Sharkie's Shack, Exmouth, WA.

Dear Jack, It is a sad note that I must write. Dad was in the Woy Woy nursing home when he passed away. He just drifted away peacefully. Ann-Marie said they were wonderful at the nursing home.

I would still like to receive the Courier in the future as I have always enjoyed reading it. We have had some very windy weather up here in paradise. It happens every time there is a fishing competition. It made us happy though as there was a yacht race on Sunday and the wind was great and we had a lot of fun even though we came in at the rear! It is very quiet here as all the winter residents have gone south or as some would say - the seagulls have flown.

I have enclosed the letter for the Courier and hope that I have done Dad some justice. Until I write again and so it is with great regret that I must say farewell until next time.

May God bless you. Patricia O'Donnell.

P.S. A family mass will be held for Eric at St. Laurence's Church, Bluff Point on Monday 21st January at 10.30am.

P. Spillett, Darwin, NT.

Dear Jack, Thank you for your letter of 22 June 2001, and my apologies for not writing to you before this.

My main for not doing so is that I have been in Indonesia and East Timor for the last couple of months and then I had some 200 letters to attend to! E-mail has its good uses but also its drawbacks. It makes letter writing and sending so much easier these days. I also really do appreciate receiving the 'Courier' which I always find absorbing. But sad to say, I guess by now very few of the 2/2nd survive and similarly the Timor Aides. However I hear that Hermenegildo is still alive but that Domingus Amaral died recently.

I still work with Domingus' son Francisco whom I helped through university and hopefully I will attend his graduation ceremony in November. Francisco is helping me by translating my "Pre-Colonial History of Timor" into the Tetum language and hopefully it will be published before too long.

I carried out research in both East and West Timor, Flores and Makassar but poor old East Timor is still struggling to get on it's feet-Untaet vehicles everywhere, no Rupiahs anymore and only \$US are currency. From what I hear the locals are looking forward to the time when the UN departs the scene.

Those with money can get by but those without still suffer!

With regard to your query as to the whereabouts of A.H. (Artie) Cullen of Tuckwell Court, I spoke with the Government department that runs the old timers home and, sad to say they informed that Artie died a long time ago but could not give me a time of death.

I know some of the people who live at Tuckwell Court and they may have more news about when he died. If I find out more I will let you know.

Yours sincerely, Peter Spillett.

Editor: Both Jack and I can be contacted on delcarey@yahoo.com.au if you would prefer.

W. O'Neil, Merriwa, WA.

Secretary, Independent Trust Fund, Perth.

Dear Sir, Referring to your letter of 10 December 2000 attached is a further cheque for \$50 from my wife and myself as a donation to the Association's "Independent Trust Fund" to assist the excellent work of your Independent Trust in aiding the people of East Timor, as sponsored by your 2/2nd Commando Association. In view of the recent events, which have taken place in East Timor and the presence of our Australian diggers, it

would appear that the lives of the natives would be enhanced by your efforts.

Val Hancock, who resides in our village, passes her copy of the Courier to me to read, and I was interested concerning the supply of seeds to your people. It will be interesting to follow the results of the project.

It was sad to see the passing of Ron Dook, as Col Doig and Ron were work mates of mine when I was a young lad, we were all working together in the old Department of Labour and National Service in Barrack Street, Perth. I remember seeing Keith Hayes and Percy Hancock among others who called in to see Doigie and Ron.

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

Yours sincerely, Bill O'Neil WX41403.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Defence.

The Hon Dr Brendan Nelson MP

Dear Mr Parry, Thank you for your recent correspondence to the Prime Minister concerning the transfer of the Fremantle Artillery Barracks to the Western Australian Government. As this matter falls within my portfolio responsibilities, your correspondence has been passed to me for response.

The historic Artillery Barracks in Fremantle will be transferred to the Western Australian Government as promised by the Commonwealth. In principle, agreement has been reached on the transfer to the State of Artillery barracks and Signal Station as well as the ancillary properties. These include Rifle Cottage, the 10 terrace houses, the naval store and the Tuckfield oval.

I am also pleased to confirm that the Army Museum will remain at the Barracks as part of the proposed transfer arrangements.

In addition, Defence will retain Gun House as the residence of the senior military officer in Western Australia for the foreseeable future. In ensuring that the State's overall objectives are met, the Commonwealth will offer Gun House to the State should it no longer be required for Defence purposes under arrangements to be negotiated at that time.

As indicated in the media release of 14 January 2001 from the then Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Defence, Senator the Hon Eric Abetz, detailed arrangements for the transfer had still to be finalised. This did not occur prior to the Western Australian election and negotiations did not take place until recently.

The Commonwealth is responsible, on your behalf, for the proper management of its assets. Gun House is still required for its current purpose, and, therefore, Defence will continue to retain it and preserve its heritage values. This use of Gun House is totally in keeping with the strong military focus of the heritage precinct.

The Prime Minister has written to the Premier of Western Australia confirming the offer and seeking an early resolution. I trust this information will clarify the matter for you.

Yours sincerely, Brendan Nelson.

Editor: His Excellency Lieutenant General John Sanderson AC Governor of Western Australia was related to our late member Doug Fullarton and so has an interest in the 2/2nd Association.

Recently we forwarded to him a copy of our September Courier and one of Jim Smalles Poems, and received the following acknowledgment.

Dear Mr Carey, His Excellency the Governor has asked me to thank you for your letter and accompanying publications of the Association.

The Governor is looking forward to reading the publications and appreciates your thoughtfulness in sending them in.

His Excellency extends his best wishes to you and members of the Commando Association. Yours sincerely, Muriel Button, Private Secretary.

Ron Archer & Lyn Love, Toowong, Qld.

Dear Jack and Delys,

This is just a short note to belatedly congratulate you Jack on your Queen's Birthday Honours recognition. It's been a long time a long wait and you've certainly earned the honour that you've received. Wish to also include how pleased we all are that you've had a successful prostate operation and are now home and on the mend. This is not to understate the extra work and responsibilities, which have been loaded onto our Associations very dear Delys!

We have not had our occasional local B.B.Q's for some time now because of our reduced numbers attending. However we are having our Christmas get-together at the Geebung RSL on the 3rd December. We are working to get a good roll up for it, so that any members or friends from near and far would be most welcome too.

George Coulson has had a terrible time health wise lately, but I am pleased to advise that he is a lot improved now, but weight wise is only a shadow of his old self! Lyn and I had a chat with the Stanleys last Saturday. Joan had a fall but seems to be a lot better now and Gordon looks to be his usual great old self! Other mates seem to be coping pretty well including Russ and Happy. The Conleys are close to shifting house so Ralph and Sheila are FLAT OUT. Best wishes to everyone and especially to our WA mates who are battling on.

Ron and Lyn.

D. Maley, Coodanup, WA.

Dear Delys, Congratulations on your appointment as Editor, what an asset to the 2/2nd you are. If there is room in the courier for this short note I would be grateful.

I would like to thank all those wonderful 2/2nd's for their Guard of Honour at Gerry's funeral. He would have been so proud. My family and I gained so much comfort from all present and we wish to pass on our thanks to everyone for attending and for all the beautiful cards we received. It was a comfort to have your support during our time of sadness and loss.

We would like to donate the enclosed for whatever the committee feels appropriate. I'm keeping very busy with family and golf and writing e-mails to send around the globe and of course gardening. What can I say, I had never done a tap of gardening. I found I needed to quickly develop some skills to maintain Gerry's high standard but I don't think I will ever match his propagating talent.

I would like to take this opportunity to send Christmas greetings to everyone.

We wish you Joy in every day, in every memory, and in your hopes for the future.

Love to last a lifetime, and perhaps beyond.

Yours sincerely, Dorothy Maley and family.

Mrs D. May, Manning, WA.

Dear Jack, Thank you most sincerely to yourself and the 2/2nd Commandos who attended Don's funeral.

The Ode said by Mr Ray Parry and the playing of the Last Post was very moving. Don would have been so proud to know you honoured him in this way as I and all our family are.

Thank you once again,

Yours sincerely, Dawn May.

P. Weller, Umina, NSW.

To the President and members of the 2/2nd Commando Association, your comforting expression of sympathy is sincerely appreciated, from Pat Weller and family.

Pars On People.

Members who attended the Tassie Safari will be pleased to hear that Lieut. Col. Steve Smith the C.O. of the 12/40th Battalion at Glenorchy was awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross in this years Queen's Birthday Honours. Bert Price sent a congratulatory note to the C.O. Well done Steve.

Margaret Blomfield, widow of Max, wrote to say how much she enjoyed the Courier and wished all members the best for the Festive Season. Margaret would like to see more articles on our New Guinea campaigns appearing in the Courier, so what about some of you blokes putting your thinking caps on and sending some articles in on your experiences there back in 1943/44.

Our happy wanderer, Jess Epps, had 8 days in Mauritius recently. Jess reckons it's a beautiful place, very restful with good cuisine, and is hoping for a win in Lotto to make a return trip.

Our W.A. members are on the move. Len and Betty Bagley, who are now feeling a lot better, have sold their home in Mandurah and are moving into a unit there. A garage sale is always a must when moving is on. Len and Betty's went off very well. Good luck in your new abode to you both.

Bernie and Babs Langridge are another couple on the move. They have sold their lovely home in Pleasant Grove, Mandurah and are moving to the big smoke in Victoria Park. Bernie hasn't been all that well with an angina problem that means his gardening skills will not be called upon as much in his new setting.

Joe and Helen Poynton will be auctioning their beach residence early in December. Helen who recently had a nasty fall while shopping in Mandurah is not enjoying good health and their big home is getting too much for her. Joe

and Helen intend to remain in Mandurah in a smaller comfortable home. Good luck to two lovely people.

Clarrie and Grace Turner have moved from Mandurah to Cooloongup, which is near Rockingham. They seem happy with the move and are now much closer to their son Terry and family. Clarrie turned 84 on 30th October.

Our old mate Jack Fowler recently spent 3 weeks in Hollywood and was spoilt rotten by the nurses there. Jack looks well but the advancing years have caught up with him and he now requires a care set up which means his days at Lady Brand Lodge, Three Springs are over. Lyn, his devoted daughter, who lives at Three Springs, had a few busy weeks trying to find suitable accommodation for Jack and eventually did. Jack is now at the Hollywood Village Nursing Home run by the Salvation Army, which is directly opposite Hollywood Hospital in Monash Avenue Nedlands. Jack is in Room 7, bed 3 on the 1st Floor, phone no. 9380.5558. Jack would welcome any visitors.

The Chalwells, John and Olive, who live in Joondalup are also making a move and will soon settle in the Salvation Army Hollywood Village not far from where Jack is. Tich who played the cornet in the Salvation Army band in earlier times has after a patient wait, been given the green light to move into a nice unit there. Being close to Perth will suit John and Olive and will enable him to take more part in the Salvos activities.

Don Young is having a bad run. He lost his wife in June and recently his brother Jack passed away in Victoria. Don is selling up in Claremont and is trying to get into a unit in his old home town of Manjimup. Don comes from a large family of 11 who all grew up in Manjimup. He still has 4 brothers and 2 sisters. Don turned 84 on the 8th December. His birthday is on the same day as one of his old 5 section mates, Les Halse who was 82. Gordon Barnes, now deceased also a 5-section man, shared the same birth date. An amazing coincidence indeed!

Word from Queensland is that Bulla Tait has sold his sugar cane farm at Ayr and he and Jean are now enjoying a well-earned retirement. Bulla suffers badly with crook legs, which besides being painful restricts his movements. You'll have to do something about that Bulla. His new telephone number is 07.4783.3379.

Jewell Soper is another who has made a move to Carlyle Gardens in Townsville. Jewell is well but also suffers from circulation problems and finds it difficult to move about. Her new phone number is 07.4723.5056.

Hazel Wicks is the proud grandmother of a bouncing baby grandson, Jack, named after her late husband. Hazel has a son, 3 lovely daughters, 8 grandchildren and one great grandchild. She lives on her own in Como but family sees to it that she has few dull moments.

Henry Sproxton, our statistician, who has had a lot more downs than ups in recent years, was the recipient of a small but pleasant honour from the Royal Automobile Club of W.A. recently. Henry was picked up in a car and with 17 others in the Club's reception centre in Perth, received a life membership gold card in acknowledgment of his 50 years as a member of the R.A.C. Having his photo taken followed by a nice morning tea and knowing that there will be no more annual fees to pay, made for a very pleasant morning. Well done Harry!

Sunny Daniels reports that Dan is back home again following his recent heart attack. Danny who turned 82 on 26th November is making slow but good progress. He has lost weight and taking the dog for a walk is his main daily exercise. Dan still drives the car occasionally but is confident he will be his old self again given time. Keep your chin up Dan!

Jack Carey.

Courier Donations.

Gwenda Kirkwood, Joan Fenwick, Peter Alexander, Iris Rowan-Robinson, John

Burridge, Diana Cole, Alec & Wyn Thomson,
Ralph & Sheila Conley, Margaret Monk,
George & Gloria Smith, Joyce Hodson,
Margaret Blomfield, Blanche Sadler, Mrs
O'Connor, Rosslyn Moar, Sally McPhee, Dot
Maley, Peter Kraus, Alan & Joan Mitchell.

Trust Fund Donations.

Iris Rowan-Robinson	\$50
W. O'Neill	\$50
Rosslyn Moar	\$50
Dot Maley	\$50
Peter Kraus	\$50.

*Sincere thanks to all donors for your
generous support. Editor.*

Change of Address

Ralph & Sheila Conley
A 37 Forest Place Retirement Village
61 Explorer Drive
Albany Creek. Qld. 4035
Ph. 07 3264.2551

Mr Jack Fowler
Hollywood Village Nursing Home
120 Monash Avenue
Nedlands. WA 6009
Ph. 08 9380.5558

Clarrie & Grace Turner
1 Tanby Place
Tanby Hall
Cooloongup. WA 6168
Ph. 08 9528.7583

Mrs Dawn May
68B Closter Avenue
Manning. WA 6152
Ph. 08 9450.6150

Mrs Jenny Laurence- Rogers
4/39 Avoca Road
Canley Heights. NSW 2166

Mr George Parker
Ex Services Home
Ballina. NSW 2478

Mrs Jewell Soper
62 Stirling Avenue
Carlyle Gardens
Townsville. Qld. 4810
Ph. 07 4723.5056

Mrs J. Gorton
C/o Janice Peake
158 Forrest St. Fremantle. 6160
Ph. 08 9335.1815

John & Olive Chalwell
Unit 504
118-120 Monash Avenue.
Nedlands. WA 6009
Ph. 08 9380.5504

N.B. Joe & Helen Poynton, Bernie & Babs
Langridge and Len & Betty Bagley's change
of address to come.

Addition.

Mrs Patricia Weller
1A Forest Road
Umina. NSW 2257
Ph. 02 4344 7257

New Phone No.

Bulla Tait, Qld.
Ph. 07 4783.3379

Delete.

E. Weller
136 Bluff Point
Geraldton 6630

Mrs D. Lewis
Fremantle Nursing Home
Holland St
Fremantle 6160

Mrs Dulcie Gay
7 Stanley Ave
Ringwood East 3135

Mrs Joan Marsh
17 McGough St
Glenorchy. Tas. 7010

Mrs Peg McPhee
2/48 Upper Lancaster Rd
Ascot. Qld 4007

Mr Steve Rogers
1144 Wanneroo Rd
Wanneroo. WA 6065

Fred Bryant
319 Stanley Rd
Carina Qld. 4152

NOTICES.

ATTENTION ALL W.A. MEMBERS.

**The Annual General Meeting
of the W.A. Branch**

will be held at the Anzac Club, Perth

On TUESDAY 12TH MARCH 2002 at 10.30AM

Refreshments and snacks to follow.

Please keep this date in mind and make a very special effort to attend.

All former Commandos are invited by

**The Victorian Branch of the Commando Association
To attend a luncheon to commemorate**

**The 60TH ANNIVERSARY of the FORMATION of the
INDEPENDENT COMPANIES,**

On Wednesday, 13th February 2002

At Eden-On-The-Park, Queens Road at noon for a 12.30pm start.

Cost per ticket is \$36, which covers, lunch and drinks.

This will be a very special occasion so don't miss it!

**Bookings can be made by cheque or money order to Mr B. Coleman, Hon. Sec.
Victorian Branch**

P.O. Box 142, Vermont, Victoria.3133



Mrs Jess Epps lays a wreath, while President Ray Parry looks on, at the memorial in Lovekin Drive, King's Park in Perth.



'Eyes Right' is given to President Ray Parry and Sgt. Shane Saltmarsh by Ray Aitken (86) and Bob Smyth (84) closely followed by l. to r. Tom Foster, Doc. Wheatley, Jack Carey, Len Bagley, John Chalwell and Joe Poynton in brown suit.