



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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

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“60 YEARS YOUNG”

Now, sixty year after the formation of our Army Unit it perhaps behoves us to look back on how our Association was formed before it is too late. We in Western Australia are now less than Platoon strength.

I firmly believe that the success of our Association stems from the oddity in our early history, namely, that spent in training on Wilson's Promontory, our contact with the British Army in the persons notably of Michael Calvert, a Commando demolitions officer, and Freddie Spencer-Chapman an Everest climber, and perhaps Peter Stafford who claimed to come from a place called "Loondoon", and again the strangeness of our service on the Island of Timor and hence our bond with the Timorese people.

There are very few organizations that can claim total membership. Your Association could make that claim with due pride. It owes the ability to make this boast to Unit pride, Unit history, and Unit friends. The Friends' of the 2/2nd gained its formation and impetus from the selfless work of some of our relatives and friends. They formed a tight little group that had as its purpose to contribute to the welfare of the men of the 2/2nd Independent Coy as it was then called.

At wars end Tom Murray the backbone and father of the Friends of the 2/2nd waited until a new Association had been legally constituted and handed over the surviving funds from the Friends of the 2/2nd to the new organization, to be known as the 2/2nd Commando Association.

One remembers too that the bureaucrats of the day issued an edict that any monies held by ancillary groups dedicated to soldier welfare should be paid to the treasury and so became part of vested revenue.

After much long and hopeless pleading, it was with great pleasure to be present to hear Colin Douglas Doig say to an under – treasurer "We've got the F—— money Mr. X, you take it from us and we'll give you a lesson in the power of the fellow press".

Colin and I were friends before the war and he lived in fear of me, lest I should tell Paddy Knight that Colin in his teens won a Church of England prize as the best Anglican Sunday school teacher in the wilds of Wagin. One still wonders which facet of Colin's training taught

him the time to attack. Despite his early up bringing, he was notably weak on "turning the other cheek".

Your Association kept the money and it paid for the initial price of envelopes, stamps and general communication which made it possible for Doig as he said, "to be on a goer" and our Association already born, could now begin to grow up.

Fred Gardiner the journalist enthusiast from Friends probably lived in hope that the money might be taken so that he might lead a word war against "Bureaucratic theft" It did not happen. Doig had managed to instil doubt and fear.

It would be foolish for us to forget those individual members who have contributed so much to our Association's success and if few are named and many overlooked, please do not feel slighted. We all have our own conception of events and people but perhaps we should give credit for our longevity and solid "togetherness" to the establishment and nurturing of the "Courier" the single most successful agent in keeping us all in touch.

The responsibility of the early days was "The Doig". Various and numerous of our members have had a significant part.

For me in far country situations and outstanding contribution was that doyen of country correspondence Peter Barden.

However, over many years the Courier depended largely on the dedicated work of firstly Bill Epps and others and finally on the family of Len, Betty and Gavin Bagley. In the background (a place he likes to be) running the long time affairs of the Association Jack Carey, to whom we owe a special tribute. It would be wrong of us to fail to place on record the astonishing workload taken by Bob Smyth and his trusty backstops, Keith Hayes, John Burridge in making the Trust Fund real.

Any historical record would be barren with a special reference to the selfless work of the ladies. Lists are cold-blooded things and tend to be personal and are never complete, so I take the blame for any omissions if I mention only a few. Names that immediately come to mind are Helen Poynton, Norma Hasson, Jessie Epps and of course Delys Carey. The latter could surely not have known all that she was taking on when she said, "YES".

We are very fortunate people. We have managed to have remained faithful to the Unit bonds and ideals for 60 years and have enjoyed the regular company of our fellow members and if we tend to tell each other the same stories down the years" who cares"

Let no one criticise for we were and still are the 2/2nd.

Ba hamutuk Maromak

Belu .hotu hau nian

Mas haree dalam diak

Go with God my friends

But watch the track well

Ray Aitken.

VALE JOHN S. ROBERTS VX108715

John was born in Berrigan in southern New South Wales on the 26 December 1920, where his father was the local doctor. He attended the local primary school and completed his education at Wesley College in Melbourne.

He returned to Berrigan and was studying accountancy when he enlisted in 1941. After spending some time in the 57/60 Battalion

he went from there to the jungle warfare training centre at Canungra where I first met up with him in early 1942. After his training John was allocated to 2/2nd Commando Squadron and went to serve with 7 section in New Guinea under Tony (Basher) Adams, and in New Britain under Kevin Curran.

John was a good soldier and well respected by his army mates.

On his return to civvy life he met a gorgeous AWAS lass, a Cath McNeil, whom he courted and married at Scotch's Church Melbourne on 21 December 1946. Their marriage lasted over 54 years and was blessed with 2 sons & 3 daughters, Ian, Suzan, Ruth, Jane & Craig, and 10 grand children. John & Cath were a devoted and loving couple and the children were given every opportunity to do well in life, which they have done.

John took a course in jewellery manufacture and design under the Rehab Scheme and once qualified went into business with Vic Miller a former air force officer. Many meetings of the 2/2 Association and happy impromptu gatherings were held in their workshop/office in Elizabeth St.

In the 1950 the business moved to a workshop in Brunswick, which was accessible through the back fence to the house that they occupied in the next street. John was active in Association affairs and was later made a life member for his services. His astute investments in shares gave him & Cath enough for a comfortable retirement.

During the latter part of his working life his partner Vic had a stroke. John carried on the business, while caring for Vic. During his life John & his family helped many of the 2/2nd members who were down on their luck, for whatever reasons.

Eventually he retired to Neerim South to a home he & Cath had been developing for several years. Here again he became a valued community member. Many enjoyable get togethers of the 2/2nd were held there.

John remained involved in the Vic. branches events and making a worthwhile contribution to the very successful Phillip Island Safari in 1988. His charming, loving wife Cath, who worked for many years at the Standards Association of Australia in Royal Parade Parkville, ably supported him in all his activities for others.

Unfortunately a severe stroke confined John to be bedridden in the later part of his life. Cath saw him daily and her love and support and that of his family and many friends made John's cross more bearable. He enjoyed his 80th birthday celebration on Boxing Day and passed away peacefully on April 20th last.

A thanksgiving service was held in the Anglican & Uniting Church, Neerim South on 23rd April.

It was my privilege to deliver the eulogy for an old friend and a fine man who lived a good life to the full. Jane his youngest daughter spoke on the family's behalf. The local RSL President Alan Bailey said the Ode and David Drummond of Warrigal sounded the last post. A private cremation followed.

He will be sadly missed. Mrs Margaret Monk, Don Thomson, Mrs Faye Campbell, Sam Fullbrook, and Marge & myself represented the 2/2nd.

Lest We Forget.

Leith Cooper.

VALE RON LAWSON DOOK WX12529.

Ron passed away peacefully at home on Friday 25th May aged 85. He was born in Perth on 15.10.1915 and had three brothers (all deceased) and a sister Jean. His first job was a clerk with Goode Durrant & Murray, a big clothing firm. Ron loved his sport and was a good footballer. He played a number of seasons with East Perth, one of the leading teams at that time and was a member of their 1936 premiership side along with his lifelong friend Arch Campbell. He then moved to Kalgoorlie and was working in the mines when he enlisted in May 1941. It was in Kal that he met and fell in love with Agnes (Nan) Hunter, a charming lass and a champion swimmer. They were married in August 1944.

Ron served in 7 section in Timor. After the section was decimated on 20th February, the section was reformed and Ron was promoted and became Arch Campbell's right hand man. Ron went on to serve as a sergeant in New Guinea in 10 section. His fine leadership qualities resulted in Ron doing an officer training course and serving out the war as a lieutenant with the 8th Commando Squadron in Bougainville where he was awarded an M.I.D. Ted Monk said Ron was a born leader who inspired confidence in those who served under him. He was a good man to be with when the going got tough.

After the war, now married, Ron played a bit of football and got a position with the Commonwealth Hostel Section in Graylands. A capable man, Ron gradually worked his way up the ranks serving with the Hostel Service in Adelaide, Canberra and finally in the Northern Territory where he was state manager.

Ron always took a keen interest in the Association's affairs. He served on the committee in its early years and was treasurer in 1947/48. He was made a life member in 1955. Ron will be kindly remembered for providing the catering for our early Anzac day functions. It was good tucker at a very low cost. He was a great mate of the late Mick Calcutt and liked to have a bet always in moderation.

Ron and Nan, whose marriage lasted nearly 57 years, were a devoted couple. They had two daughters, Robyn and Jillian, and four grandchildren. Life was unkind to both Ron and Nan in their latter years. Ron had more than his share of health problems while Nan developed Alzheimers at a relatively early age. As her condition worsened she was forced to go into a nursing home. Ron's devotion and love never wavered. Every day for a period of 8 years, he visited her with a small gift. Though not well himself his thoughts were always of her and his family. In the end he virtually faded away.

Ron's funeral service was held on 30th May at Karrakatta. The 2/2nd were represented by Ray Aitken, John Burrridge, Jack Carey, Dick Darrington, Jess Epps, Albie Friend, Keith & Val Hayes, Ted & Peg Monk, Ray Parry, Joe & Helen Poynton, Dusty Studdy, Don Turton and Doc. Wheatley. Ray, Keith, Doc, and Ted were pallbearers and Ted said the Ode. A number of 8th Squadron members were also present to pay their respects.

Ron will be sadly missed. The Association extends its deepest sympathy to Robyn, Jillian and families on their sad loss.

Lest We Forget.

Keith Hayes.

section. A vale for Slim will appear in the September Courier. We extend our sincere sympathy to the Thorpe family.

We regret to advise that Bill Rowan-Robinson passed away on 29th May. A vale will appear in the September Courier. The Association conveys its' deepest sympathy to Iris and family.

Report on AGM 2001.

There was a satisfactory attendance of 16 members at our 55th AGM held at Anzac Club on Tuesday 13th March 2001. President R.Darrington declared the meeting open at 10.30am and asked members to stand in silence in memory of our departed comrades.

Present: Messrs R. Aitken, L.Bagley, T.Bowers, J.Burrridge, J.Carey, L.Cranfield, R.Darrington, L.Halse, K.Hayes, B.Langridge, J. Lines, E.Monk, J.Poynton, R.Smyth, D.Studdy & D.Turton.

Apologies: J.Chalwell, C.King, W.March, G.Maley, D.Murray, R.Parry, H.Sproxtton, R.Shenn, C.Turner, & M.Wheatley

Minutes: Minutes of the previous AGM were read and confirmed as a true record.

Life Membership:

On the recommendation of the committee Peter Alexander was made a life member of the Association. Peter has been a loyal member for the past 55 years. As he was not well enough to attend the AGM, it was proposed to present his life membership medallion to him at his home within the next week.

The incoming president Mr Parry would do this.

Reports: The following reports were presented.

President Mr Darrington, Financial & Auditors report Mr Burrridge, Editors Mr Bagley & Trust Fund Mr Smyth.

Election of Officers: The returning officer Mr Aitken conducted the election and declared the following elected for the year 2001/2002

President

Mr R.Parry

News has been received from N.S.Wales that Frank (Slim) Thorpe passed away on 18th May last. Slim was a member of 2

Vice President Mr L. Halse
Secretary Mr J. Carey
Treasurer Vacant
Editor Mrs D. Carey
Auditor Mr J. Burrridge
Warden Mr J. Chalwell
Courier Committee
Mr G. Bagley, Mrs S. Epps, Mr J. Carey.
General Committee

Messrs R. Darrington, L. Bagley, B. Langridge & W. March.

The Trust Fund Committee of Messrs Smyth, Burrridge & Hayes carry on as in past years.

General Business

The question as to whether we should join in and march with the other Commando Squadrons on Anzac day was discussed as our numbers had fallen away to about 12 marching. It was finally decided that it was too late to do anything about this year and

that we should carry on as usual under the 2/2ns flag. The matter would be considered again before Anzac day 2002.

As there was no offer from any member to take on the editor's job Mr Bagley moved and Mr Burrridge seconded "that Mrs Delys Carey be invited to take on the job". The motion was put and carried.

It was suggested the Association have a number of suitable plaques (say 12) made up bearing the unit's insignia. This was considered to be a worthwhile suggestion. Mr Cranfield kindly offered to prepare the wooden bases for the plaques. A suitable design would need to be drawn up; Mr Carey said he would ask Mr Colin Hodson if he could help with the design.

Mr Langridge moved seconded Mr Halse "that a vote of thanks be recorded in the minutes to Len and Betty Bagley in appreciation of their dedicated service on the courier over many years". This motion as passed with loud acclamation. A vote of thanks was also recorded in the minutes to retiring President D. Darrington and former Treasurer Ted Monk for their contribution to the Association in their terms of office.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.40am.

President's Report

I have much pleasure in presenting my report for the past year. Our numbers have continued to fall away, following the passing of nine members since our last AGM.

Our total membership is now 150, of whom 52 are here in WA. The year also saw the passing of wives of members and some widows. To all those families who have suffered the loss of a loved one, the Association offers its condolences.

The WA Branch had a very active 12 months beginning with a party of 22 attending the Tassie Safari in March. Meeting up with 53 members, wives and friends from other states to take part in what was a memorable and enjoyable 8 days.

Anzac Day followed, although our numbers marching were down on the day the march went off well, culminating in the traditional gathering at the Terrace Hotel.

The July Norma Hasson day was another happy occasion as was the Xmas luncheon held at Mandurah this year. A get together at "The House" on Australia Day topped off a good social year. All of these events have been fully reported on in the Courier and I would like to thank those good people who helped to make these functions so enjoyable.

Our annual Commemoration Service held in November was well attended. The march past featuring for the first time the daughters of members was a big improvement on past years. Well done all!!

My thanks to the trust fund team led by chairman Bob and supported by John and Keith, for another year of fine achievement of which they can be proud. An independent East Timor has meant the team's task, which was so very difficult in the earlier years, is now freer, although the work still has to be done. Bob's plan to supply vegetable seeds to remote areas of Timor to the people who to date have been overlooked, is a great concept and one which members will follow

with interest over the next year or two.

News of the Courier team, Len and Betty Bagley, decision to step down has been received with much regret. Thank you for the wonderful job you have done for the Association over many years. The standard of the courier has been excellent. You will both be missed.

For the six members who were present at the rededication service of the restored memorial to the East Timorese people at Fatunaba last April it was a memorable and noteworthy occasion. I am hoping for a big roll up to the Mildura Safari in May 2002, Please try your best to be there, I am a certain starter, the sooner the better. I have in mind to spend a lot more time travelling the world.

It has been a great honour for me to be your President for the past two years. In that time I have attended a number of functions and found it to be uplifting being introduced as "The President of the 2/2nd Commando Association of Australia". I can think of no greater honour. What a fine Association we have.

In conclusion to all those of our members (and there are many) who are suffering from health problems, I wish you better days. To my committee who have guided and supported me so loyally on my term of office I convey my sincere thanks and gratitude.

Kindest regards

R. Darrington Pres.

Financial Position as at 31/01/01

The financial position of both the Association and the Independent Trust Fund are very sound.

The Trust fund has a balance of \$2775, which may seem low but the Fund has sent nearly \$13000 in gifts to Timor during the past 12 months. This was comprised of \$11634 in vegetable seeds, \$990 in sporting goods and \$300 in machinery. The fund only spends in direct co-relations with its income from donations. Thanks to Bob Smyth and Keith Hayes our administration costs are low.

Since inception the Fund has received \$47509 in donations. Of this more than \$45000 has already gone forward to Timor in the form of vegetable seeds, sporting goods, and general humanitarian aid.

The general account of the Association is in very good shape with a bank balance of \$6836.88, an improvement of over \$3600 on last year's balance. Donations to the Courier for the year increased by \$777, and the cost of producing the Courier fell by \$1827 combining a saving of \$2604. The other items of income and expenditure did not vary greatly from previous years.

All the individual donations to the Courier aggregating \$6332 in the Statements of Receipts and Expenditure have been acknowledged in the Courier except a few late receivables, which will appear in the next Courier. The only item that deserves mention is the \$575 for the replacement of the poles and sign at Kings Park. This expense would have been much greater if it were not for the interest and work of John Chalwell the current warden and the indefatigable Bob Smyth.

As we have no official treasurer at the moment the ever willing and never wearied Jack Carey has taken on this extra task. He has kept the accounts in the same meticulous manner as in the former years by Ted Monk. We can only thank Jack most sincerely, for shouldering this additional burden and to hope that a new treasurer can be found at the Annual General Meeting.

John Burridge

Honorary Auditor.

Editor's report.

During the year 2000 I advised the Committee that Betty and I would be retiring in December.

We have enjoyed our association with the production of the Courier for many years and have seen the advancement to computer printing.

Our regular correspondents have always supplied us with ample copy to make the Courier interesting, as is apparent from the

2/2nd Commando Association**General Account****STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURE YEAR ENDED 31/01/2001****Receipts****Balance as at 1 February 2000 \$3203.03**

Bank Interest	\$ 9.22
Courier Donations	\$ 6332.40
Sale Jim Smailes Poems	\$ 150.00
Sale of Badges	\$ 125.00
Sale of Arch Campbells Book	\$ 100.00
Association events	\$ 234.00
Tasmanian Safari Refund	\$ 1000.00
Safari Surplus Reserve	\$ 776.57

\$ 8727.19\$ 11930.22**Expenditure**

Govt Taxes	\$ 25.44
Courier Printing/Post	\$ 2747.38
PO Box rent	\$ 134.35
Advert Listening Post	\$ 20.00
Capitation fee ACA	\$ 53.00
Anzac Day wreaths	\$ 90.00
Association functions	\$ 389.15
Admin Post/Stationary	\$ 150.00
Commemoration Service	\$ 82.50
Wreath	\$ 50.00
Restoration Kings Park Sign	\$ 574.95
Safari Surplus Refund	\$ 776.57

Balance as at 31/01/01 \$ 6836.88
CBA A/c\$ 11930.22

I consider the above statement reflects the true position of the 2/2nd Commando Association as at 31 January 2001.

J. Burridge

2/2 Commando Association**Independent Trust Fund****Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the year ended 31/01/2001****Balance as at 1 February 2000 \$ 6672.70****Receipts**

Donations	\$ 9926.14
Bank Interest	\$ 13.13
Reimbursements	
Airfares/Ins L.Bennett	\$ 1397.10
Rail Mill	\$ 1000.00

\$12336.37

\$19009.07**Expenditure**

Seeds Symonds & Yates	\$ 11633.76
Sports Gear	\$ 990.00
Airfares/Insurance	\$ 1397.00
Rail Mill & Winch	\$ 1300.00
Transport charge Darwin	\$ 153.67
Govt Tax	\$ 20.22
Admin Fees Tele/Fax etc	\$ 739.64

Balance as at 31/1/01

CBA a/c \$ 2774.78

\$ 19009.07

I consider the above statement reflects the true position of the Independent Trust Fund as at 31 January 2001

J. Burridge.

number of compliments we have received over the years.

We thank you all for making our job so pleasurable and we will be pleased to advise and help the incoming Courier team if needed.

Len Bagley.

INDEPENDENT TRUST

Report for year to 31/1/2001

We continued support to the Don Bosco Salesian Agricultural School at Fuiloro Lospalos.

Les Cranfield completed two further visits one of three months and the last one "positively my last" of two months.

The achievements have been extensively reported in the Courier whereby Fuiloro took delivery of the used farm machinery purchased by Les and Fr. Jose in Queensland. They were successful in rehabilitating and assembling various essential items and under Les's demonstration, were successful in planting crops of corn and rice, the latter on virgin lakebed land. The setting up of an old hammer mill was a spectacular success for the centre and their villagers. Our congratulations to Les and Verna Cranfield for their outstanding contribution to the community of Fuiloro during seven visits totalling twenty months over five years to help alleviate the difficulties experienced by the Fuiloro community.

Volunteer Lindsay Bennett of the SAS Retirees' Association visited Fuiloro following the departure of Les Cranfield. He completed erection of the silos and commenced construction of the base supports for a sheltered vegetable garden that would enable production during the wet. Laserlite roofing is now on site. Lindsay also did considerable machinery workshop rehabilitation. We appreciate and thank Lindsay for a great job done in frequently arduous conditions.

Sports Balls – Fuiloro

We bought 74 basket; volley and soccer balls \$1,040.60. John Burrridge, Keith Hayes

and Bob Smyth painted each (and each other) with our red colour patch and sent them to Fuiloro.

Nahaek Primary School is nearest our 2/2nd Memorial site referred to as "Dare". Patsy Thatcher set up a relationship on our behalf with the school whereby the pupils will adopt a role of care and reporting of the area in return for our forwarding various donated school items which Keith Hayes is arranging. The school is also a beneficiary of the Colin Doig bequest via the Oan Kiak Trust of which Patsy is a trustee.

Vegetable Seed Programme. With Les Cranfield's help and that of Symonds seeds we compiled and sent to Fuiloro a shipment of \$4,276.25. An order of \$3,685.00 followed some eight months later (followed by 800 MT Kodak cassette containers to facilitate distribution to villagers). When during recent months Arthur Yates (seeds) had commercial difficulty we negotiated a most attractive purchase price for the Company's retail packets.

Our friends at Campbell Barracks welcomed the opportunity of village distribution during normal patrols. We have four cartons each of approximately 1000 (total 3997) packets of 14 varieties (15/1/2001). Each packet is over stamped with our 2/2nd red D.D. colour patch which now shows the words "FO" (Tetum for gift) and "IT LA HALUHA" (We not forget"). For the tedious task of stamping 3997 seed packets to date (and 4000 to follow!) our thanks to trustee Keith (and Val) Hayes.

Should the vegetable seed packet programme prove successful, we will consider the prospect of a single philanthropic identity to expand the plan over larger areas of East Timor. (To remain a 2/2nd initiative). It would be imperative to obtain reliable feedback and our ability to identify additional reliable channels of distribution.

Rededication of the 2/2nd Dare Memorial.

In April six of our members visited East Timor to rededicate the 2/2nd Dare Memorial. We were grateful for the company of Bart Mavrick President of the SAS Association (W.A.) We had several days visiting Fuiloro.

That was finally made possible (after trip cancellation due to security concern) because of intervention of Murray Thornton who insisted on providing transport. We remain thankful to Murray and his friends.

Thanks to support from fellow trustees John BurrIDGE and the indefatigable Keith Hayes and his wife Val. Keith does an enormous amount of hands on work. He continues to collect a vast number of computers, typewriters, office material and sewing machines which have been shipped via our SAS Association friends to designated East Timor addresses.

We appreciate and thank Bart Mavrick and Mick Malone of the SAS Retirees' Association for their assistance and also for their Associations most popular "House" functions

Also acknowledgment and thanks to A.E.S.O.P. of Canberra who funded Les Cranfield's visits and to Australian Volunteers Abroad who funded fares for Lindsay Bennett's visit.

Donors.

Thanks to all donors whose contributions are acknowledged in the Courier and without their generosity we would not be operating.

Bob Smyth.

Chairman Independent Trust Fund.

Australian Commando Association A.G.M.

At the Annual General Meeting held in Canberra on Tuesday 6th March the principal office bearers were re-elected for the March 2001 – 2002 period, they being:-

President Mr W.J. Hardgrave
Mt. Gravatt,
Queensland.

Hon. Secretary Mr G. T. Buckingham
Rosedale,
Sth. Queensland.

The Australian Commando Association is made up of :-

A.C.T. Regional Commando Assoc.
Queensland Commando Assoc.
N.S.W. Commando Assoc.
Commando Assoc. Victoria.
Commando Assoc. of Sth. Aust.
2/2nd Commando Assoc. of Aust.

Congratulations to Mr Hardgrave and Mr Buckingham on their re-election.

A Life Membership Presentation.

Our newly elected President Ray Parry's first pleasing duty was to present a life membership medallion to Peter Alexander at his Forest St. home in East Fremantle on 20th March, a week after our AGM. Ray pinned on Peter's medallion after having some good things to say about Peter's service to the Association over the past 55 years. Peter who suffers from Parkinson's Disease and is now recovering from a stroke, said he was proud and honoured to be made a life member of such a fine Association. Also present were Don Turton, Keith Hayes and Jack & Delys Carey. All enjoyed morning tea making it a very pleasant occasion. Congratulations to Peter, one of life's great little battlers and a lovely bloke.

Jack Carey.

Anzac Day 2001

The early morning rain did not deter what turned out to be a record attendance at the King's Park Dawn service. Peter Epps laid a lovely double red diamond wreath on our behalf and we thank him for that. Bob Smyth and John BurrIDGE did the honours for us at the SAS Regiments Dawn service at Campbell Barracks also laying a nice wreath. Bob and John are old hands at the SAS service and look forward to the hearty "gunfire" breakfast, which follows.

The march, later in the morning, along the Terrace went off very well. Led by our evergreen Keith Hayes (Ray Parry was in Korea) followed by flag bearer John Chalwell and the main group the march proceeded smoothly. Having "the eyes right" salute in the Terrace rather than on the Esplanade was a better innovation. A feature of the

service on the Esplanade was the splendid address given by 15-year-old schoolgirl Yvette Tan. We were fortunate to obtain seating for the service held in light rain. Among those who marched were Ray Aitken, Tom Foster, Doc. Wheatly, John Burrige, Bob Smyth, Tony Bowers, Ron Archer (visiting from Qld.) Happy Greenhalgh (likewise from N.S.W.) Dick Darrington, Jim Lines, Ted Monk, Don Murray, Joe Poynton, Vince Swann, Jack Carey, Pip Dunkley, Nick Lovi, Sue Wicks and son David, and Neil Barnett and daughter Nerine. A special mention for Eric Weller who followed the main body in a wheelchair guided by three grandchildren, Julie, Mark and Rochelle. Bernie Langridge, Gerry Maley, Stan Payne and Don Turton did it in style taking part in the parade in a vehicle kindly provided by Peter Epps bedecked with the 2/2nd insignia.

The gathering at the Terrace Hotel was most enjoyable. Dusty Studdy, Jim Johnson and Peter Softley (a mate of Doc.'s) joined us and the new C.O. of the SAS Regiment, Lieut. Col. Gus Gilmore along with Major Grant Walsh, W.O. Dallas Wilson and Bart Mavrick the President of the SAS Retirees Association, dropped in for a drink and chat. The group received a warm welcome and a fair amount of ear bashing followed. We consider it a great privilege to have such distinguished company on Anzac Day. What great blokes and fine looking men they are. The luncheon as usual was most enjoyable and the 22 who made it had a very pleasant 3 hours. Our thanks to the Terrace Hotel staff who looked after us so well.

The format will change in 2002 when all the Commando Squadrons will march as one. Father Time has at last caught up with us. Jack Carey.

Ray Aitken was so impressed with Yvette's address he wrote and congratulated her on it.

Here is her reply:-

Yvette Tan

30 Bruce Street
Nedlands. 6009

Dear Mr Aitken, Thank you very much for your wonderful letter. I was extremely happy to receive it and would like to express my thanks.

I wrote my speech to inform the youth of today of the Anzacs work. Your letter has shown me that my speech has not been wasted. Just to have one person say the words you have written has informed me that it has all been worth it.

Finally may I conclude by thanking you, on behalf of all youth today, for being one of Australia's War Veterans. We are all grateful for your bravery and courage, and for giving us the Australian identity, spirit and sense of nationhood.

Thank you once again for your kind words.

Yours sincerely,

Yvette Tan.

Ed: What a talented young lady is Yvette.

Anzac Day Thoughts from Dick Darrington in W.A.

I was happy to participate in this year's Anzac Day march after 3 years being sidelined. My health improved.

One gets a great feeling marching along St. George's Terrace and down to the Esplanade for the Service. It was excellent to see Eric Weller joining in with the members and being part of the parade. It's a pity a lot more don't make the effort to come along and at least help celebrate at the Terrace Hotel. They will thoroughly enjoy themselves with excellent refreshments we have every Anzac Day for 2/2nd Association members and friends. There are plenty of other unit's members just hoping to get the opportunity to join with us.

I am that keen I have breakfast at the

R.S.L. Anzac House by 7.30am starts the day early. It's usually packed at that time with service personnel having drinks at a good watering hole waiting for the start of the march. So don't let another Anzac day pass without considering to come along to see us all before you peg out. We might select you to become our next president - ha ha.

Well I have in mind to make it to the 2002

Mildura Safari. It's going to be a great event travelling on the river. I love these river trips sailing along it beats motor transport for comfort, fantastic way to go even though ours will be only a day trip.

Anzac Day in Mandurah 2001.

The dawn service was held at the Memorial in the rose garden adjacent to the R.S.L. Hall and was a moving experience followed by a gun fire breakfast in the RSL Hall – greatly appreciated on a cold morning.

Being a fine day marchers and spectators, including Les and Verna Cranfield, turned out in force, especially the school children, many of whom arrange their own services prior to Anzac Day. Two of Bill and Elvie's sons carried the banner and Clarrie Turner and Paddy King laid the wreath.

Len Bagley was officer of the Day and did a fine job as usual.

Afterwards we adjourned to the RSL Hall for refreshments, eats and pleasant company. A most enjoyable day was had by all

Albany's Link to ANZAC

Albany is situated 409km south East of Perth, and is the state's oldest settlement. It was the scene of special celebrations on Anzac Day this year. People came from all over Australia to honour the event from where the first convoy left in World War 1.

The First Convoy: War was declared by the British Government on the 4th August 1914, three days after Germany declared war on Russia. Australia's cabinet however had met on the 3rd and resolved to provide military support to the Mother Country as required. Following those declarations, plans were put in place that saw the largest Commonwealth convoy assembled in King George Sound in November 1914 bound for the middle east, and its troops for Gallipoli.

29,779 personnel, 7477 horses, and 70 guns were embarked on 38 transport ships,

28 Australian and 10 New Zealand. They were accompanied and protected by 6 warships one British and (remarkably) one Japanese cruiser, two Australian cruisers and two light cruisers of the New Zealand Squadron.

The convoy sailed from Albany on Sunday 1st November 1914 at 5.45am. Albany was the last sight of Australia for thousands of young soldiers and sailors.

Other Convoys: Albany was the obvious place for the final rendezvous before leaving for the Middle East and Europe. The port has been the major trade link to Western Australia and therefore had the resources to bunker and support such fleets and it was big enough to hold them.

As a result, a second convoy was assembled in Albany within months. Necessities of war required other arrangements subsequently but Albany continued to play a role in the support of the war effort..

Mildura Safari 2002.

Wednesday 1st to Tuesday 7th May, 2002

To book for this event write or phone:-

The Grand Hotel
Seventh Street
P.O.Box 800

Mildura. Victoria. 3502

Phone 03 5023.0511

Standard room \$48.50 per person. Bed and breakfast

Grand room \$63.00

Nine have already booked which is a promising start. Those members intending to go are asked to book by December if possible. However there is no deadline for bookings. Even if you decide at the last moment to attend you will be welcome.

Members should check with their state rail re concessions for veterans. Those coming by car may be in the position to pick up a member or two on the way. Some may consider arriving on the day before on Tuesday 30th April. Friends of members are welcome

to participate in the Safari.

As Bluey Bone says in his write up this could well be our last Safari so please make a special effort to be there.

Further news on the Safari will appear in the September and December Couriers.

Mildura Pointers.

I am writing to try and allay any fears some members may have that Mildura has little to offer tourists. Eddie Burke and I spent 4 days there in February, and we can assure those contemplating coming to the Safari in May 2002, that it will be comparatively easy to fill in 7 days in this fine city.

There are bus tours, river trips on the Murray, a modern RSL club with poker machines galore to play, plenty of good eating-places and shops to browse around in.

I am sure Paddy Kenneally will approve of the Irish Pub, which serves a great Guinness. The Grand Hotel, which is our accommodation centre, is well appointed with all the mod cons. Mr Don Carrazza the proprietor has promised to treat us royally, and we intend to keep him to that promise.

Due to a misunderstanding the cost for a standard room is \$48.50 per head, a grand room is \$63 per head per day. This includes breakfast. The 12% stated in the March Courier was not correct. It is still a good deal. Nine members have already booked in and have accepted the explanation re the change in rates.

Ed, Leith & I are working on a balanced itinerary, which should suit everyone. Ed & I will be revisiting Mildura later in the year to finalise arrangements.

As this may well be the last Safari, the organising committee appeals to all members to make a special effort to attend the Mildura Safari in May 2002.

We guarantee to do our utmost to ensure it will be a success. God Bless

Bluey Bone

GERALDTON NEWS

It was my good fortune to be in Perth for medical treatment for several days which enabled me to attend your committee meeting on 8 May at Anzac House, and offer congratulations to the new President Mr Ray Parry, immediate past President Dick Darrington, Secretary Jack Carey, and immediate past Courier editor Len Bagley, for their outstanding work.

I am sure everyone heartily endorses the glowing tributes that Jack paid to Len, Betty, and Gavin in the March Courier, including the hope that Len & Betty will enjoy better health

It is also hearty congratulations to Jack & Delys Carey for taking on the Courier work in succession to Len and Betty. Dedication is a word that is exemplified in the service given to our wonderful organization by so many members over such a long period of time.

Good on you Delys for your "Sunday Times" letter of 18 March concerning the plight of your former once bustling home town of Perenjori, in which you congratulated the newspaper for revealing all too well the plight of too many rural communities and sought Government support for people with big hearts and the courage to match.

Also congrats to Mary Ripper of Perenjori, for her contribution in response to the newspaper article of the previous week (11th March), headed "Fastest dying town in Oz". Mary said, "Our town is alive and kicking. We work day in and day out to keep our town the best place to live. We don't see what we don't have, but look at all the great things that we do have.

With all the things that we have, we are the best small town in this State. I am sick to death of reading about my dying town. I would like to know how a person could come to town for a few hours and make comments such as 'not even a dog was to be seen' (in response to that comment, well done Perenjori for keeping your dogs under control).

Reverting to the Committee meeting I attended It was great to receive a report from Ray Parry and view photo's taken during his

Korean War 50th anniversary visit during April as one of two representatives.

Ray, who was mentioned in Despatches with the 2nd Independent Company in Timor, also won the Military Medal in Korea, as did former Geraldton RSL Secretary Brian Cooper, whose bravery inspired the US Marines.

RSL President Charlie Britt was ecstatic at the wonderful response to Anzac Day with an estimated overall attendance in excess of 3000.

Apart from the President's inspiring address, Nagle Catholic College students Pippa Allen and Brendan McDowell gave "Voice of Youth" speeches, which an army parlance clearly showed that they had a true appreciation of the situation.

Wearing replica medals of her grandfather who served in North Africa, France and Burma in WWII Pippa said Australia was a free democratic country because of the sacrifices made by assembled veterans and the thousands who paid the supreme sacrifice.

Referring to the College motto "For Others", Brendan said there could be no greater example of this than to lay your life on the line as the veterans had done and as the defence forces were doing on a daily basis. The veterans they were honouring that day were living examples of this attitude, and as a College they were humbled as they strove to carry on this tradition.

Brendan said it was fitting that the Australian of the Year was Lt-Gen Peter Cosgrove, Commander of the forces in East Timor. There was no greater example of the Anzac spirit than when asked why Australians were in East Timor, he replied "There was a big bully in our next door neighbours yard and we simply hopped over the fence to lend a hand".

Geraldton RSL has always encouraged young people to wear their father's, grandfather's or great grandfather's medals, and there was no prouder participant in our main Anzac Day parade than 4 year old Tom Rowe of Mullewa.

He wore the medals of his late great grandfather, RAAF veteran Tom Mann of

Mingenew, when travelling in a vintage vehicle with his other great grandfather, Max Burr a WW2 veteran.

Hearty congratulations to Eric Weller for participating in the Perth Anzac Day parade in a wheelchair, accompanied by proud family members. Eric and his wife Patricia and other relations were pictured in the "Geraldton Guardian" newspaper, shots which were taken in association with TAFE graduation ceremony at Geraldton.

It was great to have a surprise visit from Henry Sproxton and Happy Greenhalgh (NSW). I must be off now as other duties call, God bless you all.

Peter Barden

Happy Greenhalgh writes:-

My visit to the West was better than last October as Harry was so much better in health. So much so, that we were able to go to Geraldton for a couple of days. On our way up the Northern Highway we called in Three Springs to see Chook Fowler, he was in pretty good shape for a bloke having his 89th birthday the day before Anzac Day. He seemed quite surprised he had made it thus far, but I think he has a few more birthdays to come yet.

Jack is very lucky in that he has his daughter living only a few miles from town. He gets regular visits.

In Geraldton Harry & I visited Peter Barden at his lovely little retreat. Peter is having trouble with his legs but doesn't appear to let it get him down. He was flat out preparing the local RSL Sub Branch submission. They couldn't have picked a better bloke I bet. We had a happy hour or so with him on the Friday morning.

Tom Foster and Mary had afternoon tea with us at our motel unit. It was fortunately their weekly visit for shopping in Geraldton from their property at Allanooka, which is about 40 miles out. Mary supplied a nice cake. There's a lesson there somewhere. I wonder could we arrange for visitors for afternoon tea to please bring the cake, you might have started something Mary.

Tom is one of those blokes who never seem to alter. See his photo in the old once taken at Larrimah and he is just the same. He was able to get down to Perth for Anzac Day & marched. It was great to see you both.

The march in Perth was great and from what I heard it was very good in all states. Jack said there were 22 at the Terrace Hotel dinner and it was good to see them all.

One of the advantages for me to be there on that day is I see more than I would at other times of the year. It was good also to meet Ron Archer who was visiting from Queensland and also marched. I must mention that there were 4 of us Sigs there, Dusty Studdy looking a ball of style, Gerry Maley holding up well and Don Murray who told me he is having a bit of leg trouble too.

I always used to joke with Bill Epps on the number of Sigs versus Sappers at functions. Sigs always won but I think I should confess we had a lot more Sigs in the unit than Sappers.

I rang Alan Luby in Sydney and he said he & Edith were still plugging along. I also rang Bill Coker and he & Coral are well.

I got back home and did the phone around, and all are present and correct Sir.

Russ Blanch after a visit to Greenslopes in my absence is much better on some new tablets, and is sure they're the answer. He is right into his garden again and it looks as though he'll be right into the Spring Competition again this year. I am trying to plan my busy itinerary to get up to Bangalow and check him out. Ted Cholerton reports that he is progressing slowly but like the tortoise he will get there. He is most ably assisted by wife Dianne. I rang Beryl Cullen to report on Sprocky as she always asks after him. Beryl is pretty well. Still out of Kyogle on her property where she and Jim lived for so long. Eric Herd & Lorraine from Iluka are both well and hitting the little white ball, then chasing after in the buggy. Makes it a lot easier Eric reckons. Iluka is a lovely spot on the North side of the mouth of the Clarence River. That's where Jack & Beryl Steen came to from Queensland to do their fishing. So long as a rotten flood doesn't interrupt plans, eh Jack.

Jack & Beryl are both well probably planning their next trip down this way. Don't make it too late mate!

The prawn trawlers have been getting some of their biggest catches in years; apparently the recent floods have pushed them out to sea.

Ken & Edith Jones from Barraba are both doing well and Ken still, like Eric & Lorraine still hitting the little white ball. Must be ok to do that. It is that long since I tried, I think I would have an air swing.

Tom & Jean Yates doing okay at Kyogle, although Jean gets a bit of trouble from arthritis. I suggested she try my saviour Prednisolone. After my flare up in 97 it was the only stuff that did me any good. Some of my bowling mates have had similar good results.

I spoke at length with Bill & Beryl Walsh from West Kempsey. Bill's having bother getting over the six bypasses he had. He is expecting to get some results from blood tests next Tuesday. Hang in there Bill we are all thinking of you.

Regards to all and keep well
G.Greenhalgh (Happy)

Victorian News.

Once again Anzac Day has come around and we had a beautiful day for the march – unfortunately I was the only one from the 2/2nd to march so it was a lonely march but I enjoyed it. After the march I went on to the reunion at Eden On Park Motel where the combined Commandos have their reunion and the 2/2nd numbers increased by two as Bruce McLaren and John Southwell came along. Bruce is unable to march and John had a leg problem – injured it playing bowls (did not know the game was so rough!) I had the pleasure to give Bruce his life membership badge, which has been richly deserved for his services to the Victorian Branch. We have been waiting a long time to get Bruce along to a function as he has always had a problem with his health. We had apologies from Tom Nisbet, Rolf Baldwin and Alf Harper that have problems to do the march and Leith Cooper was anticipating in his local R.S.L. at Cowes with their Anzac Day and Jack Fox.

We were very saddened to hear of the passing of Johnny Roberts. Unfortunately Olive and I were unable to get to the funeral. Leith Cooper will be giving his report on the funeral and was doing the eulogy. Margaret Monk gave a wreath on behalf of the 2/2nd Association. My own memory of Johnny is of his 80th birthday earlier this year and seeing him so happy and talking so well. Our deepest sympathies to Cath and family.

Harry Botterill.

ROGER DUNKLEY M.O.

On the eve of the 60th anniversary of the formation of the unit in July 1941, we thought it would be fitting to pay a small tribute to our first medical officer Captain Rodger "DOC" Dunkley.

His youngest son Stuart (Pip) Dunkley has kindly provided the following short biography on his father.

CHARLES RODGER DUNKLEY 1899-1969
Charles Rodger Dunkley (hereafter called Rodger) was born in South Melbourne 5 October 1899, the son of Charles Alfred Dunkley and Jane Rodger Dunkley.

At an early age his father, who was a ships officer, was drowned whilst attempting to save a swimmer in difficulties at a suburban Melbourne beach. This unfortunate incident left Jane a widow, with 2 children, Rodger and his younger brother Alfred.

In search of a more secure future for her children Jane left Rodger and Alfred in the care of her family relations and moved to Western Australia where she gained employment as a nursing assistant in the Goldfields town of Leonora. It was during this time that she met, and subsequently married a pharmaceutical chemist by the name of Frank Ernest Gibson, later to become Sir Frank Gibson, Mayor of the City of Fremantle and Member of the West Australian Legislative Council.

In about 1911, Jane sent for her children and it was Rodger, aged 11, who responsibly brought Alfred to Kalgoorlie on the Trans-Australia train to be reunited with their mother and to meet their soon to be stepfather, Frank Gibson.

The journey across the continent was, no doubt, a dark frightening experience for this young boy but he accepted responsibility then as he accepted it for the remainder of his life.

The new family located to Fremantle & Rodger was educated at the Perth Modern School. He completed his schooling at the end of the school year of 1915, and it was in 1916 that he volunteered for service with the Australian Imperial Force. After his basic training he was posted to 28th Battalion, a WA unit and saw active service in France. In 1918 Rodger succumbed to the Spanish Flu epidemic and spent almost 12 months recuperating in various Australian general hospitals, including some months in Italy. A legacy of this illness was the weak chest and associated respiratory problems that accompanied him on the remainder of his journey through life.

On his return to Australia he was accepted by the University of Melbourne as an Undergraduate in the Faculty of Medicine and for the next 6 years he studied hard. During this time he lived at the University of Melbourne's "Ormand" College. Upon graduation, Rodger returned to Western Australia and was granted an internship at Fremantle Hospital.

It was during this time that he met Jessie Mary Mackay, a resident of Fremantle. They were married in 1928 and settled in Ellen Street Fremantle. They had 2 sons, Ross born in 1931 and Stuart (Pip) in 1934.

Rodger conducted a busy practice up to 1940 when he again, answered the call and in due course, became the inaugural Medical Officer of the 2nd Australian Independent Company and accompanied that unit to Timor. Your members will know more of his exploits there than I do; suffice to say that he accepted the responsibility of his commission honourably and with the compassion of his calling.

On the units return to Australia, Rodger departed the ranks of 2/2nd and for the remainder of the war years he was engaged in duties pertaining to service with the Royal Australian Medical Corps. This included active service in Borneo, where he was sta-

tioned at the time of the Japanese capitulation.

After "de-mob" he returned to his Fremantle practice from which he retired in 1964. Until the time of his death Rodger was the District Officer for the Western Australian Police Service and was also Area Medical Officer for the Army.

In 1968 he and Jess sold the family home in Fremantle and built a new house in Swanbourne. He was able to continue his passion for gardening and in particular, roses, at this abode until his death on 14 May 1969 aged 69 years.

Rodger Dunkley was a humble man. He was a good role model to all; honourable, loyal, sincere and his integrity could not be questioned. He was his own man but fair to all others. He could not tolerate "bludgers" or "free loaders" and, at times, appeared to be intolerant of others. However, if you were "down and out" and it looked like the end of the road, Rodger Dunkley was there for you with a kind word and a helping hand. His compassion was boundless.

Pip Dunkley..

The "Doc" as he was affectionately known, was the unit's Medical Officer (M.O) from its formation in July 1941 to December 1942. He did an outstanding job throughout the difficult and hazardous Timor campaign in 1942. He soon made it clear to the men to whom he was responsible, that he would stand no nonsense.

If a man was genuinely sick the Doc and his orderlies would do all that they could for the soldier, but woe betide anyone who tried to put one over. The "Doc" a World War 1 veteran, would give the malingerer a nice old tongue lashing, and send him on his way. They seldom tried it again.

The Doc was really put to the test early in 1942 when 90% of the men went down with malaria in the course of a few weeks. The Doc and his staff worked around the clock in makeshift wards, caring for the men day in and day out until they were back on their feet again. The subsequent decision on his recommendation, to move the men away from the mosquito infested drome area to

the nearby mountains, had the effect of getting the troops back in fighting shape.

This was to eventually enable the 2/2nd men to carry out a successful campaign against the Japs after they occupied Dili on 20th February 1942.

The Doc was forced to make a number of moves so he could carry on his good work, restoring the health of the sick, attending the wounded and those with serious tropical diseases, Railaco, Same and Ainaro were some of these places. Ainaro eventually became his main base. Up until the end of April, medical supplies were limited, but once contact was made with the mainland things began to improve.

Those survivors of the campaign will remember the great care and attention he gave Alan Hollow, Keith Hayes, Gerry Maley, Eddie Craighill, and others, who were badly wounded and seriously ill. The Doc, who painted his back with iodine and nursed him back to health, saved Colin Doig who was at deaths door when the natives carried him in with double pneumonia.

Those with ulcers always grimaced when the Doc used to scrape out the pus and poison with a spoon. Ulcers turn very nasty in the tropics. God knows how many men the Doc and his orderlies treated in those hectic 12 months, but to his credit Rodger Dunkley never wavered, he did a mighty job.

Don Turton likes to tell the story that when he and the Doc set out with a small escort to rescue Gerry Maley, who was wounded and was being cared for by the natives in a hut, in a Jap area, they sighted a number of Japs swimming in a pool some distance away, "lets do them over" said the Doc. Don had to talk him out of his suggestion, saying it could jeopardise the chance of rescuing Gerry. The Doc reluctantly agreed and Gerry was duly rescued.

Why Rodger Dunkley's outstanding contribution on Timor went unrecognised is a sore point with all those who served in that campaign, and were aware of the great work he had done there. If ever a man was entitled to a Distinguished Service Order it was he. It was a great injustice. Maybe it was be-

cause of the change of command during the campaign, firstly Alec Spence then Bernie Callinan and finally Geoff Laidlaw. It was an oversight on someone's part that no commendation for a higher award was ever made, apart from a M.I.D. These things happen in the army. Not that it would have upset the Doc, he was not an honour seeking man, and his main concern was always for the men under his care. We could not have had a better man for our M.O.

The orderlies, who assisted Rodger during his time with us in Cliff Paff, Alan Luby, Fred Sparkman, Alec Wares, and Boy Coates, also deserve a special mention.

Jack Carey

AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPERS RE-BUILD SCHOOL FOR 200 STUDENTS IN EAST TIMOR

High in the hills above Dili East Timor, Australian Peacekeepers beavered away to provide the village of Dare with a school for their 200 plus students.

The previous schoolhouse had fallen into disrepair, as the coordinator of the project Warrant Officer Class 1 (WO1) Bruce Reilly explained.

'It was an old bush style double classroom with 220 kids using it. It's made of bush material with the roof made of old rusted corrugated and thatching, which leaks quite badly. It's not a good teaching environment, there are no blackboards or any furniture. Generally the building is in a very poor unstable condition,' said WO1 Riley.

WO1 Riley was initially asked whilst he was visiting the memorial to the 2/2 and 2/4 Independent Companies, if he could have a look at the school and see if there was a possibility of providing volunteer work to help repair it.

"I went up there for a visit and was a bit taken aback by the amount of work that needed to be done. It was bigger than just a couple of blackboards or a few chairs and tables. The double classroom needed to be com-

pletely refurbished. I approached the Commander Australian National Command Element, Colonel Stephen Dunn about taking it on as a project"

Shortly after WO1 Riley's visit to the school and the memorial the Captain of the USS Boxer contacted Colonel Dunn and asked if the Australian military had a task that the ships company could help with. After reviewing the schools requirements both the Australians and Americans decided to support it and they then swung into action.

Picking up a variety of building supplies ranging from timber, concrete and toilets and all the other essentials required for building a project of this type from Darwin. The USS Boxer delivered it to Comoro Beach, storming ashore using US Marine Hovercraft and the twin rotor CH46 helicopters to deliver the goods.

Having delivered the materials to Comoro Beach just outside Dili, the major task to deliver the materials to the school high in the hills above Dili, had just begun. Traveling along the winding roads up through the steep hills surrounding Dili the Australian and American service men and woman delivered their cargoes to an eager team of their co-workers. The difficulty of the terrain in which these volunteers worked was clearly demonstrated when the concrete for the footings had to be poured. Locals of all ages joined in to help in the concrete Congo line moving concrete down the hill. The laughter emanating from the line of bouncing buckets of concrete was a promising sign of the camaraderie that was to develop between the three groups

Over the three days of the project the Diggers had the opportunity to work alongside American service personnel from the Marine Corps, Army, Navy and Air Force. The sharing of rations, jokes and the exchanging and trading of service memorabilia was a clear indication of the camaraderie that developed over that time with a common task in mind.

The Villagers of Dare now have a new school, which will provide a better healthier learning environment for their children, a refurbished pool and an even stronger bond with Australian service men and women established during the darkest days of World War II.

DOCTOR WHO?

By Elsie Jordan

Recently I celebrated the 82nd anniversary of my birth. I creaked out of bed, looked in the mirror, a brave thing to do so early in the morning, and said to my reflection "Well you've made it for another year in spite of all those dire predictions Mum made in your far distant childhood"

Mark wanted to know what I was mumbling about, so I informed him my mother had always been convinced that I would be an early candidate for death from consumption (T.B to you).

This was because she had lost a sister to that disease many years before and she was sure I had inherited the tendency. So, I had to be cosseted and protected from every ill and chill because of my "weak lungs". Mark said, "I thought your lungs were okay" I said "Of course they are - they always have been. Maybe it's because of some of those awful concoctions my mother used to brew up for me, and all those ghastly poultices and fomentals I had slapped on my chest. Perhaps they really did work".

Then Mark and I started to reminisce about the way our mothers had dosed and doc-tored us in childhood.

You see we were children of the Great Depression years, one did not run to a doctor with every symptom of sickness as we do now because, no one could afford it, and Mother could fix it just as good as any doctor. We recalled and laughed over some of those homemade remedies.

Mark said his mum was great believer in aspirin and quinine, the dreadful, bitter, liquid sort, not the neat little swallow down quick tablets as now. These were used to cure practically everything from headaches

to sore toes and everything in between. She also fixed most "off colour" symptoms with a large dose of castor oil (ugh).

Occasionally Mark and his siblings were treated to a good big spoonful of sulphur and treacle! Presumably this was to generally clean out and pep up their systems.

Now on the other hand my mother pinned her hopes of curing my (supposedly) poor health by making me swallow various brews she made up herself from recipes gathered from friends & newspaper cuttings, which purported to be "wonderful for curing weak lungs". I still shudder when I recall some of the awful tasting brews.

Later she heard that olive oil was wonderful for the lungs, so I had to have a great spoonful of that- night and morning! If my internal plumbing was not working properly I was given, not castor oil thank goodness, but a good dose of "Syrup of Figs". This I rather liked as it was nice and sweet, although its consequences were a tad unpleasant.

Mark and I both recalled Flavine, a disinfectant, and Iodine dabbed neat on cuts and wounds, which sent you practically through the roof. Thank God for Betadine these days. And then there was Bate's Salve. Anyone remember it? This was a half-inch square stick of some sort of black stuff encased in gauze. The end of the stick was melted with a lighted match & then drizzled onto a piece of cloth and plonked (HOT) onto anything that needed to be brought up to a head." This included boils, infected sores etc etc. Another little doozie used for the same purpose was a soap and sugar plaster, but was only used when the Bates Salve couldn't be afforded.

However my own mothers' "piece de resistance" was some stuff called "Antiphlogestine" (I hope that I spelt that right) commonly referred to as "Auntie Flo."

This came in a large round tin (aluminium?) container & looked like chewing gum that has been masticated for hours- grey & elastic. The tin was stood in boiling water until the contents were spreadable and then, very hot and horrible, it was knifed onto a piece of cloth, covered with more cloth, and slapped hot, hot, HOT onto whichever part of my

body my mother considered to need the inflammation reduced. This was usually my poor little chest but occasionally round my neck for swollen glands. This delightful dressing was then covered with flannel so the heat could not escape too easily and bound round with a piece of sheeting. This plaster was left in place, under protest, until it was cold and dry, at which time it was deemed to have done its job and was removed.

Mark remembered having a sore throat painted with a feather dipped in kerosene. How did he survive that one?

I got off lightly by having to gargle with salt and water for the same complaint (except that it made me vomit). We both remembered camphor bags hung round our necks to keep us from colds and from all our friends too!

There was Eucalyptus, three drops on a spoonful of sugar, and also rubbed onto our throats and chests until we were red raw. It used to work though, no self-respecting cold germ would dream of coming near us. If we had a stuffed up nose, we had to hang over a bowl of very hot water with a towel draped over our heads and inhale the steam from the water, to which had been added stuff called "Friars Balsam".

We must have been quite hardy to survive some of these treatments and who is to say they were not good for us?

After all, we have survived poverty stricken childhoods, the Great Depression years, World War 11, the Sex Revolution, and we are still hanging in there, coping with the Age of Technology. To paraphrase one of Julie Andrews' songs

"Somewhere in our distant childhood
There must have been something good."
Elsie Jordan.

Timor Memories. Series 10.

"Dutch Courage".

The unsung heroes of the Timor Campaign were the pony train leaders. In this article, Paddy Wilby who did his share in this field, writes of the hazards associated with han-

dling pony teams and of his concern when his creado Berimo, his right hand boy had a big problem. (J. Carey)

These days I seldom go into a pub but when I do I search the shelves to see if there are any bottles of Bols Gin. I don't like the taste of that liquor but it reminds me of something that happened in Timor in April 1942. From what I heard of it the Dutch troops had many cases of Bols Gin stored away in a secret place near Maubara on the North Coast and as the Japs were getting closer to Maubara someone in authority either Dutch or Aussie reckoned it would be a good idea to either rescue or capture all that gin and ration it out to the troops. So in due course the gin cache was "captured and distributed to the various platoons, headquarters and then the sections where every man was to get a measure of this gin until the supply was exhausted. Everything went according to plan with everyone receiving his daily measure for a few days.

My creado's name was Berimo, who nearly always was smiling as he had a good set of teeth to display.

He and sapper George Strickland had a shyacking match going, always poking fun at each other or at me. One night we had the guards out doing their usual things guarding the camp and the rest of were sitting around the campfire sipping gin slowly trying to make it last forever when suddenly the old chief sitting opposite us picked up a hot coal out of the fire and flicked it onto Berimo's chest. He didn't yell out. The chief then said a few words. Then Berimo started to sob uncontrollably. I drew him aside and asked him "What's all this crying about?" He told me he had been cursed by the old chief and that he had been sentenced to die. More sobs. The chiefs action had something to do with a dispute that had occurred between the chiefs and Berimo's family years before and as Berimo's father had already died naturally Berimo was next in line to inherit the curse and he had just turned up at the wrong place and the wrong time to receive the curse.

Stricky said to me, "Paddy, this is something like the aboriginals in the north-west of Aus-

tralia do. If someone offends them they point the bone at the intended victim and the victim goes away lays down and is prepared to die even though the procedure may take a week or so. Nothing but their death will bring the out of that self induced trance." Oh hell!" says I, "We've got plenty of trouble on our hands with Berimo".

I wasn't going to leave Berimo to his fate. He was a valuable creado to me and others wanted him too should anything happen to me. During the Jap naval shelling of Dili he had been in jail there and escaped and came to me at Railaco where we were very busy salvaging ammo and explosives and other gear from the dump there. I noticed he was used to authority and knew how to handle the other natives in doing his bidding. He told me he was a future chief of his tribe in the mountains above Atsabe. All this I was yet to see. Later on he and I swam plenty of ponies laden down with ammo etc across flooded rivers. We would get 10 to 20 across to a safe place on the other side. Sometimes we would lose some ponies in the process. We would find most of them and their handlers washed up about 100 yards downstream but finishing up with all or some of their ammo on the intended riverbank. Sad to say some didn't make it at all. They finished up being washed out to sea, ponies, handlers, ammo, the lot. Blokes like Paddy Kenneally and others who worked on the early pony pack trains can tell you it wasn't all beer and skittles. There was a fair bit of danger attached to it. Well, I suppose that's war.

Sometimes these pony pack trains would consist of 40 to 50 laden ponies and the shot was to lead by example. And that's why Berimo and I and some willing natives would swim across first hanging onto a ponies tail whenever we could. After arriving on the opposite bank we would join about ten or twenty feet pieces of rope together to use as a lifeline, tying one end to a reliable tree if one was available if not we would just have to rely on the strength of the natives to hold it. (It never entered my head they might let it go if things got too tough.) Berimo and I would then swim back across with the lifeline and tie it to something on the other bank. If not

we would just have to let it go loose and trust in luck or God. Once that was done we would make each fearful handler grab his pony's lead rope then get a good grip with the other hand on the lifeline. Berimo would then get on the down side of the lifeline whilst hanging on to that with one hand he would urge the first handler and pony into the water. The others would follow, I was at the back threatening to shoot them (later on) if they didn't but once they were all in the water hanging on to and moving forward they all became lightheaded and treated the job as though they were setting out for a picnic. Berimo and I would have to yell at them to take the job more seriously or they would get washed away. The beauty of all this was once a boy had done one safe crossing he was looking forward to the next. All this is an introduction to what a valuable person Berimo was to lose to a silly chief's curse. Later on Berimo went on many patrols, o.pips etc. But back to the gin and the curse in April 1942.

Berimo settled down to his dying by wrapping a white band around his head. By this time as well as crying he was sweating profusely. Stricky said "We will have to do something about making him forget about dying — hows about filling him up with gin?" We put this suggestion to a few of the blokes present, some were in agreeance to giving him a tot or two from their own ration, others were dead against it especially Sgt. Slim James who said "What are you trying to do? Turn him into an alcoholic. In future whenever anything goes wrong in his life he will want to turn to the grog". We conceded that Slim did have a slight point, but this was a drastic situation and something had to be done quickly. So I said "Give Berimo my ration and see what happens". Stricky said, "He can have mine too". After a bit of a struggle George and I poured my gin ration down Berimo's throat. After about a quarter of an hour it began to take effect. Berimo stopped crying and appeared to forget all about the curse and even smiled. Then Piffy, Piffy (he couldn't say 50-50) Jimmy Veales creado, was silly enough to remind Berimo of the curse. Other creados then began doing likewise. By now there were three schools of thought regarding the curse. Us Aussies, who were once sceptical, now

for our own peace of mind, regarded it as all bullshit. Then the local natives who strongly believed in the curse and the non locals whom we had picked up in our travels who also reckoned it was all a load of bull.

So after Piffy, Piffy undid all our good work on Berimo he started crying again. So George and I poured George's ration down Berimo's throat. Slim piped up, "There I told you you'd turn him into an alky". Then our section leader Sgt. Gerry Green arrived on the scene and wanted to know what was going on. I did my best to explain. He asked me "How many pack train trips have you yet to do from Hatolia?" I said "At least two". He said "Well get out and do them immediately and above all make sure you take Berimo while he is entering into a forgetful and happy mood". That night we both slept well in the open. When Berimo awoke he asked me what happened yesterday. I said "Nothing, as far as I know". He replied, "I think something funny happened yesterday". And started smiling his continuous smile again. I wondered what sort of spirits he was seeing now. Whatever they were I hoped they were good spirits and they would hang around for a while longer. Three cheers for Bols Gin!

Paddy Wilby, October 1992.

A. Luby, Dee Why, N.S.W.

Dear Jack, I'm trying to get in early this time to save a last minute panic, and to give you an opportunity to sort out your copy!

Also these days I just have to grab what time I can between Edith's needs and appointments. Believe me, it's being a long haul back.

Her knee replacement in itself has been quite successful, but the side effects such as deep bruising, ulcers, and staph infection are slow in healing and have sapped all energy. I am not complaining but it has become a full time caring job and debars me from many of my usual contacts. I recently read a comment that "the job isn't hard if you're doing it for someone you love" and I guess that's a good philosophy.

The March Courier presented us with a great word picture of your activities over in W.A. – what a pity we are so far away and so de-

pleted in our own numbers that we can't have a similar report.

I must get busy and send my deposit to Mildura and hope to be there next year. If not it might buy a drink in the Long Bar at the old Mildura Hotel.

Had a very pleasant phone call from Bert Bache in late January whilst he and Sylvia were in Sydney to take in some of the Arts Festival. Thanks Bert. Thanks too for the many phone calls we have had from members and widows who keep in contact. That includes Hap Greenhalgh and his regular reports from the North Coast and Harry Handicott in the Newcastle area.

I hope many of you saw the Centenary of the Australian Army Parade a couple of weeks ago – a real cavalcade of progress and most spectacular in its presentation on a perfect day. By the time this issue goes to press the 4 R.A.R. (CDO) will have relieved 1 R.A.R. in Timor and be well settled in. There was a suggestion that some 42 veterans might be able to go with them particularly to attend their Anzac Day service at our Memorial, but our latest advice is very much in the negative.

I trust some of the information I have been sending to you and Bob Smyth will help to co-ordinate some of the aid to those Timorese who really need it.

Anzac Day is drawing close and I doubt if this will reach you in time but will phone a greeting through beforehand. I guess we will only have four or five present on parade due to our losses and the ills of ageing.

I must call it a day – will leave it to you to use what you need and can only hope we have no bad news to add to the next edition.

Best wishes to everyone from N.S.W. and particularly Edith and myself. Keep as well as you can.

Alan Luby. 2/4/01

Paddy Kenneally, Yagoona, N.S.W.

Dear Jack, This is for the Courier, that is if it is not too late. This is very hurried, I hope you can read the scrawl. By the time you

are reading this I'll be in Ireland. Nora and I leave on Friday, 11th May arriving in Cork about 11.15 am. Saturday 12th. The weather played "ducks and drakes" with all the outside jobs I had to do. Cleared up today so I managed to get the essentials done.

Anzac Day came and Anzac Day went. The 2/2nd didn't put much strain on it. Alan Luby, Col Holly, Harry Handicott and myself not even half a rank. Alan's friend Alan Grey up from Wollongong brought us up to a one-hand count. Col Holly and Harry Handicott by far the fittest and most mobile. I don't know how the others felt, I don't mean healthwise, just about the day itself. I just could not get into the feel of it. I had a couple of beers with Gerald and Michael before setting out for the ferry. I had one solitary beer on the ferry. I got back to Circular Quay about 3.30. I went up to Millers Point had one beer there where I did not see one person I knew. Ran into a bloke from the 2/3rd Bn., had a bit of a yarn and headed for home. Nora nearly had a heart attack seeing me so early. She thought I was sick! I reckon I've had only one quieter Anzac Day, and that was in Auckland, New Zealand, exactly 50 years ago. I called over to see "Drip" Hilliard a couple of weeks ago. Drip still raised a grin but the only news he had, someone broke into the house, hoisted Pat's bag, and Drip's wallet, which he opened, inspected and dropped on the floor. Nothing taken, nothing to take. Pat wasn't so lucky. Her bankcard went and so did her pin number, 1800 dollars removed from her account, only 800 of which the bank will repay. That was because they paid out that 800 after Pat had reported her loss. Glen, the son was also unlucky, his card went off also. The bank had to take responsibility for that. They paid out on the thief's forged signature, plus the photo on his driver's license, which had no resemblance, whatsoever to Glen. As I said Drip was smiling but they had little to smile about.

I went to see Curly O'Neill last week. He is getting by, but is very weak on his legs so his mobility is greatly affected. Whilst physically Curly has taken a battering his mind is as active as ever. Curly is a prodigious reader. He gets about a dozen books at a

time from the library. They aren't penny dreadfuls or a mindless collection of nonsense. Curly is extremely well informed, not only on current events in Australia but Europe, Asia and the U.S. as well. He can't get around too well bodily; his mind however wanders the world.

My Family or rather our family is all well. Helen and Peter were planning to go to Ireland later in the year. However our dollar down in the cellar, plus the high cost of living in Ireland puts a brake on any overseas travelling for a family. The dollar won't stay where it is forever.

I haven't heard how Bill Coker is faring. "Snow" Went up in Newcastle; he didn't come down for Anzac Day. Last time I saw him was at Jack Hartley's funeral, he was hale and hearty then.

Chris Hartley marched with us on Anzac Day, and came out in the ferry. Chris enjoyed the day and the experience, and like his father he does not view the world through the bottom of a glass.

I hope all our members in the West enjoyed their Anzac Day but way and beyond that I hope all are reasonably healthy considering the years of the Lord, we as a body have chalked up. So happiness and contentment be constantly with you.

Paddy Kenneally.

Ron & Hazel Morris, Canberra, A.C.T.

Dear Friends, What a beautiful summer and autumn we have had, the only drawback is that we have not had a good rain for weeks and Hazel has to water each day.

We see a lot of Joan Fenwick and we still have afternoon teas with Fred and Erica Bagley.

We saw Betty Craig when she was last with Joan. We had morning coffee with her. She looked very well.

We have not yet been able to make up our minds with reference to the Safari in Mildura next year. Our decision rests with Ron's ability to manage a week away from home. He has good days and bad days but we'll keep our fingers crossed.

I keep in touch with Alan Luby by phone and mail. They too have had a very distressing year. You just do not think your child will pass away before you. We miss Reg more every day.

Must leave now, as it is cup of tea time.

Our regards to all 2/2nd in W.A.

God Bless, Ron and Hazel.

P.S. I hope you are still in touch with Glen Hibberd (Porky to his friends). He is a great mate. Ron.

Australian Army, S.A.S. Swanbourne, W.A.

Dear Jack, I am writing to thank the 2/2nd Commando Association for their very generous hospitality on Anzac Day. I apologise for not having the opportunity to stay for lunch, but as you can appreciate, it is a day of many Unit commitments and activities.

It is always an honour and a pleasure to meet on this one day of the year when we are humbled by the bravery and determination of members of the 2/2nd Commando. The same qualities are evident in your ongoing commitment to the People of Timor and it is a privilege to be of some small assistance to your efforts there.

Once again, thank you and I look forward to meeting again.

Yours sincerely,

P.W. Gilmore.

Lieutenant Colonel

Commanding Officer.

The R. & S. L of Aust. W.A. Branch.

Hon Sec. 2/2nd Commando Assoc. Aus.

Dear Jack, "Sprit of Anzac Tour 2001"

On behalf of the State Executive and the WA Branch I write to thank you for your wonderful donation recently received in support of the above program.

The generosity of you members will help the League in Western Australia to successfully achieve its objective to enable the four winners of RSL Awards to visit WW1 Battlefields in France and Gallipoli during April 2001.

Yours sincerely,

K.J. Bladen LTCOL (RTD)

State President.

Jess Epps, Karrinyup, W.A.

Dear Jack

I have just had a wonderful holiday, not one of my usual trips. Left 27th March arrived at Proserpine on 28th met by my other son Terry and daughter-in-law Linda. Great as usual to see ones' family. We stayed at Cannonvale Caravan Park for two and half weeks. Delightful spot surrounded by Palms, rainforest, lawns and beautiful gardens. Did a lot of walking, reading or just laying around. Weather, lot of rain and nice winds to keep me cool. Walked along the foreshore to Airlie Beach quite a bit. Last February they opened a fantastic seawater pool, which was surrounded with paths, gardens and lots of lawns, kids and adult pools. There are two lifesavers on duty daily and all free. Great place to stay. The only thing that I could not get used to was whilst having my daily shower I had to share the shower with geckos, lizards, spiders, moths and butterflies.

From Shute harbour Linda and I had a great trip to the Whitsunday Islands, Barrier Reef, took the Yellow Sub. Unfortunately I was bumped and in the process lost my sunnies and camera overboard, much to my disgust at losing some of the film, which was in the camera, I will not ever get again.

Our next stay was in Bowen, where we had Anzac day and met up with George & Margo Shiels. They both look great and have a lovely place. George is into the RSL etc. I had lunch with them, and they are looking forward to Mildura next year.

Linda, Terry & I went to the Dawn Service, a good crowd with speeches and singing, something different. Had two weeks of perfect weather, swimming in the pool, laying around under the coconut palms on the waterfront, reading and getting a tan. Met a dear old lady who has been buying a loaf of bread a day for the past 13 years, to feed the birds in the park. At brekkie they come and settle on her and the table. Lovely to see. I could get used to living in a caravan to start doing just that. Terry and Linda have been doing it for 30 years now.

Off again to Townsville, I travelled by bus (their vehicle only seats 2), and then went to another lovely caravan park on the waterfront again. Too bad you can't swim in the ocean between Nov and May (stingers!!!).

Maybe most of you have been to Townsville. Great long mall of shopping, which is used for markets on Sunday. Forgot I bought a ticket at Airlie Beach market for Red Cross and won a big box of fruit & vegies. Problem had to get them back to camp. Terry and Linda who walk a lot carried their spoils, but I cheated and caught the bus.

Both Army and RAAF Museums very interesting. Went to REEF HQ, which is a beautiful oceanarium. After Townsville time to head back to the west, caught train Monday pm arrived Brisbane next day, had overnight stay, train to Sydney, another overnight stay. Then onto the Indian Pacific, just in time for afternoon tea. Ended up having a cabin all to myself, (bliss), definitely the only way to travel these days, no cooking, cleaning, and lots of different company. Arrived Perth 9.30am Mothers' day. Did not want to stay, wanted to get back on the train and go back.

Might travel to Mildura by train.

Jess.

P.S. Caught up with Doreen & Lucky (John) Goodhew, had lunch with them. They have a lovely garden. Lucky still likes his noggin or two. Both looked very well. Lucky has a cocky with a great range of vocabulary and when he goes to bed he always asks the cocky "Are you asleep yet?" to which the bird replies, "no, not yet!"

Tom Pulleine, Young.

Jack, Please find enclosed cheque, and use it where it's most needed. The Courier is great as usual. I don't know how you do it but you do.

For all those on sick parade, I wish you well and may God bless you all. It's very sad to see so many leaving us but that's the way the "cookie crumbles".

Regards Tom.

Isobel Jane Lewante McCaul, Como.

Dear Jack, Please find enclosed cheque for \$20 for the Courier or what ever.

Sincerely yours, Isobel Jane Lewante McCaul.

Nellie Mullins, Morley.

Dear Jack, A donation for the Courier and to say hello to everyone. I'm fit and well, hope everyone is the same.

Thanks to Len and Betty for all their good work they have done over the years. Regards Nellie Mullins.

Betty Hopkins, St. James.

The Sec. Dear Jack, Kindly pass on my regards to one and all. Enclosed cheque towards Courier expenses.

Sincerely, Betty Hopkins.

R. Gregg, Beresfield.

Dear Sir, Please accept this donation for journal and Trust Fund.

R. Gregg.

Ian Scott, Neutral Bay.

Dear Jack, Enclosed please find cheque, the disposal of same I leave to your discretion.

I send my usual belated best wishes for 2001 to you and all those members who contribute so much to the production of the "Courier".

I trust all are as well as the increasing years permit.

Yours sincerely, Ian Scott.

Daphne Wallis, Gibbling.

Dear Ed, 2/2 Commando Courier,

It has been very remiss of me over the years but at last I am putting pen to paper to say thank you for sending me the Courier. I do so enjoy reading it. I have not met many of the boys, but Wilbur always spoke of them in the Timor Campaign. Ted Monk was one of Wilbur's special friends, it was lovely to hear he and Peg are still going. My eyes are not so good so please excuse the scribble.

Enclosed is \$50 cheque for Courier. Thank

you. Wilbur passed away 1983 whilst returning from the Perth reunion. W.S.Wallis, WX9580.

Yours in friendship, Daphne Wallis.

Ron Dook.

Dear Jack, Best wishes to all the boys and self. You are doing a marvellous job.

Ron Dook.

A.R. Beveridge, Toronto, N.S.W.

Enclosed please find cheque for use by the Association and my regards to all members. Yours sincerely, Andy.

Peter & Pat Campbell, Esperance.

Dear Jack & Friends, It is ages since we wrote to you and sent a donation. Please do as you see fit.

Peter is keeping reasonably fit so we have everything packed in the caravan ready to leave for our yearly trip up North. Meeting friends at the Murchison River and going on to Shark Bay for a week or so then on to Cardabia for a month then up to Exmouth for over a month there.

We are leaving in a very dry time; all hoping for opening rains so can get started seeding.

We are looking forward to Exmouth as Terry Harrington is getting married on the 16th June at Lake Side where we camp.

Had a nice visit from Tony Bowers. He and Peter didn't draw breath for the 5 days he was here!

Regards to all Unit, Peter and Pat Campbell.

K.B. Sargeant, Unit 17 Winston House, 50 Channon St., Gympie, Q. 4570.

Dear Jack & Delys, As you can see by the above address I have had to leave my home. Things were getting too much for me. I could no longer manage the steps and found my house too large for one person. So here I am in a Winston House retirement village

unit. I consider at 87 years of age it would have been foolish to make two moves so I settled for here where I can be looked after.

Thank you dears for your lovely Christmas card. Christmas is always a special time for me catching up with my many friends. I was amazed this year to receive 78 cards but what I could not believe was that there were no two alike! I consider I am very fortunate that Jack and I had so many good friends.

I had changed my address at the Post Office and was pleased to receive my Courier. I do look forward to it.

What a wonderful job you good folk have done over the years to keep everyone so well informed with your various functions.

Will you do me a favour Jack and change my address in the Courier for me please?

I often wonder how many of the original "Men of Timor" are still alive. With Timor so much in the news it brings back a lot of memories. Gympie has taken on a Sister Town in Timor "Lagos" and has sent many things there to help rebuild the place. People here have been and still are very generous with donations of all kinds.

I am still hoping to enjoy going to our War Widows meetings Laurel Club and R.S.L. and I'm hoping to go to Anzac day as usual. I always place flowers in memory of Jack and always include "The Brave Men of Timor" on my card.

My best wishes to you both and I hope life will be good to you.

Sincerely, Kathleen.

Ross & Beth Shenn, City Beach.

Dear Jack, Please find enclosed Courier donation.

With regards and best wishes to all.

Ross Shenn

M. Monk & D. Thomson.

Dear 2/2nd Friends, In my last letter to the Courier I told you about Don's granddaughter Nikki being in East Timor. She is a Cor-

those who are not in the best of health, from
Bob Williamson.

Tony Adams, Toowong.

Dear Jack and Delys, What a wonderful job you are both doing with the Courier and what a debt of gratitude we all owe you both. Thank you very much.

Not much news from this neck of the woods. Ralph Connelly passes on all the news. Iris goes into a Caring Centre for a few weeks next weekend while I go into Greenslopes to get a new knee which will be great as this one is passed its used by date.

Don Turton keeps me up to date with news. My kindest regards to one and all especially those that are not 100%.

Enclosed is a donation to the Courier.

Cheers to you both, Tony.

Kel Carthew, Elizabeth North.

Dear Jack, News from South Aust. is very scarce, however I have information of the 2/2nd members. All seem to be going along reasonably well considering the age of the members.

Allan Hollow rang me before our monthly luncheon and is getting around with a walking frame. Bob Williamson has his troubles but seems to be doing okay. Howard Marks is in "The Helping Hand Nursing Home" in Molesworth south, Nth. Adelaide. Howard is having his problems. He suffered a stroke and has difficulty in speaking and hearing. There are a few members of the 2/2nd I haven't been in contact with. Bay Weber who lives in Mt. Gambier and Lisle Litchfield. I saw Lionel Newton 2 or 3 Anzac Days past, he looked well.

At our Commando Lunch, 1st week in April, Sylvia Bache told me that Bert has been through a rough patch following a prolonged recovery after a triple bypass. Late February as S.C.G.C (Squamous Carcinoma and Graft) was performed on his scalp leaving a crater about 1 _ in. square. Surgeon says pathology report is favourable and is heal-

ing well. Unfortunately Bert has been declared legally blind for he" lost central vision in both eyes. The ophthalmologist states it is age related and not diabetes. We all marvel at great medical advances but there is no successful cure for that ailment! Bert tells me that he's responsible for Sylvia's another 1000 grey hairs. He turned 80 in January, but with all the problems he is still smiling.

The Association in Adelaide still has our monthly luncheon at West Lakes. The numbers are getting smaller, however the people who attend look healthy.

On Anzac day I placed a wreath on the Elizabeth R.S.L. Memorial. A large crowd attends this suburban R.S.L. on Anzac morn.

At Christmas we had Ian Ronald and his wife Margaret to our luncheon.

Kel Carthew.

Amyce & Harry Handicott.

Hamilton, N.S.W.

Dear Jack & Delys, I think you said on the phone a letter had to be in by the 20th May – well I just might make it! I think everybody in the area hated the summer but I'm sure they are going to hate the winter more, it's 15.30 and a drizzling 13 degrees.

Marched in Sydney on Anzac Day with Alan, Col Holly, Paddy and Alan Gray. At least we met up on the ferry, had an enjoyable time. Met some of the No.1 Commandos, who are leaving on 27th April for Timor, I think having a good farewell.

Must say a big "thank you" to the retiring Courier team of Betty and Len, "well done".

Had a ring from Happy a while back giving the news from that end. Rang Beryl and Bill Walsh last week. Bill has not come good after his bypasses, he's doing it hard. Not sleeping nights and of course is keeping Beryl awake also. Joyce Smith is going along quietly, about the same she says. Snow Went is hard to catch, last time I spoke he was okay.

Amyce and I are going okay, getting older of course, but hope to make Mildura in a

poral and works in an office, as she is a clerk. She sent the enclosed report regarding the school and the rejuvenation of the memorial at Dare. She sent a photo of herself taken with some happy Timorese children after they had helped her clean out the pool. I am enclosing the letter she sent to her grandfather "Pa Don" and I "Margaret". She enjoys the time she spends outside the office and has seen and mentioned a lot of places that Ken had spoken of over the years.

Don and I attended John Roberts's funeral last week. It was a very nice service in a beautiful church at Neerim South. It was nice that nearly all family members were able to be there. A fuller report will be sent to the Courier. We will miss our good friend John.

Don and I are heading off tomorrow for a short holiday. We thought we'd go before the cold of winter sets in.

Our very best wishes to everyone. From Margaret Monk & Don Thomson.

**Andrew Callinan, 1/58 Mitchell St,
Chifley, N.S.W. 2036.**

Dear Sir, On a recent visit to Melbourne, I was spending some time with my mother, and I was reading to her the latest issue of the Courier. Mum suggested that I arrange for a donation to help off set the costs of publication. Please accept the enclosed cheque with our best wishes.

Mum is well, except for a deterioration of her eyesight and hearing. She remembered some of the names mentioned in the Courier and her memory of "those times" is as sharp as ever. When I told her I'd write a letter to go with the donation she replied "that would be nice because those men meant so much to Daddy".

Personally I remember Anzac Day 1992 when I had the honour of marching with the Western Australian contingent of the 2/2nd and joining them for "refreshments" afterwards. I really enjoyed meeting the "household names" names I had grown up with, heard stories about. At that time a number of you put messages for Dad on my tale recorder. Mum told me that the tape was a source of great joy for

Dad. His whole demeanour would change when the tape was played, he would sit up a bit more, smile and "shine" would return to his eyes.

On that Anzac Day, your spirit and zest for life touched me, you helped me greatly. I had just been made redundant after 17 years with the one company, but this was insignificant compared to the disruptive forces in your lives, depression and war. I'm now making a new career for myself and enjoying it greatly. Recently as part of a course I'm studying, I was asked to write down the 10 best things that you've done. Marching with you in 1992 made the list easily.

I trust that you and the extended 2/2nd family are in good health and that all goes well, or as Dad used to say "as well as can be expected under the circumstances".

Yours sincerely, Andrew Callinan.

R.M. Williamson, Glenelg North.

Dear Jack, Many thanks for the stickers, also Don Turton for his assistance. I am glad to know that Don is progressing well but he always was a tough man and hard to beat so we would expect a good result.

The address you wanted for Carl Marks is:-

H.G. Marks

5 Gill Wing

Helping Hand Care

34 Molesworth St

NTH ADELAIDE. S.A. 5006

I am sure he would be very happy to hear from any of the 2/2nd boys but it is unlikely he would be able to reply personally. We may be able to offer some assistance.

I am keeping very well taking into consideration that years have flown by and are flying by at even greater speed now. My wife has been very sick for several years and is not expected to get any better. My activities are fairly limited and mainly around home, but I expect to meet up with Kel on Anzac Day.

I have enclosed a cheque for the Courier, or where you wish to use it.

My best wishes to you and yours and to all the 2/2nd boys and their families, particularly

year's time.

Will close, wishing Delys and you, and everybody good health.

Cheers, Amyce & Harry Handicott.

Lois Davies, Dickey Beach, Qld.

Dear Jack, Thank you so much for the Couriers I receive, always so much to read and recollect.

I'm enclosing a cheque for \$100 for you to split which way for the Trust Fund and the Courier.

If you have any luck in a re-run of the 2/2nd book, I'd be very grateful.

Best wishes to all, good health and happiness. God blesses.

Lois Davies.

Nina Grachan, Victoria.

Dear Jack, Committee and friends, Enclosed subscription re dues for Courier.

How we will miss the expertise of Betty and Len, so wonderful with words – a great way of expressing, humility, compassion, sympathy and joy. Fondest and best wishes Betty re your health.

It seems, as we grow older we each have a cross to bear re health. Gone are the days when we could skip, jump and run. I too have a few hiccups healthwise, but so truly blessed compared to many.

I read with sadness the passing of so many members. The ranks are slowly closing. To all dear families and friends who have lost your loved one, my sincere sympathy. We in Victoria also lost loved ones including John Roberts. John's courage for many months unsurmountable – a m/m due to him and his devoted family.

To each and every one, my fondest wishes. Every blessing, especially so.

Good health, Sincerely Nina Grachan.

Betty Craig, Bethanga, Victoria.

Dear Everyone, It is ages since I wrote to

the Courier and I am sorry it has been so long.

I am now living in a lovely unit within Philip and Lorraine's home. I am very happy to be here. We live in a small village, Bethanga. Our P.O. Box is 49. 3691. My phone no. is 0260264171.

Bethanga is about 20 minutes from Wodonga and it our shopping centre. Philip has a lovely garden and enjoys working in it.

We drive along the edges of Lake Hume on our way to town. It was wonderful to see it filling up this year.

We had Margaret Monk and Don call in a week ago and had lunch with us. They said they enjoyed their guided tour of the area. Then off to do some more visiting. It was really lovely to see them. I had only been back a few days after having my shoulder operated on. It is doing well and at the present time I am having physio as I have to get the strength back into the arms. Doing well and that is the main thing.

I have been in touch with some of the 2/2nd but have found it difficult at times to write. Now I am not having so much trouble I might be able to do a little more writing. I keep in touch with Joan Fenwick, and we are able to see or hear from other folk. Ron and Hazel Morris, like us all I guess, keep as well as we can. I rang Allan Luby a while back and they were well. I was pleased to hear Bluey Bone and Mary were well. We had many a long chat when Bluey was so ill. Good to know he is so much better.

Now must away and hope all are well. I wish could get to see all the folk, but cant drive now.

Best wishes and love to you all. Sincerely, Betty Craig.

Thos. J. Pulleine, Young, N.S.W.

Dear Jack, Find enclosed newspaper clippings from the local paper may be of some interest. It's good to know that the Memorial is being cared for. I would also like to express my thanks to Betty, Len and son for a wonderful job. Well done. It worries me to

see that the Timor independence is not going smoothly but heres hoping.

Please find enclosed cheque, use for Courier or Trust Fund as you see fit.

God Bless. Tom. Bowls Challenge.

The President of the ex Vietnam Veterans, Bart Mavrick, recently challenged Len Bagley, of 2/2nd Commando Association, to a game of indoor bowls. This resulted in a gathering of 20 bowlers, 10 per side, plus "barrackers" at the Mandurah RSL Hall for a very enthusiastic and rowdy competition. At one stage even the measure had to be used as a decider (this was a serious situation).

The ladies were encouraged to join in, much to their delight and Bart's sister, who was visiting from Sydney, is booked in for a future game.

One of the Viet.Vets, Curly, suggested that the 2/2nd "oldies" should be home in bed. However, the 2/2nd "boys" won on the day.

After nibbles and a few ales, a return match was decided upon for 1pm. on Thursday, May 24th.

From an interested spectator, Betty Bagley.

Pars on People.

Jack and Valerie Hanson live in Hervey Bay, north of Maryborough, Qld. Jack who will be 80 in August has health problems but still has a positive outlook on life. He served in 6 section in Timor and then spent 12 months as an instructor at Canungra being classed as unfit for service in the tropics. He was eventually declared fit and joined the 2/12 Commando Squadron and was in the Borneo landing. Jack some interesting stories regarding the handling of Japanese prisoners after the war ended and has promised to write an article for the Courier of his experiences in this field.

The Epps family has been a tower of strength in the Association since it first saw light of day. The late Bill Epps, Wife Jess and

later son Peter were and still are willing to do anything to help out the Association. Peter's wife Sue joined the team when she was elected to the Courier committee at the A.G.M.

Sue a capable typist, has offered to do whatever extra typing is required and will cooperate with Delys to ensure the Courier is kept up to scratch. Thanks Sue and God bless the Epps family.

We have not seen much of Colin Hodgson in recent years as Colin has a full time job caring for his loving wife Olive who is bed-ridden and needs constant attention. Olive has palsy and other ailments and Colin has devoted all his time to ensure his wife for over 53 years gets all the care and love he can give her. In the early days Colin was a great worker for the Association. He served on the committee for a number of years and was made a life member in 1972. He and Ernie Bingham were great mates and he felt the loss of Bing when he died in April 1997. Colin, Olive and Bing's widow Verna remain close friends. Our thoughts are with you Colin, in these trying times.

It is not known and in fact been an oversight of the Association not to have recognised the part Colin's father Syd Hodgson contributed as a member of the welfare committee, which gave the Association such a great start back in 1946. Syd worked for many years in the produce section of Boans where he was well known as the butter man. A great worker, he played his part along with those other good people on the committee chaired by the late Tom Murray, Don's father. So our apologies Colin, for not paying your late dear old dad the tribute he deserved. I have often thought it was a great pity that we never ever had a function for those on the welfare committee.

Fred Humfreys, who served in 5 section in Timor, is 87 and lives a quiet life in the Swan Cottage Homes, Bentley. Fred enjoys his carpet bowls and is well cared for. Keith Hayes drops in to see Fred now and then and keeps him up to date re his old mates.

He does not get out much and looks forward to the Courier.

Don Young who was 83 in December is finding life very trying. Don's problem is that he still living in his Claremont home while Barbara his wife is in a nursing home in Subiaco. Don has been trying for over 15 months now to get a place where they can be together but to date has had no luck. Don has a few health problems but nothing too serious but the frustration of being apart is getting to him. Don was a member of a big family and grew up in Manjimup. Keep your chin up Don.

Ron Archer and partner Lyn made a short visit to the west in April. Ron looked very debonair in his beret in the Anzac Day march and enjoyed meeting up with a few old mates at the function after. He and Lyn had lunch with Joe & Helen Poynton on the Saturday with Tony Bowers joining in. Helen is a good hostess so it was a happy get-together. A man of ideas Ron has been a good and very generous member for many years. Come again Ron and Lyn.

Nick Love, the son of Bill Lovi, marched with us on Anzac day. Bill Lovi joined us in January 1942 with the first reinforcement group and served in the Sappers under Don Turton. Nick was telling me that his father went to New Guinea after the war and spent most of his life there. He died aged 52 early in the 1970s. If any member can provide and information on Bill, Nick would like to hear about it.

It was nice to see Tom Foster, Stan Payne, Eric Weller and Vince Swann, all country members making our Anzac Day march. Thanks fellas for making the effort. Bernie, Gerry, Tony, Jim and Joe came up from Mandurah and we appreciate that. We would have been really down on numbers without their support.

Jack Carey.

Birthday Boys.

Peter Alexander	April 2 nd	83
Joe Poynton	.. 4 th	79
Eric Smyth	.. 15 th	81
Arthur Marshall	.. 21 st	79
Jack Fowler	.. 24 th	89
Ray Parry	May 5 th	78
Don Murray	.. 18 th	80
Gerry Green	.. 31 st	85
Jim Lines	June 4 th	79
Mark Jordan	.. 15 th	81
Jack Carey	.. 19 th	79

Eastern States members please note if your birthday falls in the July – September period please let the editor know and you will be included in the next Courier.

Courier Donations March to 28th May.

Don Turton, Iles Halse, Andy Beveridge, Daphne Gibbling, Ron Dook, Betty Hopkins, Tony Adams, Nellie Mullins, Isobel Servante-McCaul, Ray Aitken, Tom Foster, Bernie Langridge, Jim Lines, Ted Monk, Stan Payne, Bob Smyth, Doc. Wheatley, Vince Swann, Gerry Maley, Pip & Barbara Dunkley, Callinan family, Ian Scott, Tom Pulleine (2) R. Gregg, Ross Shenn, Bob Williamson,, Ron Archer, Alan Luby(2) Peter Barden, Peter & Pat Campbell, Russ Blanche, Harry Handicott, Nina Grachan, Lois Davies.

Trust Fund Donations.

John Burridge	\$100
Andy Beveridge	\$200
Ian Scott	\$50
Ron Gregg	\$200
Peter Barden	\$50
Lois Davies	\$50

Sincere thanks to all donors for their generous support. Ed.

Sick Parade.

Word from South Aussie that Bert Bache has been declared blind, is most upsetting. This follows a heart and then a scalp operation, which Bert had in the last year or so. That Bert can still smile is a tribute to his courage. Sylvia his devoted wife must be very proud of him. A likeable bloke, Bert was made a life member back in 1978 and has always been a great worker for the Association.

Just when the Bagleys were settling down to relax after a long stint on the Courier, Len developed a very irritating skin complaint, which has gradually got worse over the past three months. A rash covers most of his body, drives him mad at night it gets so itchy. He is now seeing his third specialist and is hoping for some relief soon. Though not life threatening skin complaints are hard to cure and dermatologists make fortunes treating people time and time again. To add to the household woes Betty has developed the same complaint and is also receiving treatment. We've all heard of the 7 year itch – this a 77 year itch plus a few years! For Len and Betty's sake we hope they get relief shortly.

It must have taken a mighty effort for Eric Weller to make the Anzac Day march. Eric, who is far from well, spent some time in Wagga Wagga with his daughter after returning to N.S.Wales and is now back with his wife Pat in Umina. Eric had a valve inserted in his heart and is still under medication.

Wilf March, Charlie King and Harry Sproxton are still battling along with their serious health problems. They are to be admired for the positive way they cope with their discomfort. Family and friends are a big help in these circumstances.

Bluey Bone was in pain after an operation and is still a bit sore. With Hawthorn doing so well, Blue is in high spirits.

Don May has dementia and is not well and at present is in Hollywood Hospital.

With winter upon us I hope you all have had your flu needles.

Jack Carey.

Change of Address.

Jack Fox
Greenwood Manor
52 Centre Dandenong Rd
Dingley 3172
03.9951.5565

Mrs Kath Sargeant
Unit 17 Winston House
50 Channon St
Gympie Qld. 4570

Howard Marks
5 Gill Wing
The helping Hand Care
34 Molesworth St
North Adelaide S.A. 5006

Mrs Iris Rowan-Robinson
Unit 9 Geegeelup Village
Nelson St
Bridgetown W.A. 6255
08 9761.1346

Additions.

Mrs Barbara Pittaway
8 Wongala st
Lane Cove N.S.W. 2066
02 9427.5407

Mr Neil Barnett
P.O. Box 338
Mt. Hawthorn. W.A. 6915
08 9201.1816

Delete

Mrs Una Thompson
Morrison Lodge
Midland.

Great things about getting older.

Your investment in health insurance is finally beginning to pay off.
Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either!
Things you buy now won't wear out!
There is nothing left to learn the hard way!
Your joints are more accurate than the weather service!

ATTENTION ALL W.A. MEMBERS.

Our Norma Hasson mid winter function will be held at the Terrace Hotel,
195 Adelaide Terrace, Perth on Friday 6th July 2001.

Refreshments from 11am. Luncheon at 12.30pm.

This is always a happy occasion so please do your best
to come along and enjoy the day.

A phone call to Jack or Delys Carey on 9332.7050
will help with the catering numbers.

Don't forget now, see you on Friday 6th July!



Taken after the Life Membership Presentation to Peter Alexander.

L. to R: Don Turton, Keith Hayes, Jack Carey, Peter Alexander and Pres. Ray Parry.