



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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Address all Association Correspondence to: Box T1646, G.P.O. Perth 6001

President R. Darrington, Secretary/Treasurer J. Carey

Vol 137

MARCH 2001

Price 1¢

IT'S OFFICIAL!

THE MILDURA SAFARI IS ON!

From

Wednesday 1st May to Tuesday 7th May 2002

To book for this event write or phone

The Grand Hotel

Seventh Street

PO Box 800

MILDURA

Victoria 3502

Phone (03) 5023-0511

Bluey Bone and Ed Bourke spent two days in Mildura on 13th February after travelling up by train from Melbourne on 12th February. The proprietor of the Grand Hotel, Mr Don Carrazza, described by Blue & Ed as a good bloke and genial host, has given us a good deal. The tariff on offer is:-

Standard Room \$48.50 less 12% per person. Bed & Breakfast.

Grand Room \$63.00 less 12% per person Bed & Breakfast.

Bluey said the standard rooms were in keeping with past accommodation we have had and the grand room has special extras. It is a matter of your choice. Booking from 1st to 7th covers 7 nights. So get in early and send a deposit of \$50 to above address. Please state you are a member of the 2/2nd Commando Association group when booking to obtain the special rate.

Further details on the Safari will be in future Couriers.

Vale Ray Cole. WX 11076.

We regret to advise of the passing of Ray Cole on the 24th September last. He was 82 years of age.

Ray was born in Maylands, W.A. on the 22nd July, 1918. He was working in the office for McPhersons, a big Perth engineering company, and studying for his accountancy when he enlisted in early 1941. After obtaining his commission he volunteered for the then hush hush group and after completing training in Wilson's Promontory with other officers and n.c.o.s was posted to C. Platoon in charge of 9 section in the newly formed No2 Australian Independent Company. Ray served in the Timor Campaign in 1941/42. He did not rejoin the Unit when it was reformed early in 1943 and for the remainder of the war was assigned to the 1st Australian Commando Training Centre at Canungra as an instructor reaching the rank of adjutant before he was discharged in November 1944.

After the war he completed his studies obtaining his accountancy and eventually his secretarial degree. He went on to spend the next 54 years in N.S.Wales working mainly in the mining industry. He joined Peko Wallsend for a number of years on their staff spending some time in the Northern Territory. He also worked for Sandmining Indus K.Z. for a time. He was a capable administrator and was a director and secretary of that firm. He was also with Vidor Engineers at Newcastle. He was with Peko when he retired in 1973 at the age of 65. He then carried on with consultancy work for a few more years.

Ray married Diana Marlay in 1959 and they had two children, a son Kip and a daughter Susan. Ray was a keen sportsman and enjoyed his cricket, squash and golf at different stages of his life.

A good looking man, Ray and Diana liked the theatre and together played in a number of minor roles in films and on T.V. He suffered indifferent health in his latter years, passing away peacefully on Sunday 24th September.

Ray was one of the stalwarts of the N.S.Wales Branch until his health failed. The Association extends its sympathy to Diana, Susan and Kip.

Lest We Forget.

Alan Luby, N.S.W.

Vale Jim McLaughlin.

Jim passed away peacefully at the Midland Nursing Home on the 28th December last. In November 1998 he suffered a major stroke from which he never recovered. His condition gradually worsened to the stage he had lost a lot of weight and could not communicate because of advanced Alzheimers Disease. He weighed no more than 35 kilos when he died. Though in no pain, without any quality of life it was a happy release in the end.

Jim was born in North Perth in 1919, the son of Dick & Lily McLaughlin. His father who lived to 94 was well known in the district as the Ice Man. Jim had a brother Charlie and two sisters Malvie and Francie who married Harold Brooker. Harold died in November 1983. Jim went to school at the Subiaco State School and on leaving joined the Commonwealth Public Service. He was a postman when he enlisted in 1941. Jim saw service with the Unit in New Guinea and New Britain in No. 5 Section. He was wounded in New Guinea. Jim was a good soldier and enjoyed army life. After his discharge in 1946 he went back to his public service job but later on became a travelling salesman with Cyclone Wire Fencing and over the years moved around the State extensively selling their wares. He married Dorothy in the late 1940s and had two daughters Malvie and Leath. In the late 1970s early 1980s he had

a newsagency in Bulwer St, Northbridge. He lived at Daglish for many years and also spent some time at Esperance. Jim liked his sport and as a pacy wingman played footy for some years in the local Sunday league. He took up boundary umpiring with the W.A. Football League in the mid 50's and liked to tell the story of being locked in the change room at the East Perth Oval with his colleagues while irate East Perth supporters hammered on the door demanding the umpires blood. He also loved dancing especially at the old Embassy Ballroom and was a very good dancer

Throughout the years Jim was a very loyal supporter of the Association and attended as many functions as his job allowed. He was good company and loved a singalong after a few beers. He was made a life member in 1996, an honour of which he was very proud.

Jim was cremated privately on Tuesday the 2nd January so regretfully we were not represented at his funeral. The Association extends its deepest sympathy to Dorothy, Malvie, Leath and families.

Rest in Peace Jim.

Lest We Forget.

J. Carey.

Vale Mervyn Clarke.

Mervyn "Squirt" Clarke died in hospital on the NSW South Coast on January 15. He was seventy-seven.

Because of his age, his parents objected to his enlistment. He changed his name, for his own reason, to Harold Johnson.

Squirt and I grew up together on the northern beaches of Sydney in the hard old days, a Huckleberry Finn life. It was an idyllic existence. Surf, sand and lakes, bushland and cliffs. Few developers and very few cars. In 1941 we joined the AIF together, for reasons which were probably beyond us.

Another friend, Casey Colless, went with us.

We were posted first to Tamworth infantry training, then Wilson's Promontory and from there proceeded to Darwin where we went aboard a recently converted steamship, Koolama.

In Koepang, Squirt and I smuggled ourselves ashore hidden among aircraft bombs. From there we went by Dutch gunboat to Dili. And so began our association with Portuguese Timor.

Squirt was always an easygoing, likeable bloke. We spent some time around Remexio where we were friends with the Portuguese deportados.

We went on the raid on the Japanese Headquarters. As part of the beach party, Squirt and I were first in, having been ordered to investigate a Japanese machine gun post on the road. We got out of Dili after opening fire on a house of ill fame. Later, we went to a hillside nearby where we had been told to stay until noon the next day observing. By 8am our water bottles were dry and Squirt and I volunteered to go back to try to get water. We finished up at the village from which we had left the night before. When we got back to our observation post, the Lieutenant and others with him had decamped along the coast.

We were lucky to get back to Remexio, having been chased by a Jap patrol to speed us on our way.

Squirt and I were later chosen for another foray into Dili with Portuguese and some natives. In the dead of night (an apt phrase) we stole a radio set from there. Squirt and I and the natives took ten days to get back to Same, telling the villagers and Chinese we met that we were hauling matrilladors (machine guns). When we got to Same, the Bull told us we had done a good job, high praise from the Bull!

Squirt was never very impressed by the doings of mankind, regarding them with wry humour rather than criticism. After the war he did various jobs and moved to St.

George's Basin, south of Nowra. He lived life as he wanted, having no part in politics, religion, greed or ambition. We kept our friendship going and had two pacts:-

If one could help the other he would do it, expecting no thanks or mention of it ever again.

Neither of us would go to the send off of the other.

In 1999 when Verena went away on family business and I was pretty crook, she insisted that someone be with me all the time. I don't know how he did it, but Squirt came all the way up by himself. He was sicker than I was. I called a doctor who wanted to admit him to a local hospital. Squirt said he wanted to go home. There was no hope of getting him an ambulance but on the day that Latter-day Saint John Patrick Kenneally was visiting. Without the blink of an eyelid he said: "I'll drive you home, Squirt", and could not be dissuaded.

In a move to his eternal credit, Paddy drove the best part of 300 kms, dropped Squirt and came straight back to Sydney.

A few months ago Squirt became seriously ill and in my chase around various hospitals I told him once: "Listen mate, if we live until January 2001, we will have lived in the first quarter of two centuries and in two millennia".

He said: "I don't give a bugger".

On January the 14th his daughter rang to say that they could not operate on his cancer, that he had pneumonia and golden staph and he was not expected to last more than one or two days. He died the next day at 5.30am.

He was a good man; a quiet man and all those who knew him will truly miss him for his essential simplicity and goodness.

Curly O'Neill.

The Courier Team Bow Out.

At the December committee meeting, Len, our editor said that he and Betty had decided

to call it a day and the December issue of the Courier would be the last they would be involved in. Len said Betty's failing health meant that she was unable to cope with the work load in the production of the Courier and he himself had not been all that well. The job, which they had done for many years was simply too much for them and it was time to hand over to someone else. The committee who appreciated the wonderful contribution made by both Len and Betty over a very long period received the news with much regret.

Len took over as editor in March 1997 from Arch Campbell. He and Betty have been on the Courier committee for the past twenty years, a great record indeed. Along with Arch and Gerry and Mary McKenzie they were a good team and worked well together. In recent years after Arch took ill, the burden fell more on Len and Betty who responded to the challenge handling the work involved very capably. Betty, a top secretary in her day did all the typing and setting up of the material needed for each issue. Len did a lot of solid yakka proof reading, wrapping and labelling, sorting into postcodes and posting whilst son Gavin, who handled the address list played his part too.

I'm sure all those on the mailing list will be sorry to see Len and Betty no longer on the courier team. At the same time we should be thankful for the tremendous contribution they have given our Association for so many years. Len intends to carry on, on the committee. He has served the Association well as President, Vice President, Secretary, and Editor and on the editorial and general committees. Len was made a life member in 1973 and is rightly regarded as one of the stalwarts of our Association. Betty was made an honorary life member in 1993. Son, Gavin, made up the trifecta when he was made an honorary life member last year.

Now that Len and Betty can relax more we all hope they will enjoy better health. Well done!

Jack Carey.

Christmas Function

This was held at the R. & S. League Hall in Mandurah with the Mandurah 2/2s doing the honours. The attendance of 43 was up to expectations and it was a very enjoyable function. The R. & S. League Hall has just been renovated and is a credit to its members. The tables were nicely decorated and the whole setting had a real Xmassy atmosphere. It was obvious someone, no doubt the ladies, had gone to a lot of trouble to bring this about. Len, as usual, did a top job as M.C. and made everyone feel at home. The caterers turned on a terrific meal, turkey ham and all the doings and with ample refreshments it was a happy get-together. President Dick Darrington and Mandurah President Paddy King, wished one and all a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year. Betty Bagley was presented with a colourful basket of silk flowers that Joy Chatfield had made up. Thanks Joy! Betty was lost for words.

Among those present were Nancy Timms, Jess Epps, Colleen Strickland, Jean Holland, Maureen Baker, Joy Chatfield, Bob Smyth and his brother Ron, Ray Aitken, Doc. Wheatley, Ray Parry, Jim Lines, Dick Darrington, Don Turton, Arthur Marshall (late as usual) and the old reliables the Poyntons, Turtons, Kings, Bagleys, Murrays, Maleys, Careys, Monks, Hayes and Langridges. It was a great show. Many thanks to the Mandurah 2/2s for a lovely day. God Bless. Jack Carey.

Annual Commemoration Service.

The Association's 51st annual commemoration service was held in our Honour Avenue section in Lovekin Drive, King's Park on Sunday afternoon 19th November. At 3pm the catafalque party of four under Sgt. Vaughan Hartley from the S.A.S. Regiment, took up their positions around our memorial stone. President Dick

Darrington then delivered a thought provoking speech that was followed by the reading out of names of the fallen followed by the ode. Cpl. A. Marshall from the Australian Army Band sounded the Last Post and Rouse. It was a brief but moving ceremony. The traditional march up and down our area followed with the "eyes right" being taken by our President and Lieut. Col. Tim McOwan, the C.O. of the S.A.S. Regiment.

32 took part in the march including 12 veterans, and for the first time daughters, as well as the sons of members joined in. They marched splendidly. Marshall Ray Parry deputised for John Burridge who was ill. The march was a big improvement on last year's effort. Rays orders were clear and precise. Thanks Ray for a top job.

The attendance of approximately 100 was most satisfactory and it was pleasing to see so many young people present. The presence of country members was appreciated and we thank them and all others who attended. The future of the service will eventually be in your hands so please keep up your support. Our sincere thanks to the King's Park and Botanic Gardens Board for once again closing off the traffic, the S.A.S. Regiment for providing the catafalque party and speaker system and the Australian Army Band for the bugler. The catafalque party never ceases to impress – what splendid young men they are.

About forty attended the social in the Sergeant's Mess which followed the service. The hospitality provided by the R.S.M. Glen Hibbert (who attended the service with his C.O.) and his staff was first class and it was a most enjoyable 2 hours. We can consider ourselves fortunate to have their support and we thank them for that.

The Mandurah Branch was also appreciative of the mini bus provided by the S.A.S. Regiment. It was a nice gesture.

Australia Day Outing.

Members and friends of the Association who were able to attend a barbecue luncheon on Australia day at "The House" in Campbell Barracks had a most enjoyable outing. Bart Mavrick, the President of the Special Air Service Association and his merry men turned on a great day. Aussie music was to the fore and led by Bart, we all joined in singing "Advance Australia Fair", which fortunately was not recorded. Our group of 32 was barely noticeable in a crowd of over 300. When we oldies left mid afternoon, the celebrations were still in full swing. Bart and his crew must have been worn out by the time the function ended in the evening.

Among those who attended from the 2/2nd were Jess, Peter and Sue Epps, Ray Aitken and daughter Jenny, Pip and Barbara Dunkley, Terry Turner, John Lillie, Bob & Margaret Smyth, John Burridge, Ray Parry, Doc. Wheatley, Dusty Studdy, Keith & Val Hayes, Mark & Elsie Jordan, Dick Darrington, John & Olive Chalwell, Don Turton, Jack & Delys Carey, Ted & Peg Monk, Viv & Verna Paust (from Bindoon), Les & Verna Cranfield and Nellie Mullins. There were a number of apologies.

Our thanks to Bart and his crew for the invitation and hospitality extended. It was a happy day.

J. Carey.

Geraldton News.

At the outset let me share with readers the lovely letter that Geraldton's HMAS Sydney 11 Memorial Project Secretary and long-time devoted researcher Glenys McDonald received from Madeline Blyth of Queensland: "My adored brother Alexander Eagar was one of the crew and I have never given up wishing and praying that one day, we would see, if not a search, at least a memorial of national significance. Time is

running out for those with personal contacts and I am sure it will be 19 November 2001, or never. May I say that I consider your memorial design outstanding and the entire concept inspirational. There is a great need to say goodbye". Madeline has confirmed that she will be present at the memorial dedication ceremony at Geraldton's Mt. Scott on November 2001, on the 60th anniversary of the loss of the Sydney and all of its 645 occupants. Visiting the memorial site in December, Acting Prime Minister John Anderson said he was very impressed with the plans that looked to be very powerful and which had a particular poignancy. He promised to take a part-funding request to the Prime Minister.

As I am typing this letter I am looking a lovely photo of a smiling Queensland couple, sent with Season's greetings from Bowen, gem of the Coral Coast (I can never forget this description because it's on a tea towel we received from them following a Geraldton visit). They said a highlight of an exciting year was the launching of Margo's book, "Bends in the Road" – whose success has resulted in a second printing. They are both keeping in good health and wish everyone a wonderful 2001.

I should have mentioned earlier that we were delighted with the news that the new patron of the RSL in WA, Geraldton born Lt. Gen. John Sanderson, had also accepted patronage of the Mt. Scott Sydney memorial project. His excellency's official secretary said the Governor had a busy schedule but had expressed the desire to visit Geraldton as soon as possible in 2001. He was Army Chief before becoming WA Governor and I am sure that he would be extremely interested in viewing the wonderful memorabilia display at Birdwood House, the 1935 building named after General Sir William Birdwood who commanded the ANZAC Corps at Gallipoli.

As the 2/2nd Association has a special interest in the Army Museum at the historic

Fremantle Artillery Barracks, I can imagine the joy that was created by the announcement that after intense lobbying the Federal Government decided to buy the site from the Defence department with Centenary of Federation funds and give it to the WA Government. RSL State President Ken Bladen said the transfer of the historic site was a fantastic decision for WA's ex-service community.

Hearty congrats to president Dick Darrington concerning the wonderful address he gave at our 51st Commemorative Service on 19 November in Lovekin Drive, King's Park and to Margaret Smyth of the Friends of Kings Park group for providing interesting excerpts from the Kings park archive regarding the Honour Avenues

We had an excellent response to all aspects of Remembrance Day and associated activities. These included the Remembrance Day service and memorabilia tours; a record Poppy collection of \$4619; the Pilgrimage to the War and general cemeteries; and the diggers' dinner for over 60's. introduced by the Women's Auxilliary in 1966 during the League's 50th anniversary.

I must be off now, as other duties call. God bless you all. Peter Barden.

Queensland News.

Dear Jack,

We held our Xmas function at the Bribie Island Surf Club on Monday 11th December and a happy day it was. Unfortunately there were some apologies through ill health and apologies were received from Gordon Stanley, Tony and Iris Adams and Pat Barnier.

Those present were Ron Archer and Lyn Love, Paddy Wilby, Margaret Hooper, Jack and Beryl Steen, John and Margaret Allen, friends of the Steens, Betty and George Coulson, Col and Jeanette Andrew, Joan Stanley, and very welcome Dorothy Gibson

and daughter, and Ralph and Sheila Conley. The venue is very pleasant overlooking Deception Bay and Moreton Island and the caterer a happy fellow remembered our last function there and provided a full Xmas menu. We were able to subsidise some drinks with a few spare dollars and that added to the fun. We as always remembered those no longer with us and friends in other places – which reminds me Happy Greenhalgh rang to wish us a great day and as usual a couple of stories as well. I also received calls from Alan Luby and our dear friend Don Turton.

Our next meeting is planned for 14th May at North Pine Dam and while our numbers are thinning our spirit is still strong! News is sparse other than the papers are full of post election Bull. Isn't it wonderful how super keen the pollies are to be seen and heard pressing the flesh and promising the world at election time when otherwise they are far too busy to expose themselves to the hard glare of every day people in the street problems.

It was intriguing to read some of the political decisions made with our Indo friends about the time of the 1975 invasion of East Timor and the ducking for cover when those agreements were made public.

That is about all for now. Best wishes to all and the hope that those in ill health recover quickly.

Ralph Conley.

N.S.W. Branch News.

It's truly amazing how rapidly the quarterly newsletter deadline s come around and we have to scrape the rust off the ballpoint, and the old brain. Thank God we survived that year 2000 after a large casualty list and many health problems. We can but hope that the New Year, in a new century and a new millennium will be easier on us so that we age with dignity. Our best wishes for a healthy year to all.

The annual Xmas Lunch at Dee Why R.S.L. Club on 2nd December attracted 23 people whom we were glad to see. They were:- Bill and Coral Coker, Col and Val Holley, plus Val's sister Muriel, Paddy and Nora Kenneally, Frank and Verena O'Neill, June Bennett, Kev and Marilyn Birmingham, Arthur and Gwenda Littler, Ken and Pat Glover, Ken and Vera Mawby, Ted Workman, Ken Curran, Don Newport, Alan and Edith Luby and special guest W.O.1 Bruce Johnson, No.1 CDO.Coy. I'm prejudiced of course, but I think it's fair to say everyone enjoyed the gathering. Bruce Johnson has served two stints with the troops in E.T. and plans to do another.

There is a lot of interest locally in the development of the new Free Nation of East Timor from all kinds of groups, ranging from Primary School children, sporting bodies, Rotary Clubs, Services and R.S.L. Clubs, churches environmental groups, to name a few. Even after 16 months since Interfet Forces moved into to assist progress with rehousing and the development of Governmental and Civil Services is making slow progress.

It seems the biggest hurdle is getting through the U.N. red tape! Probably a case of "too many chiefs and not enough practical Indians"

Tom Lewis was over there on a visit recently and was not impressed by progress at all. His son Jon, has been over there for several months on various aid jobs. Jon was one of the drivers who looked after the 2/2nd party who returned for the rededication of our memorial at Fatunaba.

Some of the Timorese who were evacuated to Australia at or about the time of the Indonesian invasion in 1975 and also some of the escapees from the Dili massacre of 1991 and came here as refugees, have returned to their homeland to try to rebuild their lives, find the remnants of their families, and either teach or play a part in Nation building.

I sure they have much to teach and will find a vast difference in their mode of living.

The announcement that our Courier team has understandably, because of health reasons, decided to call it a day, will leave some big shoes to fill. We, collectively can only say a huge **THANK YOU** to the whole team for the wonderful contribution they have made to our main means of communication with such long term friends, for so many years, all over Australia. I assure you that we appreciate your time, effort, cost, and everything else that goes into the production of a unique newsletter, so please all of the team, accept our grateful thanks.

A. Luby.

Albie Friend, Landsdale 6065

Dear Jack, Just a few lines to say hello to everybody, that's about it these days as each day follows the one before without much happening. I did however have a few days in hospital for another operation on my back, which was a waste of time and effort to my way of thinking this is one reason for the few lines. At the moment I don't think I will be able to make it to the commemoration service on Sunday so will tender my apologies now (just in case). Over the years I haven't missed very many services when I have been available, as I believe it to be a very important date for us.

As Christmas is just around the corner I send my best wishes to all.

Enclosed is a cheque Jack, split it between the Courier and the Timor Fund.

Regards to all, Albie Friend.

J. Peattie, 11 Denne St, West Tamworth
2340

Dear Jack, Things are still going pretty well for us except for a few things healthwise that we can handle.

When winter comes we join the geriatric migration north in our caravan and follow the quieter inland roads until we get to warmer weather north of the tropic This year we spent three months between Mt. Isa and Cairns and not a drop of rain. Not long after returning home we got one of the worst floods in years. It did not affect us as we are on high ground but it was devastating to people on the land. Some years ago the council banned all building on the flood plain between East and West Tamworth and received very bad publicity. Now a huge flood rips across the flood plain and makes good TV viewing while it hurts no one in the town. People here still get calls from all over Australia and overseas to check on their welfare after each flood. However, downstream across our western plains folk are in real trouble.

Things are pretty hectic here at the moment as we are moving into a retirement village in a few weeks and our daughter Sue is returning home with her twin daughters from Malaysia while the girls finish their final two years in Tamworth. Sue's husband Mike, will remain in Malaysia for the time being as he has a good job there and he wont move until later.

Sue will take over our home for two years before deciding on her next move. We are flat out trying to sort out what is junk and what we'll keep – after living in the same home for 54 years this is no small task.

The main thing is that we have been one of the lucky ones with few problems in life and are still enjoying it to the full.

Regards to all, Jack Peattie.

Ian Ronald, 5 Westmont Close, Westgate Rd, Beckenham, Kent. BR35BX U.K.

Dear Jack, We had a good time in Hobart and thought we were looked after very well. It was great to meet some of the old

comrades after so long.

Had a good trip back to London, but I had caught a flu type infection, which took a while to clear up.

Been pretty well this year, much better than in '99. The doctors are keeping my cancer at bay, thank goodness.

Glad to be back here at Glenelg for the next couple of months. We have wonderful weather instead of rain, rain, rain now in England. We are very sorry for the poor people in some of the prettiest towns in the country, who keep on being flooded.

We arrived here in Adelaide this time to attend the Commando Christmas lunch and to meet Kel and Ruby Carthew again.

I enclose a donation for the Association.

Ian Ronald.

After spending the summer at Glenelg, Ian and Margaret left for their home in Beckenham, Kent early in March. Ian indicated they were looking forward to the cooler climate in England as it had been a particularly fiery summer in South Australia and there had been some very trying days. Ian has promised to write and let us know how things are going in the "old Dart".

G. Greenhalgh, MacLean.

Dear Jack, I had my trip to Melbourne for Christmas. Did not see any of the blokes but rang Harry Botterill who was going to see John Roberts for his 80th birthday. No doubt he will advise you of his visit. He is quite well. Tom Nisbet sounds okay over the phone too.

I flew from Ballina going to Melbourne and on the way to Ballina called in on Ted and Dianne Cholerton at Evans Head. Ted is quietly recovering from his operation. I rang him again a few days ago and he's still coming along okay.

Russ Blanch is still having bother with his eyes but is coping reasonably well. He's

going to be well enough to give them a go for the Spring Garden Competition I'm sure.

I rang Beryl Cullen to see how she got on with our recent heavy rains. She is going quite well and said they had fourteen inches at their place and the creeks were flowing and dams full for the first time for a long time. They had been in one of those pockets that seemed to miss the rain and storms. Country blokes will know what she means. I think my area here is somewhat similar. We got about seven, Russ about twelve and some places over twenty. You probably saw how Lismore copped it.

Ken and Edith Jones are both well. They visited a son at Christmas Towers; about Xmas time I think and got flood bound for a while.

In the last Courier he reported on having an artificial knee put in. Now he tells me he's going to play in an 18-hole tournament next month. I bet he wishes they could have given him some artificial ability to improve his game! He was studying Greg Norman when I rang; the others were too young.

Eric Herd and Lorraine are well as usual and both hitting the little white ball but I must admit using one of those little carts you sit in sort of like sightseeing I reckon.

Rang Harry Handicott and he and Amyce are well. He will keep you up to date on Billy Walsh who I also spoke to.

Jack and Beryl Steen are both well. They had a successful week at Iluka where Jack caught the biggest Flathead ever. Tail dragged on the ground! So successful that a further visit is organised for March sometime.

Got onto Tom and Jean Yates first ring. First time that's happened and they are both well. Jean's like me has a bit of arthritis but Tom seems to be a bundle of health.

Fortunately I still keep well and enjoy my bowls a couple of days a week and check my garden each day to see if its altered from yesterday as the beans I planted yesterday

are up. I'm all optimist and I can't think of a better way to be. All the people from up here in Northern N.S.W. wish everyone well and hope they're putting their pennies aside for the Mildura Safari which now is only about twelve months away. I hope we will all be spared.

Regards, Happy.

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

Dear all 2/2nd friends, I thought it was time I wrote a few lines for the Courier again. We all thought 2000 went by very quickly and now one month of 2001 is gone already. We are having a very hot dry summer here in Gippsland – had a few showers on Australia Day to cause a few hiccups with the celebrations but that is all. We had a great day at Poowong. A sports day was organised and the program was similar to one held at Poowong in the late 1800s. There were Siamese races, sack races also egg and spoon and wheelbarrow races, tossing the sheaf and throwing the gumboot. It was a lot of fun and then the formal part of the day was very enjoyable with the guest speaker being David Parkin, who will be known to football followers in other states. He played for Hawthorn and was coach of Carlton. He is an excellent speaker and there was a big crowd to hear him so very satisfying for the organisers.

My family and Don's are all fit and busy. Don's granddaughter, Nikki is at present serving in Timor and enjoying the experience. She is a clerk so works in an airconditioned office. She went over in October for a six-month stint. It could be extended to 9 months.

My daughter, Elva is here for a two- week holiday. Rod was able to get home for only two weeks but that was a break for him.

I will enclose a cheque for the Courier or whatever it can help. Don joins me with best

wishes to all. Margaret Monk.

R. Lindsay, 23 Honey Rd., Marignup 6065

Dear Jack, Just a short note to inform you that I have received your letter and thank you very much for the information therein. I will make good use of it.

I have just returned from 7 days in East Timor during which time we travelled widely and met many influential people including Taur Matan Ruak who was indeed interesting. He received us well and expressed his support for our mission, as did UNTAET who initially appointed us.

We have a few minor issues to resolve before we commence our emergency services training and equipping program for the East Timorese but are confident our proposals will be accepted. We are an entirely voluntary group and hope to start fund raising shortly. Our title is "AVESTTET" (Australian Volunteer Emergency Services Training Team East Timor).

I thank you again and will keep you informed of our progress. Kindest regards, Ron Lindsay. Ph/fax 9405.4885

B. Bagley, 9 Curlew St., Mandurah 6210

Dear Jack, Thank for your letter of the 15th and attached cheque.

Would you please pass my thanks on to your Committee and assure them that it has been a great pleasure for me to be able to be part of the Courier team and give such pleasure to your members and families over the years – a real honour.

Love to you, Delys and all members. Betty B.

G. & M. Shiels, P.O. Box 374, Bowen 4805.

Our seasons greetings to you all. It is lovely to catch up with family and friends even if it is only once a year.

It has been an exciting year for us. The launching of my book "Bends in the Road" was a great success for me, and am on my second printing. I had the privilege of advertising it on the Internet....

Cgfix@earthlink.net, and with our friends in the United States we have created a limited market there as well.

George and I are keeping in good health and we are grateful that the rest of the family too is experiencing the same. I am still enjoying my bushwalking with the Bowen Bushwalkers Club, which opens up new terrain for me to visit.

Our big trip this year was to Hobart, Tasmania to attend George's weeklong 2/2nd Commando reunion. The 75 of us were well looked after by the Anglesea Army Corp., providing buses and friendly drivers to transport us to places of interest such as Port Arthur, Huon Valley etc. A week with Emily and Bob Barnes of Beechford, Northern Tasmania gave us a good appreciation of the beautiful Tamar Valley country and the historic towns of Launceston and Georgetown. Bob spent the three and a quarter years with Bill, my brother and myself at Santo Tomas and Los Banos Camps and it was lovely to spend time with him and Emily. After promising our friends George and Liz Keith in Morwell to visit them we finally had a wonderful week with them showing us the richness of the Latrobe Valley, Walhalla and Phillip Island. Our stay with George" nephews and families at Portland and Port Fairy, we were shown the beauty of the Victorian coastline. The Great Ocean Road with all its spectacular rock formations and features is a "must" on anyone's itinerary. My annual trip to Sydney in July saw the city a beehive of industry preparing for the Olympic Games, the result of which made us proud to be Australians. After the Games we also had a delightful visit from Len and Peggy Baker of Cardiff, Wales. Len and his sister s were also with us in Santo Tomas during the war.

The highlight of the year was the wedding of our eldest granddaughter Pamela in July, when we welcomed Simon into the family. The four grandchildren attending university and Michael, completing his final school year, have excelled themselves and produced good results. Leanne has completed her university subjects for her engineering and marketing degrees and has only her engineering thesis to complete. She has been invited to work with the Western Mining Corp., in Melbourne.

Well, we shall close wishing all the 2/2nd a Happy Christmas and a wonderful 2001.

With love, Margo and George.

Mrs K. Sargeant, 25 Thomas St., Gympie 4570

Dear Jack, It hasn't been a good year for me. Age is certainly catching up with us all. I still enjoy the Courier but it is sad to see so many of the original force no longer with us. Good, though, that you who are left can still get together.

With Timor so much in the news I guess it brings back a lot of memories.

Enclosed donation for the Courier. All the best for Christmas and wishing all good health in 2001.

Sincerely, Kathleen Sargeant.

Thanks for the donation and nice Xmas card Kath.

ED.

Mrs D.V. Broun, P.O. Box 14, Coorow 6515

Dear Mr Carey, Yesterday I attended the Commemoration service in Lovekin Drive. This was after a gap of at least 30 years since I last went with my Dad, Fred Napier.

Dad died in Jan. 1987. The last few years of his life (Mum died in Oct. 82), were mainly unhappy, stressful times for him. However,

even during that time, the support of his army mates was very important to him. Thank you for all you did for him then and your warm welcome to me (as a lapsed family member!)

I found the whole commemoration service very moving and would love to come again to next year's service. Could you please include me on your mailing list for the Courier. Enclosed is a cheque of \$10.

Yours sincerely, Beth Broun.

Heard about the blind man who took up bungy jumping?

It frightened hell out of his dog!

The Birthday Boys.

December 2000

8	DonYoung	83
8	Les Halse	81
16	Rolf Baldwin	91
26	John Roberts	80
28	Charlie King	85
29	Bill Howell	78

January 2001

3	Reg Tatum	81
13	Don Turton	83
15	Keith Hayes	80
18	Peter Campbell	80

February 2001

8	Henry Sproxtion	78
8	Ed Bourke	78
15	Wilf March	84
15	Don May	77
26	Albie Friend	82

March 2001

3	Bernie Langridge	84
13	Ted Monk	81

If you would like to be on the "Birthday Boys" list please let us have your birth date.

J. Carey.

June Courier:

Letters for the June Courier should be mailed by Monday 28th May. We are always interested to receive news of members particularly those we have not heard from for some time. So get out the writing pad and drop us a line!

What's the difference between an Irish wedding and an Irish funeral?

Answer:

One less drunk!

A pig went into a bar, had two drinks then asked the barman directions to the toilet before leaving. A second pig came in had four drinks and also asked for the toilet before he left. A third pig came in and had six drinks and then turned to leave. "Hey", said the barman, "aren't you going to the toilet before you leave?" "No", said the third pig, "I'm the little pig who cried 'wee, wee, wee all the way home!'"

Bert Price, Main Road, Dover 7117

The Editor, 2/2nd Commando Courier, Have meant to write well before this time. So much happening in our district.

Have talked to Gerry and Nancy Slade on the phone. They have moved to a more convenient place to help them with their handicaps and they are settling in okay.

Had a wonderful experience, seeing our granddaughter Deena (17) carry the Olympic Torch through Austins Ferry, Tas. – she was thrilled to be chosen – results of her community work with the Australian Rosny Children's Choir for 5 1/2 years and also her help on Anzac Day and church singing. I also had a great two days at the Paralympics with another Tasmanian plus veterans from other states, about 17 as guests of the Minister of Veteran Affairs, Bruce Scott and Mrs Scott. I was picked up at home, taken to the Hobart Airport and met at various stages by Veteran

Affairs staff to the R. & S.L.A. motel at Hyde Park dinner at night attended by Mrs Scott who was a wonderful host. Breakfast altogether next morning and then to the field and track stadium, sat in the reserved box for the Minister with kitchen and dining area and seats right opposite the track finishing line. And the Minister sitting down and talking to everyone. The athletes with their handicaps give everything in their events and it was to all of us almost an unbelievable experience. We often moan about our aches and pains but to see those contestants adjust to their life disabilities and take part in the paralympics is just amazing.

This past Sunday we had over one hundred Legacy widows come to the Dover R.S.L. Club for a B.B.Q. lunch. It was a beautiful day and they all enjoyed themselves. I had the job of getting all the goods for the B.B.Q., setting up tables etc and very pleased it went so well. We are now in the process of selling Legacy puddings.

The people at the Army Anglesea Barracks Museum in Hobart are busy getting together items from East Timor, our era, plus present day activities there to make a display and story aimed at school children for next Anzac Day, so if anyone has copy of photos of our era or a story please let us have them.

Billie and myself are going along pretty good, except I have severe arthritis in my hands, but getting treatment.

We send our regards to everyone and all the best for Christmas and New Year.

Bert and Billie.

B. O'Neill, Unit 26, Cambrai Village Estate,
85 Hester Ave, Merriwa 6030

John Burrridge,
Independent Trust Fund,
2/2nd Commando Association of Australia
G.P.O. Box T1646
Perth 6001

Dear Mr Burrridge, Referring to your letter

19 November 1999, attached is a further cheque for \$40, from my wife and myself, as a donation to your Association's "Independent Trust Fund". This is to assist the excellent field work of Les and Verna Cranfield and others, in helping the people of East Timor, as sponsored by your 2/2nd Commando Association. In view of the recent events, which have transpired in East Timor and the presence of our Australian Diggers, it would appear that the lives of the natives of East Timor would be enhanced.

As previously mentioned this donation is to honour my old workmate, Colin Doig, who was also a neighbour of thirty odd years. These thoughts come to mind around the period of Christmas each year, especially as these East Timorese people did so much to assist your comrades during the war.

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

Yours sincerely, Bill O'Neill. WX 41403.

ARCH CAMPBELL'S BOOK

Isabel Elmore from Tassie (Snow's widow) wrote recently seeking 2 copies of Archie's book "The Double Reds of Timor". After one or two phone calls it was found that Legacy at South Perth had a supply which Arch had generously donated to this most worthy cause. One to which he himself served well for over 50 years. So Isabel received her two books. Members, who at any time want a copy of the Double Reds can get one by ringing Margaret on 08 9367 5799. The cost per book is \$35 plus postage, which is approximately \$5. Legacy is the only supplier. By buying a book you are supporting a wonderful organisation which has worked tirelessly for the widows and children of our fallen for many years. The Legacy Clubs postal address is 64 Mill Point Road, South Perth, W.A. 6151.

Jack Carey.

Pars on People.

Twy Smyth is making a good recovery from a hip replacement she had in January. Twy can't get back into action quick enough. She and Eric have lived in Busselton now for many years and love the life there. It sure is a great spot.

It was nice to hear from Betty Devlin who went missing from the last few Safaris. She suffers from polymyalgia, which is similar to arthritis and very painful. Tablets help out. Betty, a keen bowler, was thrilled when recently made a life member of her bowling club. At the time of writing she was off to Tassie for 12 days. Hope the trip went well Betty, Tassie is a great place. Her family ties keep her busy. Her grand-daughter Aimee is doing well at ballet, recently winning two gold medals. Keep in touch Betty!

Joan Fenwick writing from Canberra is kept busy with the grandchildren, attending birthdays, concerts, confirmations etc, which although demanding are very rewarding and enhance the quality of life. Betty Craig drops in to see her now and again. Joan enjoys reading and walking and takes a keen interest in the Association affairs.

It was a pleasant surprise to catch up with Mary McKenzie on Australia Day. Mary's friends had brought her to the luncheon. Mary looked as bright as a button and had a good talk to Jess Epps, Ted Monk and others. Into her 80's, Mary is coping okay. She was disappointed Len & Betty were not at the show. Gerry, Mary, Arch, Len & Betty were once a great Courier team. How time flies.

Elsie Jordan, who is 81, has been active in the amateur theatre world for many years, played Miss Marple in a production of Agatha Christie's play "A Murder is Announced" at the Stirling theatre in Perth late in December. With one of the two leading roles in the play Elsie turned on a polished performance and the play was a success. Well done Elsie.

At our request Elsie has agreed to provide a series of articles for the Courier on her theatrical experiences covering over 40 years. I know they will be well received.

Alan Luby advises that our old mate Ron Hilliard still manages to enjoy the company of his mates at the nearby Arncliffe R.S.L.Club. Alan says he misses going there for the meetings the N.S.W. Branch had there for more than 50 years.

Jack Fowler paid a visit to the big smoke in February accompanied by daughter Lyn and son-in-law Hedley Hunt. Jack looks really well and had afternoon tea reminiscing with the Careys. The next morning he looked up his old A Platoon mates Tony Bowers, Joe Poynton and Bernie Langridge at Mandurah and talked of old times. Jack has a lovely crop of white hair and says he eats and sleeps well. It was great to see the old chap who will be 89 in April.

Ron Dook who is 85 is concerned as to whether he will pass a driving test, which is required by law for all those in his age group. He reckons he's got a 50% chance of making it. Ron visits his beloved wife Nan, who is in a nursing home, every day without fail so he needs a vehicle. Taxis are the other option.

He is in good spirits and taking a keen interest in all forms of sport being a good footballer himself in earlier days. Ron was an original member of 7 section and after graduating to an officer saw out the war in Bouganville in the 8th Company. He, Arch and Keith Hayes were great mates.

J.Carey.

WEST AUSTRALIAN MEMBERS

OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON

TUESDAY, 13TH March 2001

Commencing at 10.30am

**At the Anzac Club, St. Georges Terrace,
Perth**

**Light refreshments and snacks to
follow.**

Members are asked to make a special
effort to attend the

A.G.M. and give your committee some
support.

ANZAC DAY

WEDNESDAY 25TH APRIL, 2001

Please assemble at our usual spot in the
Terrace

by 9.30am as the march off is at 9.45am.

There will be a get together after the
Esplanade Service

at the Terrace Hotel, 195 Adelaide
Terrace, commencing

At 12 noon,

Peter Epps has kindly offered once again
to provide transport for the Parade for
those unfit to march. He can be contacted
on 9401.7584. If you cant make the
parade still come to the Terrace Hotel
function.

NORMA HASSON DAY.

The Terrace Hotel, our old stamping ground
has been booked for **Friday 6th July**. Mark
this date down on your calendar.

Full details in June Courier.

Change of Address.

Donald Kellond

Suite 37

Highvale Manor 42-60 Capitol Avenue

Glen Waverley

Victoria 3150

(03) 9802-5008

Mrs Faye Lawrence
 Lot 26 Gulf Road
 Emmaville
 N.S.W. 2371

Henry Sproxton	\$100
Jack Keenahan	\$50
Maria Hartley	\$25
Bluey Sargent	\$100

Mrs G. Slade (Gerry & Nancy)
 21/74 Sandy Bay Road
 Hobart,
 Tasmania 7000
 (03) 6223-7010

Mr H. Botterill (Harry & Olive)
 2/1 Evans Ave.,
 Hampton East
 Victoria 3188
 (03) 9555-2164

Mrs I. Elmore (Isobel)
 19 Cadorna St.,
 Mowbray
 Tasmania 7248
 (03) 6326-2046

Courier Donations: Albie Friend, D. Broun, Keith & Val Hayes, Doc. Wheatley, Dick Darrington, Jess Epps, Joe & Helen Poynton, Les & Verna Cranfield, Kath Sergeant, Ian & Margaret Ronald, Mavis Sadler, Jack & Marj Peattie, Henry Sproxton, Jack Keenahan, Maria Hartley, Ron Archer, Alma Moore, Arthur Littler, Peter McCracken, Margaret Monk, Blue Sargent.

Trust Fund Donations:

Albie Fiend	\$100
W. O'Neill	\$40
Jack & Marj Peattie	\$150
Mavis Sadler	\$50

Sick Parade

Ted Cholerton of Evans Head still retains his booming laugh in spite of the effects of a fairly severe stroke.

Frank O'Neill manages to get about with the aid of a frame and his helpers. Curly can still write well, a gift he always had.

Bill Walsh of Kempsey has been like the proverbial cat and still has a cheerful outlook. He is due to have bypass surgery at an early date.

Kel Carthew of S.A. on the advice of his specialist had a pacemaker inserted to control his heartbeat, which was too slow. Kel is now feeling a lot better which is good news. Kel besides being our South Aussie newsman has been a driving force in the Combined Commando Association activities in that state.

Peter Alexander is making slow but steady progress with his stroke. He is back at home in Forrest St., and is having speech therapy as a result his speech is improving. Peter is a man with tremendous spirit and has a good sense of humour. His lifelong mate Keith Hayes sees Peter regularly and does what he can for him.

Bill Howell had two more strokes in December and is now in the Belswan Nursing Home, Greenfields, which is right opposite the Mandurah Hospital in Lakes Road, Mandurah. Elvie, Bill's wife could cope no longer, Bill being too heavy to lift or help about the house. Bill has settled in well and is happy with life. Elvie, who sees him daily has Bill home on weekends and brought him

along to the January meeting of the Mandurah 2/2s – what a lady! Bill enjoys company and would welcome a visit from any of his old mates. He turned 78 on 28th December.

Wilf March had his 84th birthday in Hollywood receiving his chemotherapy treatment that takes place every six weeks. Each treatment takes 5/6 days. Wilf is bearing up remarkably well and has adopted a positive attitude on life. Keep going Wilf!

Tom Bateman, who is kept busy on umpteen committees, recently had a melanoma removed from the top of his head. Tom is going okay and says he wears his hat at all times even in bed! Tom a Labor polly member for many years was delighted with last election results. It was a great win for the true believers!

Charlie King who was 85 in December is still having a battle. He has a blood transfusion every five or six weeks and reports regularly to his G.P. Charlie like Wilf takes a positive outlook, one has to admire him for that. Mary, his wife was in hospital when this went to press. Mary is a darling and we hope her health improves and she is back home again soon. Son Paddy is a tower of strength around the place.

Don May is not enjoying the best of runs. Don has a bad back problem and recently spent over a week in Hollywood. Unfortunately Dawn, his wife has an even more severe health problem, which she has been battling against for some time. This makes it tough going for the Mays. If there is anything we can do to help please let us know. Don and Dawn are getting loving help from the family which is a blessing.

J. Carey.

**Blue Sargent, 134 Simpson Rd.,
Eaglehawk 3556**

Enclosed please find donation for Courier fund.

All reasonably okay here except hot weather.

Regards, Blue Sargent.

Our thanks to all those good people who sent Xmas cards wishing members all the best for the Festive Season: the Ryan family, Kath Sargeant, Betty Devlin, Joan Fenwick, Harry & Amyce Handicott, Jack Porter, Dept. Veterans' Affairs and Betty Craig.

J. Carey.

The Chairman

Kings Park & Botanic Gardens, West Perth
6005.

Dear Mr Reynolds,

Memorial Plaques 2/2nd Commando Assoc.
of Australia Lovekin Drive.

The original wooden plaques suspended on poles were installed some forty years ago. In late 1998 termite operations triggered replacement discussion.

Bunning Forrest Products agreed to donate timber for two replacement plaques and poles. The director of Casuarina prison undertook to have the remainder of the work done in their industrial workshop. Unfortunately the Casuarina members decided to have a riot first. This delayed plans until the termites recently felled one structure

During the two-year delay, John Chalwell, 2/2nd Honour Avenue warden, removed the two original plaques and did a magnificent job of restoration before replacing them.

Our intention had been alter the wording from "maintained by members of the 2/2nd" to read "created" to acknowledge the takeover of maintenance by Kings Park staff and for which we have been most grateful.

We acknowledge the co-operation and help rendered by Technical Services manager Kym Burrell in retrieving both structures prior to replacement.

Poles were purchased and delivered to Clough Engineering who kindly agreed without charge, to construct our requirements including metal work. Western

Power installed the replacement structures in time for our annual commemoration service on Sunday 19th November.

The organisation of Kings Park in delaying traffic in Lovekin Drive for the duration of our service was significant and greatly appreciated. Today we view with pride the replacement memorial structure and thank all concerned for their involvement.

Yours sincerely,

Robert N. Smyth. 5.12.2001

N.B. White ants are a scourge in W.A. The replacement of the poles, cartage, paint and other materials cost the Association \$575. As mentioned in Bob's letter, warden John Chalwell did a fine job in refurbishing the two signboards. A real handyman is our John! Bob's contribution was noteworthy. He put a lot of his time into ordering new poles, arranging transport, creosoting and painting the poles and supervising the installation of the sign boards in Kings Park in time for our commemoration service. A good organiser with a great capacity for work. No challenge is too much for Bob.. We are lucky to have him. J. Carey.

Korean War 50th Anniversary.

Ray Parry, our W.A. Vice President has been chosen to attend the commemoration services to be held in South Korea from the 16th to the 26th April this year. Ray was one of two selected from W.A.

Two Korean veterans from each state plus widows and dignitaries make up the party of 30 going to Korea. The trip is funded by the Department of Veterans' Affairs. The party will be provided with uniforms to be worn on special occasions, which will include remembrance services at Pusan, Kapyong and Marygan-San where Australian troops fought with distinction 50 years ago.

Commonwealth countries viz New Zealand, Canada and the United Kingdom and other

countries of the world who also provided military personnel will also be present so there will certainly be great interest in the various ceremonies as they take place. The Korean conflict began in June 1950 and ended in July 1953.

Ray enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 1st May 1941, four days before his 18th birthday. He liked the army life and was a top soldier. He served with the 2/2nd from go to whoa and was mentioned in despatches for bravery in Timor. After his discharge in early 1946 he returned to his former job with West Australian Newspapers. Shortly after the Korean War broke out he volunteered for service and joined B. Company of the 3rd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment late in 1950. He went on to serve in Korea throughout 1951 and saw action at Pusan, Kapyong and Marygan-San. A write up in the March 1999 issue of the Courier gives details of an action in which he played an important role. He held the rank of Sergeant when his discharge came through in December 1951. The Korean winter that the troops had to endure was one of the worst in 50 years. Jack Steen who also served in Korea can confirm this.

Ray can boast a fine record indeed of which any old digger would be proud.

In offering Ray our congratulations on his selection I'm sure all members and friends of the Association, especially his old mates in B. Platoon wish him all the best in what surely will be an exciting and memorable trip.

God speed and good luck Ray.

J. Carey.

Taur Matan Ruak.

On the evening following the Mandurah Luncheon, Delys and Jack Carey, Colleen Ward and I attended a meeting at Parliament House organised by Allanah McTiernan to honour the visit to W.A. of the newly appointed Commander in Chief of Falantil. Taur Matan Ruak is of course a pseudonym and is chosen so that his initials TMR will

be the standard abbreviation for Timor.

Ruak is a small man physically but the strength of his personality shines in his smile and in the flash of his eyes. It makes one understand how such a man could gain a tigerish reputation as a guerilla leader of indomitable courage – one indeed who having been captured by the Indonesians escaped and rejoined his command in the mountains.

Taur Matan Ruak now the leader of Falintil will automatically become the leader of a Free Timor Loro'Sai Defence Force when his country at last achieves this state and as such will provide the back up to a civilian police force.

Those of us who were able to meet this dedicated man, and for Jack and I particularly, to recognise in him a mirror image of the young men who supported us so many years ago may consider themselves fortunate indeed.

As for Tuar Matan Ruak we all wish him well in his future service for his country.

Ray Aitken.

N.B. On the 1st February at a ceremony held at Alleu, the Falintil Guerilla Army ceased to exist as a military force as such under an arrangement with the United Nations Administration. Its members will now make up the core of the new East Timor Defence Force. Recruitment of the first battalion of 650 soldiers all former Falintil veterans, has been completed. A second battalion, which will be open to any East Timorese including women, will follow. Portuguese troops will conduct the first phase of training followed by advanced training by Australian instructors. Taur Matan Ruak was named Commander of the new defence force with the rank of Brigadier-General.

"Let me assure the heroes of Falintil that this occasion in no way represents the end of

Falintil" said Sergio Vieira de Mello head of the United Nations East Timor administration.

J. Carey.

The "S.S. and S.H. Brigade."

(Seldom Seen and Seldom Heard)

Reg Tatam. Reg, a widower who was 81 on New Years Day, lives in Hamersley and spends most of the time in his workshop or gardening. An original Sig, "Dudah" as he was known was asking after Percy McPhee, Dusty Studdy, Harry Botterill and Happy Greenhalgh, all old members of Johnny Rose's Sig. Section. Reg sends his regards to all members.

Tom Martin. Tom is 84 and a widower lives in Alinjarra, a suburb north of Perth. Tom reckons he has had just about every complaint you can think of and his two wobbly old knees restrict his movements. He has two pet dogs and potters around the back yard filling in time. Tom was an original member of 6 section. Of the original 20, only 2 others, Jack Hanson and Stan Payne besides Tom himself are still on deck. Tom also sends his regards to all members.

Others qualifying for the "S.S. & S.H." brigade, and there are plenty on the mailing list, are asked to write in and let us know how they are getting on.

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

Dear Jack, If you are short of material, this may fill a blank. Firstly thanks a million to Len, Betty and Gavin Bagley for their sterling performance in getting our "Courier" to our members over the years. All readers say, "How pleased we are to receive the Courier". Few of us give a thought to the people who make it possible for us to receive it. As editor, Len and as proof reader and sub-editor Betty I thank you. Any person condemned to reading my calligraphy, typing it, so as the printer can decipher it, and do so with a minimum of error, have done enough

penance in this world. Thank you, good luck and best wishes in your retirement from journalism.

One searingly hot day, pre Christmas, I thought it is a good day to go visiting, no one will be out today. First on the list Edna Olde, no one home, next Keith Brown and he was home. Keith of course has mobility problems; otherwise he may have been up and away too. He really looks great facially; not an iota different than he was in 1942, crowned with a good head of hair, not as slim and naturally not as athletic as he once was. Keith was a pretty good cricketer and rugby league player. He wishes to be remembered to his old mates in 2 section and A Pl. or what's left of them as we limp our way into the 21st Century.

Next on the list was Maria Hartley. Keith said, "We'll ring her first Paddy." Just as well. On a day as hot as the hobs of hell (42C) Maria was off somewhere as well.

Edna Olde rang me. She had spent Christmas with one of her sons living in Bathurst. Edna is keeping well and looking forward to greeting to more great grandchildren, that will make seven. So the bloodlines of "Shadow" Gordon Olde will be running through the veins of Aussies well into the future, and I can vouch and state there is a modicum of the miraculous in that. At dawn on August 28th 1943 the Japs wiped out, or nearly so the outpost at Faita, New Guinea. Bill Holly, Len Brown (came from Kal) and Bill Cheverton were killed. "Shadow" Olde should not have been there. He was that bad with malaria, he couldn't make it back. He got out, crawled under a log, a Jap jumped up on the log for a better view. Just as well he didn't view Shadow. They missed him completely. He made it back to Kodrum after hours of crawling and staggering. His temperature was 105.8 and only God knows how his nerves were. His descendants will never know how close they came to never existing.

We have really endured a roasting here for

over a month. The Western, South Western and North Western suburbs have been shrivelled up. If it would only rain, nothing but sizzling heat. Oh well, it can't last forever!

Merv Clarke, better known as "Squirt" Johnson in the 2/2nd. He was well under age when he joined the AIF under a false name. He died on the 15th January 2001. He celebrated his 18th birthday at Remexio in April 1942. Curly O'Neill will attend to his obituaries. Merv and Curly went to school in Narrabeen, boyhood friends. They roamed the beaches, the lakeside and the wooded hills. Pre-war Narrabeen was paradise. Curly and Merv were lucky youngsters, even though times were tough.

Our family is all well. They had good holidays on the South Coast. Sean took his two South and West along the Great Ocean Road and up to the Murray at Mildura. The whole tribe had memorable holidays.

Nora and I explored Yagoona, sat on the back patio, gazing west at the trees, which now obscure the view we had all the way to the Blue Mountains. No complaints, we like the trees.

Good luck and may our members survive well into our new century. Paddy Kenneally.

We regret to advise of the death of Una May Thompson, widow of Lou, who passed away peacefully on 14th December last.

A. Moore, 10 Poplar Street, Dwellingup. Please find enclosed a donation for the Courier.

Thank you so much for sending it. Xmas wishes to all members of 2/2nd.

Alma Moore.

DARBY DAYS.

To those members who attended the Cadre at the Darby Infantry Training Centre early in 1941, this poem will bring back memories. Fond ones we trust.

Jack Carey

*In the dim and distant future,
When the years have passed away,
When this War is won and over,
And there dawns a brighter day.*

*On the banks of Darby River,
May some lonely stockman find,
Remnants of a camp and chalet,
And the men they left behind.*

*He will find these lonely creatures
Remnants of an age that's gone,
Men the army lost.....forgotten
Hoary headed.....bearded long.*

*They with wistful eyes will ask him,
Are they going this camp to close,
Are we going to train Militia
Or carry on our long repose?*

*Oh those hoary headed soldiers,
Sad, neglected, crooked backed,
Mutter jumbled words, forgetting
How in their youth their orders cracked.*

*Oh those neglected relics,
Of an army that marched on,
All will ask that lonely stockman,
Do you think we'll be here long?*

Anon.

Victorian News.

November 19th at Wilson's Promontory, the Annual Commemoration service was held at the Cairn.

One of the best days we have had for a while but unfortunately numbers were down owing to old age and sickness. I was the only starter from the 2/2nd. Olive and I went to stay with Margaret Monk and Don Thompson over the weekend. So with Margaret, Don, Olive and I and Pat Peterson from Fish Creek we were the reps. of the 2/2nd. However we had a good day.

On Dec 3rd 2000, we had our Christmas luncheon at Paterson Lakes Golf and Country Club. A beautiful day and a very

enjoyable luncheon and we were well looked after as usual. 21 turned up with quite a few apologies. Present were Harry and Olive Botterill, Ed Bourke, Leith and Marge Cooper and their friend Dorothy McLeod, Joan Fryer, Nina Grachan, Wal Kerr, Margaret Monk and Don Thompson, Pat Petersen and sister Miriam, John and Shirley Southwell, Dot Veitch and daughter Sue, Fred and Mavis Broadhurst.

Apologies from John and Cath Roberts, Jon Craig, Rolf Baldwin, Alf Harper, Jack Fox, Bruce and Loraine McLaren, George and Dot Robinson.

Our thanks to Wal Kerr for his donation to the branch. He does this every year.

Olive and I received an invitation to the 80th birthday of Johnny Roberts on Boxing Day, 26th December at Neerim South. It was a great day and Johnny stood up to it well. Cath and family must have been very proud of him. He spoke with everybody and really enjoyed himself. Margaret Monk and Don Thompson, Faye Campbell, Dot and Eddie Bourke were also there. I would like to take this opportunity to wish everybody a healthy and pleasant New Year.

Harry Botterill.

**Senor Jose Ramos Horta
18 Dec. 2000**

C/- CNRT President's Office
P.O. Box 2
Dili Post Office
Timor LoroSae – East Timor
(Austral-asia)

Dear Senor Ramos Horta

Will you please accept the hearty congratulations of those old soldiers who served in Timor Loro-Sae during the Second World War, on your recent elevation to the highest rank in the political evolution of your country. We, particularly members of the 2/2nd Commando Association, have been long aware of your selfless and courageous

dedication to the cause of attaining future life and freedom for the Eastern half of Timor and for it's people. A people indeed to whom we ourselves owe so much.

For a very long time now we have tried to put political pressure on various Australian Governments in the cause of Timor Loro-Sae. We will continue to do so.

We commend you for your dedication and unswerving energy in a cause that you yourself must have often thought almost hopeless. We rejoice in a new freedom in Timor and wish you every success in your future efforts.

Two of us had the good fortune to meet briefly with Taur Matan Ruak recently. What a pleasant and believable young man he is. Our deepest congratulations and regards, Ba hamutuk Matomak.

Yours sincerely

J. W. Carey.

Hon. Secretary.

Timor Memories Series 8.

Mystery Lights in the Mountains.

The following is Paddy Kenneally's version of a humorous incident which took place on East Timor early in February 1942 about 2 weeks before the Japanese landed.

Life was interesting in Railaco. The 50 reos (reinforcements) did all the work. Paddy Knight and Andy Smeaton were there for disciplinary reasons from their respective sections in "B" & "C" Platoons. What mode of discipline was involved I could never work out. They had money and plenty of time on their hands, much of it spent up at the Chinese shop where food and drink was available for cash. There were a few sick mainly with malaria while Weril Meiser and I were also isolated having picked up a dose of crabs (the non edible variety) when travelling up from Koepang on the Canopus.

One dark night Paddy Knight decided he would retrieve a bottle of the "water of life" (whisky) which he knew the Company C.O.

Major Al Spence had in safe custody in his tent for Lieutenant Tom Nisbet. Noiselessly he crawled into the C.O.'s tent and was groping under the Major's bunk when a colt 45 automatic was poked in his face, "Who is that?" barked Al. "Private Knight, Sir" said Paddy. "I wish to report mysterious lights on the hills" The Major was up instantly "Where are they?" he demanded. "Up there, Sir – you will see them come and go. They look like signals" Sure enough the lights appeared and then disappeared. The camp was roused, guards doubled and posted on all approaches into Railaco. The area being secured to the duty officers satisfaction the camp settled down, not however for the reos. They stood to and supplied the guards. The rain came down in buckets while the guards huddled miserably in their ground sheets wondering about the mysterious lights.

Up in the hills the Timorese were snug inside their huts as they slept around the fires. The wind moaned pitifully through the trees as the branches moved to and thro sending out signals from the native fires. Paddy Knight slept peacefully.

N.B.

On a Sadder Note.

Paddy – William Patrick Knight WX13454 was killed in action on 2nd March 1942 in East Timor. His remains rest in the Ambon War Cemetery, Indonesia. Paddy's real surname was Cotter, being the son of William Francis and Ellen Cotter of Edgbaston Birmingham England. He was 31 years of age. Lest We Forget.

J.W. Carey.

Bob Smyth via Bart Mavrck approached Lt. Col. Tim McOwan In November 2000 concerning our plan to supply retail packets of Yates ~vegetables seeds to ~ast Timorese villagers, particularly those in hazardous and remote areas.

Lt. Col. McOwan favoured the plan whereby his men would participate in the distribution



The southern end of the Kings Park Honour Avenue before replacement of the Plaque Poles.

while operating in the area. Subsequently Major Dan Fortuns said his troops would be keen to participate.

We have received 4 separate orders totaling some 8,000 packets. The delay followed our decision to individually stamp each packet with our unit colour patch and name. Two orders totaling 4000 packets addressed to Major Fortune were delivered today 15th January to Campbell Barracks. There are 14 varieties. To assist access and selection, each box is tabulated with contents which are banded in lots of 10. Accompanying documentation, some rough, also should assist.

Our hope is that each garden owner would be given a packet of each of the 14 varieties in which he showed interest.

The head of a village should be told that the seeds are gifts for prompt distribution not hoarding and he is not to sell them or demand favours for them.

VARIETIES

The order comprises varieties which are in Yates regular shipments to New Guinea and

other Pacific Islands.

We would greatly appreciate feedback regarding preferences to enable a reduction in the varieties for future orders.

Our first orders have been funded from contributions from our members, most of whom are on pensions. We view the seed programme as an excellent scheme to genuinely help the East Timorese. It has the added advantage of fostering good relations with the operating units and Australia.

We accept that security prevents feedback regarding areas distributed, however if that could be recorded and given to us at a time when security is no longer a concern it would be greatly appreciated.

Should the programme be successful we would pursue it progressively to embrace the whole of East Timor. We are reasonably confident of obtaining funding beyond our own membership. Our thanks to all personnel participating in the programme.

BOB SMYTH

FAX TO: Mick Malone SecretarySAS .
Assocn . (W. A.)

Dear Mick

The Salvation Army picked up the cartons which will be delivered by them to The House tomorrow Wednesday 14/2/01. Change of destination in East Timor.

The cartons, 14 in total will now be sent to Primary School NAHAEK - Dili Att. Headmistress FRANCOLINA DOCARMO

The school is nearest the site of the 2/2nd Commando Assocn. Memorial at Dare - FATUNABA - Dili. The school have assumed a role of care and reporting of the general tidyness and maintenance of the pool and surrounds.

Volume-estimated 25% of a pallet. Cartons are unaddressed and we will attend early next week to address them as above via your preferred dropping off point at Comoro ?.

I have cautioned Busselton RSL re a one off delivery via the present priveleged access. (Contents School Books)

Please phone me 9386 3314 should a query arise.

Regards and thanks.

(Keith Hayes attended on 22/2/2000, addressed all packages and helped Mick & team to assemble two pallet loads including Keith's sewing machine shipment . They are now en route) .

In response to a request Keith Hayes received from Patsy Thatcher, who visited East Timor last September, Keith collected, packed and despatched the following goods for C.N.R.T. Dili Hq. An adjoining building is occupied by a keen group of women who are teaching in a variety of hands on activity.

- 8 Apple computers) 8 cartons
 - 8 keyboards) 1 carton
 - 8 mouses) 1
 - 1 Carton A.pple instruction books
 - 4 Cartons books (Primary - High)
 - 3 tubes containing Maps & Wall charts
 - 1 Carton cooking utensils
 - 8 Sewing machines & material as packing
 - 1 Epson printer supplies
 - 1 Carton of paper, envelopes & files
 - 10 Portable typewriters (3cartons)
- Sent through Darwin. Received note of thanks from Kirsty Gusmao. (C.N.R.T.) Dili East Timor
- 5 Sewing machines & material.



A trashed place of Worship at SUAI



A group of Morador (village police)