



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

Print Post approved 637597 / 1646

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

Vol 139

JUNE 2002

A MAN ON A MISSION

Xanana Gusmao, President of Timor Loro Sa'e.

A goodwill message from The President and members of the 2/2nd Commando Association of Australia.

24/04/2002

Dear Xanana,

You will forgive us for the use of your first name, as this is the way we think of you.

We wish to convey our heartfelt congratulations on your recent victory in the Presidential Election. We, a small group of surviving guerilla soldiers, who served in Timor, and owe our lives to the Timorese, are heartened by the fact that you, a forgiving spirit, will now be able to influence your fellow citizens on the road to reconciliation and freedom. We feel that the future is in good hands and that it can become "Timor of the Sunrise" in which tribal differences will be submerged in the wonder of developing a free, prosperous and forward thinking community that may grow in the peace and prosperity it richly deserves but historically has never before enjoyed.

We recognise the sacrifices you have made to accept this mighty task and we understand your reluctance, but we are sure that you are "the person for the job". Our very best wishes to Kirsty and yourself in the coming years.

"Ita harohan Timor Loro Sa'e soi beibeik.

(We pray that Timor Loro Sa'e will always be free).

"Ba humutuc Maromak".

(Go with God).

R. Parry
President.

Vale Charlie King WX 5541.

Charlie passed away peacefully in the Mandurah District Hospital on Wednesday the 22nd May after a long and courageous fight against cancer. He needed blood transfusions every 3 weeks to keep him going during his last two years. He was in his 86th year.

Charlie was born in Albany, WA on the 28th December 1916. He was one of a family of 15, 11 boys and 4 girls. To keep the big family going his parents ran a butchery business and had a fishing trawler. Charlie was a young boy when the family moved north to Wagin – Colin Doig's hometown. This was in the early 20's. The King family was made welcome as the influx of so many youngsters meant the threat to close the local school because of a shortage of pupils was removed. Charlie had a happy boyhood though small in stature he excelled at sport. He could run like a hare and at the age of 15 was the champion bike rider in the district. He could really ride! At 16 in 1933 Charlie decided to try his luck and left home on his bike heading for the North-West. 60 miles past Carnarvon on a bush track, Charlie came off his bike, was immobilised, and lay on the track for over 2 days. He became delirious and was in a very bad way when fortunately along came the mail truck, which used that route. He was taken to a local station and nursed back to health. It had been a close shave. When better Charlie got a job on the station and stayed there for sometime before returning to Wagin. From there he enlisted in the 2nd AIF early in 1941 later joining the 2/2nd as an original. He served in 4 Section "B" Platoon in Timor.

Charlie was a first class soldier, a good shot and as game as Ned Kelly. He went on to serve in New Guinea with the Unit until April 1944 when ill health saw him transferred to the 9th Australian Works Company. He was discharged from the army early in 1945. While on leave at

home in mid 1944 he married his childhood sweetheart Mary Valana. They were a lovely couple – the marriage lasting over 58 years until Charlie's passing. They had three fine sons in Vincent, Stephen and Paddy. After his discharge Charlie worked for a time with the Canning Road Board. In 1950 he and Mary were involved in a bad road accident near Williams. In the collision with another truck Mary was thrown through the windscreen and Charlie lost his right arm to his elbow. Further complications resulted in his arm being removed to the shoulder. Showing great courage and determination Charlie went on to overcome his severe handicap and after a time with aids could do jobs such as cutting wood, mixing concrete – you name it – as good as the next bloke. Paddy said that a few days before he died his Dad was mixing concrete – what a man! During the rehab period after his accident Charlie worked for a time as a lift attendant in Boans store in Perth and later as a weighbridge attendant at Cannington. He enjoyed both jobs and eventually got back into his stride again. Charlie managed Cliff Haughton's Service Station at Canningsvale for a number of years and later he and Mary ran a General store at Bullsbrook and then an orchard at Bedfordale. The Association had a couple of nice barbecue outings at their property. Charlie and Mary retired to Mandurah in 1990. Charlie, Mary and Paddy took an active interest in the Mandurah 2/2nd – Paddy being the current president. Charlie and Mary were loyal supporters of the Association with Charlie being made a life member in 1982. He enjoyed a beer or two or more and liked to reminisce on army days. A funeral service was held for Charlie at Bowra & O'Dea's Chapel in Mandurah on Wednesday morning 28th May followed by a burial service at the Lakes Cemetery. The members formed a guard of honour at the graveside where Charlie was laid to rest

in a peaceful bush setting. The Association extends its deepest sympathy to Mary, Victor, Stephen, Paddy and their families on the sad loss of their loved one. Present at the service were Keith & Val Hayes, Bernie & Babs Langridge, Clarrie & Grace Turner, Joe & Helen Poynton, Len & Betty Bagley, Bart & Lois Mavrick, Joy Chatfield, Tony Bowers, Jim Lines, Don Murray, Ray Aitken, Don Turton, Ray Parry, Doc. Wheatley, Bob Smyth, Dick Darrington and Jack Carey.

Lest we Forget.

J. Carey.

Vale David Mailer Brown

It is with much regret we advise of the sudden passing of Dave on the 13th May last. Dave was mowing the lawn on Mother's Day, 12th May when he collapsed following a massive cerebral haemorrhage. He was rushed to hospital but never regained consciousness, dying in the early hours of the 13th May. His death came as a great shock to Thais, the family and his many friends. David was born in Nagambie, Victoria on the 28th April 1922, the youngest in a family of two boys and 5 girls. His early schooling was done at the Toronga State School. A bright pupil, he won a scholarship at Melbourne High, then going on to Swinburne Technical School at Hawthorn where he studied engineering. When the war broke he enlisted in 1940 at 18 going on to serve in the Middle East in 1941/42 including the Syrian Campaign. On his return to Australia he transferred to the 2/2nd at Canungra early in 1943 as a sapper and was with the Unit in New Guinea and New Britain. Dave as a capable soldier and well respected by his mates.

Demobilised in 1945, Dave returned to the Swinburne Tech under the rehab scheme and graduated as a civil engineer in 1949. In 1945 he and Thais met – it was love at first sight – and they married in 1949, the year he graduated. They set up home in

Glen Iris, where the children Ken, Carolyne, Thais, Kathy (now deceased) and Annabelle spent their childhood.

David and Thais started their own steel construction company, which came to grief when the recession of 1967 occurred. Dave who was 45 at the time obtained a position as civil engineer with the Carlton Brewery and for the next 15 years until his retirement at 60 was responsible for the construction work in the Company's many hotel holdings. He and Thais moved to Phillip Island in the 70's where they built a lovely home at Newhaven. Those who attended the 1988 Safari at Phillip Island will remember the lovely Sunday they had at Dave and Thais's home and the sumptuous lunch they turned on.

Joe Poynton, Don Turton, Peter Campbell and Len Bagley also have memories of that day when Dave's boat sprung a leak and they had to be towed back in. Dave and Thais worked hard along with others on the committee to make that Safari the success it was.

Dave's health problems in the 1980's saw them moved to another home in Newhaven without steps, which caused a problem in their big home. Further deterioration in his health forced them to move back to Melbourne late in the 90's to Forest Hill, close to the main hospitals. Dave really had a rough time of it in his last few years, you name it, he got it, anaemia, asthma, angina, pneumonia to name a few while a broken bone in his heel saw him spend six months in a wheel chair. Dave took his setbacks bravely deriving much pleasure from his 8 grandchildren who thought the world of him.

Fred & Mavis Broadhurst, Ed Bourke and Leith Cooper representing the 2/2nd attended his funeral held on The 24th May.

The Association extends its deepest sympathy to Thais and family.

Lest We forget. L Cooper.

Another Link Broken

Ron Archer rang to advise that Mrs Dorothy Gibson had passed away on the 26th May. Mrs Gibson's first husband was Alec Spence who passed away suddenly in July 1983. Alec was our first C.O. They had 3 daughters by the marriage. In 1985 Dorothy married Gordon Gibson a Middle East veteran and an old friend of the family. He died in 1994. Dorothy was on our Courier list and took a keen interest in Association affairs. She attended the 50th Anniversary dinner held at Port Macquarie in July 1991 with her two daughters. I can remember Colin Doig saying what a lovely lady she was. Ron Archer represented the Association at the funeral service held at St. Augustine's Anglican Church at Bowen on 30th May.

May she rest in peace.

Jack Carey.

Vale Peter Mantle WX 8463

News has been received of the passing of Peter Mantle in Queensland on the 20th March. He was 85. It is difficult to pay a full tribute to Peter, as we know little about his life. We do know he was born on the 12th August 1916 in England the youngest of a family of 5 boys and that the family moved to Australia when Peter was 13. He later attended Perth Modern School and excelled at hockey. He worked as a clerk for the Vacuum Oil Company in Perth in the thirties and also as a reporter for a radio station before he enlisted in the AIF early in 1941, eventually joining the 2/2nd as a corporal in 9 section.

A little bloke with red hair Peter copped his fair share of ribbing from his section. I remember he had Dick Burton paraded before the CO for Dick telling him to "crap in his hat". The penalty was a 10 bob fine. Peter served in Timor in 1942, later serving in the 10th Garrison Battalion. He was promoted to Sergeant in the HQ Fremantle Fortress and was discharged from the army in April 1946. From what

we can gather he married after the war, there being 2 daughters and a son from the marriage. He became a Commonwealth public servant serving in Bombay for a number of years.

Two of Peter's brothers lost their lives in World War II, Gordon over Europe in the RAAF and Norman with the 2/24th Battalion in Singapore. Peter was a survivor.

In a letter to the Courier in July 1956 he advised he was leaving the service and "blizzardly rugged" Canberra to become the owner of a little country newspaper "The Central Telegraph" in Biloela Queensland – a nice little town in a district of dairy, beef sorghum and cotton. He still had his family with him. Another letter in June 1970 spoke of a bad drought in the district. He apparently had bought a property, which he lamented as being a bad time to do so. In February 1987 advice was received of a change of address to Allora – north of Warwick, Queensland. By this time the children had grown up and long left. Peter worked as a reported at the Warwick Times newspaper for many years before his demise. A well-read man with a keen sense of humour, Peter was a good conversationalist and a likeable little bloke. I asked him to write a feature article for the March Courier. It was running late and Peter died before he could see it in print. Such is life. Henry Sproston spoke to him only two weeks before he died, he was bright and cheerful and sounded 100%. We understand he had a back operation following which he had a fatal heart attack.

Rest in peace Peter. Lest We Forget.

J. Carey.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT AT 56th A.G.M. TUES. 12th MARCH 2002.

It gives me pleasure to present the President's Annual report, touching on the events over the past twelve months.

Before I left for Korea last year I nominated Keith Hayes to lead the 2/2nd on Anzac Day, Keith later informed me that for the first time the saluting base was located in St. George's Terrace near Howard Street. It was heartening to learn there were a marked increase in the number of people who attended the Dawn Service and the parade later in the morning. Particularly pleasing was the number of young people who were present. I was in Seoul, South Korea on the Anzac Day; the occasion was the 50th anniversary of the Korean War. We attended the Dawn Service at the United Nations compound in Seoul and later had breakfast there. Present were Canadians, British, Australians and New Zealanders.

The dawn service at Gallipoli in April last year was also attended by thousands of young people who were drawn to the area where the Anzac legend was born. The number of people in attendance was estimated to be 15,000.

On June 10 last year Gavin Bagley drafted a letter for the committee to study a proposition that a web site on the Internet be established for the 2/2nd Commando Association. Gavin had done a wonderful job. He attended several meetings to answer questions on a subject about which we knew so little. We last met at Ray Aitken's home in December 2001 – present were Ray, John Burrridge, Gavin and myself. On Tuesday the 12th February at our monthly meeting the decision was made to concentrate our energies on the book, "The History of the 2/2nd". The Wednesday following the meeting it was my duty to contact Gavin and inform him that we had regretfully decided to concentrate on the book. I spoke for sometime and thanked him on behalf of all of us for devoting so much of his time and energy to the project. Gavin accepted our decision with good grace and wished us every success for the launch of our book. He is a wonderful

young man who has done so much for our Association as have Len and Betty.

On Tuesday the 19th February at the lovely stately home of John Burrridge, we met for an informal meeting. Present were John Senior and Junior, Jack Carey, Ray Aitken, Happy Greenhalgh, Bob Smyth, Henry Sproton, myself and John Junior's daughter Angie.

John who has a wealth of knowledge in the field of books published gave an interesting and informative talk on the subject. Following that meeting we had a greater awareness of the work that lay ahead of us.

The ladies provided our group with morning tea, coffee, and cake – it was much appreciated.

The Norma Hasson and Xmas socials were well attended and proved to be pleasant occasions.

The S.A.S Association President, Bart Mavrick has on a number of occasions invited our people to join his Association members to functions that were held at "The House" in Swanbourne, a relaxing and enjoyable time for all that attended. At the Xmas Social I extended to Bart Mavrick and his wife an open invitation to join us whenever he so chooses at any function we may hold during the course of each year.

Our 52nd Commemoration Service was at King's Park on Sunday 18th November and was well attended. My address was followed by the march with sons and daughters of members marching. It was a proud occasion for me as President of such a fine Association. My thanks to the S.A.S Regiment and the King's Park Board for their help and co-operation on the day.

On behalf of all our members I convey our heartfelt thanks to, firstly Delys Carey, our new editor for the effort involved in producing a Courier each quarter with assistance from our Secretary Jack. Then to Bob Smyth, Keith Hayes and John

Burrige for the demanding role involving, corresponding, purchasing, collection, sorting, packing and arranging shipment to East Timor of items ranging from seed to sewing machines, education requisites, sporting equipment etc – a job well done.

On a sadder note we have lost ten members of our Association over the past twelve months.

In conclusion I thank our Secretary for the assistance he has given me since being elected President.

Ray Parry.

W.A. Branch A.G.M. 2002

An attendance of only 12 members to our 56th AGM held at the Anzac Club on Tuesday 12th March was in keeping with the gradual decline in our numbers.

Present: Messrs R. Parry, L. Bagley, R. Aitken, R. Shenn, R. Darrington, J. Burrige, D. Studdy, K. Hayes, B. Langridge, R. Smyth, T. Monk and J. Carey.

Apologies: Messrs D. Turton, L. Halse, J. Chalwell, H. Sproxton, D. Murray, T. Bowers, J. Lines, J. Poynton, M. Wheatley, A. Friend and C. Turner.

Reports: Reports were presented by President R. Parry, Trust Fund Chairman, Mr R. Smyth, Auditor J. Burrige and Editor Mrs D. Carey. All reports appear in this Courier.

Election of Officers: 2002/2003:

President	R. Parry.
Vice-President	C. Hodson.
Sec./Treasurer	J. Carey.
Editor	Mrs D. Carey.
Auditor	J. Burrige.
Warden	J. Chalwell.

General Committee

Messr R. Darrington, J. Burrige, B. Langridge and L. Bagley.

Courier Committee

Mrs. S Epps, Mr G Bagley and J. Carey.

Trust Fund Committee

R. Smyth, K. Hayes and J. Burrige.

Under General Business it was agreed that a new address book be published later on in the year. This would be our last address book.

A sub-committee comprising of Messrs R. Aitken, J. Burrige, R. Parry, R. Smyth and J. Carey was elected to get the Unit history book project under way. J. Carey, Secretary.

Editor's Report.

When I was approached to take over the position of Editor in March last year I did so with a certain amount of doubt, ability wise, but I am pleased I did, as it has been a great experience.

During the year 4 Couriers were produced, the March issue of 24 pages and the June, September and December issues each of 32 pages. Dalkeith Hi Tech has done the printing with the end product proving satisfactory. However there have been a few teething problems before reaching this point. Cost wise they are in front of their competitors.

Well as they say "keep it all in the family" and I couldn't have done the job without Jack, he's becoming a real "journor", scrounging news and requesting articles from all over. As fast as I document it on the computer he's filling up the "in" basket! We work as a team – not always smoothly I might add but I do get to have the last word!

I would like to thank all those who have contributed with written articles and letters. Copy is vital. The aim is to produce a 32-page quality Courier each quarter. Any suggestions critical or constructive are welcome. Remember it is your newsletter! The objective is to keep going until numbers (at present 342 copies are sent out) get to the stage it is no longer viable.

In conclusion I would like to thank Gavin Bagley for providing the labels free of charge and Sue Epps who stands by, as back up if the copy is too much to handle.

Delys Carey.

Editor.

Auditor's Report on Year Ended 31/01/02.

The finances of both the Independent Trust and the Association are in very good shape.

The Trust Fund had a cash balance of \$4396.07 and in addition had vegetable seeds to the value of \$1823.30. Those seeds have since been sent to Timor.

The Association as at 31/01/02 had a cash balance of \$6302.88, which was surprisingly close to the figure of \$6836.88 twelve months earlier. Courier donations of \$5105 more than covered the cost of the Courier for the year, which was just under \$4000. The excess went towards the shortfall in Association events which was about \$500. Other annual expenses such as funeral notices, plaques, administration costs and many smaller items totalled approximately \$1350. All in all it was a very successful year with our cash position falling by a little over \$1500.

Apart from the above the Association received a most handsome bequest under the Will of UNA MAY THOMPSON who was the widow of our late and popular member LOU THOMPSON. This money is on deposit with the Commonwealth Bank of Australia and is to be used in the production of a book covering the 2/2nd from formation to demobilisation. The total bequest is likely to be in the vicinity of \$20,000 when the estate is finalised.

J. Burridge.

Hon. Auditor.

Thompson Family Bequest.

A letter received from the A.N.Z. Trustees, Melbourne in February 2001 notifying the Association that under the terms of the Estate of the late Una Thompson, widow of our late respected member Lou, we were to receive a one-eleventh share of the residue Estate. The bequest came as a complete surprise to us. Subsequent to the advice from the trustees, the Association has received two amounts one of \$18,000 and one of \$3000.

The \$18,000 received on 03/08/2001 was invested on a short-term deposit and accrued interest of \$543.53. The \$3000 received on 09/04/02 has been added to the first amount and the \$21, 543.53 reinvested for a term of 5 months at 4.2%.

The W.A. Committee has decided to use the Legacy to help finance the publication of our Unit History Book. It will be treated as a loan and the money borrowed will be repaid from the sale of the books. This could take sometime, possibly two years or more.

The Association will then have to decide what to do with the Legacy after consultation with all State Branches.

The Estate as yet has not been finalised and we may receive another amount when this eventuates.

Jack Carey.

Anzac Day, W.A. 2002

A lovely autumn morning saw a record crowd, estimated in the region of 25,000 at the King's Park dawn service. Peter Epps laid a wreath on our behalf as he has done on many previous occasions. Thanks Peter, Bob Smyth and John Burridge reported a big attendance at the S.A.S Regiment's dawn service at Campbell Barracks with Bob laying a wreath on behalf of the Association. John said it was a very moving ceremony.

This year the combined Commando Squadrons marched as one for the first

time. It took a little time to sort out things at the march off point but in the end some semblance of order was arranged. President Ray Parry led the march followed by the flag and banner bearers. John Chalwell carried the 2/2nd flag in line with the 2/5th and 2/6th bearers and the 2/8th banner close behind. Our Commando group received a warm reception from the big crowd enjoying the parade. Seven of our members marched in the main body viz Ray Aitken, R. Darrington, R. Smyth, M. Wheatley, J. Burrige, K. Hayes and J. Carey. While T. Bowers, J. Poynton, S. Payne, D. Turton, D. Murray, V. Swann and B. Prendergast took advantage of the mini bus (with our red double diamond emblem) kindly provided by Peter Epps at this own expense. Also marching were the 2/3rd John Lillee and R. Silva, 2/5th H. Durant and J. Lines, 2/6th O. Thompson, 2/8th B. Baron, 2/11th J. Sweet to name a few.

Sons of our members participating included M. Press, P. Thorpe, G. Payne, and N. Barnett. Several ladies marched too, Christine and Jenny Wicks, Nerine Barnett, Barbara Thornton (2/2nd), Rosemary Collins (2/3rd), Carol Harris (2/5th) and some grandchildren including Hilton Hayes, Keith and Val's grandson. Our group totalled approximately 30 in all. My apologies for names overlooked. Considering it was our first attempt as one body it was a pleasing effort. Thanks are extended to other squadrons for their cooperation.

After the service on the Esplanade members adjourned to the Goodearth Hotel (formerly the Terrace) for our traditional get-together. The C.O. of the S.A.S Regiment, Lieut. Col. Gus Gilmore along with his 2 IC Major Grant Walsh, RSM WO 1 Dallas Wilson and Bart Mavrick, President of the S.A.S Veteran's Association were good enough to give an hour of their time to meet members. President Ray welcomed our visitors and proposed a toast to the Regiment, which

was drunk with gusto! In reply the C.O. (looking none the worse for wear after 5 months on active service) spoke briefly on his experiences in Afghanistan. The going was tough in very trying conditions but the S.A.S men took it in their stride. The presence of the "top brass" at our Anzac Day function is an honour, which we all appreciate and treasure.

Twenty-seven sat down to a nice luncheon at 1pm, made up of 16 members, 5 sons of members, Brad and Richard Smyth, Mick Press, Geoff Payne, Will Bowers, and six members from other squadrons. Stan Payne (pleased with the recent rains at Merredin) and Vince Swann from Esperance represented our country members – what a dependable pair they are.

The show wound up at 2:30pm and so another Anzac Day, our 57th, came and went.

What wonderful days they have been!

Jack Carey.

Mandurah 2/2nd

Anzac Day 2002 in Mandurah.

The Dawn service drew a huge number of men, women and children to Memorial Park alongside the Mandurah City R.S.L. It was a cold morning and the hot tea and toast were gladly accepted after the service.

We had a beautiful sunny day for the parade and service.

Two Rats of Tobruk veterans led the parade as a mark of respect to the disbanding of their Association due to lack of numbers and health problems.

The 2/2nd flag was carried by Bill Howell's two sons. Paddy King laid our wreath. Quite a large crowd attended this solemn service. Master of Ceremonies for the day was Len Bagley.

Later at a crowded R.S.L Club, a gathering of Charlie King sons, Victor and Paddy, grandson Shayne, Clarrie and

2/2nd Commando Association of Australia**General Account:****Statement of Receipts and Expenditure Year Ending 31/01/02.**

Receipts		Expenditure	
Balance as at 1/02/01	\$6836.88		
Bank Interest	\$49.02	Govt Taxes	\$28.78
Courier Donations	\$5105.00	Courier Printing and Postage	\$3944.77
Sales Jim Smailes Poems	\$40.00	P.O. Box Rental	\$137.50
Sale of Badges	\$10.00	Listening Post	\$20.00
Sale of Plaques	\$50.00	Capitation Fee ACA	\$50.00
Assoc Events	\$2258.00	Association Events	\$2750.84
	<u>\$7512.02</u>	Plaques	\$220.40
		Admin. Postage And Stationery	\$150.00
		Funeral Notices	\$353.43
		Commemoration Service	\$160.30
		Anzac Day wreath	\$50.00
		Donation RSL	\$100.00
		Books (2)	<u>\$80.00</u>
			\$8046.02
		Balance as at 31/01/02	<u>\$6302.88</u>
TOTAL	\$14348.90		\$14348.90

Independent Trust Fund:**Statement of Receipts and Expenditure Year Ending 31/01/02.**

Receipts		Expenditure	
Balance as at 1/02/01	\$2774.78		
Bank Interest	\$27.36	Govt Taxes	\$1.77
Donations	<u>\$1715.14</u>	Admin Costs	<u>\$119.30</u>
	\$1742.36		<u>\$121.07</u>
		Balance as at 31/01/02	<u>\$4396.07</u>
TOTAL	\$4517.14		\$4517.14

Grace Turner, son Noel. Len and Betty enjoyed the afternoon together and as usual Paddy did well at two up!
Len Bagley.

Northern New South Wales News.

Winter starts tomorrow but it was down to 5 degrees last night and if that aint

winter what is? Lovely weather topping the State, for the last three days, but no rain in sight (badly needed). I spoke to Beryl Cullen and it's very dry at Kyogle. Beryl is keeping well.

Others will speak of the Safari at Mildura but for me and my niece, Heather and her husband David, we enjoyed it immensely. Bluey, Ed and their wives

did a great job. I'm just off the phone from Ted Cholerton and he's coping well with his problem. To know that your mates are thinking of you can be a great help.

Jack Steen tells me that he is feeling the best he has for the last couple of years and in fact looking forward to coming to my part of the world to do a spot of fishing in June all being well.

Russ Blanch is a bit upset because the rats ate all his Ranunculus bulbs out of his pots and also his Sweet Peas. He got square by knocking them off. He reckons they were as big as bandicoots! Russ still has mini epileptic turns but has resolved to live with them. I'll get him to Perth next year. I'll try anyway.

Eric Herd is still going well and enjoying the occasional game of golf. Wish I could. He's probably lucky to have a good supporter in wife Lorraine.

Ken and Edith Jones are both well. Ken had just wheeled a barrow load of wood in when he answered the phone. Reckons they'll need plenty this year. It sure gets cold at Barraba. I'll stay on the coast mate!

I'm well. Having a few scans at the moment on my hip to see why I'm limping a bit but I'm okay when I warm up and it hasn't affected my gardening so can't be too bad.

Best regards to all
Happy Greenhalgh.

P.S. By the way they put my boat in the water at Manatuto. I'm pleased it was some place we know.

New South Wales News.

Dear Jack and Delys,

As I commence writing this N.S.W report on May 5th then let me firstly say how sorry we are that we had to cancel out our booking for the Mildura Safari. There was no way that Edith could travel that

distance and apart from that it would be too selfish of me to leave her on her own.

I am also conscious of the fact that I've developed Cardiac Fibrillation and some Arterio Sclerosis in both legs, which places some limitations on me. Our thoughts have been with you all since the 1st, we know you will enjoy each other's company and trust you are having the same perfect autumn weather as we are. God bless and a safe return to your homes.

Our thanks to the many members who keep in touch by phone and mail especially with reports on others.

From my request for a "Round Tuit" I have received 3 different types from East, North and West and thankyou.

By now you will have caught up with Keith Wilson from Booker Bay who phones to tell me he was booked for the Safari and also the sad loss of his wife some time ago. Anzac Day was a huge success in every way – perfect weather from dawn to dusk a large crowd of Veterans, family, Z Special Unit, No. 1 Commando Regiment and 1 Cdo. Comp., 4 R.A.R. (Commando) No.1 C.D.D. Assn. R.A.N. and R.A.A.F. were at our own Memorial at 8:30 am.

Our Team in the main march consisted of Harry Handicott, Col Holley, Paddy Kenneally, myself, sons Robert Gregg, Chris Hartley and his son Martin. We also enjoyed the company of my old friend Alan Gray M.C. M.M. from Wollongong. No. 1 Cdo. Provided a minibus for those of us who couldn't see the distance for which we thank them.

Then our reunion, cruising around the Harbour on our chartered ferry in perfect conditions was one of the best ever.

With sadness we remembered all those good mates who have passed on during and since 1941-46.

On the evening of 23rd April I was one of several Guest speakers at the Warringah

Rotary Club dinner, on some aspects as a medic on Timor in '42. Their members have sent a great deal of Aid to Timor and continue to do so. Tom Workman (ex 2/10th Cdo. Sqdn.) is one of their driving forces. Also present was Don Hopkins from Nedlands who knows Bob Smyth very well.

Sunday 19th. For one reason or another this is the first chance I've had to get on with this dispatch – mostly doctor's visits and domestic duties. Edith damaged her left leg again and so we're back to Home Nurses on a daily basis. They do a wonderful job, as do the Home care people through D.Y.A.

Sorry to hear of the passing of Una Thompson. She and Lou were great supports of the 2/2nd Association over the years. Una has capped it off now with her bequest for which we join you with a sincere thank you.

Apparently the Safari was a great success and everyone returned home safely, so sorry we missed it. In retrospect, probably the West would have been more accessible, but whoever expected the collapse of the rural air services since Mildura was selected.

As you can see by my writing, between my eyes and my shaky hands, the task of writing is not as easy as it was, but I'll make every endeavour to make a contribution to our long awaited Unit History, which I'm sure will be in good hands.

May the independence celebrations in East Timor tomorrow be filled with joy and happiness. May God bless their future.

Alan Luby.

Independent Trust Fund 10th Annual Report 12/03/2002.

2/2nd Commando Association of Australia.

The year commenced with a pursuit of \$1,040, value of 74 sports balls that were addressed to Don Bosco Fulgoro via Comora. Seven months later following repeated requests for information, a reply advised that they had not been received, "but were needed now".

Donated Goods. A daily occupation of Keith Hayes is canvassing potential donors, collecting, listing, sorting, and packing, marking and delivering to a transport depot reconditioned, tax depreciated, "trade-in items". These include sewing machines, computers, typewriters, tools, toys, sound and electrical equipment and a vast assortment of educational material.

51 cartons February 2001. In February last year 39 cartons were sent to Nahaek (Dare) primary school and also 12 cartons to Kirsty Sword Gusmao for the Women's Training Group. Kirsty eventually received the 12 cartons including 8 sewing machines which, following enquiries, appeared to have been returned from Suai, together with 5 of the 39 cartons for Nahaek. However whereas the truck left for Nahaek with the 5 cartons, (including a computer for Nahaek) it failed to arrive. Not one of 39 cartons was received.

35 Cartons via Lions. On 23/11/2001 we wrote advising that 35 cartons had been delivered via Lions International shipping service ex Kwinana, WA. There were 11 including another 8 sewing machines for Kirsty Sword Gusmao Women's Training Group and 24 for the Aloia Foundation.

Aloia Foundation of Women's Welfare.

"To recognise the rape and violence and injustices to which they have been subjected and to restore some dignity and respect to their lives", Patron Mrs Mary Robinson (UN Human Rights

Commissioner). The latest information is that 35 cartons shipped to Dili 15 were received and that there was "more in another container". However because Lions shipped only 1 x 20' container each 4 weeks, we remain sceptical and are concerned at the numerous reports of theft on donated goods which Dili UNTAET Admin. Apparently has been unable to prevent.

Vegetable Seeds. Following the disappearance of the sports balls, we suspended use of our own 2/2nd funds for that category of gift and resolved to apply our funds to purchasing and distribution of Yates retail packets of vegetable seeds. During the last 12 months 4,000 packets were acknowledged as received and distributed by Australian troops, but due to secrecy provisions it is most disappointing that we have been unable to obtain any feedback regarding preference for any of the 14 varieties or whether even if plantings were successful. However it is to be understood that the troops concerned, operating on a war basis, had more important roles to pursue. Unfortunately the information is imperative to enable a representation to a potentially large donor to fund production of a greater volume. This would be a specific 2/2nd colour patch print run of packets to cover wider areas of East Timor.

Garland East Timor P/L (Electrical Contractor Graham Williams)

Coinciding with this report, 2 boxes of 1,950 packets of Yates vegetable seeds were delivered which will be voluntarily distributed to villages. Graham and Lorraine Williams of Perth and whom we have met several times are now based in Dili and are keen to assist our project.

Bank: \$4,396.07 credit 31/01/2002.

Stock: 1955 Packets Yates seeds
\$911.65. 12/03/2002.

In 1991 the Independent Trust and its objectives were announced in the 2/2nd

Commando Courier together with an invitation to members to subscribe a lump sum or annual amount for 5 years. For ten years the Trust has not since required to make any further appeal for contributions, which consistently arrive and have been adequate to pursue its objective – "that the 2/2nd has not forgotten the indigenous people of East Timor". Since the establishment of the Trust Fund, direct contributions for which we thank our members, widows, families and friends, as at 31/01/2002 and with interest, total \$50,041.60.

TRUST FUND expenditure included Vegetable seeds \$18,897, Hand tools \$3,720, Electrical fence units, saw milling machine, 4 hand seeding machines ex United States, the original shipping costs of Fremantle to Singapore and transhipment via the Indonesian monopoly to Dili.

Goods donated via our fund administration and shipped include:

- 160 sewing machines
- 13 knitting machines
- 210 computers
- 164 typewriters
- 18 scanners and duplicators
- 20 x 8 army tents and flys
- 11 marquees and various size tents
- 3 video cameras
- 12 units of sound equipment
- Large volume children's new clothing
- Large volume new dress material
- 13,5000 school text books
- 400 nurse training books
- 300 apprentice (various trades) books.

The estimated market value of the additional used but useable goods donated via our administration is approximately \$185,000. Unfortunately most was destroyed during the Indonesian Army rampage. We also located in Kingaroy, Queensland and with Les Cranfield's help, facilitated the purchase and transport arrangements, including shipping to East Timor, of 2 x

20' containers of used farm equipment in good condition. It was heavily discounted by the Brethren Community and paid via United States Aid. A third container holding a corn harvester followed.

Volunteers.

Viv Paust's rehabilitation of Comoro machine shop – (8 weeks).

Les and Verna Cranfield, Fuloro – 20 months (over 7 visits). A transformation of agricultural methods and for Verna Cranfield a dramatic uplift of self-esteem and confidence among traumatised pupils of dressmaking classes.

Lindsay Bennett independently followed Les Cranfield in Silo erection and construction of Fuloro buildings. (9 months over 2 visits). We again thank the volunteers for their selfless dedication to their objectives, frequently in arduous conditions. Also acknowledgment and thanks to A.E.S.O.P. who funded all volunteers costs.

Thanks to John Burrridge and Keith Hayes for their unfailing backup and support. Particularly to Keith for his enthusiasm and tireless daily pursuit of donated goods, assisted by Val, and their subsequent preparation and dispatch.

Bob Smyth, Independent Trust Fund
P.O. Box 3, Dili, Timor Lorosa'e

Mr Bob Smyth
Nedlands. WA.
22/4/02

Dear Bob,

Thank you very much for resending the manifest containing the list of items dispatched to Dili and marked to my attention. I do apologise for losing the first copy! I am able to verify that all of the goods have been received and, once again, let me say how grateful we are for this assistance. The kitchenware, cooking utensils and some of the stationery items have already been distributed amongst

the Alola Foundation's network of women's organisation, along with some boxes of children's and adults clothing which I believe was the result of a collection carried out by the Wagin Care 'N Share. It was George Garton who suggested to Sister Aurora Pires that this clothing might be distributed by the Alola Foundation. I understand from George that you are in contact with the Wagin Care "N Share group and that you would be conveying to them our deep gratitude for their work in gathering together the clothing. Perhaps you would also let know that the clothing was distributed as follows:-

- 1) An orphanage in Comoro, Dili.
- 2) An orphanage run by Canossian Sisters in Ainaro.
- 3) A woman Falintil fighter and her children in Aileu
- 4) A woman's shelter in the enclave of Oecusse.

The remaining clothes were taken by Xanana to the districts during his pre-selection campaign visits and distributed to the needy via parish priests. If further collections are made by this group, the Alola Foundation would be happy to take responsibility for distribution of donated goods.

Since he has publicly declared his intention of being "the eyes, ears and mouth" of the people, Xanana is bound to spend much of his term as President travelling to the districts and meeting with communities. I would like to be able to accompany him on these visits as far as possible and to use the opportunity to distribute items of practical use to people - there are still huge demands everywhere and diminishing funds to meet them all. I am including below a list of items, which I know to be in demand, and if the 2/2nd Commando Association along with our good friend Keith Hayes were in a position to assist us with further collections, we would be very grateful.

Once again, our warm wishes of gratitude and friendship. A warm embrace, Kirsty, Xanana and Alexandre.

Mildura Safari.

The Mildura has come and gone leaving those whom attended with happy memories. The attendance of 49 was below expectations but in a way was expected with our numbers diminishing every year. On the credit side 49 people was an ideal number being easier to handle and just a nice load for a bus.

When it was decided in Hobart to hold the next Safari in Mildura in May 2002 Victorian members Bluey Bone, Ed Bourke and Leith Cooper put up their hands and were smartly appointed to organise the show. Unfortunately Leith could not make the Safari due to ill health but still made a useful contribution. Blue and Ed supported by Mary and Dorothy put in a lot of time and effort often at their own expense to ensure the Safari was a success.

Those attending had a great time and got good value for their money. Accommodation at the Grand Hotel was a bit of a lottery, some scoring better rooms than others, however the tariff was reasonable and the full breakfasts excellent. Margo Shiels has been good enough to write up the events so I will give a little more detail on some of the functions.

The opening function went off well with 48 in attendance. Betty Devlin who arrived late was the only one missing. Blue welcomed us all and the Safari was off to a flying start.

Margo has covered the river trip suffice to say it was a very pleasant outing. The weather was perfect. The commemoration service on Friday morning was an impressive ceremony. The local R.S. & L. provided chairs, a microphone and a bugler, which was appreciated. Len Bagley was the M.C.

and did a top job. Mavis Broadhurst laid a wreath, as did the President of the R.S. League. Paddy Kenneally said the prayer following which the RSL President, Ken Dutton gave a brief address. Jack Carey gave the main address after which came the Last Post - the Ode said by Len and Reveille followed.

Members and the ladies each laid a poppy on the monument and the service ended with Miriam Van Dyke leading us in a rendition of "Advance Australia Fair". Very impressive indeed.

A nice luncheon at the RSL Club topped off a pleasant day. In the evening we were the guests of the Mildura Council at a civic reception for an hour. The Lady Mayor, Ann Cox, welcomed our group to which Happy Greenhalgh responded presenting Ann with one of Arch Campbell's books and enough Smaile's Poems for the councillors. A few snacks and beers made for a happy outing.

Fifty-seven sat down to our dinner on the Saturday night with 5 guests including the Lady Mayor and her husband. Len Bagley, our M.C. opened proceedings by welcoming the guests and at intervals the toasts followed.

Ed Bourke said Grace, Ron Archer the Loyal toast, Tom Foster the main toast - the Unit Association, absent friends by Harry Handicott and our guests by Paddy Kenneally. All did a good job. In response the Mayor Ann Cox spoke very well in her speech of thanks. She is a capable lady and a lovely one at that. Later Bluey presented a life membership to Lionel Newton which made Lionel's night and also one of our Unit plaques to the President of the RSL in appreciation of what they had done for us regarding the Safari. It was a great night. Thanks to Len for a capable job as M.C.

Sunday was a free day. A barbecue in the evening at the Hotel was appreciated. The bus trip on the Monday was full of interest and fun as Margo has described, and again the weather was perfect.

general meeting was held on the morning of the last day, Tuesday. 43 were present with Bluey Bone in the chair. Editor Delys stressed how important copy was to keep the Courier going. The main point of interest was whether we should have a final Safari in WA with those present keen to have one. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed "That the Association hold a Safari in WA in mid November 2003 providing there is a firm commitment that at least 20 Eastern Staters will attend. The commitment would be required by the 30th June 2003, otherwise there would be no Safari". A motion to this effect was moved and carried.

After the meeting a video kindly provided by Helen Poynton was shown which brought fond memories of bygone Safari functions. It featured a lot of our old mates who are no longer with us but whose memories we treasure.

On the final night we gathered in the lounge bar where after refreshments the Safari wound up. Miriam yodelled us farewell with a sweet song and we closed to the familiar strain of "Auld Lang Syne." The traditional presentation of gifts were made to Mary and Dorothy, Ed and Bluey who had worked so very hard to make the show such a success. It's always a relief for those involved when the time comes. Well done and congratulations to two lovely couples for making our weeks stay in Mildura a memorable one. We found the people friendly and we were warmly received wherever we went. What more could you ask for?!

Mildura Starters:-

Qld. (4) Ron Archer, Lyn Love, George & Margo Shiels.

N.S.W. (13) Bill & Coral Coker, Harry & Amyce Handicott, Paddy & Nora Kenneally, Lionel & Elsie Newton, Pat Weller, Marge Goodacre, Betty Devlin, Keith Wilson & Happy Greenhalgh.

S.A. (4) Hazel Hollow, Anne Gooley, Janette Reid, Kel Carthew.

W.A. (14) Len & Betty Bagley, Tom & Mary Foster, Bernie & Babs Langridge, John & Olive Chalwell, Jack & Delys Carey, Jess Epps, Nellie Mullins, Iris Rowan-Robinson and Dick Darrington.

Vic. (14) Bluey & Mary Bone, Ed & Dorothy Bourke, Fred & Mavis Broadhurst, Don Thomson & Margaret Monk, David & Heather Briggs, Cath Roberts, Pat Petersen & Miriam Van Dyke and Betty Craig.

Also Mrs Doris Joy of Mildura attended the commemoration service.

The ladies outnumbered the men 30 to 20. Where would we be without our ladies?

God bless them! Jack Carey.

Margo's Mildura Safari. *Margo Shiels, an author in her own right, has kindly written her version of the Mildura Safari in her diary and passed it on to us. Because of space restrictions Margo's and George's outing on their Sunday trip has been omitted. It will appear in the next Courier. Thanks Margo for a good article. Ed.*

Wednesday May 1st.

We arrived at Mildura and booked in at the Grand Hotel. Originally built in 1890, it has been modernised into an elegant hotel. With 100 rooms, it fitted all our 55 members. A cordial social evening was a happy meeting of most of our members. ("Mildura" - Aboriginal word meaning red earth).

Thursday May 2nd.

A river cruise on the paddle steamer RV Rothbury was arranged for us. The captain showed us the weir on the Murray just off Mildura, which holds the river water to a 12' height difference. The Rothbury was built in Melbourne in 1912, and with other paddleboats it carried passengers and cargoes up and down the Murray. The boat's official flag consisted of the Union Jack, St. George Cross and the four blue

and white lines at the lower part of the flag represented the four river systems, The Murray, the Darling, Murrumbidgee and the Lachlan.

Mildura is a popular stop for tourists and workers with 25 Caravan parks in the area. We arrived at Trentham Winery Estate for a tour of wine making. A wine tasting demonstration was followed by a B-B-Q lunch with a panoramic view of the river and the surroundings.

Friday May 3rd.

At 11.00am we joined with members of the local RSL in a commemoration and wreath laying ceremony at the Mildura Cenotaph. With the sounding of the Last Post, it was a nostalgic occasion. This was followed by a luncheon at the RSL Club. At 5.30 p.m. we were invited to a mayoral reception at the Mildura Art Gallery where we were welcomed by the Lady Mayor and most of her councillors. A pleasant hour.

Saturday May 4th.

A free day, so we had a long walk to the Alfred Deakin Centre to see about booking a tour to the

Mungo National Park. The centre was the Information Centre and we attended the theatre to watch the history of Mildura on video.

The official dinner for the reunion was held at the Grand Hotel with everyone present. A few speeches and presentations were made.

Sunday May 5th.

George and I toured Mungo Park. We ended the day with a BBQ dinner at the Grand Hotel. A pleasant time.

Monday May 6th.

A bus picked us up at 9.15am for a tour of the district. The first stop was the Orange World at Buronga, a commercial citrus orchard of 10,000 trees. Seated in a miniature train, we circled the orchard, the guide explaining the 29 varieties of oranges and other citrus fruits grown. Only

20% of the fruit is harvested and the fruit is handpicked all the year round. The waste oranges are left under the trees for fertiliser, as all citrus trees are fed by surface nutrients (their root system is near the surface - they need peel, bird manure and urea (urine) - the 3 Ps - peel, poo and pee!)

Onto the next stop at Gol Gol to the Gol Gol Fisheries, an intensive yabby and fish farm. We were shown yabbies at all stages, bred for eating, for stocking other ponds, for breeding. Also there were large ponds for commercially breeding the Murray Cod. The tour ended with a yabby race. Ten numbered yabbies were placed in the centre of a ring, while ten of us paid \$1 to participate and were allocated a yabby. The winner took all. My Yabby only moved after the race was over!

Woodsie was the next attraction. It was one of Australia's largest gemstone cutting and jewellery manufacturing complexes, with a well-constructed "Aladdin's Cave", exhibiting gems and crystals from around the world.

After lunch at Woodsie, we had a tour of the district and saw miles of grapes grown in the Sunraysia district. Sultana grapes were the type grown and racks for the ripe grapes to dry in the sun could be seen. However the last two years, the farmers were encouraged by the wineries to replace the sultanas for wine grapes, and this good growing year has caused a glut on the market, so the farmers have had to dump their 2002 crop. At Aurora we saw the closed fruit packing shed that was once Australia's largest. Two other large packing sheds in the district have also closed.

We drove to Red Cliffs where Big Lizzie was on display. In her time she was the largest old-fashioned bulldozer there was. Travelling at 1 mile an hour it cleared the scrubs for farming.

Tuesday May 7th.

A general meeting of members of the Association and their wives took most of

the morning. It was voted to have the final reunion in the West in November 2003 if enough interest was indicated by June 2003.

George and I decided to have a short river cruise on the stream-driven paddle steamer "Melbourne" in the afternoon.

We finished our Safari with a social and finger food supper, a nostalgic end to a lovely reunion. Margo Shiels.

Hard Times Part II.

I met my brother Jack in Perth by chance on one of my bike riding days, most probably on a Sunday. He and a farmer had decided to go looking for gold. He had a Dodge utility and they would see what they could get during the off season and he asked me to go with them. I said yes and left Mandogalup. We loaded the Dodge up with tin food, mostly M & V (meat and vegetables) and we had dried vegetables of a sort, flour for making damper and a camp oven, and the wheat bags and sugar bags of course. You put anything and everything into a sugarbag. We had about three months supply. We could buy meat and butter whenever we wanted. So we set off. I did not know much about the East Murchison Goldfields. We got up to Mt. Magnet with no real set plan. The idea was to talk to local prospector's etc. go to the pub of course. You get all news of what is going on for one hundred miles around at the pub. In the end we decided to go out along the Sandstone railway line to a place called Paynesville. There were a couple of prospectors there, the old pub with a loose iron roof clanging in the wind and the railway siding shed. This shed would be used mainly for the sheep stations that would collect goods at their leisure.

The pub was to be pulled down. Someone had bought it and the licensee would have been transferred elsewhere. I cannot remember why we left Paynesville, but more about Paynesville later on. We

decided to go to Youanmi (youandme) which got its name from Youinmerry Station. Youanmi was a gold mining town 90 miles from Mt. Magnet. I do not know how many people were there. I think the figure was about 600. The mine worked three shifts. This was about 65 years ago.

The houses I think had iron rooves of some sort. Iron and other materials were expensive to cart 600 miles up to these mining towns, so galvanised iron was recycled, today on a miners house, tomorrow the walls of a prospectors camp. The walls of these houses were made of wonderful wheat bags cut open to make a solid sheet and plastered with cement wash. All the timber in the roof would have been bush timber, felled somewhere down in the wheat country and carted up to Younmi. The internal walls like bedrooms etc, were hessian lining. There were no doors and earth floors only. The only trees in that country were Mulga and six inches of rain was average, and it might not rain for years.

There was a government well and a chap had the contract to sell water around the town. There were no phones in those days of course to ring up for water. It was a case of ride your bike around and place an order. It was delivered by the water cart in the form of a big tank on the back of a truck.

It was great playing sport again. I joined the footy team. We had three teams: it was the first time I was able to play sport since I left home.

My brother met one of the miners who had a little show (that is a little gold mine) who wanted someone to work it for him as he was working in the mine. Wally the miner would take one quarter of the mined gold and the rest was ours. We had enough time to get a crushing out in time for the Government battery to open up. These government batteries were positioned around various gold fields, so that the small prospectors could crush their ore. You booked in on a certain day and the quantity

of ore that you wanted crushed. We did alright and got enough for a good crushing, but the ore body petered out and there was no more gold to be had in that little show.

My younger brother Charlie had turned up by this time, later Wally was killed in the mine. The farmer, I think his name was Jim, went back to his farm.

Charlie and I decided we would have a go at Paynesville, so Jack drove us over to Paynesville and he went further north. At Paynesville Charlie and I fossicked around for a few weeks then one day we found a promising leader and followed it down but there was nothing to show us worth going further.

(Later two old pensioners who had come up from Perth to escape the winter, sunk our vacated claim 6 inches and got the equivalent of two years wages each! And that is a familiar story around all goldfields in Australia. I found this out when I returned to work at Youanmi.)

Our tucker was running out and it was time to carry our swags and jump the trains. The train to Sandstone came and went once a week. We noticed a package in the shed and knew the train would stop, it did and we were on it. We got off just before Mullewa as the stationmaster there would get the police on to you.

We worked our way around to Coolgardie, a week or so here, a week or so there chopping a bit of wood or whatever right from Mullewa. We camped in the engine shed at Coolgardie. Our normal meal was bread and jam and sausages.

You meet a lot characters when you are wandering around. Your bed is always on the ground and that is where the wheatbag is handy.

Charlie got a job with a dairy, milking and delivering the milk with a small cart and pony. A dairy at Coolgardie you say, yes that is true, there is no fences, the cows wandered around finding grass among

the boulders. I think he must have supplemented their food.

I got a job in the boarding house at ten shillings a week and my board. After a few months I answered an ad in the Kalgoorlie newspaper for a barman up at Leonora. This was in the great depression and you have to have a go at anything. I got the job and when she (the owner of the pub) first saw me, well I don't know what she thought, but she knew she had an underage barman on her premises. I was not allowed into a hotel in those days until I was 21 years old. But still it is a long way to Perth and up in that part of the world the local police Sargeant runs the law. We used to shut the front door on Sundays and the customers came in the side door. After one day I realised why I had got the job in the first place, no local wanted it. It was long hours. When commercial travellers came through it would be 2 am. Before I got to bed. I was only an assistant barman learning the ropes. A couple of months of this and I decided to wander again. I got a lift with a traveller across country going to Meekatharra. I was going to try Cue, Big Bell, Seedy, Wiluna etc. but I got cut off at a small place called Agnew, which had a pub, a small mine with 12 men and a small boarding house. Agnew is on the way to Wiluna. These towns are all mining towns that were producing gold before the war. I asked the owner of the boarding house if there was any work; he was having a shower. He was pretty abrupt and called me a bum etc.

When I was in Timor I just so happened to talk about the goldfields and it turned out to be Frying Pan Smith who was the boarding house owner. I never saw him at Agnew, I just heard him through the shower!

I got lifts and jumped trains down to Mt. Magnet again, and I finished up in Youanmi again. I used to go up the mine every morning, it was called following up. Suppose it just means going up every day

to the mine. I did this for 5 months until I got a job underground. I worked there for 8 months until I got a poisoned finger and had to go down to Perth.

I played footy again. The ground was rock hard with round stones in the soil, burnt out stumps of trees and if you rolled over you got gravel rash for sure. I came to Perth for treatment and I decided to learn ballroom dancing properly. The man running the classes was Fred Smith who was killed in Timor on the drome.

I did not want to go back to the bush so I signed up for three months militia training, then I joined the army.

After the war I did a Commonwealth Reconstruction training course. I wanted to be a carpenter, but there was a two-year waiting list so I took on painting as a trade. I finished up working for the old government until I retired.

Fred Otway.

Thank you Fred for your story.

Fred is 81, plays tennis three days a week, is very fit, and maintains he will live to be 100. Good luck to you Fred. The old saying "Hard work never hurt anyone!" certainly applies in Fred's case.

Ed.

A Tribute to Charlie.

Many years ago a Wagin friend of mine said to me "Come and see the finish of this race. The kid is a goer." Now those of you who remember the Doig's expressive and often colourful conversation will know that to be a "goer" was to have passed a rigid Approval test. The race ended, unlike many bike races, with this leader not being overhauled in the run home but rather going away and riding harder than ever. As far as I can remember that was the first time I saw Charlie King.

The years went by and after a hot firefight on a spur of the great mountain Kutulau, the order came to withdraw and we all

descended the track threading its way over the foot of the spur. Another order came to me "You watch the ridge while I get the wounded away." "I'll need a tommy gunner." "Well call on one," the answer came sharply. I did and Stan Ludlow wended his way back and stood beside me.

At this stage Charlie was still on the ridge not having heard the withdrawal order. One of our comrades, mortally wounded told Charlie to get out. Charlie did two things - he despatched the machine pistolier who by outflanking us had caused most of the mayhem in Four Section. He bit the splay of a grenade pin and gave it to Paddy and only then left the ridge. It was a one in two grade and there were some giant boulders. Charlie at the risk of broken legs flew from one to another with his rifle held out at the high port lest it be damaged. He landed beside me on the track, took several deep breaths, planted his feet firmly, and looked back at the ridge. I recently I described him in a press notice as the "consummate commando": and that is what I believe he was. At any the rate the morale of Messrs Ludlow and Aitken was much raised by his arrival. Many Timorese eyes watched from select positions and saw the whole engagement. I have compared notes with many of them in the years after the war and it is certain that the folklore of Bazartete has added another hero to its history. The fame of Tualiking is still remembered though no-one now living saw the descent.

A month later Geoff Laidlaw sent for and said, "I want you to go back in and get out the platoon stores, clothing, ammunition, a 108 radio set- the lot. I can give you only one man of your choosing, who'll you have?" I said immediately "Charlie King." The mind boggles even now. The thought that with no money and a few words of Tetum two men could go, some of the time behind enemy lines and raise a party of 50+ Timorese carriers and come back out

unscathed is hard to conceive now. Then it was accepted a very reasonable task.

We set off in early April, three of us. The third was my criado Mau Lore. We spent the first night in a umah near the Same Saddle but left it before daylight as Mau Lore felt uncomfortable and he was our barometer. From the area of that umah the revolt against Portuguese rule originated only a few weeks later.

The second night was a real winner. We spent it in warm beds at the Posto of Hatubulico on the slopes of Timor Lorosa'es tallest mountain. Entertained by Capitano da Silva and his English-speaking daughter Brendahlina the most attractive spinster on the island. Next morning Charles and I, having had difficulty with Postos taps, climbed the hill, selected a creek that was not part of the Posto water supply, found a shallow pool in it and proceeded to get ourselves clean. I said to Charlie, who was knee deep at the upper end of the pool, "A cake of soap would improve things." A voice said "Soap Raimondo," a white arm came out of the scrub and passed it to me. I can testify that Charles blushed from the temples to the ankles (his feet were under water).

It was probably the cold water that brought on the Malaria attack because we were only several hours on the track before Charlie was incapacitated. His size was now an asset because with Mau Lore carrying two rifles, I took him in a fireman's lift and got him down to the nearest traveller's shelter. I left him and went on to Letfoho looking for a pony. It was typical King that before rescue could be effected he staggered into the Posto under his own power.

We went on to the vicinity of Eremera and down through the coffee plantation of Ai Fu, waded across the Gleno, climbed a slope and found ourselves in the company of Les Halse and Dud Tapper held up on the slope as the Japanese soldiers shot village goats further up the slope. This was

all too hot for Charlie and me. We had a job to do so we headed west to Bazartete with a sense of going home which was the way we were greeted. I tended to have to play second fiddle as any Timorese who had seen the flight off the hill wanted to examine Tualiking's legs to see that there had been no breakages.

I took my carrier problem to Cezar Morieraat, the Chief da Post and my close friend. He said if we kept hidden for three or four days he would find me ten. Since this was not very helpful I shunted the quest to my friend Luis gon Zaga, the village carpenter. Although he was descended from a prominent revolutionary of this area, Luis by edict was not allowed to use his original name as it had been proscribed for all time. Further in Porto terms Luis had no power. When he heard what we wanted he stepped onto a rock and called to a man who was dehusking his maize crop. "O, Manuel hola emman artus tolu mai." Call up 300 men, I protested that we didn't need three hundred but he pointed out that the Timorese were an adventurist people and we'd get the elderly and the unfit as well as the cripples and they would need careful culling. The culling process was very impressive to Charlie and when a final 60 were agreed upon he joined Luis in allotting proportional weights and planning appropriate packs. Charlie typically made up one for himself but Luis quickly vetoed this.

We set off in the morning headed South and had gone only a few miles when Luis came bounding down the hill to tell us that a Japanese patrol was on the track behind us. Charlie wanted Luis to come with us but he refused saying he would be perfectly safe returning by Timorese tracks and deviations.

A few minutes later a couple of zeros appeared and fired a few rounds. The Timorese and Charlie with howls of laughter went over to the blind side of the ridge, switching back when the blind side

became the exposed side and so on all to the accompaniment of great expressions of enjoyment. I joined the tactic but found it harder to join the mirth.

The planes went away and an assessment showed no casualties and not a single hole in a pack.

That evening we reached the river crossing below Boibao and I got the mother of all malarial fevers. Charlie wanted to carry me across the river. Anyone who has seen my silhouette will know what a ridiculous effort this would have been. Fortunately members of Five Section arrived and reported that the enemy had turned back to Bazartete.

We crossed the river at dawn and saw the flash of the sun on truck windshields in the town of Hatulia above our heads. My own idea was to press on towards Same but a runner brought me orders from the C.O. to proceed via Atsabe. I have never worked out why this order was given. Our Sgt. Major was in command there and he put in phone communication with Alan Spence who ordered me to stay in Atsabe awaiting further orders. Fearing for the safety of the goods we were transporting, I used a criado from 5 Section as my go-between and we raised a local group of carriers. With Charlie in charge the group was despatched to Same. Mission accomplished after 28 days.

Once the goods were gone and the C.O. and the Sgt. Major became aware of it I was no longer of interest and both Dud Tapper and I were given permission to proceed. In 1967, twenty five years later I was back in Bazartete and after he hugged me Luis gon Zaga said, "How is Tuan Tualiking?"

I was there again in 1969 and the same question was asked.

Two years ago I returned to Bazartete and asked of a group of Timorese, "where is the house of Luis gon Zaga?" a small man stepped forth from the group and said "Unfortunately my father died last October.

You'll be Raimondo. (No doubt influenced in his assessment by my bulk) My father said you would come."

Eugene gon Zaga is too young to have known Charlie. He knew the story and asked for news of him. The fame of Tualiking still lives in Bazartete.

He was a great soldier, a great man and a great friend.

Ray Aitken.

A Big Event.

I was very proud when I was asked to lead a 3 person Woodside delegation to the East Timor Independence Day Celebrations and the signing of the Timor Sea Treaty between Australia and East Timor on the 19th & 20th May. This enabled me to at last be able to for myself the people who helped dad and the rest of the 2/2nd men in 1942. Before I left Perth I asked Jack Carey whether I could wear a double red diamond pin and whether the Association would like me to deliver any messages to the new Government

Jack very generously said yes to both and I wore the pin he gave me and I was able to deliver to the new Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ramos Horta, a letter from the President of the 2/2nd Association to the new Chief Minister. He agreed to pass it on.

Almost 100 countries were represented at the ceremony and it was amazing to be in amongst it all and to meet many of the dignitaries. The greatest thing for me however was to experience the joy and friendliness shown by every one. I came away feeling really good but recognising how difficult it will be to meet the people's needs into the future.

The whole two days were very moving for me as I could at last relate to the tales Dad has told me of the steep mountains, poor food, the malaria, the Timor ponies and the loyal local men who helped you all survive.

On the Monday I went to meet a fisherman (Antonio Soares and his brother Santiago) in Manatuto who found a current tracking buoy Woodside had released off the coast of Exmouth in October 2001. I gave him a finder's reward. While talking to Santiago he told me his father (Jacinto) helped provide food to "the Australian soldiers in 1942" by killing a buffalo each month. 'Before they left they paid my father 4 boxes of silver coins'. Jacinto then buried the boxes in the hills until after the Japanese left.

The boxes have never been found and Santiago and his family still dream of the boxes of money lost in the hills. When I showed him the double red diamond badge I was wearing and told him my father had been in East Timor at that time - he was very pleased.

I attended the trade fair that was sponsored by the Australian government and which included a Woodside stand. I was keen to video displays of the districts I knew the 2/2nd had visited during the war. In the process I started showing the people minding the displays the replays on my camera's small video screen. I then had everyone wanting me to take a video of their display and then to see themselves on the screen. From then on whenever these people (mainly women) saw me I was greeted as a long lost friend. Their pride in their provinces was obvious.

Then there was the East Timorese woman who had escaped to Perth in 1975, married an Australian and who now has a son in the Australian Army and is stationed on the western border in East Timor. She was visiting for the celebrations and during the main event interpreted for us regarding what was being said and culturally what was being presented. I was able to share some of her emotion when the giant East Timor flag was raised over the stadium. We cried together.

At the signing of the Timor Sea Treaty my double red diamond pin was recognised

by an Australian. He was Warren Snowden M.P. one of the Northern Territories Federal members of Parliament and he said his father joined the 2/2nd unit in New Guinea.

I will never forget this experience.

Erica Smyth. 28/5/02

Thank you Erica for a very interesting article. (Erica is the daughter of Eric & Twy Smyth.) Ed.

A Special Occasion.

Our oldest state member, Jack Fowler, turned 90 on the 24th April last. To celebrate the occasion his family, led by his daughter Lyn, held a party for Jack at Len and Vivienne's (his niece) lovely home in South Perth on Sunday 28th April. All the Fowler clan supported by country folk from far and wide together with some of his old army mates and their good ladies turned up in force to make it a happy and memorable day for the guest of honour. Jack arrived escorted by his rellies at 12.30 p.m. sat back in a big comfortable armchair and proceeded to meet everyone. With his large mop of snow-white hair and regal bearing, Jack was in his element. It was a sight to see. The country folk and locals produced enough food to feed a multitude with the luncheon lasting well over 2 hours. It was a wonderful spread topped off with delicious homemade cakes with fresh cream. Even the weight watchers found the food irresistible. You can't beat good old home cooking country style. Host Len saw to it that no one went short of a drink. At 2p.m. Steve Hewett, Jack's nephew, proposed a toast to Jack or John, as the family prefer to call him. After we sang "Happy Birthday" Jack was invited to cut the cake which he did to loud applause. What a grand old timer he is. The party was still going when the first guests started to drift off about 3p.m.

The 2/2nd was represented by his old 2 Section mates, Tony Bowers, Joe Poynton & Dick Darrington. Also present

were Helen Poynton, Jess Epps, Anne Green, Nellie Mullins, Keith & Val Hayes, Jack & Delys Carey, Ray Parry, Jim Lines, Doc. Wheatley, Ray Aitken and Don Turton. (See photo back page.)

A special Thank you to Lyn, the hosts Len and Viv and all who contributed to make it such a great day. Jack Carey.

Unit History Project - Progressive Report.

The sub-committee of Ray Aitken, John Burridge, Jack Carey and Ray Parry and Bob Smyth have had three meetings to date to discuss the best way to tackle the publication of a book on our Unit history, quite a formidable undertaking. At our May meeting it was agreed that it be done in stages as under: -

- (1) Background, formation, training, Wayville & Katherine period June - Nov. 1941.
 - (2) The Timor Campaign Dec. 1941 - Dec 1942.
 - (3) The New Guinea Campaign 1943-44
 - (4) The New Britain Campaign 1945
 - (5) Association and Trust Fund 1946 on.
- A timetable for each stage was also set, it being: -
- (1) & (2) as above June - Dec. 2002.
 - (3) " " Jan - May 2003.
 - (4) " " June 2003.
 - (5) " " July - August 2003.

Allowing for unforeseen delays our aim is to have the book ready for printing by September 2003 and for distribution by December 2003. Whether this eventuates remains to be seen.

It is also intended to have a good number of photos included and this task has been put in the hands of our capable member Harry Sproxtton. Mr Peter Epps has also volunteered his services. Peter has spent a lot of time in the past obtaining an accurate nominal roll list. As mentioned

in the March Courier members can help by providing their army numbers, date of birth and which section they served in, as any information which would help us with the history. Paddy Kenneally and Bill Tomasetti have already provided some very helpful data for which we are most grateful. New Guinea veterans in particular are asked to supply articles on their experiences in that campaign.

No money or orders for books is required at this early stage.

Jack Carey.

Correspondence.

P. & J. O'Donnell, Exmouth, WA.

Dear Jack, I hope this letter finds you and your wife in good health.

Patricia Weller wrote to me the other day and by the sound of her letter she has been on the go non-stop since she left WA.

It was lovely to see so many people at Dad's memorial mass at St. Lawrence's and I have received some letters to say how lovely it was.

The miniature bottlebrush we planted in his honour is doing well.

We are having some very hot sticky days and it looks like today is going to be no different. Lucky the nights are cool in the never, never land place they call Paradise.

Mavis Sadler rang me and she has been tripping around the place as well. I will enclose a copy of a poem and some money for the Courier.

Well time to go again, Farewell until I write again. May God's blessings be with you both, love from Tricia & John.

L. Buckley, Adelaide, SA.

Dear Jack, I'm penning this note on behalf of my Dad - Syd McKinley - as he is now residing in the war vet's home.

He asked me to tell you that he's sorry he's not been in touch for a while, but ill health is the reason.

Dad's Emphysema is pretty severe. He is on oxygen constantly, and is confined to his room. He asks if you would please say "G-day" to everyone.

If you wish to contact me my home phone number is 8296.9881.

Many thanks, Lindy Buckley.

P. Rogers, Mariginup, WA.

Dear Jack, Thank you and John Burrige for representing the Association at Steve's funeral last November. The family really appreciated your presence at the service and the playing of the Last Post. You probably know that Steve's time with the 2/2nd Commandos was a pivotal period of his life and it was nice that he should be remembered and honoured in this way.

I am enclosing a cheque for \$50.00 as a donation for the Courier.

Yours sincerely, Patricia Rogers and family.

Australian War Memorial, Brad Manera, Military Section, Canberra, ACT.

Dear Jack, I am writing to thank you very much for organising the meeting and taking time to speak to me about the Timor 1942 component program my colleagues and I am working on. I apologise for the delay in writing to you however I had hoped to be able to send you a copy of the component of the program that you and your fellow 2/2nd men contributed to. Unfortunately the other components were delayed and so the whole package has just been sent to the printers. As soon as it is available I will send copies to you, Ray, Mervyn and Keith.

Since returning to the East and telling my colleagues about how generous you and your mates were in putting up with my

questions and giving me so much of your time a surprising number of links with Sparrow Force have occurred. A couple of weeks ago the Japanese Self-Defence Force deployed some engineer units to East Timor to join the U.N. They were a little surprised at the hostile reception they received and sent one of their officers to the Australian War Memorial to gather information of performance of their troops last time they were on the island. At the same time a Japanese University professor is working on a book on Japanese war crimes against the civil population on Timor. He told me that he had been approached by around 600 women who claimed they had suffered some form of abuse by Japanese soldiers during the war.

Most recently, I happened to meet one of the members of the Australian War Memorial Council; a periodontist named Ross Bastiaan. In his spare time Ross casts bronze relief maps of Australian Battlefields and mounts them on the site of the battle. There are Bastiaan plaques all over the world. I said that I had not heard of any Bastiaan plaques on Timor. (This may not been a particularly wise move for an assistant's dog-body second class with only a few months left before I have to beg another contract but nothing ventured.....) He said he had always wanted to place some in East Timor and now that the place was settling down he is planning the plaques and is keen to have them in place as soon as he can.

Ross is very interested in the 2/2nd on Timor because his uncle, Private Bruce Smith, (No. 2 Section) was on the island. He said he had grown up on his uncle's stories of the Independent Company. Apparently Bruce was evacuated from the island on a Dutch war ship. He invited one of the Dutch sailors to visit him in Melbourne if the ship ever visited Victoria. A couple of years later the Dutch sailor arrived on the doorstep. Bruce was up in the

islands at the time but his sisters were home. The Dutchman's name was Bastiaan. So Ross had a very personal reason for wanting to commemorate the double red diamonds and Timor.

Thanks again for your assistance. If you are ever in Canberra I hope you will give me the opportunity to return a little of your hospitality with a guided tour of the Memorial or the National Museum of Australia.

Yours sincerely, Brad Manera.

P.S. If the Japanese researchers turn up anything worthwhile I will send it on to you for the 2/2nd Commando Courier. I have asked them for the identity and details for the Singapore Tiger.

Mrs I. Elmore, Mowbray, Qld.

Dear Folks, Please find enclosed \$30 towards the Courier.

I have had a rough 6 months as I fell and broke my hip. It is not doing as well as I had hoped. Still I can drive again now so that's a bonus.

Veteran Affairs have looked after me very well. Have no complaints there. 2/40th numbers are getting low now but we still enjoy our times together.

Regards to all, yours Isabel Elmore.

R. Gregg, Beresfield, NSW.

Please find enclosed donation for the Courier, something for the Trust Fund and \$50 towards the Unit History. As a now retired history teacher, I know the high value of history from the direct source.

My Mother joins me in wishing you all the best.

Robert Gregg.

C. Andrews, Caloundra, Qld.

Dear Jack, Herewith \$50. Jeanette and I are keeping fairly well and have moved into our new home, still unsettled.

Our new address is: - 22 Parklands Blvd, Caloundra. 4551.

Regards, Col Andrews.

G. & B. Coulson, Buderim, Qld.

Dear President - Mr R. Parry

Secretary - Jack Carey.

Editor - Delys Carey.

I really messed up not getting our address changed in the address book before Christmas. I was able to send e-mails to some friends but we missed getting Christmas cards for lots of the 2/2nd. Our love to all and keep well.

I'm very busy looking after George and my mother Nellie who will be 105 on the 13th April. Both are doing pretty well. I'm back driving and that's a problem. Why do we need so many roundabouts?

Keep up the great work - keep the Courier going, as it is wonderful to receive it. Enclosing a cheque to help a little.

P.S. Mother must be the oldest 1st World War widow now.

God bless, George and Bettye.

K. Wilson, Booker Bay, Qld.

Dear Jack, Hi! I am writing to let you know that I have booked for the Mildura Safari. The last time I surfaced was at Port Macquarie in '92.

Since then I lost my wife about 18 months ago, and as we did not have any offspring. I now have to fend for myself. I have been fortunate in that I have some good mates that I made in my golfing days (I gave up golf two years ago) am also involved in the senior snooker club of local memorial clubs competitions, and it occupies me for two days. It's good to still be competing.

As I have not hit the "kitty" for several years, I will take this opportunity to send a donation in the form of a money order. I closed my cheque account a few years back.

I am looking forward to seeing old mates and hope that the weather is good to us. Bye for now. Yours sincerely, Keith Wilson.

P. Daluz.

Dear Mr Parry, Enclosed is my donation for the Courier. Hope you are well and taking part in the march this year. With best regards, Patrick Daluz.

J. Stanley, Everson Hills, Qld.

Dear 2/2nd Guys, Please find enclosed cheque towards the cost of the Courier. Gordon is very well these days and is trying to beat his mother's score of 90. Lately he has joined the Stafford Probus Club and has restarted his social life in his old age. We keep quite active and busy and enjoy catching up with Unit members as often as we can. Good health and happiness to all the fellows. Regards, Joan Stanley.

Ian Scott, Neutral Bay, NSW.

Dear Jack, Enclosed please find cheque for your allocation to the Courier and the Trust Fund.

I would like to extend to you my belated but none the less sincere congratulations on your very much-deserved award of The Order of Australia.

I trust you are keeping well or as well as these "Golden Years" permit! Cheers for now, Ian Scott.

P. Krause, Parkwood, Qld.

Dear Folks, Just a brief note to advise you of my change of address. The older I get the colder I get so I have bought a house up here just out of Southport, still trying to settle in.

All the best, Peter Krause.

T. Adams, Toowong, Qld.

Dear Delys & Jack, You will be off to Mildura soon - 2 weeks today is 1st May. Please give my regards and best wishes to one and all and I hope you have a great time.

I was surprised to read in the last Courier of the decision to publish a Unit history and will be only too pleased to help in any way I can, as it is an enormous job.

I know when the History of my original Unit was published one of the chaps involved spent two years on and off in Canberra going through the war records, extracting details of actual dates of moves etc. Maybe someone from Canberra could be asked to do this as it is a time consuming exercise and needs to be done thoroughly as otherwise mistakes will be made as it happened in Col Doig's book. Unfortunately he did it in haste, made lots of errors, and relied on his retentive memory, which I must say, was amazing.

My memory is not that hot as I go from one end of the house to the other wondering why I went there! However I have some memory joggers in a box in the garage. The war records will disclose all details. I think the "New Guinea Offensives" by Dexter is a valuable and accurate record.

Hope you are both well and I hear Murdoch is chasing you Delys as his new editor - don't desert us!

Cheers, safe travels and keep well, Regards Tony.

J. Smith, Ashmore, Qld.

Dear Jack & Co., You haven't heard from me for a very long time but the conscience has now pricked and I'm writing to advise a change of address from 17/50 Hook Blvd, Mermaid Waters. Actually it was "Hooker" Blvd but got shortened somewhere in the system to Hook.

The new address is a retirement village on the Gold Coast. My wife passed away six years ago. It was pretty impractical to continue living where I was with stairs to negotiate. Together with Ted Cholerton, Ron Host, the Hilliards, Doc. Galland, Hughie Brown, and a few others I joined you in Canungra - Doigie's No. 5 Section. We were the ex-artillery blokes.

Upon discharge I went back as a clerk to my pre-war employers in Sydney. Transferred into island exporting a few years later and then into flogging heavy vehicles in the motor trade

Perhaps the most challenging part of my post war life was being invited to go to Bougainville to manage a wholesale/retail trading concern there which dealt in literally everything - including trading in crocodile skins, trochus shell, cocoa beans and you name it. Besides which with a fairly big native staff who spoke no English one had to do some smart footwork to learn Pidgin. Had to get an engineer's licence as well - a piece of cake in PNG.

After a few years there I transferred to Bougainville Copper where in spare time at weekends there were often opportunities to make us of the auctioneer's licence. This was quite a nice money-spinner.

With the advent of independence in 1975 PNG became a fairly dangerous place to live and we opted out in '78.

Bought a good little retail business in Brisbane but after 5 years the signs were there that heart trouble was in the offing. Three months later it happened - a triple bypass and all that stuff. That was redone a few years ago and now the health appears to be holding reasonably well for an old bloke.

There are five woman in this retirement village to one bloke, so we're kept rather busy!

Enclosed is a cheque to be disposed of as you wish Jack.

With kind regards to all with whom it was a privilege to serve.

(New phone number is 07.5539. 3893.)

Jim Smith.

K. Jones, Barraba, NSW.

Dear Jack, How are you, well I hope. I also hope the weather has been better over there than it has here. It has been real Eskimo weather with below minus degrees in the mornings for weeks.

I am replying to your request in the last Courier to supply you with any errors and omissions that I know of in Col Doig's book.

Omissions - Was not mentioned in the list of members who were on Timor.

Not mentioned in the list of members who were in New Britain.

Jack I went to Timor with the first reinforcements and stayed with the Unit until the end.

I was in "A" Platoon No. 1 Section, my army No. was NX49745. I enlisted on 28th October 1941, discharged on 5th June 1946 for a period of 1682 days. 504 days in Australia, 1097 days outside Aussie.

Yours sincerely, Ken Jones.

P.S. Enclosed donation for the Courier.

(Thanks Ken, it will be corrected in our Unit History book.)

Bluey & Mary Bone, Lakes Entrance, Vic.

Dear Jack, Just a note to put in the Courier to say thanks to all the people who came to the Safari and I hope everyone had a good time. It makes the work that Eddie and I put into organising it all worthwhile and it was great to see our widows there too and a couple of daughters with them. We hope everyone got home safely. We had a good trip home, we took two days but we were promptly laid low with the flu. Mary is still recovering. We had a nice day with Marge and Leith Cooper yesterday. He is not too bad at the moment.

Last but not least I would like to say thanks to you Jack and Delys for the help you gave us. So for now, good luck to all. Hope to see you all in WA.

Bluey & Mary Bone.

M. Van Dyk, Port Franklin, Victoria.

Dear Jack & Delys, Just a few lines to pop in with these snaps. I thought you might also like the one of Lionel accepting his Life Membership badge from Bluey. I've also sent copies to Bluey and Lionel. It was a great week and Pat and I also had a lovely couple of nights with her daughter Trish and her husband Michael and their family on our way home. It's very dry there (drought) and to come back to

Sth. Gippsland, looking as green as they say Ireland is, was a huge contrast and makes us feel very grateful for what we have here.

Hope this finds you both well, regards from Miriam.

Thanks for the photos, Miriam - they're great. Ed.

K. Carthew, Andrews Farm, SA.

Dear Jack, The day after returning from the Safari at Mildura, we started moving house from Elizabeth North to the above address. I have not had much time to contact many people, however I rang Bob Williamson and told him about the Safari and the people who attended.

I was pleased to catch up with Fred & Mavis Broadhurst again as Fred and I were part of 6 Section.

As for the Safari, I thoroughly enjoyed the trip to Trentham Winery and the tours around Mildura, the formal dinner etc. I must say again what a great job done by Ed and Blue in organising the complete show. They will both be having a good earned rest.

The members in South Aust. are in reasonably good health although Howard Marks is in a nursing home in Nth Adelaide and suffering Alzheimers disease.

I have not heard from Boy Webber for quite a while, he is still living in Mt. Gambier.

I would like to wish all members who have been on the sick list a quick recovery.

A message to Happy Greenhalgh - I will be contacting Bruce Roffe in the next couple of weeks, he is doing very well. I think he is now 80 years old. His is an amazing story.

I hope to have more information on members next time.

Kel Carthew.

P.S. New address - 8 Carabeen Crs., Andrews Farm. 5114. Ph. 8284.0593.

Pars On People.

Evergreen, Jess Epps, who turned 86 on Anzac Day and attended the Safari extended her holiday in the Eastern States, spending one week with Joy Smith in NSW, one week with son Terry and daughter-in-law Linda in Queensland and one week with Kath Press in Orange, NSW. Jess said Joy and Kath are both battling on okay and she was pleased to catch up with them both.

One lady who looked forward to our Mildura reunion was Mrs Doris Joy who lives there. She is the sister of Gordon Chiswell who was a member of Arch Campbell's 7 Section and lost his life in the ration truck tragedy on 20th Feb. 1942 Mrs Joy attended the Commemoration Service held on the Friday with her sister Mrs Mathews and two of her sons David and Shane. After the service we all went to the R.S. League for lunch during which time those of us who knew her late brother Gordon had a good talk with her. Mrs Joy who is 83 had a sister May Mansfield in W.A. May, who comes to our socials will be 90 this year. They have another sister living in Queensland. Mrs Joy said she was very close to Gordon and will never forget him. She is a lovely person..

Another who enjoyed the Safari was Iris Rowan-Robinson. Iris had a nice room at the hotel with pictures of two irises on the wall - a nice threesome! Iris enjoys travelling and intends to do more of it whilst she is able.

Bill and Coral Coker enjoyed the Safari. Bill looked particularly well. Coral still has difficulty in moving around.

Keith and Val Hayes recently had a three weeks holiday in NSW. Both needed the break. Keith is always on the go doing something for others. He has made an enormous contribution helping the Timorese and deserves a medal for his efforts. Val is a great backstop - they are an ideal team.

Michael Press, son of the late Frank and Kath Press, marched with us on Anzac Day. Now retired, Mike lives at Baker's Hill, a small town about 80km east of Perth. Kath passes her Couriers on to Mike after she has read them.

Jean Holland has sold her home in Mandurah and moved to a unit in Booragoon. Jean has a daughter living south of the river so it will mean a lot less travelling for her.

It was nice to see Betty Devlin at the Safari. Betty is a real livewire and leads a very active life. She enjoys walking and excels at bowls. Good for you Betty.

Twy Smyth had a stint in Hollywood hospital in April to have an operation on her foot. All went well which is good news.

Peter Krause, fed up with the cold Victorian weather has moved to Southport in sunny Queensland. Some members would have happy memories of Southport and those lovely lasses early in 1943.

Charlie Adams regrets he couldn't make it to Mildura. Charlie, a resident of Yarra Creek said he needs stacks of wood to keep the house warm in winter. He is featuring in a documentary on Timor entitled "Bridging the Gap" which should be released shortly.

Terry Paull was down in the big smoke recently to have treatment on his eyes. Terry is well but said that Ivy had memory problems common with a lot of aged people.

Bob and Margaret Smyth had a short holiday at Kalbarri in June. Like Keith, Bob a hard worker on the Trust Fund, needed the break. Bob swims every morning and is in good shape.

Sick Parade.

As reported by Kel Carthew, Howard Marks, who is in a health care situation in North Adelaide has advanced Alzheimers. It is sad to see this happening to people as they grow older and makes it very hard on their loved ones.

Syd McKinley is another SA member who has emphysema and is on oxygen 24 hours a day. We are thinking of you Syd.

Blue Pendergrast is now in St. Lucy's Nursing Home in Victoria Park. Blue is not enjoying the best of health but raised a big effort to take part in the Anzac Day Parade in the mini bus driven by Peter Epps. He attended our follow up luncheon but tired visibly as the day went on. Blue intends to sell his home at Dongara and will eventually move to a new St. Lucy's Home now being built at Joondalup. Blue's phone number is 9817.4425 so come on you sappers of old and give Blue a ring.

Tom Bateman has really been through the mill over recent months. In mid January he had two brain tumours removed following which a bowel tumour burst resulting in peritonitis setting in. It was touch and go for a while and a very worrying time for his family. He later collapsed and finished up in Charlie Gairdner Hospital for 4 months.

Tom is back home but is not out of the wood yet having a serious problem with his left lung. He is starting to feel better. He can now move around under his own steam and is eating and sleeping okay. I asked Tom why he didn't let us know he was in hospital. He said that he was that ill he wasn't up to seeing too many visitors. We hope your road to recovery continues Tom. Good luck, God bless.

Word from NSW is that Ted Cholerton is having a tough time of it with the Big "C". Now in his 86th year Ted is bearing up bravely and getting loving support from Dianne and family. God bless you all.

That indomitable trio in Peter Alexander, Wilf March, and Harry Sproxtton are still battling on. All consume piles of pills daily. Wilf has chemo. on a regular basis with Lorraine spoiling Wilf (*and why not*) but Peter and Henry paddle their own canoe. A phone call is always welcome, so keep them in mind members when you have a bit of free time.

J. Carey.

Courier Donations.

Ted Monk, Peter Bryant, Syd McKinley, Patricia O'Donnell, Rogers family, George & Bettye Coulson, Mrs Gorton, Robert Gregg, Blue Pendergrast, Isobel Elmore, Col & Jeanette Andrews, Ian Scott, Jim Smith, Ray Aitken, Tony Bowers, John Burridge, Dusty Studdy, Bob Smyth, Vince Swann, Don Turton, Doc. Wheatley, Lionel & Elsie Newton, Pat Sullivan, Marge Goodacre, Mrs D. Joy, Bill & Coral Coker, Alan & Hazel Hollow, Dot Boyland, Gordon & Joan Stanley, Keith Wilson, Pat Daluz, Kath Press, Ken & Edith Jones.

Trust Fund Donations.

Peter Bryant	\$50
Robert Gregg	\$150
Ian Scott	\$50
Jim Smith	\$50
Happy Greenhalgh	\$1000
Bill & Coral Coker	\$50
Harry & Amyce Handicott	\$50
Lionel & Elsie Newton	\$50
Syd McKinley	\$50

Sincere thanks to all donors for your generous support.

Change of Addresses.

Blue Pendergrast
Flat 1, St Lucy's Nursing Home
61 Kitchener Ave Victoria Park. W.A. 6100
Ph. (08) 9355.0707

Colin & Jeanette Andrews
22 Parklands Boulevard
Caloundra. Qld. 4551

Jim Smith
17 Jacaranda Close

74 Wardoo St, Ashmore. Qld. 4214
Ph. (07) 5539.3893

George & Bettye Coulson
Unit 7/ Eden Lea
Townsend Rd, Buderim. Qld. 4556
(07) 5445.3203

Peter Krause
1 Wardley Drive, Parkwood. Qld. 4214

Bruce & Lorriaine McLaren
23 Florence Ave. , Kew, Victoria 3102
(03) 9817.4425

Kel Carthew
8 Carabeen Cres., Andrews Farm, S.A. 5114
(08) 8284.0593

Delete.

Mr E. Evans
112 Westfield St., Maddington. WA 6109.

Peter Mantle
19 Arnold St., Allora. Qld. 4362

Add.

Anne Gooley
25 Falkirk Ave, Seaton. SA 5023.
(08) 8355.2320

Mrs E. Prior
76 Alderford Drive, Wantirna. Vic. 3152.

Birthday Boys.

Peter Alexander	April 2nd	84
Joe Poynton	4th	80
Eric Smyth	15th	82
Arthur Marshall	21st	80
Jack Fowler	24th	90
Ray Parry	May 5 th	79
Keith Wilson	16th	81
Don Murray	18th	81
Gerry Green	31st	86
Jim Lines	June 4th	80
Fred Humphry	10th	89
Mark Jordan	15th	82
Jack Carey	19th	80

Please let the editor know when your birthday falls so it can be included in our birthday lists.

NOTICES.

W. A. members please note:

NORMA HASSON SOCIAL.

This social, our 15th, will be held at
THE GOOD EARTH HOTEL (formerly The Terrace)
At 195 Adelaide terrace, Perth
FRIDAY 5th JULY
From 11.00am. Luncheon at 12.30pm.
It's always a good day so be in it!

CAN YOU HELP?

Mavis Broadhurst of 140 Christmas St, Fairfield, Vic. Ph. (03)
9489.2440 writes: -

"I am looking for two books written about WW2

"Tobruk to Tarakan"

&

"Greenfields Beyond".

If anyone has either of these books, and is willing to part with them,
I will pay a reasonable price and postage."



Top: Members taken at the Mildura Grand Hotel at the Safari meeting.

Bottom: Jack Fowler with some of his old mates celebrating his 90th birthday.

