



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

Print Post approved 637597 / 1646

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

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

Vol 147

JUNE 2004

“Phone a Friend”

“Enjoy every day as though it was your last - for one of them surely will be.”

Most of us have heard this before without taking heed of it. However, now that we are all in our 80's it takes on a more significant note. At our latest count we are down to 101 known members and 127 widows. Within a year or two the balance in favour of our good ladies (God bless them) will be proportionately higher. Time, always precious, is more so than ever with our little group. We have been together now, first as a Unit and then as an Association for 63 years. It would be nice to see the strong ties that have been formed over the years further enhanced while we have the time. One way of doing this could be by communicating more with one another. One phone call a month to a fellow member or a widow, especially those living alone may well brighten his or her day, “I’m ‘so and so’ from the 2/2nd” is all you need to say to begin; the 2/2nd being the password as it were. Many members ring old section mates regularly but if we could broaden our base surely many more would benefit from it. Think about it, use your address book, and resolve to make a call a month. Weekend rates are very reasonable. God bless and good luck.

J.Carey.

Vale Donald Kenton TURTON WX 8440.

As reported in our March Courier Don passed away in Hollywood Hospital on the 26th February. He was 86.

Don was born in North Fremantle in the family home on the 13th January 1918, the youngest son of Arthur and Mamie Turton. His father, a prominent businessman, was mayor of North Fremantle for a number of years. Don was loved and spoilt by his sisters, Gwen, Mollie and Joy and often saved by his brother Glyde. A ball of energy Don thoroughly enjoyed his boyhood days, getting into his share of mischief. At the age of six he drove the family car through the Congregational Church during a Sunday service. When attending the Fremantle Boys School, though he copped the blame, he denied he was responsible for an explosion, which partly wrecked the science room. At an early age he acquired a knowledge of explosives from his father who imported gelignite for the mining industry. As a teenager he played hockey, rowed and sailed even building his own yacht. He was also a capable swimmer.

On leaving school he joined Elder Smith's Shipping Department and served in the 7th Heavy Artillery Garrison until enlisting in the AIF in October 1940. He was an original member of the 2/2nd and appointed officer in charge of the sapper section - a great bunch of blokes. Don was a good officer being utterly fearless and possessed of great stamina which was a big asset in the trying Timor conditions

Bernie Callinan recognised Don's qualities and took him in hand for part of the time on Timor. Don was promoted to the rank of Captain on 1st September

1942 and became 2 IC of the Company under the CO Geoff Laidlaw in November 1942. They were a good team Don continued as 2IC throughout the New Guinea Campaign in 1943/44 and in May 1945 was promoted to the rank of Major and placed in charge of the Cav Commando Training Centre at Canungra until his discharge in December 1945.

Don loved experimenting with explosives, which at times made Gerry Green, Smash Hodson, Bill Epps, and others in his Section decidedly nervous. Who could blame them for that?

While in Brisbane Don met an attractive young lass, Vida Frazer, an officer in the army intelligence whom he wooed and wed in 1945. A loving marriage, which lasted 58 years until Vida's death in 2003, produced three girls and one boy, Maxine, Dianne, Heather and Ian.

Don, and outdoors man, took up farming, buying a 1500-acre property at Wandering in 1947. Starting from scratch, his only transport being a motorbike and sidecar, Don worked long hours to make a success of his and Vida's new venture. Things stepped up a gear when army mate Ernie Bingham and his wife Verna appeared on the scene. Don and Ernie, over the following years, spent many long hard days together working to develop the property. By the late 1960s over two thousand acres had been cleared and well stocked and a rabbit proof enclosed the farm. A comfortable home for Vida and their four youngsters had also been built. It was a case of all hands on the farm and at a young age Ian was showing all the signs of being a good farmer. Don always acknowledged the great help Ernie had been to him and they remained close friends until Ernie's death in 1997. Don and the family also maintained close ties with Verna which exists to this day.

A community minded man; Don became involved in the local RSL, the Bushfire Brigade, and the Golf Club. He also helped

helped to establish the Pingelly Farm Advisory Service that was to have a key roll in the improved profitability of the farm in years to come. For relaxation Don took up fishing and became involved in a fishing boat venture at Point Samson. Nothing was more enjoyable than to have caught, cooked, and shared a seafood meal with his friends.

Don and Vida were great supporters of the Association and in our earlier years made their farm available for visits of the kids from Sister Kate's Home and Legacy, which were sponsored by our Association. These were happy times.

In 1978 after 41 years toil Don and Vida handed the farm over to Ian who by then was a capable as his Dad as regards farming. He then bought a lovely block at Keysbrook, which he used as a hobby farm and a retreat until 1997. He and Vida also bought a house at Applecross with Vida preferring the city life for a change. They later moved to a unit in Myaree.

Don enjoyed nothing better than entertaining his many friends on his property. He went out of his way to see everyone was looked after providing food and drinks at his own expense. His generosity knew no bounds. The Association had some happy outings at Keysbrook as did his Timorese friends. It was a delightful spot with dams and waterfalls, marron, an orchard and a rose garden.

In 1997, at 79 he called it a day and settled back in his unit at Myaree. An early riser, he was up every morning at 4 a.m. for his walk and spent his days visiting the family and his many friends. Vida's ill health eventually saw her spend the last years of her life in a nursing home at Mosman Park. Don never missed a day seeing her and this continued until her passing in 2003. Don was a great family man who adored his grandchildren and was in turn loved by

them. His great-grandchildren Annabelle and Miranda were his favourites

He always had a soft spot for the Timorese, naming his farm "Naibilli" after his credo. He made trips back to Timor in 1969 for the opening of the Dare memorial and again with Arch Campbell in 1973. A loyal member of the Association Don was president in 1990 and served on the committee for a number of years. He was made a life member in 1966.

He suffered a stroke in 2002 which set him back but he fought on and recovered to a degree, still managing his early morning walk. His death in Hollywood Hospital came as a great shock to his family and friends. So passed a good man, a great Australian, who was always kind, considerate, and generous to others. He will be sadly missed by his family and friends.

The Association extends its deepest sympathy to Maxine, Dianne, Heather, Ian, and their families.

Lest We Forget.

Jack Carey.

Vale Ivan James BROWN TX4950.

Tex Richards has kindly notified us of the death of Ivan in Hobart in February last, he was 87.

Ivan was on our mailing list until the mid 80s but then we lost touch with him and heard nothing more of him.

We do know Ivan was born in New Suffolk, Tasmania on 28/9/1916 and that he enlisted in the AIF in July 1941 and joined the Unit in Wilson's Promontory as a signaller under Johnny Rose and served in Timor with the sigs. Happy Greenhalgh remembers him as being a capable sig and a good soldier. He left the Unit after Timor and was discharged from the Army in October 1945.

Information, which Tex provided, is that Ivan commenced work as an apprentice

signwriter and has left a legacy of fine work throughout Hobart. He was an expert on the use of Gold leaf and the painting of the beautiful ceiling of the Hobart Town Hall was one of his projects. He was a member of the Advertising Institute of Australia. Ivan was a very good swimmer in his younger days and was also a member of the Mt. Wellington Ski Club. He was also a prominent Freemason for many years and attained high office in that organisation.

He did make a point of meeting up with the Safari group who were in Tassie in 1973 and it is a pity we did not meet up with him again during the Hobart Safari in March 2000.

If any members can provide any information on Ivan please let us know. The last known address we had was Macquarie St, Hobart.

Lest We Forget.

Vale Howard Glen MARKS SX 17401.

Howard passed away peacefully at the Helping Hand Nursing Home in Adelaide on the 14th March 2004 at the age of 83.

He was born at Kadina, a town on the Yorke Peninsula, South Australia on the 10th July 1920 to George & Phoebe Marks, being one of a large family of 4 boys and 3 girls. His father worked in the copper mines at Moonta and when the mines were flooded in 1924 the family moved to Adelaide. Howard attended the Thebarton High School and enjoyed his school days. Like a lot of youngsters in the depression years he left school at 14 and obtained a job at Popes. In 1935 the family moved to Barmera on the Murray River in the Riverland district and leased a 5 acres vegetable block growing potatoes, onions, peas, and tomatoes with the aid of their large horse Prince. It was a good life. Howard became an apprentice carpenter and was qualified as a fully-fledged carpenter when the war started.

He enlisted in Feb. 1942 and joined the Unit at Laramah in December 1942, going on to serve in the sapper section in the New Guinea Campaign in 1943/44. "Carl" to his sapper mates, Howard was a good soldier and was well respected in his section. He later transferred to the 2/5th Field Company and saw service in Balikpapan. On his discharge in March 1946 he returned to Barmera and took up his old trade.

In 1947 he married Dawn Fisher and they settled in Loxton, a town 15 kilometres south of Barmera where he obtained a 25-acre property then known as fruit salad blocks under the War Service Land Settlement Scheme. He and Dawn went on to spend the next 49 years there during which time they raised a family of 6 children - 3 boys and 3 girls; Susan, Andrew, Richard, Geoffrey, Jane (dec'd) and Gillian. Howard and Dawn worked long hours to make a go of things and eventually Howard began a small carpentry business to supplement the family income. He was a good tradesman and a community minded man. He served on the Loxton North Primary School Committee and was involved in building a swimming pool, the first in S.A. country areas. A man of principle he refused to spray his citrus crop with Malathion because he believed in natural predators.

Howard was a good mate of Bob Williamson another old Unit sapper. Bob said he and Howard attended our first Safari in Melbourne in 1956 and in later years made trips to Victoria for brief breaks. Bob has happy memories of times spent at Howard's property helping gather the tomato crop. In the early nineties Howard bought another block. In 1996 he decided to call it a day and moved to Adelaide. He and Dawn attended the 1998 Safari in Canberra and it was nice to meet up with them. Howard always enjoyed the Courier.

Life was not kind to Howard in his latter years. He developed Alzheimers, which was tragic for a good man who enjoyed life in the outdoors and the company of his family and friends. The last two years of his life were spent almost entirely in a wheel chair and in bed.

He was buried in his old hometown of Loxton. A large crowd attended his funeral service at the local Anglican Church.

The Association extends its deepest sympathy to Dawn and the family.

Lest We Forget.

**Vale Joseph William POYNTON DCM
WX 12552.**

Joe passed away peacefully at the 'Greenfields Nursing Home', Mandurah on the 17th March last, three weeks short of his 82nd birthday. So died one of the greats of the Unit.

Joe was born at Ballarat on the 4th April 1922 being one of 5 children. In 1928 when he was six, the family moved by car to the West. The drive over the Nullarbor with its rough roads was a great adventure for Joe. A big meat pie on reaching Kalgoorlie topped off an exciting trip and from that time on a meat pie was always a favourite of Joes.

The family settled in Claremont. Joe was a bright student and did well at school. A well-built youngster there was never a dull moment in his boyhood days. On leaving school in 1937 he obtained an apprenticeship as a carpenter at the Midland Railway Company which he completed before enlisting in the AIF in early 1941. Joe became an original member of the 2/2nd and served in the Unit from go to whoa. He took part in No. 2 Sections gallant stand at the Dili Drome on 19/20th February 1942 when the Japs invaded East Timor and was awarded a DCM and Dutch Bronze Cross for bravery in that action. Strong, tough and fearless, his courage became

a byword among members of the 2/2nd. Joe was a member of the Unit's boxing team and knew how to look after himself. He attained the rank of Lance Sergeant and retired from the army early in 1946. He was selected in the AIF's London Victory March Contingent in mid 1946, an honour well deserved for a man with such a fine war record.

A handsome man, Joe saw Helen O'Brien on a bus early in 1946 and kept on winking at her every time he caught her eye. A few days later he ran into her again at North Cottesloe Beach and asked for a date. So began a loving partnership which lasted 58 years. A young journalist (female of course) described Joe as "An answer to a maiden's prayer" in an article in the local paper when Joe was awarded his DCM in Feb. 1943. Few of the girls around in those days would disagree with her!

Joe was a good sportsman becoming involved in snorkelling, waterpolo and horseriding. He excelled at Rugby Union and played for the Nedlands Club for many years including in their grand final won in 1940. After the war he resumed with his old club, played in several WA sides, and was Captain and Vice-captain on a number of times. A tough but fair player, he played with Nedlands in 1957 in their grand final win with a nose guard having sustained a broken nose in a game a week earlier. He was 35 at the time and retired four years later in 1961. A loyal clubman was Joe.

In 1949 he worked as a carpenter at the Woomera Rocket Range for 2 years and built up a bank running a two-up and dice game with his mate Max Tomilson. Returning to Perth in 1951 he and another mate Bert Kelly, became partners building homes in Innaloo, White Gum Valley, Hyden and Merredin. He attended night school and got his builders ticket, building his own first home in Claremont prior to marrying Helen in 1953. In 1959 Joe and Helen

moved to Fremantle and established the Skye Hospital. Under Helen, a capable matron, the hospital flourished while Joe built extensions to cope for the demand for more beds. Joe and Helen were blessed with their much-loved girls Julie-Ann in 1958 and Rhiann in 1964. Joe was a devoted dad and thought the world of his young daughters. After 12 years at the Skye they moved to their holiday home at Ormsby terrace, Mandurah which Joe had built. It was a big comfortable home with lovely ocean views. Here the family spent their next 31 years. 2/2nd members have many happy memories of those wonderful outings on the Sunday of the Australia Day weekend. Helen's catering was really something while Joe, an expert fisherman, made sure there were plenty of crabs on hand, topped off with a barbecued sheep provided by the Campbells. They were good times.

A side street was named Poynton Way by the Council in their honour in 2001, a fine tribute indeed.

Joe and Helen were great travellers heading up North in the winter months and did trips around Australia with their great friends Peter & Pat Campbell. Joe was always willing to help out and was on the building committee of the original Mandurah Offshore Fishing Club. He loved fishing and always brought home good catches. He enjoyed nothing better than having a few drinks with his old mates, Wattie, Huddy, Tiger and Tony. They would reminisce on old times. Joe being an ardent Eagle supporter, footy was a popular topic.

In 2002 with their old home now too big for the two of them and Joe beginning to suffer from memory loss, they moved to a smaller but comfortable home in Cuvier Place, Mandurah. Joe's condition gradually worsened and with Helen not enjoying the best of health, Joe went into "Greenfields" where he died peacefully on the 17th March. Helen and the family were always first in Joe's life. He loved

his six grandchildren and delighted in watching them grow and was proud of their accomplishments. His fighting spirit never waned and remained strong until the very end.

A large crowd attended his funeral service held at Bowra & O'Dea's Chapel at Mandurah. Present from the Association were Clarrie & Joy Turner, Dot & Rodney Maley, Eric & Twy Smythe, Bart & Loris Mavrick, Bernie & Babs Langridge, Keith & Val Hayes, Doc Wheatley, Ray Parry, Bob Smyth, John Burrridge, Vince Swann, Jack Carey, Peter & Pat Campbell, Dick Darrington, Tony Bowers, Don & Ida Murray, Len & Betty Bagley, Jim Lines, Laurie & Sheryle Harrington, Pip Dunkley, Elvie Howell, Mary & Paddy King, Vera, Leonie, Coralie, Lexie & Graham Watson.

Don Murray, George Horsham and Aaron Gosper all paid fine tributes to Joe in what was a very moving celebration of the life of a very special person.

Joe's ashes were scattered in the ocean off his former Ormsby Terrace home. The Association extends its deepest sympathy to Helen, Julie-Ann and Rhiann and their families.

Lest We Forget.

Jack Carey.

Mr dear friends of old, thank you sincerely for your messages of love and sympathy and those who attended the service for the celebration of his life. Joe would have been so honoured at the love and respects extended to him and the caring love you have shown to my family and me.

Please accept this as our personal thanks.

"It is hard to walk the road that two have trod,

But the way becomes easier with the care of special angels, better known as friends."

Thank you all, Helen.

**Vale William Ernest (Bill) TOMASETTI
VX 28767**

Born 11/9/1918 Died 4/4/2004

Bill Tomasetti was born in Brunswick, Melbourne. He left school at an early age to work in his father's business. Later he completed year 12 by correspondence.

He was an early enlistment in the AIF joining the army in June 1940. He was an original member of the 2/22 nd Battalion. When volunteers from the AIF were being sought for, a special unit known only as the "Hush, Hush". Bill immediately volunteered going to Wilson's Promontory and becoming an original member of what was to become No. 2 Australian Independent Company.

The Company sailed for West Timor on the S.S. Zealandia on Dec. 10th 1941. From Koepang the Company less "B" Platoon sailed for Dili in Portuguese Timor 17th Dec. 1941. Bill, a Staff Sergeant, returned to Sparrowforce H.Q. in Koepang and landed back in Dili only a few days before the Japanese landing on the 19/20th February 1942. He rejoined the Company H.Q. at Railaco bringing with him 10,000 pounds for the Company coffers.

When HQ moved from Railaco in late February 1942, he organised 27 Timor ponies to transport the company's ammunition, spare weapons, and explosives to beyond the Glano River. On 2nd March he, Paddy Wilby, and an English speaking Javanese soldier accompanied Capt. Callinan to Dutch Timor to determine what the position was there. At Laeores in West Timor, two Dutch priests informed Capt Callinan that the Australians in Koepang had surrendered on February 23rd 1942, and as yet there were no Japanese in Atambua.

Bill next took two horse loads of explosives to Atsabee bound for Capt. Callinan up near the Comoro River,

planning a raid on Dili Airfield and the destruction of 10 Japanese aircraft. The C.O. Major Spence vetoed the raid.

Bill and Ron Kirkwood led a patrol of Portuguese known as the International Brigade, which included Julie Madera, Fernandos Alfresco and Alfredo da Santos to the Comeira Village, just East of Dili about the 21st or 22nd May 1942.

Returning from there on May 24th during the hours of darkness, they walked straight into a large patrol of Japanese occupying the Hera Saddle. Julie Madera shot the guard. Fernandes, who had a club foot; was thrown from his horse and captured by the Japs. He was later executed. Bill, Ron, and the others broke clear and later rejoined the Unit. Julie and Alfredo stayed on with 4 Section.

Bill returned to HQ where he spent the rest of the Timor Campaign being active with the pony teams. He did not go to New Guinea with the Unit. He was with the 2/27th battalion in the Ramu Valley, where he became seriously ill and was invalided home. He was later classified as "B" class and was discharged from the AIF in April 1946.

Post war Bill joined the Department of District Administration of Papua New Guinea. There he was educated at A.S.O.P.A. at Mosman, Sydney. He worked his way through from cadet Patrol Officer to District Officer. He went to Brisbane where he attended University of Queensland (B.A. Hons.); he studied at London University U.K. 1960-62 and obtained a Diploma of Community Development.

He was seconded to the University of Papua New Guinea as Dean of Students 1967-72 and for teaching to the Administrative College (Port Moresby) 1963-67 and again from 1973 retiring as senior lecturer from the latter institution in 1978.

Bill settled in the Blue Mountains. He translated P. Lawrence's book "Road Belong Cargo" dealing with cargo cults (1964) into "Talk Pidgin" which was published in 1986.

He joined the Labour Party for a time and was a founding member of the Rainbow Alliance. He was a member, and for a period of time President of the Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society.

He was external consultant for a number of Papua New Guinea students attending the Hawkesbury Agricultural College of West Sydney University and joined as a concerned citizen of this institution for more than a year.

He also served on the area Health Board of the Upper Blue Mountains.

There is far more of his post retirement activities. It can be taken for granted Bill Tomasetti spent his post war life serving people both in Papua New Guinea and here in N.S.W. Bill was a loyal and generous supporter of the Association and made a number of contributions to the Courier including one on Garoka in 1959 which Colin Doig later included in his book "A Great Fraternity".

There were representatives from all sectors of the community at his funeral service and all speakers spoke glowingly of Bill's service to the community in Papua New Guinea and Australia.

To his wife Friedegard, his sisters and family we extend our most sincere sympathy in their loss. Rest in peace Bill, in your beautiful mountains, mountains that were part of most of your life.

Lest We Forget.

Paddy Kenneally.

Vale Arthur (Mark) JORDAN WX 9937

Mark passed away suddenly on the 20th April at the age of 83. He was born in Beverley, W.A. on the 15th June 1920. His father Arthur, a horticulturist, and

mother Annie, did all they could to give their 5 children a good start in life but times were tough in the W.A. wheatbelt in those days. Mark enjoyed his boyhood days; getting up to his share of mischief but like most youngsters of his generation left school early and found a job to supplement the family income. He was working in Kalgoorlie when he enlisted in the AIF in December 1940.

In 1941 he volunteered for the 'Hush Hush' group and became an original member of the 2/2nd serving in the Timor Campaign 1941/42. Ray Parry recalls that Mark was a good soldier whose sense of humour was a great asset and a big plus in those trying times. Due to illness Mark left the Unit after Timor and for over a year became an instructor in the 1st Australian Commando Training Squadron at Canungra. He went on to join 'Z' Force in June 1944 and where he served until his discharge in January 1946.

After the war Mark settled in Adelaide with his wife May, a South Australian lass, whom he married in 1943. He became a wood machinist by trade in which he excelled, eventually building a home at Paradise, making all his own furniture. He was also a handy gardener and became an expert at pruning and grafting. He then went into the catering business which under his capable hands prospered. His services were much in demand and he often catered for three to four weddings a weekend. Graham, their only child, was born in 1961. For relaxation Mark took up golf and became quite a good golfer. He also enjoyed a game of snooker & billiards.

Mark and May parted company in 1978 with Mark moving to a unit in Nailsworth. He retired soon after his divorce but kept busy doing charitable work. He was also a stalwart of the RSL and was awarded life membership for his service. A good father, he devoted a lot of his time

helping his son Graham until he went to live in England in 1990. Mark was a loyal member of the Association and it was through it that he met up with Elsie Wares when she stayed with the Hollows in S.A. in 1984. He met up with her again at the Canberra Safari in 1988 and they married in 1992. They had 11 wonderful years together. He was readily accepted into Elsie's family and loved being with the grand & great grandchildren. Elsie even taught him to play the Kazoo, which gave Mark a lift! A quiet, kind man, his sense of humour was always apparent and he loved to crack a joke. In his last few years he developed just about every conceivable illness, pneumonia, septicaemia, prostate cancer, high blood pressure to name a few. He also had a hip replacement. A nasty fall in the his home shortly after the Safari, resulted in him being hospitalised this, followed by a heart attack, saw him laid up for weeks. He was making good progress when he collapsed in a taxi on his way home from hospital and never recovered.

Graham made a very moving tribute to his father at his funeral. David Wares, Elsie's son and Andy Zorbas, a prominent member of the All Saints Parish in Dianella, spoke in glowing terms of Mark's qualities. A guard of honour comprising Ray Parry (who said the Ode), Bob Smyth, Keith Hayes, Bernie Langridge, Jack Carey, Ted Monk and George Greenhalgh paid their final tribute to Mark. Also present were Val Hayes, Babs Langridge, Nell Mullins and Delys Carey.

To Elsie, Graham and their families, the Association extends its sincere condolences.

Lest We Forget.

Jack Carey.

For Mark.

*Where cool mists hang in the valley,
Where sunshine falls on the flowers
Where waves gently lap on the yellow
sands*

There will he be.

*When his loved ones speak together
When his friends remember his name
When children are laughing and playing
There will he be.*

*All these people he loved, we remember
And the soul of such a man*

Must surely gently hover

And while we remember - remain.

Elsie Jordan.

Condolences.

We regret to advise of the passing of Jack Fox, who died in Victoria on the 12th May. He was 91.

A vale will appear in the September Courier. The Association extends its deepest sympathy to members of his family.

Our condolences are extended to Ken & Edith Jones and family on the tragic loss of their son Ian who was killed when the aircraft he was flying crashed near Charters Towers early this year.

Ian attended our last Safari. A fine man, he enjoyed his trip West and meeting up with many of his father's old mates. May he rest in peace.

Our condolences are also extended to Joan Meldrum (nee Darge) and family on the loss of John who passed away recently. John was a generous supporter of the Association. May he rest in peace.

Thank You.

Jean Keenahan and family would like to thank all those kind people who sent cards and letters of sympathy after the death of Jack.

ANZAC DAY W.A. 2004.

A record crowd estimated at close to 40,000 attended the Dawn Service at the State War Memorial in Kings Park. Peter Epps, an honorary life member, laid a lovely wreath on our behalf for which we thank him. John Burrridge and Bob Smyth once again represented the Association at the SAS Regiment's Dawn Service at Campbell Barracks where 1200 attended. John laid a beautiful Double Red Diamond wreath on our behalf. Well done John and Bob.

For the third successive year, the Commando Squadrons marched as one. Because the march was in the opposite direction to previous years there was some confusion before the march began but it worked out okay eventually.

President Ray Parry led our group, followed by Keith Hayes proudly carrying the Australian flag. Then in order came the four flag bearers. John Chalwell, 2/2nd, Jim Dobbyn 2/5th, Dick Reddell 2/6th, and Digger Brooks 2/8th. The main group comprising veterans from the various squadrons, sons and daughters, and grandchildren approximately 30 in all made up the full complement. The march went off well with large crowds lined on either side of St. George's Terrace, warmly applauding the marchers as they passed by. It was an ideal morning for the parade - our April weather in the West is really something. By the time we reached Langley Park most of we oldies had just about run out of steam and were happy to sit down and relax.

Those marching included Ray Parry, Ray Aitken, (a top effort Ray), Happy Greenhalgh, Keith Hayes, Terry Paull, John Chalwell, Jack Carey, Tom Foster, Ted Monk and Bob Smyth (2/2nd), John Lillie & Oliver Jones (2/3rd), Peter & Bruce Agars 2/4th, Harold Durant, Jim Lines, Jim Dobbyn 2/5th, Dick Reddell 2/6th, Barney Baron, Pat Connolly, Digger Brooks & G. Robinson 2/8th and Jack

Sweet, Arthur Heyhoe 2/11th. It was nice to meet up with the members of other Squadrons again. Tom Hungerford 2/8th came along but unfortunately had to withdraw just prior to the start when he became ill. Nerine & Leah (Neil Barnett's daughters) Christine (Hazel Wick's daughter) Rosemary, Christine & Gordon Collins, A. Harris, young Hilton Hayes (Keith & Val's grandson) were all part of the younger brigade who marched, plus a few others whose names escape me.

Doc Wheatley, Vince Swann, Don Murray, John Burrridge, Bernie Langridge, Dick Darrington and Tony Bowers took advantage of the mini bus kindly provided by Peter Epps. I'm sure the boys were grateful to Peter for helping out on the big day.

The luncheon at 'The Good Earth' after the service on Langley Park was first class. The staff looked after us well and turned on a lovely meal. We were delighted to have the C.O. Lieut. Col. Rick Burr, his R.S.M. W.O.1 Russell Sullivan join us for lunch and to meet up again with Bart Mavrick, Adrian Blacker and Mick Flight, all former W.O.2 now retired members of the Regiment and have a drink and chat with them. President Ray Parry proposed a toast to the S.A.S. Regiment which was drunk with gusto and to which the C.O. made a fitting response. Rick took a bit of an earbashing from the boys in his stride and enjoyed the experience. A welcome was also extended to Major Doug Hasson (Jack & Norma's son) who is now stationed in the West. Doug sure looks the part.

In conclusion we should not forget our good ladies, Val Hayes (who marched with her old Unit.) Babs Langridge, Mary Foster, Olive Chalwell and Delys Carey who are always there to give us a loud cheer as we pass by. Our thanks also to Terry Paul, Tom Foster, Vince Swann who came down especially for the day

and "cornstalker" Happy Greenhalgh. So ended another Anzac Day, our 59th, all of happy memories.

J. Carey.

Mandurah Anzac Day. 2004

The Mandurah 2/2s numbers are falling away as each year passes. Paddy King led the 2/2s with Brian Howell and Victor King proudly carrying our Double Red Diamond banner. Len Bagley was our only member to march and Len also laid a nice wreath at the service.

Elvie Howell and sons Ray & Ross also marched with Elvie's grandchildren, Kathy, Johnny, Jason and Kylie so the Howell family was well represented on the day. The 2/2s are to be commended for continuing a tradition started by the Mandurah Branch back in 1982.

Timor Anzac Day 2004.

A short Anzac day morning service was held at the Dare memorial, above Dili, which was dedicated to the Peoples of East Timor on 13th April 1969 by our Association.

Mike Gallagher, a contact of our chairman Bob Smyth, delivered a short address prepared by John Burridge in the presence of a small detachment of Australian army personnel serving in East Timor.

A wreath was laid and the Reveille and the Rouse sounded.

Viva Australia and Timor Loro-Sae!

NB Bob is still waiting on more details of the service from Mike to whom the Association is indebted in organising the service.

President's Report.

Once again it gives me pleasure to present the President's Annual Report

covering events beginning February 2003 and ending January 2004.

Anzac Day - the dawn service at the State War Memorial in King's Park was attended by a crowd of 30,000 - many of them young people. It was there that Peter Epps laid our Double Diamond wreath at the base of the memorial.

Bob Smyth and John Burridge attended the S.A.S. Regiment's Dawn Service at Campbell Barracks, Swanbourne and laid a wreath there. Many thanks Bob and John.

To Peter Epps, who has accomplished so much over a period of many years assisting individual members and the Association, we give you our eternal thanks Peter.

It was a great honour for me to lead the combined Commando Squadrons for the second successive year. It was a lovely autumn morning and the marchers were received enthusiastically by the large crowd lining the streets. Flags of the 2/2nd, 2/5th, 2/6th, and 2/8th were prominent in the march and the veterans from all the squadrons who participated marched well.

The gathering at The Good Earth Hotel went well and it gave me much pleasure to propose the toast to that very fine SAS Regiment in the presence of the Acting CO Major Terry O'Farrell, his adjutant Captain Greg Daly and Acting RSM Russell Sullivan.

The Norma Hasson Social was held at The Good Earth Hotel on Friday 4th July. It was certainly an enjoyable occasion. Held in the dining room of the hotel with delightful views of the Swan and Melville Waters, it was well attended and the ladies as usual were beautifully groomed. A thank you to Norma's daughter, Kaye, who once again presented each lady with a corsage of orchids, a gesture that was most appreciated Kaye.

Elvie Howell (widow of Bill) and Paddy King (son of Charlie) were both presented with Associate Life Membership medallions. A well deserved award.

Safari - In November 2003 we held our last Safari here in W.A. which proved to be a pleasant experience for everyone. The men and women of the 2/2nd Association living in the Eastern States, travelled many thousands of kilometres to join the men and women of our Association here in the West. There were parents who were accompanied by sons and daughters, which was pleasing to see.

It was a wonderfully organised programme, we can thank Jack and Delys Carey for their devotion to the duties of making sure every function was as it should be.

Our final evening was a most enjoyable one. All were thankful that we had this opportunity to meet in 2003 possibly for the last time. Our Courier still remains our means of communicating with each other. Over the years we have been one great family.

It was a fitting conclusion to the 62 years of our first meeting at Wilson's Promontory.

Commemoration Service -

World War II laid the foundation for the birth of the 2nd Independent Company at Wilson's Promontory. The Unit fought hard and long in the Eastern region of the Netherlands East Indies and the islands of the South West Pacific, bonds of friendship were forged that would last many decades following the signing of the Peace Treaty on board the Battleship U.S.S. Missouri in Tokyo Bay 1945.

Attending our service in Kings Park on Sunday 16th November 2003 were some 200 people. Many years have passed since we had such a roll call. What a welcome sight it was. Following the service and at the invitation of the S. A.

S. Veterans Association, we adjourned to "The House" at their camp in Swanbourne where we relaxed enjoying a barbecue tea and drinks provided by our hosts.

Xmas Luncheon.

Our Christmas Function was held in the dining area of The Good Earth Hotel on Friday 12th December 2003.

The hotel staff excelled themselves with the decorative arrangements on the tables and around the room. It was well attended, the ladies looked lovely, the luncheon was superb, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. It was indeed a happy occasion.

In conclusion I wish to thank my committee, the Trust Fund members, and all those people who have made contributions during the past year. It has been a great privilege for me to be president of our very fine Association for the past three years.

God bless you all.

R. Parry, President.

A.G. M. W. A. Branch 2004.

11 members attended our 58th AGM held at Anzac Club on Tuesday 9th March.

Present were Messrs Ray Parry, Len Bagley, John Burrridge, Jack Carey, Dick Darrington, Keith Hayes, Les Halse, Bernie Langridge, Ted Monk, Bob Smyth and Dusty Studdy. There were seven apologies.

Reports: Annual reports were presented by our President Ray Parry, Editor Delys Carey, Auditor John Burrridge, and Trust Fund Chairman Bob Smyth. All are in this issue of the Courier.

Election of officers for the coming year were: -President Mr R. Parry

Vice-President Mr C. Hodson

Sec./Treasurer Mr J. Carey

GENERAL ACCOUNT.**Statement of Receipts & Expenditure Year Ending 31/1/04.**

<u>Receipts.</u>		<u>Expenditure.</u>	
<u>Balance as at 31/1/04</u>		6495.66	
Courier Donations	5185.26	Courier Costs	4675.71
Assoc. events	2190.00	Assoc. events.	2985.13
Badges (etc)	137.00	P.O. Box rental	144.00
Smailes Poems	15.00	Govt. taxes	45.90
Safari	18.660.00	Safari	23224.72
Bank interest	15.97	Listening Post	50.00
Trans. ex Legacy A/c	4054.32	Funeral Notices	286.11
	30257.55	Capitation fee ACA	43.00
		Address books.	416.00
		Commem. Service	189.40
		Admin. costs	150.00
		Anzac Day	55.00
			32264.97
		Bank Balance 31/1/04	<u>4488.24</u>
			<u>\$36753.21</u>
			<u>\$36753.21</u>

J.W. Carey
15/2/04.

Estate Una Thompson Legacy Account.

Amount in Account as at 13 th Nov. 2003	\$24054.32
Transferred to General Account	<u>4054.32</u>
Balance as at 14/1/03	\$20000.00

This amount has been reinvested at 4.7% maturing on 13/6/04

Independent Trust Fund.**Statement of Receipts & Expenditure Year Ending 31/1/04.**

<u>Receipts.</u>		<u>Expenditure.</u>	
Balance as at 31/1/03	8026.49	Govt. Tax	3.50
		Admin. charges	272.48
Bank Interest	22.75	Freight &	823.00
Donations	<u>2525.00</u>	wharf charges	
	2547.75		1098.98
		Bank Bal. 31/1/04	<u>9475.26</u>
	<u>\$10574.24</u>		<u>\$10574.24</u>

Editor	Mrs D. Carey	<u>Item.</u>	<u>Budget.</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Auditor	Mr J. Burrridge	Courier donations.	5200	5185
Warden	Mr J. Chalwell.	Cost of 4 Couriers	4800	4635
General committee - Messrs R. Darrington, J. Burrridge, R. Smyth and Mr B. Langridge.		Loss on local functions	900	795

Courier Committee - Mr G. Bagley, Mrs S. Epps, & Mr J. Carey

The Trust Fund Committee of Messrs R. Smyth, J. Burrridge & Mr K. Hayes now in its 13th year carry on as usual.

Mr Len Bagley, who has served on the executive over many years announced his retirement and a vote of thanks was recorded in the AGM minutes to Len for his tremendous contribution to the Association for the last 40 years.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT - Auditor's Report on Year Ended 31/1/04.

The financial position of the Association is again excellent. Current Bank Balance of \$4488 is healthy and is only \$2207 less than a year ago despite some unusual expenses. There was a loss of \$4564 on the Safari, which was however almost covered by a transfer of \$4054 from the Una Thompson Legacy Account. The four Couriers cost \$822 more than last year. Cost of Association events was up \$200. A new address book cost \$416. Most of the other smaller expenses cost a bit more too. All in all it has been a very satisfactory year but donations from previous members and relatives are still needed each year to keep us afloat.

Jack Carey has again done a magnificent job as treasurer. Indeed a feature of his work and his complete grip of the affairs of the Association is demonstrated in his budget for the year which he produced at a committee meeting in June last year. Here are some of the main items: -

Not bad budgeting for the period ending in 7 or 8 months time.

The Independent trust fund has had a somewhat frustrating year and details are covered in Bob Smyth's comprehensive report. The current Bank Balance is \$9475, which is up \$1449 on last year. Donations at \$2525 are down on last year.

The Una Thompson Legacy Account stands at \$20,000 after having contributed \$4054 towards the budgeted loss on the Safari. The \$20,000 is currently invested at 4.7% and is due on 13/6/04. Your committee decided that basically this account should remain in reserve to contribute to the cost of producing the book on Unit History. However, it was felt that as the Account had already earned over \$2000 in interest it was reasonable to transfer about \$4000 to General Funds to cover the expected loss on the Safari.

J. Burrridge - Auditor.

9/3/04

Editor's Report Year Ending 31/1/04:

In the past year, four 32 page Couriers were issued at a cost of \$4675.71 which included printing, postage and a new printer. Thanks to the generosity of members and friends, donations of \$5185.26 more than covered the Courier costs. These donations have been coming in now for over 50 years. The Association can consider itself fortunate in having so many generous supporters. Thank you one and all.

I would also like to thank those members who send in regular quarterly reports advising of the progress of members in

their area, also those providing feature stories of varying interests. Your contribution plays a big part in keeping the Courier going. There are some that have been receiving the Courier year in and year out but we seldom if ever, hear from them. We appeal to these members to write in, as there are many who would like to have news of you.

Thanks too go to my little team comprising Gavin Bagley, Sue Epps, Maureen Baker, and my other half Jack, for the support they have given me during the past year.

We do our best to provide an interesting and newsy Courier. Vales make up a large part of each issue but this is to be expected in our twilight years. We are always open to suggestion to improve the Courier, which is now in its 57th year.

Delys Carey- Editor.

INDEPENDENT TRUST.

12TH ANNUAL REPORT TO 31ST JANUARY 2004.

There were many frustrations and disappointments over the last 12 months.

Independence in East Timor brought more demanding control over Border (Customs) entry of goods.

The country remains severely handicapped by insufficient funding to operate essential services at a reasonable level.

Assuming then that Border control is self-funding, some decisions can be considered outrageous - more so if an attempt may be made by an employee to catch up on what he considers is an adequate take home pay. (The Asian GST)

Pillage of shipments has been an ongoing problem and most difficult to resolve.

TARIFF & SPACE.

Unacceptable tariff levels on contents of some containers forwarded by Rotary

and Lions delayed further shipments by many months. Then when that was resolved, the N.W. Shipping Company for many months did not have the free space previously available.

Meanwhile Keith Hayes had collected, sorted, packed, and labelled 94 cartons waiting in a LIONS container. Only when we decided to fund a LCL (loose) shipment, the shippers kindly agreed accept a full (free) container to Darwin. We used one third and LIONS who processed delivery, two thirds. We delayed all our detailed manifest documents (security awareness) until three days prior to shipment before release to LIONS who had to incorporate them into the ship's manifest.

When Sister Guilhermina received the shipment in Dili on 29th August, 14 cartons, obviously selected from the manifest were missing and others rattled. Despite the losses, Sister G. is most grateful for the shipment, which included the LIONS hospital items. We paid \$500 freight from Darwin to Dili and \$323 for Dili wharfage charges.

Arrangements are now undertaken to forward gifted goods via an alternative channel. They have not to date had any pillage problems. Keith is restocking his garage!

VEGETABLE SEEDS.

Sister Guilhermina recently returned from the Philippines. She will hopefully soon have information on the result of previous seed germination in East Timor. We will not move forward until a favourable report is received.

EXPENDITURE.

It will be noted that this item has been contained at a minimal level.

Thanks to all donors whose contributions are recorded in each Courier and to fellow trustees Keith Hayes and John Burrridge.

BOB SMYTH

Chairman Independent Trust.

Tassie News.**Bert Price OAM, Dover, Tas.**

Forwarding some Tassie news, which I trust will be of interest to 2/2nd members.

Since last writing it was with sadness I was told of the passing of Don Turton - but at the same time I was so pleased to have talked to him at the Safari in Perth, and that he was so kind to phone me at home later. Also to learn of the passing of Basil Keefe and Peter Cannon, some time ago. Basil was with Don Turton's platoon in East Timor but was evacuated about September 42. Jerry Green would know him. I'm not sure which platoon Peter was in.

In February (04) I went to the 2/40th Battalion Annual reunion in Launceston. As expected numbers were down. 21 attended the Annual meeting and about 70 at the dinner at night. Met up with Geoff Wood on the Sunday Memorial Service and he is going along okay. He still has his small farm. I was hoping to see Lewis Nicklason but he was unwell and unable to attend. He served in East Timor (ex 2/40th) and later with 2/12 Battalion in New Guinea and Borneo. I have spoken to him on the phone, we were both in 11 Platoon in B Coy 2/12, but we cannot place one another despite being together for 2 1/2 years. I think if we could meet in person we would recognise each other.

Have been talking to Nancy Slade, who is her happy self, but still has to use her walking aids. She is pleased to have a grandson, as a visitor from Queensland, but not pleased with his haircut! She asked me to say hello to everyone.

It was nice to meet Isobel Elmore at 2/40th reunion and talk to her on the phone this day; she is an active person and helps others especially Lewis Nicklason with transport etc.

Met Iris Rice at her home in Launceston for a few minutes and she is well and happy.

I talked to Tex Richards on the phone today but he is not well. He has a blood transfusion every two weeks but he is the same Tex and wants to know how everyone is - Bridget is fairly well. Tex spoke to me about Ivan Brown who has passed this life. I did not know he lived in Tasmania.

Last Month Billie and self, with old mate Jimmy Cane (89) and his wife Alice had lunch with South Tassie 2/40th members at Huonville, only 40 ks from home. Jim served with 2/40 in West Timor and was a prisoner of war with the Japs for 3 1/2 years. He is only a small man but very tough and good company.

Anzac day was as usual very special in Dover. A large number attended the Dawn Service where I gave the address (24 years I have done it) and my youngest daughter gave the prayer, which included some extracts from 2/2nd memorial Service Safari 2003. My sister Rosemary gave the Dawn Address at Southport Tas. which would be the most southern address in Australia. Our day began at 5 a.m. with rum and milk at a neighbour's place. Two of my daughters plus a mates 2 daughters, plus our grandson and his wife, plus great-granddaughter Georgie was there. For most of us it was our 24th year.

We are having great weather at Dover; the autumn calms are always great.

I have noticed in the Address Book Mrs R.M. Shannon, Launceston and will try and get in touch with her for the next letter.

Billie and myself are going along fairly well despite our ages. I am still waiting on a neurosurgeon to do my back and leg.

Cannot think of any more news, so close with Billie and my own regards to all, keep smiling!

South Australian News.

Looking at the address book there are not many members left in South Aust.

I met Bert Bache in February; he was very thrilled that he and Sylvia attended the Safari in W.A. in November. He mentioned meeting friends he hadn't seen for many, many years. Bert looks well and he is getting on okay, as is his wife.

Bob Williamson is reasonably well and attends the Repatriation hospital for surgery to remove skin cancers. Bob is also on a committee representing the Commando Association, which is for the workings of the Daw Park Hospital. Bob's wife is not very well, she has been sick for some time now, the doctors are unable to help her but she is in good hands with Bob to look after her.

There is one member I have not met for many years Jim Bowe. I met him on Anzac Day for a few minutes just before the march.

I haven't seen Hazel Hollow since the Safari, but according to her brother Frank Shaw, she is well.

It is sad to look at the South Aust. section of the address book and see how many widows there are. The members of the 2/2nd Association in South Aust. send their condolences to all members throughout Australia who have lost loved ones. Our thoughts go out for the members who are sick, in hospital, may they be able to recover in a short time.

Anzac Day.

There were 3 2/2nd members, Bert, Bob, and myself; the other 8 are from all units. The parade leader was Rex Lipman, who was a member of 4th Coy in Timor. I think he was the adjutant of the Unit. One stage of his life he owned race horses and his best horse was "Lipman".

Ruby and I are fairly well. Best wishes from all here in South Aust.

Kel Carthew.

Queensland News.

On 30th April, Lyn and I left for our trip to North Qld. We had four days in Gladstone and five in Cairns. After nine days Lyn returned to Brisbane by air while I returned by train with a four-day stop at Townsville, a day at Ayr and two days at Bowen. It was really great to catch up with old mates once again.

LUCKY & DOREEN GOODHEW. Both are really pretty well. Lucky is a bit deaf in one ear and said he was going to get his OBE very soon, so he must be one of our younger members. One of their grandsons is a top Junior "Cowboy" and has played in top junior teams, so in future years look out you top present PRIMOS! Whilst there I asked about Jewell Soper and Doreen rang a number and got her in one try. So later that day I called on her new address and phone number. She said she would like to continue to receive our Courier and was sorry that her Xmas one had not been readdressed.

JEWELL SOPER. Whilst Carlyle Gardens had been very nice she has moved back to where she has always lived and which is near her family. She is 78, has had some years of very poor health but is over the worst and is slowly improving now. She still misses Alan terribly and is very lonely, but I guess that as a grandmother with fifteen grandchildren she would be kept on her toes a bit. Next day her son John, who works where Alan worked, called on me and offered help then and in the future with our 2/2nd Association. He keeps in touch with Bulla and the Shiels, has three children, one a daughter had just married (Jewell's first grandchild married). Jewell's new address is in the change of address section of this Courier.

BULLA & JEAN TAIT. Jean is very well and very active including looking after Bulla. Bulla says that for some time up

to 6 months ago he had a continued very bad head. Finally his doctor must have given him a very strong tablet because it stopped the headache but has left him with no energy. He doesn't walk much, can't walk far, and needs the help of a stick. His knees aren't too good, however his conversation is okay, and his mind short term, and long term is as clear as a bell. As a long term follower of ARL he has given it up because the rules have been changed, so follows AFL now. He wants to be remembered to Tony Bowers. They have kept in touch over the years, but hadn't heard from him for a while.

GEORGE & MARGO SHIELS at Bowen are close to 100% healthwise. George has had one cataract done and the other will be done soon. Already his eyesight is a lot better. They must be close to the best of our members who are still very active. They are still very sorry that they were not able to attend our last Safari, but are planning a visit to W.A. in August and most of the time will be spent on W.A.'s North Coast, so any W.A. members who would like to see them you'd better contact them direct and put in your order, George is still very active in the RSL and the Masonic Lodge, plus many community organisations. Their ten-acre farm is just out of town across the local Don River. This river flows mainly under a bed of gravel and sand but in flood the Shiels are temporarily isolated. Their farm has always been a credit to them. It is fully occupied with Bowen mangoes galore and about half is leased to a local small crop farmer. I bought Margo's 1000th book (the last), "Bends in the Road", and she has another 500 on order. It is a really good book, so that anyone who would like a copy you'd better order your copy early. Enclosed is a local write up on George. Car hire was pre-arranged at Gladstone, Cairns, and Townsville so that we were able to catch up with our mates, relatives, friends, and tourist attractions.

At Ayr and Bowen, Bulla and the Shiels showed me over their towns and their local coastal attractions.

RALPH & SHEILA CONLEY have returned to Bribie Island and are both still keen lawn bowlers. Their son Mark, who has been very ill for a long time is now better and back at work.

ALEX VEOVODIN is a lot better again and able to return to his local RSL.

JACK & BERYL STEEN. Jack's eyes are much improved since he had the cataract job done but he has to be careful with his "ticker". Beryl had her big operation over two months ago, but the rate of recovery is very slow.

GORDON & JOAN STANLEY are okay. Gordon doesn't seem to get around much any more but Joan has visited their family in Melbourne.

FRED OTWAY has just finished putting batts in his ceiling and the next job is to paint the house internally. He still plays tennis two or three times a week.

PADDY WILBY had a fall from his engineering experiment in his backyard and hurt the back of a knee. He's making a slow recovery.

Remembrances and best wishes to all members - cheers,

Ron Archer.

New South Wales News.

Anzac Day.

One of our very good friends drove me into Martin Place for our Special Services Memorial at 0830 on a beautiful morning.

This was well attended as usual especially by accompanying relatives and friends and present serving members of the services.

Present were - J. Paddy Kenneally, Robert Gregg, Bill & Coral Coker with son Mark, Yvonne Walsh and myself.

I had the loan of a folding chair from Ted Workman 2/10 Cdo Sqn) who is a good friend at Dee Why. Chris Hartley marched with his son and daughter who are Naval Cadets. Under the circumstances I didn't take part in the march or reunion and Sandra brought me home.

Sick Parade. I am coping reasonably well at home. Have to go out west near Parramatta tomorrow to see the prothesetist for some adjustments. Edith is still at Plateau View Care Facility with no better prospects of coming home.

BILL & CORAL COKER still have their share of problems.

Ron Hilliard continues to have trouble with his foot. He was never sure which was left or right! Still enjoys a good joke.

COL HOLLEY. Col is home at last, after his expected 2-3 weeks in hospital became 10 weeks - like me they knocked the weight off so he's very slim.

Valerie has also had an operation and appears to be making a good recovery.

RAY WHITELEY has had another stint in hospital with some heart problems. He has been a regular supporter on the phone.

KEN GLOVER and wife Pat are both keen supporters of doctors and hospitals and continue to keep them busy.

JOAN FENWICK lost her sister in Melbourne recently and son Peter drove her down for the funeral service. She's had many problems over the last year or so.

RON & HAZEL MORRIS. In spite of their not-so good health keep contact with Joan, and Fred and Erica Bagley.

BILLY WALSH is still battling on. His wife Beryl deserves a medal for her love and care for him over such a long time when others in the medical profession gave up.

JOAN MELDRUM. (Darge) has had a bout of food poisoning but is okay now.

Regards to all,
Alan Luby.

Victorian News.

I spent 10 days with Margaret Monk and Don Thompson at Poowong and they treated me like royalty, out nearly every day visiting family and friends and seeing a lot of the country around them. We paid a visit to see Bluey and Mary Bone at Leongatha and had morning tea with them. They had to get back to Lakes Entrance for Bluey to have some chemo treatment. They were both looking well and it was good to see them again.

I had an invitation to Cath Robert's 80th birthday on the 24th April. It was at her daughter's place in Malvern and all her family were there, daughters from England and Perth and it was a very pleasant afternoon.

Anzac Day.

I was the only marcher from the 2/2nd but had the pleasant company of Kevin Broadhurst on the march and he came to the luncheon after the march as he did last Anzac Day. Had a very pleasant luncheon at Eden on the Park, and a very good attendance from the combined commando companies. Present were Mavis & Fred Broadhurst, Cath Roberts and her son Craig, Elizabeth Prior and three of her friends, John & Shirley Southwell, Margaret Monk & Don Thompson and Harry Botterill. It was a lovely luncheon and a very pleasant afternoon.

Jack Fox passed away on May 12th aged 91 years. The funeral was at Russell Bros Funeral Parlour on Monday 17th at Mentone. Mavis Broadhurst, Eddie Bourke, John Southwell and Harry Botterill attended the service. Jack had a great life span. His eulogy from his son Peter covered his life very well. Born at Gambier right through his army life and his retirement years where he had many

years of golfing (was a life member at Paterson River Golf Club) and also lawn bowls when he was club champion many times. A truly great champion and a very good soldier as we all know he finished up Lt. Colonel when he left the army on retirement.

I am coping with life pretty well after losing my beloved Olive. It was a great shock at the time - very sudden, but my wonderful family was with me through the worst of it and life must go on. I thank all those who sent me Xmas cards and apologise for not sending mine but I will make up for it next Xmas.

Harry Botterill.

TIMOR REVISITED.

News is all news, and mostly bad news is what I have received. Our men are keeping the ferryman on the River Styx more than busy, unfortunately. Let us hope that trend ceases for a while.

Here in N.S.W. some bright news - Col Holley is out of hospital and at time of writing is in Lady Davidson Nursing Hospital convalescing, following eight or nine weeks in Westmead Hospital.

Alan Luby is progressing well. Daughter Maria was down from North Queensland on a visit to see how Alan was faring. Alan turned up at the Commando Memorial in Martin Place for the Special Forces Service. I didn't see him as he was driven straight home at the conclusion of the service that was on Anzac Day.

I was the only 2/2nd man in the Sydney Anzac Day March. I was hoping "Snow" Went and Harry Handicott would come down from Newcastle for the march. It didn't happen.

I left Sydney on the night of the 26th for Timor so I had three minders on Anzac Day. Michael, Sean and Gerald. I spent Anzac afternoon with them at the

Palasade Hotel at Miller's Point down on the waterfront. Didn't see a person I knew from school days, or wharf labouring days. We had a good time though, and for me an early end to Anzac Day. Gerald and I headed for home about 8 p.m.

I landed in Dili about 8.30 a.m. local time on the 27th April and left straight away for the mountains. Jack Sheehan's nephew, Wayne Lamotte, and another man named Steve Rice, were with me. They had come from Perth to see me in Sydney earlier in April. They then wanted me to go to Timor some time in July. I said no - I had booked my flight to Timor on the 12th March. I didn't even know they existed then. I had no intention of going again in July. I'll be elsewhere by then anyway. So they decided they would go to Timor when I was going if, Wayne Lamotte could arrange leave. They only spent three days in Timor. Not enough time for what they wished to do. They did manage Railaco, Glano, Ermera, Bazartete, Liquica and Balibo, the old Dili Aerodrome (now a heliport) Comeira, Remexio. They met Rufino and talked with him. I told them of "C" Platoon, the Sappers, "D" Platoons operations in Glano, Railaco, Ermera, Lete Foho, Tibar and "A" Platoon the drome, Memo, Maliano., Bobonaro with special emphasis on Nunamogue which in my opinion was the outstanding operation of the 2/2nd in East Timor. Aituto, Hatubuilco, Mindelo, Betano Same, they could not get to, not enough time, and poor road conditions. "B" Platoon was mentioned, the ambush of the trucks near Liquica, Bazartete, Remexio, Liltai. That was it. I did not go to Timor with them. They went because I would be there at that time. They left Timor on the 9 a.m. flight to Darwin on 30th April. I was then free to do what and where I went.

Caught a bus for Los Palos at 5.20 a.m. Did many tours of Dili's back streets

looking for travellers. At 10.20 a.m. I was three or four kms further east than where I boarded it, that is at the Tybessie Market Place. We finally took off for Los Palos. If you are travelling around Timor by bus or truck that's the method you have to go through, or else sit on your derriere and get nowhere.

These days I get a shiver and a shake as the bus or trucks works its way around the mountain spurs that come down to the coast, between Hera and Manatutu. When I look at the sheer drops below the vehicle and optimistically hope its deep water below, and not jagged rocks, way back in 1990 it didn't worry me. The scenery more than compensates for the fear.

I arrived in Don Bosco, Fuiloro at 5.30 p.m. I was on that bus for 10 hours to do a five-hour trip. Father Joe wasn't surprised to see me, someone had told him I was in Timor. The dairy is going well. It is, I believe, the only dairy in East Timor. I met some of the people responsible for the improvement in the breeding of the dairy herd, an organisation from Geelong, although the man I met from the Ballarat area, was a farmer. There is also a mechanic from Australia servicing the tractors and another Australian attending to the pastures. He hopes to improve them, eradicate the rubbish without the use of pesticides.

The volunteer workers that go into East Timor on the whole do a wonderful job. Timor is going to need them for many years yet.

I returned to Dili Sunday evening 2nd May. Left next morning for Suai, packed in the dark, then stood for two hours waiting for a bus that didn't arrive. Caught a truck to Ainaro, a goat under the seat, bags of rice, chooks, and Timorese of all ages crowded in. The going was not too bad as far as Maubisse and then on up to the Same

Saddle. The mist down on the mountains and a cold wind blowing, the truck rocking like a ship in a storm as it ground its way over the rough road. I thought of the men in "C" and "D" Platoons operating in that area after the Japanese Push in August 1942. Little in the way of food, hostile natives, led by Japanese, a cold bleak area, no wonder Gerry McKenzie's report on the condition of "C" Platoon when he took over was so starkly factual on the men's physical condition. I was in "B" Platoon. I have spent years going through our Unit records, by now I know Timor as well as my own backyard and I have no doubt whatsoever that the "C" and "D" Platoon men had the roughest time in our Unit at that time. There were other factors beyond the area, they, were in contributing to that.

The grotto I saw above Aitotu is still there, the crucified Christ and our Lady of Sorrows now partly hidden by shrubbery.

We had to leave the truck at one section. The Timorese walked on a dry pad about 15 inches wide and a drop of about 150 feet I ploughed through the mud, so I'm still here.

Ainaro, not as it was, much of the destruction very apparent. The corrugated iron roofs over the market stalls held down by rocks, old tyres, and logs. They double for clotheslines as well. I was lucky to find a place to sleep that night, up beyond the church, 13 American dollar bed and breakfast. Left next morning for Suai, waited until 2 p.m. for a bus. The road not too bad. There are two huge riverbeds West of Hatudo. One is only partly bridged. In 1992 there was a rock crushing plant operating in one of them. It of course departed with the Indonesians. In Suai I met a Filipino nun, she and another nun had opened part of the hospital built by her religious order, the Sisters of Saint Paul Chartres in the 1990s.

The New Zealand, and Thai Army used it as their HQ. It is no longer of any use as a hospital. The nuns use it as a health clinic. They also operate a mobile health clinic, which travels into the mountain villages.

The hospital I refer to was inspected by Patsy Thatcher for our Association I think in 1994. It had two operating theatres then and 50 beds. Patsy reported favourably about it at that time.

Eaten alive by mosquitos in Suai. No transport from Zumulai to Bobonaro, so it was the long way round, back through the Same Saddle to Dili then along the North Coast and back into the mountains near Batugade. The North Coast Road is the best road in Timor. It runs all the way from Batugade in the West to Los Palos in the East. It is still in pretty fair condition.

Balibo, the house where the Indonesians murdered the journalists, in October 1975, has been refurbished and is a memorial museum. Pictures of the men, a loom, sewing machine (old pedal type), and other articles are on display.

On dawn to Maliana, which like Maubisse, is always busy, I was lucky and picked up a truck going to Bobonaro. I went up that road about 18 months ago, it was well sealed, not a bad spot on it, now it is in very bad condition in quite a few places. Bobonaro seems to have deteriorated each time I go there. The mist down on the mountains, cold and worst of all no place to eat or sleep. The priest took pity on me, there was no room in his residence as two priests blew in from Koepang, another from Fatu Lulic and a fourth from somewhere else. He had some spare accommodation for Timorese, four bunks in a room. Suited me, the rain was belting down. By 8 p.m. no food, I gave up waiting so went to bed, 8.30 a knock at the door, it was tea time, dinner time call it what you like, it was food, and I hadn't eaten for 24 hours (and that was my own fault). The food

was good, with a can of V.B. as a bonus. Three of the priests were Indonesians; all spoke some English and Bahasa so we got by.-

I was up early, had a good breakfast and one of the students made sure I got a seat next to the driver on a truck. I wanted to go to Atsabi but no vehicles going that way. So back to Maliana. From there I couldn't go into West Timor, I didn't have a Visa. Hatu Lia was a very doubtful prospect because of the road. Back to Dili, round Maubara, and Liquica a police road block. Three buses were stopped, all talking and laughing, a bit different from Indonesian days when all identity cards were handed to the police, and each individual called by name to reclaim their card. The fear of the people was plain to see and feel. If nothing else has been gained, the freedom from fear in the minds of the people is their greatest gain.

I got back to Becora, a couple of beers, a clean up, and a good meal.

On Sunday 9th I went looking for an old bloke from Daralau who knew the Australians. I walked about 5 ks but no find. I found the address, but no one knew him there, that was a week prior. This time I found him as his granddaughter was with me. He remembered the Australians. We spent four months operating the O.P. at Daralau and Comeira, yet it was Gordon Hart he remembered from the 4th Company.

Monday 10th I went looking for a woman I knew here in Sydney, knew all her family actually. Ines Alameada, now a secretary to Xanana Gusmao, President of East Timor. She made an appointment to see me Tuesday. I remember Ines from years back when her family came to Sydney. Over the years I saw her change from a firebrand to a cool well-balanced woman. She and all her family spent years working for Timor. I got a few interesting insights and went my way.

Up to Remexio and Daralau. I knew the man that took me, an Aussie - he has spent the last four years in Timor teaching welding and boat building at his own expense.

On the Monday 10th I met up with a man who had spent 6 hours questioning me at Indonesian Police HQ in Comoro, that was 1992. I thought I was headed for the lock-up that night and maybe not just for a night. They finally sent me on my way. That man is now commander of three sectors in the new Timorese Police Force. He is currently in Perth. He took me to his home for lunch, I met his wife and two of his children. Strange land Timor!

Tuesday, after leaving Ines Alameida, was spent at Remexio and Daralau and a long day it was, meeting mostly Timorese.

Wednesday 11th, 9 a.m. Flight to Darwin, arrived there 11 a.m. Aussie time, waited 14 hours for flight to Sydney 2 a.m., arrived Sydney 6.30 a.m. Thursday. Home by 7.30 and that's where I'll stay until ????

Timor, questions galore, queries, criticisms, misunderstandings, conjectures. Well I've seen it under Portuguese, Japanese, Australians, Indonesians, U.N. and under their own elected representatives. Timor is an impoverished country, little in the way of resources apart from the oil and gas beneath the Timor Sea.

They, the Timorese were blackmailed into signing the treaty on the oil and gas resources. Some months before that treaty was signed, Prime Minister Howard said quote: "The Australian Government will not abide by any decision brought down by the International Court of Justice on the gas and oil resources underneath the Timor Sea. Furthermore any decision by internationally appointed marine demographers on the seabed boundary between Australia and East Timor will

not be recognised by this Government". To me that's proof positive that Howard has grave doubts as to Australia's claim. He has made doubly sure by withdrawing from the International Court of Justice, thus putting Australia outside beyond its jurisdiction.

One cheerful view of East Timor is the thousands of students receiving an education, dressed in neat spotlessly clean uniforms or clothing. How the Timorese manage this seeing the houses and native dwellings they live in without facilities is a mystery. To really see the Timorese attired in their best go to Mass on a Sunday, every church and every mass, packed to the limit and beyond. I have never seen attendances to resemble East Timor, anywhere, I've ever been.

Our expectations of what the people of East Timor can achieve and do, are completely excessive. We are judging a people from our standards and resources. The Timorese have never in their history controlled their own destiny as a united country, almost 500 years of Portuguese Rule, and that was limited in area, until the defeat of Dom Boaventura's Rebellion in 1912.

The Indonesians established an administration with 20% Indonesian Military members, a showpiece to carry out Indonesian policy. The present administration have no money, little or no experience, attempting to reshape a country that was completely destroyed, whilst the so-called free nations looked on doing nothing apart from "Will we, or won't we?"

Another fixture we seem to have - "The Timorese won't work" - if the Timorese can get work they will work, not as we do, but as they are accustomed to work. It will be a long time before they acquire our attitude to work and life in general. Frankly it may be far better if they don't. 21st Century Western civilisation has little to recommend it at present.

You see the Timorese walking to market in the dark long before dawn, their produce hanging from a pole across their shoulders and not a light burden either. They cultivate the ground that grows the produce, nurture it in the day, harvest it and transport it to market, and it would have taken all his family to produce it for a minute return. Those people will work and do work.

It will take thirty or forty years of education for them to produce the people and abilities to handle their problems. After all we started over 2000 years ago to get where we are, the Timorese will get there in their own way and fashion and I sincerely hope than can avoid all the pitfalls we tumble into, but that's a pious hope.

Nora and all the family are well. All of them were sorry to hear of Joe Poynton's death as each of them at some time of their lives apart from Safaris, had met up with Joe, Helen, Julie and Rhian.

Paddy Kenneally.

NB Thank you Paddy for yet another interesting article, this time on your recent Timor trip. (Ed)

Len Steps Down.

As mentioned in our AGM report, Len Bagley has decided to call it a day. For the past forty years Len has served the Association well. He has filled most executive positions during that time having been President (1970,71,72), Vice-President (1969,70), Secretary (1974-78 & 81,82), Editor (1997-2000). In the years between he was on our committee and from 1981-96 when Arch Campbell was Editor, Len & Betty served on the Courier Committee with Betty typing up all the correspondence and Len doing the proof reading. Once the Courier had been printed they then had to prepare it for posting and sort out postal codes. It entailed a lot of work. For their services Len was made a life member in 1973 and Betty an associate life member in 1992. Len has also been M.C. of our various functions over many years and has

excelled in that role. He will now have more time to care for Betty and the good news is that they continue to attend our functions and Len, if well enough, will still be our M.C. Thank you Len & Betty for your loyal and generous support to the Association over a long period. I can assure you it is much appreciated.

God bless you both.

Jack Carey.

Joe in Gibraltar 1946.

I bumped into Joe in Perth not long after he had returned from his trip to London for the Victory Parade in September 1946. He was sporting a cut above one eye, had a thick lower lip, and looked a bit worse for wear. I asked him, "What happened Joe?" and he said 'Well on the way home our ship called in at Gibraltar and a few mates and I went ashore to have a look around and have a few drinks. We got stuck in a bar and after a time one thing led to another and a blue started. Before you could say "Jack Robinson", the local gendarmes were on the scene and without saying a word proceeded to get stuck into everyone in the bar with their batons, and we copped the worst of it."

He was grinning as he told me the story, which was typical of Joe. A real man, he could give and take it and never bore anyone a grudge. A likeable bloke was our Joe. We will miss him.

Jack Carey.

The following article came from a recent edition of the 'Harvey News'.

Cricket legend in Allstars line-up.

Harvey cricket legend Arthur Marshall was named in a Country Allstars cricket team on the ABC's Sports Talk program recently.

The team selected by Wally Foreman and former Country player Kim Souness was for the post World War II era.

Arthur Marshall played Country Week cricket for 25 consecutive years and was selected in the Country XI three years running.

His best country week performances were 8-5 with the ball against Upper Chapman and 15 wickets in one match against Geraldton. On one occasion the all rounder won the Country Week batting with an average of 181.

On the local scene in grand finals he scored 126 not out against Benger, took five wickets in five balls against Brunswick and hit a six in the last over against Uduc to get Harvey over the line.

CORRESPONDENCE.

R. Dawson, Casuarina, NT.

Thank you very much for the books of Jim Smalles' poems. Having read Colin Dolg's and Archie Campbell's accounts I can see that Jim's poetry is a true reflection of the Company's time in Timor.

I haven't had the opportunity to give Reg Wilson his copy yet but know he will be extremely grateful for Jim's poems and disappointed he cannot replace Colin Dolg's book. I presume he is still out in Arnhem Land where his sons operate cattle and croc businesses (his son Joe recently made the news by suffering a second croc attack last week while collecting eggs).

I hope the 2/2nd produce a similar book to that of the 2/4th "Commando". Bookstore owners tell me that military history books are in hot demand, as more people are becoming aware of what was done by whom in WW2. I suppose your members see with pride that lessons learnt in Timor and other areas are still relevant to the training and operations of the modern special forces.

Enclosed are photos of the Stokes Hill wharf and old Darwin railway station area. I pass the wharf each day going to and from work and often think of the 2/2nd departing for Timor and returning to

Australia from this point. Can you tell me, did you leave the train at the railway station and then move to the wharf by foot, or did the train carry you to the end of the wharf?

If there is anything in Darwin I can do to help your members please let me know. I have a property just out of Darwin on the edge of Knuckeyes Lagoon (Berrimah). I grow mainly mangoes and if any of you members are in Darwin and would like a cold drink or cup of tea or a mango in season overlooking an area of prolific bird life let me know (89 844744 (home) or 89 997793 (work).

Thanks again for the poems and all the best to your Association's members.

Regards, Rick Dawson.

Thank you for your kind invitation to our members to visit you on your property when in Darwin. Ed.

I. Ronald, Kent, U.K.

What a wonderful surprise to receive the Courier with our photo on the back!

At last the time has come for us to return to London, with very mixed feelings.

We've had a great time in Australia this summer especially in the week of the Safari in Perth. We renewed friendships, and met many nice people.

Margaret and I are very grateful for the care and consideration we had from the Safari committee and the staff of the Good Earth Hotel.

The Safari was a great show and very well organised. The amount of work required ensuring its success must have been awesome.

We both arrived in Adelaide with heavy colds, but were soon over them and are fine now.

I attended the AGM of the Commando Association of South Australia on the 20th of this month (Feb.) Bert Bache and Kel Carthew were among those present.

Health support for Veterans was discussed.

We have very much enjoyed our stay in Adelaide where we have many friends and relatives.

With kind regards, yours sincerely, Ian & Margaret.

P. Costello, Nowra, NSW.

By now you will have heard from Paddy Kenneally, at least he assured me he would be writing to you on the night of Jack Keenahan's funeral. It was a sad occasion to meet some old comrades; in Paddy's case some 20 years and even longer in the case of Mal Lindsay. The last time I saw Mal was on a train in Sydney, dressed in Scottish regalia.

Paddy delivered a warm and personal oration that was much appreciated by Jack's family. Paddy's 88 years hasn't diminished his power of recall of past events, places, and people. He looked in fine mettle, apart from a slight limp. Age is taking its toll on all of us.

Sorry to learn Alan Luby and Ron Hilliard have been under the surgeon's knife. Doug Dixon had a hip replacement last year but is back on the golf course I hear. The last time I saw him several years ago, he was in robust good health.

I hit the 80 mark on the 3rd Sept. last year and am in reasonable shape, still playing 36 holes of golf most weeks. Dorothy, unfortunately, is pretty much an invalid and life a continuing battle.

Meeting with Paddy has spurred me into action at last. A donation is enclosed to use as you wish.

Excuse the scrawl. I've inherited a tremor in my right hand, not very good for fluent writing or putting. (my golfing excuse!)

Best wishes and regards to all of the tribe.
Pat Costello.

M. Broadhurst, Fairfield, Vic.

Please find enclosed money for the photo taken at the Commemoration Service. Fred has had carpal tunnel to his right hand and in two days has the stitches taken out, otherwise all well here.

Regards Mavis.

B. Devlin, Epping, NSW.

Please find cheque for a copy of the Commemorative photo of the Safari.

Hope you are all well after those hot days and nights. Everything okay here, just getting ready for our Pennant games of bowls which lasts for 6 weeks. Hope we can home with a Pennant flag this year after 3 runners up, keep your fingers crossed for us.

Keep smiling, love to all,

Betty.

L.O.S. Poidevin, Burnside, S.A.

Thanks for keeping me on your mailing list. I enjoy your Couriers.

I have enclosed a cheque to cover your costs.

Yours sincerely,

Leslie Poidevin.

J. Cash, Midland, W.A.

It is many years since I wrote to you. I am very touched that you continue to send my copy of the "Courier" with faithful regularity. Thank you, good people so much.

I live in my unit in a quiet corner of Midland. In a matter of weeks I will be 80 years old. Mervyn would now be 85, but he died 11 years ago. Reading the Courier one is reminded how short life is. I am heartened to read of your Safaris and events and how you "keep the flag flying" with your efforts. My best wishes to you all. Yours faithfully.
Jean Cash.

L. & D. Goodhew, Garbutt, Qld.

Please find enclosed cheque for \$75, being for two signed group photos and the \$50 for the Courier or whatever. Doreen and I are keeping okay not 100% but okay. We really enjoyed our trip to the Safari and meeting up with old mates was unreal. Some I hadn't seen since 1945.

Wishing all members good health.

Lucky & Doreen Goodhew.

L. McLaren, Kew, Vic.

Enclosed is a donation to 'the cause'. I appreciate receiving the Courier, thank you very much. I do enjoy the news and recognise many names of chaps Bruce used to speak of. Glad to know so many are still battling on. Kindest thoughts
Lorraine McLaren.

R. Archer, Toowong, Qld.

Thank you very much for yours of the 2nd instant enclosing the photo. The photographer sure did a very good job and it was very clear.

I've spoken to Ralph and we both are agreed that Paddy Wilby should be made a life member. Ralph will be in touch with you separately shortly. He is moving house again - back to Bribie Island, will give you his new address and phone number. Sheila and Ralph are still keen bowlers and it is great news that their son Mark who has been ill for a long time is well again and back at work.

Have enclosed a copy of 'Winnie the War Winner' as published in a book called "Signals" the story of the Australian Corps of Signals and published in 1944. The general story is much the same as in Col Dalg's book but on page 95 he gives the vital answers as "Geo. Parker, Captain, Joan and 94". However, the Signals book reads "Jack Sargent, Corporal, Joan". To add to this it is thought that our Kath Sargeant came into the picture but her name is Kath not Joan. I vaguely

remember that some years ago all this was gone into and sorted out, but of course "Happy" Greenhalgh, Don Murray and Harry Botterill would know.

I will try to meet your deadline of the 25th May with first hand news of our mates in North Queensland. Cheers and best wishes to both of you and all members.

Ron Archer & Lyn.

Mrs F. Tomasetti, Wentworth Falls, N.S.W.

Thank you very much for your kind words at the occasion of Bill's death and also for conveying the condolences of the President and members of the 2/2nd Commando Association.

Bill was a good man and I miss him dearly. I find it hard to accept that my future will be without his loving and caring presence.

Alan Luby gave me very comforting words, and Paddy Kenneally did the honours at the funeral service for Bill in a wonderful way. My thanks to both.

Please accept the enclosed donation for the cause of the Association pursues. Bill intended to send it last year but other things interfered.

I would appreciate it if you could send the Courier from now on to me.

Yours sincerely,

Friedegard Tomasetti.

T. Richards, Latrobe, Tas.

This cheque is for payment for photos plus \$50 from Bridget, whatever is over is from me.

God bless, Tex & Bridget.

H. & A. Handicott, Hamilton, N.S.W.

Greetings from a slow letter writer, oh to have some of Paddy's writing senses.

We are having some beautiful weather at present, but not for farmers. The water folk

are talking about restrictions; we are still getting 250 - 300 during the day.

We must join the rest and congratulate you both and your band of workers for such a beautiful Safari. "The Good Earth" was a good eating and sleeping place.

Thank you Jack for the group photo, it should be here soon. The cheque is for it and wherever you want to put the rest.

I haven't decided about going to Sydney for Anzac Day, the Paddington RSL wouldn't be the same without the ferry - we'll see.

Well folks I'll close now and say cheerio to all.

Amyce and Harry.

K. Wilson, Booker Bay, N.S.W.

It was nice to have a little talk to both of you recently. Also, I'd like to add my 'tuppence' worth to the kudos already expressed to you and your committee for the fine way that the Safari was organised. Not having been to WA before, I loved what I saw, and I was particularly taken up with the beautiful Swan River.

It was also great to meet up with a lot of the chaps who served in Timor, and for various reasons had to leave the unit. It now enables me to put a face to the names I had read about over the years.

Enclosed is a donation and payment for the group photograph.

My lifestyle has altered in the last couple of years. I stopped playing golf four years ago, but I have been lucky to get involved in a senior snooker club in which we play once a week, and possibly twice, if picked to play other clubs on a home and away basis. Also have joined the local TPI as an associate and we go on a coach trip once a month. This is usually a great day, as we always seem to finish in an RSL club for a couple of hours for drinks and lunch. The clubs in this area are very good and cater well for the 'oldies'.

Cheers for now, and I hope all those reading this letter keep on waking up in the morning for a long time to come.

My best regards, Keith Wilson.

B. Coulson, Buderim, Qld.

Thank you very much for your letter and the photo of the aeroplane, which crashed during the war. It is not the photo I was referring to as the plane I am talking about is a Hudson and has two bodies. The photo that we had for years showed only three men in it, one standing at the back and the other two standing under each wing and it was shot down over New Guinea. I hope this helps. Would you like me to post this photo back to you?

We have had some bad news here, my son-in-law Paul Thompson, who accompanied me to the final reunion in Perth with my grandson and my daughter, has contacted a virus called Guillain-Barre Syndrome. He became ill on Easter Sunday and was completely paralysed by Wednesday. It took a number of days to identify what he actually had, as it is very hard to diagnose this virus. The paralysis moved through his entire body and is only now coming good. He was very lucky, as he did not have to go onto a ventilator but was in intensive care for over two weeks. He is now in a normal ward in the hospital waiting for a vacancy in the rehabilitation unit where he may have to spend a number of months.

The only good thing about it all is that he has a 90% chance of a full recovery. I wanted to let you know as he met so many of our members at the reunion.

Hope everyone is well, love and best wishes,

Bettye Coulson.

Pars on People.

Evergreen Doc. Wheatley, now in his 92nd year had a nasty fall a few months back but after being patched up returned home to soldier on. Doc eats well and enjoys a 'T' bone steak, which he says maintains his drive and energy. He still mows the lawn, which Keith Hayes says is in near perfect condition. Keep going Doc.

Colin Hodson has a health problem having had a number of blackouts, which his doctor is yet to diagnose. Colin looks well and is in good spirits but has to take it easy and doesn't get around much.

Jean Holland is another whose movements are restricted. She has leg trouble and needs a walking stick and getting into the car and shopping is a big effort. Get well soon Jean.

Jack Fowler turned 92 on 24th April and is our oldest W.A. member. Jack spent three weeks in Hollywood Hospital in May with a serious bout of pneumonia and it was a case of touch and go for a while but being a tough old digger, he pulled through and is now back in the Nursing Home which is adjacent to the hospital.

Jess Epps celebrated her 88th birthday on Anzac Day. Well done Jess. It was a quieter day for her this year with an afternoon tea with the family who is very devoted to her.

Our hardworking Trust Chairman **Bob Smyth** and wife Margaret had a two-week break at Kalbarri in May, which they thoroughly enjoyed. Bob has been chairman of the Trust Fund since its beginning in 1991. A fine record indeed.

Gerry Green, who turned 88 on 31st May is making slow but steady progress from his two knee replacements operation in February. He is now moving around more freely. Keep it up Gerry.

Mary King had a fall in her home recently but escaped with minor abrasions. Mary, a lovely person, is not looking forward

to the winter but she is a survivor and I'm sure she will keep warm and snug during the colder months.

Sick Parade.

Bluey Bone is having a battle. He is off chemotherapy for six weeks but has an operation coming up this month, which he is not looking forward to. Blue does a bit of gardening and fishing occasionally. He remains positive but would like to see his old team Hawthorn win a few games. Mary is well and sees to it that Blue is well looked after.

Harry Sproston survived a three hour angio plastic heart operation in May, having stents inserted in two blood vessels to increase the flow of blood to his heart. He was conscious the whole time in what would have been an ordeal for him. While Harry is feeling better as a result of the operation he is not out of the woods yet. He remains cheerful and takes a keen interest in what's happening around the world.

Wilf March continues to have his good and bad days, which he handles pretty well for an 87-year-old.

With winter upon I trust you have all had your flu needles, avoid crowds and take good care over the next few months.

Birthday Boys.

John Burridge	April 6	86
Colin Hodson	6	80
Vince Swann	9	88
Harry Botterill	12	84
Eric Smyth	15	84
Arthur Marshall	21	82
Jack Fowler	24	92
Ray Parry	May 5	81
Keith Wilson	16	83
Don Murray	18	83

George Parker	23	90
Gerry Green	31	88
Jim Lines	June 4	82
Fred Humfrey	10	91
Jack Carey	19	82
Mal Lindsay	21	83

If you would like to be on the birthday list ring (08) 9332 7050 and let me know. Ed.

Change of Address:

Mrs V. Watson,
"Village Life"
7/5 Sticks Blvd,
Erskine. 6210

Mrs D. Friend,
55 Belgrade Rd,
Wanneroo. 6065

Mrs C. Marks,
419 Belt St,
Walkerville, S.A. 5081

Mr R. Conley
Unit 105 Bribie Retirement Village
Foley St,
Bongaree. Qld. 4507

Mrs J. Soper,
(Box 229, Castletown 4812)
99/2 Acacia St,
Mundingburra. Qld. 4812

Courier Donations.

Dusty Studdy, Les Halse, Pat Costello,
Tony Adams, Ron Archer, Jean Cash,
Les Poidevin, Bert Price, Ray Aitken,
Tony Bowers, Tom Foster, Don Murray,
Bob Smyth, Vince Swann, Terry Paull,
Lorraine McLaren, Lucky Goodhew,
Keith Wilson, Tex & Bridget Richards,
Harry Handicott, Pat Sullivan and Elsie Jordan.

Trust Fund.

Pat & Dorothy Costello	\$100
Keith Wilson	\$50

Roll Call. 31/5/04

	Members	Widows.
W.A.	34	43
N.S.W.	25	34
Qld.	20	12
Vic.	13	25
S.A.	4	6
Tas.	3	4
ACT	1	3
U.K.	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>101</u>	<u>127</u>

340 Couriers are issued quarterly
228 to members & widows
112 to relatives & friends.
H. Sproxtton - Statistician.

IT pays to listen!
When they gave out "brains",
I thought they said "trains" and missed mine
When they passed out "looks",
I thought they said "books" and didn't want any.
When they passed out "noses",
I thought they said "roses" and I ordered a big red one
When they passed out "chins",
I thought they said "gins", and I ordered a double.
Boy, am I in a mess!

-With thanks to the unknown author.

W. A. Members Please Note

NORMA HASSON DAY.

The Good Earth Hotel

195 Adelaide Terrace, Perth.

Friday 2nd July.

From 11.30 a.m. - Luncheon 12.30 p.m. (Note starting time)

**This is always an enjoyable occasion, so on with your winter
woollies and come along.**

DON'T FORGET NOW!

COMMEMORATIVE PHOTO.

This signed group photo taken at Lovekin Drive on Sunday 16th November. 2003 during the Safari is a great memento of the occasion. A number of members who were in the photo have not as yet ordered one. It is great value at \$10 plus \$5 for packaging and postage so if you don't want to miss out ring J. Carey 08 9332 7050 and order one right away.

FRIDGE MAGNETS.

Anyone requiring additional fridge magnets can obtain these by ringing Jack or Delys Carey on (08) 9332 7050 or e-mail delcarey@yahoo.com cost 3 for \$5 or 6 for \$10 (including postage).

CAN YOU HELP?

Mr J. Lynch of "The Islands", Woodstock,
N.S.W. 2793, Ph. (02) 6342 8421
is writing a biography of the late Dr. John McInerney, who was our
MO from March 1943 to October 1944.

If any members have any interesting stories on the good doctor during his time with us, will you please contact Mr Lynch and let him know of them.



Members and friends taken after the luncheon at The Good Earth Hotel after the Anzac Day march. Back l. to r: Tom Foster, Doc Wheatley, Don Murray, Pat Dwyer RAAF, Ray Aitken, at back Tony Bowers, Dick Reddell 2/6th, Jack Sweet, 2/11th, Terry Paull, John Lillie 2/3rd, Dusty Studdy, Bob Smyth, Jack Carey, Rick Burr, "Happy" Greenhalgh, Russell Sullivan. Bottom front: Dick Darrington, Doug Hasson, Jim Lines, Ted Monk, Bernie Langridge, Vince Swann.



Anzac Day March 2004