



# **2/2 COMMANDO COURIER**

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

**Vol 151**

**JUNE 2005**

## **'THEN AND NOW'**

An article which appeared in 'The Australian' on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, claimed almost one in three Australian soldiers want to quit their jobs, citing poor pay, the lure of private sector jobs and the stress on family life of being away on long deployments. Other reasons were also advanced. Dissatisfaction is even higher in the navy at 37% with the air force around the 24% mark. Conditions in the forces have improved considerably since our day, the services being better equipped and better paid while the provision of danger money in special circumstances is an added incentive to take up a career in the services which many have done. This is how it should be when our young men and women are ordered to serve in theatres of war in foreign countries. They are entitled to 100% support from the Government. In our day it was different. Having experienced over 10 years of the depression when unemployment reached record heights there was no shortage of volunteers when World War II began in September 1939. The war solved the unemployment problem virtually overnight. The depression years also had a toughening effect on the youth of that time and so they were well prepared for what lay ahead. The pay of 5 bob a day was to say the least light on, and many who made an allotment of three bob were left to get by on two bob a day. Being broke was a common occurrence and the only time the old pay book built up was when one was on active service.

Khaki shorts and shirts worn early in the war with Japan, gave the mossies a free go resulting in malaria, a debilitating disease, taking a huge toll on those serving. Later the jungle green garb, along with compulsory atabrine parades, went a long way to solving the problem. Comparisons are always odious, and no doubt there would be a few old World War II veterans who may envy the conditions army personnel enjoy today, but I'm sure they would in no way begrudge them of their entitlements. Fighting a war for your country is one thing but fighting other peoples wars, as has been our forces lot in recent years, is an entirely different proposition .J. Carey.

**Vale Ian Douglas RONALD SX15198**

We regret to advise of the death of Ian who passed away suddenly in England on 10<sup>th</sup> March last.

Ian was born in Adelaide on the 12<sup>th</sup> April 1922. He had a younger sister Joan. Ian was educated at St. Peter's College and commenced a dental course at the Adelaide University after leaving college. When the war broke out he wanted to join the RAAF and fly but his father, a lawyer and a forceful man wouldn't give his permission so Ian eventually joined the A.I.F. in November 1941 at the age of 19. He went on to serve with the 2/2<sup>nd</sup> Squadron in New Guinea and New Britain. Paddy Kenneally recalls that Ian was with 10 Section when Phil Hopper and Harry Cole were killed on a patrol to Kulau in January 1944. Ian or "Argus" as he was known by his mates had a good sense of humour and was well respected in the Unit. He later said his time in the army was a high point in his life - not only for the comradeship, the excitement and the danger but also it was his first chance to be away from home and make his own decisions.

Following his discharge in March 1946, Ian resumed his dental studies at uni. During this time he met an attractive 19 year old student Margaret – love blossomed and following his graduation in 1950 they married and moved to Broken Hill where Ian began his own practice. For the next 10 years Ian worked very hard to build up the practice and Margaret equally as hard raising their four young children, David, Anne, James and Robyn. They finally decided to call it a day and moved back to Adelaide for a well earned holiday. This gave them the chance to travel for a time. They liked the English lifestyle and in the late 1960s Ian bought a dental

practice in Dulwich in the south end of London and a house in Shortlands in the borough of Bromley and they settled in.

Some years later they moved to a comfortable home in Beckenham, Kent. These were busy and rewarding years for them both. In 1984 three years prior to his retirement, Ian bought an allotment (a small garden area), which was to give him great pleasure when he gave up dentistry. He became an expert gardener and with Margaret's help established rows of grape vines and in time they were able to try the samples of their vineyard product. Ian and Margaret were blessed with a happy retirement, cycling in Holland and dodging the cold English winters by visiting sunny Australia. For the first seven years they went to Unmina Beach in NSW spending time with their daughter Robyn and family. They also spent time in Brisbane and naturally at their home city Adelaide where they had a unit. Their grandchildren now between five years old and late twenties were the joy of their lives. Ian was always looking ahead and trying new things, cooking classes, bridge lessons and art classes to name a few.

Ian and Margaret were generous and active supporters of the 2/2<sup>nd</sup> Association, attending many Safaris and renewing old friendships. They were a popular couple. Ian was made a life member in 1998.

Tragically Ian's life came to an end on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March a week after returning home from Australia. Ian suffered a severe stroke in the middle of the night on the 8<sup>th</sup> March and was rushed to hospital where the following day he got a chest infection resulting in bronchial pneumonia that killed him.

A celebration of the life of Ian was held



in St. Georges Church, Beckenham on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March attended by Margaret and family and a large gathering of friends. Fine tributes were paid by his sons David, James, family friend Peter Springall and his granddaughter Kate read a poem. It was a moving and fitting service for a good man and fine Australian.

A memorial service for Ian was also held in Adelaide at St. Peter's Church, Glenelg on the 20<sup>th</sup> March before a big gathering of relatives and friends. David Newton (Lionel's son) and his wife Annette attended on behalf of the Newton family. Lionel and Ian both old 2/2<sup>nd</sup> veterans renewed acquaintances when Ian and Margaret moved to Broken Hill in the 1950's. David recalled the many times he was made welcome to the Ronald's home in London in his youthful years. David said it was a moving occasion with many tributes being made to Ian.

The Association extends its deepest sympathy to Margaret and family on the sudden loss of Ian.

May he rest in peace:

Lest We Forget.

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**Vale Richard DORHAM WX10211**

Dick's vale was kindly provided by his son Bill.

It is with regret I inform you of the passing of one of your members, my father, Dick Dorham. Pop succumbed to brief cancer related problems on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2005, 40 days short of his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The RSL performed a grave-side service, with bugler at Mt Bassett Lawn Cemetery at 1400 on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2005. The service was attended

by his children, Richard, Robyn, my wife Sandra and I, five grandchildren, extended family, and close family friends. Members of the group had traveled from Sarina, Yeppoon, Brisbane, Sydney and Canberra. A wake followed the ceremony at our family home in Mackay.

He is survived by three children, Richard (ex Navy), Robyn and me, six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Dick was born on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1915 at Midland Junction WA. He spoke of mustering brumbies in the herdsman area, working under duress in his uncle's bakery, spending time camel mounted at Milbury Station in the Shark Bay area, working luggers and doing stock work in the Eastern Goldfields before enlisting on the 18<sup>th</sup> December 1940.

In Timor he was a member of "A" Platoon under then Captain Rolf Baldwin, a man for whom he showed great respect.

After repatriation from Timor he served with the "12 Australian Small Ship Coy", his papers contain a pass in June 1945 from the '54 Australian Port Craft Coy. R.A.E.'. he spoke of being in a convoy of landing craft and one tug traveling North from Brisbane to New Guinea with the majority of crew being green (colour and experience) with sea time.

Sergeant Richard Dorham discharged on 6<sup>th</sup> March 1946 at Karrakatta WA.

He married Elva Mary Barnsley on 8<sup>th</sup> December 1945 in Brisbane. Our parents separated during the mid 1970's. Mum passed away in December 1999.

He spent the majority of his working life outdoors with the PMG (Telstra) based in the MacKay area.

After retiring to Mandurah, south of

Perth, he moved to Saunders Beach north of Townsville, spent some time as live-in caretaker at the Sarina Rifle Range (a previous long time member) finally settling in Mackay.

Pop showed a keen interest in his grandchildren and their comings and goings. Always a keen fisherman, and up until a month from his death he was a regular pushbike rider.

Dick is remembered as a private man, he always stepped out well groomed, never without a hat, fiercely independent and tough as nails.

Sadly missed, at rest.

Bill Dorham.

*NB: Dick's old time army mates of "A" Platoon, now down to 10 in number, will be sorry to learn of Dick's passing. He was a good soldier and well respected in the Unit.*

*The Association extends its deepest sympathy to the Dorham family.*

*Lest We Forget.*

#### **More about Dick:**

Val Hayes as a young girl knew Dick and his younger sister Jean when they were growing up in Midland in the 1920's. Mrs. Dorham passed away about 1927 – 28 and as Mr. Dorham was working in the country, Dick and Jean were fostered out to a Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Barrell. Mrs. Maude Barrell was Val's auntie so Val got to know Dick and Jean quite well. Arthur Barrell had a bakery in the Jolimont area, a bread round and a shop in Fitzgerald Street, Perth, so Dick and Jean did their primary schooling at Jolimont with Dick going to Perth Boys and Jean to the Perth Girl's School to finish their education.

As a boy Dick helped in the bakery but then in the early 1930's Arthur sold the

bakery and returned to his home town in NSW while Maude stayed in WA. She then bought a mixed farming property in Herdsman Parade. From there she ran a dairy herd, a small herd of goats and a poultry farm, as well as keeping quite a few horses including two Timor ponies. Dick got a good all round education there, working in the dairy and learning to handle horses. From there as he grew older he did a few stints at Shark Bay, sometimes handling camels and working on luggers and doing stock work in the Eastern Goldfields.

Dick and Jean, who both later married, were always grateful to Maude and maintained contact with her until her death. Val remembers Dick as a fine looking young man and a good worker.

*N.B. Thank you Val for the above. I'm sure the Dorham family will read your story with interest.*

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#### **Vale William Patrick WALSH NX138591**

22<sup>nd</sup> October 1922 – 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2005.

Bill Walsh was born in Frederickton on the mid North Coast of NSW, a beautiful area of the state, mountains in the background, the Macleay River and mile upon mile of unspoilt beaches, a good place for any youngster to grow up. He received his education in nearby Kempsey. On leaving school he worked at the Kempsey bakehouse until he enlisted in the A.I.F. on 19<sup>th</sup> August 1942 joining the 2/2<sup>nd</sup> Commando Squadron in Canungra on 15<sup>th</sup> May 1943 and sailed for New Guinea with that Unit on 16<sup>th</sup> June 1943. He served in New Guinea and New Britain in 8 Section. Bill was a good soldier and got on well with all his section mates.

On discharge from the army Bill worked

with his father in the taxi business in Kempsey, he later purchased the taxi service and prior to his retirement he worked at the Kempsey Macleay RSL.

Bill married Beryl Barclay at MacLean on the 19<sup>th</sup> April 1947. They raised a family of four children Donald, Barry, Cheryl and Neil and the Walsh family certainly did their bit for Australia. They have 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Bill didn't live to see the sixth great-grandchild who was born this month April 2005. He also just failed by a month to reach the 58<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his marriage to Beryl. A devoted couple their life was spent completely together, separated only if one or the other was in hospital. For the last two years of his life Bill was nursed at home by his devoted wife.

In the workplace and the community Bill was known for his integrity and friendliness to all and sundry and his special devotion for his family. A quiet man, his hobbies were gardening and fishing.

He is survived by his siblings Ellen and Pat. His sisters Olga & Jean and brothers John & James all predeceased him.

Beryl and her family wish to say a special 'thank you' to Alan Luby, "Happy" Greenhalgh and Harry Handicott who frequently rang Bill for a chat, and also Beryl for news on Bill's health which they then passed on to the "Courier".

Rest in peace Bill, the suffering is over. May time ease the loss and pain that you Beryl and numerous family members feel at the passing of your quiet devoted husband, father and grandfather.

Harry & Amyce Handicott attended the funeral to represent the 2/2<sup>nd</sup>. Harry

placed a Double Red Diamond on the coffin. Joyce Smith also rang Beryl. The church was packed with over 200 people who attended the service to pay respect to the man they knew so well.

Paddy Kenneally.

*The Association extends its deepest sympathy to Beryl and the family.*

*Lest We Forget.*

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### **ANZAC DAY W.A. 2005**

A bright clear autumn morning saw a very large attendance at this years Dawn Service at the Kings Park Flame of Remembrance. Normally the service is held at the memorial but because the restoration work being done is behind schedule the venue had to be changed.

It was reassuring to see so many young people present which is a good sign for future dawn services.

Peter Epps, as he has done for many years now, laid a beautiful Double Red Diamond wreath at the Flame on behalf of the Association for which we thank him. Bob Smyth and John Burrridge did the honours for us at the SAS Regiments dawn service at their memorial in Campbell Barracks with John laying a lovely wreath (a twin to Peter's) on our behalf. Bob said the attendance was in keeping with past years. Thank you Bob and John.

The parade in St. Georges Terrace moved off promptly at 10 a.m. with President Ray Parry leading followed by Keith Hayes proudly carrying the Australian flag, then coming flag bearers 2/2<sup>nd</sup> John Chalwell, 2/5<sup>th</sup> Peter Dobbyn, 2/6<sup>th</sup> Owen Thompson, 2/8<sup>th</sup> Greg Sell escorted by grandchildren Paige & Cameron. Then came the main group comprising veterans of the various

Commando Squadrons; sons, daughters and friends approximately 28 in all.

We were fortunate to be close behind the Midland Brass Band whose rousing World War I tunes made the march most enjoyable. The 'eyes right' was given half way along the Terrace and things went off without a hitch. People lining the Terrace were generous with their applause which lifted the old spirits. The Langley Park service conducted in warm sunny weather was well done by the League.

Among those who marched were Olive Jones 2/3<sup>rd</sup>, Ron Dearlove 2/4<sup>th</sup>, Harold Durant and Jim Dobbyn 2/5<sup>th</sup>, Dick Reddell 2/6<sup>th</sup>, Bert & Barney Baron, Graham Brooks, Pat Connolly, Tony Ball 2/8<sup>th</sup>, Bob Smyth, Doc Wheatley, Jack Carey 2/2<sup>nd</sup> Colonel Falur, Graham Williams, Peter Siles & son, Geoff Payne, Neil Barnett and daughter Nerine, Rosemary Collins, Leta Fernie, Ian Mansfield, Phillip Thorpe and Christine (Hazel Wick's daughter).

Ray Aitken, Happy Greenhalgh, Bernie Langridge, Vince Swann, Don Murray, Dick Darrington, John Burrridge and Terry Paull did it in style taking advantage of the mini bus driven by Peter Epps. The bus carrying the 2/2<sup>nd</sup> received a good reception. Tony Bowers and Jim Lines went one better being chauffeured in an open car by Tony's daughter Linda.

The gathering at The Good Earth Hotel after the service went off well. We had the privilege of having the C.O. of the S.A.S. Regiment, Lieut. Col. James McMahon DSM and his RSM W.O.1 Russell Sullivan for lunch. The 25 who attended enjoyed a lovely meal during which President Ray Parry proposed the toast of the Regiment and the CO responded saying it was a pleasure to meet up with us veterans.

Cyril Ayris, our author, gave a brief run down on the progress of the book and Graham Williams who has spent a lot of time in East Timor brought us up to date on the Timor scene.

A special welcome was also extended to Colonel Falur from East Timor.

It was pleasing to see Terry Paull down from Kalgoorlie and Vince Swann up from Esperance. Both have been great members since the very beginning of our Association. Geoff Payne (Stan's son) from Merredin marched with us and stayed for lunch. We like to see sons of members supporting our functions. A special thanks to Peter Epps for organizing and driving the mini bus.

All in all it was a very pleasant few hours in keeping with the other Anzac Days we have enjoyed. How quickly the years have gone by!

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### **Anzac Day Mandurah 2005.**

With Len Bagley unable to march this year, it was left to the King and Howell families to come to the rescue for the parade. Paddy King led the 2/2<sup>nd</sup> group with brothers Vic and Brian Howell proudly carrying the Double Red Diamond banner. Shane, Simon and Brendan King along with Ray and Ross Howell and Elvie's grandchildren, Jason, Johnny and Kathy followed, all keeping in step. Ross Howell laid a wreath at the new memorial. The attendances at the morning and dawn services were good. Len and the majority of the King and Howell families attended the dawn service.

Thank you all in keeping up the tradition of the 2/2<sup>nd</sup> on Anzac day. Well done.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2005.**

The 59<sup>th</sup> Annual general Meeting of the W.A. Branch was held at Anzac Club on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30 a.m.

**Present:** Messrs R. Parry, J. Burridge, R. Smyth, K. Hayes, R. Darrington, R. Aitken, B. Langridge, T. Monk, C. Hodson, M. Wheatley and J. Carey.

There were 13 apologies.

Reports presented by the president, Trust Fund chairman, the editor, the auditor and financial statements appear in this Courier.

**Officers Elected Year 2005/06 are:-**

President	Mr R. Parry.
Vice-President	Mr K. Hayes.
Secretary/Treasurer	Mr J. Carey
Editor	Mrs D. Carey
Auditor	Mr J. Burridge
Warden	Mr J. Chalwell.

**General Committee:**

Messrs C. Hodson, J. Burridge, R. Darrington, R. Smyth, B. Langridge.

**Courier Committee:**

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

The Trust Fund Committee now in its 14<sup>th</sup> year of Messrs R. Smyth (Chairman), K. Hayes and J. Burridge carry on.

**Life Membership.**

On the recommendation of the committee Messrs Arthur Marshall, Tom Martin, Don Young, Fred Humfrey, Fred Wilks and Reg Tatum were made life members. Life membership medallions have been sent to the respective members.

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**President's Report AGM.**

The Dawn Service attendance at Kings Park on the 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2004 was 40,000,

a record for our dawn services and a record Australia wide. It is held in such a beautiful area, the majority were young people.

Anzac day – it was a beautiful day and a reasonable roll call.

Keith Hayes proudly carried an Australian flag for the first time on Parade on Anzac Day; the boys of our Commando Units were pleased to march behind it and the banners of the 2/2, 2/5 and 2/6 Commandos.

Terrorist threats to disrupt the Dawn Service at Gallipoli did not deter a record crowd, again most were young people.

The 17<sup>th</sup> Norma Hasson social was held at the Good Earth Hotel on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2004. Despite heavy rain and gale force winds, it did not stop many members and their friends from attending an enjoyable luncheon.

I received an invitation to a schools Remembrance service at the Flame of Remembrance in Kings Park. I contacted June Cuneo at the Department of veteran Affairs and confirmed that I accepted her department's invitation.

Churchlands Senior High School conducted the service that was held at 10.30 a.m. on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> of November.

It was a wonderful service. During a solemn moment a lone duck made a low level approach and landed on the waters of the Flame of Remembrance. It stayed some 30 minutes before taking off.

Our 55<sup>th</sup> Commemoration Service was once again held at Kings Park on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2004. There was a reasonable attendance considering the heat of the afternoon. Delys Carey had a wonderful thought to help the boys march with rhythm and in step; she marched beside them carrying a CD player which played some stirring martial music – well done Delys! It also assisted our 'Marshall', John Burridge to hold a well

'Disciplined Parade'. Following the service drinks and snacks at 'The House', in the grounds of the SAS at Swanbourne was much appreciated.

The Xmas luncheon was held at The Good Earth Hotel on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2004 – the numbers present were quite good. It was a hot day which may have influenced some of our members to stay at home. It is a delightful dining area with wonderful views, a great meal, pleasant staff and good company.

Cyril Ayris our author— journalist, addressed the assembled company regarding our book. He spoke well and impressed those present.

At 11.45 a.m. on Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> February 2005, I visited Hollywood Hospital with the object of presenting our Unit plaque to Ian Smythe P.A. on behalf of Kevin Cass – Ryan Executive Director of Hollywood Private Hospital. Ian Smythe mentioned that a letter of thanks would be forwarded to my address.

We have another 2 plaques, one to be presented to the Dept. of Veteran Affairs (at Keith Hayes' suggestion) the other to the R.S.L. H.Q. here in Perth.

On behalf of the committee and members, I thank once again, Bob Smyth, Keith Hayes and John Burridge for their help and devotion to their duties over a period of many years,

In conclusion I wish to thank my committee, Jack Carey, Dick Darrington, Bernie Langridge, John Burridge and Bob Smyth for their support and assistance during this my fourth year as President. It is a great honour to be president of such a fine Association.

**Ray Parry.**

### **Auditor's Report Year Ending 31/1/05**

The financial affairs of the Association remain very sound. The General Account balance of \$3411 has dropped a little over \$1000 mainly due to a drop in Courier donations. Considering our continuously falling membership however it is incredible that this year Courier donations reached no less than \$4360. The cost of the Commemoration Service more than doubled from \$189.40 to \$435 and this will be commented on elsewhere. There were the usual little ups and downs in the various items of expenditure and receipts but overall we can all assure that our financial position is sound.

The Una Thompson Legacy Account remains \$20,000 which is invested at 4.85%. Similar to the last year it was agreed that the interest earned on this account, \$1070.24 was transferred to General Funds. There was a final grant of \$800.24 from the Thompson Estate which your committee decided should be paid into General Funds. Thus the legacy Account remains at \$20,000.

The Independent Trust Fund operated at a much slower pace and the balance of the Trust Fund Account remains much the same as last year.

Basically the only income was \$2010 of donations and the only outgoing was \$2200 for vegetable seeds for Timor. Bob Smyth will be talking on the current situation of the Trust.

A further account should be mentioned, this is the Unit History Book Account whereby some members have donated and others have loaned large sums of money. These amounts are to help cover the cost of the book until sales of the book bring in funds for reimbursement,



when required to those generous members involved. It is the wish of these members that this matter not be dealt with at the meeting and they would prefer it to be discussed next year by which time the book should be ready for distribution or even, perhaps, already on sale.

The thanks of our members should be directed to Jack Carey for his meticulous records of all our financial affairs.

J. C. Burridge.

Hon. Auditor.

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### **Editor's Report Year Ending 31/1/05**

Four Couriers were produced during the past year at a cost of \$4721.99, an average of \$1180 per issue. Donations received from our members, widows and friends amounted to a generous \$4360. One day we will endeavour to obtain the total of donations received from our readers over the past 50 years or so – it would run into thousands!

We have been able to maintain a 32 page edition thanks to the contribution of quarterly reports from the various state branches, letters from our members and widows and some excellent 'feature' stories from others. For this we are very grateful.

Vales, as are to be expected, continue. The least we can do is to provide a final tribute to those who defended our country and were fine citizens in their lifetime.

The printer, Tom Vanderveldt, has moved to Rockingham, but thanks to the internet and e-mails, it entails at the most only one trip per Courier (and a lunch on Jack!)

I would particularly like to thank Gavin Bagley for printing and providing the

labels.

There have been many deletions, additions (family members) and changes of address of late as many are moving into retirement villages and nursing homes.

Sue Epps, also a thank you for just being there in case of an emergency. Thankfully we didn't have to call on Sue during the last 12 months as she herself, is a busy person.

Finally thanks to hubby Jack who I am surprised doesn't get writers cramp. He just keeps on keeping on!

So keep on writing everyone, and if you can't write, get a family member to jot down a word or two, send an e-mail on your behalf or pick up the phone.

Looking forward to hearing from you. (E-mail address delcarey@yahoo.com)

Delys Carey – Editor.

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### **Chairman's Report Independent Trust Fund.**

In 1999 the Indonesian forces shameful rampage destroyed most of East Timor's food producing infrastructure.

With no export income of significance, the country is dependent on donor funds via the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Such funds are conditional on specified areas of expenditure. The East Timor government budget is \$75 million. Government staff was reduced by 50%. The remainder has an 'income', which should be sufficient to feed their family.

An East Timor Newspaper reported that 53 people had died of starvation in the village of Hatabuilko since October 2004. Also that many thousands are hungry in other districts, Suai, Los Palos, Bacau and Munufahi.



The Government has cautioned over reaction, saying, "It is not starvation but 'Food Shortage' which happens every year". November to March is referred to as the 'Hungry Season'.

The Government budget allows only a miniscule \$1,500,000 for the Ministry of Agriculture for this mostly subsistence livelihood.

Our view is reinforced that delivery of suitable vegetable seeds during our remaining years, should represent our final salute to the villagers of East Timor.

There has not been great activity in the forwarding of donated goods. Ongoing problems remain shipping and a poor record of goods being interfered with over a period of years.

Reflecting – the parlous state of East Timor's economy, Dili administration is now compelled to demand high levels of duty and charges than formerly.

We have placed an order for 5,000 packets of vegetable seed which is currently being processed. Initially a small portion will be directed to our principal Dili contact in an effort to obtain Duty Free admission for what is planned to be greater seed shipments.

Thanks to fellow trustees Keith Hayes and John Burrridge for their support. They join me in acknowledging and thanking the many donors to the Independent Trust Fund during the past year.

Bob Smyth, Chairman.

*N.B. At last with all requirements in place 4,915 packets should today (4<sup>th</sup> June) be in Dili, delivered by courier service, awaiting judgment by Customs.*

### **New South Wales News.**

I had a yarn to Tony Adams during the week. He was okay but was recovering

from a very bad hailstorm. It was featured on TV and the kids were building 'hailmen' not snowmen it was so thick! It did a lot of damage to gardens but not structurally apparently.

Russ Blanch is still going well, has a bit of knee trouble but still gardening and looking forward to the lovely Winter and Spring Show. He was very pleased not to have shared Basher's hail.

I spoke on the phone to Harry Handicott who attended Bill Walsh's funeral. He will probably tell you more on that. He and Amyce are both well.

Eric and Lorraine Herd are both okay. Eric had been off colour for a while but is now practicing his golf swing so that's a fair indication of coming good.

Beryl Cullen is well and Kyogle has had some reasonable rain. Saw Tom Yates and Jean on Anzac Day in Kyogle.

Ken and Edith Jones are both okay for now and Ken is in to the fire making. It starts to get cold early in his part of the woods. He didn't mention golf but when he reads about Eric Herd, he'll start swinging too!

Jack and Beryl Steen are fine at present after a period when each had to look after the other – that's what it's all about. Jack's very pleased Basher's hail kept to his part of Brisbane.

Beryl Walsh is slowly recovering from her loss of Bill who was bedridden for over two years and Beryl looked after him for that time. Those of us who have had a loss know what you are going through Beryl and our thoughts are with you.

Nola Wilson is well and has moved to a unit in Gilgandra. It saves her going home at night after attending meetings in town. She can still get out to the property and back during daylight hours. Good thinking.

**GENERAL ACCOUNT**

Statement of receipts & expenditure year  
ending 31/1/05

**Receipts**

Balance as at 31/1/04	4488.24
Courier Donations	4360.00
Association events	1846.00
Photos	590.00
Fridge magnets	92.00
Bank interest	11.87
Legacy a/c interest	1070.24
Legacy grant	800.24
Badges	<u>5.00</u>

8775.35

\$13263.59**Expenditure**

Courier Costs	4721.99
Association events	2709.96
Photos	572.70
Fridge Magnets	169.40
Govt. taxes	28.80
GPO Box rental	151.00
Funeral notices	294.36
Capitation Fee ACA	34.00
Administration	150.00
Anzac Day	93.00
Commemoration Service	435.00
Badges	392.15
Donation	<u>100.00</u>

9852.36

Balance 31/1/05

3411.23\$13263.59**Estate Una Thompson Legacy Account.**

Amount in account 31/1/04	\$20,000.00
Interest received	<u>1070.24</u>
	\$21070.24
Interest transferred General account	<u>\$1070.24</u>
Balance 31/1/05	\$20,000.00

Invested 6 months 4.85% maturing 13/6/05

Final grant of \$800.24 was paid directly into General account 6/7/04.

**INDEPENDENT TRUST FUND.**

Statement of receipts & expenditure year ending 31/1/05.

**Receipts.**

Balance as at 31/1/05	9475.26
Bank interest	35.58
Donations	<u>2010.00</u>
	2045.58
	\$11520.84

**Expenditure.**

Govt. Tax	1.00
Admin. Charges	75.10
Purchase seeds	<u>2200.00</u>
	2276.10

Balance as at 31/1/05

9244.74

\$11520.84

Certified correct J. Burrige Auditor.

Tom and Jean Yates. Tom is very well but Jean is having some trouble with arthritis and her back. She is to have cataracts done on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> so all the best Jean.

Alan Luby will most likely be in contact with you. We speak fairly regularly. He is well.

I had a good three weeks in Perth from 11<sup>th</sup> April to 1st May. I saw all the blokes on Anzac Day and rode in style with seven other blokes with Peter Epps driving a mini bus. Then we had 25 at the dinner, which no doubt will be reported on by our secretary.

Harry Sproxton, with whom I stayed, is still battling on. Not quite as well as I would have liked but hanging in there as they say. Keith Hayes and Jack Carey are a tower of strength for him.

At last I'm going to have my back operated on at Alamanda Private Hospital on the 17<sup>th</sup> June. Harry Botterill is at present holidaying on the Gold Coast with daughter Glenda and tells me he's going to see me in hospital before going back to Melbourne about the 21<sup>st</sup>. All the best to everyone.

**'Happy' Greenhalgh.**

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### Tasmanian News.

Just a few lines as to how we are in Tassie.

I attended the 2/40<sup>th</sup> Battalion Old Comrades Association reunion in February, about 80 were there, many widows and family helpers. It was at the Lindisfarne R. & S. League Club. Good comradeship and so good to be with mates who joined up in July 1940, plus later volunteers. The memorial service at the Lindisfarne Cenotaph was very special as many family and friends came

just for the service which was conducted by Canon David Lewis, who took part in our Tassie reunion at St. John's Church, Hobart. He is a very dedicated army padre.

Anzac Day here at Dover, the people turned out in large numbers – especially the dawn service where I gave the address, my 25<sup>th</sup> and my last! My son Gary (ex army) gave the address at Southport, which is about 100km south of Hobart and is the most southern service in Australia.

I have been talking with a mate, Clyde McKay ex 2/40<sup>th</sup> Battalion – ex POW – who keeps a record of 2/40<sup>th</sup> veterans and he makes surviving veterans, about 140.

I had a talk with Iris Rice on the phone today and she is well and keeps fit with her dancing. We always remember her husband Jack as the man with "the Bren Gun". It is 12 years since he passed from this life.

Nancy Slade keeps well despite her walking difficulty. She attends socials with other widows. I have tried to contact other 2/2<sup>nd</sup> people but no success. I think Bridget Richards must have moved and has a new phone number.

Billie and self are going pretty well as to health. Billie sticks strictly to her diet – 80 this year. I had a rush ambulance trip to Hobart last month, more heart trouble. I was in hospital 19 days and with a medication problem which has settled down and feels okay now.

We still have our vegetable and flower garden but have cut down the area.

It's a nice day today, snow down to 200 metres. The snow looks great on the mountain when the sun shines. We look

out at it with water views on the other side. It is 8c. at present.

Geoff Woods kindly sent me a tape of the 2/2<sup>nd</sup> which gives an article on the ABC Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2004. Somehow I have messed it up so will have a try and get another copy. Geoff is going along okay.

Regards to all members and families, keep smiling, **Bert Price.**

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### Victorian News.

Anzac Day was a beautiful day weather wise. I was the only 2/2<sup>nd</sup> starter to march but I had the pleasure of Kevin Broadhurst, son of Mavis & Fred for company. It was a good day and well attended by youngsters who marched with their relatives.

We had our luncheon at Eden on Park and there was a good roll up of commando companies and friends. We were represented by John & Shirley Southwell, Fred & Mavis Broadhurst, Margaret Monk, Don Thomson, Cath Roberts & son Craig and Harry Botterill.

Over the past five years the Commando Association agreed to have family members and friends to the luncheon as many of the men need assistance to get there.

After the ceremony it has become a great social day for all Units.

Although Cath's memory is not what it used to be, she enjoyed her day, looks very well. Thanks to Craig for bringing her.

John and Shirley are keeping fit with their bowls.

Margaret and Don are always on the go. Fred managed with the walker, a slow process, but made it.

Beryl Boast's diabetes is causing problems with her legs and has to have tests done. Win Humphries progressing slowly after breaking her hip and has had a few trips back to hospital.

Eddie Bourke is really having a rough time. They are trying to find out what the trouble is and he is having a lot of tests, so we are all hoping for the best.

Over the past few months have tried to contact Nina Grachan but am now getting a recording to check the number. She was looking for a place in the future, to a care home so I presume she has moved.

Leith Cooper and Bluey Bone weren't answering their phones'— so hope both are well.

I am going up to the Gold Coast next week for a month. I will be staying with my eldest daughter Glenda and am really looking forward to it.

Regards to all, **Harry Botterill.**

(Thanks to Mavis Broadhurst for the extra news.)

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### Queensland News.

Tony Adams. Glad to report that he is a lot better. He has had visits from his son and daughter, is walking a lot better and his doctor has said his cancer is presently benign.

Greg Tyerman attended our Commemoration service in Kings Park on the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2003 and took some photographs. He has kindly given me some and I'll show them to Tony when we have a meet during the second half of June.

Ralph & Sheila Conley; have returned from their Asian voyage which included Vietnam and they enjoyed their holiday.

All their family are okay and both are still actively playing lawn bowls. Next time Lyn and I are at Bribie Island we'll show them Greg's photos. We will also show them Gordon & Joan Stanley. Gordon rang me and wondered if I had seen the TV film on East Timor with Paddy Kenneally in it, he apparently missed it. Now that we don't have meetings it gets a bit hard to personally keep up with seeing our local mates.

Margaret Hooper.

Parts of Brisbane recently received very heavy falls of hail where she lives was one of those areas. She has a huge mango tree in her backyard and in particular this area was covered with thick ice and leaves – just like Switzerland she said! Fortunately her family was able to come over for the huge cleanup. (Lyn and I were having a holiday for a week at Coolangatta when this happened but our properties were not affected.) Margaret keeps very busy with Probus and Legacy and recently had a day at Nobby— a tiny historic village on the Darling Downs. She has just renewed her driver's license for 5 years and celebrated the event by buying a new car. She keeps in touch with our Association through Peter & Pat Campbell & Helen Poynton and of course our great 2/2<sup>nd</sup> Courier.

Pat Barnier keeps well and recently visited MacLean (NSW) with her daughter Andrea. Andrea's daughter has her Master's degree from Cambridge University and is at present at the Haig's International Court defending the Serbian General in the Yugoslavia War.

Jewell Soper has trouble with arthritis, but after many operations, she is better now than she has been for the last ten years! She has a good new next door

neighbour in her retirement village. She still drives and they both go to the casino from time to time. She has fifteen grandchildren – is 79 now and regrets that Alan was taken when he was only 70 years old. She hopes that her son John will take her to see Bulla & Jean Tait soon. Bulla will be 80 in November but is still not able to get around much. She also keeps in touch with George & Margo Shiels and they are doing okay.

Lois Davies still leads a very busy life. One of her interests is with the local bird watching group. They recently had a few days at Crow's Nest which is near one of our top National Parks. She sees a lot of her daughter Vicki and youngest grandchild Michael. Both love the water and Lois, being near the ocean at Caloundra, she can't keep them out of it even in the winter! She sent a photograph of Eric in his uniform to help our new book. We expect that our editor will be deluged with information and photographs for our new book.

Do hope that this meets the deadline for our next "2/2<sup>nd</sup> Commando Courier". Have just said goodbye to my son who was on a one month visit from the U.K. where he lives. Hadn't seen him for 4'Ω years!

With best wishes to all our members,  
yours very sincerely, **Ron Archer.**

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**Latest on the Unit History.**

Your "author at large" has been to Canberra Australian War Memorial to go through their collection of photographs of the 2/2<sup>nd</sup> for publication in the forthcoming book.

They have a great collection – I'd say about two hundred pictures of you in Portuguese and Dutch Timor, New

Guinea and New Britain, many taken by Damien Parer. Not everybody is identified but I'm hoping that we will be able to put names to most of them for publication.

The Australia's War Memorial's Brad Manera and Andrew Jacks were of enormous assistance. I suspect they had realized that the combination of their highly sophisticated computer system and my rudimentary knowledge of everything electronic, posed serious risk to both parties. No matter – they ushered me into their security protected administrative nerve center, and appointed a charming and extraordinarily patient boffin, by the name of Andrew Jacks who explained how the computer system worked and left me to it.

I'd seen many of the pictures before but some were new to me, including one of a nine-year-old criado which would have made the trip worth while on its own.

I've also seen Peter Epps who has something like 160 individual photographs, plus a detailed nominal roll.

It's all coming together quite nicely; the only real problem is in getting the story as accurate as possible. Actually, I was wondering if, in the event of you being called up to protect the nation again, would you mind keeping a written record of exactly what you do and where you do it?! It makes it so much easier for the chronicler, afterwards.

When I started this project I must admit to entertaining some doubts on whether there would be enough material to fill the stipulated 500 pages. Having written the story as far as your departure from Timor, I still have a few reservations on the matter – it's just that I'm now not sure

that 500 pages will be enough.

All that aside, I'm still hoping for a Christmas release, so pander to the prostate, hang on to the haemorrhoids, and don't over-tax the ticker – all will soon be revealed.

*Cyril Ayris.*

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### **The Comfort and Luxury of Remembering.**

At about 6.30 p.m. last Thursday evening, I was sitting in my lounge room in suburban Brisbane enjoying my nightly libation. I had spent the day with my youngest daughter, lunching in the city and then taking in a movie. Margaret is an 'on call' primary school teacher but always makes sure 26<sup>th</sup> May is free to spend with me. You see, 26<sup>th</sup> May is the Saturday in 1984 when I lost my beloved (second) husband to a sudden and fatal heart attack.

Suddenly, the front door bell chimed and another daughter call in to let me know that she too had remembered. My other two 'far-away' children had phoned earlier to let me know they too had not forgotten.

Then just before 7 p.m. I received a phone call from Mr. Jack Carey asking whether I would write something for the Courier! I feel extremely honoured to be asked to do this and I will endeavour to explain just how relevant this request from the 2/2<sup>nd</sup> Commando Association is to the latter part of my life and how appropriate that it was received on 26<sup>th</sup> May.

\* \* \*

In Townsville in the mid-60's, I ended a 25 year marriage which had fallen apart due to chronic alcoholism. With 2 of my 4 children still at school and

although I was 'getting on' in years, I reactivated my former occupation as a shorthand/typist and fortunately obtained a position as secretary with Ampol Petroleum Ltd.

As many 2/2<sup>nd</sup> Commando Association members would know, Brig. T.G. Nisbet in civilian life became a senior member of the Ampol Petroleum Company following his close association, both during and after the war, with Mr. Geoff Laidlaw.

Mr. Nisbet's career with Ampol included several years in Melbourne before he was transferred in the late 1960's to the Townsville office as Manager, North Queensland & Northern Territory. By this time, I had been promoted and became secretary to the new manager.

Mr. Nisbet was an excellent "boss" and Ampol prospered in the area under his steady hand. Both Mr. & Mrs. Nisbet were extremely kind to me and I really enjoyed my position working with the former.

Early in the 1970's the Townsville office was closed; Mr. Nisbet was transferred to the Brisbane office as branch manager, Queensland; I was fortunate to be included in a skeleton staff of 4 retained to operate from a small office at the Ampol Fuel Depot in South Townsville.

Late in 1973, Mr. Nisbet's secretary in the Brisbane office resigned and early in 1974 I was transferred to Brisbane to again become his secretary. My youngest daughter, Margaret also transferred to a school in Brisbane.

As Mr. Nisbet and I were of the same "vintage" it was inevitable that talk of war years came into discussions, thus I learned a little of his involvement with the 2/2<sup>nd</sup> Commando Unit.

However, the most wonderful thing about my transfer to Brisbane was my meeting with Noel Forsyth who was to become my much loved second husband.

Even my actual meeting with Noel had something to do with T.G.N! Mr. Nisbet had arranged an interview for me with the Commonwealth Bank Manager – a Mr. "Bunny" Kerruish – a former army mate of T.G.N. with a view to organizing a loan for me to purchase a home unit at Indooroopilly. And yes, I was granted the loan and yes, Noel was also buying a unit in the same block!

Mr. Nisbet was transferred to Melbourne as branch manager before Noel and I were married in 1976; I resigned from Ampol in 1977 after 12 years service. Noel and I had a wonderfully happy life together for eight years before the dreadful night of 26<sup>th</sup> May, 1984 which robbed me of a soul mate and my children of a much loved step-father.

Beverley Nisbet died in Melbourne in December 1987 but I did not know of her death until some months later. Over the next few years Tom and I kept in contact by phone with my first visit to Tuxen Street, North Balwyn following an invitation from him to attend a cricket match at the M.C.G. as a guest in the official Ampol Box. (Who could resist that offer?)

Since that time and until several months before Tom died, I made many, many trips to Tuxen Street and enjoyed his wonderful friendship and companionship and of course learned much more about the 2/2<sup>nd</sup> Commando Unit and its members.

Tom took me to many Unit functions, dinners and re-unions and I met many of his friends – (some like Tom, no longer with us.) Fred & Mavis Broadhurst, Lady



Naomi Callinan, Mrs. Nina Grachan, Patsy Thatcher, Gordon Hart, the one and only Col Doig and Alan & Edith Luby amongst many. (What a lot I have to tell Alan during our next weekly Sunday morning phone call!)

So as I was sitting alone last Thursday – 26<sup>th</sup> May – surrounding myself with the Comfort and Luxury of Remembering; I remembered how fortunate I was to have so many people remembering me each 26<sup>th</sup> May, how appropriate it was that Mr. Jack Carey should phone me on 26<sup>th</sup> May and how blessed I was to have so many memories to remember!

*Sheila Forsyth.*

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### **ANNIVERSARIES.**

July 1<sup>st</sup> 1942 and July 19<sup>th</sup> 1916, now long forgotten, are the anniversaries of two tragic events in our war history.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1942, the 'Montevideo Maru' sailed from Rabaul bound for Japan with 850 POWs and 200 civilians crammed in its holds. Ten days later on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 1942 it was torpedoed and sunk off Luzon in the South China Sea by the U.S. submarine 'Sturgeon' operating from Fremantle. There were no survivors of those entombed below. 717 men of the 22nd battalion and ancillary troops, mainly Victorians and 133 men of the 1<sup>st</sup> Independent Company lost their lives. Among the 200 civilians who perished were many who were pioneers of the Rabaul area. A handful of the Japanese crew survived. The tragedy seldom gets a mention even on the anniversary of this disaster – such is life.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> July 1916 the 5<sup>th</sup> Australian Division under Lieut. Gen. J. McCay, comprising the 8<sup>th</sup> Brigade from

Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania, the 14<sup>th</sup> Brigade from New South Wales and the 15<sup>th</sup> Brigade from Victoria went into action for the first time on the Western Front. The plan was to capture Fromelles, a strongly held German position. The 61<sup>st</sup> British Division was also taking part in the operation. The attack began at 6 p.m. In the three and a half hours of twilight fierce hand to hand combat took place and continued throughout the night. By 6 a.m. the Germans had fought off most of the attacks with heavy shelling and accurate mortar and machine gun fire inflicting terrible casualties on the three brigades.

The 60<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the 15<sup>th</sup> Brigade had 398 killed and 400 wounded from a complement of 900 men. By the evening of the 20<sup>th</sup> July the front line was filled with the dead and dying. The Australian casualties were 1917 dead, 3146 wounded and 470 taken prisoner and little was achieved. Brigadier 'Pompey' Elliott who commanded the 15<sup>th</sup> Brigade wept as he shook the hand of his men as they made their way back from the German lines.

It was the greatest debacle of World War I, and remains the highest loss from any single action in Australia's military history. British General Sir Richard Hastings who had supreme command of the operation wrote: -'The Australian Infantry attacked in a most gallant manner and gained the enemy's position but were not sufficiently trained to consolidate the ground gained. The attack though it failed has done both Divisions a great deal of good'. Such was not the case. Hastings who planned the operation had crippled the 5<sup>th</sup> Division which took some months to reform and be ready for further fighting.

The casualties sustained in less than one day at Fromelles were greater than the total incurred in all the wars Australians have participated in since World War II. Fromelles exceeds all of these in its scope and senseless waste of the flower of Australian manhood in those grim times.

Lest We Forget.

*N.B. Paddy Kenneally said Jim Griffin, who served with us in East Timor in 1942 after crossing from West Timor, stayed with us for the remainder of the war. He was in the Fromelles debacle. Jim told Paddy it was sheer hell. He died in 1965.*

J. Carey

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### News from Japan.

I received a letter mailed from Tokyo dated March 22, 2004 from a chap named William Bradley Norton – his wife's name is Mayumi Yamamoto also a member of the same research group, they have a two year old daughter.

He is an historian currently participating in a research project related to East Timor during World War II. I suggested he try Australia at War Film Archive web site. I have a second letter dated January 24, 2005, he located the web site and mentioned that the web site is very nicely done but unfortunately they have not finished processing any interviews with 2/2 members or indeed with anyone with experience in Timor. I informed him that he will have access to the processed information within a matter of days – it may already have been introduced to the Archive web site. He would like a copy of Col Doig's book. I wrote that there would be little chance but would make enquiries.

The Japanese researchers have

compiled a comprehensive data base detailing the fate of 3526 Allied POWs who died in Japan between 1941 & 1945. Taeko Sasamoto who co-founded the research network, last year published revealing details of the lives of POWs the first of its kind in Japanese. Mrs. Sasamoto says the work is also for the Japanese. There are people who hate Japan; the Japanese have a responsibility to know why that is.

Ray Parry.

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### Growing up in Trafalgar Cont'd.

As kids we appreciated any little thing that was given to us especially the lollies Grandmother bought for us on pension day, or the penny we received to purchase an ice-cream off the old "Afghan" whom we called "Choog-la-moog". He usually arrived on a Sunday afternoon in his cart, all done up with bunting. He also sold fairy floss. We called it Turkey lolly.

Just about every house in Trafalgar kept a dozen or so chooks in the back yard. Eggs were usually on the menu at breakfast. The only time a chook came under the axe was when its laying days were over, or at Christmas (so much for loyal service!)

I will never forget the day my brother Ron and I had this chook in a tub taking off the feathers. To do this one used plenty of hot water. The water was getting a bit cool, so we yelled out to our sister Nell to bring out another pot full. There were two pots boiling away on the stove, one with hot water the other with stewed chops for our tea.

It appears Nell couldn't get the lid off so brought the pot out and emptied the contents into the tub. Greasy stewed

chops – what a mess! If I remember correctly they were still on the menu that night at tea time. I'm sure Ron, Nell and I never had any.

One well known landmark on the outskirts of Trafalgar was a white dump surrounding a very deep shaft. I never did find out who sunk this hole in the ground, but I don't think they would have retired as millionaires, that is from finding gold. Maybe they found a market for the white clay.

Now about every household in the town kept a pet, Dogs, cats, goats abounded. The goats were left to graze in the bush, but how the cats and dogs survived when there were no scraps left on the table after the evening meal. I think they just went hungry. "Kittykat" and "Pal" were not around in those days.

There were no vets in the town, so when a pet was ailing or getting too old, it was taken to the white dump placed on the edge of the shaft and blasted with a gun. I would hate to think how many animals found their last resting place at the bottom of that shaft.

There was another prank we kids used to get a kick out of; the loop line was spanned by a bridge which allowed a small electric train pulling a rake of trucks filled with slime and rubbish from the Perseverance mine to cross the railway line. We would arm ourselves with clods of slime, stand in the centre of the bridge overlooking the railway line and as the steam engine passed underneath, try and drop a clod of the slime down the engines stack.

I'm not sure if anyone ever accomplished this feat, we were always engulfed in a huge cloud of smoke. I can remember the driver leaning out of his cabin and looking back and shaking his fist or as

we used to think, giving us the thumbs up sign.

It was around the early thirties that a few people started to get themselves a set of wheels. Cousin Jack Doyle invested in a "Norton" motor bike, his sister Dorrie an "Austin". It was known to the local kids as the "Butter Box" on wheels. She was always calling for someone to help push it to get it started.

One or two "Model T Fords" arrived in town and my brother Jack got himself into a Chevrolet. It got that way, playing cricket in the middle of the road became a bit hazardous.

One person who did welcome this influx of transport into the town was my grandfather. The two local hotels had been pulled down and Grandad Menzies found himself having to walk the two or three kilometres to the nearest pub to quench his thirst. This problem was solved by getting a lift on the back of Jack Doyle's motorbike.

One well known identity in the town was a Joe Davis. It was said Joe's dog was by far the most intelligent animal in Trafalgar. Joe was a frequent visitor to the local hotel. Come closing time poor old Joe would always be well and truly under the influence. The barman would take Joe and the dog outside and point him in the direction of home. While staggering along the road, old Joe would throw up at least once and in doing so he and his false teeth would part company.

On awakening the next morning, Joe would discover the molars missing and would tell the dog to go fetch them. It was said the dog never let him down while performing this errand. I often thought what would have happened if the dog had got into a fight on the return journey. He certainly would have had the advantage

with two sets of teeth!

Most people in Trafalgar liked their music. My cousin Kath Doyle was a fine pianist and taught quite a few of the young girls in the town to play.

Her brother Jack played the violin, Wal and Les Jacobs the cornet. Some Sunday nights they would gather at the Doyle's residence for a musical evening. There would always be an audience gathered on the footpath outside.

The concert always got underway with a couple of stirring marches, followed by the latest tunes of the day, then a few of the oldies for the not so young present. The audience would then disperse when cousin Dorrie got up to give her rendition of "In the Shade of the Old Apple Tree".

Another place the young ones gathered to listen to music was the Edwards house. They had one of the very few gramophones in the town.

Bob West was the proud owner of a machine that went by the name of "his Master's Voice". On a warm still night, Bob would set this gramophone up in the front yard. The strains of "Peggy O'Neill" and "Down at the Old Bull and Bush" could be heard all over Trafalgar.

Bob loved to get out into the bush looking for wild turkeys. He usually found them grazing among the cattle, but they would take off as soon as he got out of his horse and cart. He decided some type of camouflage was needed. Going out to the local abattoirs, he obtained a cowhide to which he attached a couple of belts and buckles.

Driving out into the bush, Bob eventually came across the turkeys and the cows. Easing himself out of the back

of the cart and making sure there were no randy bulls nearby; Bob strapped the cowhide around himself.

As soon as he appeared on hands and knees from behind the cart everything took off, including Bob's horse and cart! It was said that on the long walk home, poor old Bob blasted at anything that moved.

I will never forget the day we got our first radio – a five valve "Astor". What a marvelous invention. On cold winter nights we could even sit and listen to test cricket being played in England.

Cousin Jack Doyle was the first one to have a wireless in Trafalgar. I remember the first Crystal set he made and how we would all sit around waiting for a turn to put headphones on. There always had to be complete silence and anyone not obeying this rule was soon shown the way out.

The Rundell were another family well known in the town. There were about five boys and they just about lived in the bush cutting sandalwood. Their transport for carting this wood was a huge wagon, drawn by about a dozen camels.

After years of backbreaking work they invested their hard earned money in a farm at Lake Grace only to lose the lot when they got caught up in the depression.

Other families to feel the effects of the depression were the Lehman, Barbers, Bowmans and the McIntyres.

All these families went down and took up blocks to farm in and around Southern Cross. After clearing the land, they produced crops that no one wanted. In the finish they had to walk off their farms and return to Kalgoorlie.

My first trip to Perth – what an experience! My brother Jack took me along with him.

I just couldn't wait to board the train at Kalgoorlie railway station. Then settled into a six berth compartment, not a lot of room but who cared.

A meal in the dining car and a menu to choose from to lying in the bunk listening to the numerous passengers snore their heads off. In the morning it was strange to wake and find the train traveling through farming towns and to see hundreds of sheep in the paddocks. Then it was on into the hills, to stop at Chidlow's Well for a cup of tea and a pie.

But the biggest thrill was yet to come, the tunnel! Every kid who had been to Perth always spoke of his ride through the there and issued stern advice, to make sure all the windows in the carriage were down otherwise when you came out the other end you would be dead from breathing the smoke! I was a bit disappointed in the tunnel. I reckon thirty seconds and the train was through. Perhaps the driver was in a hurry that day.

On down through the Perth suburbs, wondering who all the rich people could have been, to afford to live in a house with a tiled roof.

Eventually the train pulled into the Perth railway station. After cloaking our cases I was taken over to see the huge Boans Store with its lifts and elevators. After numerous rides on these, it was off down Barrack Street for my first look at the Swan River. What an eye opener! I never knew so much water existed – that is until I went for a boat trip on a boat called the "Zephyr" to Rottnest Island.

Yes that trip to Perth was really something.

Many a night was spent sitting out under a street light in Lake Street, Trafalgar swapping yarns with a bunch of the local kids. Looking back they sure were great days. What a pity one has got to grow up.

Years later on returning to the Trafalgar town site for a bit of reminiscing, all I found was two heaps of bricks where the pubs were situated. A tree that grew near the Jacob's house was still there and the white dump. Someone should place a white cross on top in memory of all the local pets that lie below.

Yes, I can truthfully say there was never a dull moment growing up in Trafalgar. As kids we never found life boring.

**Peter Alexander.**

*N.B. Terry Paull said Peter Alexander's story had been well received by old*

*'Kalgoorlieites' and his Courier had been passed around to read, Terry intends to ask the local newspaper to print Peter's story as a feature article, let's hope they do. Thanks Terry.*

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## **CORRESPONDENCE.**

**Honour Avenue Group, Duncraig, W.A.**

Over the next six to eight weeks, as part of our planned maintenance programme, we will be removing and repainting all the plaques that are covered by your Association, (L313 to L358). They will be sand blasted, prime coated, black enamelled and the lettering finished with aluminum paint.

We will be replacing the existing posts with our new standard posts. However, there are at four trees, two of your

plaques mounted on the one post. We have negotiated BGPA and are now placing plaques on individual posts, side by side at various trees around the Park and we would like to continue this standard in your area. Please advise if this is not satisfactory.

We are now having our colour patches commercially manufactured in u/v protected acrylic and we will replace your existing metal types with these.

If you wish to discuss this further please contact me on 9448 2415.

Kind regards, Ken Jones, Secretary.

*(See back page for photos of new plaques)*

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**I. Rowan-Robinson, Bridgetown, W.A.**

Sorry I haven't been in touch but I've been very busy this last 6 months.

I went to the U.K. in September and took Max, my eldest son, a retired schoolteacher and he took great care of me. We hired a car and he drove me to see all of Bill's family and some of my relatives and friends, but I found it very exhausting. I will never make another visit so it was hard saying goodbye to them all.

I love England, that was my 6<sup>th</sup> visit and I'm getting too old for any more trips. I did go to Melbourne in December and took my eldest daughter Jan with me, so I could go to my sister's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday party. Wylie was my bridesmaid and you were the one groomsman, remember Jack!

I keep in touch with Bernie & Babs Langridge and Nancy Timms.

My health hasn't been the best since my trip to England and I've certainly had to slow down, but I'm very happy here

in my unit and enjoy pottering around in my little garden.

I do hope you are both keeping well. I do enjoy reading the Courier, enclosing something towards it. Iris.

**R. Wilson, Winnellie, N.T.**

Thank you for a copy of your 2/2<sup>nd</sup> Commando Courier, Dec. 2004 containing the article initial and follow up letters.

On returning from a study of ponies in Indonesia (Timor, Flores and Sumba) August - September 2004, I went to Brisbane and I am delighted to state that I was able to visit Mr Paddy Wilby on two occasions. I was able to improve on my pony information considerably.

Shortly after returning from Brisbane I became strenuously occupied at a crocodile farm (my son's) near Darwin. Hopefully this ceases at the end of March. My work with the book ceased about 10<sup>th</sup> December 04 to be recommenced in April. The target date is no longer the end of 2004.

Copies of the photographs of the Timor pony skeleton have not been forgotten. Herewith are two copies of the skeleton – head and skeleton proper. The teeth meet precisely – this is not presented in the photo. One might readily see that the bones are large and strong.

It appears that the Timor pony is a mix of Shevalsky (Asiatic wild horse) and Tarpan. One characteristic of the Shevalsky is that it is the only specie of horse which has a head larger in proportion to its body than any other specie of horse which have about the same proportion ("Points of the Horse" – Capt. M. Horace Hayes)

With best wishes,

Reg Wilson.



**P. & P. Campbell, Esperance, W.A.**

It is a long time since we have been in touch. We would like to be closer so we could go to all the social events.

Peter is coping with his Parkinson's pretty well, has his off days. He is happy to have his grand daughter and her partner on our old farm and goes out there quite a lot.

We are getting ready to go on our usual winter trip across to Pt. Augusta and up the Centre to Darwin. Have a grand daughter at Batchelor and a grandson at Kununurra. We have another couple traveling with us and will end up at Exmouth for our usual month.

We have never seen the season so dry. Everybody is feeding stock and some carting water.

We go fishing regularly. Peter has a good friend and they go out in his boat when the weather is friendly, otherwise Pete and I go out on the jetty so keep ourselves in plenty of fish.

We had a nice visit from Nellie Mullins and her friend. We took them for a drive to lucky Bay and the beaches and back to our old farm for a look and up to the Soak Hotel for a beer and lunch.

Peter wants to go Opal hunting at Coober Pedy – reckons if he shakes enough he might find one!

Please find cheque for whatever. Hope everyone is coping with life, often think of you all. Look after yourselves.

Peter & Pat Campbell.

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**R. Crossing, West Leederville, W.A.**

Thanks for your note and recent editions of Courier.

As requested I enclose a cheque for \$20. I would be grateful if you could let

me know when further subscription falls due.

Thanks and regards, Rob Crossing.

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**K. Alford, Bayswater, W.A.**

Thank you for the 2/2<sup>nd</sup> Commando Courier which we religiously receive from the association.

I have enclosed a photo of my uncle, Frank Alford, to please be included in the Unit History Book. If preferred I can e-mail the photo; just phone or e-mail me as per the above details.

I have been researching the family history for some years and, only last year, I obtained a copy of the "Double Reds of Timor" by Archie Campbell. Obviously I had never known my uncle and my father had limited memories of his brother as there was a ten-year age difference. We obtained his military records and this has given us some insight into the person that Frank was. However, Mr Campbell's book proved to be invaluable reading as this gave us a detailed impression of the circumstances as they were at the time that my uncle passed away as a young man. Frank was one of the men on the rations truck on its way to Dili that was taken by the Japanese in February 1942.

I believe that it is important to have an official record of the unit's history and wish you every success with the book.

Yours faithfully, Karen Alford.

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**M. Coats, Broadmeadows, Vic.**

I was reading the Courier and saw your request for members and photos of 2/2<sup>nd</sup> Commandos. My late husband served with the 2/2<sup>nd</sup> Commandos and was in Sparrow Force. His regimental



No. is VX55137, Cpl Arthur Edward Coats. He was 17 years of age on his enlistment into the army. He was a medic with the 2/2<sup>nd</sup> and had the nickname "Boy".

Arthur died of a heart attack on the 24/11/1968 at the age of 43. Arthur and I had 7 children, 3 of whom joined the army. His oldest daughter Heather joined the WRAAC in 1966 and served in the Signal Regiments until her last posting in 1972 in Singapore.

Peter joined in 1967 and served in various Service Corps units. Peter went to Vietnam and served with 5 Coy RAASC at Vungtau.

Brian joined also and was in the Corps of Signals. He served overseas with the Peace Keeping Force. Hope you find this interesting.

We look forward to the publication of the Unit's History. What a wonderful lot of young men and now a page in Australia's history.

Maria Coats.

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**L. Lea, West Launceston, Tas.**

Just to let you know that (Bridget Richards) has moved to a nursing home in Launceston. Since Nick's (Tex) death she has been staying with me and my brother in Burnie, until a room became available at Glenara Lakes. When Nick was alive they managed to keep each other going right up until Nick's death – he was only in hospital for three days. Anyhow Mum has settled into her new life and would dearly like to keep in contact with her old friends, her address is:

Bridget Richards  
French WingFBO9  
Glenara Lakes

390 Hobart Road  
Youngtown. Tas. 7249

Regards, Linda Lea. (Bridget's daughter)

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**W. Brown, Fairfield Hghts, NSW.**

As requested in the Courier, March 2005, please find enclosed copy of photo of my late husband, Keith, T.F. Brown, NX49761, obviously taken early in his army career.

I look forward to reading the Unit History and will certainly have a cheque in the post immediately availability and price are advised.

Best wishes for the successful attainment of your deadline!

Yours sincerely, Winifred Brown.

---

**R. Darrington, W.A.**

I am going on another holiday trip to England on the 4<sup>th</sup> June to 17<sup>th</sup> July. I will only be away for six weeks visiting my brother Len and sister Joan in beautiful Bedford. The countryside is lovely over there now in summertime.

I try and talk some of them into considering visiting Perth for a change instead of France and Spain so they can see what they are missing out on.

Best regards, Dick Darrington.

---

**L. Davies, Dicky Beach, QLD.**

Do hope you are both well; know you are both kept busy just by reading the very informative courier.

I'm enclosing a copy of a photo of Eric in uniform, only head and shoulders, just hope it will be alright, also information on his details.

Enclosed cheque for \$100 for trust

Fund and Courier, looking forward to the book at the end of the year.

God Bless, all the best, Lois Davies.

---

**G. & G. Smith, Muswellbrook, NSW.**

I do apologise for not sending my donation toward the Courier last year so will add a bit more this time. Last year was not a good one as ended up having a spinal operation which now restricts my movements. I now know what lots of ladies put up with years ago when wearing boned corsets!

We are driving up with the van on to the Willows Gem fields in Queensland starting on Mother's Day in the company of our daughter and her husband to see if we can there okay. Its a little country village and look forward to seeing friends we have made during the last ten years. I won't be able to dig for the sapphires this year.

We enjoy reading of Unit members and friends and it is sad so many we knew have now passed on.

Do hope Blanche and Mavis soon have their arms better and both in action.

Our best wishes to all, George Smith.

---

**H. & A. Handicott, Hamilton, NSW.**

Oh to be like Paddy now that writing is due!

Greetings to all, hope you all had a good Anzac Day. I marched with one of our great-grandsons (he is 9) in the Cubs so it was a dry march, anyway I had driven over to the other side of Newcastle.

Well March and April have been bad months, first we lost Bill Walsh, I represented the Unit, then I had two brothers go within a couple of weeks in

April, the three had been crook for two years.

I rang Basher while in Brisbane; Ron Archer must have been away.

We have had a dry autumn and not very cold. I pity the farmers, no feed just bare dirt.

At Bill's funeral the Anglican Church in Kempsey was full with people outside and many were at the cemetery for he was well known, being a taxi driver as well as later working at the R.S.L.

Spoke with Joyce Smith last week, she's battling, her tablets upset her at times. Happy rang this morning, said he got back from WA on Sunday and mentioned about the eulogy for Bill. Beryl told me when I rang her that Paddy had offered to do it for the Courier. He enclosed a couple of photos I took at the graveside.

Well I'll close now, say cheers and good or better health to all.

Use cheque how you like.

Regards, Amyce & Harry.

---

**J.P. Kenneally, Yagoona, NSW.**

I hope all our members survived the "Shot & Shell" on April 25<sup>th</sup> 2005, and the reunion at "The Good Earth". Come to think of it the most dangerous part of that day is wending our way home.

The 2.2<sup>nd</sup> here in Sydney Town was represented by Bill Coker at the service conducted at the Commando Memorial at the top end of Martin Place. Bill headed for home following that so I didn't see him. I never attend that as I attend Mass in our own parish at that time.

I fronted up for the march very doubtful that I could last the distance. It was a beautiful day in Sydney, cloudless blue

sky and warm. Gordon Hart and I were at the rear, a bevy of relatives of various squadrons, between us and the dinky di's up front, Gordon did it easily, and I wended and weaved my way, to the finish, being at the rear I had plenty of territory to 'wend and weave'!

The 1<sup>st</sup> Commando Coy. did the honours at the Custom House Hotel in Macquarie Place. The drinks were on the Commando Coy. I sat at a table in the open space fronting the pub with Gordon, his son and Gerald, Michael and later on Sean joined us there. Yvonne Walsh was also amongst those present, and Max Stahl who way back in November 1991 did the video of the Dili massacre. In fact Max is back in Dili once more engaged in putting together an archive of Timor's recent history. (I think!!) I was in good company and three minders to care for me; I made safe anchorage about 8 p.m. I had a good Anzac Day.

Alan Luby is out of hospital once more. I saw him a few days before he was discharged. He was coming along well and had walked about 400 m. on his remodified leg that day. It's a huge improvement on the earlier model.

I had a letter from Margaret Ronald. She is coping well with her present circumstance. She mentioned she had sent you particulars on Ian's history. I am enclosing a short par on Ian when he was with our Unit in case it is not in the information Margaret sent you. Beryl has posted me information on Bill. It hasn't arrived yet. I will attend to it when it arrives.

All our family is well, all kept very busy in their various pursuits. Nora and I have little to complain about in our life,

we have had a good run. All our best wishes to you, Delys and John and all our members and their families.

God Bless, Paddy Kenneally

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**A. & J. Mitchell,**

Thanks for the Courier. It was nice to get a call from Henry, please give him my kindest regards and hope he is much better.

The only photo I had when in uniform 1944, I sent over to go in the museum about 2 or 3 years ago.

After reading the vale on Mal Lindsay that Paddy wrote brought memories of Canungra. I was one of the 134 that joined the 2/2<sup>nd</sup> and flying in the DC3 in the Ramu Valley, the CO pilot came out and said if we hit the side of the mountain he would take all responsibility, my heart jumped as it was my first time in an aeroplane.

How are you both, I am able to see a little now. For over 12 months I could not see or read letters an inch big but now I can read the Courier which is great.

Please give all my kindest regards, will enclose a donation.

All the best, Allan & Joan.

---

**A. Beveridge, Toronto, NSW.**

Enclosed is a donation to the Association.

Unfortunately towards the end of last year my wife Heather went into a Nursing Home after a long period in hospital and can no longer stand up or walk. The nursing Home is close to our place so I am able to be with her each day.

Regards, Andy Beveridge.

**B. Richards, Roweville, Vic.**

Please find enclosed a photo of my father Edward 'Smash' Hodgson.

I was reading in the Courier of your request of photos for the upcoming book. I would be very interested in buying a book when it is published.

Enclosed also a donation of \$50.00 to help in funding the Courier.

Yours sincerely, Bronwyn Richards.

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**N. Wilson, Gilgandra, N.S.W.**

It is still so dry over here, desperate in fact. Surely rain must come but when. As you can see from my address I have moved to town. When offered a Legacy unit I decided to take it. I don't know how I will go with town life. I will always regard "Glen"- Lee" as 'home'. I have the same phone number though.

I still keep very busy with organizations such as Cubs etc but can go out to "Glen"- Lee" for weekends whenever I want and stay in my old house.

Sending a donation for the Courier - I do enjoy it.

Regards to all, Nola.

New address: 7 Townsend Drive, Gilgandra. NSW.

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**W. March, Attadale, W.A.**

Herewith enclosed a cheque for \$80, this being \$30 for the Courier and \$50 for the Timor Trust Fund.

I had a yarn with Alan Luby the other day. He seems to be coping okay but finds life quite difficult. I think he does marvelously well when considering his trouble.

Well this is written in haste, will catch up when out of hospital.

Regards, Wilf March.

**Pars on People.**

Bettye Coulson has moved from Buderim to Darwin for a few months. It is a family affair with Bettye assisting her daughter Robyn to look after four of her grand children aged 14, 15, 16, and 18 so Bettye is in for a busy time.

Robyn's husband Colonel Peter Davies is in his 3<sup>rd</sup> month serving in Iraq and is coping okay. The family is sending food parcels and books to Peter. It appears our men soon tire of the Yankee rations and look forward to a change of Aussie food. The Colonel is an old mate of Doug Hasson and sends his regards to Doug.

Good luck Bettye and keep your cool.

Arthur and Audrey Marshall report their Harvey home sustained a fair bit of damage from the big storms in the South West in May. Their main problem is getting tradesmen to fix up the mess. Apart from plugging up the leaks and replacing tiles blown away Arthur says it could take up to 18 months before things are back to normal. Meantime he has now switched from making his famous emu pies to Aussie meat pies which contain a bit of everything but are still tasty according to him. His book "Yes, There is Life Besides Cricket" should be on the market before Christmas.

Dick Darrington, who is off to England shortly, will be staying with his sister's son Roger Gochin, who is the principal of the North Hertfordshire College. Roger is responsible for 2500 full time and 14,000 part time students so Dick is not expecting to see much of him.

Dick and Jim Lines, two old boys of Fairbridge Farm School at Pinjarra, attended a memorial there on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May to honour the 55 old boys who

paid the supreme sacrifice serving Australia in World War II. Over 500 young men who had passed through Fairbridge served in the forces and did their bit. Andy Smeaton and Reg Alexander (Pinocchio) both original members of the 2/2<sup>nd</sup> who lost their lives in Timor were among the 55. Reg, a dispatch rider, was one of the first killed on 20<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1942.

Dick and Jim Lines (2/5<sup>th</sup>) who is also an honorary life member of the 2/2<sup>nd</sup> have known one another for 70 years. Jim came out from England in the Moreton Bay in October 1934, while Dick, who came out on the S.S. Baradine landed in Fremantle on Christmas Day in 1934. Both were 12 years old. As it happened their cottages on the farm were next to one another so their long friendship began. Jim left Fairbridge late in 1937, he recalls he was given a suitcase with spare gear and a train ticket to Babakin, a small town in the Central Wheatbelt between Bruce Rock and Corrigin. Instead he detrained at Billericay, a godforsaken spot about 20 miles South-East of Babakin. There was no-one in sight and after a long and patient wait some one came along and he eventually made it to Babakin to begin farm life. These were tough times and young men learnt the hard way.

Dick, who left Fairbridge in 1938, fared better and finished up at Bridgetown working in an orchard where he stayed until he joined up. After the war Dick returned to Bridgetown for a time before taking up a rehab course and becoming a baker.

Jim said all the boys from England came out dressed in a nice suit. When they arrived at Fairbridge, the suits

were cleaned and pressed and sent back to England and used again for another group.

Fairbridge Farm had a wonderful record second to none for assisting underprivileged boys and girls from the old country. That it receives strong support from old boys and girls who spent time there is a testimony of the great work it has done over many years.

Ron & Hazel Morris, from Weston ACT. recently celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary with about 100 close friends and family in the sergeant's mess at Duntroon. They met at HMS Collingwood in Hampshire, England in 1944.

Congratulations to you both and wish you many more happy years together.

We must have a new fan of the Courier in Canberra. Recently Sunny Daniels rang to say her December and March copies of her Courier "went off" from her letterbox. The copies were replaced and Sunny is now having the Courier sent to a PO number so all is well.

Sunny said Canberra is living up to its reputation with nights of minus 2"– 3 degrees common. Keep warm Sunny and God bless.

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### Sick Parade.

Ted Monk who has not been in the best of health for some time now, spent 13 days in May in Hollywood Hospital with pneumonia. He had a stint before this and apparently was discharged before he had fully recovered and thus suffered a relapse. Ted is on antibiotics and will be for a while. He intends to take things quietly and Peg, his good wife will see to that!

Ted said that Nan, the late Ron Dook's

wife, had passed away on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May after a long illness, which W.A. members will be sorry to learn.

Bluey Bone is still battling the 'Big C'. Blue has agreed to be a 'guinea pig' and undertake cancer trials over the next few months. Blue maintains he has little to lose and if it can be of help to others with the dreaded disease something worthwhile may come of it. Mary is battling on and deserves a medal for her devotion to Blue.

The good form shown this season by Hawthorn is a boost for Blue. Hawthorn has the potential to be a good team given time in my opinion.

Wilf March, another who has endured a long battle with cancer, went into Hollywood to have his left knee done. He had a replacement some years ago but the old knee has packed up again. Used to pain, Wilf is taking this setback well. Lorraine, who had a bad fall earlier in the year, is feeling a lot better – thank goodness. Keep your chin up Wilf.

As reported in the Victorian news Ed Bourke is going through a very difficult period. Ed's immune system is not functioning properly and as a result he has lost a lot of weight and has been in a private hospital for a number of weeks. It has been a very worrying time for Dorothy and the family. In late May his specialist put Ed on cortisone injections and hopes this will improve his condition. Our thoughts and prayers are with you Dorothy.

Clarrie Turner who is suffering from inflammation of the brain is gravely ill. He spent six weeks in Fremantle hospital in April and May but is now back in the Tranby Hall Nursing Home. Clarrie has lost a lot of weight and is

being fed intravenously to give his body some nourishment. Grace asked the hospital specialist to try tranquillisers on Clarrie to stop his shaking bouts and it worked. He now spends most of his time sleeping but at least he is coherent when awake which makes things easier for Grace and the family. Clarrie will be 88 in October – God bless him.

While on the subject of birthdays, Grace turned 80 and Gerry Green turned 89 on the same day - 31<sup>st</sup> May.

Our genial auditor and committee man, John Burrridge, had a nasty fall at his home on the 16<sup>th</sup> May and as a result spent 10 days in the Bethesda Hospital in Claremont. Fortunately he had no broken bones but suffered a severe bruising in the ribcage area. His doctor told him it would be at least 8 weeks before he is A1 again. John is a keen bowler and will miss his bowls.

Whilst on the subject of falling, Dusty Studdy came a cropper outside The Goodearth Hotel on his way to our Anzac Day luncheon. One of the ladies on the staff kindly rendered first aid and patched him up. Once Dusty had got a few beers into him he brightened up and was his old self humorous self. He would have been nice and sore the next day but he is as tough as nails and will survive. Falling is a hazard of the aged so watch your step all you oldies.

Ray Aitken will be 90 in November. He's been having a spate of blackouts of late. Ray said the only good thing about them is that he is still waking up afterwards. Blessed with a very active mind he remains keenly interested in a wide variety of subjects. Ray is also an avid football and cricket follower and is a good judge of both sports. A generous and loyal supporter of the East

Timorese people for many years, he is disappointed and concerned that things are not progressing as well as they should in East Timor. Many of us share his disappointment.

Les Halse tells me he has gout and that it's very painful. He was pleased to see his old Section mate Don Young be made a life member. Don had his photo in the local Manjimup paper. Good for you Don.

Ray Parry	May 5 <sup>th</sup>	82
Keith Wilson	16 <sup>th</sup>	84
Don Murray	18 <sup>th</sup>	84
George Parker	23 <sup>rd</sup>	91
Gerry Green	31 <sup>st</sup>	89
Jim Lines	June 4 <sup>th</sup>	83
Fred Humfrey	10 <sup>th</sup>	92
Jack Carey	19 <sup>th</sup>	83
Lionel Newton	21 <sup>st</sup>	84

### Courier Donations.

Clare West, Iris Rowan-Robinson, Peter & Pat Campbell, Rob Crossing, Margaret Ronald, Turton Family, John Burrridge, Bernie Langridge, Don Murray, Vince Swann, Terry Paull, Merv Wheatley, Robert Gregg, Harry & Amyce Handicott, Lois Davies, Ken & Edith Jones, George & Gloria Smith, Andy & Heather Bevridge, Allan & Joan Mitchell, Bronwyn Richards, Fred & Mavis Broadhurst, Wilf & Lorraine March, Nola Wilson.

### Trust Fund Donations.

Turton Family (Estate Don Turton)	\$500.00
Robert Gregg	\$100.00
Lois Davies	\$50.00
Andy & Heather Bevridge	\$100.00
Wilf & Lorraine March	\$50.00

### Birthday Boys.

John Burrridge	April 6 <sup>th</sup>	87
Colin Hodson	6 <sup>th</sup>	81
Vince Swann	9 <sup>th</sup>	89
Harry Botterill	12 <sup>th</sup>	85
Eric Smyth	15 <sup>th</sup>	85
Arthur Marshall	21 <sup>st</sup>	83

### Address Changes

Change - Mrs B. Richards,  
French Wing FB09  
Glenara Lakes  
390 Hobart rd,  
Youngtown. Tas 7249

Change - Mr. T. Foster,  
53 Waverley St,  
Mount Tarcoola, WA 6530 - 08 9921 4726

Change - Mr. T. Paull,  
Unit 4, 39 Shaw St,  
Kalgoorlie. WA 6430 - 08 9091 2719

Change - Mrs N. Wilson,  
7 Townsend Drive,  
Gulgandra. NSW 2827

Change - Mrs. S. Daniels  
P.O. Box 4156  
Hawker.  
ACT. 2164

A man was telling his neighbour, "I just bought a new hearing aid. It cost me four thousand dollars, but it's state of the art. It's perfect."

"Really," answered the neighbour. "What kind is it?"

"Twelve thirty."



## **ATTENTION W.A. MEMBERS!**

### **NORMA HASSON DAY**

**The Goodearth Hotel  
195 Adelaide Terrace, Perth.**

**Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> July**

**From 11.30 a.m. – 2.30 p.m. (Lunch at 12.30)**

**This is always an enjoyable occasion so be there hail, rain or storm!**

**Don't forget now.**

**\* \* \* \* \***

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### **'Debt of Honour'**

**This documentary on Timor was shown recently on Channel 9. It featured Paddy Kenneally and others and is good viewing.**

**It is now available on DVD costing \$40 plus postage. To obtain a copy ring Monica O'Brien on 041 241 4044 or write to:-**

**'Let's Play Productions', 193 Headland Road, North Curl Curl, NSW. 2099**

**Mary McKenzie who has a copy has kindly provided the above and carries her recommendation.**

**\$5 from each DVD sold goes to Life & Health Charity supporting needy women & children in East Timor.**



The Honour Avenue Group has completed refurbishing the plaques dedicated to our fallen in our Honour Avenue in Lovekin Drive, Kings Park. The Group has done an excellent job for which we are most grateful. The plaques shown are a random selection.

