



# 2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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President J. Carey, Secretary Mrs. D. Maley, Editor T.J. Vanderveldt

Vol 158

JUNE 2007

## IMPRESSIONS OF TIMOR LESTE & MORE ON AUSTRALIA'S ACTS OF BETRAYAL

In June 2004 I was privileged to travel with my father, Ray (Raymondo) Aitken on what was to be his last trip to East Timor, to deal with what he called 'unfinished business'. We stayed with Xanana and Kirsty (Sword) Gusmao in the hills just above Dare, in a little bungalow a few metres from their own modest family home. Both dwellings over-look the Dili Harbour. Dawn was quite magical to watch. Those big mountain spurs of land that shaft their way into the bay, shimmered in myriad shades of lavender to purples. As the sun climbed, the lavenders were infused with soft gold and the silhouettes of the big flat topped trees would metamorphose into brilliant tropical greens. A great silent symphony of colour, with which to start the day-Timor Lorosae indeed.

Kirsty and Xanana, with characteristic generosity, have given over part of their garden to two basketball courts, with another little one-roomed building dedicated as a play room, not only for their own children, but for those of the village. My father was soon firm friends with the village children, charming them with stories and his prowess in Tetum. By our third day, the children would play noisily under our windows in the early mornings and if Raymondo was slow to emerge they would resort to picking the long white trumpet-shaped flowers of the Datura and pop them, just like Western children play with burst balloons. So much for the warnings we are given as children, not to touch this plant as it will poison you! Watching this daily courtship we concluded that a human, even a small one, must have to eat a whole bush or suck at length on a cut stem, as our trumpeters remained very much alive!

## **From front page Venturing Out**

Each day we took a different route visiting many villages and towns which the 2<sup>nd</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> know so well. Here and en route we had long discussions with the people. We also took extended trips to Bacau, staying in Begea (where Xanana on his return declared freedom) and right out and up into the mountains to Turescai to visit Francesco Xavier do Amarel, of whom my mother and father were exceedingly fond. I recognized the names of many places and people. We grew up with these and with East Timorese guests in our home, so it was wonderful to finally see the real places and meet more of the people. We visited orphanages and schools, and saw where, in vital food bearing valleys, the Indonesians had sown rapacious and invasive weeds. We followed up some of my own interests meeting women weavers and embroiderers of tais. These were wonderful experiences, but tinged with sadness, given the appalling poverty and critical needs of the people.

Every where we went, people expressed their relief at freedom, their faith in Xanana. There was, however, anxiety about no work and growing concern about the harshness of Mari Alkateri and the suspected profiteering, nepotism and corruption of Rogerio Labato and his allies. We now, of course, have confirmation of how real these concerns were.

### **Politics & People**

Our nights had a more political flavour. We would discuss Timor Leste's needs and challenges with Kirsty and Xanana, Vicki Chong, (Jose Ramos Horta's very

dedicated and able chief of staff, Ramos was away at the UN in New York), with Arnold Kohen, American writer, & Bishop Bilo's official biographer, with Jose, (Nicolou Labatos's youngest son), now in the parliament and a host of other people helping with the reconstruction of this brave and fledgling democracy.

The most critical concerns were food, health, employment, the lack of any physical or social infrastructure and the need for adequate time to create the representative structures required at the local level for a democracy to be healthy and functional. Both Horta and Xanana entreated the UN and Australia to allow a two years period of transitional government before a full election. In an interview conducted on the Sunday Program, one of the Australian lawyers who assisted with ET's Constitutional Convention commented, that in his view, the Australian Government was dismissive of these very legitimate concerns about the time needed to establish the building blocks of a democracy. He felt that our government was in indecent haste to establish any government, just so they could 'get sign off' on the oil and gas.

### **Shake Down**

In an explosive new book *Shake Down*, Paul Cleary, (a former journalist & author specializing in economics, social and tax policy, appointed by the World Bank as an advisor to East Timor's PM in the negotiations) says Australia extorted East Timor over the oil and gas, threatening to hold out for 30, 40, 50 years. Cleary gives a gripping account of six year's of bruising negotiations between our own affluent nation and one of the poorest countries in the world.

Cleary says Horta's response was not to buckle but to counter:

Of course we are poor but we have a sense of honour, a sense of dignity of our rights.

Cleary says also, that during this period, the E.T economy went backwards four years straight, in per capita terms. This mixed with massive youth unemployment and the country's post-conflict situation, were the real ingredients for the slide into the recent violence we have seen on our TV screens.

The challenge now is to judiciously and as speedily as possible inject the resources funds into the economy to meet the people's needs and accelerate reconstruction. Wisely, Timor is following the Norwegian model, by placing half of the total into a Futures Fund to ensure Timor can prosper after the oil and gas resources run out.

The time for Australia to be a more moral international citizen focused on its own region, (and its historical debt to Timor) rather than squandering resources on blindly following the US into other parts of the world, is well overdue. The impending June Election will be a critical time.

**Jenny Beahan** (nee Aitken)

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**Vale**

**Archibald George Claney 02/07/23 to 23/04/07 VX 84174**

Arch was born in Kyabram 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1923 to Alexander George Claney and

Vivian Irene nee Dunn ( their 1<sup>st</sup> child) His parents had a mixed farm at Merrigum where Arch spent his first 4 years, they then shifted to the farming district of Balliang East which was situated 9 miles from Bacchus Marsh and 25 miles from Geelong hence his great appreciation of the Geelong Football Club and (God) Gary Ablett. Arch went to school at Balliang East with his two younger brothers Eric and Alf.

After leaving school Arch spent the next few years working on farms in the district, included in this work he drove one of the last teams of horses in the district this was the year when tractors took over from horses.

At the age of 18 years Arch joined the Army after spending 6 months training at Dandenong and Tallarook, he volunteered for a special training camp in Queensland. After 3 months intensive training he passed this course and was put in a unit known as 2/2 Independent Company later known as the 2/2 Commando Squadron. Early in 1942 at Townsville in Queensland Arch boarded the ship Duntroon for active service in New Guinea landing at Port Moresby.

We cannot even pretend to understand what he and his mates went through. Suffice to say, they ended up being part of the frontline defence against invasion for this country. They all did us very proud. After his war service he returned to Melbourne and worked making cutlery for Wiltshire.

Arch boarded at Ormond Street Kensington with Frank and Mabel Johnson who later became his inlaws when he met and courted their daughter Dawn.

Interestingly, after they had locked eyes, Dawn served Arch eggs, the one food he wasn't able to eat. What happened to the eggs we will never know. What happened to Arch is why we are all here.

They married on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 1953. Arch took on the role of father to Dawn's son Frank. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1953 Rodney was born. They lived in Ormond Street until 1954 when they shifted to Albion Road Box Hill where Arch then worked for his brother Eric as a building labourer. Stephen was born in 1955. They then shifted to Carboor in 1956. The farm was named Albion Vale after their Box Hill address.

Susan and Jennifer were born in 1957 and Elva and Peter in 1961. With the family completed Arch worked the farm at Carboor for 25 years being well respected amongst the Carboor Community. He helped with many projects over the years and was an active member with the Carboor Fire Brigade.

As well as raising seven children on a small mixed farm, Arch still found time to help his children develop by working from dawn till dusk and then driving them to activities such as scouts, football and night school. All of which was made possible through the support of his loving wife Dawn.

He retired to Wangaratta in 1980. He and Dawn travelled to New Zealand, Queensland and the Northern Territory before his arthritis took over and halted any more travelling. He kept his passion for the land going as he continued to manage Ross and Helen Jagger's property, a task he had undertaken when they had their Carboor Upper property.

Phillipson Street was the home where he and Dawn welcomed and loved grandchildren; where Arch enjoyed late night games of pool, where he grew his tomatoes, and his fresh flowers. In his later years he continued to enjoy his many grandchildren and eventually, great grand children. His passion for the Geelong Football Club continued with Dawn and his two sons Stephen and Peter. He played bowls with the Wangaratta Bowling Club for a few years which he enjoyed.

They sold their house and moved into a unit at St Johns where they found a new family with their Wren Court neighbours. They had weekly lunches which he enjoyed greatly.

Arch passed away peacefully on 23<sup>rd</sup> April leaving his loving family of Dawn, 4 sons, 3 daughters, 27 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. His funeral service was held at the Bob Garlick Memorial Chapel, Wangaratta on Saturday morning 28<sup>th</sup> April. Although the 2/2<sup>nd</sup> was not represented a nice tribute was paid to Arch in the Herald Sun by our Victorian members. So passed a fine Australian.



Arch served in our New Guinea Campaign in 1943/44 in No. 5 section under Colin Doig and New Britain in 1945 under Gerry Tuohy. He was a good soldier who always gave of his best. A generous and loyal member. Arch was made a Life Member of the Association.

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

Some nice verses were penned by his family following his demise. Jenny's read –

My memories of me and you are endless

The love and support that you showed me

during the bad times and the good was unwavering

Your guidance and strength of character

Influenced the person that I am today  
And I thank you for the way you loved me,

The opportunities you gave me

And the memories that will last forever.

**May He Rest In Peace**

**Lest We Forget**

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We regret to advise of the passing of Nina Grachan and Elsie Newton in April of this year.

Nina the widow of Alf (Deceased May 1981) passed away peacefully on 2<sup>nd</sup> April last. A lovely person Nina always maintained a keen interest in the

Association and attended a number of our safaris.

Elsie the wife of Lionel Newton of Broken Hill passed away on the 19<sup>th</sup> April. Lionel and Elsie were loyal supporters of the Association and also attended a number of our safaris.

The Association extends its sincere sympathy to the Grachan and Newton families.

Alan Luby lost his devoted daughter Peta who died in her sleep on 23<sup>rd</sup> May last. Her sudden passing came as a great shock to Alan and his other daughter Maria.

The Association extends its sincere condolences to Alan, Maria and family.

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### **LEST WE FORGET**

On July 1<sup>st</sup> 1942 the Montevideo Maru transporting 853 POW's and 205 civilians from Rabaul to Japan was sunk by the USS Sturgeon 60 miles off the northwest coast of Luzon in the South China Sea. The ship sank in six minutes and there were no survivors from those entombed below. The 2/22 Battalion and 1<sup>st</sup> Independent Company comprised the bulk of the POW personnel. Please remember them in your prayers on the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this great tragedy.

**'THE QUILT'****By Naomi M. Carey**

When we went to Melbourne in March  
2006 Delys presented her 21 year old  
granddaughter Naomi with a beautiful  
multi coloured quilt. Following Del's  
death 10 months later, Naomi wrote a  
moving poem "The Quilt" as a tribute  
to her memory. It reads -

You came to see me,  
Back when we weren't racing time,  
You felt my hair,  
And noticed how I'd grown.

Then the news came.  
Shocked the impossibility through us,  
Awakened us from apathy,  
And shook the Ground beneath.

We'd withstood bruises before,  
And overturned capsizes,  
But nothing of this caliber,  
Nothing that could break us.

Cancer attempted to hollow you out,  
Scraping at your cells,  
But it could not penetrate your soul,  
From where your strength would  
radiate.

You were not afraid,  
And even when medically sentenced,  
On you lived,  
Death was on your terms.

And now here we stand.  
And we are hollowed out,  
From the tears we cry for you,  
And the void you leave behind.

Whilst we had warning,  
And had no choice but to wait,  
Your final breath came all too soon,  
And we long for you again.

We will the air not to settle,  
It will feel empty without you,  
All you were to each of us,  
And perhaps what could have been.

We miss your face,  
Your inquisitive nature,  
Your hearty laughter  
And your gentle hands.

With these hands you made my quilt,  
Every piece stitched together,  
Like you hand-crafted our lives,  
Pulling each of us together.

Now I will wrap that quilt around me,  
And know that you hold me tight,  
And that we can't let unravel,  
All you've stitched together.

On behalf of the family I would like to  
thank all members and friends of the  
Association who kindly forwarded  
calls, cards and for their prayers and  
masses said for Delys. We will never  
forget how kind and compassionate  
you all were.

**God Bless            - Jack Carey**

## **ANZAC DAY AROUND AUSTRALIA**

### **Anzac Day – WA 2007**

An overcast morning with rain threatening did not deter a very large crowd from attending the Dawn Service in Kings Park. The crowds are growing every year which is an encouraging sign. As he has done for many years now Peter Epps laid a beautiful red double diamond wreath on our behalf. Thanks Peter. Early risers in Bob Smyth and John BurrIDGE did the honours for us at the Special Air Services Regiment Dawn Service at Campbell Barracks with Bob laying a lovely wreath on our behalf. Thanks Bob and John may you both be spared to carry on for many more years.

The combined Commando Squadrons march was notable for the decline in numbers of veterans taking part. Bob Smyth and Jack Carey were the only two from the 2/2<sup>nd</sup>, 'Speed' Jones 2/3<sup>rd</sup>, Harold Durant 2/5<sup>th</sup>, Dick Reddell 2/6<sup>th</sup>, Bert and Barney Baron 2/8<sup>th</sup> and Arthur Heyhoe 2/11<sup>th</sup>.

Sons, daughters and grandchildren of members helped to make the numbers marching respectable and it was good to see the young people so keen to take part in the parade. John Denman (Jack's son) and daughter Renaye, Neil Barnett and Nerine, Christine (Hazel's daughter), Mick Press, Paul Shearer, Helen Poynton and Julie Ann, Brian, Mark, David and Sheldon Chalwell with their 4 grandchildren and there were others whose names escape me.

Neil Barnett led our group carrying the Australian Flag with Mark Chalwell 2/2<sup>nd</sup>, Derick Cooper 2/5<sup>th</sup>, Dick Reddell 2/6<sup>th</sup> and Greg Sells 2/8<sup>th</sup> proudly carrying their double diamond squadron flags.

The march was a stop-start affair. We were supposed to have the support of the Midland Brick Band but it was double booked and we missed out. The warm welcome marchers received from the large crowd who came to see the march made up for the minor hitches. Conditions at Langley Park were ideal for the RSL Service which followed.

Don Murray and Jim Lines enjoyed the comfort of Lyn Laughton's car while Vince Swann, Dick Darrington, Peter Campbell, John BurrIDGE and Happy Greenhalgh relaxed in a minibus kindly arranged by Peter Epps. Peter goes to great lengths on every Anzac Day to see we oldies are well looked after for which we are most grateful.

Thirty five sat down to a nice luncheon at 12.45pm at the Goodearth. The presence of the WRANS next to us in the dining room made for a lively atmosphere. We were honoured to have the 2.I.C. of the SAS Regiment Major Chris Johns and the Adjutant Captain Gaven Peters at the luncheon. The bond between the Regiment and the 2/2<sup>nd</sup> has grown stronger over the years and it is something we all treasure. Speeches were kept to a minimum with President Jack welcoming all present and later our Vice President Don Proposing a

toast to the Regiment to which Major Johns responded.

It was good to see Peter Campbell and Vince Swann making the trip from Esperance. Peter was in great form and was well looked after by his entourage of Ian & Claire Campbell, Christine Cribb and Colin.

Others present were Helen Poynton and Julie Ann, Clare West, Dorothy and Lee Maley, Dick and Merle Reddell, Lyn and Andrew Laughton, Oliver Jones, Dick Darrington, John Cramb, Bernie and Babs Langridge and friends, Jess Pratt and Lorraine Puddey, Happy Greenhalgh (NSW), Jim Lines, Mick Press, Bob Smyth, John Burridge and Don and Ida Murray, Andrew Swann, Graham Scott and Matthew Brandis.

**So passed another Anzac Day – our 62<sup>nd</sup>.**

**What great days they have been!**

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### **Mandurah - WA**

The Dawn Service was well attended. A number of young couples with various aged children were in attendance. The Memorial in Mandurah is well situated with plenty of grassed area and ample parking space. It has a beautiful view as the sun comes up through the columns over the water.

The march was the biggest as far as spectators were concerned. Our contingent was small but our flag was proudly carried by Jonny Howell (Bill's

10 year old grandson) and Charlie Kings grandson Brendan. Paddy King led the way followed by Jock (a good friend of Len Bagley) a navy man who marches with us every year. Len attended in the motor cavalcade. In all there were 12 of us (the Howells and the Kings making up the majority). My grandchildren Jonny and Cassie (8) accompanied me in laying the wreath. The service was well conducted and our schools were very well represented which bodes well for the future of Anzac Day.

### **Elvie Howell**

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### **Victoria**

The weather was perfect for Anzac Day, and another excellent luncheon put on by the Victorian Commando Association, the organizers do a wonderful job to keep us together. This special day of the year gives us the opportunity of our small group to meet up and enjoy a few hours together. It was great to have Pat Petersen and sister Miriam all the way from "Fish Creek", others were Eddie & Dot Bourke, John & Shirley Southwell, Don Thomson, Margaret Monk, Harry Botterill & Mavis Broadhurst, all are well.

Fred has been in for day surgery and is okay, hope he will be able to move about a bit more. I heard Arch Claney passed away on 23 April, also Nina Grachan 2 April. I visited Nina in February and could see a big difference from my previous visit, also

Marj Cooper is now being looked after in Cheltenham Care Homes.

Best wishes to all from Fred and I, Take Care.

**Mavis Broadhurst**

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### **South Australia**

Kel Carthew reported only 9 marched in the South Australian combined group including Bob Williamson and himself from the 2/2<sup>nd</sup> (see photo on back page). Rex Lipman the adjutant of the 2/4<sup>th</sup> campaign in Timor led the march.

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From – The Special Air Service Regiment, Campbell Barracks, Swanbourne WA 6010 Dated 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2007

Mr Jack Carey  
President

2'2 Commando Association of Australia

Dear Jack

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for inviting myself and the Adjutant to the 2'2 Commando Association of Australia's luncheon on ANZAC Day 2007. It was a pleasure to represent the Special Air Service Regiment at this function and to meet former 2'2 Commando members, their families and other Commando unit members.

I would like to re-affirm the strong link the Special Air Service Regiment has with 2'2 Commando. As the

Commanding Officer stated at the Dawn Service at Campbell Barracks we consider the 2'2 Commando among the forefathers of our unit. Today we endeavour to emulate the fine example your unit set in East Timor in our current area of operations. Your courage, sense of mateship and professionalism in adverse conditions are an example to all Australian soldiers.

Thank you again for your invite and I look forward to seeing you next year.

Signed: Major C Johns

Acting Commanding Officer

Special Air Service Regiment

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### **An Anzac Day Thought**

This is not a Mother's day verse as such, but it is a verse about being a mother and a grandmother. I was inspired to write it after the ANZAC Day march this year. In particular, my inspiration came from the comment made by Lachie when I asked him how he felt when he was marching.

#### **SPIRIT**

My grandson marched this Anzac Day  
With his Mother and Pa

He's six years old and I wondered  
Would the distance be too far

My Daughter marched this Anzac Day  
With her Father and her Son

Emotional, but in control  
Her love of family strong

My Husband marched this Anzac Day  
 With his Daughter and Grandson  
 His Father's medals on his chest  
 So proud to put them on

And when the march was over  
 And we gathered one and all  
 I asked my Grandson how he felt  
**He said that he felt tall**

Now I do believe that the **Spirit** stays  
 When the physical body has gone  
 And the Great Grandfather would be touched  
 By the worlds of the Great Grandson

**Kindest regards**  
**Kerry Barber**

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### 2/2<sup>nd</sup> A.G.M. - 2007

Only 7 people attended our 62<sup>nd</sup> AGM HELD ON Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2007 at the Anzac Club. The attendance is an indication of the heavy toll taken on our members over those 62 years. In many ways we should be thankful that this fine Association of ours is still going and hopefully will carry on for a few more years yet.

Present were: Don & Ida Murray, Elvie Howell, Dorothy Maley, Bob Smyth, Dick Darrington and Jack Carey. There were 8 apologies.

The reports presented appear in the June Courier with the exception of the

Trust Fund which was in the March Courier.

The Committee appointed for the current year were:

President & Treasurer	Jack Carey
Vice President	Don Murray
Secretary	Dorothy Maley
Auditor	Eric Smyth
Committee	Elvie Howell, Dick Darrington & Colin Hodson

The Trust Fund under Chairman, Bob Smyth assisted by John Burrige and Bart Mavrick carry on as it has done under Bob's leadership since 1991 – a fine record indeed.

On Mr Smyth's recommendation it was unanimously agreed that Mr Mike Garragher who is the representative in East Timor for the N.T. Government be made an Honorary Life Member of our Association. Mike has been of immense assistance to Bob in his dealings with his Timor operations.

Mr Carey stated, as in the previous year, committee meetings would be kept to an absolute minimum.

Our four yearly events Anzac Day, The Norma Hasson Day, our Commemoration Service and Xmas Social, plus the Courier and the selling of our Unit History meant the committee was in for another busy year. It was pleasing to see two capable ladies in Dorothy and Elvie stepping in to help to keep things going.

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**GENERAL ACCOUNT****Statement of Receipts & Expenditure Year Ending: 31.01.2007****Receipts**

Balance as at 31.01.2006	2,429.16
Courier Donations	5,333.00
Social Events	1,831.00
Photo Sales	15.00
Badge Sales	60.00
Smailes Poem Sales	64.00
Bank Interest	<u>10.78</u>

**Expenditure**

Courier (4)	5,681.57
Social Events	2,500.45
PO Box Rental	159.00
Funeral Notices	396.11
Anzac Day	120.00
Listening Post	25.00
Commemoration Service	285.00
Admin Fees	150.00
Balance 31.01.2007	<u>425.81</u>

7,313.78

**9,742.94****\$9,742.94****INDEPENDENT TRUST FUND****Statement of Receipts – Expenditure – Year Ending: 31.01.2007****Receipts**

Balance at 31.01.2006	4,189.07
Donations	2,720.00
Bank Interest	<u>35.37</u>

2,755.37

**\$6,944.44****Expenditure**

Admin Fees	76.66
Balance 31.01.2007	<u>6,867.78</u>

**\$6,944.44****UNIT HISTORY BOOK FUND****Statement of Receipts & Expenditure Year Ending 31.01.2007****Receipts**

Balance as at 31.01.2006	10,819.53
Loans (4)	44,000.00
Sales of Book	73,198.30
Interest	<u>1.36</u>
	117,199.66

**\$128,019.19****Expenditure**

Author & Audit Fees	7,428.75
Printing Cost	45,629.10
Carton & Satchels	5,404.45
Box 11 Rental	121.92
Bank Charges	50.25
Sundry Postages	1,601.08
Loans Repaid (6)	59,000.00
Balance as at 31.01.2007	<u>8,783.64</u>

**\$128,019.19****Books on Hand 31.01.2007 - 886**



**PRESIDENT'S REPORT - YEAR 2006**

Another year has come and gone which at our stage of life seems next to no time. The loss of 10 members, fine men and all good Australians was received with regret and resulted in a further thinning of our ranks. We are now down to 75 members Australia wide and here in WA have 25 left. The average age of those in WA will reach 87 by the end of this year. WA is now the only active branch and it behoves us to keep the flag flying for a year or two yet which can only be done per medium of the Courier.

Despite our much loved Editor, Delys having to step down 4 Couriers were produced and a good standard was maintained. The reward for those involved in its production is in knowing that those who receive the Courier, particularly our women folk, enjoy being able to keep in touch with the Association family. The generosity of those good people who contribute to the Courier's upkeep is boundless and I can assure you is appreciated by we in WA.

Our 4 main functions Anzac Day, The Norma Hasson Day, The Commemoration Service and Xmas Social all went off well and were fully reported on in the Courier.

Regarding Anzac Day, we now march as a combined commando group with our members marching falling away to a mere trickle. It is therefore encouraging to see the sons and

daughters joining in and taking their fathers' places. It should ensure that our flag will still be flying proudly for many more years yet.

Don Murray's appeal at our last commemoration service seeking support for the sons and daughters to come forward and take up the reins to keep this our most important service going was most timely. A number of the younger brigade spoke to me afterwards and said they were willing to play a part in seeing the service does continue. Your committee will be following up their offer between now and our next service.

The Trust Fund under Chairman Bob Smyth, John Burrridge, Bart Mavrick had another frustrating year trying to get some sense out of the Timorese heirarchy and mainly due to Bob's perseverance the 21,550 packets of seeds finally reached Sister Guillermina of the Canossian Sisters in February. The Trust Fund is to be congratulated for a very fine effort - well done!!

"All the Bulls' Men" written by Cyril Ayris our war history was launched at the Legacy Headquarters in South Perth on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Thanks to the untiring efforts of our members and their good ladies, not forgetting John Burrridge and his wife Margaret, the launch was a great success. The remaining months were spent selling some of our 2,000 books which cost \$100,000. to produce. Suffice to say a satisfactory result was achieved as

between 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2006 and 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2007, 1,100 books were sold and \$73,000. collected enabling us to pay off \$59,000. kindly loaned by a small number of members. I would like to thank Tom Foster for his fine effort in selling 90 books and to Elvie Howell who not only provided her home to store 800 or more books but also posted out most of those ordered – Well done Elvie. Thanks also to Don Murray, Dorothy Maley, Bob Smyth, Peter Epps, Henry Sproxton and Ed Burke who also made a worthy contribution. To all our members, widows and friends, thank you all for your support.

On taking on the Presidency I advised members I intended not to have many committee meetings, one reason being my Vice President Don Murray and committee member Elvie live in Mandurah and another factor being our age. From memory only one meeting was held. Del's illness made for a very trying year and I would like to thank my committee and many others in the Association who kindly offered their help and support.

We have a very fine Association. Let us hope it can carry on for a few more years yet.

**God Bless - J. Carey, President**

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#### **EDITORIAL REPORT - 2006**

Four Couriers were issued in the past year at a cost of \$5,481.57 made up of \$300. for typing, \$900. for printing - \$200. postage and extras

approximately \$1,400. per issue. 336 copies are posted out to members, widows, relatives and friends of the association. When Delys took ill in April it was necessary to find someone to do the typing. Ms Evelynne Collins of East Fremantle was engaged and has done all the copy of the computer for the last 3 issues. Her charges are quite reasonable. The response from donors has once again, been tremendous with donations totaling \$5,333. leaving a short fall of only \$350. for the year which is most satisfactory considering our declining numbers. Our objective should be to keep the Courier going for at least another 2-3 years, God willing. Members are asked to contribute articles of interest to ensure a 32 page Courier is maintained. My thanks to Tom Vanderveldt our printer, Maureen Baker, Evelynne Collins and others who have assisted me during the past year. As for donors thank you one and all for your continued generosity. Thanks also to Paddy Kenneally, Margaret Monk, Happy Greenhalgh, Mavis Broadhurst, Harry Botterill, Alan Luby, Ron Archer, Ker Carthew and Bert Price for their newsletters in the past year.

**J. Carey**

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#### **AUDITORS REPORT - 2006/2007**

I have checked the Statements of Receipts.

Expenditure for the year ended 31.01.2007 of the 2/2<sup>nd</sup> Commando Association showing –

General Account balance of \$ 425.81

Independent Trust Fund \$6,867.78

Unit History Book Fund \$8,783.64

In my opinion these statements are correctly drawn up in accordance with the books and records produced to me. I have not been in a position to physically check books and goods on hand at 31.01.2007.

**E. Smyth – Auditor 19.03.2007**

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## **STATE REPORT**

### **MACLEAN – NORTHERN NSW**

Dear Jack – most of my constituents are in good health or reasonably well for our ages. All are still happy to be with us. So we should. Tom and Jean Yates have unfortunately lost a son. He had some years ago been in rather a bad car accident from which as far as I can gather he was affected. Tom has flown to Melbourne where he lived. I think he had not quite reached 50 years – too young.

Jean's arthritis is under control but not too good on the feet. Finding the little 4 wheel walker invaluable. I found mine a marvelous little tool. You both have sympathy from all.

Beryl Cullen also from Kyogle has shifted from her place of abode at Afterbee into Kyogle and is finding the change a bit of getting used to. Beryl continues to have reasonably good health. Jack has her new address. Dianne Cholerton at Evans Head is still going and is one also using a walker. Couldn't do without it she said, still supported well by daughter Julie.

May Orr from South Grafton is well and keeps active. May uses her computer and says its been a great help in keeping the old brain working. I'll have to get one if it will keep my brain working which I think has slipped a bit.

Eric and Lorraine Herd from Iluka are both well. When I rang Eric was out in the boy's shed having a couple of O.P's with a mate so I rang back later. Can't interrupt important occasions like that.

Beryl Steen is okay and well. I was lucky to contact her at daughter Debbie's. Her son put some of Jack's history on the internet and Beryl has had some response from old mates all over. Has had a couple from America. All remembered him as a good bloke. We know.

Another Beryl – Beryl Walsh from Kempsey is well and keeping busy. Has a son and I think a grand daughter staying with her which is good. Also she looks after her sister who lives next door and is not too well. It's not a bad thing to be kept busy.

Nola Wilson from Gilgandra is also one who keeps busy. Nola is a person who keeps active in local affairs and spent this weekend Saturday and Sunday at Coonamble examining for their pony club – says she's really out of that stuff now but a lady who was supposed to do the job pulled out to attend a wedding and they asked Nola at short notice to do the job. You're a pretty good Citizen – Nola.

Edith Jones from Barraba was not at home but I tracked her down at Chris's place on the Gold Coast. She'd been there a month I think she said and would stay another couple of weeks and knowing how cold Barraba can get I'd stay a couple more months.

I actually got in touch with Chris on his mobile and you'll laugh – he was at the Australia versus Wales rugby test match and he gave me his home number to ring. I think he'd have been disappointed in the footy.

Russ Blanch rang me this morning and he's going alright. Was going down the street to get some coriander seed and solvent paint. Now there's a pair. Anyhow daughter Ellen wanted some decent coriander grown for the ship and Russ had to start painting one of the rooms. No ladder stuff mate.

Harry Handicott and Amice are okay at Newcastle where Harry keeps in touch with Snowy Went who is also okay. Lube will probably report on them too.

Keith Wilson of Booker Bay is well. I rang him for his birthday a couple of weeks ago and he is keeping well. Gets about a bit does Keith, plays snooker with his local RSL Club and enjoys life. It was good to talk with him.

Gerry Green had his 91<sup>st</sup> birthday last week so I rang and wished him more of them. Gerry sounded very well and had just had a wonderful roast lamb birthday dinner. More of them!!

Gordon Stanley is well as is Joan who had been off colour recently. Gordon

said he was saying to Joan I must give Happy a ring when I beat him to it.

I'm okay and the weather here is perfect between 22 and 25 the last 3 weeks. Eat your heart out you Southerners – Keep Well. **Happy**

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## BRISBANE NEWS

Dear Jack, Sheila Conley - by the time you all receive your next "Courier" Sheila will have had her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Absolutely wonderful and congratulations from all of us. She is also very well – her family too and still enjoys a game of social bowls from time to time. Ralph is still holding his own and is as keen as ever with his competition bowls. They are looking forward to their November around Australia boat trip and catching up with their many W.A. mates.

Allan & Joan Mitchell are in fair health. Allan's eyesight is very poor and this limits what he can do. He attended the local Anzac Day Service and still visits the R.S.L. from time to time. He misses his local 2/2<sup>nd</sup> mates.

The Andrew family have suggested that he contact our local Caloundra war widow Lois Davies.

Bill & Irma Connell are also in fair shape but need some medical help from time to time.

Recently Lyn and I welcomed Peter & Iris Perrott and Bill & Joan Gibbs (2/4<sup>th</sup>) to morning tea at Lyn's Retirement Village and they caught up with what is going on in East Timor from our 2 visits there last year. On the 28 March

we attended the Canungra Memorial & Commando Day Ceremony (Q'ld Commando Association). Our government plans to keep our jungle warfare training camp and is spending millions on upgrading it including a brand new Sergeants Mess which is presently under construction. We are normally invited to have lunch there but on this occasion had it at the Canungra Hotel. We showed our E.T. information to all members here too including Royce & Audrey Gardiner (2/4<sup>th</sup>) and Kath Francis. Her husband Lex (2/4<sup>th</sup>) has sadly a bad case of dementia but their son also attended. He is a serving army officer – a major and gave us an interesting address. Jack Jones in Melbourne is the present sheet anchor for the 2/4<sup>th</sup>. I was the only 2/2<sup>nd</sup> there and also the only 2/2<sup>nd</sup> marcher on Anzac Day. Twelve marched last year, 11 this year and maybe 10 next year.

Bettye Coulson has just had an operation but is very much on the mend now. In fact she will be off to visit her Darwin family shortly. They have started to build a new house there. Our Bettye never seems to take off her running shoes!

Edna Vandeleur is almost blind, but otherwise in good shape. George and she moved into their retirement village 14 years ago – how time flies. She sees Bettye who lives near her about once a month at meetings.

Seems to be all for now. Best wishes to all our mates now and always.

Ron & Lyn, Toowong, Brisbane, Queensland

## **UNIT HISTORY BOOK REPORT**

In the 12 month period from our book launch on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2006 to 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2007, 1,200 (60%) of our stock of 2,000 were sold. This was a satisfactory effort and the committee is most grateful for the support it received from members and friends of the Association.

As mentioned previously the books cost \$100,000. to produce. We need \$26,000, equivalent to the sale of another 420 books to break square. We concede that our history should have been written at least 20 years earlier when our membership was around the 300 mark – it is now 75.

To promote sales we have decided to write to all the main library centres throughout Australia asking them to add "All The Bull's Men" to their stock. Some already have, but the majority would probably be unaware of its availability. With the prompt support of Ralph Conley, Ed Bourke and Kel Carthew lists of the libraries in Queensland, Victoria and South Australia are to hand. Don Murray has already obtained the WA list while Alan Luby and Bert Price are working on obtaining the NSW and Tasmanian lists. Each letter sent out will contain an application form, the review from The Bulletin and a covering letter. Our target is to have all the letters posted by the end of June. We are confident that 12 months from now very few will be left. We have the copyright under the Act which I'm told has a 99 year

tenure. It could be of value in the future probably long after we have moved on. Should any member have an idea to increase sales please do not hesitate to ring or write in. Readers of the Courier can assist by letting their local library know about it or recommending the book to their friends.

Wish us luck. **J.W. Carey**

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### **INDEPENDENT TRUST**

#### **VEGETABLE AND SEED PROGRAMME**

Civil unrest, gang violence, looting and arson remain in isolated areas of East Timor. Movement between centres and villages is hazardous unless accompanied by official strength. Accordingly Sr. Guilhermina of Canossian Convent Dili is reluctant to distribute further seeds pending a hopefully quieter, safer period following the 30th June Parliamentary elections.

Three areas have received allocations as gratefully acknowledged by letters to hand.

a) Artauru Island – the original penal settlement for unfortunate political dissidents.

b) Three agricultural schools in the South East Viqueque Region.

c) LAHO Agricultural Training Centre, Bacau district.

Sister Guilhermina is fully committed to the care and welfare of 7,000 hungry homeless refugees who are terrified at the prospect of return to

their villages in the present circumstances.

Mike Gallagher at our request is approaching Major Doug Hasson, based in the Bacau district to determine if his duties would permit involvement to effect distribution by troops with who he may be associated. Doug has been a strong supporter of our Association and well known as the son of our late member Jack who featured prominently in 2 sections defence of the Dili Airfield where the Japanese first attacked East Timor.

**Bob Smyth**

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Correspondence Received: May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007

To Mr Robert Smyth

Independent Trust 2/2<sup>nd</sup>

Commando Association of Australia

Northern Territory Government

Dept of Business, Industry & Resources Development

From Mr Heinz Josef Heile

GTZ-RDP (Rural Development Program) Timor Lests

Subject Horticulture Seeds

Dear Sir – I would like to thank you very much for the horticulture seeds. With your seeds we were able to support three schools in the south eastern region to plant vegetables for their school consumption.

Two schools are managed and supported by the Franciscan's Sisters in Natarbora and Wai-laluhu. The

other schools which received the seeds are the agriculture school in Natarbora and a group of 40 women who are presently trained in home gardening and improved nutrition. They are mainly coming out of the Baucau and Viqueque District.

In all of their names, I like to thank you once again.

Yours sincerely

Heinz Josef Heile

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Mr Mike Gallagher, Representative for NT Government in East Timor, Box 2135, GPO Darwin NT 0801

Dear Mike – Life Membership 2/2 Commando Association of Australia. We wish to acknowledge and thank you for your endeavours on our behalf during turbulent periods to establish, co-ordinate and maintain effective communication for the safe receipt of seed shipments, despite via a questionable East Timor administration. Also for the monitoring of subsequent safe distribution to areas of most genuine need in East Timor.

Our President, Jack W Carey and members of our 2/2 Commando Association of Australia, have supported a recommendation of our Trustees that you be invited to become a Life Member of our Association.

We are most pleased to welcome you.

Signed: Sincerely, Bob Smyth,  
Chairman Independent Trust Fund

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Laho Timor-Leste  
Mr Robert Smyth OAM  
Independent Trust

2/2<sup>nd</sup> Commando Association of Australia  
Dear Robert Smyth – On behalf of LAHO  
I am writing to express to you and the 2/2<sup>nd</sup> Commando Association of Australia our appreciation for your generous donation of Yates vegetable seeds. I would like to mention the positive impact this donation has created not only for LAHO but also the wider community and in particular the veterans of the resistance who fought for Timor-Leste's Independence.

As you would be aware the recent political and rice shortage crisis resulted in a number of unfortunate events taking place. It is my belief that the action and support taken by you and the 2/2<sup>nd</sup> Commando Association of Australia has provided veterans, schools, farmers and women support through the distribution of vegetable seeds during this time providing hope and acknowledgement of people living in the districts.

Helder Guterres LAHO's community liaison person and a well regarded veteran with strong links with the mountain communities is responsible for the distribution of the seeds and he has expressed appreciation for the solidarity of the veterans.

On behalf of LAHO staff, veterans, families, farmers and local community members, I would like to express our gratitude and our heart felt thanks to you and the 2/2<sup>nd</sup> Commando Association of Australia, your commitment to support many veterans to find a place in the nation they helped create and ultimately providing prosperity, peace and stability to the local community.



Yours in Support of Timor-Leste -  
Signed Louise Higgins 22.03.2007  
International Advisor, LAHO 'Loron Aban  
Hahu Ohin', The Future starts today'  
Sericulture/Agriculture Training Centre,  
Triloka, Baucau, Timor-Leste  
Beloi Village, Atauro Island, Timor Leste  
19.02.2007

2/2<sup>nd</sup> Commando Association of Australia  
c/- Mike Gallagher, Dili

Atauro Island, 35km north of the capital  
Dili in Timor Leste, was previously a  
prison island in both Portuguese and  
Indonesian occupation because of its  
isolation, harsh environment and lack of  
water. Dissidents were sent here and left  
to survive. Today the locals of Atauro,  
out of sight and mind of the mainland,  
continue to survive and eke a living from  
the sea and limestone mountains.

This wet season, with a rainfall total to  
date of 150mm over the past four  
months, has reminded the people of past  
times of hardships and survival. One  
meal a day of gathered fruits, leaves  
from certain edible trees and the  
occasional fish reminds the population  
to not exert unnecessary energy and to  
change work habits.

The gift of seeds from the 2/2<sup>nd</sup>  
Commando Association of Australia has  
been a prayer answered for the people  
of Beloi Village on Atauro Island. For 10  
local trainers recently trained for 2 years  
in organic agriculture, specializing in  
home gardening this gift comes at a time  
when most needed and appreciated.  
Seeds are a gift of life, and in this  
situation a sign of hope.

On behalf of the Beloi community on  
Atauro Island Timor Leste – Thank you.  
Thank you – You have remembered us!  
We will never forget!

Signed: Lino Marques Sarmento, Local  
of Beloi, Atauro, Timor Leste, Agriculture  
student at Dili – National University.  
19.03.2007

### Kapyong 1951

In April Ray Parry was holidaying in  
Thailand when he was contacted by  
Channel 9 who said they were doing  
a feature in 60 Minutes on the battle  
of Kapyong which took place in April  
1951 in Korea and they would like him  
to be in it. Ray accepted, was flown  
business class from Thailand to Seoul  
in South Korea. There he was  
interviewed telling what he could recall  
over the fighting at Kapyong in which  
his battalion, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Royal  
Australian Regiment played a leading  
role for which it received a U.S.  
Presidential Citation. Ray then flew  
home and then to Victoria where he  
met an old mate, Kevin Simms who  
was with him at Kapyong. The feature  
duly appeared in 60 Minutes just prior  
to Anzac Day and was well done and  
well worth seeing.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 1951 Ray's company, B  
Company was assigned a long scrub  
covered island feature flanked on both  
sides by paddy fields and which was  
likely to be one of the main targets by  
Chinese advance from the north. The  
Chinese launched an all out attack on  
the Battalions position on the evening  
of the 23<sup>rd</sup>. At about 4am Corporal Ray  
Parry in charge of a light machine gun  
out post on a knoll behind B  
Company's perimeter saw large  
numbers of the enemy forming up for

an attack. Fifty or more Chinese tried to clear the knoll which would have given them a dominating position overlooking the main company positions. Corporal Parry with his handful of men smashed three determined attacks killing 23 Chinese and holding the position. For this brave action Ray was awarded a Military Medal, an award he duly deserved. Ray served a year in Korea with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion before returning home. His father who lived to the grand age of 97 was in one of the first boats ashore at Gallipoli. Eleven in his boat were killed before they hit the beach. A member of the 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion, his father went on to serve on the Western Front and somehow survived it all.

The Parry Family certainly did more than their share of duty for our great country.

**J. Carey**

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### **“SAFETY MEASURES” – East Timor 1942**

By October 1942 East Timor particularly in the western end of the small island was to put it bluntly in “one helluva mess”. Black columns from Dutch Timor along with rebellious natives in East Timor were running wild and many innocent people, young and old lost their lives. In desperation the Portuguese who were on the receiving end in all of this chaos approached the Japanese to see what could be done to protect their people. The Governor, Manuel Ferreirade Carvelho who was stationed in Dili finally got the Japanese to agree that

a zone of containment which would include towns of Licquica and Maubara be established.

Captain Antonio Liberato in his book “The Case of Timor” writes about his trip to Dili to meet the Governor:

At this time on the following day, I was informed that an agreement had been struck between the Government and the Japanese forces, to create a zone where all the Portuguese would be concentrated. They had not as yet defined the limits of that zone, but it was known that it would include the towns of Liquica and Maubara.

Due to the agreement I was told by the Government to take all the necessary steps to move the army detachment to the Administrative area of Liquica as well as the chiefs of the administrative posts and all the Europeans that wanted to do it. The move only would take place after receiving the orders to do so, unless some unexpected facts would cause it to happen before. Together came the following proclamation of the Governor.

“The very difficult situation the Colony is going through at this very moment and the position of serious risk that the Portuguese, all over the territory of whom, unfortunately a lot of them have already lost their lives, forced the Government of the Colony to find a way of protecting their threatened lives, to avoid a bigger number of victims. Being impossible to find efficient means to resist to the gangs of rebels which, armed, threaten to successively cause a bigger number of victims we had to accept the

solution to concentrate all the Portuguese in a zone where their lives will be protected and where will be avoided that the Portuguese continue to be slaughtered. The Colony's Government, ever within the highest belief that our sacrifices, as yet, enormous, will return good for our Country and will finish to be able to triumph, emotionally salutes all the Portuguese and thank them in the name of our Country, for all the sacrifices they have gone through and all the irrefutable testimonies of great patriotism they have been giving through the difficult times. The Government expects, and that is asked to all Portuguese in the name of the sacred interests of the Nation, that, facing the new sacrifice that is imposed to them, all keep united within great calm and great discipline, today more than ever indispensable for us to be able to successfully face this situation. Only united, with discipline and calm and putting aside everything to think uniquely in the imperious necessities for the conservation of the Portuguese Timor and the protection all of us, we will be able to face the enormous difficulties of this moment. The Government of the Colony does expect this from the uncontestable patriotism of everybody."

On the 4<sup>th</sup> November, I went to Dili to talk with the Governor. Accepting the request I had made some days before, he authorized my trip to the capital. The Sergeants Freitas and Coelho stayed with the troops in Ai-Fu.

In Liquica I was met by Juares. Together with my 12 year old son we took a seat in the car and departed. It

was early 8 o'clock if that much. Before the Comoro river, Japanese sentinels coming by surprise from the bush on both sides of the road, forced the car to stop every 100 metres. Suspicious, they carried out meticulous inspections and asked question after question. With his usual good humor, Juares answered, clever, fast and able, he did conquer the difficult spirit of the "yellows". He joked with them. Although this unusual vigilance surprised him. It was not normal. In a multitude of trips that he had done between the two localities, he never noticed so much precaution. I entered the city. Everywhere, enormous craters, product of the explosion of the bombs; homes destroyed, blackened walls licked by the flames; wood half burnt by the fire, the zinc of the roofs perforated and spread around the proximity. The grass growing freely, giving out the look of abandon. Here and there decimated ruins, the entrances to the anti aircraft shelters could be seen, dark and sinister. Some destroyed, reduced to a heap of rubble, bags of soil disemboweled, denounced a right on target bomb. The telephone lines were lying everywhere in all directions. On the roads' intersections and close to the commands, the soldiers on guard duty, protected themselves from the sun, seating was under rudimentary huts covered with grass, while the sentinel saluted us with the typical bow. Palm tree leaves throughout the grounds were spread to camouflage the streets of the city.

The conversation with the Governor was short. During the conversation it was decided that the army detachment would ingress in the zone of concentration, recently created. Before that though, I should go to Talo to talk to the fugitives of Fatu-Bessi. I would attempt to dissuade them of abandoning Timor.

The concentration zone, urgent necessity, imposed by the afflictive situation that the Colony was going through would comprise the areas of the administrative post of Liquica and Maubara. All the Portuguese would be concentrated there. The military detachments, mine and the one under the command of Lieutenant Ramalho dos Santos, would set up camps in Boibau, area of Liquica and in the mountains of Maubara with the mission of defending the integrity of the zone from the attacks of the indigenes (natives). Each Portuguese could keep a firearm in his possession for personal defense. Those whose functions would force them to stay in Dili would be residing in the hospital with Dr Carvalho, in Lahane.

It was said that these were the dispositions in relation to the concentration of the Portuguese, taken in Agreement with the Nipponese command.

The lack of transport, forced me to stay in Dili for the night. I would return on the following day with Jaime de Carvalho.

In the morning we left from Lahane. We crossed the ruins of the city with no problems. A little before the airstrip, a sentinel did not allow us to proceed. An officer attended and asked us for

safe-passes. Jaime gave them his. My son and myself, we did not have one. Looking at the paper repeatedly the Japanese directed himself to a nearby house where, after a few moments we could hear an excited conversation. He must have been communicating by phone what was happening. Meanwhile groups of soldiers encircled the car. One seeing the keys of the car on the instrument panel pulled them out and threw them to the side of the road with a gesture of contempt. They forced us to alight the car. I sat on the mudguard while they meticulously inspected the car. They inspected us as well. A paper with no importance they found in my pocket exhilarated them. They took it to the officer. Soon he approached us talking and gesticulating. They didn't give the piece of paper back to me. The official directing himself to Jaime made him understand that we needed the safe pass from a "tuan bessar" (important personality) to be allowed to leave. While saying this he played with his mustache with both hands as if he was smoothing it up. The important person he was talking about certainly used a big mustache, for sure.

Through the streets there, we went looking in every corner trying to find the whereabouts of the "tuan bessar". It was useless. The man with a big mustache was not found.

We went to the Consulate. The Consul being informed of what was going on had a sneering laugh. What is going on we asked each other? As we asked him he described a piece of paper. Now they will let you go he guaranteed. Happy, we came back to the sentinel that stopped us and we

showed him the paper. He called the official. At his order 3 armed soldiers came and jumped on the foot board of the automobile. They ordered us to start moving and showed the way. Through palm trees, they took us close to the beach. Close to a group of trees we stopped. The soldiers jumped off the foot board and behind us the metallic sound of the opening and closing of breeches. They were loading the shot guns. A cold shake ran through my body. My son Jaime and I we looked at each other. Softly we said: "It's now!!" We knew that this was the place they used to kill the ones that became suspects to them. Seconds of excruciating uncertainty passed. I had no courage to look back. Close to my son, I waited, calmly, the supreme moment.

Suddenly a roaring motor was heard. Ahead of us an airplane appeared that after a few manoeuvres above the thick bush formed by the canopies of the palm trees, took the direction of Atauro Island. At the order of one of the soldiers, we turned back. A sigh of relief escaped from our chests. Our time wasn't over as yet! We approached the road where the official was waiting for us. He declared that we could not go to Liquica. We had to stay in Dili until the following day.

Without the company of the soldiers we returned to Lahane. Our return surprised the Portuguese. They thought we would be far away already. We had left in the morning. What happened? We told them of our adventure. Never anything like this happened before. What animal would have beaten the Nipponese? Until

then, there were no problems in traveling between Dili and Liquica. The "yellows" were almost indifferent.

On the next day we were called to the Japanese Consulate. In the consul office were already 2 Japanese officials and the Administrator of the Council of Dili, Engineer Canto.

One of the commanders had a heavy face and emotionless looked at us with a disguised indifference. The other was talking with Mr Canto. He was a Lieutenant and his name was Takeocha. It was said that he enjoyed great influence within the armed forces.

We sat in front of the two officials. The consul sat at the head of one of the tables that occupied the centre of a square facing the Administrator who was sitting on the opposite end. The atmosphere was heavy and enervating. We felt as if we were in the presence of severe judges of whom were pending our heads.

The conversation started between the officials. They discussed. They got excited. They did not up. Sometimes I thought they were going to fight. The yellowish face of the commander showed a slight reddish colour. From the moment to moment he looked at us with hatred in his eyes. The Takeocha got up and talked to the consul who respectfully got up from his chair. Anxious, our eyes converged on the official. Sustaining our breath, we waited for the verdict. We felt our lives were pending from the words that would come from his mouth. His eyes semi-closed, fixed on to the floor, he exchanged a few words with the

consul. He turning to us, pausingly said:

-Monsieur Liberato peut aller a Liquica avec son fils.

And, after a short pause:

-Et Monsieur Jaime, aussi.

We would depart in the afternoon. Although we could not use the road up to Comoro. To pass near by the airport was forbidden to the Portuguese. We had to take the way to Fatu-Meta far away to the slopes of the mountain and there follow the Comoro river bed down till you get to the road Dili-Liquica. In the future, this was the way available, free to the Portuguese. As the track needed some work to allow the traffic of cars, teams of Japanese workers would come with us to take care of those works, declared the consul slowly, in his perfect French.

Because of a big thunderstorm we couldn't leave. We had to stay till the following day 7<sup>th</sup> November.

In the company of the Lieutenant Takeocha and 10 Japanese soldiers in the possession of spades and picks transported by jeeps, we left the capital in the morning.

The track of accented descent to the river bed, was impracticable. Soon, the Japanese transformed it into a soft ramp and through it, Jaime, an experienced driver drove the car. While the soldiers were working Mr Takeocha using a pair of binoculars searched the area (mountains) around him. The Australian guerillas could appear suddenly and in that gorge we would be unavoidably slaughtered.

Once we got to the river bed the Japanese left us alone and returned to Dili.

In Liquica they were expecting us with apprehension. There was a disturbing announcement waiting for me. From Ai-Fu came the information that on the night from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup>, the detachment, victim of an audacious coup, lost the machine gun Vicker's and respective ammunitions and the solipeds. The sergeant Carvalho, that accompanied me up to Ai-Fu and stayed in Liquica waiting for my return received the information of what happened from the sergeants Freitas & Coelho. On the 5<sup>th</sup> he phoned to Dili, by concession of the Japanese asking for the information to be passed on to me. The Administrator of the Council was called by the Nipponese that informed him of the occurrence and requested my immediate return. I do not understand why Mr Canto did not inform me. The sergeant's return was taking too long so the sergeant used the couriers to take the news he received from Ai-Fu to me first by car and after by foot. No results. The Japanese didn't allow them to pass.

NB: The Portuguese and loyal natives remained in the Zone of Containment until the war ended in August 1945 – a period of nearly 3 years.

**J. Carey**

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### Dare Memorial Site

The above which was dedicated back in April 1969 is now a derelict site. The plaque paying tribute to the peoples of East Timor for the help they gave



the men who served in the 2/2<sup>nd</sup> & 2/4<sup>th</sup> Companies back in 1942 is the only presentable feature remaining.

A move is afoot to build a Memorial School on the site. Yvonne Walsh a widow of our former member Vince Walsh who is involved in the proposed project has kindly provided the following information.

### **AIM**

Preserving the Memorial of the Australian War Veterans of Timor Leste

Educating the children thus promoting a better future for the next generation

Creating the means to achieve long term sustainability of the entire site.

**A School** For the 400+ students who will attend classes in their usual 2 shifts per day.

The total construction area of the School is 702m, comprising:

7 classrooms with 24 seats

2 classrooms with 30 seats

A Teachers lounge

plus a reception area,

male and female toilets,

a playground.

### **Pros. Cons .**

1. The community has demonstrated their ability to organize and to manage their school

2. The community supports the proposed project 100%

3. Land ownership has been awarded to the community by the government of Timor Leste for this purpose.

4. The Ministry of Education and the Department of Land & Property also support this initiative.

5. Support for the project has been pledged by the Australian Government, by the Australian Veterans and by Rotary Clubs in Australia.

6. Professional and technical support for the architectural design and engineering has been volunteered for the project.

NB: Regarding Item 5 The Australian Veterans are yet to decide what assistance they will give. This will be discussed when the project is under way.

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### **PARS ON PEOPLE**

Young people fall in love and it's grand. The elderly simply fall and it hurts. Mavis Sadler had a fall recently just prior to her birthday but is not revealing much other than to say she is now on the mend. 'Suffer in Silence' is our Mavis' motto. Take care Mavis. From the many reports received from our members and their good ladies in recent years the 2/2<sup>nd</sup> have had more than their fair share of falls. The more serious ones can take ages to heal. So watch your step you oldies, and keep your fingers crossed. Good Luck

John Chalwell has had a tough 6 months. He is now in a nursing home. John suffers from dementia and is finding it difficult to settle into his new surrounds as so many do. A severe



attack of shingles which his doctor did not pick up earlier on gave him hell. Olive reports John is improving and is moving around more freely. Olive does not enjoy the best of health herself. Our thoughts are with you John and Olive.

Len Bagley is another who has been in the wars. After a holiday in Canberra where he met up with his brother Len, had a stroke on the 9<sup>th</sup> May and after lying on the lounge floor all night finally finished spending a week in Hollywood Hospital. Fortunately he was lucky and is now able to move about ok. He then underwent a painful operation on his eyes followed by an internal check up which topped off a month he would like to forget. Len takes it easy, enjoys a whiskey and would welcome a call or two from his old mates **on (08) 9535 6186**.

Ladies are nearly always reluctant to divulge their age which of course is their privilege. This is the reason why we never introduced a "Birthday for Girls" section in the Courier, besides if we had would the ages shown have been fair dinkum?

Males are more concerned with their virility than age and when that vanishes they become a lot quieter and give far less cheek. However the ladies to "lift the curtain" on certain occasions, one being on attaining the grand age of 90 years. In May of this year two of our lovely ladies in Sheila Conley of Queensland and Kath Press of New South Wales celebrated their 90<sup>th</sup> birthdays in style with their families and friends. The Association extends its hearty congratulations to

two special ladies. May you both be spared to enjoy many more happy years with your loved ones.

Now in his 91<sup>st</sup> year, Bernie Langridge is finding it very difficult to get around . Bernie is in good spirits and always welcomes a call from his old A Platoon mates on 9313 0307. Babs keeps herself busy preparing morning and afternoon teas for a regular stream of visitors and sees to it that Bernie is well cared for. They are a lovely couple.

Dick Darrington has moved from Koondoola to Quinns Rock which is about 40kms north of Perth on the coast. It means Dick has had to find a new watering hole and will restrict his visits to Perth. Dick has served on the committee for many years and seldom misses any of our functions.

His new phone number is **9305 7513**.

Our two regulars Wilf March and Henry Sproxton continue their battle with life. Wilf has lost the sight of his right eye, takes medication 7 times a day and is in continual pain. Henry is in a constant state of giddiness but still manages his daily chores including cooking which he is quite good at. Wilf has Lorraine who is his Guardian Angel while Sproxton's friends especially Keith and Val Hayes who help him along. Their courage is an inspiration to those of us with health problems.

Les Cranfield who along with his devoted wife Verna spent time in Timor helping out the Timorese in a critical period under Indonesian occupation is gravely ill with cancer. Our thoughts and prayers are for Les and Verna, two

fine people who were always willing to help the less fortunate. God Bless.

**J. Carey**

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### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Dear Jack, I have been going to do this for months and order another 'Book' for a grandson who has been bringing a yacht from Thailand. His father told me on Saturday he is East of P.N.G. so I had better get going.

We are just on the edge of colder weather, although some lovely days, a couple of mornings of fog – it is a shame the rain doesn't get inland on the East-West coast.

Had a yarn with Snow Went last week also Esse Veovodin. Alan keeps in touch. I must give Happy a shout. We are going okay. Amyce is forgetting a bit more and I go for a driving test next month – here's hoping.

Cheque to cover book and post and a bit for the Courier.

Please send book to our address.

Cheers and keep well  
Amyce  
& Harry Handicott, Hamilton NSW

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Dear Jack, Rain blessed rain all the way from far western NSW to the coast. It won't break the drought but it will alleviate the lot of our long suffering farmers and rural communities and we hope increase the flow of water in our chain of water hole rivers.

I made it to the NSW Commando Memorial Service at the Commando Memorial in Martin Place. Alan also made it. A good friend drove him from Dee Why to the service. Alan and his

walker did the rest. We didn't have much time together as I was going on the march and Alan was returning to Dee Why RSL.

Now don't take the above to mean I proudly hobbled along from Hunter St. to Liverpool St. My backside was sitting in the back of an army four wheel drive, the boarding of which taxed the ingenuity of the driver and 2 big hefty mates. I was easy being only about 60kgs at the most. The other 3 were big well padded boys and at one stage I thought the army boys would call up a crane. The job was finally achieved. Sitting on the back of a jeep is nice and easy however it cannot compare to pounding the street and pretending we are in step. No. 1 Commando Company put on the eats and the grog for we oldies at the Custom House Hotel in historic Macquarie Place near Circular Quay and there was plenty of both.

Michael attended the Dawn Service in Martin Place. Gerald and son Daniel attended it at Bass Hill RSL. Sean attended it in Gundagai then drove to Sydney to join us at the Custom House. When I was a youngster I sold papers in that hotel and invariably I would see Kingsford Smith having a drink there with friends. None of them ever bought a paper. I haven't sighted Gordon Hart for almost 3 years. Harry Britten was the only 2/4<sup>th</sup> man. I was the only 2/2<sup>nd</sup>.

I had 3 minders, Michael, Sean and Gerald plus Daniel. We didn't finish until it finished which was about 2 hours after the last WW11 man left. We went up to the Palacade in Millers

Point and had one last schooner then caught a taxi to Yagoona. Believe it or not I crawled out of bed at 5.45am next morning and hobbled off to mass. A spiritual act for the men no longer here.

Sean will be flying to Ireland on May 18 so Nora and I will be guardians to a couple of lively kelpies. Fortunately we have a big block so they will have plenty of running around area.

Helen, Peter and family are going to Ireland in June then on to the continent. When they come back I should be starting at a few litres of Jamesons Whiskey and Nora should have a good supply of Barry's Tea. I don't drink the whiskey, visitors drink that.

Best wishes to all our members wherever they may be, naturally that includes their families to the 3<sup>rd</sup> generation.

Our parish financed a new school in the village of Goubiin between Balibo and the West Timor border, total cost US\$21,620.70. The old school had collapsed a couple of years ago. The parish paid for a new roof for the school at Fatu Bessi, raised A\$20,000. for that so there must have been some left over for other necessities. This Easter a special collection raised \$2,400. dollars for Timor alone. There was more for a couple of orphanages in India. The Timor share was given to the Josephite Sisters to help in their educational and health projects in Timor.

Ramas Horta as you know won the vote for President quite easily (69%) I believe Xanana Gusmao will now be

free to form his party for the elections later in the year.

The State or Origin rugby league game will be on tomorrow night. I don't know fully who made the training squads but Billy Slater is not part of the Queensland squad and if they can afford to leave a player of brilliance out god help NSW. I think NSW are depending on Brown, Qld on speed. If I really knew the make up of the teams, I don't so I'll make a prediction guess. Speed versus BrAwn. I'll go for speed. Best wishes to all.

Paddy Kenneally

(NB: Gerald and son Daniel and Michael are regulars at the Dawn Services. I have never attended one. JPK)

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Dear Jack, I am sending you the Eulogy from Arch Claney's funeral, Don and I were unable to attend the funeral and I was very sorry about that. We were at Geelong at a Horticultural Judge's weekend and it had booked and paid for months ahead. We also took two ladies with us so were committed for the whole weekend. The funeral was on the Saturday am. We went to Geelong on the Friday and home on the Sunday.

I spoke to Arch's daughter Sue on the phone a couple of times and then Don and I went up to Wangaratta on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May to Don's daughter's for two nights and we visited Dawn on the Wednesday. am. and called and saw Sue on the Wednesday evening. Dawn was really pleased to see us and was very bright. She is very happy in

the Nursing Home wing. She has numerous health problems and as Sue told me won't recover, but she is comfortable and happy there, so that is really good.

Kev and I had lots of happy times with Dawn and Arch over the years, we stayed at their home in Carboor and also at Philipson Street in Wangaratta.

Harry and Olive Botterill and Wilma Tobin were often with us and after a night with Dawn and Arch we would all set off for Young to Keith and Betty Craigs to their Weekend Safaris. Great times to look back on.

Don and I went down to Melbourne on Anzac Day. We went on the V line coach with Pat Petersen and Miriam Van Dyke. Harry was the only one marching. There were ten of us 2/2 at the lunch, Mavis Broadhurst, Eddie and Dorothy Bourke, Pat Petersen and sister Miriam, John and Shirley Southwell, Harry Botterill and Don and I, it's always nice to get together. Colin and Wendy left for their overseas trip on Saturday, and are now in Singapore for a few days before going onto Greece and Gallipoli and then to England.

Robert and Cathy leave on the 12th June for a six week trip to England, Denmark and Sweden.

About all the news for this time. I have been trying to ring Leith Cooper to find out how things are going for them. He has had the Shingles so was feeling very miserable for awhile.

I must sign off to catch the mail, but before I do I must thank you for the card you sent with dear Delys's photo.

All the best for now, Don joins em with regards to all.

Love Margaret.

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**This short verse appeared in the February 1952 issue of the Courier Which Are You**

There are two kinds of people on the earth today

Just two kinds of people, no more, I say;

Not the sinner and the saint, for it's well understood,

The good are half bad, and the bad are half good.

Not the rich and the poor, for to count a man's wealth

You must first know the start of his conscience and health;

Not the humble and the proud, for in life's little span

Who puts on vain airs is not a counted man.

Not the happy and the sad, for the swift flying years

Bring each man his laughter and each man his tears.

No, the two kinds of people on earth that I mean

Are the people who lift and the people who lean.

Wherever you go, you will find the earth's masses

Are always divided in just two classes;

And, oddly enough, you will find, too, I ween,

There is only one lifter to twenty who lean.

In which class are you? Are you easing the load	Gerry Green	31	May	91
Of overtaxed lifters who toil down the road?	Jim Lines	4	June	85
Or are you a leaner who lets others bear	Fred Humfrey	10	June	94
Your portion of labour and worry and care.	Jack Carey	19	June	85
	Lionel Newton	21	June	86

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### A Happy Birthday to you all!

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There are probably more lifters these days especially with those who signed A.W.A's

**J.Carey**

ANON

### Change of Address:

Dick Darrington  
4 Bellana Place  
Quinns Rock WA 6030  
Phone: (08) 9305 7513

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### COURIER DONATIONS

Nora Wilson, Joy Chatfield, Reg Wilson, Oreil & Victor Murray, Kerry Barber, Dick Barrington, Bernie & Babs Langridge, Jim Lines, Don & Ida Murray, Bob & Margaret Smyth, Clare West, Harry & Amyce Handicott, Nellie Mullins and Essie Voevodin

Mr P Craig  
PO Box 43  
Ebden, Victoria 3691

Mr W Tobin  
10 Childers Street  
Kew, Victoria 3101

Mrs B. Cullen  
25 Droon St  
Kyogle NSW 2474

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### TRUST FUND

Ian Scott	\$ 50.00
Kerry Barber	\$100.00

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### Sad News

Larry LaPrise, the man who wrote "The Hokey Pokey" died peacefully at the age of 93. The most traumatic part for his family was getting him into the coffin. They put his left leg in - and then the trouble started.

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### BIRTHDAY BOYS

John Burrige	6	April	89
Colin Hodson	6	April	83
Vince Swann	9	April	91
Harry Botterill	12	April	87
Eric Smyth	15	April	87
Arthur Marshall	21	April	85
Ray Parry	5	May	84
Keith Wilson	16	May	86
Don Murray	18	May	86
George Parker	23	May	93

**W.A. MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE**

Our Annual mid-year function

***NORMA HASSON DAY***

Will be held at the  
**Goodearth Hotel**  
**195 Adelaide Terrace**

on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2007  
from 11.30am - 2.30pm (Lunch @ 12.30pm)

This is always an enjoyable occasion so be there Hail, Rain or Storm!!

**DON'T FORGET NOW!**

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**ATTENTION ALL N.S.W. COMMANDO MEMBERS**

A luncheon will be held at the

**DEE WHY R.S.L. CLUB**  
**On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2007**

11.30am for 12 Noon Lunch

Families of all Commando Squadrons are welcome!

**If you are attending please ring Alan Luby on 9981 3287 by Wednesday 12 July, 2007.**

**HOPE YOU CAN MAKE IT!**





*Photo of this special One Dollar silver coin produced by the Perth Mint to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the forming of the SAS Regiment in July 1957.*



**Anzac Day – SA**

*Left to right – Bob Williamson and Kel Carthew 2/2<sup>nd</sup> and a member from the 2/6<sup>th</sup> squadron*