



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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TIMOR, where people are born to die for Hope

Grace Pham's magnificent documentary film "A Hero's Journey" opens with Xanana's narration of *Esperancas Rasgadas*, one of his many poems. The dramatic language of Xanana's prose is as confronting as the panoramic landscapes of the film are breathtaking. My title "Timor, where people are born to die for Hope" is borrowed from his poem. I would like to explore this poetic idea in relation to John Burridge's apt questioning of Australian Government policy on refugees – Courier editorial of June 2003 – which is as relevant today as it was then.

2006 was a tumultuous year for the people of Timor. During my three and half months immersion there (September-December) I witnessed the stresses and strains experienced both by urban folk and by subsistence villagers. The majority of time I spent mostly in and around Dili, but I also traversed the southern coastal isolated districts of Uato-Carabau and Iliomar, plus Los Palos thence to Baucau and took separate trips into the heartland mountains of Soibada and west to Liquica and the border Districts.

It became apparent that there are many layers to Timorese culture. Districts have their own identities and dynamics according to their geography, their access to water and their historical fate during the bloody Indonesian occupation. Of significance is whether camps for Internally Displaced Persons had become established in some of the Districts. Dili of course, is an aberration – the nation it is not, but Dili is the *macrocosm* of Timor's troubles.

Currently within Dili and throughout the Districts, a desperation driven by hunger is now the defining common experience. Security of food is a securities issue in itself with the end of year 'hungry season' the natural outcome of cyclical pestilence and drought. Now scarcity of the staple rice adds panic to daily stresses. In 3 weeks in February, the price of rice more than doubled "example, in Ainaro, a 35g bag of rice cost

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- \$19.50 1st week
- \$35.00 2nd week
- \$45.00 3rd week

Last October in Dili, I paid \$8.50c for 25kg bag, US dollars of course. In Dili on February, the UN World Food Program warehouse was besieged and looted of 700 bags. Camp dwellers are pressuring their Chefs reporting to aid providers, to inflate population numbers in their IDP camps as a hedge against continuing scarcity; and distribution of relief to Districts now requires UN POL, Police involvement – armed security to get food to the people.

Another disposition I discerned in views expressed by Dili folk was that there was a rejection of shared Timorese identity and purpose and a readiness to heap blame upon distinct others for all ills. Typical of this disposition were forthright young male taxi drivers wanting to practice their English with me. They would declare variations of “Timor Leste rubbish now, no good government, politics korupsi (*sic*), only bad times no future now, Timorese people like Iran and Iraq.

This apparent polarization of Timorese society along a geographical-identity division has taken many by surprise (well those of us who are not as well read as our elders). That internal political conflict is eroding national unity is, sadly, a failure of trust and characteristic of overwhelmed psychology – a phenomenon of displacement and loss of autonomy. So there are now significant numbers of Timorese sufficiently desperate, angry and unafraid of punishment, aligning with factional loyalties and engaging in violence as a means of meeting basic needs as well as settling

grievances. There is no doubt Timorese feel profoundly disaffected, disillusioned and disempowered by unmet expectations of their government and of their politics. Trust and belief in the UN ‘Mission Accomplished’ of 2002 bestowed promise and hope for self determination – renewal, justice and economic improvement were anticipated. But events throughout 2006 unraveled the hastily patched together institutions for governing. The failure of these institutions has sponsored the bitter disappointment of post-Independence reality.

Maintaining solidarity with the people of Timor is as critical now as it ever was given the escalating conflict as context for the coming elections. History shows that hunger and impending elections do not auger well. We bore witness to the years of trauma endured by the people of Timor and to generations of children born into such a culture of mistrust and fear. I like to think that we have learned that the greatest fear is fear itself – and to understand its manifestation in the ‘fight-flight’ response.

In his Courier editorial, John Burridge rightly interrogated Australian Government attitudes towards Timorese refugees. Given the Government’s shameful treatment of fleeing people in the recent past, and given their current punitive policies and practice, we should make ready **our terms of engagement** with officialdom in order to enable support for Timorese who may seek asylum in Australia. We will not abandon Timor to become a place where people are born to die in hope.

Yvonne Langley Walsh 26 Feb 2007
Widow of Vince Walsh (1919-2003)
2nd Independent Company 1942

VALE: Andrew Robert Beveridge - NX106299

15 August, 1906 - 6 December, 2006

Eulogy delivered by Roger Peters at Andy's Funeral Service held at the Chapel at the Lance Macquarie Memorial Park on 22 December 2006.

I have been asked to offer the eulogy today at this memorial service for Andy. When I was asked a few days ago I was in fact stunned. Of all the people in Andy's life I probably feel the least deserving of this privilege. I will speak this afternoon of the gifts and generosity he has brought into our lives.

Sometime ago now Michele and I started working with war veterans and their partners, this is a privilege as it allows us to in part repay and be thankful for those people who have gone before us and fought for this country. Indeed, Andy and Heather are those sort of people, but a little of that later.

As part of getting to know these folk we ask people to nominate some things about their lives, their thoughts, their dreams, and one of the questions we ask "Who is your partner's most inspiring person?" The answer to that of course varies but when it is our turn to respond and I answer on behalf of Michele, with hesitation I say "Andy Beveridge".

Like many of you here today my wife Michele's relationship started when she was just an infant, in her case three years of age, this was in days gone by when people left their door open, and could make themselves at home in anyone's place. As the years have progressed so Michele's relationship with Andy and Heather took strong root, and that gives us the reason that we are here today and

you all of course have your own story. We like you, have just one regret, that we didn't spend enough time with our Auntie and Uncle Andy, but then in the end who doesn't have that regret?

What I want to achieve today is try and just give an overview of this wonderful man that Michele refers to as "the most inspiring man she knows". Andy was born on 15 August, 1906 and grew up in Hamilton, but as an adult Waratah, Merewether and finally Toronto. Close to them both geographically and emotionally are Trevor and Barb. What a wonderful couple they have been especially in the more difficult times of the last 2 years.

Trevor, I think will agree though, that this has also been an opportunity to repay Andy who became his mentor in 1956, as mentor Andy encouraged him to continue with his education and become an educator instead of his original idea of simply being a physical education teacher. Incidentally, I think Trevor regarded, Margaret Bragg and Michele Callachor here today as his tormentors! Trevor and Barb have been undoubtedly the children, like Trudy, John and Peter that Ted and Andy never had.

Heather and Andy met through friends in the War; Andy was a lieutenant in the Commandos and let me tell you after 32 years in the Army and Army Reserve myself you don't get in the Commandos without being tough. Previously in the Militia (today the Army Reserve), he served overseas in New Guinea in the war, and Andy was heroic. I need to say it was that strength of character displayed then that undoubtedly helped him and Heather to shape so many lives. Heather and Andy have been devoted to each other longer than I have been alive. You

see they had the ingredients for a great marriage, ie: affection, always affirmation for each other, but they were of course the best of friends.

Then over twenty years ago came Trevor and Barb's two children Kate and Sally. They were Andy's pride and joy, lets face it all of the kids became Uncle Andy's "children", including my own, all were treated as special. Yet these two were the grandchildren they never had. In Sally's case Andy and Heather cared for her while Barb worked, but how about this, Andy actually came home from his work to help at lunch time – he never ever knew that in a way he was one of the original, the new age sensitive guy, although he would kill me for saying that!

Em Glover kindly explained to me the fine business man Andy was, returning to the "timber game" after returning from the War – so Andy followed in his father's footsteps, with Earp Woodcock and Beveridge, then onto Maitland Timber which saw him on the Board, even after retirement. They bought out many firms including the well known Hunter firm of Sorby's and then they were later bought out by BBC Hardware – who I think were taken over by Bunning's. So Andy's business life provided the basis of a great piece of the history of the hardware industry of Australia, it is of course pioneers like him who have made Australia great, but too many like him are too easily forgotten. This was at least recognized on retirement with a life membership of the Master Builders Association.

Of course there are families and relatives who know so much more, Robyn whom he loved, and who is here today, Norma,

Heather's cousin. Norma married Bill and they had Trudy, Peter and John – Peter and Trudy will be speaking later, but in catching up with Trudy the other day, and talking about Andy we discussed the many stories of his life. It is hard when you hear so many tales, to remember them all, or even to pick which one to talk about today. Is it about how Andy selected a car, ie: whether or not he could get in and keep his hat on? Or his ability to take always the opposite view, even in the footy, backing the Broncos instead, even against the rabid supporters of the Knights? Or perhaps it was the origin of his response when questioned about his intentions, or reasons, his answer of course was "that's all you need to know".

The families that have been changed and enhanced by Andy's life, the Hopkins, Dunne and Grant families will be forever touched and are too numerous to mention. All of us remember how welcome we were for instance on Boxing Day, and this of course included the cricket – black and white TV, plenty of beer and champagne. He was indeed a party man. He was part of the original awesome fours-some at Donillo's restaurant in Hamilton; indeed this alone gives testimony to the fact that he was to use today's vernacular, "a party animal". I should share with you that once when coming him in the days when you did in fact drive after a quiet drink, Heather apparently said to Andy, "You are so slow, even the pedestrians are overtaking you!"

He was a patriotic and powerful person, he gave his best to his business and to his service in the army, as well as to his family, even at Fig Tree Aged Care Home everyone referred to him as the "Lord

Mayor”, they regarded him as the perfect gentleman. Indeed he was.

Perhaps I have said too much, even too little, maybe I have been out by a year or two, even missed out an important name, for that I apologise, but to use one of Andy’s favourite sayings,
“That’s all you need to know”.

Roger Peters

Andy received his commission early in 1940 and became a Lieutenant in the 2nd Battalion AIF in June 1940. He joined the 2/2nd in May 1943 and served in our New Guinea Campaign as leader of No. 3 Section. Tom Foster, Ken Monk, Arthur Marshall, Ernie Bingham and Colin Hodson were among the members of a fine section. Andy was respected and well liked by his men and was a good officer. In November 1944 he became an instructor with the 16th Australian Infantry Training Battalion and was discharged the following year.

Andy always maintained a keen interest in the Association affairs, being a loyal and very generous member. He was awarded Life Membership in 2003.

“Lest We Forget”

The Association extends its deepest sympathy to Heather and family.

Vale -Delys Winifred Carey

5 January, 1939 – 7 February, 2007

A Tribute to Delys

One Talk Belong Me

It wasn’t till the 70’s that I met Delys. Eric and I were present at a 2/2nd “do” and I felt someone looking at me. I looked around and I knew – here was someone I wanted to know. How many years later,

through reunions, meetings, excursions and funerals, I farewell Delys as my special “One Talk Belong Me.”

A “One Talk” in New Britain, (my birthplace) as many of you know, means someone who is a special friend, who shares with you and whose thoughts are similar to one’s own.

Delys was lovely to look at, had a sharp mind and a wicked sense of humour. She was a top class organizer, talented in arts and crafts and a lynch pin in the affairs of 2/2nd Commando Association across Australia. She was friendly towards everyone. I have made many wonderful friends both men and women of the 2/2nd Association and I never heard a negative remark passed about Delys.

What is Success?

To laugh often and much

To win the respect of intelligent people, and the affection of children,

To earn appreciation of honest critics and endure betrayal of friends

To appreciate beauty

To find the best in others

To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social position

To know that even one life has breathed a little easier because you have tried,

This is to have succeeded

(R.W. EMERSON)

“One Talk Belong Me”

You were a success.

From Twy - with Love

**Vale -Alex Voevodin Tpr. QX 33813
26th September 1921 - 23rd December
2006**

I am sorry to be late in sending you Alex's life's history. I have already sent you the Eulogy you requested. This will be a bit different and I will leave it up to you if you think it would be of interest to be included in the Courier.

As you could imagine I have had great difficulty in compiling Alex's history, so many interruptions and enquiries and trying to organize his affairs etc. – did not give me much time to be able to even start writing, however things are starting to settle down a bit now.

Alex was born in Brisbane 26.09.1921 to Vladimer and Glafira Voevodin who had immigrated from Russia in 1912 and they had a large family of 12 children, Alex being the 7th son. There were 9 boys altogether and 3 sisters. It was a tough upbringing and all had to find jobs as soon as they were able. Alex soon learned how to survive but also that he was expected to do his part in helping the family to survive also. They lived at Cannon Hill which was close to the Brisbane River and Alex soon learned to fish and help his dad who was a keen fisherman. The river teemed with fish in those days and their baskets would be full in no time. They sold their surplus fish to the crews of the ships that regularly anchored near the abattoirs. They anchored their own boat some distance in the river and Alex's job was to swim out and row back in. He often told us he was a skinny little kid, scared of the sharks which haunted the abattoirs nearby so he would have to dive in and make as much noise as possible to hopefully scare them away. He always said there wasn't any need of swimming

lessons and he was an excellent swimmer which must have helped him cross those rivers in New Guinea and New Britain.

The love of fishing was instilled in him early and remained all his life and after his war service he joined the Camp Hill Fishing Club and eventually became Captain. These were very happy times for Alex and all the members especially the wives and children who were treated to enjoyable picnics with competitions and prizes for the children. After a period of years the club disbanded but Alex and his fishing mates continued to have their weekends away at Stradbroke and Frazer Islands – living as fishermen do – coming home all bearded and smelly but usually very happy to have the eskies full of fish.

To take up the story of Alex's education, he attended the Cannon Hill State School until Junior level and showed early on an aptitude for carpentry and manual arts. There are many examples of his skills which he made for his mum and she kept for many years. Alex loved fine timber and after leaving school he worked locally in a veneer factory and gained more knowledge of matching the patterns and grains in the wood. The work itself was quite dangerous – there were huge vats of hot water in which the logs were dunked, very heavy work for a young lad of 15. Alex stayed there until better opportunities came along and eventually found himself in Kyogle NSW.

He had left home after an altercation with his father who wanted him to become a boilermaker. For 18 months he and his mate lived rough, shooting rabbits and kangaroos for the farmers and doing the odd jobs farmers always needed young

men for. Alex would have been by this time 17-18 years old and already a crack shot.

Was it coincidental that one day soon he would be defending his country?

On coming back to Brisbane, his brother Fred got him a job with him at the abattoirs and Alex became a butcher, learning the trade which was a great help to us after we were married, meat was always cut just so, he was an excellent cook and not afraid to take over the kitchen when I was tied up with the children. Later on we invested in a butchers shop in Maryborough in partnership with his brother Victor, also a butcher and it was quite successful until the brothers decided to try other avenues.

Alex found during his time at the abattoirs that you had to be tough and strong to survive. Unfortunately the abattoirs employed all types and there were many fights and arguments. Alex broke his left arm breaking up one of these fights and it caused him much trouble, being broken and reset twice and leading to rejection when he went to enlist in the army. The first time, much to his disgust, they gave him a disability badge and told him he would not be called up. At this time 5 of his brothers were already in the Services, one a POW. He threw away the badge and tried again, this time successfully on the 31 December 1941.

For a short time in 1942 Alex was enlisted in 15 Garrison Battalion as Private No. Q123426 latter enlisting in the AIF. By the end of 1942 he was transferred to the Armed Corps. Ord. W-Shops and trained for a short time in NSW mainly in the mountainous terrain across the border. Back in Queensland in 1943 he

transferred Aust. Indept. Coy. training in Wondal and Canungra. By this time he had another number QX33813 and became Trooper Voevodin. From his army records it seems he joined the 2/2 Commando Sqn. 26.02.1943. I feel it is not necessary for me to go into detail about his war time experiences as the book "All the Bull's Men" describes the campaigns very accurately. All I can say is that Alex loved the army life, the mateship and the feeling of being in one big family was something he talked about to his grandsons in later life. He was very proud to be one of the 2/2 and kept his original double-diamond colour patch and his dog tags on their original cord among his treasured army paraphernalia.

As the war ended and Alex was waiting for his discharge he was put to guarding Japanese and Indonesian prisoners at Fort Lytton. It must have been a test of self control for him as his brother Tony, known to have been taken prisoner in Burma was still missing (later to be found by the Red Cross working in a coal mine in Japan). As one prisoner said to Alex "If I run to get over that fence would you shoot me?" The answer from Alex "Try it", and I have no doubt he would have.

It was no surprise to anyone that Alex had signed on to stay in the army for another 12 years but we did not know about it until years later. It apparently was still on file but he had heard nothing more about it. Unfortunately his health deteriorated soon after discharge and cerebral-malaria and pneumonia laid him low and kept him in Greenslopes Hospital for several months. Maybe this was the reason the army never contacted him as they would have been informed, even though he was discharged.

On recovery he was advised not to go back to his old job at the abattoirs and was offered an apprenticeship in the building trade, as tradesmen were very much in demand for the coming housing boom. Alex accepted immediately and was soon joined by brother Tony now in better health after his ordeal in Japan and they both did the course together for a few months.

We were all married by this and starting our families and our futures were looking bright after the lean and austere years of wartime and the brothers were eager to get started in the building business. It was tough trying to survive on an apprentices' wages but somehow we managed as Alex once more turned to fishing in his spare time. The Brisbane river was still teeming with fish and mud crabs and once more Alex was able to sell his surplus.

In 1948 I had to return to Kempsey to see my family and Alex arranged to transfer his apprenticeship to a builder there, no accommodation was available for families so I stayed with my family in the country. We had no car and we had to rely on the goodwill of neighbours and service carts to see each other every weekend.

We decided to try our luck in Port Macquarie and Alex finished his apprenticeship there. We were lucky enough to acquire our first block of land and Alex built his first house there. Port Macquarie was then starting to open up and land was readily available. Migrants from overseas came in their droves and we decided to sell our house and move on, firstly building my parent's house and then we headed back to Brisbane.

Alex's health was always a worry, he

needed to be in a warm climate. He and brother Tony formed a partnership which lasted many years, building and selling and there was a never ending demand for housing. We built and sold and moved, each move to our advantage, at least 13 times. In time, as we raised and educated our 5 girls, things became more settled. The partnership with Tony ended as he was injured in a fall but Alex continued on doing what he knew best until he reached retirement age. I think he was content with what he had achieved in life, considering the hard start he had. He became a regular at the RSL and was always ready to discuss army life with the new recruits who sought him out.

His memories of the 2/2 were very dear to him and the "Courier" was read very thoroughly as soon as it arrived. Alex had such a collection of "Couriers" from years back and I do not know what to do with them.

There was much more I could have written about Alex but it would have ended up being a book. I feel I should include a bit about his Russian background, he never spoke the language but understood it very well. He always maintained it was more important that he considered himself a true Australian having been born here and ready and willing to fight for his country. His name, Voevodin, meant he would also fight all the way through his school years.

We think he earned his stripes and the best recommendation was for him to be remembered as a good soldier and a good mate.

Wishing you all the best,
Regards – Essie Voevodin

A nice tribute was paid by Terry Bone of the Coorparoo RSL Sub-Branch -

On behalf of the members of the Coorparoo RSL Sub-Branch and members of the Coorparoo RSL Services and Memorial Club, I wish to convey their sincere condolences to the family of the late Alexander Voevodin.

Vo-Vo as he was affectionately known, enlisted into the Australian Army in December 1941. He volunteered for the Independent companies and was posted to the 2/2 Commandos, a unit that he was very proud of. He served in New Guinea and New Britain with distinction. He was honourably discharged in April 1946. He was a gallant and fine soldier. He was as straight as a die and called a spade a spade and if he had anything to say about anyone he always said it to their faces, never behind their backs.

He was a man amongst men and his passing will be a loss to all who knew him.

He will be sadly missed by his family & friends.

Rest in Peace' - Vo-Vo.

Terry Bone

Welfare Officer

Alex served in No. 6 Section of B Platoon in New Guinea and New Britain. Among those who served with him were Mal Herbert, Reg Harrington, Tom Martin, Fred Broadhurst and Kel Carthew and under Jack Fox who took over from Ken Mackintosh – it was a very fine section. Alex was a good soldier and enjoyed the comradeship which is created when men are together often in very trying conditions. He was also a loyal and

generous member of the Association and was a Life Member.

Ron Archer, Fred Otway, Paddy Wilby and Greg Tyerman represented the Association at Alex's funeral service.

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

Lest We Forget

We regret to advise that since our last Courier news has been received of the passing of two of our widows -

In WA **JEAN CASH** of Muchea.

Jean was the widow of Merv who passed away in May 1993.

In SA **BETTY GAYLER** of West Lakes.

Betty, who later remarried, was the widow of Ken Mackintosh who died in October 1974.

The Association extends its deepest sympathy to the Cash and Gayler families.

XMAS SOCIAL

We finished 2006 on a good note with an attendance of 37 at our Xmas Social at the Goodearth Hotel on Friday 1st December. The Goodearth has been our social gathering place for the past 20 years and we are always well looked after by the staff, which is appreciated.

Len Bagley our MC, though not as sprightly as he used to be, was still in good form, read out the apologies and welcoming all present. Vice President Don Murray followed also extending a warm welcome to all.

A lovely luncheon with ample refreshments on offer made for a most enjoyable couple of hours. Kaye Hanson and Len conducted the "free" raffle resulting in 12 lucky winners. President Jack wished all the best for the festive season saying we hoped our get togethers would continue for a few more years yet.

A pleasing feature was the presence of some newcomers including Vic & Oriel Murray formerly of Collie now living in Perth. Jess Pratt, a sister of the late Peter Alexander, Mr & Mrs McKenzie related to Barbara Payne, Don & Loyola Wares, Cassie Maley & Lee McIntosh – Dot's daughters and Greg Tyerman from Queensland.

Others who attended were John & Olive Chalwell, Joy Chatfield, Dick Darrington, Fred & Robyn Hasson, Doug Hasson, Ken & Rhonda Hasson, Elsie Jordan, Bernie & Babs Langridge, Jim Lines, Dot Maley, Don & Ida Murray, Barbara Payne, Helen Poynton and Julie-Ann, Bob & Margaret Smyth, Vera Watson and Clare West.

The Associations (Ladies invited) four main events in 2007 are

Anzac Day Parade and Luncheon
25th April 2007

Norma Hasson Day
6th July

Commemoration Service
18th November
Xmas Social
7th December

Please support these events and ensure the Association still carries on.

Jack Carey

S.A. NEWS

Dear Jack – how are you all getting along in the West – good I trust.

Ruby and I are going ok. But I have to see my cancer doctor in April to check on the leukemia; at this stage I have had no treatment.

I had a blood test, ordered by my local doctor which caused him to contact the oncologist who didn't seem to be worried with the results – white cells up 51.6%.

The Commando Association held its monthly lunch at the West Lakes Hotel in the beginning of the month. Bert Bache and his wife attended also Hazel Hollow and Ruby and I. Where we used to have about 20 people, it is now down to 10.

In this morning's paper, a death notice of Betty Gayler. As you know she was Ken MacIntosh's widow. She passed away on Sunday 4 February. The death notice reads "To honour her last wish no funeral or remembrance service will be held." I will send a card of condolence from 2/2 members to her family.

In South Australia we are having a drought in the metropolitan area of Adelaide but recently there was a large amount of rain in the northern area of the state. I noticed on the news where the southern part of W.A. received a battering.

Hope everything is going ok.

Regards - Kel & Ruby Carthew.

TASMANIAN NEWS

23rd February 1942 – what a day for Tasmania's own Battalion. The 2/40 Battalion in action in West Timor and after days of fighting the Japs, with many casualties and sickness, they had to give

in along with their support units. Most spent the next 3-1/2 years in the Jap Prisoner of War Camps. Sadly 250 did not make it back home. Those that did have held a reunion in February every year since. Many will be attending this year's reunion in Launceston on Saturday 24 February 2007 – and owing to poor health I cannot make it.

I always feel so fortunate at this time as when the Brigadier told those that were cut off from the main force it was “everyman for himself”. Jack Rice, Peter Cannon, Basil Keefe and I decided we would stick together, then a local (Dover) soldier, Mick Balcombe suggested I go with him and that Trevor Sharman (Lieut) was a good leader. I said no as there were too many in his group. This turned out to be the right decision as Mick Balcombe, Trevor Sharman and his platoon were caught by the Japs some 6 weeks later.

Jack, Basil, Peter and myself eventually got to East Timor and joined up with the 2/2 I.C. and after our evacuation in December 1942 I joined the 2/12 battalion and saw action in New Guinea, Morotai and Balikpapan Borneo.

Of those that made it to the 2/2nd I think there is only 3 of us from Tassie still left and Geoff Woods, Lewis Nichlason and myself.

I may have wandered in my writing but as Paddy Kenneally said in his nice Christmas card, Bert keeps writing – it keeps the Courier going.

Christmas wasn't so good for us for 2006. Billie had two falls – one on concrete damaging her ribs and chest, then fell in the bedroom breaking bones in her shoulder and arm and then had to have

eye surgery – some bones have knitted but not in their natural place. Veteran Affairs and the local community nurse have been very good to us – with help in the house and making sure Billie has her shower etc – and we also have the local Meals on Wheels – five days a week.

Our son John who was ill with cancer when we had our safari in Hobart in 2000 is back in hospital again with cancer.

Our granddaughter Ella starts university this year and is taking a great interest in the 2nd World War history – especially unit books. She has “All the Bull's Men”, (2/2nd) “Of Storms and Rainbows” (2/12 Battalion) and “The Doomed Battalion”, (2/40 Battalion) and my name appears in each book.

Our weather has been varied – some real hot days up to 39C in Dover – those 10 months I spent with the 2/2nd in East Timor are very special to me as I served with good soldiers and learnt so much that helped me in other campaigns – as an NCO. I think of Don Turton, Jerry Green, Bill Epps, Sid Jones, Mark Conroy, Jack Rice, Peter Cannon and ‘Smash’ Hodson. Went with ‘Smash’ one night and we blew up a culvert bridge on a road going into Dili – another was Syd ‘Swampy’ Marsh – we came home together and were great mates until he died in June 1998. He paid me a compliment when with the ‘2/12’ by getting transferred to my section.

One made so many mateships on active service – great mates – and all “Good Blokes”

Regards to all.

Bert & Billie Price, Dover, Tasmania

QUEENSLAND NEWS

Herewith are a few notes about our Queensland members as promised:

Ralph & Sheila Conley are well and always very busy. Sheila is looking forward to her 90th birthday in June. They are still both into lawn bowls, Ralph playing three times a week and Sheila has her social games, perhaps once a month. As part of a small party they are both looking forward to an around Australia boat trip in November and am sure that Perth will be a celebration stopover for all of you.

Sheila Forsythe is very well and keeps in touch with Alan Luby.

Lois Davies still leads an active life and watches the shipping coming and going into Brisbane with her telescope from her Caloundra home. The QE11 recently was magnificent.

Esse Veovodin is still working hard to finalise Alex's (Lofty) estate. Her grandson Andrew is an Army Corporal and was to be sent to Afghanistan, but had an injury during his PT training and may be posted there in September.

Fred Otway has almost finished repairing his house – one window to go! Still plays and enjoys his tennis but drinks plenty of water!!

Paddy Wilby has a new eye doctor and he is making good progress with his improved vision. He has the answers to our WATER PROBLEMS and is writing a book on it. Hope the authorities get onto it because so far they seem short on official clues.

Gordon & Joan Stanley are leading a mainly quiet life with their family at Burpengary. They have had a visit from

their Melbourne grand-daughter and will shortly have a holiday at Caloundra.

Beryl Steen keeps in touch with Happy Greenhalgh and will have a holiday with her family at Townsville.

Peter Krause is still being well looked after in his nursing home at Merrimac (Gold Coast). His daughter Sue advises that her son Brandon is doing very well at school and hopes to become an engineer. I'm always a great believer I "aiming high"!!

Genevieve Isbell is preparing for two NSW weddings at Easter. About 15 Queenslanders will attend. Her sister Trish and David own land at Aratula and have moved house from Mayborough.

Pat Barnier usually goes to Canungra each year for a commemoration service of the Queensland Commando Association but has decided not to go this year. It will be held on the 28th March. Her UK grand-daughter is expected back for a visit and will return as she has been offered a very good appointment.

Margaret Hooper is still coping with life and the problems that many of us have of living on our own. She enjoyed a recent trip to the Tweed River with a group on a Probus coach.

Earlier North Queensland had a cyclone so I rang our mates:

George & Margo Shiels were cut off a couple of times (Bowen), but their home and mango trees were not affected.

Bulla & Jean Tait were not affected. Bulla still shuffles around a bit and is not too mobile, but is still doing his bit to "soldier on"!!

Lucky & Doreen Goodhew – Lucky is very deaf so I only speak to Doreen. A long

time ago Lucky got some hearing aids but they didn't help him. I suggested that he try again now because there have been a lot of improvements to them. They to were okay from the cyclone.

You might like to include that we Queenslanders have all been shattered by your and our loss of our very dear Delys. She will be missed for a long time by all who knew her and it is hoped that Our Good Lord will respond to our many prayers.

Best wishes to all our mates and loved ones – now and always.

Ron & Lyn, 3/36 Soudan Street

Toowong 4066

NORTHERN N.S.W.

Dear Jack – you have prayers from all of us in your loss. Del was a wonderful person and an inspiration to all.

My ring around found everyone in general in fairly good health.

Dianne Cholerton and Julie – both okay. Dianne who has been having treatment for a heart problem is trialing some new tablets and appears to be better. Hope they are on the right track.

Beryl Cullen is well but like a lot of us up in this area cannot seem to crack it for a good fall of rain. It has been a bit like that over most of NSW. Some good falls but very scattered. Some expert on TV said we need 2 very wet years to get us back to normal. I dunno what he meant by normal. It's a bit like describing human beings.

Edith Jones at Barraba is well and has had a little rain which she described as making the almost dust bowl green up beautifully. At that stage you need more

follow up.

May Orr from South Grafton is a keen gardener but is finding it harder work now. Join the club May. She is very well.

Beryl Steen is one of my Queensland constituents and to date is keeping well. Beryl is fortunate in having family reasonably close by. A big advantage.

Another Beryl: Beryl Walsh from Kempsey is traveling quite well and is in good health – Keep it up.

Nola Wilson is okay. Her son is just back from the good old USA where he gave talks on stock horses – he very much enjoyed the trip but was very pleased to be home to some good tucker. Everything is too sweet over there – very patchy rain at Gilcandra to.

Harry Handicott and Amyce both okay. I'm sneaking into Lubes territory there at Newcastle but I speak to Harry quite often – he told me a yarn. "A bloke was digging a hole in the back yard and his mate over the side fence asked what for – Well, he said its for my dear budgie – Why are you digging it that deep – its only a little budgie – Yeah he said but its got to fit your cat in it too."

Eric & Lorraine Herd from Iluka are both well. What's new – good news and keep it up.

Russ Blanch is better than he has been for 12 months or so and is right back into the garden again – I envy you mate.

Gordon Stanley – another Queenslander is okay but Joan is having a rough trot at the moment – We all wish you well Joan.

Tom & Jean Yates – another Kyogle couple are okay but Jean is still experimenting with tablets for her heart condition – fortunately the arthritis is a

bit better. Some blessings Jean.

Keep well everybody and fond regards

- "Happy"

VICTORIAN NEWS

M Broadhurst, Fairfield, Victoria

With deep regret we learnt that Delys had passed away. We have all lost a valued friendship. She was a tireless worker along side Jack for our Association, Reunions etc., and will be greatly missed by all.

Another year gone. I hope everyone enjoyed Christmas with family members, we did, and for 10 days livened up the old place, it was great.

We are both keeping well, but must admit after everyone departed, sat for a couple of days doing as little as possible.

Since my last visit to Nina Grachan, before Xmas, found she was not so alert and lost more weight, just a shell of her old self, although I said who I was, I don't think it registered, very sad to see this happen.

Eddie & Dot Bourke are well, also John & Shirley Southwell and Harry Botterill, Margaret Monk and Don are here, there and everywhere, they certainly get about, she said Leith & Marjorie Cooper are reasonably well in themselves, Marjorie has developed a memory problem, which is a concern. Win Humphreys is keeping well, no more falls, thank goodness and looking forward to attending a family wedding at Port Douglas in a few weeks time, the break will do her good.

To all our friends out there, keep moving and the best of health.

Regards

Mavis

INDEPENDENT TRUST - 28.02.2007

The 16th Annual meeting of the Independent Trust held on 20.02.2007 at 128 Dalkeith Road, Nedlands.

Present : Bob Smyth, John Burrridge and Bart Mavrick

Report of the years operations is attached and summarises that 12 months elapsed to deliver to Dili 21,500 packets of vegetable seeds.

THE BORDER CONTROL TRAP

The procedure we adopted required that before shipment all necessary documentation to be approved and specifically that as a legislated tariff free shipment, that category should be recognized and granted.

A ray of hope would see Xanana Gusmao elected as Prime Minister. Also reappointment of an executive government acting first for the people.

Acknowledgement and thanks to Mike Gallagher for his most valued co-operation and support.

Also to fellow trustees, John Burrridge and Bart Mavrick for their tolerance and help.

Signed: R.N. Smyth (Chairman)

INDEPENDENT TRUST

21,550 packets Yates Vegetable Seeds
Canossian Sisters College, Dili, East Timor

On 15th December 2005 an order for 4 x 5,000 packets of vegetable seeds was placed with Yates Australia. Stock was organized, 2/2 labels set up, specialized documentation prepared and the packed,

addressed shipment waited our 'send' instruction on 24.02.2006. All paperwork preceding shipment was faxed and also hard original copies express posted to our representative Mike Gallagher in Dili. An approach to the Minister for Agriculture who endorsed the application with his recommendation of acceptance and sent it to the Minister for Finance.

Further documentation was required. A Memorandum of Understanding that the goods were required by the addressee. That they were in fact a gift and why etc. etc. There followed the most unimaginable twaddle of delay which is symptomatic of the country's economic state under its current administration.

For almost 9 months countless unsuccessful approaches were made by our representative and Sister Guilhermina of the Canossian Sisters.

Problems were further aggravated by riots which commenced in April.

15.12.2006 The Office of Minister for Finance conceded approval to send. However that would include the Christmas stand down, allowing greater pillage exposure of goods held in Bond, which already has a deplorable reputation.

17.1.2007 Mike phoned advising that the Minister's office has now called for original documents (which it was subsequently claimed were destroyed in the April riot fire at the office of the Minister for Agriculture!).

17.01.2007 Mike phoned advising 'SEND'.

19.01.2007 Yates reported 'TNT Couriers' picked up the 10 cartons today.

12.02.2007 Mike Gallagher phoned

R. Smyth "10 cartons all intact, are in my office" (2 cartons since picked up by Louise H. Australian Volunteer from A.V.I. Group, Laho, Bacau. (They had effectively distributed most of the previous shipment. Refer Jan, Walbrook Report.

Three of Australia's largest charitable organizations ceased shipping gifted goods to East Timor. The major problem was claimed to be outrageous landing charges and/or incomprehensible delays of an apparently grossly inept administration.

DONORS

We thank those who contributed to the Trust Fund and which as received, are acknowledged in the Courier.

A plan to attract funding from a potentially wealthy source faded owing to our Trust's non TAX deductible gift status and also the East Timor riots which had a similar effect as those tumultuous days following the departure of the Indonesians after Independence.

The country's economy appears to struggle from day to day. Too many individuals at all levels associated with goods or procedures, first contemplate "what can I get out of it?" In Australian it is known as theft or corruption but in East Timor where there are always families to be fed it is considered a necessary way of life.

The April Presidential election could hopefully lead to a cleansing of the present administrations poor reputation of favouritism and corruption.

Vegetable seeds are shipped by TNT Air Courier Door to Door service. The Trust will adhere to its basic activity within its

resources, funding and distributing its 2/2 branded packets of vegetable seeds to the less fortunate people of East Timor most of whom depend on their own garden for their next meal.

Signed: R.N. Smyth, Chairman – Independent Trust

NB: Sister Guilhermina now possesses her own Import Clearance Document.

FREIGHT COST (10 cartons 95kg)

The original freight estimate of

\$1,083.75 was increased by **682.80**

Average delivered cost of 21,550 packets was less than 41 cents per packet.

(Australian retail \$1.98)

UNIT HISTORY BOOK

Sales are mounting slowly, and as at the 28 February, 1,150 had been sold. As mentioned in the December Courier \$59,000. provided by our own members has been repaid and we are in credit \$9,000. which is part of the \$40,000. invested in the book from our two legacies. We still have a fair way to go to break even but we will make it eventually. Some nice compliments have been received from people who have read the book, one being from a R.J. Russell of Victoria who wrote – quote “a grand tribute to an outstanding lot of blokes”.

The Committee appeals to members and those on our mailing list to try and sell a book or two. If you are a member of your local library take your book along to the head librarian and ask him or her to buy one. As Tom Foster maintains, people who are shown the book quite often buy one.

Your committee in the West is looking at a new approach to boost sales.

A Financial Statement on book sales etc. will be published in the June Courier.

My Swedish Holiday in the Snow - by Dorothy Maley

On Boxing Day this year I set off on my 2 day journey to Stockholm. My daughter Vanessa lives there and although I have been before I had never seen snow. Not many people could understand my longing to experience living in a cold climate, but since the days of seeing all those Sonja Henie movies as a child I just had to spend time in the snow.

I have to tell you I love it, doesn't matter what everyone thinks its dirty mushy stuff when it melts. To me nothing is more beautiful than to see a blanket of pure white snow covering everything. The most mundane things appear beautiful, even the rubbish bins look wonderful. All the trees were dripping with icicles just like on a Christmas card.

Amazing to see the cars traveling around with a 5 inch block of snow & ice on the roof. In the mornings one can't run out to the car and take off like we do, its necessary to clear all windows by scraping away the snow with a special gadget. They don't bother to remove the ice from the roof and I wonder the cars can still operate but they do. Apparently they have additives in the petrol to counteract the cold. Most cars are left in the street as the apartments don't have carports or garages. Fancy being able to leave your car by the side of the road every day of the year and not be attacked by vandals. Very little crime in Sweden, perhaps because there is not much

unemployment.

Of course the tyres have to be changed as soon as snow is forecast if not, like Vanessa and Thomas earlier this year you would have to spend the night wherever you happen to be. They had been working in Vanessa's loft where she makes traditional sails for sailing ships, fortunately there is a mattress in the corner and plenty of heating, needless to say next day when the snow had melted Thomas very quickly removed the summer tyres and got ready for winter. He also had to spend days covering his tall ship, 'Deodar,' if the snow gets down into the hold it would create a huge problem. The boat a two master is made from timber and is beautifully maintained by Thomas, it was originally a fishing boat made in Brixham England almost 100 years ago.

They have won the trophy 2 years in a row for the Best Restored boat in the Sailing Ships Race Association; also have won a first and a third in the races, which are held over 3 weeks each year. A most amazing sight to see all these wonderful sailing ships in full sail and hear Vanessa proudly say, "I made that sail and that one". Not this time of the year of course as all the boats are covered until spring.

My most memorable day in the snow was a train journey to Sundborn, the home of Carl Larsson a famous Swedish painter. His home has been made into a museum by his descendents for the people of Sweden.

We left Stockholm station at 5am on a very brisk morning, rugged up in coats, scarves and gloves. We had great seats with a large window. To start with it was

still dark, with hundreds of lights twinkling from the suburban apartment windows as people were preparing for another day, and early morning risers going to work.

Before long the sun appeared, colouring the sky with fabulous pinks and blues, the snow reflects the colours over everything. We passed lovely red houses and barns and paddocks blanketed in snow, even some horses standing outside the barns, I hope they spent the night inside as it was – 15deg outside.

Vanessa had her video camera and was filming all the way, such beautiful views from the train window. Birch and pine trees and houses and porches and mesh fences dripping with lace like patterns.

We thought all that was lovely but could not believe our eyes at the beauty of Sundborn. Mist rising from lakes and the river and ducks swimming in the freezing water. We snapped our way to the Carl Larsson museum (both of us are mad keen photographers) very slippery walking along the road so had to take care, no intention of breaking a leg and missing all this beauty, some of the red houses were very old and rustic with decorated porches and windows. The snow was very deep and not a mark anywhere. We were the only ones outdoors, as most of the cottages are for summer holidays they were closed for winter. The river winds its way through the village to become a series of lakes which must be a wonderful spot for swimming in summer. In fact a lot of Carls paintings feature children diving and swimming and fishing in these lakes. In winter the lakes sometimes become frozen but I think it has to be – 30deg's.

A delightful young woman took us for the

tour and as we were the only ones out on such a cold day did the tour in English, she normally does it in Swedish and was a little shy about her English, Vanessa was able to help her, as her Swedish is excellent, mind you her English is becoming a little strange. We spent a magical hour in the artists home overlooking the lakes, a view from every window. Carl Larsson was the famous one but his wife was also an artist who branched out (whilst having 8 babies) into weaving and embroidering the most stunning things, curtains and tablecloths and bed linen, chair covers and wonderful quilts, beautifully maintained by a staff of volunteers. She also designed and made the children's clothes and her own all depicted in Carls paintings, which always had a family theme to them. The walls were covered in murals and each bedroom door had a painting of the child who slept there. The furniture is original and everything is just as it would have been in the 1880's.

As you can guess we loved it all, Vanessa had not been before so it was a special day, got home 7.30 that night totally worn out but very happy.

Dorothy Maley

NB: Thank you for a most interesting article Dot.

THE ARCHER MEMORIAL EAST TIMOR SCHOLARSHIPS

As reported in the December Courier, Ron Archer has generously established a Memorial Scholarship Fund for the East Timor youth. Details of the running of the Fund make interesting reading.

The Archer Memorial East Timor Scholarships is conducted through the

ANZ Charitable Trust Australia (ACTA). ACTA is a public charitable foundation established in perpetuity by Deed of Trust on 1 May 1998 and approved by the Australian Taxation Office. The trustee of ACTA is ANZ Executors and Trustee Company Limited ABN 33 006 132 332 (ANZ Trustees), a wholly owned subsidiary of ANZ with a long history of trustee and charitable services.

The Trustees' broad investment philosophy for the management of ACTA's funds is to create and manage a long term, tax efficient portfolio that is designed to deliver high and consistent levels of income, and achieve capital and in some growth that exceeds inflation. In addition to investment management the Trustee provide ACTA clients with a comprehensive service that includes governance, grant making and legal and tax support.

BENEFICIARIES

The principal beneficiary of The Archer Memorial East Timor Scholarships (the Fund) is the Australian Salesian Mission Overseas Aid Fund (ASMOAF) whose office is located at 3 Middle Street, Ascot Vale, Victoria.

It is intended that the income received by ASMOAF from the Fund will be applied by that organization, in conjunction with the Don Bosco Training Centre (Don Bosco) in Comoro, Timor Leste, in accordance with the principles determined by Mr Archer as follows;

- To allocate scholarships to the 13 Provinces of Timor Leste each year and by selection candidates from different districts within each Province in consecutive years.

- Prospective students should have a family connection of past or present service in the defence forces of Timor Leste (official or unofficial). It is understood that Priests in Provincial and District Parishes know the backgrounds of students' families and may make recommendations to Don Bosco.

- Don Bosco will have sole selection rights for the yearly scholarships and will determine the application process including assessment of literacy.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional donations to the Fund will of course mean that more scholarships can be funded and provide opportunities for those that may not otherwise benefit.

If you would like to contribute to The Archer Memorial East Timor Scholarships or you would like more information on how you can make bequests to the fund under your Will please contact Jeff Sitters at ANZ Trustees on 07 3228 5063 or email sittersj@anz.com for an application form. A donation made during your lifetime to ACTA allows you to obtain a tax deduction for your initial and ongoing donations, and if you elect to do so, to spread that deduction over a period of up to 5 years. Please note that your donation to ACTA is irrevocable and is not refundable.

A FRIENDLY (?) VISIT

When the Japs invaded East Timor on 19th February 1942 the Portuguese people in Dili had two options, stay put or flee. Many fled to Baucau and Aileu. Captain Antonio Liberato in his book "The Case of Timor" wrote the following on the

first trip of the Japs to Aileu.

On 14th March, news spread quickly that a detachment of Japanese troops would visit Aileu on the following day. The population, knowing what had happened in Dili, alarmed, hid its possessions well and some of them attempted to escape. Panic was threatening to take hold of everyone. The thoughtfulness and good sense of the Company Commander, with the help of his officers, prevented it. Untiringly and with perseverance, now with the ladies, now with the men, now with words of encouragement, now with confident phrases, he managed to calm their spirits and prevent a chaotic general exodus.

Early in the morning of the 15th, each officer was stationed at his post, according to plan: Captain Freire da Costa, together with the Administrator and the secretary of the district, Lieutenant Ramalho, in the barracks of the Company watching over the soldiers, myself at the Governor's family residence, at the entrance to the villa. We thus calmly awaited the arrival of the Japanese troops, with which we were going to have our first contact.

Shortly after sunrise, the first patrol appeared: seven soldiers commanded by an officer. Together with the Commander, short, grotesque in his uniform, with his helmet hiding his features almost completely, with his sword in his belt, dragging along the ground, I recognized Assegawa, an employee of the SAPT1. (The State Agricultural Society)

He addressed himself to me and in a guttural voice he asked:

- have the Chinese and natives fled?
- Why should they flee? – I answered

He concentrated for a few moments, his slanting eyes staring at me insistently, while the officer looked with curiosity at the yellow buttons of my uniform. Suddenly he continued:

- where are the Australians?
- I don't know.
- Don't they pass through here sometimes?
- Never saw them.

In a nasal voice the officer gave the orders to the patrol. They turned around and marched back down the same road by which they had come.

After a while, at the end of the road there suddenly appeared a compact mass of men, moving in step, martially. They drew closer. With two columns of two men abreast of either side with a total of 40 men, some men who looked like officers came marching up the middle of the road. When they reached the spot where I was they stopped. One of them stepped forward, it was Inokuchi, who like Assegawa was an employee of the SAPT.

Fat, round, and stubby with short, excessively short legs, he showed his teeth in an idiotic smile that creased his puffy cheeks.

- Good morning – he said – this is the Commander Major.
- Oh, pleased to meet you – I said looking at the person he had indicated.

The major was tall, thin and wore glasses. He looked about forty and his upper lip was adorned with a mockery of a moustache which was already showing some white hairs.

With a topographical map in hand, he came closer. Using Inokuchi as an

interpreter, he pointed to the card and asked:

- Where are the Australians?
- I don't know
- The Administrator?

I showed him the district secretary's office, in the middle of town. Next to the building were standing Virgilio Duarte, the Company Commander and the secretary Gouvêa Leite. Suddenly on his orders they marched off.

Then came the bulk of the detachment. Broken up into small groups, the men straggled along heavily beneath the weight of their backpacks. Their liaisons, called from group to group in shouts and guttural outcries, were irritating to listen to.

At an order from the front, all came to a standstill. There followed a halt, a halt that seemed interminable to us, the objects of predilection of the curious gazes of the riff-raff soldiers. Exhausted, they lay down by the side of the road, some of them securing the beasts of burden that they had been leading by hand. The ladies, curious to see the men whose exploits had so frightened them, came closer to the Japanese. The soldiers spread their cankered lips into a foolish grin that exposed their decayed, rotten, repugnant teeth and blurted out a few quick words whose dubious meaning could be surmised.

When ordered, they stepped into motion and freed us of the odious presence of that rabble.

The Company Commander and the Administrator when asked about the whereabouts of the Australians, side-stepped the question adroitly. The

Japanese major, not satisfied with the result of his inquiry with the authorities tried to worm his way into the good graces of the children. He would give them bicycles and other nice things – the gentleman promised – if they would tell him this or that.

Early in the morning on the next day, they returned to Dili without any serious incidents having occurred. Two or three stolen chickens, the inevitable little incidents that arise during the first contacts between people with diametrically opposite mentalities and speaking languages with absolutely nothing in common – such was the outcome of the stay of the Japanese in Aileu. Those offended did not hesitate in voicing their protests and complaints; the victims soon received compensation and the incidents were settled to the satisfaction of all.

VALE - COMMON SENSE

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape.

He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as: knowing when to come in out of the rain; why the early bird gets the worm; life isn't always fair; and maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies - don't spend more than you can earn – and reliable strategies (adults not children are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well intentioned but overhearing regulations were set in place. Reports of

a six year old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children. It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or a band aid to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live when the Ten Commandments became contraband; churches became businesses and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense took a beating and finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap and was promptly awarded a large settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust; his wife's Discretion; his daughters Responsibility; and his sons Reason. He is survived by his 3 stepbrothers: I know my Rights, someone else is to Blame and I'm a Victim.

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he'd gone.

Elvie Howell

NB: Many of our readers especially the old timers would agree with this article. Thanks Elvie

COMMANDO MEMORIAL – TIDAL RIVER

You may be aware of the wonderful work of Dr Ross Bastion AM RFD a prominent Melbourne dentist who has sculpted and placed over eighty bronze plaques (many at his own expense) at Australian War Memorials and locations of military historical significance around the world, to ensure the deeds of the Servicemen and Women whom they honour are better known.

Late last year I was invited to meet with Mr John Phillips, adviser to the Office of the Premier of Victoria on Veteran's Affairs, and Ross Bastiaan who under the sponsorship of the State Government was prepared to honour Commandos with a plaque adjacent to the Cairn in Wilson's Promontory.

Following these discussions, amongst other initiatives in the November election policy of the Government "Respecting Victoria's Veteran's" was included. Renovate the memorial to the service of our World War 11 Commandos at Tidal River, also, upgrade the memorial to our World War 11 Commandos at Tidal River.

It is envisaged that the maintenance, upgrading (yet to be decided) and the Ross Bastiaan Plaque can be completed by November 18th, the date for this years Pilgrimage.

In conjunction with the Victoria Association we will continue to act in an advisory capacity and assist in the completion of the project.

Evan Macgregor

President

Australian Commando Association

NB: Mr Macgregor is to be commended for the effort he has put in to ensure the Commando Memorial is to be renovated and maintained. Good Work Evan.

Letter received from – Premier of Victoria/
29.02.2007

Mr Evan Macgregor

President

Australian Commando Association Inc

15 Norwood Avenue

BRIGHTON VICTORIA 3186

Dear Mr Macgregor

AUSTRALIAN COMMANDO MEMORIAL RENOVATION

Thank you for your recent letter of support for the ALP Election Policy proposal to upgrade the Australian Commando Memorial at Tidal River.

As Minister for Veterans Affairs I am delighted to be able to work with you to implement our election commitment to renovate this memorial which commemorates the very important and often unrecognized contribution the Commandos made to the defence of our nation during World War 2.

I look forward to receiving a detailed proposal relating to the renovation of the memorial from the Department of Sustainability and Environment and the completion of the work in due course.

Yours sincerely

HON STEVE BRACKS MP

Premier of Victoria

HONOUR BOARD CORRECTION

The back page of the December Courier featured an Honour Board listing the names of the men from the 2/2nd and 2/4th Independent Companies and "Z" Special Unit who lost their lives serving in East Timor, now Timor Leste. In World War II. The Board also honoured the Portuguese and Timor helpers killed during 1941/45 whose names were not available. A tribute was also paid to the RAN and RAAF personnel who helped the cause, many of whom paid the supreme sacrifice. The Board was dedicated in December 2006 and is located in the Australian Embassy in Dili.

Unfortunately, due to an oversight, one name, that of WX 10455 Private C.L. Stanton was omitted from the list. This error was noted by Ted Monk one of Charlie's best mates in 7 section and Ron Archer who played a major role in having the Board setup was duly notified. Ron took immediate steps to have the error rectified. Graham Griffin who prepared the Board was advised and in next to no time had Private Stanton's name installed in his rightful place and order on what is an imposing Honour Board. We apologise to the relatives of Charlie for any concern and worry they may have experienced due to the oversight.

Graham Griffin is to be congratulated on producing such a fine Honour Board as is Ron Archer for the part he played in its production.

God Bless all those whose Names appear on it.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letters from Paddy & Nora Kenneally, Yagoona

February 2007

Dear Jack

With sorrow we learned of the death on 7th February of Delys following a prolonged illness. Delys bore her suffering with fortitude and courage and that is no surprise to the men and women of the 2/2nd family who knew Delys, or knew of her, per medium of the 2/2nd Courier. Delys took over the Editorship of the "2/2nd Commando Courier" when failing health necessitated Len & Betty Bagley to step down from the task.

The "Courier" has been aptly referred to as the "Lifeline" of the 2/2nd Association. Delys following in the footsteps of former editors kept the "Courier" up to the high standards set by them.

Husband Jack, Secretary of the 2/2nd Commando Association for more years than we can remember was ably assisted by Delys's practical approach to office procedures. Delys will be sadly missed by all who knew her. To husband Jack, and Delys's children, we extend our deepest sympathy in the sad loss of a devoted, loving wife and mother. May God receive you, May you Rest In Peace, Delys.

Only time will ease the pain you feel at the loss of Delys, that and the mountain of work you must do without her assistance, will keep you occupied.

Christmas has gone, 2007 is into it's second month and all the problems of 2006 are still with us, plus a few more from an infant 2007. One cheerful aspect to remember old mother earth has survived many crises despite all the spin by devious politicians, we will survive climate change as well. One thing we should remember, the present global

crisis is caused by ourselves, all previous global changes were caused by nature so it is up to us. I have never met anyone who managed to survive eating or drinking dollars.

I'm still mobile and have put on 5-6 kilos. Nora is of course the reason. I live quite comfortably and many of the jobs around the place that I once did are now tackled by Nora.

Sean came up from Gundagai and did some painting, Michael mows the lawns and Gerald comes along to take Nora shopping. The days are gone when I would say "Aw – get out of my way". 2007 – and I am in the way, and I am blessed in the fact no one thinks so.

I visit a school friend of mine and he is in a first class nursing home, well treated and well looked after and living in misery. He does not say so, but I feel it in the atmosphere.

I enjoyed Arthur Marshall's "There is Life beyond Cricket". The current English team could do with a bit of it. I'm glad they won the tri-series, they deserved to. Their fielding and bowling improved out of sight. McGrath had a woeful 37th birthday and that catch he dropped cost Australia the first finals match, of course ably abetted by 8 rabbits who could only score about 70 runs between them. By the way Arthur the "Ijerk Hides" was Dutch not Swedish. The last war Sweden was part of was 1814.

It has just occurred to me that the white bloke settled in Australia 1788 and not counting the aborigines we have killed we have gone to war against Maoris, the Dervishes in the Sudan war, the Boers in the Boer War, the Chinese in the Boxer Rebellion. The great war (World War 1)

a contingent went to Russia during or following the Revolution. World War 2, Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf War. Twelve wars since 1878 – we are hardly a peace loving country!!!

Thanks to all our people who rang up to wish me a happy and healthy 91st birthday. I have been very fortunate, God blessed me with bundles of good health and happiness galore with my family and all the people I have met and associated with throughout those years. The men and families of the 2/2nd Association are high up on that list - Thank you.

I have spent a couple of sessions listening into the death of Brian Peters, one of the five journalists killed in Balibo E.T. on October 16th, 1975. I am enclosing some information I have taken from the opening address by counsel assisting the coroner –

Paddy

Letters from Harry & Amyce, Hamilton
27.12.2006

A short report of Andy's funeral service, Snowy Went and I attended and I placed our Double Diamond on the casket before the service and it was an impressive Eulogy given by friends, who as children had grown up knowing Auntie Heather and Uncle Andy.

Two welfare Officers from Hamilton R.S.L., Snow and myself represented the R.S.L. I placed a poppy prior to the Ode. The chapel at the Lance Macquarie Memorial Park complex was packed and the Service lasted about an hour – Andy was well known and liked. We attended a very nice spread of refreshments after the Service.

Farewell Andy – An Officer and a Gentleman.

Harry

02.01.2007

Firstly a Happy New Year and we are hoping for one of those miracles to happen for Delys as you have been in our prayers.

Jack I was speaking to Ron Archer on the weekend and we were talking about Alex (Lofty) Voevedin – and I was saying he was one of the blokes (32 volunteered, only 7 of us made the selection) and Alex was the butcher in the 3rd Armoured Division – Field Workshops and I was a Welder/Panel Beater. I cannot remember if any more of the 7 left Canungra for 2/2 in the day's long gone. Ron said to let you know.

Well that's all for now – use the cheque how you like. - Harry

Letter from Jan Peake, Waikiki
(above is daughter of Joyce Gorton)

05.01.2007

Please find enclosed cheque for donation towards the Courier you send to mum each issue – Joyce Gorton.

She is very frail now and spends most of her time in a wheelchair. The family all enjoy reading the Courier from end to end. She has been in Criagville Nursing Home, Melville for nearly 5 years.

She had her 90th birthday in December.

Hope this helps with the publishing etc. Please send receipt in SAE.

Yours sincerely, Jan

Letter from Edith Jones, Gibrigil, Barnaba
It is always very good to receive the

Courier. Ken would have been so interested in the December issue – the magazines are a great credit to you wonderful people who produce them.

Have just returned from a Christmas visit to my daughter Kim and family who live about 180K, west of Rockhampton. Flying up and back it was evident that most of eastern Queensland is still very much in need of rain.

Son Chris and family just back from an enjoyable and interesting Christmas in Hong Kong with Annie's sister and family.

Good wishes to all for 2007. - Edith

PS: Find enclosed cheque, donation to Courier.

Letter from Verna and Les

09.12.2006

Don't feel up to writing. Enclosing \$10.00 cheque towards Courier, always look forward to the newsy contents.

Les was diagnosed with lung cancer on October 26th. It is inoperable and he was given the choice of hospital or home and after 5 days of numerous tests and x-rays, and having discussed it, he chose home which in our book is the best place and that's where he will be. It hit him so hard – 20kg weight loss in the first month, no energy whatsoever and he can literally sleep all day and night. Sometimes he seems quite okay for a while. Every day is a bonus. Must get our personal wills etc. in order.

Eternally grateful to 2/2nd as you kept our motto flying of -

"Don't let your fears get in the way of your Dreams."

Thank you – sincerely - Verna

Letter from Iris Rice, Kings Meadows, Tasmania 11.12.2006

Re my phone call last week – I am enclosing a cheque for \$100.00 for purchase of the book titled “All the Bull’s Men” with slip case. Any money over please give to the Courier.

I have a grandson living in W.A. until 24 December. He is coming home for Christmas and staying until 2nd January, then he and his wife Gaby are going on safari in Africa for 10 days before going back to Chile for 2 years to work. I keep well, do my garden and do lots of baking and still go dancing. A group of us oldies go twice a week, the exercise and company is good. My two eldest Patricia and Tony live in Launceston and Gary lives at Beauty Point. I see them all often and the phone gets used a lot. Spoke to Bert Price last weekend by phone and he and Billy are fairly well.

Looking forward to a good read.

Cheers and a Merry Christmas to all 2/2nd and a Happy New Year.

Your sincerely - Iris

Letter from Joyce Chapman, 5 Francis Street, Swansea, NSW 2281

I am enclosing an article “Rising to the Challenge” from The Coastal Rag, Discovery Coast, covering Miriam Vale Shire, Queensland dealing with the Kokoda Trail.

My son David, who lives at Agnus Water and a party of 4 walked the Kokoda Trail last year.

I thought some of the boys from the 2/2nd may be interested in it. I found it very interesting and to know you boys are so fondly remembered.

I appreciate the Courier although I have never been able to attend any of your gatherings I appreciate being remembered as Eric’s widow.

I guess like all of us I have lots of ailments, hearing problems, cataracts, old age but I really manage quite well.

20 great grandchildren at last count and 2 more due in 2007. Not bad at 82. Reckon Eric and I did a good job for Australia.

Enclosed a cheque towards expenses.

Hope this enclosed screed of David’s trip will be useful. He was so impressed he will be going back again later this year.

Good wishes and good health to all the members and their families.

Yours sincerely, - Joyce

NB: The 2/2nd were in the Ramo area, and acknowledge those men who fought in the Kokoda campaign they were all heroes.

Sharkie’s Shack, Exmouth 05/02/2007

Dear Friends – I hope that this little note finds you in good spirits. We received our copy of “All the Bull’s Men” – a very interesting read and found an entry about my father. I have enclosed this copy of an article in the paper and thought it might be of some interest knowing how the 2/2 feel about the people in East Timor.

I am not sure whether you have heard of Mike Rowney. We first met him when he sailed into Exmouth to raise money for the children. Mike sailed from Fremantle and called in at Exmouth for a break. The Exmouth Yacht Club took him under their wing. Peter even altered his anchor chain to make it a lot safer as he used to have to harness himself to the mast and swing

to the front of the yacht to let the anchor go, now he is able to drop anchor without leaving the helm. We helped him to raise some money for wheelchairs for the children of the third world. When he was well rested and with another yacht leaving at the same time he sailed off to his next port of call.

Now that the Christmas break is over the yacht club has started up and our first activity was on Aussie day and we catered for 250 people and fed them Aussie food and blues music and it was a huge success with many people draping themselves in Aussie flags. With the first full moon we had a cocktail party BBQ and on the Sunday was the first yacht race which was hotly contested by six cats. My grandson Nathan and I came over the finishing line 2nd however we are waiting to hear where we came on handicap times.

The Exmouth mob in the never, never land – a place called paradise wish to say G'day howyergoing.

Well that is all there is as there isn't anymore, it is with great regret that I must say farewell – May God's blessing be with everyone.

Tricia & John O'Donnell (nee Weller)

NB: Mike Rowney, a paraplegic sailor raises money to provide wheelchairs for young children in East Timor many of whom had been struck down with Japanese encephalitis. Mike in his yacht, the Gipsy Rose set out from Fremantle in April 2005 to sail around Australia to raise funds for the cause but fell sick on reaching Darwin and could not carry on. Undeterred Mike continued to raise money which he did with the help of a volunteer group "The Wheelchairs

for Kids" of Wangarra WA. 190 chairs were produced.

Further setbacks occurred whilst endeavoring to get the chairs to Timor. The turmoil over recent months there held things up. World Vision did manage to get 20 wheelchairs to needy children. Mike eventually, with the help of some good people, made it to East Timor and a six year old boy Rofino Riberio was the first to receive a chair from him. DHL Global Forwarding in Perth has agreed to ship another 120 chairs to Dili this month. Mike intends to carry on with his good work –What a Man!!

Dated – 25/02/2007 - 200 Olsen's Road, Poowong East.

Dear 2/2nd Friends everywhere,

It must be time for a letter to the Courier again – Don and I are both keeping well which we are very thankful for and we hope everyone in the unit are doing well healthwise too. We were all saddened to get news of dear Delys's death and our thoughts go to Jack, John and all family members. Delys was a really wonderful lady and a great friend to many and will be sorely missed.

It is still terribly dry here and we have had incredibly long HOT spells making life very difficult on the farms. Hopefully good rains will come and our lovely Gippsland will be green again soon.

Don and I visited Leith and Marj Cooper on Monday 12th February – it was great to see them again and both are reasonably well – Marj has recovered from her knee operation and is pleased to be free from the pain it caused. They

have a lovely spot where they live at Cowes and are close to everything they need.

I spoke with Mary Bone tonight on the phone. She is doing very well after her knee operation. At present she has her grandson with her at Lakes Entrance and she enjoys his company.

Harry Botterill is in his words 'bowling along quite well' – his grand-daughter Tanya and her husband and 2 little boys are down from Queensland for a short visit.

Don is still playing quite a lot of golf and doing quite well – he really enjoys it which is good.

It has been too hot and dry to do much gardening and I have lost a few plants – the roses have been really beautiful everywhere – they have proved they can do well without water and they have been quite healthy to.

Our families are all busy – Don has a new little great grandson Joel Philip and Don now has 7 great grandies – I still have 4. All are happy little people and bring us a lot of joy.

I forgot to mention that I have spoken to Mavis Broadhurst and Pat Petersen too. Pat has had some nice rains at Fish Creek so that is really good.

It is good to hear news of members in other states – I received a letter from Ron Archer recently – he had news of a Poowong man now living in Queensland.

I will enclose a donation for the Courier. We always look forward to it in the mail. That's all for now – best wishes to all from

Margaret & Don

Pars on People

All of our members and his many other friends were delighted when

Keith Hayes was awarded the Order of the Medal of Australia (OAM) in the Australia Day Honours List. Keith has been a tireless worker for the Association since its inception in 1946.

Even before he took Ross Shenn's place on the East Timorese Trust Fund when Ross was forced to stand down because of his wife's illness in the mid 90's, Keith had been very active in the Fund's activities. He and Val collected large quantities of good and chattels and packaged and stored them until shipments to East Timor could be arranged.

It was in a way a labour of love by Keith as he has never forgotten the debt he owed those people especially Bertha Martires and her family for what they did for him in those horrendous times in early 1942. Our congratulations to Keith from everyone in the Association. It has been a privilege and pleasure to be associated with you.

God Bless and Good Luck to a lovely couple in Keith and Val.

Bernie Langridge celebrated his 90th birthday in style with a gathering of family and friends at Collier Park Village on Saturday 3rd March. Son Tim and daughter Erica – all the way from Texas, daughter Gem and son-in-law Ray and their 3 daughters from Queensland. Local son Lex and his wife Karen, David and wife Jo and their 2 children made up the family group.

The 2/2nd were well represented as were many old Donnybrook friends of Bernie and Babs. Many nice tributes

were paid to Bernie with Don Murray speaking on behalf of the 2/2nd. In response Bernie brought the house down telling how he first came to meet Babs through a chance meeting with 'Doc' McInerney in Murray Street in 1946.

Congratulations to a lovely couple. May you both spend many more happy years together.

Major Doug Hasson has been in Baucau since January training East Timorese Troops. Doug said conditions were not too bad and a lot healthier than being in Dili. We would like to hear more from you Doug.

Kerry Barber – Joy Denman's daughter wrote in to advise that Joy, who we lost track of a few years back is now in a nursing home at 27 Hamilton Street, Bassendean. It is a new home and Joy is quite comfortable there. Kerry said her mother has had a pretty tough time in recent years, a number of falls followed by a series of small strokes has affected her speech and resulted in a mild form of dementia. However Joy retains a positive outlook and still manages to top "The Daily Quiz" held at the home.

When Jack died suddenly in October 1969 Joy devoted her life to bringing up their five children and now extended to nine grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Joy can be proud of a wonderful effort.

It was nice to catch up with Edna Fullarton at Bernie's party. Bernie & Babs and Keith & Val, Isobel Servante-McCaul and Edna all live in the Collier Park Village, a delightful setting. Edna May have lost weight but still has a

spark or two in her. She's not telling anyone her age – Good for you Edna. Doug passed away in August 1992.

Wilf March turned 90 on 15th February last. He and Lorraine had a quiet day with their daughter Karen and family on his birthday. Wilf's battle with cancer continues. He can no longer walk and experiences difficulty when talking. God Bless you both.

Bettye Coulson's son-in-law, Colonel Peter Davies who is a mate of Ken Hasson's was awarded a Commendation for his 30 years' army service in the Honours List which made Bettye's day.

WHO SENT IT?

In February 2007 a letter received from NSW addressed to "2/2 Commando Courier", Box T1646 GPO, Perth, WA – had one end torn away and had nothing in it. The matter was taken up with the postal authorities who said any loose cheques found are returned to the banks concerned. Whoever sent this letter is asked to ring J. Carey on (08) 9332 7050.

COURIER DONATIONS

Wynn Thomson, Les and Verna Cranfield, Blanche Sadler, Iris Rice, Alma Moore, Fred & Ellen Otway, Joyce Gorton, Edith Jones, Harry & Amyce Handicott, Brenton Brooks, Joyce Chapman, Evan Macgregor, Margaret Monk, Joy Denman, Kerry Barber, John Burridge, Paddy Keneally, Ian Scott.

Thankyou for your continued support.

BIRTHDAY BOYS

Reg Tatum	3 rd January	87
Allan Mitchell	4 th "	83
Keith Hayes	15 th "	86
Peter Campbell	18 th "	86
Eric Herd	20 th "	88
Bert Bache	29 th "	86
Paddy Kenneally	7 th February	91
Harry Sproxton	8 th "	84
Ed Bourke	8 th "	84
Wilf March	15 th "	90
Bernie Langridge	3 rd March	90
Bill Connell	12 th "	84
Ted Monk	13 th "	87
Alan Adams	18 th "	88
Gordon Stanley	22 nd "	86

Happy Birthday to you all.

MINOR CORRECTIONS

On Page 20 in the December Courier Margaret Monk wrote that Don had sold his farm and bought another in Drouin in Victoria – it was shown as Darwin – How wrong can you get! Sorry Marge.

On Page 21 Marge wrote "had a talk to Marj Cooper". This appeared as "Mary" Cooper – sorry again Marge.

Australian SAS 1957-2007 Coin.

To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Australian Special Air Service the Perth Mint in conjunction with the ASAS Association has produced an ASAS 1957-2007 coin. This is a beautiful coin and is available at a cost of \$80.00 + \$5.00 postage. Contact Bart Mavrick on (08) 9582 2424 if you would like to purchase one.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mrs Flo Lucas
Inasmuch Retirement Village
18 Sussex Inlet NSW 2540
33/2 Marmsbury Street

Mrs May Mansfield
c/- Shawford Lodge
4 Shawford Place
INNALOO WA 6018

Sandra Mack
9 Instone Street
HILTON WA 6163

Mr R Studdy
John Bryant House
95 Rawlinson Drive
MARANGAROO WA 6064

Mrs Joy Denman
Room 10, Bassendean Nursing Home
27 Hamilton Street
BASSENDEAN WA 6054

Mrs Lorraine McLaren
Rylands
33/2 Marmsbury St,
KEWVIC 3101

Happy Easter to All

W.A. MEMBERS - PLEASE NOTE**Anzac Day – Wednesday 25th April, 2007**

The assembly point for the combined Commando Squadrons is the same as last year in St George's Terrace just west of the Barrack Street intersection.

Assembly time - 0930.am for 10.00am - march off

A service follows at Langley Park

Our traditional 'Get Together' is at the Goodearth Hotel at 12 noon with lunch at 1.00pm.

Ladies are welcome. Come along ladies and meet some of the men of the famous SAS Regiment.

Mr Peter Epps has once again kindly provided a minibus. If you cannot march and would like a seat in the bus please ring **J. Carey 9332 7050** by no later than Friday 20th April. The same applies if you intend staying for lunch.

Don't forget now.

Looking ahead

**The Norma Hasson Social will be at the Goodearth
on Friday 6th July.**

Bart Mavrick still has a few desk calendars on offer. Ring **Bart on (08) 9582 2424** for details or write to him at 18 Gratitude Way, Dawesville, WA. 6210

All the Bull's Men - still available at

P.O. Box 11
Willetton WA 6955

\$60.00 + \$10.00 postage
With Slip Cover - \$10.00 extra



Delys enjoying a paddle at Rockingham Beach September 2006



Taking the Salute at Kings Park 19 November 2006