



COMMANDO

THE MAGAZINE OF THE AUSTRALIAN COMMANDO ASSOCIATION



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The Australian Commando Association's membership consists of Servicemen and women who served with World War II Independent Companies, Commando Squadrons and Regiments, all elements of Special Operations Australia (also known as the Allied Intelligence Bureau), 1 and 2 Commando Companies, 301 and 126 Signal Squadron, 1st Commando Regiment, 4 RAR (Commando) and the 2nd Commando Regiment. The Association also consists of Associate members who have served in units that support Commando units in time of war and peace and Social members whose direct family member was either Killed in Action, Died in Service or Killed in Training or a member of the ACA who has passed.

DISCLAIMER: Opinions expressed within this publication are those of the authors, and are not necessarily those of the Editor, Publisher, Committee Members or Members of our Association. We welcome any input as long as it is not offensive or abusive but if any member has a problem with a printed article we would like to be informed in order that the author may be contacted. We do encourage your opinion.

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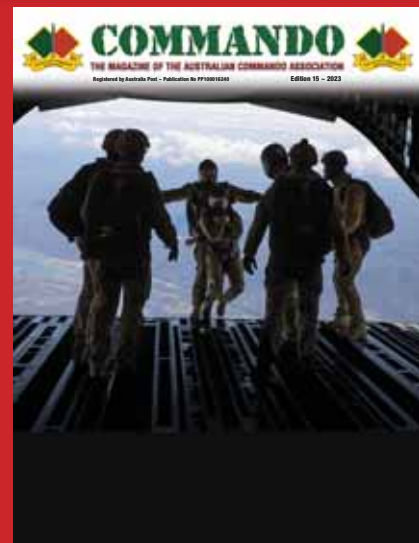
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Deadline for next edition (Edition 16, 2023):
FRIDAY, 30th JUNE 2023
 All news on members and interesting articles accepted.
 (Subject to editor's approval.)
 Doug Knight



Australian Army soldiers from 2nd Commando Regiment (2 Cdo Regt) hitched a ride on Exercise Global Dexterity 2023 with Royal Australian Air Force and United States Air Force C-17 Globemaster aircraft to get in some valuable parachute currency training. They practised their military free-fall and tandem parachute skills from the C-17s before landing near RAAF Base Richmond in Sydney's west. Exercise Global Dexterity is a bilateral training activity between the RAAF and the US Air Force to build tactical airlift and airdrop interoperability. Source: Defence Media



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A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to Edition #15 May 2023 of **COMMANDO** – *The Magazine of the Australian Commando Association.*

Editor

This is my second edition and there have been some recent developments of significance both for the magazine and for Australian military history.

Update

Recently liaison with Headquarters Special Operations Command resulted in actions to ensure that there are regular contributions by Command Units of articles of interest to readers and to complement the material currently sourced from official Defence social media websites. Commencing in this edition will be a new section titled 'Around the Units' which will include information provided by the units or sourced from Defence and open sources.

Secondly the recent announcement about the finding of the resting place of the SS *Montevideo Maru* finally provides closure to the many Australian families who had loved ones who were on board the vessel when it was sunk 1 July 1943 of the Philippine Islands. While the exact number and identity of the more than 1,000 personnel aboard the *Montevideo Maru* has never been confirmed, Japanese and Australian sources suggest an estimated 845 military personnel and up to 208 civilians lost their lives in the tragedy¹. At the time of sinking it is known that on board were 133 members of No1. Independent Company who had become Prisoners of War following a short but valiant defence of Kavieng. The remainder of the Company escaped and many eventually returned to Australia. Eventually, because of the significant losses suffered during the 1942 New Guinea campaign, it was decided that the Company would be disbanded, and many survivors were transferred with the majority of those in Port Moresby, including the Reinforcements going to No. 5. Independent Company, and a number transferring to become Coast Watchers and members of the Services Reconnaissance Department².



*A beautiful Dusk Remembrance Service at the Montevideo Maru Memorial site in Rabaul.
Source. Kulau Lodge, PNG*

ANZAC Day

Most ACA members and State Branches participated in ANZAC Day activities around the country, and we endeavour to have full coverage of this in this edition. Despite the ravages of time there are still a few World War II veterans actively engaged in our ANZAC Day activities and a number of these, and contemporary commandos have received recognition from the Association, and this is covered in more detail in respective state branch reports.

Passing of Barry Grant

As indicated in the last edition the passing of Barry Grant in January 2023 has been followed up with a Vale in this edition with further detail of Barry's service, not only to Army, Commandos, and ex-service personnel but also to the community at large.

Some Important facts

Following on from my earlier comment on the magazine production and distribution in the last edition we are seeking to improve the content and distribution of the magazine whilst not necessarily reducing the cost of production, but of using magazine income to better support Association activities including website management, historical research, and welfare activities.

¹https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/encyclopedia/montevideo_maru

²The wartime cover name for Special Operations Australia (SOA)



To this end we are encouraging ACA members to use the online digital copy of the magazine rather than seeking a printed copy unless they have medical issues or do not operate email accounts. It is proposed that a small quantity of printed copies will be made available to each State Branch President/Secretary for local distribution and to ADF units that are not already on the magazine distribution list.

When each edition of Commando is published a low-resolution pdf copy will be forwarded to each of the State ACA Branch Secretary's, **using their ACA email account**, for onward distribution to their Branch members. Concurrently the same pdf file will be forwarded to the ACA Webmaster for loading onto the ACA website.

Recent developments

In 2022 ACA Vic was approached by the CEO of www.secret-ww2.net regarding the placing of SOE Memorial plaques at several locations in Melbourne. This organisation seeks to maintain the heritage the British Special Operations Executive (SOE) and has provided numerous United Kingdom National Archives files on SOE operations in the South-west Pacific Area and their relationship with Special Operations Australia (SOA) and the Allied Intelligence Bureau (AIB). These files are very informative and, on some occasions, vary significantly in content and comments/observations from that contained within the National Australian Archives files. Some of this content will be used

forthcoming in future editions in articles about WW2 SOA operations.

The theme for 2023-Operation JAYWICK

Following on from our previous edition in this edition you will read about the background of concept and command and control of Operation JAYWICK as well as details from the UK and Australian archives of Training Camp X on the Hawkesbury River and the training regime undertaken by the crew and operatives.

Editorial policy

To date I have not received any nominations or interest from ACA State Branch representatives regarding participation in the Editorial Committee. Therefore, the Editorial Committee will continue as is and would welcome any input regarding the content and future direction for the magazine.

I trust that you will find this edition both informative and educational and when finished with your hard copy share it with a friend or mate and if you are reading the magazine online forward it to a mate so that he or she can also be informed.



Doug Knight
Commando 4 Life

Editor - Commando Magazine

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AUSTRALIAN COMMANDO ASSOCIATION



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ACA President's Report

Major General Greg Melick AO RFD SC (Retired)

As you are all aware there are many current issues affecting our members and their friends.

The Royal Commission into Veteran Suicides has reiterated many of the issues covered by previous investigations as well as hearing many more individual stories. The publicity has affected many veterans and I urge you all to look out for your mates.

The first arrest following the Brereton inquiry has also led to heightened tensions and concerns and I consider it unfortunate that the accused has been named bearing in mind the possible security implications, as well as the additional trauma for both him and his family.

It is appropriate that our country operates under a system of open justice but there are times when exceptions should be made.

I am in regular contact with both the DVA Minister and Secretary and so please make sure I am aware of any issues that would be appropriate to raise with them. I am assured that an impact has started to be made on the claims backlog with the hiring of more staff but there are still many issues including the difficulty of being able to offer many a long-term position because DVA funding occurs by way of annual allocations rather than being demand driven. One of the reasons for a doubling of claims is the advice given to serving members to make the claim before separating from the ADF. It is appropriate that such claims be made whilst members have an appropriate support base around them but about half the current claims are from serving members who are currently provided with the assistance they need without the need for an accepted claim. Serious attempts are now being made to rationalise the legislation which will eventually help simplify the claims system.

There are suggestions that 1st Commando Regiment, because of its changed role, should forgo the Green Beret. I am not aware of any former member who supports such a change, and we are working on a submission to HQ SOCOMD to ensure that decision-makers are fully aware of our history and the rationale for the initial adoption of the Green Beret.

The RSL has established a Veterans Catalogue web app (Google Veterans Catalogue) which is designed to allow easy access to information about relevant services in your area. There is still much more information needed so please have a look at it and report any additional information so that it can be added. Contact details of health professionals who provide services at the DVA rate are a top priority as well as details of people who can provide welfare and/or advocacy support.

I visited Japan in March and placed flowers on Ray Simpson's grave. The Yokohama War Cemetery is extremely well maintained and is the only Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in Japan.



Ray Simpson's grave. The Yokohama Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery.
Source: Greg Melick.



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

12 MAY 2023

ANZAC Day

Thanks to everyone that joined one or all of our ANZAC events, it was great to catch up with you. We note that our banner needs an upgrade, and we will make it a priority for next year to have it updated with the 1 and 2 Commando patches and we will invest in some appropriate poles (as opposed to the Bunnings bits of wood we are using now).

A few of the committee members attended the SASR-ACT pre-ANZAC dinner which was a very good night. We heard from the current CO and Mr Joe Buffone PSM how he started his career in 2 Commando Company and then continued to SASR and a distinguished Public Service career in Emergency Management.

War Widows NSW

Before ANZAC Day, some of the team worked with the War Widows NSW and members of 7 Sig Regt to support the Keats family to remember Al Keats. We got them wreaths commemorating SOCOMD and Al

(image attached). For those who didn't know Al, he was a giant of the SIGINT world, and a model of the silent achiever support staff. He got dudes on time on target through numerous deployments supporting SOCOMD deployments, was a great SIGINT mentor to many in his later civilian life in Australian Signals Directorate, and was a long time member of 301 Sig Sqn, 1 Cdo Regt, when he died in Nov 2019.

Black Tie event

In regard to our Black-Tie event at the Australian War Memorial on the 21st July we are honoured to have BRIG Ian Langford, DSC & Bars as our keynote speaker and Penelope Twemlow as our MC. A number of sponsors are already committed but if you have any organisations you'd recommend please get in contact ASAP. For all our members – you will soon be invited to purchase discounted tickets before we open to a broader audience.

We are also keen to hear from prospective members, and as short sales pitch, a year membership and a ticket to the dinner will almost be the same cost.

The Federal Labor Govt delivering for veterans:

- \$47 million for 10 Veterans and Families Hubs around Australia
- \$3.6 million for Darwin's Scott Palmer Centre
- \$24 million for the Veteran Employment Program
- \$234 million for 500 new DVA staff to reduce compensation claims backlog
- \$24 million for more support for veterans having DVA claims processed
- \$46 million to boost Defence personnel and veteran home ownership

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

30 April 2023

RECENT ACTIVITIES

2023 RIP Commemoration at Shortlands Bluff, Queenscliff, Victoria

The annual commemoration of the RIP incident and the loss of Warrant Officer Class 2 "Taffy" Drakopoulos and Private Roger Wood – both from 2 Commando Company and Private "Eddie" Myer – 41 Amphibious Platoon, RAASC was attended by fifty-six attendees at the Service and forty-four for lunch at the Bowling Club afterwards.

On behalf the Association I had the pleasure of presenting to Ian Haliburton, a former 2 Commando Company member who was involved in the February 1960 Rip incident where his quick thinking saved the life of a unit member Barry Higgins. Ian pulled Barry from under their upturned Zodiac when Barry was stunned by the timber boom when they capsized. Ian was unable to accept the presentation in person due to the medical condition of a family member living in Bunbury WA the award was accepted by Geoff Woodman who was also involved with the Rip. Ian Halliburton served in 2 Commando Company from July 1958 to July 1965.



Geoff Woodman kindly accepts a presentation from ACA President Doug Knight, on behalf of 92-year-old Ian Halliburton, known to many 'older' Association members.

Source. Dick Pelling

2023 ANZAC Day

Dawn Service. Number of Association members joined with members of 2 Company and the CO and RSM from Headquarters, 1st Commando Regiment in attending the annual Anzac Day Dawn service conducted at the Williamstown Cenotaph and spon-



RIP survivors today.
Source. Dick Pelling.

sored by the Newport RSL. Major Mark Cambridge, DCM, and bar, formally of SASR, was the master of ceremonies and both the CO and I laid commemorative wreaths at the Cenotaph. The Catafalque Party was provided by personnel from Training Ship Voyager, Australian Navy cadets and the Honour Guard was provided by 418 Squadron, Australian Air Force cadets.

Anzac Parade. Approximately forty members of the Association, current serving personnel and a small number of family members of World War II commando veterans marched in the Melbourne Anzac Day parade. Members of the Melbourne High School Cadet Unit (MHCU) carried the Association Banner.



ACA Vic marching in the Anzac Day parade in Melbourne with the banner party.

Provided by Melbourne High School Army Cadet Unit (MHSACU).

Source. Sandy Pelling





Banner Party from left to right Cadets Vinnie Yan, Michael Zhang, Jet Cheung, Akshaj Ram, Sergeant Jehan Manokaran and Cadet Zhanyi Li.

Source. Glenn MacDonald



ACA Vic members following the March.

Source. Glenn MacDonald

Anzac Day Lunch. Again, a successful lunch was conducted with over seventy-three participants including our VIPs including the CO and RSM of 1st Commando Regiment. There were two highlights of the lunch being a presentation to the family of Cândia dos Reis Noronha, who passed away last year, and was a Timorese member of the Services Reconnaissance Department, Special Operations Australia during World War II. Attending the lunch to receive the presentation was Maria, the widow of Cândia, and her two sons Fernando (Nando) and Bernardino (Bery).

In addition, we had the following World War II families.

Special Operations Australia (M and Z Special Units)

- Elizabeth Mackenzie HQ SRD accompanied by her daughter Judith Jesser
- Dixie Lee and wife Mem, M Special Coast-watcher

2/4th Independent Company/Commando Squadron

- Lorraine Black (wife of Charlie Black)
- Paul Black
- Karen Black

- Andrew Black
- Colin Black
- Leigh Patterson
- Liz Milsom (Daughter of George Milsom)
- Simon Webb

2/5th Independent Company/Commando Squadron

- Elizabeth (Betty) Macgregor and son John
- Mariese O'Neill
- Michael Stranicks
- Rosemary Sheehan



2/4th Independent Company/Commando Squadron attendees. Left to right: Paul Black, Simon Webb, Elizabeth Milsom, Lorraine Black (front), Andrew Black, Karen Black, Leigh Patterson, and Colin Black.

Source. Colin Black

I had the privilege of presenting to the dos Reis Noronha family an engraved WW2 Special Operations Australia plaque and World War II Special Operations figurine in recognition of the war time service of Cândia. A brief story of Cândia's service follows this article.



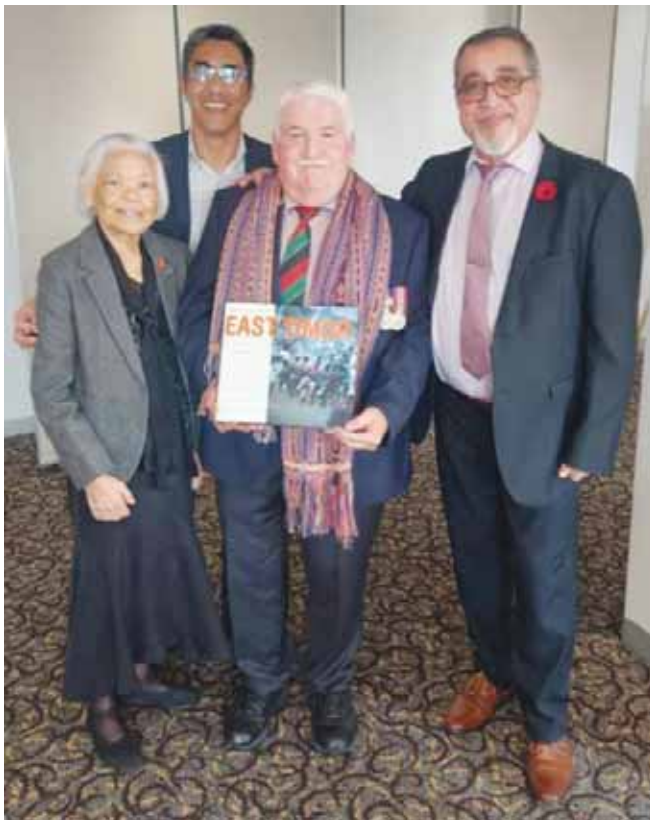
Maria holding, the presentation plaque, Bery, Doug Knight, and Nando.

Source. Dick Pelling.





World War II figurine presented to the dos Reis Noronha family.
Source. Platatac.



Receiving the gift of a beautiful pictorial book on East Timor of ACA Vic and wearing the traditional woven tais fabric scarf presented to me by the family.
Source. Dick Pelling

Also, a Life Membership of the Australian Commando Association Victoria was presented to Captain Ian Storey, RFD a long serving member of 2 Commando Company and long-term supporter and member of many iterations of Commando Associations.

Ian enlisted in 2 Cdo Coy in August 1958 as a young teenager when the Company when the Officer

Commanding was Major Phil Bennett, the Adjutant Captain Jack Fletcher, and cadre staff comprised Warrant Officers Peter Askew, Col Barber and Staff Sergeant Jack Cousins.

Ian did his basic parachute course in 1959, with Roger Wood, Frank Wheatland, Leigh Power, and other notable unit members. Ian recalls at that time they jumped without the benefit of a reserve parachute!

Ian was promoted to Corporal in late 1959, just prior to the infamous February 1960 Rip incident one of the eight who were rescued by the crew of SS Toscana and where tragically Roger Wood lost his life whilst in service. Ian was promoted to Sergeant in July that same year and did some continuous full-time service in 1960-1961.

Ian was a keen free-fall participant with the 2 Commando Company Sky Divers, later Commando Skydivers.



The "Commando Skydiver" magazine in July 1963 had a cover photograph of a smiling Ian 'Doc' Young, Rick Eason and Ian Storey kitted up with white helmets, with Ian sporting the Strike Swiftly badge.

Source. ACA Vic Historical Collection

Ian completed numerous Commando advanced and specialist courses and qualified as an instructor on many of them over his years of dedicated service. One of Ian's specialities was all aspects of small craft and submarine operations, and he co-authored the Standard Operating Procedures for Army small craft operations with submarines and fast patrol boats. These were adopted by the RAN, providing a platform capable of clandestinely inserting and extracting operational Special Forces teams.

He was appointed to Commissioned Rank in 1966 and in early 1970 Ian did a short 'familiarisation' deployment to Vietnam, as did several other 2 Cdo Coy officers. Anecdotally all seem to have been attached to operational units and undertook combat operations which was not quite within the parameters the familiarisation tours.

Ian was later promoted to Captain and served for 25 years before retiring in 1983. He did his Commando service alongside a distinguished career in the Victoria Police.



Major Mike Eddy, OC of 2 Commando Coy during 1977- 1978, later said, "The most memorable personalities were the Reserve officers, who, despite their abilities, remained very senior Lieutenants because of their reluctance to face the possibility of posting to another unit. I formed lasting friendships with Adrian Cookson and Ian Storey."

Ian was one of the early members of the Victorian Commando Association, serving as Vice President and as a long - time committee member.

Late 1990s Company OC Mike Hoffman said Ian was, "a fount of wisdom and information". Committee members agreed, especially when Ian told them the location of the Police booze bus, prior to them leaving the committee meeting to return home!

Many thanks to Ian for his involvement in, and support of, our Association over so many years.



*Ian Storey being presented his Life Membership by myself on behalf of the Association.
Source: Sandy Pelling.*

Sat 5 August ACAV Annual Dinner - the Annual Association Dinner will be conducted at the Amora Hotel Riverwalk Melbourne, 649 Bridge Rd, Richmond, VIC 3121.

Sun 24 Sep – Shrine Memorial Service. This annual activity will take place at 1230 at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance, followed by afternoon tea in the Shrine.

15 Oct 2023 – Annual Pistol Shoot with ASASA at Yarra Valley Pistol Club, 830 Wellington Road, Lysterfield 3156. It is hoped that ACA will be able to regain the Trophy from ASASA after last year's close win by them.

11 Nov 2023 – Remembrance Day Ceremony at the former Repatriation Hospital Heidelberg now part of the Austin Hospital, commencing at 10.50 am.

19 Nov 2022 – Commando Memorial Service - Tidal River. The annual commemoration activity will take place on Sunday the 19th at 12:45, and it is expected that some Association members will be joining with the proposed Foster RSL on the Sat night prior (18/11/22) to participate in the RSL Annual Dinner. We are currently awaiting details of this from Foster RSL.

Sat 9 Dec 2023 - end of year Xmas function with 2 Coy at Fort Gellibrand Williamstown commencing at 1830.

HISTORICAL COLLECTION

Ongoing work with cataloguing the collection is going slowly to priority being given to the magazine and other issues. The new display at Fort Gellibrand has commenced with the filling one cabinet and soon appropriate signage and labelling will be undertaken as well as the second cabinet being filled with post-World War II memorabilia.

TIDAL RIVER WALKING TRACK OPEN SPACE DEVELOPMENT - UPDATE

The planning and construction creation of the Telegraph Saddle walking track Wilsons Promontory National Park in Victoria are underway with Parks Victoria and contractors, and it is expected that works will commence in mid-2023 when the cultural heritage aspects have been finalised. It is expected that the track will be completed in the mid-2024. Consultations are ongoing with Parks Victoria regarding the naming of five viewing benches which are to be located at strategic viewpoints along the track. ACAVic is seeking to have these named after World War II and recent Afghanistan Commandos, who were Victorian based and who were killed in action. An initial cost estimate for the supply and installation of the five benches and signage is \$50,000 and this funding will be sought from government grants and public donations.

The proposed names at this stage are:

VX109893 Sergeant David Gooley

Born In rural Victoria and recruited locally and Instructor at Guerrilla Warfare School, Tidal River then volunteered for special service with Allied Intelligence Bureau - Operation RIMAU. Executed whilst POW - Bukit Timah, Singapore 7 July 1945

VX 50161 Sergeant Alan Edward Philpott

Born in Geelong in 1912, recruited into 7 Infantry Training Centre in March 1941 and having completed his training at Tidal River embarked in June 1941 for Kavieng, New Britain as a member of the 1st Independent Company. Following several days of intense bombing and the Japanese landing on 22



January 1942 the Headquarters and several sections fought heroically for nearly a week against ten their number and were forced to surrender. Sergeant Philpott along with fellow Australian prisoners were then transported to Rabaul Prisoner of War (POW) camp and on 22 June 1942 set sail on the Japanese ship Montevideo Maru which was torpedoed by US submarine SS187 USS Sturgeon on the 1 July 1942. The Montevideo Maru was not marked to indicate it was carrying POW and over 1050 military POW's and civilian internees lost their lives.

Sergeant Brett Wood

Brett Wood was born in Ferntree Gully, Victoria in 1978. He joined the Australian Regular Army in 1996 and after recruit training joined 6th Battalion the Royal Australian Regiment. Sergeant Wood successfully undertook Commando Selection and Training and joined the then 4th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment (later 2nd Commando Regiment) in November 1998. His first deployment was to Bougainville in 2000. In 2001 he deployed to East Timor and in 2003 to Iraq. In 2006 Sergeant Wood deployed to Afghanistan and was awarded The Medal for Gallantry for leadership in action as a Team Commander during this tour. In 2011 he returned to Afghanistan and for the third time and was tragically killed in action on Monday 23 May 2011.

Private Greg Sher

Born in South Africa and migrated to Australia with his family establishing itself in Melbourne. Greg joined the Army Reserve and served in East Timor prior to deploying to Afghanistan in late 2008. Greg was a Reservist with 1st Commando Regiment and was Killed in Action in Afghanistan on 4 January 2009.

WELFARE

2023 is the Centenary for Melbourne Legacy who have provided welfare support to the families of Australian and allied veterans. ACA Vic is a close working relationship with Melbourne Legacy through its welfare activities, particularly regarding contemporary veterans and their families and in recognition of the support and assistance provided by Legacy to Australian Commandos and their families in Victoria, ACA Vic has donated one hundred 'President's' medallions to the Melbourne Legacy President Legatee Kerry Jenke.

Melbourne Legacy has an extensive network of personnel including full-time welfare staff, volunteer Legatees and 'Friends of Legacy' in the provision of this Presidents medallion will enable the Melbourne Legacy President recognised the support provided by individuals or organisations by the presentation of this medallion specially struck for this purpose in the Centenary year.



The face of the Presidents medallion.
Source. Author



The rear of the Presidents medallion.
Source. Author

ACA Vic continues to liaise and attend regular meetings with the Victorian Veterans Council, Legacy, RSL and DVA networks to promote ACA Vic's objectives/expectations and support requirements in the very crowded Welfare & Advocacy arena.

Doug Knight

President

ACA Vic

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29 April 2023



Operative Cânciao dos Reis Noronha

Edited by Doug Knight

Much of this information has been extracted from research undertaken by Ernest 'Ernie' Chamberlain' and published in his informative 2010 non-commercial monograph 'Forgotten Men - Timorese in Special Operations during World War II'.

Born in Portuguese Timor on 20 October 1923 at Laclo. He was single and the son of the liurai/leader of Laclo. At the time the Japanese invaded Cânciao's elder brother, Luís dos Reis, Noronha was then the liurai of Laclo (a village situated 11 kilometres west of Manatuto).

In 2009 and communicating with Ernie Chamberlain Cânciao later recalled:

"The Japanese knew our family helped Australians and our elder brother Luís was in hiding. They caught one of our chiefs called Macao. He was tied up, beaten and burnt, but still he would not tell where Luís was, so the Japanese made him dig his own grave, then killed him. There were so many like Macao, brave people who died so they didn't betray their friends. If there was a book recording the heroes of Timor from that war it would be too long for anyone to read.

Our people told us the Japanese knew most Timorese would help Australians, so they took revenge on any, took people off to fix roads that had been destroyed and treated them very badly and many died.

At first the Japanese tried to make our sisters stay in a brothel for Japanese soldiers. Many girls were forced to go there. But our sisters knelt and said the rosary and would not see the soldiers, so the Japanese put them in a separate place, where they had to stay until the war ended. My sisters were told by those who saw Tenente Pires that still in prison he held his head high. He was a brave man who loved Timor.

They captured Luís. He wrote to our sisters asking them to forgive the man who informed on us to the Japanese, not to have him killed. Luís was tortured, hung by his feet, and forced to drink water. A friend of his, Procopio Rego, was killed with him."

During 1942-43 over six hundred Portuguese and Timorese men, women and children were evacuated to Australia from Timor to escape the harsh Japanese occupation.

Motivated by what had happened to their elder brother Luís, Cânciao and his other brother Bernardino were two of the approximately 100 of the men evacuated who volunteered for service with the Services Reconnaissance Department, a subsection of Special Operations Australia which was a part of the Allied Intelligence Bureau.

On 5 August 1943 Cânciao, was recommended by Lieutenant Pires³, a Portuguese Army officer from Timor, also in SRD, as a "wireless operator" – along with his brother, Bernardino Noronha.

In late November 1943 Cânciao was transferred from the Luggage Maintenance Section in Darwin to the Fraser Commando School (FCS) on Fraser Island in Queensland for training a field operative in Queensland.



Cânciao appears in a group photo of six at the Fraser Commando School on Fraser Island, Queensland in late 1943.

Source. Ernie Chamberlain

Cânciao was described in his course reports as "well trained and reached the standard of 15 words per minute in Morse code and it was noted that he belonged to the Laclo area".⁴

³Brigadier Ernie Chamberlain (retired) a former Australian Intelligence Corps officer who served in Vietnam and extensive service in Southeast Asia was intimately involved in Australian operations in Timor in 1999 and has published extensively on both the Vietnam and East Timorese conflicts.

⁴Any reader seeking to obtain of this monograph should contact the Editor at acanx.commandomageditor@gmail.com

³Lieutenant Manuel de Jesus Pires, a Portuguese supporter of the Allied cause in World War II who assisted Australian forces against the Japanese. After assisting evacuation from Timor during the Japanese occupation he arrived in Australia where he was recruited and employed confidentially by Special Operations Australia (SOA) a.k.a. Services Reconnaissance Department (SRD) (as the "Allied HQ Geographical Section"). He returned by submarine to Timor and led a brief resistance to the Japanese until captured in 1943. While his diary entries only cover the period December 1942 to May 1943 Cardoso comprehensively relates events in Portuguese Timor from the 1920s to after World War II. ⁴NAA A3269, D4/C, p.259 of 11 February 1944; and 26 February 1944.



On 11 January 1944, SRD advised operation LAGARTO (then captured including our former member Captain Jim Ellwood) that the Noronha brothers were “doing well as signallers and would be available for coast watching your area if you can get the scheme started.”⁵

Cancio was proposed for OP BLACKBIRD in late May 1944 to reinforce/relieve operation LAGARTO for an operation at Kuri or Isuum with his brother, Bernardino⁶ and possibly with Zeca Rebelo. However, operations were deferred as CANCIO had not yet trained for parachute jump into water. He undertook training at the special operations Australia training facilities at Trained at Mount Martha, Fraser Island and Rockhampton wheeze course reports noted that he was “very keen”.

He completed parachutist training in either June or October 1944 with the RAAF Parachute Training Unit and then undertook No.3 Cavern Course at Rockhampton conducted by Captain Sam Carey during the period 4-7 July 1944 with other BLACKBIRD personnel (his brother Bernardino and LT Stevenson, SGT Dawson). This course was designed to train operatives on how to select and live in the cave systems whilst conducting their operations. Following the course they returned to Fraser Commando School FCS.⁷

Files also indicate that Cândia also undertook grenade and advanced training at Mount Martha and wireless and Morse code training whilst at Fraser Island.⁸

A revised operation to insert the OP BLACKBIRD team by Catalina seaplane in an area off Point Bigono, Baucau on the north eastern coast of Timor was planned for mid-June 1944 was deferred and a water jump at Fatu Uaqui, Manatuto was planned for 31 August 1944. Fatu Uaqui, is about 8km east of Manatuto which is 62 km west of Baucau. However, approval was withdrawn by General Headquarters.

Operation BLACKBIRD was postponed on 15 September 1944 and cancelled on 1 October 1944 (later replaced by OP SUNLAG with Celectino dos Anjos as their Timorese guide⁹).

Cândia's rate of pay in October 1944 at FCS (as trainee) was 6/- per day. This was the same as any member of the Australian forces and was three times the wage of English forces) leading to the phrase 'six bob a day tourists'.

Cândia's also undertook advanced communications training at Milton (Brisbane) in late October 1944 then



Map 1: WWII sites in the Baucau Municipality [2]
1. Vemasse 2. Uai Cuac - Point Bigono 3. Baucau 4. Seical River 5. Calical 6. Laga 7. Baguia 8. Venilale

Source. Ernie Chamberlain

relocated to Mount Martha in Victoria on 21 November 1944 additional training.

On 12 February 1945, he was declared by SRD to Portuguese Consul Laborinho as “employed in semi-Army work”.

He returned from Mount Martha to the Luger Maintenance Section in Darwin and in March-June 1945 where he requested release from SRD in March 1945 (Consul confirmed the request on 20 March 1945). See SRD's Group D report of April 1945 (D27/A, p.63).

At Peak Hill in mid-late May 1945 and he departed Newcastle as scheduled on the SS Angola on 27 November 1945 - aged 22.

Following the cessation of the war Cândia joined the Health and Hygiene Service on return to Dili – as an aspirante or trainee. He initially served in Dili, then was posted to the Sub-Delagação at Ossu in October 1947.¹⁰

He was later employed at the Overseas National Bank (BNU) in Dili and was appointed as a member of the Government Council on 15 November 1959.¹¹

He was a member of the UDT the Timorese Democratic Union which was a conservative political party in East Timor. It was the first party to be established in the country on May 11, 1974, following the Carnation Revolution in Portugal. He was a party from 1974-75 – and a member of its Central Committee. He resigned from the Central Committee in 1994.

Following the Indonesian invasion in late 1975, he moved with his family to West Timor in 1976, then to Portugal and Australia – arriving in 1986. Cândia took up Australian citizenship on 7 May 1992. Where he and his wife Maria establish their family home.

⁵NAA A3269, D4/C p.267.

⁶NAA A3269, D4/C, p.59).

⁷NAA A3269, D4/A, p.372.

⁸Noronha, C., letter to author, 12 May 2009.

⁹Celectino was subsequently awarded the Loyal Service Medallion for his part in this operation.

¹⁰Forgotten Men - Timorese in Special Operations during World War II.

¹¹BOdT No.3, 16 January 1960, p.24.



Sadly, Senhor Cândia Dos Reis Noronha passed away in late February 2022 at his home in Melbourne aged 98 years.



Left: Cândia in later life with a photo of himself in earlier years.
Source: Nando dos Reis Noronha

For those readers that may be interested in the political and military history of East Timor other publications by Ernie Chamberlain are as follows.

The Struggle in Iliomar: Resistance in rural East Timor; Editions - 2003, 2004 and 2008 (ISBN 9780980562309).

Perjuangan di Iliomar: Perlawanan di Pedesaan di Timor-Leste, 2004 (ISBN 0-9750350-1-0).

Faltering Steps – Independence Movements in East Timor in the 1950s and 1960s; 2005 (ISBN 0 97500350 2 9).

Faltering Steps: Independence Movements in East Timor – 1940s to the early 1970s; Editions - 2007 and 2008 (ISBN 978 0 9750350 4 7).

Rebellion, Defeat and Exile: The 1959 Uprising in East Timor; Editions - 2007 and 2009 (ISBN 9780980562316).

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ASSOCIATION AWARD FOR IAN HALLIBURTON

At the February 2023 Rip service at Queenscliff, ACA Victoria president Doug Knight made a presentation, in absentia, to former 2 Commando Company soldier Ian Halliburton.

With previous CMF service, Ian enlisted in 2 Commando Company at Ripponlea in mid-1958, and completed many courses, including Signals, Small Scale Amphibious Raids and Cliff Leader Class 3. A locomotive driver in Victoria, Ian reluctantly discharged from the Unit in 1965 to commence a new position in Port Hedland, driving the first iron ore train in Western Australia.

Ian recently moved down south to Bunbury, near his extended family, and in his early 90s is still in excellent health. He arranges his visits to Victoria and Tasmania to catch up with family and to attend Association functions, including the annual February Rip service.

The presentation plaque, accepted in Ian's absence by his former Commando colleague Geoff Woodman, formally recognized Ian's actions on the night of the Rip incident, 63 years earlier. It is believed Ian's alertness and physical strength, in ferocious conditions, saved the life of one of his fellow Zodiac crew members.

The inscription on the shield read,

*Presented to
Ian Halliburton
by the Australian Commando
Association Victoria
in recognition of his composure
and strength
on the night of the Rip incident
Wednesday 17th February 1960*

President Doug related that, in the Rip incident, Ian's 10Z Zodiac capsized. With coolness and presence of mind Ian realised one of his crew had not surfaced and reached under the craft and pulled him to safety. All were washed out into Bass Strait before being rescued by the pilot vessel Akuna.

Ian later recalled that the person he rescued had most likely been stunned by the boom or the timber decking as their craft capsized. The Zodiac was washed out through the Heads, and when the rough seas settled down to a giant swell



ACA Victoria president Doug Knight makes the presentation to Geoff Woodman, standing in for Ian Halliburton, at the February 2023 Rip service.



Over in the West. Anthony Trainor, son of Maureen Trainor and the late 2 Cdo Coy veteran Jim Trainor, makes the presentation to Ian at Bunbury, WA, on behalf of the ACA Victoria.



A young Ian Halliburton in his serving days with 2 Commando Company.

Right: Reflection. During an Association hiking weekend in 2013 Ian examines the names of some of his lost comrades on a plaque at the Tidal River Commando memorial.

the men climbed on top of their up-turned craft.

A couple of hours later out in Bass Strait they were spotted by the pilot ship Akuna and taken aboard, after earlier seeing the Princess of Tasmania pass by them, unsighted. Early next morning the men who had been picked up by the Akuna were returned to the Queenscliff jetty and back to camp.

Ian's award was to be a surprise. The Association knew he planned to come from Western Australia to attend the Rip service, as well as catch up with his Victorian family. Unfortunately he was unable travel after his son became ill.

Ian's brother Graeme Halliburton began his 230 km trip from Yarck to Queenscliff to accept the award on Ian's behalf, but his vehicle, recently serviced, broke down on the way. So 'Woody', who was also in the Rip incident in 1960, stood in for Graeme.

Maureen Trainor, wife of the late 2 Cdo Coy veteran Jim Trainor, was present at the Rip service. Maureen arranged for their son Anthony, who was going to West Australia, to make the presentation at Ian's residence in Bunbury.

As all agreed, after 63 years, "Better late than never!"

Octavian 'Danny' Daniliuc told of a Company amphibious raid against the Air Force base at Laverton at about 4 am in mid-1961. Danny said, "Around 7 am we withdrew to near the railway line. We heard a train approaching and Ian stepped onto the line to stop the train – he had pre-arranged with his railway workmates for the train to stop and pick him up so he could get to work. He hadn't wanted to miss out on the raid and this was the only way he could get to work on time. His rifle was signed off at the armoury by a mate".

"That is what you call dedication", Danny said.



SIGNIFICANT COMMANDO DATES

APRIL to JUNE

APRIL

April 1942

Detachment, No.1 Independent Company under the command of Captain Roy Howard (later the first Qld Cdo Assoc President), was moved to Kudjeru, New Guinea, to guard against possible Japanese movement south of Wau along the Bulldog Track. In the process they became one of the first Australian Army units to cross the Owen Stanley Range.

17 April 1942

No 5 Independent Company arrives in Port Moresby, New Guinea during an air raid.

19/20 April 1942

Members of the No. 2 Independent Company were able to make contact with Darwin from the mountains of Timor for the first time since beginning the guerrilla campaign, using a wireless transmitter nicknamed *Winnie the War Winner*.

06 April 1943

Inter-Allied Services Department (ISD) becomes Special Operations Australia (SOA) in May to avoid confusion in the names between SOA & Special Operations Executive (SOE) the cover name Services Reconnaissance Department (SRD) was used instead. Shortly after this In June Z Special Unit was established to provide admin, training and personnel support and comes under command SRD.

April 1945

The 2/4th Cdo Sqn embarked from Townsville and sailing to Morotai, Dutch East Indies. From here the Squadron took part in the landings at Tarakan Island, British North Borneo as part of the "Oboe" operations.

30 April 1958

The Chief of The General Staff made a decision to raise No 1 Independent Signals Squadron to support clandestine operations and this led to the formation of 301 Signal Squadron (Home Defence) in 1960 at Lidcombe, NSW.

25 April 2001

4 RAR Cdo officially commences a six-month operational deployment to East Timor as part of the United Nations Transitional Administration East Timor (UNTAET). The Bn deploys to SECTOR WEST as the Australian Battalion (AUSBAT) and monitors

the Northern region against the West Timor border. 4 RAR deploys with two Commando Coy's (B Cdo Coy & C Cdo Coy) and two light Infantry Coy's (A Coy & D Coy). This is the first time that Australian Commando Company's have deployed to Timor as a complete unit since the No.2 and No.2. in WW2. 2021 marks the 20th Anniversary of 4 RAR(Cdo) deployment to East Timor.

April 2003

Bravo Commando Company, 4 RAR (Cdo) deploys elements into Baghdad, Iraq to secure the Australian Embassy. These elements of Bravo Commando Company are the first Australian Combat Troops to arrive in Baghdad during the Iraq Invasion in 2003.

April 2007

Alpha Commando Company, 4 RAR (Cdo) returns to Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan as part of the Special Operations Task Group (SOTG) Rotation IV. SOTG is also known as Task Force 66 (TF66) to distinguish itself from other Coalition SF units in Afghanistan. This begins the continuous presence of an Australian Commando Company in Afghanistan until 15 December 2013.

MAY

May 1941

No1 Independent Company was formally raised having completed training at Wilsons Promontory Victoria, the home and birthplace of the Australian Commando and Special Operations.

May 1942

2/6th & 2/7th Independent Companies were formed at Wilsons Promontory, Victoria.

17 May 1942

Inter-Allied Services Department (ISD) is formed in Melbourne, Victoria.

May 1943

53 men of 2/3rd Cav Commando Squadron conducts an attack on Ambush Knoll in New Guinea against the Imperial Japanese Army (IJA) and takes the position. The IJA attempts several counter attacks over several days but are repelled each time.

(Continued next page)



Significant Commando Dates

MAY (cont'd)

07 May 1943

M Special Unit is raised and became the established to provide admin, training and personnel support and comes under command of the Allied Intelligence Bureau (AIB).

29 May 1943

2/7th Independent Company conducts combat operations in Bena Bena, New Guinea as part of Bena Force.

3 May 1945

2/4th Commando Squadron is involved in one of the last campaigns of WW2 when it landed on Tarakan Island and took part in the Borneo campaign. In the coming days and weeks, the 2/4th Cdo Sqn saw extensive action during the liberation of Tarakan, suffering heavy casualties with four officers and fifty-two other ranks being killed or wounded in this time.

8 May 1945

The War in Europe ends with the total surrender of Germany and becomes known as Victory in Europe Day (VE Day).

11 May 1945

2/9th & 2/10th Cav Commando Squadrons land at Dove Bay, Wewak and established the beachhead. The landing was also with the 2/3 Machine Gun Bn, plus a Battery of 75mm, manned by 2/1 Tank Attack Regt.

13 - 19 May 1945

2/10th Cav Cdo Sqn is surrounded by Japanese troops in the Wewak area and fights off numerous attacks.

6 May 1969

WO2 Ray Simpson, DCM. is awarded the Victoria Cross for Valour in South Vietnam. Ray was attached to AATTV from 1 Commando Company.

25 May 2006

Alpha Commando Company (ACC), 4 RAR (Cdo) deploys to Timor Leste to help secure the Country as a result of the unrest in the country. ACC secures the APOD in Dili to enable the remainder of the Force to make entry into the Country.

JUNE

01 June 1942

Personnel from ISAD (later to become SOA/SRD) allocated for Operation LIZARD party in Timor commences training at Foster Guerilla Warfare School, Wilsons Promontory, Victoria.

29 June 1942

2/5th Independent Company launched a raid on a Japanese aerodrome at Salamaua, New Guinea, the first Allied attack on Japanese land forces anywhere.

05 June 1945

2/10th Cav Commando Squadron in action against Japanese bunker system South of the main Australian position in Mandi during the Aitape - Wewak Campaign.

June - July 2000

Elements of Bravo Commando Company, 4 RAR (Cdo) deploys to the Solomon Islands as part of Operation PLUM BOB, to help withdrawal Australian Nationals from the troubled Island.

10 - 14 June 2010

Alpha Commando Company, 2nd Commando Regiment engages heavy insurgent numbers during the Battle of Eastern Shah Wali Kot, Afghanistan. The unit was later awarded the Battle Honour Eastern Shah Wali Kat, which is the first battle honour awarded to an Australian Commando unit and Australian Special Forces.
19 June 2009

19 June 2009

4 RAR (Cdo) was renamed the 2nd Commando Regiment at Tobruk Lines, Holsworthy Barracks NSW.

22 June 2013

CPL Cameron Stuart Baird, MG. is Killed in Action and subsequently is Posthumously Awarded the Victoria Cross (VC) for Valour, whilst serving as a Commando Section Commander with Bravo Company, 2nd Commando Regiment in Afghanistan.



PREPARATION FOR OPERATION JAYWICK

Background

In the last edition we covered Operation SCORPION which was a training exercise in Townsville that effectively provided proof of the concept and the capability of undertaking a canoe raid into Singapore Harbour.

In this edition there are two documents which have been recently sourced from the UK National Archives SOE file HS1/258.

The first document is a Brief on Operation JAYWICK from the Director Special Operations Australia (SOA) to an appointment, believed to be the Assistant Director Operations in the Headquarters of Special Operations Executive (SOE) in the United Kingdom. Although there are significant code names used in the original document these have been replaced with the known identities for easier reading. This document provides greater clarity of the command-and-control arrangements of this operation than have been previously published and clearly identifies the JAYWICK as an SOA conducted operation, funded by SOE, and composing mainly seconded British SOE command personnel and Royal Australian Navy personnel. Only one Australian Army member Corporal Andrew Crilly, MM participated in the operation and he was nominally the cook.

The second document shows pages 67-89 from the SOE file which is a detailed report of the training and lessons learned by the Operation JAYWICK party when undergoing their training at 'X' Camp in Refuge Bay, north of Sydney on the Hawkesbury River and this is being reproduced, with the inclusion of some photographs taken in 1942. The document is longer than usual and provides many insights which were to become the basis of later special operations and commando training. Relevant photographs have been included to assist with context but were not contained within the original report.

This document is part of the overall Operational Report submitted by Major Lyons after his successful return to Australia following the JAYWICK raid.

Those interested in understanding the comprehensive training regime that was undertaken should refer to the National Australian Archives Series A3629 Barcode 235233 available at <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=235233> and also the book "Deadly Secrets - The Singapore Raids" by Lynette Ramsay Silver.

The remainder of Major Lyons' Operational Report will be included in a future edition of the magazine along with some personal accounts by members who participated in the operation.

CONCEPT NOTE ON OPERATION JAYWICK

Transcribed and edited by Doug Knight

MOST SECRET

No.41 3/6

30th August 1943

To: SOE appointment possibly Assistant Director Operations (A.D.O).
From: Director SOA (D.U).

The following are the events leading up to the despatch of the "JAYWICK" Expedition. I hope this memorandum will meet the requirements indicated in your Telegram No14 84 para. C.

1. The 'JAYWICK' Project was conceived in India early in 1942 Major Ivan Lyons¹, later followed by Captain H. Campbell², came to Australia to try and put the Project on its feet. They had no accreditation to I.S.D.³, nor were they at any time sponsored by

I.S.D. although they from time to time saw Major Egerton Mott, British Army⁴, through whom some, but not all, of their communications with India passed. After a number of abortive interviews at G.H.Q.⁵ and elsewhere Major Lyons eventually, through the agency of the Governor-General, was introduced to Admiral Sir Guy Royle⁶ he, mainly through Director of Naval Intelligence (DNI)⁷ fathered the Project to the extent of providing Naval personnel, camp site, supplies and all the necessary organization for their early training.

Major Lyons brought with him from India a letter from General Wavell, then C-in-C, supporting the

¹A.K.107

²SWPA

³1941 he became First Naval Member of the Australian Commonwealth Naval Board.

⁷Commander Rupert Basil Michel Long, RAN.

¹SOA code name A.K.161

²SOA code name A.K.160

³Inter Allied Services Department which later became SOA.



Project. I have never seen this letter but understand that Admiral Royle still has it.

You have in London full reports on these early stages of the Project up to the time when the "Krait" arrived in Australia and the Operation left Sydney. You are also aware of the circumstances in which as a result of continual breakdowns and loss of security the Project had to be abandoned as indicated in my Telegrams Nos.515 and 521.

At no time throughout this stage of the operations were GHQ in any way concerned with it.

2. After the formation of S.O.A. I brought the "JAYWICK" Project and personnel into this Organization and after its abandonment, as mentioned in my Telegram No.521, the R.A.N. personnel were returned to duty and, with your approval, Major Lyons and Campbell were employed by S.O.A.
3. With the assistance of DNI we then tried to find a suitable new engine⁸ and this was subsequently acquired in the circumstances set out in my Telegrams 590 and 600. This engine has since been installed and considerable improvements made to the vessel. Meanwhile, also in consultation with DNI the Project was replanned cutting out the passage from Darwin by the Timor Sea and through Flores Sea substituting a passage from Exmouth Gulf through the Lombok Strait at the beginning of September when, owing to change of monsoon, there is in Lombok Strait cloud and rain and consequently low visibility, When the work on the vessel was proceeding satisfactorily and the new plans had been completed in the light of all available information I re-submitted the Project to Admiral Sir Guy Royle who gave his approval; he arranged that the original personnel should again be made available and wrote personally to Vice-Admiral Carpenter, U.S.N.⁹ asking that the facilities at Exmouth Gulf should be provided.

In the Agreement, dated 23/3/43, between S.O.A. and G.H.Q. of which I sent a copy with my Memorandum 11 2/6, dated 13/4/43, to A.D.⁶¹⁰ it is noted that "As a matter of courtesy, since S.W.P.A. theatre is contemplated to be used as a Base for S.O.A. operations in adjacent theatres, C-in-C¹¹, S.W.P.A., would appreciate being informed of projected S.O.A. operations in adjacent theatres". I accordingly as a matter of courtesy informed G.H.Q of the proposed "JAYWICK" operation and at the same time asked if authority could be given by G.H.Q. for the vessel to use Exmouth Gulf for a few days prior to her final departure for refuelling.

G.H.Q thereupon enquired whether as provided by para.11 of the Agreement the C-in-C. of the theatre in which the operation was to take place had approved. I informed them that the operation had originally been approved by General Wavell but that I would obtain a reaffirmation of this approval. Since as a para-Naval operation "JAYWICK" had become so dependent on Naval assistance, I saw Admiral Sir Guy Royle who sent the telegram numbered (1) attached and at the same time I sent telegram No.(2), crossing this I received from India telegram No.(3) and sent No.(4); I finally received from India No.(5), the contents of which I communicated to G.H.Q. who are fully satisfied and have issued the necessary instructions regarding the use of Exmouth Gulf. I should add, however, that the Chief of Staff at GHQ had so properly adopted this formalistic attitude, the American D.N.I had already sent the necessary instructions to Exmouth Gulf about the reception of the "Krait" who was by that time making the passage from Thursday Island.

4. Everyone has been most co-operative. While, as I have said I should have informed Commander in Chief, South West Pacific Area (C-in-C, S.W.P.A)¹² that this operation was on foot, it became necessary in this case to ask for the actual assistance of G.H.Q. because Exmouth Gulf has been handed over to the US Navy as a submarine base and is not under the direct control of the R.A.N. We chose Exmouth Gulf for the base of departure for security reasons. You will see from the map how completely isolated it is from the world. Until its existence was disclosed by Mr. Curtin in an election speech (when the submarine depot ship had to be moved in a great hurry) it was a most secret base far removed from any human habitation and only allowed very limited W/T activity. Although the initial passage will, therefore, be slightly longer the security is infinitely greater than would be the case at Broome or Wyndham where the populations are of all kinds and colours.

The Secretary, Australian Commonwealth Naval Board (ACNB) has not yet received any reply to his cable No. (1) to F.O.C.R.I.N¹³. I will inform you by cable should he receive anything further, but this communication is now only of academic interest since at the time of writing the "Krait" is already in Exmouth Gulf having made a most successful journey up to date. I have received a most encouraging preliminary report on the general morale of the party from A.K.162¹⁴ who went up there to make arrangements for their reception and

⁸For the Krait.

⁹Allied Naval Forces in the Southwest Pacific Area during World War II.

¹⁰Unknown SOE appointment.

¹¹General D. McArthur. SOA code name A.K.1000

¹²General D. McArthur

¹³UK Foreign Office unknown appointment

¹⁴Unknown SOA appointment.



hand over a few final stores and messages, and they expect to make their final departure on 2 September 1943. By the time you get this I shall have sent you a cable confirming this.

5. If all goes well the operation should take place on or about 30 September 1943.
6. The agreement referred to in your Telegram 649 para. C. has still not arrived here, and no one seems to have any knowledge of it apart from what I have been able to tell DNI. As no other arrangement resulting from this agreement has been made S.O.A. are still on paper liable to R.A.N. for the cost of the new engine and alterations to the vessel. R.A.N. have no financial allocation for this purpose

and no secret funds, and in order to get the work done the only alternative to our accepting the financial liability is to go to Canberra for political sanction for this expenditure with, incredible as it may sound, a very real danger that the matter might be discussed in Parliament.

I can arrange that we shall not be asked for payment pending clarification of the position by Z.N.¹⁵ but I hope the agreement to which you have referred will arrive shortly as other matters under this heading will undoubtedly arise, particularly the handling by R.A.N. of the fast boat which is to be built for us for service in Timor Sea.

EXTRACT FROM OPERATIONAL REPORT BY MAJOR LYONS

OBSERVATIONS ON 'X' TRAINING

APPENDICES I & II

Note the photographs were not included in the original report and have been added to assist with context.

Edited by Doug Knight



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P01806.009

Refuge Bay, Hawkesbury River, NSW. c. 17 January 1943. Tent lines at a training camp for members of Operation 'JAYWICK' in which operatives carried out a successful raid in MV Krait on Japanese shipping in Singapore Harbour later in the year.

Source. AWM

GENERAL

The following notes and observations on the specialised training carried out in "X" Training Camp are set out after four month's intensive training. Whilst it is hoped that they will be of help in training men for future operations similar to that in view for the

personnel of 'X' training camp, these notes must be looked upon as subject to modification and revision after the present trainees and the system of their

¹⁵Unknown appointment.



training have been tested in action. The basis of the training will doubtless not alter much. This has been to bring a body of young Naval Ratings, all volunteers for a dangerous operation, to a certain degree of physical fitness, mental alertness, and naval, military and specialised ability. The time allowed was three months. Owing to operational circumstances this period has been extended to four months.

PERSONNEL

The following comprised the personnel of 'X' Training Camp¹⁶.

- 1 Lieut. (Sp)) R.N.V.R Officer in charge of Training
- 1 Sub - Lieut. R.A.N.V.R Gunnery Officer
- 2 Sergeant instructors A.I.F.
- 1 Leading Telegraphist V /S and W/T specialist
- 1 Corporal R.A.M.C. Medical Orderly
- 1 Able Seamen
- 1 Cook
- 12 Ordinary seamen.

In addition to these one Able Seaman was loaned to the camp for one month for duties concerning stores.



The original officers allocated to OP JAYWICK. L to R 'Gort Chester, Ivan Lyons, Bill Reynolds, Donald Davidson, Bert Overall at Camp X in early 1943.

Source. Deadly Secrets, p126

REQUIREMENTS

A. Physical

- (a) To reach a state of perfect physical condition, capable of being maintained for six months on hard tack under difficult victualling and living conditions.
- (b) To be able to cover long distances over land and water; 50 miles a day on foot over roads or tracks; 40 over much trackless country; 30 by canoe on rivers, estuaries, and open sea; and 30 by land and water combined; were aimed at and achieved.

B. Morale

- (a) Morale. To be capable of maintaining high: morale under extremely trying conditions. These are expected to be:
 - (i) cramped living conditions: 20 men in a 70 ft trawler.
 - (ii) North- at Monsoon weather.
 - (iii) Coasting by night in dangerous navigational waters and lying up by day in rivers and mangrove swamps, by islands and exposed coasts.
 - (iv) Voyaging in enemy controlled enters, in the vicinity of and often ashore on, enemy controlled territory.
 - (v) No contact, other than by W/T headquarters or with assistance for six months.
 - (vi) Limited medical aid.
 - (vii) Tropical climatic conditions.
- (b) Initiative and alertness. To train each man to be capable of taking a lone hand, if necessary, in the execution of our intended operation; to be alert enough to take the initiative should events alter the execution of subsequent movements; and to be versatile enough to be able to make his way through enemy-controlled waters to a friendly territory should separation from the main party overtake him.

C. NAVAL AND MILITARY

- (a) Expert knowledge and handling of small arms including .303 rifle, Owen sub-machine gun, revolver, pistol, Bren, Lewis guns, 3" mortar, and the Oerlikon.
- (b) A high degree of proficiency in only small area anti-aircraft, and a thorough grounding in the principles of anti-aircraft gunnery.
- (c) Fieldcraft
 - i. Stalking, with emphasis on night stalking.
 - ii. Use of cover.
 - iii. Attack and demolition of gun and search-light positions
 - iv. working knowledge of map reading.
 - v. Use of prismatic compass on land and sea.
- (d) Elementary navigation
 - I. Chart-reading
 - II. The compass
 - III. Wind, tides and currents
 - IV. Tide tables.
- (e) Visual Signalling
 - Semaphore and Morse.

D. SPECIALISED

- (a) Expert handling of collapsible canoes in all possible weather and seas.
- (b) Canoe navigation by night and day.
- (c) Portage of canoes over road in rough country
- (d) Handling of news in attacking and boarding shipping and shore installations.
- (e) Proficient in unarmed combat
- (g) Knife combat

¹⁶These figures do not include the Operation JAYWICK party and specialist support staff.



- (h) Safe handling and application of certain explosives; grenades, limpets, and gelignite.
- (h) Demolition of all small ships.
- (i) Working knowledge of small ships and medium-size ship's engines.

Except for the demolition of small ships, and a study of small ships and merchant ships engines, all other requirements have been fulfilled. There are still three weeks of the training period to run, and during this time these exceptions will receive special attention.

TRAINING

Training commenced with a three weeks course of physical training and unarmed combat at the Army Physical and Recreational Training School at Frankston Victoria. Usually, a course is of a month's duration and specialises in PT or unarmed combat or remedial work. The course given to the Naval party was a general though intensive course in the first two of these subjects.

A. PHYSICAL TRAINING

The skeleton of the training was hard work with no time for recreation, and no time idle. A week's hard work digging, breaking rock, and clearing scrub around the camp site and parade ground, was prelude to long, and progressively longer, days and nights spent canoeing, and ashore amongst the very rough and wild hills that form the surroundings of the Hawkesbury River estuary.

'X' Camp is situated at the beach of Refuge Bay, which is an inlet on the southern side of Broken Bay, the name given to the estuary of the Hawkesbury River in New South Wales. Emphasis from the start was laid on night work. Owing to the extremely broken, rocky, and dangerous formation of the environment of the camp, night work on land was necessarily very slow. It consisted of point-to-point walking or scrambling, compass work, stalking and attacks. Being so slow (the average pace possible being no more than ½ mile an hour when not stalking) it was looked upon as complementary to strenuous day work and did not replace it. This worked well. It occupied some of the long night hours and excluded idleness. When night operations were undertaken the preceding, or the following, day was allowed for a 'make and mend' day. Night operations, sometimes of five days' duration away from the camp were undertaken on iron rations and with full loads and canoes (see Appendix II)

P.T as taught at the school at Frankston is systematic. After-hours PT has been given daily in 'X Camp' before breakfast. This could be improved upon by another half an hour at night, but the training takes the personnel away from camp so much that any such periods are bound to be irregular.

Run- walk exercises on roads and tracks has kept legs in tune with arms and bodies hardened by canoeing.

The great amount of wood needed for the galley has provided plenty of exercise in axe work and the use of the 'parang'¹⁷.

'X' Camp is on top of the cliff with a sheer drop of about 120 feet to the rocks surrounding the beach. A rope with a single block and with the 'bosun's chair at one end provides a good confidence test. Descending is simple. Ascending needs great endurance on the part of the muscles and is accomplished only with frequent rests.

Swimming also forms a regular part of the training. With all the other items of training this has perhaps received too little attention. All the trainees can swim, as swimming has been looked upon as recreation to be taken only when other training requirements permit.

The following Camp Routine times we found most suitable after many trials. Owing to constant night operations, early rising with a long day to follow was found inadvisable, and so readily was arranged at 0655.

0655	Reveille
0725-0755	P.T
0800	Colours
0805	Breakfast
1330	Lunch (omitted in the final month)
1800	Colours
1900	Dinner
2200	Lights out

A typically weekly program is shown below.

Four weeks commencing Sunday, 22 November 1942

Date	0900-1100	1115-1315	1430-1630	1630-1830	2030 -?
Sun 22 Nov	small arms instruction Bren and rifle	Canoe maintenance	Run walk to Whitehorse Bay and back.14 miles		Land stalking (moon rising late quarter)
Monday 23 November	small arms instruction Bren and Owen	Weekly firing and competitions	Scavenging wood		Nil
Tuesday 24 November	Run walk and who to Coal and Candle Creek and back. (10 miles land 4 ½ by sea).		Unarmed combat	Small arms instruction 3"mortar	Canoe point-to-point by compass, stalking and landing points.
Wednesday 25 November	Canoe to Bobbin Head and back (17 miles)		Small arms instruction 3"mortar	Seamanship. Knots and splices. Chartwork	Dismantling and assembling canoes without lights.
Thursday 26 November	Make and Mend		Canoe maintenance	Attack on 'A' Battery.	
Friday 27 November	Return from night ops		Small arms instruction 3"mortar	Run walk to road in back (10 miles)	Nil
Saturday 28 November	Instructions in unarmed combat to ship's company of HMAS....		Swimming	Run walk. (4 miles)	attack on HMAS....

¹⁷South-east Asian version of a machete or bush knife.



B. MORALE TRAINING

- (a) **Morale.** Training in morale presents difficulties. For an operation such as is envisaged for 'X' Camp trainees' character will produce higher results than ever possibly hoped for. Therefore, a rigorous selection and elimination process is necessary. About 20% of the original selection of volunteer ratings have been rejected during training, and it is believed that the remainder possess the points of character to fulfill requirements.

Discipline will play the role next in importance to character. Particularly in a small community such as this, officers must study each individual rating minutely and must arrange his attitude to, and his treatment of, each accordingly, if serious trouble is to be avoided. Unobtrusiveness in this respect is of vital importance. The Test of the correctness of the balance struck during the training period will come during the operation. To arrive at strict discipline and a proper regard on the part of the ratings for their officers, it has been made an invariable rule that the latter try every new thing first, whether it is landing in a canoe in dangerous surf, or an endurance test, or the portaging of canoes and full packs overland, or merely the first use of the open knife in knife combat practice, or a test of some new dehydrated foodstuff.

- (b) **Initiative and alertness.** The average age of the ratings under training is 19, a bit young for a previously developed initiative to manifest itself although many of the ratings show natural tendencies that way. In the others a gradual increase in responsibility, section leadership, lone work and the consequent reduction of the 'second fiddle complex', has done much to educate initiative.

Training and instruction in jungle lore and the peculiarities of the types of natives of countries likely to be touched at, their ways of living, their customs, how they should be treated and approached, how to live in their lands with or without their connivance, the diseases prevalent there, are very necessary as a precaution against separation or shipwreck.

Such training and instruction cannot be practical in a training camp like 'X' Camp. It can only take the form of lectures and talks. Fortunately, the previous experiences of the officers of the camp covers all that is necessary in this respect.



Original JAYWICK recruits at Camp X all taken on the road to West Head.

Back row: Andrew Houston, Norris 'Norrie' Wright, Fred Marsh, Leslie 'Tiny' Hage, John Mackay. Front row. Arthur Jones, Ernest 'Snow' Kerr, Stan McCabe, Paul 'Mick' Cameron

Source. Deadly Secrets, p127

C. NAVAL AND MILITARY TRAINING

- (a) **Small arms.** Two Sergeant instructors, AIF were loaned to X Camp by the Army for the duration of training.

- (b) **Anti-aircraft.** A week's course was given to the whole camp at the RAN and School of anti-aircraft gunnery at Woolloomooloo, Sydney with the emphasis on the use of small arms. No actual practice against sleeve or any other target has been possible, but the many hours spent in the Dome Teacher, and the thorough grounding in the principles of the type of gunnery received there should prove invaluable in action.

- (c) **Fieldcraft**

- (1) Stalking by night and attacks on coast defence batteries. The batteries and Army detachments in the vicinity have been most helpful and cooperative in taking defensive parts in night operations staged by X Camp against them. (Appendices 1 and 2 give some details).

Training in stalking was done in simple stages first by day, and later by night.

- i. Individual stalking of a given position.
- ii. Stalking of mobile opponents.
- iii. Section stalking by night, of a given and known position.
- iv. Sections reconnaissance and stalking of a roughly known position.
- v. Section stalking of a defended post.
- vi. Individual stalking of opponent in defended post.

All the foregoing were land operations. Then came similar operations combined with Canoe work.



- vii. Section landing in stalking on or near defended beaches and rock posts.
- viii. Single Canoe landing in individual stalking of defended beach posts.

Given choice of weather and night, which would be the privilege of the operation in actions and without which this type of warfare could hardly succeed, trainees from 'X' camp have reached that state of canoe efficiency that an unobserved landing on any normally defended beach or coast can be assured, and an attack against a similarly guarded post will have very good chances of success (see Appendix I, 3). (Choice of weather and night, in other words the conditions of weather most favourable to the operation, are elaborated in Appendix I, C)

Silent movements; save almost imperceptible movements in exposed places, with quicker advantage taken of cover; a detailed and immediate grasp of the makeup of the background and foreground colouring and shading; an appreciation of skyline and silhouettes; body balance regulated through every movement to allow an instantaneous withdrawal of a foot or hand should anything unseen and likely to betray the stalker's position by snapping or rustling be touched; controlled breathing; immediate freezing in any position of balance or suspense for long periods if the possibility exists that the stalker's whereabouts is suspected; bluffing it out by immobility and silence until the watcher grows tired first; control of excitement; infinite patience and a proper realisation that the last few yards can easily take hours; knowledge and appreciation of 'blind spots' and 'circle of visibility' for a lighted objective; all these vital items need very careful study and tuition in each trainee, and much time and patience instilling each into him until it becomes second nature. To avoid the drudgery and dullness of repetition in so doing is a difficult task and was a special consideration when planning the training programs.

- (2) **Use of cover** has been dealt with above.
- (3) **Attack and demolition** of gun and searchlight positions.

In Appendix 1 E defended military posts of this description should not be attacked by a body of men such as "X" Camp has been training and who are confined to shipping, civil, or lightly guarded military objectives. This, however, does not detract from the value of the training in such attacks.

Without the appreciative cooperation of the Army coast defence batteries in the vicinity, the training undergone in stalking and night work would not have been tested, and only rather

objectless practice could have been had. Night operations against these batteries have proved of great assistance to the training. From the practical point of view, apart from putting into practice training in stalking and night work, considerable knowledge has been gained concerning the practical lay-out of such posts and concerning the vulnerable parts of guns, searchlight, searchlight power installations cables, ammunition magazines etc., for demolition purposes.

As far as attacks on aerodromes and other Air Force establishments goes, however, it is considered that the same arguments are used against attack on defended military posts applies here.

(4) & (5) **Map-reading and the Prismatic Compass.**

A working knowledge of these is required. Accurate estimation of distance covered on land and sea when making 'dogleg' points is essential. For this familiarity with speed made good over various types of country is the best aid on land, and a study of wind and tide in their offsets on speed made good in a canoe, is the best means on the sea, especially at night when topographical details are indefinite. For you this is mastered it will be found that 'dogleg' points, and points with three or four courses in thee will be made by canoes under difficult conditions of wind, tide, and weather. The training commences with single-course points and follows on to the more complicated courses. When planning any night operation of this description, interest is added to the exercise if a story is built around it, and a 'signal' or 'report' is handed to the participators setting forth in concise naval terms the objective, and orders for the attack.

(6) **Elementary Navigation**

- i. **Chart reading.** All that is required of the ratings is to be able to read the conventional signs and terse of a chart; to understand the soundings and the type of bottom; to tell the approximate rise and fall of the tide; to tell the direction and rate of tidal streams and currents; to recognise the whereabouts of rips and races; and to understand the chart data.
- ii. **The Compass.** Ratings are taught the compass in their seamanship, so a brushing-up is all that is required. The main necessary details of this will have been dealt with under the prismatic compass.
- iii. **Wind, tide and currents.** A close study of these in their effect on small-boat navigation is necessary. Combined with chartwork this training is interesting.
- iv. **Tide Tables.** An explanation of these so that the rating can plan his own section or



individual attack is useful as well as being interesting to him. 5 minutes tuition is all that is required and the effect on the rating of having mastered yet another technical subject is well worth it.

- v. **Visual signalling.** A high-speed in signalling has not been attempted. A Leading Telegraphists is the specialist of the camp, and so for the others the aim has been low; 12 words a minute and 5 in Morse.

D. SPECIALISED TRAINING.

- i. **Canoes.** Expert handling of canoes in all possible weathers and seas is a prerequisite to offensive action by canoes. The limitations of these collapsible canoes under certain conditions of weather and sea are detailed in appendix 1 a. Training in handling canoes is straight forward. It is a matter first of getting balance and calm water, then in progressively rougher seas. Double canoes with single paddles started with, then single canoes without paddles. Mae West or other lifejackets can be worn for the first few weeks and saw the canoers are really at home in all weathers in which canoes can be put to sea. Even when the state of efficiency has been reached it is advisable to wear them on all night operations, and all dirty weather days or nights and whenever putting out to the open sea. Only for short trips in sheltered waters, with the bank or shore can be made within a few minutes should a squall arise, should they be omitted from the canoeing equipment.

Having obtained balance, the paddle needs the next attention. The shape of this is dealt with in Appendix 1, A. Even when there is no special need for silence the paddle should never be allowed to splash into the water. Silent use of it on all training occasions will make it one less thing to have to think about in action. The blade dips into the water just after the beginning of the backward pull and not at the end of the forward sweep: it is brought out of the water before the point reaches the surface by an outward twist brings the outboard cutting edge of the paddle from the water first. When this can be done on both hands equally well and mixing to be mastered is the trailing of the paddle through the water to commence the next/, not removing the paddle from the water. This stroke is absolutely silent and very necessary for the final hundred yards of stalking for a ship or landing. When manoeuvring alongside a ship, wharf, rock, etc. there is seldom room to swing the paddle out, it has to be trailed forwards through the water. Having mastered this, action should then be taken in getting alongside any objects in all sorts of weather.

Much of this cannot be done.

Following on from this canoe landing and embarking in all weathers and seas stop drilling beating up canoes, us marching down to the embarking point, and embarking by members, is spectacular and useful. ? In practice the drill movements will be found useful for quick and silent lodgings from the beach and war avoid foster ? and splashing. No drill movements are possible from walls, rocks, chips sides etc. In these cases, the only thing to be observed in that the canoers must embark one of the times, the other steadying. In back into a collapsible canoe after falling out in deep water is to be a practised accomplishment is easy in the double canoe, but impossible except for small and light persons, in the single. As single canoes will not play at part in the forthcoming operation against the enemy, they will be left out of this discussion.

First of all, practice one man falling out: the other man counterbalanced him as he gets back over the side. Then falling out could be practised: one holds onto his side as the other gets in, and that counterbalances for the second man as when only one fell out. Then the canoe should be capsized and filled with water. The water can only be bailed out. None can be chipped out as the canoers are swimming and have no purchase, nor can the canoes be rocked or swayed to any advantage.

It is good for balance and confidence to practise standing up in both single and double canoes, both paddling and being paddled. It is not necessary operationally but promotes efficiently and therefore should not be overlooked.

- ii. Canoe **navigation** (see pages 7(4) and (5)). An ability to find known places in the dark, navigating, from local knowledge of topographical details, was first achieved. Then steering simple compass courses in slack water; then 'dog leg' courses in slack water; and finally, 'dog leg' and courses of more than one alteration with cross tides.

- iii **Canoes attacking and boarding shipping.** As many opportunities attacking shipping as have offered have been seized Moon, stars, visibility is, and the state of service of the rack surrounding sea or play an important part in the selection of the best conditions for canoe attack: these are dealt with in detail in appendix 1.C.

Application of the limpet is short and simple. It is pushed down about 5 feet underwater by a stick in a spot selected according to the type of ship being attacked. The magnets clamp it to the ship. The time fuse allows for the getaway. For training purposes, a mark in chalk on the ship's side is evidence of success.



Boarding shipping presents no very great difficulty. With a correct selection of night and weather conditions an ordinary merchant ship will be able to be boarded undiscovered. Once the deck watch has been removed, further activities are simple. Ships alongside wharves present easier targets, although the ship and cargo lighting factor have to be studied. Wharves are more often than not in small ports wooden and consequently hollow, offering perfect concealment for limpet attacks in a position where most inconvenience to harbour facilities would be done were a sinking to take place.

Boarding men of war is beyond the scope of "X" Camp trainees, except small ships where the numerical inferiority of the attackers is not very pronounced. A corvette would be the largest practicable, and even a corvette would be very ambitious. Patrol launches, Motor Torpedo Boats, small minesweepers, and motor minesweepers, harbour craft of all descriptions, floating dock, dry dock gates and caissons, harbour facilities such as cranes and power plants, should be the type of objective when merchant shipping fails, or has been sunk.

If boarding is intended the anchor chain provides the most ready and every-present assistance. It is easy to climb, the more vertical the easier. Gangways and rope ladders are sometimes left outboard, and they may be of help; a length of rope with a manrope knob one end can sometimes be used to slip over a rail and is of great assistance when escaping from the target. Only one man from each canoe should board unless detection to so obviously unlikely that it is a good enough risk for the second to do so.

In attacking shore installations and defended military or naval posts, the searchlight is the greatest enemy. Various tests have been made with the assistance of coast defence searchlight batteries with results as follows-

iv. **Searchlight versus canoes.**

- (a) Outside 1000 yards, if the canoes are right up against a background such as rocks or river banks, it is most improbable that the glasses will pick it out, especially if the canoe remains bows on to the light and does not move. The flash of a wet paddle is visible 3 or more miles away.
- (b). If there is no background, such as in open water, 3 or 4 miles would not be a safe distance to approach a searchlight. Even though the canoe is entirely blackened, and the canoer dressed in black with blackened face and hands his only theme of remaining undetected lies in his turning bow on and so reducing his profile that he does not catch

the eye. He CAN be seen but the glasses MAX overlook him as he is a very small target at over 2,000 yards. On one night operation during training a canoe was illuminated by a searchlight distant about 1,000 yards. The canoe was attacking a Boom and was broadside on to the light when illuminated. The light switched off and again illuminated him. Thinking they had been discovered the canoers headed direct for camp, away from the light, without any attempt at concealment, and passed within 50 yards of a very alert battery which the remainder of the canoe party was attacking. Their canoe had not been seen by the light the switching off and on had been a coincidence and not the pre-arranged signal of discovery; nor were they seen during a long paddle of three miles down the searchlight fairway, although the searchlight played down once or twice during their passage.

- (c) If a searchlight is concentrated on a distant target whilst the canoe is close inshore and within about 25° either side of the beam's centre line the canoe is startlingly visible even though the beam is situated 200 feet overhead. If the beam is diffused the same thing applies; anything in the immediate foreground is brilliantly illuminated even though out of the direct beam.
- (d) Precautions need to be taken against searchlights playing at an angle or distant, from a possible observer. Firstly, the silhouette of a canoe against a distant beam playing in one direction is clear to any observer near sea-level within half a mile. Half a mile though is not regarded as a safe minimum. Under certain conditions of weather and with night glasses visibility might be a mile. Secondly the beam of a searchlight playing into the sky, or reflected from the water in the sky, from behind a hill or headland, or even playing direct onto the sea-level of the hill or headland, casts up a diffused glare in the night sky, even though cloudless, that a bright path of light about half a mile wide is reflected onto the water. This gives an observer from any angle a bright sea surface against which the canoe silhouette stands out quite clearly. When planning the attack, the greatest possible avoidance should be given to searchlights. Other than this the only considerable fact is that canoes cannot make a landing on a rocky coast in even a moderate or small seaway. Only the calm sea can be used anywhere except on a sandy or shingly beach, when moderate surf



can be negotiated by going in stern first, paddling through the breakers, and backwards in between. Heavy surfs will smash the canoes to bits.

(v) **Portage of canoes.** This represents an unpleasant necessity in training. After many trials the method described in Appendix I, A have been devised and have now been adopted as the best.

(vi) **Unarmed Combat.** An ability to take on any comer with a good chance of success should be the aim of every man in the service. To go into a fight for life armed with the belief that you are probably able to beat your opponent, as strong as he is, that does not turn into over-confidence, is to be armed with a very powerful weapon. Confidence in the efficiency of unarmed combat training will supply that belief, and the obvious practical advantage of holds and counters supplies that confidence. The high degree of ability instilled into the ratings in this branch of their training cannot be overestimated whether from the point of view of physical ability, or from morale, or from the psychological effect on their attitude to going into action. Aggressiveness, quickness, and a carelessness of being hurt are provided by this training.

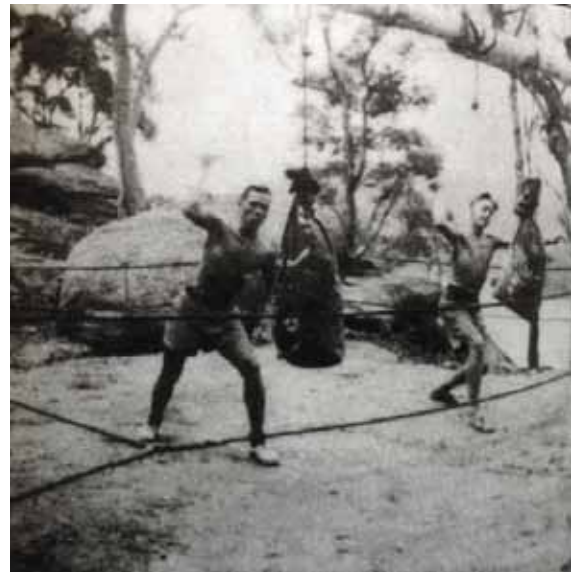
The system of training in unarmed combat which is taught at the Frankston school is based mainly on Ju-Jitsu, with the addition of military disarming tricks.

(vii) **Knife Combat.** Unfortunately, there has been no instructor in knife combat available for training X Camp in this type of warfare, so common sense and a knowledge of anatomy has supplied the want. The heart has been the point of aim of all premeditated blows, for sudden and silent despatch. Other vulnerable parts such as the head, the neck, and main arteries, have also received necessary attention. Four types of knives are used: the stiletto, the knuckle-duster knife, and the 'parang' or jungle knife. The fourth is a sheath-knife for normal seamanship purposes but? it has half the upper edge sharpened for offensive use if needed.

The stiletto has an elongated diamond cross-section, and tapers gradually in plan and elevation. Its two fine edges are sharpened to a cutting edge. The steel is specially toughened. The knuckle-duster knife is of hardened steel and takes a very fine edge slightly hollow ground. The upper edge is sharpened to half way. The handle is of heavy alloy. The weapon would break a jaw in the punch, would crumb the skull with its butt, whilst the damage inherent in the blade needs no elaboration*

The 'parang' is of hardened steel taking a fine edge. Its use is mainly domestic as a jungle knife, but as an offensive or defensive weapon it

can be very formidable. A hit or slash with the 'parang' would dismember a hand or arm, or cleave right through the skull, whilst a hit on the side or back of the neck would kill instantly.



Arthur 'Joe' Jones, armed with a knife honing his attack skills at camp X.

Source. *Deadly Secrets*, p124

(viii) **Explosives.** Grenades, Limpet mines and gellignite need no elaboration.

(ix) **Demolition of Small Ships.** No training has yet been undergone in this subject.

(x) **Small Ships Engines.** This is a matter for general study by the whole operational party, and for more intensive attention by the engineers, but has not yet been touched on. The purpose is to aid the party in any necessary piratical warfare. It may be necessary to change the ship several times during a protracted operation, and chance may throw out any type of motor or steam ship for the exchange. A steaming party for a captured merchant ship may have to be supplied from 'X' operational ship.

(xi) **The Blackjack.** A homemade blackjack 12 inches long of 2/3 inch bore rubber filled with lead shot, plugged with wood both ends, and having a rawhide wrist loop is a very formidable weapon. It forms part of 'X' Camp's equipment. Training in its use is unnecessary.

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APPENDIX 1

CANOES

A. CONTRUCTION, CAPABILITIES AND LIMITATIONS

(i) **Canoe Construction.** Canoes selected for the operation are 'British Folboat. Three types have been tried; the 'Sports Seater', the 'Lightweight Two-seater', and the 'Popular single-seater'. Of those the first is the best performer in good weather or heavy seas, in both stability and speed. Unfortunately, only one, and that a second one, was able to be procured. Two 'Popular tingle-seaters' were bought, but they are too slow, and too great strain is put on the canoer in but good weather to keep up with the other canoes against wind and tide they are very heavy on the eras. The model selected for the operation, due to it being the only model of which any number were procurable, is the 'Lightweight Two-Seater', of which six were obtained. More were wanted because four months' training sees a lot of wear and tear in 6 canoes, but no more are procurable. The most satisfactory start to an expedition of this description would be with brand new skins on frames already tested by a few weeks' use. Supply problems prevent this in this ease, and so the operation will start with some skins patched, but in good state of repair. A comparison of weights and dimensions of the three models of the 'British Folboat' and en experimental canoe built in "X" Camp, with approximate cruising speeds, and comparative stability, will be of interest.

Dimensions	Sports Two-Seater	Lightweight Two-seater	Popular Single Seater	Experimental Canoe
Length	17'9" feet	14 feet	11 feet	18'15"
Beam	32 inches	33 inches	28 inches	20 ½ inches
Height in centre	17 inches	14 inches	12 ½ inches	9 inches
Draught	4 ½ inches	4 ½ inches	4 ½ inches	4 ½ inches
Loading capacity	800 pounds	550 pounds	300 pounds	Not determined
Cockpit length	93 inches	69 inches	40 inches	2 of 20 inches
Cockpit width	21 inches	21 inches	18 inches	16 inches
Weight of canoe	68 pounds	42 pounds	30 pounds	About 100 pounds
Cruising speed	4 knots	3 ½ knots	3 knots	6 knots
Stability	+3	+2	+1	+1
Stowage	One bag 6 x 2 x 2 feet	One bag 5'6" x 2' x 2 feet	One bag 5' x 2' x 2 feet	Two bags 5'x22" Two bags 4'x 22"

Experimental canoe

The experimental canoe built by 'X' Training Camp personnel has a Pacific Maple keel, 1" x 1" Pacific Maple stringers and 3 ply skin. They are four sections which bolt together by flush bulkheads, and of these the bow and stern sections are each divided into two by a watertight bulkhead, the two midship sections each carry one, paddler and are decked to

about half way whence a canvas apron completes the watertightness. This apron is a permanent fixture to the decking and fits snugly to the paddler's body. The canoe has a chine with a lift amidships of 2 inches from the keel, and a lift forward at the stempost and aft at the stempost from amidships of 2 ½ inches. For stowing gear two holes 4" in diameter are out in the decking of the bow and stern sections. Into these holes fit 4" are fishing corks treated with Jefferies Marine Hydro Glue. This glue does not harden quickly and so the corks can be removed at will. If it is necessary to keep the corks in piece for a long period, putty is used for caulking.

Her weight is considerably more than that of the Folboat, but offset against this is her increased speed, which is nearly twice as much. Her leading capacity is no lower than that of the 'Folboat' although the difficulty of stowage and the smaller bulk of each article of stowage, make bar lees convenient in this respect. Her stability is sufficient, with practice, for any needs, whilst her wooden construction will withstand far rougher treatment than will the 'Folboats'. Rocks, oysters, barnacles, and coral will not be such a danger to her as they will to the others.

With her two midship sections filled with water so that she was awash her speed is about that of the Folboats', with no lowering of stability. She rides low in the water with about 4 ½ inches of profile. This is an additional advantage over the 9½' or so of the 'Folboat'. Her main drawback is greater space needed for stowing her. For a small parent or operation ship this is a very serious matter. If it did not matter a canoe of the same lines as this, but built in one piece instead of in four, would seem to be ideal. Three 7-ply bulkheads and many brass bolts and nuts could be dispensed with, and it would be a far simpler matter to render the canoe completely watertight. She would be lighter and probably stronger.

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Leading Seaman Frederick W. L. 'Boof' Marsh and Ordinary Seaman L. K. 'Tiny' Hage, members of Z Special unit, Australian Services Reconnaissance Department, paddling a home-made experimental two-man canoe "HMAS LYON" a hard-to-steer craft christened with this name as a joke and "launched" by the Governor General, also as a joke during a visit to Refuge Bay on the Hawkesbury. The canoe was made by Lt Donald Montague Noel Davidson, RNVR, and B3666 AB Frederick (Fred) Walter Lota Marsh, RAN, to fill in time at the Refuge Bay camp while waiting for MV Krait to arrive. The men were at Refuge Bay on the Hawkesbury River before leaving aboard MV Krait on Operation JAYWICK.
Source. AWM



Refuge Bay, Hawkesbury River, NSW. c.1943-01-17. Two members of Operation prepare to enter the water with a two-man canoe known as "HMAS Lyon. It was hard to manoeuvre and christened it HMAS LYON as a joke.
Source. AWM

(ii) Canoe Maintenance

- a) **The Skin.** Sand should be washed out from the inside of the canoe after every time of using. Sand working between the frames and the skins tends to wear out the latter. Canoes should never be allowed to run up onto the sand. The outside of the canvas is treated with rubber and running onto sand wears this off. Should a hole appear either from wear or from staking a patch of canvas on both the outside and the inside, stuck down with some waterproof glue, and sewn with hemp and a darning needle (a sail needle makes too big a hole), is the best repair. 'X' Camp has found good results with

'Gripcraft' an Australian production based on Latex that seem to live up to its claim to be waterproof, unaffected by fresh or salt water, or climatic conditions, and to be able to stick anything for ever. Repair with tyre patching gear seems to be quite good although in the ease of the second-hand canoe which has been repaired in this manner, some of the patches have in time peeled off.

- b) **Aprons.** The cockpits of canoes must be fitted with spray aprons. The coaming rail and the apron should have cushion cover clips such as are used in motor oars, or some device equally practical. The apron should be of strong canvas. As it will sag in the middle it is difficult to avoid water collecting there and dripping through into the canoe. Waterproofing with beeswax is good. The beeswax should be grated fine and dissolved in petrol heated in boiling water, and the solution applied by brush. Ordinary paint is good but heavy. The apron must be out to reach well up the canoers body; shoulder straps should be used to support it. If these are frail there will be no fear of them entangling the canoer in the event of a capsize. The apron needs to be attached to the canoe in such a way that its after end will break away in in the event of a capsize.

- c) **The Frame.** In the course of time the frames will break. The main weaknesses seem to be in the midship stringers and the 'No.2 cross frame. The stringers have strong pressure exerted on them when fitting them into place and during dismantling. They are not the only breakages that occur, but the most frequent. After trials with many local woods the best results for stringers are obtained from thick rattan. It's one disadvantage is lack of uniformity in size; paring down the outer skin to make a good fit will weaken the canoe. 'Cross* frames out from 7.ply Bond wood in one piece prove far stronger than the original frames and are no heavier. They need waterproofing with varnish or paint prior to use.

Care should be taken to avoid attempting to assemble a canoe when the deck canvas is wet. In this condition it is shrunken, and it will be found that the strain necessary to fit the stringers into place will invariably snap use or two. To a lesser extent canoes should not be dismantled when wet.

- (iii) **Painting.** The canvas decking takes paint well but the rubberized skin needs periodic attention and repainting, as the paint wears off. Matt triton is the most suitable colour, showing up



less than any other in searchlights. In certain aspects at dusk and dawn battleship grey is less obvious than black, and during the daytime on grey days it is certainly preferable. But as night-time will be the main operational time for 'X' canoes, preference has been given to black.

- (iv) **Sails.** Trials are being conducted with sails and point to the mainsail.

jib cut on miniature Bermudian lines as being the best. A light mast and boom of Oregon pine, thin cord halyards and sheets, and fine Japara sails add very little to the weight of the canoe and are of great assistance in running and reaching. The mast is 9 ft in height having 5 ft clearance for the boom, which is 5 ft long. Leeboards and rudders are unnecessarily bulky, and paddles can replace them in double canoes. For safety and quickness of handling the sheets the paddles should be attached to the canoe by a line. Both hands can then be freed immediately to handle the sails. The forward paddler handles the jib and uses his paddle as a larboard. The rear paddler handles the mainsail, and his paddle is the rudder. The combination is most effective.

- (v) **Paddles.** Double bladed paddles are faster than single ones, but the effort required to manipulate them over long periods is very much greater. Waving in the air as they do they attract attention in daylight long. Were the canoe can be identified as such by the naked eye. From water level they can be seen waving about vitalist the canoer and his canoe are hull down over the horizon. At night time in the beam of a searchlight, in sunshine or moonshine, the flash from them can be seen from great distances. This as much as 3 or 4 miles by searchlight.

The single paddle is ideal. It can be used tirelessly. Shaped correctly it is soundless. It is kept low, and in fact need not leave the water or reflect any flash of light at all. After trials Australian Blue Fig has been adopted for paddles. It is strong and very light and will take a fine edge. A modified Canadian pattern is the best. The handle is 2 feet long ending in a flat knob grip, and the blade including the neck is 3 feet 6 inches. The neck needs careful paring to a fine edge and must not be thick. The blade's edges must be knife-edged, and its end pointed to at least a right-angle and it must also be knife edged. The reason of this is that any square edge, even of only 1/3" will 'plop' slightly, as will a blunt point or a thick neck. When paddling without removing the paddle from the water any bluntness or thickness makes a noise that, on a still night can be audible many yards away. Streamlining by tapering to a knife edge overcomes this and renders the paddling absolutely silent.

- (vi) **Canoe Portage.** After many trials the following methods are deemed the best:

- a) For long portages on roads or over flat country the packed-up canoe and all other gear is slung on one, or, if preferred, on two shoulder poles.
- b) For some short portages where dismantling and reassembling the canoes is considered a waste of time, the 'other gear' should be slung about the persons, and the canoe balanced on the heads of the crew, preferably with a pad of clothing between the canoe end the head. This method is useless in a high wind. An uncomfortable variation is on the shoulders; the head in this case is bent out sideways.
- c) For rough country hills, rocks etc. the canoe came bags should have a strap of webbing sewn from halfway down one side, round the bottom, and up a similar distance the other side. Each end should have a ring through which an adjustable strap pass. This strap should run through a strip of sheepskin sewn to make a tube with the wool outside, be act as a pad to the forehead. The bag is slung at a comfortable height on the back, most of the weight being taken by the forehead strap. In rough country the bands and arms can be free for clutching supports let, they can also hold onto the strap and ease the weight off the forehead if desired; the 'whole bag' can be dropped at a moment's notice in the event of alarm or stumbling; and the second member of the crew, who carries the two rucksacks, one along on his chest, and the other in the normal manner on his back is free for scouting or to use his tommy gun in defence. This forehead method is a great strain on the neck muscles, but practice improves things, and its advantages in rough country over any other method yet tried are sufficiently great for its adoption.

- (vi) **Canoe Limitations**

The following are extracts from the Logs.

- a) "... ran into a terrific storm. Wind of gale force, thunder and lightning and a little rain, and in no time a short, high sea was bloom up against -which headway was slow at the extreme of energy. A lot of water was shipped, and progressively more would have been shipped until we would have sunk in under quarter a of an hour. We made for the spit of sand, running with wind and sea.....
- b) "... took a double canoe out through the surf. First time unsuccessful, a big 'dumper' breaking on the canoe and damaging the bows. The second time we had to negotiate



eight waves, most of them big. Three inches of water were shipped by the time we cleared the surf, and we became very sluggish. We were sunk in this state coming in..."

- c) "Despite the apron, waves breaking over the bows were filling the canoe. Sea and wind were too high to risk removal of the apron for bailing, so a run-in through the surf was attempted with about three inches of water in the canoe. The first big surf started to take the canoe along nicely until the water ran down into the bows which were then driven under whilst the stern was thrown completely over in a vertical plane.
- d) "I came in slowly but safely backwards, paddling forwards through the breakers, and backwards in between".
- e) "To attempt canoeing against the tide in a river such as the Hawkesbury is to waste energy. If time presses and it must be attempted, then a speed of 1½ to 2 knots could be obtained, but a wait until the tide was fair would give 4½ to 5 knots, and at little expense of energy. A good look-out must be kept for tide rips in narrows, for backwashes in bays and behind points, and the river needs watching for the main stream. The main stream is not necessarily the quickest navigation. Above all allowance must be made for leeway in a broad river as in a three or four knot canoe leeway neglected can add half as much again to the distance."
- f) Great difficulty was experienced, keeping bow on behind the Boom piles to the searchlight. A cross swell and cross tide were running strongly".

B. Canoe Vulnerability

The following are extracts from the Log:

- a) Trials showed that canoes at full speed show a phosphorescent blur and bow wave at 20 yards distance; at slow speed not at all. At 20 yards canoes are invisible on a dark night from other canoe if the former is inshore against a dark background. From inshore canoes are visible from water level up to 50 yards on a black night".
- b) "Two left in the big canoe for Waratah Creek. Found the boatshed active at 2200, getting a Naval Auxiliary Patrol Launch ready for sea. Crept in and past at a distance approximately 75 yards and out again, unseen".
- c) "The ability of canoes to creep up ANN (motor boat) with two officers aboard her sea tested. One canoe actually bumped ANN without either of the officers having seen it. The night was black and overcast and there was a slight wind ruffling the surface of the water".
- d) "HMS B.... anchored round the point to westward of Refuge Bay, was by-passed at approximately 150-200 yards, the canoes passing inshore of the ship who was 2 cables offshore. No canoe was sighted".
- e) Lessons learnt during various manoeuvres (during attack on H.M.S. B were:
 - i) Canoe silhouette is visible against the water at 50 yards in dead still, oily calm water.
 - ii) Approach from ahead, astern, or fine on bows or quarter, is quite possible. It is difficult from the beam.
 - iii) The canoe is invisible from deck when alongside unless the observer is well forward or astern; even then it is unlikely to be seen.
 - iv) Results in the main were encouraging. All of the B...’s ships company were agog and watching; the canoer was not picked out by the watch but by the captain’s second steward at a range of 20 yards, in the initial attack."
- f) "Due to darkness considerable difficulty was experienced in gauging the distance from the ship. Canoes were within 100 yards whilst thinking, they were outside 200 yards. They were spotted by bow lookout ... returned to the attack. The two double canoes were spotted one within 15-20 yards, one about 5 yards off. The single canoe succeeded in reaching the bow anchor chain to which the canoer tied his painter, and then drifted down the side. He waited half an hour and found many fishing lines hanging over the stern. He pulled each one up in turn but found no fish but got caught in some of the lines and last, the ensuing struggle made considerable noise splashing about and was spotted. The night was oily calm and bright starlight - the worst possible conditions for canoe attacks.
- g) "Whenever possible on any but a pitch-sine night reconnaissance canoes should not approach suspected objectives within 50 yards. From there reconnaissance should be done on foot, if land conditions and landing conditions permit".
- h) "The searchlight played, and the canoes stayed bows-on behind a snail yacht mooring buoy and was undetected."
- i) All six canoes were sighted at distances varying, from 30 to 5 yards from the ship. The phosphorescent track or the paddles and wake were visible even at dead slow speed at 30 yards

Lessons learnt were:

- (i) On dead calm night phosphorescent glow cannot be avoided by any means yet known to us. On less still night's, the surface disturbance seems to minimise the danger of being given away.



- (ii) Drifting downstream does avoid disturbance of the phosphorescent but exactness in drifting will be hard to attain.
- (k) "Frightened fish jumping and scuttling in the shallow water gave away a canoe whilst coming in to land, and all 5 canoes were discovered."

C. WEATHER CONDITIONS FAVOURABLE TO CANOE ATTACKS

The most favourable conditions are:

- (i) Black, rainy night with a light wind ruffling along the surface of the water.
- (ii) A black night, moonless, starless and overcast by clouds or mist, with a light wind.
- (iii) Absence of phosphorous in the water. Brackish water in rivers is the safest from this point of view.

A. ATTACKS ON SHIPPING

Having selected the night and the time for the attack consideration must be given to the direction from which it is to be launched. To drift down with the tide is preferable, and, under normal anchorage conditions, would signify a bows-on attack. But choice must not be given to such an attack if it means that the canoe has to come out of an open sea background, or low distant land background, when there is high land or buildings, or another ship, forming a darkened background doubled by its dark reflection, on another quarter. Smoke from the funnel may be low lying and attack from this direction would have advantages far greater than from any other. Shore lights must be left on the farther side of the target but should be risked rather than possible exposure to a searchlight on the otherwise preferable and darker side. Lighthouses and flashing buoys must be considered, and also must the main harbour traffic lanes of small as well as large shipping. The route for leaving the target should receive equal consideration with that for the approach. A study of all this is a necessary part of the training and must form part of the ratings' as well as of the officers' training.

The following are extracts from the Log:

- (i) "Two minesweepers were anchored in the bay where only one was expected considered H.M.S.T... to be the inshore ship. We were expected, and all the ship's company were on the look-out for us until 0330 when most of them retired to bed. The night was overcast though light with a ¼ moon above the clouds; there were many periods of comparative darkness but more of quite good visibility. At 0430 D--- and J -- left hugging: the shore until astern or the ships riding nicely to anchor to wind and tide downstream. Attack was made from the stern; use being made of the ship's smoke streaming directly astern. Though only

thin this smoke may have helped considerably in obscuring the canoe. Then the ship began to swing and great difficulty was experienced in manoeuvring astern. The tide was running a good 3 knots. The stern was reached as dawn was breaking. D placed a 'time bomb' in the Chief Engineer's cabin porthole, and then boarded the ship by a ladder left down on the starboard quarterdeck. J took the canoe away unobserved and returned to the night observation position. It was by then too light for the other canoes to attack. M and M paddled direct to the ship not attempting stealth and even in the fair visibility of the half-light of dawn managed to get to within about 20 yards of the ship before being seen. Meanwhile D--- had been through the mess decks, galley, had visited the seamen's heads, looked into the engine room inspected the mine sweeper gear and the depth charges, the whaler and the motorboat, handled two Lewis guns, looked in at the Captain's cabin and found him loudly asleep, and then had climbed up the forward side of the bridge from the outside and tweaked the boot of the sentry who was intently studying the landscape through night glasses. He pressed the general alarm buzzers."

- (ii) "The object being to board and steal something from the captain's cabin through the scuttle, the door being locked. The only three on batted to know of the intended operation were the Captain, the First Lieutenant and the Gunnery Officer. It was dark when O led the way followed at fifteen-minute intervals by the other five canoes. He got right under the flair of the bows, down the port ride to the stern, finally climbing up on starboard side of the stern aided by an open scuttle and getting aboard unobserved. He then crept upon the Officer of the Watch and the Quartermaster on the quarterdeck and succeeded in silencing them. Then after exploring most of the ship, he went up onto the Bridge and silenced the relieving signalman, the signalman of the watch and another in a hammock... All silently and without the other knowing. Finally stole an ashtray from the captain's cabin by putting in one arm. Two more canoes boarded one man each, and the other three sat alongside unobserved."

B. ATTACKING MILITARY POSTS

The following are extracts from the Log.

- (i) "Attack on F ---- R---- Battery. We lost two officers and three ratings for the capture of one other rank and the complete demolition of both parts, (nearly 2 miles), of the Boom guarding the Hawkesbury Bridge, some M.T., camp gear, tents, huts, and a petrol dump'.
Lessons learnt were:



- a) Watches must be carried by all, and attacks synchronised (Note; a precipitate attack on the part of one canoe stirred the battery from normal degree of alertness to general alarm, making the task of the remainder extremely hazardous).
- b) Poisoned baits for dogs, - and quick working ones at that - should not be neglected.
- c) A well-guarded and alert post of this kind is not really our pigeon. A surprise raid by normal commandos would accomplish far more than such a small body such as we could hope to do by stealth. But remove the 'alert' factor and we have a good chance of success. I consider, however, that land operations against military posts such as these are dangerous to our very existence as we cannot afford wastage or discovery. Civil objectives ashore, yes. Lightly guarded military objectives, again yes. But proper military strongholds definitely no, unless peculiar circumstances show the gain worth the risk of our whole organization.
- (d) Where the defence searchlight is placed so as to shine along the line of the Boom detection of a canoe is extremely unlikely. When the Boom is illuminated more obtusely, detection or not is a matter of skill and luck.
- (e) Because a searchlight illuminates a canoe it does not necessarily mean that the canoe has been detected. That the canoe CAN be seen is a certainty, but only bullets will show that it has.
- (ii) Attack on W H Battery F-- climbed up to underneath the overhanging searchlight platform, looked into the hut but could see no one; then looked up over the platform and saw the sentry looking in his direction two yards away but not seeing him. He remained there half an hour... M...found the searchlight cables and 'cut' them; these cables had camouflage netting over them sufficiently high to permit a man to crawl under and down them to the searchlight; all the time being quite undetectable...
Summary: With their normal wartime guard we succeeded in getting to 4 guns, 2 searchlights, a pumping station practically every building in the main camp area, the searchlight power plant, the ammunition hoist and the whole way along one mile of Boom. We lost one man who was trying to leave the area after completing his task".
- (iii) Second Attack on F... H Battery". (Note: this was the next night after the attack (ii) above. Since one of our men had been captured that night, it was considered legitimate for the

Battery to be at general alarm station at this time. Consequently, every combatant man in the camp was after us).

"Results of the night's operation:

- 6 enemy sentries, gun crews etc. killed.
- 1 MG post, manned, demolished.
- 1 MG position, not manned, wrecked.
- 1 Searchlight demolished.
- 2 Guns 4.7" demolished.
- 1 Gun crew quarters wrecked.
- 1 water tank 500 gallons, wrecked.

Our lessons.

Officer in charge and out of 13 ratings killed or captured."

- i. "Attack on J.... - Battery. Landing was made on the rocks, and the canoes pulled out satisfactorily, but the distance from J-- Point was misjudged. It had been the intention to land a quarter mile from the Point, but actually it was quite half a mile. Advance was made by the rocks on the sea shore. The very light noise of the lapping wavelets was sufficiently loud to be made use of to deafen sound when it was necessary to cross a crunchy patch of oyster shells, or small pebbly shore. The noise is intermittent necessitating waits at those points. D...-- got ahead of the others. F.... in the rear, never saw the others from the moment of leaving the canoes. It was dark by 0440 and overcast, a perfect night for our purposes. The half mile along the shore took about one hour. D..., after a wait and seeing no sign of the others, carried on alone. He gained the searchlight power plant and 'knifed' all three sleeping engineers, put the engine out of action and cut the cable. As it was fast getting light, he decided on a single-handed attack on the gun, there being but one lookout awake. This man in time spotted D... in self-defence was constrained to 'shoot' him and to make his getaway quickly after throwing a Mills Bomb at the gun's area. Meanwhile the remainder had left the rocks and had been captured.

"Lessons learnt were:

- a) Distance is particularly hard to judge at night.
- b) Contact is very easily lost in the dark.
- c) One canoe of two men, disembarking only one, is enough for a small post as this.
- d) Where there are rocks there our line of advance should be.
- e) The blackjack (a length of rubber hosepipe filled with lead) would be a far better weapon than a knife for dealing with three men sleeping in a bunch.



APPENDIX II

CLOTHING

During training as little clothing as possible, to allow the maximum of sun tanning, has been worn. For night work 'giggle suits' the Australian military fatigue uniform or khaki drill, and naval boiler salts of navy-blue drill have been used.

For land work on moonlit or starlit nights khaki is the best, but for dark nights on land and for canoe work navy blue or black should be worn. All exposed parts of the body should be blackened with burnt cork or boot polish or something similar, for all conditions of night work. Trousers legs should be tucked into socks to avoid brushing against twigs etc.

In cold weather during training blue mittens or gloves and blue wool balaclava maps soot a lot of unpleasant blackening of the face and hands but are too hot at other times.

Black canoes and black clothed men show distinctly against a sandy landing beach even on a black night. This is unavoidable. Black must be the colour of the canoe and of the dress, and so to avoid discovery, the choice of a suitable landing-place must be very careful.

Oars should always be taken to land from a canoe in bare or stockinged feet, keeping the sand shoes dry for stalking. Wet ones will squelch faintly for a long time after treading in water. Landing barefoot on oyster

covered or barnacled rocks is unpleasant. Thick woollen socks protect the feet quite appreciably, and do not squelch later if wrung out.

When stalking on land drill clothing will make a faint sound audible at times about 15 feet away when scratched by twigs and stiff grasses, when working the body over the ground or through bushes, however carefully it is done. The only really silent dress is a pair of sand shoes and socks and nothing else. The naked body makes none of the noises of clothing. A pair of bathing shorts makes very little and adds comfort to the wearer. Walking should never be barefoot. In 'X' Camp bare feet are the usual order of the day in the camp area to toughen them up for an existence in which the nearest approximation to 'going native' will be the best camouflage. But so much depends on complete silence in stalking. The intake of breath that follows a stubbed toe or a thorn in the heel is enough to betray one's whereabouts.

For the operation navy Japara cotton suits of pyjama type, with breast pockets and a pyjama string around the jacket waist as well as round the trouser top, are being taken. A similar suit, but waterproofed, is also being taken as 3 light oilskins. This latter suit is an excellent windproof garment. For day wear on the voyage sarongs and coolie trousers will be worn.

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05 April 2013
COL Hans Fler, AM. DCM.
Honorary Colonel
2nd Commando Regiment
Died In Service
Melbourne, Victoria



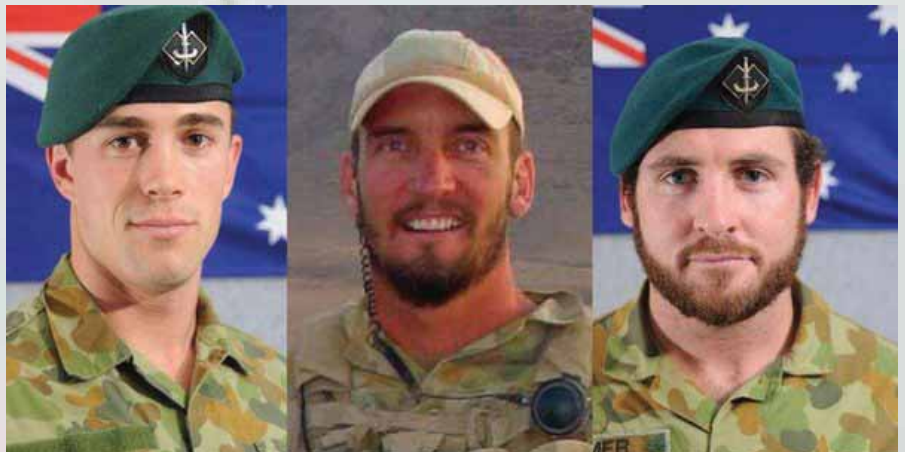
27 April 2008
LCPL Jason Marks
Delta Commando Company
4 RAR Commando
Killed In Action
Uruzghan Province, Afghanistan



23 May 2011
SGT Brett Wood, MG. DSM.
Charlie Commando Company
2nd Commando Regiment
Killed In Action
Helmand Province, Afghanistan



30 May 1968
WO2 John Durrington
2 Commando Company
(Attached to AATTV)
Killed In Action
Quang Nam, South Vietnam



21 June 2010
PTE's Ben Chuck, Tim Aplin, Scott Palmer
Alpha Commando Company, 2nd Commando Regiment
Killed In Action, Kandahar Province, Afghanistan



22 June 2013
CPL Cameron Baird, VC. MG.
Bravo Commando Company
2nd Commando Regiment
Killed In Action
Urazghan Province, Afghanistan



Around the Units



Headquarters Special Operations Command

Special Operations Commander for Australia, Major General Paul Kenny, DSC, AM, DSM, visited our Anzac partners in New Zealand recently for counterpart talks with key NZ Defence Force leaders.

Major General Kenny made an office call on Rear Admiral James (Jim) Gilmour, Commander of Joint Forces New Zealand, to discuss ongoing operations, emerging threats and upcoming training activities, including Exercise Talisman Sabre 2023.



Rear Admiral James (Jim) Gilmour, Commander of Joint Forces New Zealand and Major General Kenny and Special Operations Commander for Australia.

Source: Defence

Major General Kenny also met with Colonel Sean Bolton, DSD, Special Operations Component Commander, to discuss ongoing Indo-Pacific partner engagement, training opportunities, and to share information about ADF's special operations modernisation program, including special operations force recruitment and retention initiatives.

Major General Kenny also visited the NZ Special Air Service in Auckland to meet with the Commanding Officer and unit personnel.



Colonel Sean Bolton, DSD, Special Operations Component Commander, and Major General Kenny.

Source: Defence

Australia and New Zealand have a shared military history dating back to the original ANZAC Corps of World War I and, today, we continue to work closely together across the Indo-Pacific. #OurPartners Australian High Commission, New Zealand



ADF School of Special Operations



Australian Army officer Major General Paul Kenny (left), Special Operations Commander for Australia, presents Major Paul Dunbavin from the Australian Defence Force School of Special Operations with his Chief of Army gold commendation at Holsworthy Barracks, Sydney, for his role supporting the Gold Medal Ready program working with Australia's Olympic team leading up to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

Source: Defence

Australian Army soldiers from Special Operations Command who supported our Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games athletes and coaches through the Gold Medal Ready program were awarded a Chief of Army gold commendation during a ceremony at Holsworthy Barracks in Sydney on Wednesday, 22 March 2023. Major General Paul Kenny, DSC, AM, DSM, Special Operations Commander for Australia, presented twenty-five soldiers from the Australian Defence Force School of Special Operations and 2nd Commando Regiment with the gold commendations for their work putting our Olympians through their paces during a series of training camps leading up to the delayed Olympics in 2021. The Gold Medal Ready program was a collaboration between the Australian Institute of Sport and the Australian Army. The training camps helped the Olympic athletes and coaches deal with high-pressure situations with mental resilience and stress control training. Special Operations Command is an Australian Army functional command whose mission is to prepare and employ special operations forces to defend Australia's national interest.





Twenty-five soldiers from the Australian Defence Force School of Special Operations were presented with a Chief of Army gold commendation at Holsworthy Barracks, Sydney, for supporting the Gold Medal Ready program working with Australia's Olympic team leading up to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.
Source: Defence



1st Commando Regiment

Royal Marine Reserves

Reprinted with permission from the Editor of *Globe & Laurel* January/February 2023



Exercise Campbell Hardy 2022 Introduction

From 7 to 21 October 2010 Royal Marine Reserve Merseyside delivered a new exercise designed to introduce Commando Force (CF) small team tactics to the RMR. It was also great opportunity to reinvigorate reserves following a challenging period disrupted by the pandemic and two rounds of in-year measures. The exercise was named after the first CO 46 Commando Royal Marines, General Sir Richard Campbell Hardy KCB CBE DSO (also CGRM from 1955 to 58): as inspiring a figure as you will find in Corps history. In designing the exercise, the Unit wanted to introduce new skills while bringing back confidence to ranks at all levels who had not been tested while in tactical setting. The exercise did all of that and has set a benchmark for RMR training going forward.

The exercise was conducted in three separate areas; redeployment ways to refresh and learn new ones; planning phase and afford staging area which enabled the OC and team commanders to deliver orders; and a

deployment phase using a Forward Operating Base (FOB). This allowed me as company OC, to be tested in my planning, delivery on orders and control of troops on the ground.

Telic and *Herrick* demonstrate how effectively the RMR could step up and integrate called upon high-quality training is fundamental to ability and will continue to evolve and adapt their training in line with the Corp's needs. As our regular counterparts are busy in the early stages of CF development, the RMR is poised to take its own place in this exciting future.

The Pre - Deployment Phase

By Mne G Wilkins, Leeds Det

The goal of this phase was to introduce the tactics of working in small teams, emphasised on FIND and STRIKE of enemy objectives. This was something new for myself having recently passed out from RMR recruit training and was a departure from the things I had been taught over the past two years.

Starting at Barry Bowden Camp and RM Condor, ranks were split into teams and spent weeks honing their skills via a mix of classroom lectures and practical lessons focused on civilianised military vehicle moves, link ups and caching. Alongside this, but time was spent refreshing break contact drills in small teams. Sigs training also came into focus and the importance of comms to a small team was something I had never really appreciated before. A hoofing Vertical Assault Day was also conducted where we were fully refreshed on abseiling and all the goodness that Mountain Leaders can deliver.



Exercise participants
Source: *Globe & Laurel*

After five days at Barry Barden, then the lads had a few days break to embark upon a cultural tour of Edinburgh Castle and the city, during which we rambled up and down the city hills, listening to folk music and drank wets. Once the fun had been taking care of, we were back to business in the preparation for the final exercise.



The Deployment Phase

By CPL Platt, 1st Commando Regiment, Australia
(attached RMR London)

Along with an oppo from RMR London, I joined the exercise a few days late, but we were just in time for the planning phase in Edinburgh. My first experience of the exercise would set the scene for the rest of the trip and did not hold back. We conducted our first agent link up at a nondescript ASDA in the north of England. As the van door open, like clockwork the rain came in like a gun line opening up. After being introduced to the taste of what was to come, we proceeded onto our primary mission, establishing an Observation Post (OP). As someone who is new to the term 'ogginised' (Australia is generally not that wet) I can now say That I am very familiar with the concept.

After being inserted at our alternative RV, the night was in full effect, along with the rain. The ground was what I would describe as stomping on melted marshmallows that turned our estimated two-hour infiltration into a seven-hour slog through Satan's intestines. Often, we would send a few of us ahead to find suitable ground to navigate through. This led to me getting introduced to some deep sinkholes the first time the swamp water hit my crown jewels, I knew I was in for a hoofing time. As dawn was breaking, we had our OP established with a view of the objective 30 minutes before cut-off and we immediately got to work on camouflage and concealment, setting up our optics getting communications. This was a great example of teamwork as everyone got stuck into each job and assigned tasks.



Hard going during the infiltration

Source: Globe & Laurel

As an Aussie I soon learned how to master 'wet and dry' routine and it became something I actually look forward after a long stint in the OP, my feet were numb, and my Gore-Tex boots had more water in them than my Camelback. One of the lads introduced me to Gore-Tex socks and what an absolute game changer. We continued to report back to the HQ and periodic intervals as there was quite a bit of activity to report on.

After the third night, daylight broke on the first target and the assaulting force conducted a STRIKE on the airfield as we collapsed the OP and were re-tasked.

The second part of the exercise went extremely well, and similar to our first mission, we had time to plan, battle prep and rehearse. Morale was high and the team was eager to make this raid violent and rapid. 'Think non-conventional was something the training team asked us to consider. We went to work. rehearsing de-bus drills with GPMG fire support from our 'white fleet' van door gunners.

Under cover of darkness and H hour we drove overtly into onto the objective and delivered a STRIKE onto the enemy positions. The raid was over in less than 9 minutes, and we had extracted off the objective, collected another recce team and were a mile down the road when ENDEX was called with three enemy positions disrupted.

No plan survives contact, but because were all part of the planning process, it allowed us to switch instantly through our actions on, regaining the initiative with violence of action as we adapted to new enemy threats.

Overall, I have to really applaud staff to the effort involved in planning and exercise had moments of digging deep and testing of skills. A great example of creative scenarios can provide, making it very current to the threat pictures we are seeing play out in the news the flow of real-world narrative elements fed enemy and merchant parameters, as it grew into an evolving and dynamic space for us to operate in. I had a fantastic experience the left me with a sense of achievement, excitement, mateship, and a lot of wet gear.

Conclusion

By Major C Blackland, OC Nottingham Det.

Everyone involved got something out of Exercise Campbell Hardy 22. It achieved what it was meant to achieve, which was to introduce new skills to reservists and give them an opportunity to keep in step with the regular counterparts. The Commando Force is here but not yet a finished product and will evolve over the coming years as budgets, politics and requirements change. However, a concept that we have tested and proved is at reservists that are trained properly have the mindset and the enthusiasm to keep pace with change. For those who feel you have missed out then do not worry. Exercise Campbell Hardy will return in 2023 in an urban environment. Come along and take your place challenging a realistic exercise the direction that the Corps is heading.

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2nd Commando Regiment

SOCOMD ASSISTANCE TO THE CIVILIAN COMMUNITY

Many of the units which now comprise SOCOMD had experience with the delivery of defence aid to the civil community and the recent increase in natural disasters across Australia has changed environment in the following article, from 2nd Commando Regiment provides an insight into a Command wide response involving units from across the command.

Operation Flood Assist 2022 Sydney Basin Task Group



SBTG Small Boat Recon.
Source. Defence

In early 2022 significant and prolonged rainfall along Australia's east coast caused widespread damage to properties, businesses, and the displacement of thousands of Australians. As a part of the ADF's response, Special Operations Command (SOCOMD) was responsible for leading the flood relief efforts throughout the greater Sydney area. SOCOMD deployed about one thousand personnel, who formed the Sydney Basin Task Group (SBTG), and provided immediate response and recovery effects in support of the NSW emergency services and local communities. The SBTG was a 'whole of SOCOMD' task group, led by the Commanding Officer of 2nd Commando Regiment, and comprised of specialist assets drawn from across SOCOMD, with the majority drawn from 1st and 2nd Commando Regiments.



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Australian Army MRH-90 helicopters from 6th Aviation Regiment conduct aerial reconnaissance flights to assess the extent of local flooding and look for civilians in distress near Camden, Warragamba Dam and Richmond, New South Wales, as part of Operation Flood Assist 2022.
Source. Defence

The SBTG was able to effectively complement and enhance NSW state agencies during the response, using its specialist SOCOMD military capabilities. During the initial hours of the operation, the combination of air, land and maritime capabilities enabled the SBTG to conduct extensive reconnaissance of the flood-affected areas. Reconnaissance reports were then briefed directly back to the State Emergency Operations Centre to prioritise tasks and ensure unity of flood relief efforts across multiple support and emergency response agencies. The professionalism and competence of all the SOCOMD personnel quickly gained the trust and respect from emergency services personnel and enabled the quick integration of SOCOMD efforts as part of the larger response and recovery operation.



Once the extent of flooding and damage to infrastructure was understood, the SBTG focussed their



efforts on providing critical support to the more remote and isolated areas of the Sydney basin, particularly throughout Sydney's north-west and the upper-Hawkesbury region, where some houses remained cut-off by high water levels or from damage to the roads for weeks. The use of helicopters, all-terrain vehicles and small boats enabled the SBTG to access isolated areas and provide much needed life support to the cut-off communities. These specialist platforms inherent to 1st and 2nd Commando Regiments proved crucial during these initial phases of the operation and demonstrated the flexibility of a SOCOMD-led force element to respond to a multitude of situations with a bias for action.



SBTG working with NSW Rural Fire Service boats.
Source. Defence

Over five tonnes of food and drinking water, along with livestock feed and 2000L of fuel for generators was delivered to isolated homes during this phase of the operation. Here the SBTG specifically sought to leverage the unique skills and capabilities that are provided by special operations force personnel to complement and enhance the state-led response. Historic commando tasks such as pathfinding and route reconnaissance enabled the delivery of engineer assessment teams to reach the most isolated.



SBTG Conducting replenishment tasks with NSW SES.
Source. Defence

Once the flood water had receded, the SBTG transitioned to assist the local emergency services with clean-up tasks around Sydney. SOCOMD provided personnel and specialist engineering equipment, such as skid-steer loaders, to support large-scale clean-up tasks throughout flood-impacted areas and communities. Once the initial flood relief efforts had been achieved, emergency services transitioned control back to state and local communities as the ongoing repair phase began.



SBTG supporting clean-up of a caravan park.
Source. Defence

It was extremely rewarding to be able to help the people of Sydney during what was an extremely trying and challenging time. Many of the SBTG personnel are a part of the Sydney community and many had family and friends directly impacted by the floods. To be able to leverage SOCOMD's unique capabilities and skill-sets to provide support to the people of Sydney was a truly humbling and rewarding experience.



SBTG conduct pathfinding and reconnaissance for SES.
Source. Defence



Sydney Basin Task Group comprised personnel from:

- 1st Commando Regiment
- Special Air Service Regiment
- 2nd Commando Regiment
- Special Operations Engineer Regiment
- Special Operations Logistic Squadron
- 6th Aviation Regiment
- 1st Joint Public Affairs Unit



Special Operations Logistic Squadron



Australian Army chef Corporal 'H' from the Special Operations Logistic Squadron prepares herbs in the Special Operations Command—East kitchen at Holsworthy Barracks in Sydney.
Source: Defence

Logistics does not just happen – across Special Operations Command it's almost inevitably the Special Operations Logistic Squadron (SOLS) team that keeps our special operations forces equipped, fed, fuelled and ready for the fight.

SOLS coordinates SOCOMD logistic and materiel engineering needs to ensure our teams are ready to support Australia's national interest here and overseas.

SOLS personnel come from a wide variety of Australian Army logistics roles (including ammunition suppliers, cargo specialists, chefs, drivers, fuel specialists, stores) and technical trades (including armament fitters, carpenters, electricians, metalsmiths, plumbers, vehicle mechanics and other technicians).

SOLS was established on 01 January 2007 from the Special Operations Combat Service Support Company (SOCSSC), which was previously established on 07 July 2003. The unit's motto is 'Assured support'.



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ADF Parachuting School

A job with a view

Both articles reproduced from Army News, Edition 1534, May 11th, 2023, with the kind permission of editor Richard Mihaich.

While the skills they teach are vital to ADF capability, those posted to ADF Parachute School consider it a dream job. Pte Nick Marquis reports.

As the CASA C-212 slowly buzzes its way up to 13,000 feet, the incredible views of the South Coast of NSW slowly appear outside the small oval windows. Closest to the exit ramp, the number one dispatcher checks the wind speed and direction. Seatbelts are undone, final checks are conducted, and tandem pairs are strapped together.



An Australian Army soldier from the Australian Defence Force Parachuting School conducts a military free-fall jump into Jervis Bay airfield, south of Nowra, NSW.
Source: Defence

"One minute" is passed back using hand signals. The aircraft ramp opens like a gaping mouth to reveal the sky. With fist bumps and high fives passed around the twin-prop plane, the exits begin, one by one and then the tandems.

Falling from 13,000 feet looks like slowly zooming in on Google maps. The only sense of reality is the force of the wind in your face. Pure adrenaline for 45 seconds.

This is the day-to-day view for all ADF Parachute School (ADFPS) instructors. With personnel posted to the school from across Army, particularly SOCOMD, it is where the ADF's thrill-seekers hang out.

Described as one of the most picturesque drop zones in the country, Sgt F and Cpl B have no regrets about being posted to the school as instructors because they are both passionate about parachuting.

Holding most of the advanced instructor qualifications, Sgt F is on his second posting to ADFPS from SASR, having previously been a corporal instructor.



“Every day involves parachuting. If you love skydiving, this is certainly the place to be,” Sgt F said. “Being an instructor gives me a huge sense of personal achievement. “Taking a novice who has never parachuted before and getting them to the point where they graduate, it feels like we are really adding to capability and giving back to Army and their unit.

Being at the school has allowed both to gain new skills that they are looking forward to taking back to their SOCOMD unit at the end of their current posting.

“After being here as an instructor for a couple of years, I’m sure we’ll return to our units and be seen as SMEs,” Sgt F said. “Even if you have been an instructor, it’s still important to jump regularly to maintain your skills.

“It is the same as shooting. It is a perishable skill, so if you haven’t jumped in a while, you’re going to be a little rusty.”

From 2 Cdo Regt, Cpl B is on his first posting to ADFPS. He is enjoying working with others from across SOCOMD and the opportunities at the school.

“I already had military free-fall qualification before I came here and had an interest in civilian skydiving, so I think the school was as keen as I was to get here,” he said. “It is an amazing experience.

Jervis Bay is our work drop zone and we get to jump constantly.” Cpl B said being an instructor included yearly preparation for courses, day-to-day prepping of gear, and constant descents.

“If anyone has an interest in parachuting, it’s a great opportunity to develop your skills,” Cpl B said. “It’s a great routine, you’re getting paid to jump, and it’s a really good crew.”

Red Berets add value to community engagement



An Australian Army soldier from the Red Berets parachute display team prepares to land at the Bomaderry High School trailing the Army flag as part of an Australian Defence Force Parachuting School visit to the school in Nowra, NSW.

Source: Defence

Cheers of excitement filled Bomaderry High School as four Red Berets jumped from a CASA-212 above Nowra on March 6.

The Red Berets disappeared into a cloud and the crowd fell silent. Red smoke appeared in the sky and the Australian flag emerged, prompting another roar from the crowd as the team descended to the school’s oval.

The display was a community engagement activity and a practice jump ahead of a planned jump into Allianz Stadium in Sydney for the annual Anzac Day NRL match between the Roosters and Dragons.

The Red Berets help generate interest in Army through their parachute jump displays. Formed in 1974, the team is made up of military free-fall instructors from the Australian Defence Force Parachuting School.

Red Berets team manager, WO2 S, said they mainly did demonstrations but were ready to go anywhere on request. “We have two types of displays: ‘red’ is high visibility with flags and smoke, while ‘green’ is done in full kit,” WO2 S said. “The real core business, however, is getting men and women to deploy as a method of insertion on special operations.

“The Red Berets is almost like an extra regimental appointment, but I really enjoy it.” Selection for the team is based on jump numbers and overall experience, with two hundred descents being the minimum number to be selected for a first demo.

With team members coming from across SOCOMD and other Navy, Army and Air Force operational units, WO2 S said the jumps prepared them for future roles. “Doing public displays gives us a unique perspective, especially when you start jumping over the Sydney CBD, to switch from the red hat to the green,” he said.

“Approaching obstacles that are totally different, like cars, power lines, light towers – it forces all of us to get comfortable operating in all types of environments.” The Red Berets support significant Australian-based public events representing Army and SOCOMD.

WO2 S said he did his first jump at the age of sixteen, but his most memorable was more recently. “Earlier in the year, I took an ADF team of men and women to Japan for Exercise New Year Jump, a combined military event with the US, UK and Japanese armies,” WO2 S said.

“With 40,000 people on the drop zone, a proper insertion with an airborne force – you can’t beat that, it was awesome.”

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THE ORIGIN OF THE INDEPENDENT COMPANIES (Commandos)

By J. P. BUCKEY, OBE

The recent visit to Melbourne of Brigadier Michael Calvert, DSO and Bar, has revived interest in the beginnings of the Australian Commandos, previously known as Independent Companies. It will be recalled that Calvert was a brigade commander under Major General Wingate in Burma. He was regarded as an expert on Commando type training and operations. He still is! The man responsible for setting up the Independent Companies in Australia was Lieutenant General Vernon Sturdee (later Sir Vernon Sturdee) who in September 1940 was Chief of the General Staff.



Lieutenant General Vernon Sturdee.
Source. AWM

Perhaps it's best to quote the foreword of Sir Bernard Callinan's excellent book "Independent Company" which gives the details of the formation of the elite units. Sturdee stated: "Far too little is known by the Australian general public about the operations of the Australian Independent Companies and in particular of the activities of the No.2 and No.4 Independent Companies in Portuguese Timor¹. It is a

campaign complete in itself in which some three hundred Australians waged a successful war against thousands of Japanese and held them in Timor when they could have been employed more profitably in the Japanese interests in other parts of the Pacific — they might even have been used for landings on the mainland of Australia. "The origin of the Independent Companies is of interest. Shortly after the fall of France in June 1940, the British War Office was secretly organising units for raids into German-occupied Europe to gain information, carry out sabotage and to assist the French Underground. About this time, they offered to send us a special Military Mission to train was known here at that time about such units, their organisation, equipment or operation beyond the fact that they Australian personnel for Independent Company work. Little were some form of "cloak and dagger gang". Negotiations were carried on by cable on the highest "Top Secret" level between the British Chief of the General Staff (C.G.S) and the Australian C.G.S. and were somewhat protected owing largely to the need for British secrecy and partly to our uncertainty as to what it was all about and whether such units would be of value in the Australian Army." In the middle of these negotiations the then C.G.S. Sir Brudenell White, was killed in an aircraft accident at Canberra, and I took over on September 1, 1940. "After further exchange of cables, we accepted the offer of the Mission, although we had little idea where or in what circumstances such units could be used by us. "Until the British Mission arrived towards the end of 1940, little could be done beyond a few preliminary reconnaissance's of likely training areas. Secrecy demanded an area well removed from centres of population, and Wilson's Promontory was selected. "On arrival, the British Mission² was given the task of getting organisation and training under way, with the assistance of Australian and New Zealand officers specially detailed for the purpose. Later, control was taken over by an Australian staff and the mission concentrated on technical training. "Calvert was a member of the Mission which came to Australia as a result of General Sturdee's acceptance of the War Office proposal.

¹At the time of their deployment they were known as No2 and No4 Independent Companies. The name change to 2/2 and 2/4 Australian Independent Companies (AIC) occurred in mid-1943 after their return to Australia from Timor.

²Mission 104 Headed by LTCOL Mawhood.





Captain Mike Calvert circa 1940

Source. AWM

Brigadier Calvert recalled his first meeting with General Sturdee during a discussion with Sir Bernard Callinan, Sir William Hall, Sir Alfred Kemsley and the writer recently in Melbourne. Calvert mentioned that when the Mission (of which he was a member) arrived from the U.K. only General Sturdee (C.G.S.) and Major General Northcott (D.C.G.S.) due to secrecy knew anything about it. In fact, some more junior officers at Army H.Q. had "suspicions" about the members of the Mission.

However, Sturdee and Northcott were most interested in the information provided and the weapons used by the Mission (Thompson and Bren). Sturdee and Northcott took the team to a range where they both fired the weapons. Then Sturdee brought out the untried "Owen" which had been submitted to the Army for examination. According to Calvert, both Generals fired the "Owen" under various conditions then Sturdee turned to Northcott and said "Order 1000 immediately". Northcott mentioned in alarm that the Government would have to approve the order, but

Sturdee countered this by saying "If the Government won't approve the order, I will pay for the bloody guns myself". Calvert was amazed and spellbound at the whole proceedings, especially as the C.G.S. and D.C.G.S. could fire and evaluate such weapons and that Sturdee would give such an order to Northcott about the acquisition of the new Australian made and designed "Owen" gun. This could not have happened elsewhere! However, worse was to follow when Sturdee directed the Mission to prepare War Establishments and War Equipment Tables for the Australian Independent Companies forthwith, a task for which Calvert and the other officers had little if any experience. However, with the oversight of Sturdee they got every possible help to complete the task with urgency and to commence training at the "Prom".

I hope the foregoing information will be of interest to members but for those who have a copy of Bernard Callinan's book I suggest you read the whole foreword written by General Sturdee, who could rightly claim to be the "father" of the Australian Independent Companies, yet his name and deeds are unknown to most members of the Association.

Sturdee was always very proud of the magnificent performance of the early Independent Companies, particularly in Timor and other islands. Likewise, he was an admirer of Bernard Callinan and forecast in 1953 that as well as being an excellent soldier Callinan would also become a distinguished citizen and a brilliant engineer. Sturdee's forecast has been confirmed. He would have been very proud of Callinan's subsequent achievements.

The Commando members can be justifiably proud of Sturdee and Callinan. Sturdee went on to become Head of the Military Mission in Washington, G.O.C. 1st Australian Army, for the last year of the war, Acting Commander-in-Chief on the retirement of Sir Thomas Blarney. In March 1946, again Chief of the General Staff, serving in that position until his retirement in 1950. As Sturdee once said: "It is rare that a Chief of the General Staff has the opportunity to set up a new and elite Corps". In the case of the Independent Companies, he hoped his name would always be associated with them. Hopefully, the Association remembers Sir Vernon Sturdee! (Whose outstanding record was covered in Mufti in Sept. 1983).

(Reprinted from RSL "MUFTI", June 1985)

MORE ON THE EARLY DAYS AT "THE PROM"

By Ron Couche, No.7 Infantry Training Centre (ITC) and 2/3rd Commando Squadron

Having read the reprint of Col. John Buckley's article on "The origin of the Independent Companies (Commandos)" and the article by Max Davis on his memories of Tidal River (D.D. Sep. 90), it occurred to me that I should fill in a little more of our origins — namely, what happened between the arrival of the 104

British Mission and the commencement of the raising and training of our units. As has been written, the British Mission was commanded by Lt-Col. Mawhood and consisted of two other British Officers and two British Warrant Officers. Capt. "Mike" Calvert (Royal Engineers) and Capt. "Freddie" Spencer-Chapman



(Seaforth Highlanders) are well-known names to all of the earlier Commandos. Perhaps less well-known are WO I Frank Misselbrook (Royal Signals) and WO I Peter Stafford (Duke of York Light Infantry). Calvert and Misselbrook were responsible for training specialising in their own arms, Spencer-Chapman was responsible for fieldcraft, and associated subjects and Stafford was in charge of weapon training.

"The Prom" was selected for training of the new units because of its absolute isolation, thus preserving the secrecy of the new type units. The whole training area was named No. 7 Infantry Training Centre. The story is that there were five ITC's and it was intended that this new Centre would be No. 6. However, Mike Calvert objected and suggested that it should be No. 7 ITC — the logic being that enemy intelligence would spend a lot of time searching for No. 6 and thus not spend so much time in finding out what went on at No. 7.



Headquarters offices in the Chalet and officer and NCO accommodation in the rear huts.
Source. Foster Historical Society

Centre Headquarters was set up at Darby River Bridge, already a pre-War embryonic holiday centre. HQ offices, lecture rooms, transport, etc., were in huts along the road just beyond the bridge. The Darby Chalet, with associated out-buildings, became the Officers' Mess and quarters. Buildings were erected on the flat near the bridge for the Sergeants' Mess and O.R.'s Mess and Recreation Room. All O.R.'s were accommodated in a tented camp on the north side of the bridge (Max Davis' "small open space in the scrub"). Along the track leading to Darby Beach were three huts — two containing engineer stores, explosives and ammunition, the other being a maintenance workshop. (Incidentally, the explosives stored there were such that, had they have "gone off", a large chunk of the Prom would have disappeared.)

At the south end of Darby Beach, a 30-yard range for pistols and submachine guns had been built. South of Darby, the narrow, winding "road" passed a fully-equipped rifle range with firing mounds up to 600 yards. It then led to two tented camps — No. 1 Camp north of Tidal River Bridge, No. 2 Camp at Tidal River (what is now the Tourist Resort). Each camp had a few

buildings for Messes, recreation and ablutions. Little of these sites now remains, although those who know where to look can find concrete slabs, etc., on which buildings were set. A small permanent staff of (mainly) engineers was located at Darby area, with the responsibility of the maintenance of the whole area and for running the Gardiner diesels in the Power House at Darby, which provided electricity for Centre and Nos. 1 and 2 Camps. These maintenance staff were not part of the training establishment.

To assist the Mission in the early stages, a number of Australian Regular Warrant Officers and NCO's were posted as instructors. These were WO II's Ron Couche and "Snow" White (weapon training), WO II's Bert Grenfell and Frank Hammond (engineers), WO II Hugh Egan (signals) and S/Sgt "Sandy" Philpott and Vic Crawford (also signals).

Our early days at the Prom were filled with mystery. After receiving orders early in January 1941 to join No. 7 ITC as instructors, we caught the train to Foster, there to be picked up by an army truck, the driver of which was most uncommunicative. A long, rough and dusty trip along a winding road of gravel and sand saw us passing an aerodrome (Yanakie). Immediate reaction was "Whacko — Paratroops".

However, the truck continued on its way and eventually dumped us at Darby Chalet. As it happened, the members of the Mission were on leave in Melbourne, and we were unable to gain any information as to what we were to do. We drew blankets, etc., and bedded down in that "small open space in the scrub". Next morning, a tour of inspection of the huts and storerooms revealed many wonders. Bear in mind that in those days, such exotic items as Bren Guns, Thompson Sub-Machine Guns and many other arms and impedimenta were virtually unavailable in Australia.

Our explorations revealed crates of these weapons, automatic pistols, grenades, mortars, explosives of all types (including "sticky" tank grenades, Limpets, plastic explosive with associated fuses and detonators), many and varied radio sets (including a large mule-pack set with world range). At that time, we had read or heard of some of these items but had not seen them. Little wonder, then, that we wondered what we were in for.

After two or three days without information, the Mission members returned, and we instructors were soon initiated into the mysteries of the "independent companies" and their role and training. We were put through the training by the Mission and were soon eagerly awaiting the arrival of our first trainees — and hoping that we might, this time, get "a guernsey" with these AIF units, which had been previously refused to us as Regular instructors. No. 7 ITC was commanded in the beginning by Maj. W. J. R. Scott³.

³An Australian Army Officer.



The rest is history. No. 1 Australian Cadre and No. 1 New Zealand Cadre arrived -- each Cadre consisted of the officers and senior NCO's of an independent company. They were given their course of training in what we now know as commando-type warfare.



No 1 Camp showing a student for headquarters administration, messes, lecture rooms and ablution blocks to the rear. Located at Lilly Pilly Gully with tented accommodation for trainees to the left of the photo. Mount Oberon can be seen in the background.

Source. Foster Historical Society

After six weeks, the Cadres moved to Nos. 1 and 2 Camps, were brought up to full strength, trained their new unit then moved on — eventually to Active Service against the Japanese. No. 2 Aust. and No. 2 N.Z. Cadre moved into Centre for their turn of training, then followed the routine to Nos. 1 and 2 Camps and then away.



No 2 Camp at Tidal River showing huts for headquarters administration, messes, lecture rooms and ablution blocks with tent lines to the left of the photo.

Source. Keith Reynolds.

At this time, New Zealand decided that they would not raise any more independent companies, so the next intake at Centre was Nos. 3 and 4 Aust. Cadres, who followed the same routine. At this time, the British Mission was withdrawn⁴, and all training continued under Australian control, with the new Centre C.O. being Maj. S. G. Love⁵.

As the training of Nos. 3 and 4 Companies finished, the Australian "Brass" decided against any more independent companies. No. 3 Company moved out, accompanied by reinforcements for Nos. 1 and 2 Companies, whilst No. 4 Company was disbanded and its members were posted to other units.

No. 7 ITC was closed in Nov. 41, only to be re-opened again early in 1942 when No.4 Company was reformed and later No. 5-8 Companies were raised and trained. No. 7 ITC was eventually closed in about Dec. 42, when all independent company training was transferred to the newly opened Jungle Warfare Centre at Canungra, Queensland. As to the original Australian Regular instructors, with the exception of WO II White, all were eventually posted to and served with one or more of the independent companies. Two of them — Lieut Hugh Egan and S/Sgt "Sandy" Philpott, paid the Supreme Sacrifice.



TIDAL RIVER MEMORIES

By Max R. Davis

I notice that Double Diamond features the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Commandos at Wilsons Promontory in November this year. This even brings back many memories of that wonderful time.

I retired to Sale — my home town some fifteen years ago -- so am a born Gippslander and although I have been a financial member of our Association for many years, I have not always attended the annual pilgrimage at the Prom. which is relatively close. I excuse myself by claiming bowls competitions divert me.

Although some memories fade (and better so), I can well remember my introduction to the 'Prom.' in about April 1941.

Our unit was in camp at Balcombe, as the 8th Division Cavalry Regiment (8 Div. Cav.) was then called, when volunteers were interviewed by two British

⁴September 1941

⁵Another Australian Army Officer.



officers looking for recruits for a "special mission". Conditions of acceptance were at that time rather rigid in that one had to be a bushman, able to live off the land, be one hundred per cent fit and single.

Captain Spencer Chapman and Captain Mike Calvert had escaped from France with the British expeditionary force at the Dunkirk evacuation and were selected to come to Australia and form commando units.

Their names would be well known to most members of our Association especially the earlier units, and they both became famous soldiers in Malaya and Burma.

This is not surprising as they were both highly trained very tough buddies, extremely fit and set standards of physical toughness few could follow after numerous notorious escapades during the war in South East Asia they both returned to England where they wrote the most fascinating books about their wartime experiences. Chapman wrote "The Jungle is Neutral" while Calvert wrote "Prisoners of Hope". Both very exciting stories and you should read them.

Now back to my introduction to the Promontory. There were three of us as an advance party dumped in the scrub just this side of the Darby River Bridge, from memory it was my birthday — 5th April 1941.

There was Butch Horgan, Dennis Warner (later to become a well-known war correspondent) and myself. We were all from the 8th Div. Cav. and felt rather neglected after the army truck had dumped our tent and rations in the small open space in the scrub then cleared out.

I was down there recently, and it hasn't changed much in fifty years.

At that time the Promontory was virtually uninhabited and in its natural state. It was a national park with a ranger at Darby River and two lighthouse keepers thirty kilometres further along a walking track.

Our camp was started at Darby, which was some 65 kms from the nearest town, Foster, by a very rough gravel road and thus we felt the isolation and depression that resulted.

To make the situation a lot worse the season broke and the wild gales plus seven inches of rain that came in off the Southern Ocean contributed to our misery. Our tent blew to glory, our swags were saturated, and tucker mostly ruined so little wonder Butch and Dennis blew through.

They got back to the unit at Balcombe, were received with open arms and sailed to the Middle East a couple of weeks later.

I decided to "stick", and a few days later Chapman and Calvert arrived with a large contingent of the first company.

At first it was a tent camp at the Darby River site, but building of a permanent camp there and at Tidal River together with a vehicle road to link them was going ahead apace.

One thing I cannot forget was the daylight swim, we were all subjected to, either dive from the bridge into

that black uninviting river or run the five hundred metres then into the raging Southern Ocean.

Our English officers appeared to enjoy the experience although by this time it was into a very wet cold winter.

What a great destroyer of sexual fantasies it was for those inclined that way.

With ten hours of training each day we soon became very fit and some of our wilder exploits when we hit Fish Creek or Foster on the rare weekend breaks are definitely best forgotten.

When the road to No. 1 camp on the hill this side of Tidal River was trafficable and the camp built, we moved in and advanced our training.

One exercise I well remember was hiking with Ralph Kelly and 'Screamer' Heatherington to the lighthouse and then along the east coast to Sealers Cove and back to camp. This unchartered route climbing over miles of basalt rocks was a very hazardous experience and took us four days.

Another exercise that comes to mind was the regular early morning run up to the Trig Point on Mount Oberon and back. I did this P.T. exercise many times with my good friend 'Wato' whom a lot of you will remember from No. 1 Company and later in New Guinea with, I think, No.5.

We held the record for this climb for some months until the New Zealanders followed us into the camp. **Our time was 1 hour 55 minutes up and back.** I wouldn't like to do it now!!

After several months of toughening up and training in the ways of commandos together with the cementing of our establishment as No. 1 Independent Company, we were alerted to the fact that we were not going to finish our training in Scotland as had been originally planned but in fact we were off to the Pacific Islands.

Intelligence information indicated correctly that the Japs were coming into the war and our unit was to be directed there as an intelligence screen for the western Pacific islands.

As history relates, the spread of our nine sections throughout many islands from Manus in the north to Vila (in the New Hebrides) in the south, sealed the doom of our company. Sections of 21 men had only a minimal effect on the monstrous enemy force that descended on the islands during the Coral Sea Battle. No. 1 Section was stationed at Tulagi in the Solomons at the time and after a few exciting days we were instructed to escape.

Some of us were lucky and got out by island hopping in small boats, but not so fortunate were those further north in the vicinity of Rabaul where escape was extremely difficult.

And so now having revived a few memories I will look forward to the reunion and 50th Anniversary at Tidal River in November this year, where I look forward to meeting some of one's greatest mates ever.

oOo



Supporting the AUKUS partnership

By Luke Gosling OAM MP

Often working closely together on operations, special forces are no strangers to the submarine force. That is just one reason why the AUKUS announcement about Australia's acquisition of nuclear-powered submarines, the single biggest investment in our defence capability in our history, is so significant. It represents a transformational moment for our nation, the ADF, and our economy.

The agreement will strengthen Australia's national security and contribute to regional stability in response to unprecedented strategic challenges. It will build a future made in Australia, by Australians, with record investments in defence, skills, jobs, and infrastructure, and it will deliver a superior capability and ensure there is no capability gap after a decade of false starts and failed acquisitions.

The agreement is broken up into three stages.

Firstly, we will see increased visits of U.S. submarines commencing in 2023 and UK submarines from 2026, and beginning in 2027 rotations of UK and U.S. submarines to Australia.

Secondly, from as early as the 2030s Australia will take the delivery of three U.S. Virginia-class nuclear-powered submarines to Australia, ensuring that there is no capability gap.

Thirdly, Australia and the UK will deliver SSN-AUKUS, a new conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarine based on a UK design and incorporating cutting-edge Australian, UK and U.S. technologies.

The UK will deliver its own first SSN-AUKUS in the late 2030s, with the first SSN-AUKUS built in Australia delivered in the early 2040s.

Out to 2055, spending on the AUKUS program is estimated to amount to around 0.15 per cent of GDP per year, averaged out over the life of the program. This will contribute to the Government's commitment to lifting Defence spending to over 2 per cent of GDP per year.

The 2023-24 Budget appropriated an initial \$9 billion over the Forward Estimates and predicted spending of between \$50 billion and \$58 billion over the medium term to begin implementation of the AUKUS pathway.

It will generate an additional investment of \$6 billion in Australian industry and workforce. The Albanese Government will invest at least \$2 billion in South Australia infrastructure alone and at least \$1 billion in infrastructure in Western Australia.

An estimated \$30 billion will be invested in Australia's industrial base alone out to 2055.

Given the increasingly dangerous strategic circumstances that Australia faces, we cannot afford not to do this.

Nuclear-powered submarines will be an Australian sovereign capability, commanded by the Royal Australian Navy and sustained by Australians in Australian shipyards.

AUKUS will create around 20,000 direct jobs over the next 30 years across industry, the Australian Defence Force, and the Australian Public Service.

And while many of those will be in South Australia and

Western Australia for the construction of SSN-AUKUS, many other jobs will be created for Australians across a range of sectors of our economy and in advanced technologies, including in Darwin and the Northern Territory.

It's understandable that much of the media attention to date on AUKUS has focused on the nuclear submarine element.

But the technology and innovation dividend that will come from Pillar Two should not be underestimated, especially for the jobs that it will drive around Australia, including in the NT where we are gearing up to reap the benefits of AUKUS.

Last year for example, the Northern Territory government, Charles Darwin University, RMIT and the federal government established the first Defence and Aerospace Industry 4.0 Digital Test lab at Charles Darwin University.

This was a decision ahead of its time that will help to prepare the Northern Australian workforce to be AUKUS-ready.

This initiative will help upskill Territorians to prepare them to seize the opportunities from cyber, artificial intelligence, quantum, hypersonics and other advanced defence technologies through Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership. Recently, critical minerals and renewables have been described as Pillar Three.

AUKUS is an inter-generational project that will pool the collective strength of three great democracies. To succeed, it is essential that parliamentarians across the U.S. Congress and the Australian and UK Parliaments work closely together to help navigate this tripartite technology-sharing plan through the technical and policy challenges that may arise over the decades.

Towards that end, I have joined with Aaron Violi MP, the Member for Casey, in co-founding the first Parliamentary Friends of AUKUS, a non-partisan grouping of parliamentarians who are committed to promoting cooperation between AUKUS member-countries' Parliaments and Congress on all aspects of this trilateral security partnership between Australia, the UK, and the U.S.

At its first event on 30 May, the friendship group heard from Commodore Peter Scott, CSC, RAN (Retired) who briefed members on his career as a submariner, drawing on insights relevant to AUKUS from his new book *Running Deep: An Australian Submarine Life* (Fremantle Press, 2023). This was only the first of a series of planned activities that will continue in the years ahead.

As well as delivering the biggest investment in Australian defence industry in generations, nuclear-powered submarines will make our nation better able to deter threats to our security while contributing to the balance of power in the Indo-Pacific. Achieving this crucial national objective will take enduring bipartisan support and that is precisely what our friendship group will help to provide.

Luke Gosling OAM MP is the Federal Member for Solomon, representing Darwin and Palmerston in Canberra. He served in the ADF for 13 years.



Luke Gosling going briefly under the Indian Ocean on the USS Asheville (above); the launch of the Parliamentary Friends of AUKUS (below).



COMMANDO AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS MEMORIALS

Garden Island, Western Australia

Perhaps the least known of service memorials in Australia is that to the Services Reconnaissance Department (SRD), an operational unit within special Operations Australia (SOA)¹. The 113 names recorded on the memorial include members of all three Australian services and includes Allied personnel from the UK and Portugal and rare on a service memorial are the names of four civilians who served with SOA.

Location

The Garden Island SRD Memorial is located on the western side of Dampier Drive, HMAS Stirling Naval Base, Garden Island, 6168. GPS Coordinates: Lat: -32.225 Long: 115.686389. The memorial rests on a gently sloping grassed site with native bushland on three sides. The memorial comprises a random rubble stone pier, approximately 2.5m high and 1.5m high, raised on a grassed platform that is edged with a low stone wall and accessed by three brick paved steps. Flag poles are positioned either side of the memorial, which features a plaque commemorating the Services Reconnaissance Department.

The original location of the memorial was closer to the beach, in an area where the Naval facilities were constructed, and it was moved prior to the construction of HMAS Stirling to its current location at the west side of Dampier Road.

It is appropriate the memorial has been placed on this site because SRD personnel trained on Garden Island during World War 2 and the area is still used by Special Operations personnel today. The Memorial was completed at a cost of 500 Pounds.



Honour Roll on SRD Memorial on Garden Island
Source. WA State Heritage



SRD Memorial on Garden Island²
Source. WA State Heritage

History

The initial SRD memorial was unveiled on Sunday 6th November 1949 by the Services Reconnaissance Department (SRD) Association of Western Australia, by the Hon D.R. McLarty, MLA Premier of Western Australia. The SRD Association was formed in WA shortly after World War II and in December 1947 it was decided to raise funds for the erection of a Memorial on Garden Island, WA.

SRD personnel served on operations in Singapore, Malaya, Timor, Java Sea, New Guinea, New Britain, Philippines, Borneo and the China Sea between 1940 and 1945. Most people remember the SRD, or Z Special Unit as it was known, for their heroic actions in Operations JAYWICK and RIMAU, both of which were canoe attacks on Japanese shipping in Singapore which took place in 1943 and 1944 respectively, however, SRD actions covered most of the Pacific War Zone.

¹A component of the Allied Intelligence Bureau (AIB).

²This Memorial incorrectly listed by the Western Australian Government Heritage Council as being the Z Force Memorial Garden Island.





Post War Western Australian SRD Association badge.
Source: Authors Collection



Drawing of the Memorial from the 1949 Dedication Order of Service
Source: Lynettesilver.com

Those attending the unveiling ceremony included many veterans of SOA both headquarters in support staff and operatives.

A video of the unveiling is available from The Australian War Memorial at

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/F10028>

Near to Garden Island is another memorial to members of the Services Reconnaissance Department in the form of a memorial plate fitted onto a park bench located on the Esplanade in Rockingham. Unfortunately, this Memorial makes mention of 'Z Force' which is inaccurate referral to Z Special Unit, which was essentially the training and administrative

holding unit for Army members of SOA³. There were two Z Forces in WW2 with one being a British army intelligence unit operating in northern Burma with indigenous operatives⁴. The second Force Z was a Royal Navy task force operating in the Indian Ocean.⁵ Clearly neither of these has relevance to the operations conducted by SRD/SOA.

ACA will be engaging with the Rockingham Council and Western Australian Heritage regarding the possible correction of this Memorial and of the naming of the SRD Memorial on Garden Island.



Z Force Memorial on a Bench situated on the Esplanade, Rockingham WA 6168
Source: AWM Places of Pride.



³See National Australian Archives SOA Vol 1 Digital.

⁴Ashman, Jackie (25 August 2005). "Behind The Japanese Lines in Burma". BBC. Retrieved 30 August 2011.

⁵<https://thediplomat.com/2020/12/the-real-story-of-the-destruction-of-force-z/>



WW2 COASTWATCHER JIM BURROWES CELEBRATES HIS 100TH YEAR

By Dick Pelling

The Australian Commando Association passed on its congratulations to World War 2 Coastwatcher, Jim Burrowes OAM, on achieving his 100th Birthday.

There was a good chance the fire sprinklers would activate at the Box Hill RSL on Saturday, 25th March when 100 candles were lit for his 100th birthday celebration. When the last candle was lit the first was about to expire, just in time for Jim to blow them out with the careful use of a compressed air canister, directed to snuff out the candles and filling the room with smoke.

Jim's official birthday was a few days later on the 29th. Jim was born in 1923, the year that Mount Etna erupted and Adolf Hitler lead the Nazi Party in a failed coup attempt in Germany, which at the time would have made no difference to Jim.

Jim and his wife Beryl have been happily married for over 70 years, and Beryl, like Jim, enlisted for service in WW2.

Jim is that special someone who has rendered outstanding service to his country in war and in peace, fastidiously documenting the activities of the Coastwatchers and devoting years of his precious time to the Royal Life Saving Society, resulting him being awarded an OAM for his services.

The Australian Commando Association was formed, in part, by a group of men that included Jim. He explained, "Once the curtain had come down on World War 2 and following their discharge from the Services, a small group of former Coastwatchers of 'M' Special Unit met regularly on each Saturday morning to crack a few beers and to 'chew the fat' at the Cathedral Hotel in Swanston Street, Melbourne".

"It was at such a gathering that the idea came up that we should incorporate an Association of the



Celebrating a milestone.

From left, Glenn MacDonald, Pauline Lovell, Jim Burrowes, Sandy Pelling, Robin Lovell and Dick Pelling. Pauline and Robin from the UK are friends of Dick and Sandy.

Photo Rob Burrowes

Commando Companies (originally the Independent Companies but who had been redesignated as Cavalry Commando Squadrons in 1943 and then altered to just Commando Squadrons in 1944) and the members of Special Operations Australia (SOA) under its wartime cover name of Services Reconnaissance Department (SRD) and the administrative units 'M' Special Unit (for Coastwatchers) and 'Z' Special Unit (for SRD operations and training support)."

"The purpose of the Association was to document their wartime missions and operations so that their history was not lost. The Association also set up a Patriotic Welfare Fund to provide financial assistance to any struggling veterans."

"In 1946, when we had each kicked in a 10 shilling note to get the Association started, I became the Treasurer and we developed a recruiting strategy. I can no longer remember the processes but a quarterly Double Diamond magazine certainly helped the cause, and over the following years, we reached a staggering membership, peaking at over 700. We rotated the presidency every two years and in 1969, during my own term as president, I led the members to the Shrine on Anzac Day, when we were thoroughly drenched in the pouring rain", Jim said.

Congratulations Jim, and best wishes to you and Beryl, from all members of the Australian Commando Association.



Beryl and Jim Burrows and extended family at his 100th birthday celebration. Photo Rob Burrowes



VALE

SERGEANT BARRY LINDSAY GRANT OAM

19 September 1945 – 23 January 2023

Royal Australian Corps of Transport – 75th Water Troop
1st Commando Company



Sgt. Barry Grant OAM ADM DLSP SMES The Celebration of Life



The celebration of the life of Barry Lindsay Grant was held in the Founders Room of the Wanda Surf Life Saving Club, Cronulla NSW on the request of Barry. Ivan Kelly, Treasurer of ACA NSW and Envoy of The Salvation Army conducted the service that Barry and he with Barry's family put together weeks before Barry's passing.

Many of the ACA NSW attended and it is estimated that 450-500 mourners viewed the service on livestream.

Barry was remembered.

The family tribute was presented by his daughters Jodie Robinson and Sonya Fry. They shared many family memories with us, from early childhood through many experiences shared with their dad all their life right up till now.



Timor Leste

A message was read by Rod Hilliker, ACA NSW, from Xanana Gusmau, President of Timor Leste 2002 – 2015 and currently the Chief Negotiator for the Council for Final Delimitation of Maritime Boundaries for the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste.

Xanana said: *Barry lived a most meaningful and fulfilled life in which he tirelessly advocated for and supported Australian veterans and their families.*

Significantly, Barry helped build the solidarity enjoyed between Timorese and Australian veterans. Our countries share an important military history and it is critical that this history is remembered. The Australian commandos that served in our country in World War II were brave and remarkable men. Many Timorese risked their lives to support them and on their return to Australia they dedicated their lives to repaying this Debt of Honour.

Australian Commando Association NSW; Brigadier Philip McNamara Ret'd re-

counted Barry's service with 1 Commando Regiment. Before joining 1 Commando Company he served with the Royal Australian Corps of Transport with the 75th Water Transport Troop. He joined in 1987 and Brigadier McNamara emphasised that he had the privileged of presenting Barry with his Green Beret and noted the fact Barry was 43 years old.



Message from ACA NSW Inc Patron, Major General Greg Melick Ret'd, RSL National President.

Barry was a friend, advocate and supporter to many of us and he will be very much missed. Barry was the heart and soul of the One Commando Association which, without his incredible efforts over many years, would have ceased to exist in a meaningful way. About 18 months ago Barry told me that he had arranged about 70 funerals for former members of the company or regiment. When I told him that we would have to make sure his funeral was arranged in a similar appropriate manner he said that would not be a problem - he intended to make the arrangements himself.

He is an almost impossible act to follow and it behoves us to always ensure the continuation of the association and camaraderie he so dearly loved.

Woronora River RSL

Bree Till, Secretary Woronora River RSL and Director - Australian War Widows NSW, friend to Barry.

Bree recounted his service to the Woronora River RSL Sub-Branch and reminded us his service as President was from 6 February 2011 to late in 2022.

Mr Ray James, RSL NSW President wrote to the family.

He said: I thank Barry sincerely for his service to Australia within the Defence Force. Although Barry would describe himself as an 'ordinary bloke' he was truly in his element and enjoyed helping others more than anything else. He was a long-standing member of the Woronora RSL Sub-Branch with a strong and dedicated commitment to the RSL, NSW.



Barry served in many volunteer roles assisting and supporting not only veterans but within the community as a whole. We thank him for his last post of President of the Woronora RSL Sub-Branch. I am extremely grateful of Barry's dedicated service and commitment to supporting his fellow veterans.

On behalf of the RSL and Commando Association, Bree Till read Barry's Military service, and lead those present in reciting the Ode, Last Post, minute silence and Rouse.

Following the Celebration of Barry Grant's life, he was carried to the Hearst by fellow members of the Australian Commando Association NSW and members of the Woronora River RSL Club.

Following his departure excellent refreshments were provided by the Wanda Surf Life Saving Club for all attendees.



Photos by Greg Tyerman

The life of Barry Lindsay Grant as told by Barry and recorded by the staff of the Calvary Hospital, Kogarah, NSW.

Born 19 September 1945 in Murwillumbah NSW, one of three children. Janelle, was born in 1948 and Lenice in 1954. He began helping in the dairy at a very young age – we didn't really have a choice he said. As soon as I could walk, I was involved in the milking of cows. For a small farm, there were a lot of cows and we milked 80 to 100 every day.

Father, Lindsay James Grant, was born in 1917 and mother, Gwendoline May Grant, was born in 1920.

Barry started school in Uki around 1950. He took up boxing and football and entered competitions, winning his first boxing competition at Beaudesert. He went to High School in Murwillumbah and played Rugby League on weekends.

Barry married Helen in 1967 and they were blessed with two daughters, Jodie and Andy and Jodie's daughter Madison who lives near Brisbane; Sonya who with her husband Leith lives in Cairns and has two children, daughter Ayeesha and son Jaymen.

Barry's community service started when he became a member of the Armidale Apex Club.

He joined the Coolangatta-Tweed Jaycees and became the Chief Coxswain at the Tweed Coolangatta Air Sea Rescue (now called Marine Rescue NSW). He

spent about 10 years as Chief Coxswain and a stint as President in the 1970's, when he left to join Qantas in 1978

Barry joined Qantas in 24 July 1978 as a Flight Attendant and moved through the ranks of Air Chef, Senior Flight Attendant to Manager Customer Services Long Haul. Barry left Qantas on the 1 October 2006 after 28 years of faithful service.

During his time at Qantas, Barry joined the Reserves Forces, 1985 the Royal Australian Corps of Transport with the 75th Water Transport Troop becoming a Seaman Class 1 and a qualified Medical Assistant/Nurse Assistant.

In January 1987 he enlisted in 1st Commando Company (now entitled 1 Regiment Commando), at Georges Heights in Mosman.

Barry qualified and was awarded his Green Beret in July 1988. He qualified in many areas including Basic Parachute Course, Roping and Rappelling Course, Wireless Operator, Basic Explosive Course, Water Operations Course, and Combat First Aid Instructor.

In 1995 Barry was deployed for six weeks to Makira Island in the Solomon Islands supporting "Army Medical Team 1" and deployed to Brunei for 2 weeks with the Brunei Special Forces.

Barry's Medal Awards for his service are the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM), Australia Defence Medal, Defence Long Service Medal and the Soldiers Medallion for Exemplary Service.

Woronora River RSL Sub-Branch

Barry joined the League on the 13 September 1995 and served as President of the Woronora River RSL Sub-Branch from 6 February 2011 to late in 2022.

Barry served the Woronora River RSL Sub-Branch by successfully fulfilling these positions; 3/02/2008 to 1/02/2009 Assistant Welfare Officer, 1/02/2009 to 7/02/2011 Welfare Officer, SMDC delegate & State Congress delegate, 6/02/2011 to late October 2022 President, Welfare Officer, SMDC delegate & State Congress delegate.

As Welfare Officer Barry visited homes and hospitals as required. Barry was delegate to State and National Congress, was a trustee of the RSL premises and gardener of the RSL premises and Manager of the Facebook page.

Barry has been described as beautiful. His humility, his dedication and his leadership have shaped our veteran community within the broader community by focusing on what really matters to us all: respect, dignity, humour, compassion, genuine regard and space to grow and flourish.

Barry provided liaison to our local schools at Bangor, Jannali, Lucas Heights, Illawong and Alford's Point as well as the Woronora Surf Life Saving Club.

In 2015 Barry was awarded a Hughes Community Service Award by our Federal Member, Craig Kelly MP, recognising the selfless work and tireless dedication of volunteers in our local community.



Barry has also represented our Sub Branch at the Woronora Progress Association and Woronora Bush Fire Brigade.

Barry researched and conducted RSL farewell and poppy services as required, for funeral homes and other RSL Sub Branches (some 70 in number over the past few years).

AUSTRALIAN COMMANDO ASSOCIATION (NSW) INC

Barry was elected as President in October 2001 and served as President of 1 Commando Association then 1st Commando Regiment association Inc. and finally the Australian Commando Association NSW Inc. until 20 October 2018. Barry continued on the Committee as Immediate Past President till 29 January 2022. He was elected as Vice-President 29 January 2022 until 19 November 2022 when he stood down for health reasons.

Barry initiated and was the first Editor of the "Strike Swiftly" magazine in 2001 and then the "Commando News" since its inception until 2018. He was a volunteer at the Commando History and Research Centre at Holsworthy and the Association Historian.

Barry was the Association's Ceremonial Standard Bearer for all Reserve Forces Day parades and Liaison officer for organising Anzac Day & Remembrance Day Services and Manager of the Association Facebook page.

When Barry retired, he built a 24-foot houseboat which was moored on the Woronora River. His second wife, Jongdee loves fishing and they used to go out on the boat a lot.

Barry said all through his life he has enjoyed camaraderie and at the time of writing this, he still had people who came and talked about the old days at Qantas and the Commandos.



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Australian Government

Defence

On the record correction - Defence Protected Identity Status and its application

13 April 2023

Factually incorrect information about Defence Protected Identity status and its application, in relation to the Afghanistan Inquiry, has recently circulated on social media.

Following the charge, and subsequent naming, of a former ADF member it has been claimed that it is Defence policy that individuals afforded Defence Protected Identity status will have their identity made public if they appear in court accused of a crime. This is incorrect.

Defence Protected Identity status, also known as PID status, is a Defence policy afforded to some current serving Australian Defence Force (ADF) members. This is to protect current sensitive Defence capabilities and effects, our operations, the partners we operate with, as well as to safeguard the security of individuals and their families.

In practice, Defence Protected Identity status applies to current serving members of Special Operations Command and Special Forces qualified members who are likely to return to a position within Special Operations Command. Once these personnel fall outside these categories, they no longer hold Defence Protected Identity status.

Personnel within Special Operations Command who hold public facing positions are not afforded Defence Protected Identity status. **Similarly, former ADF members are not covered by Defence Protected Identity status policy¹.**

Importantly, Defence will take steps to protect from public disclosure the identity of its members who do have Protected Identity status.

It is not Defence's position, nor has it ever been, to publish details of individuals with an active Protected Identity status. In the context of civil and criminal court cases this includes the Commonwealth, on behalf of Defence, applying for suppression orders to prohibit the disclosure of information in certain circumstances. However, decisions regarding disclosure will be a matter for the courts.

If Defence Protected Identity status is not applicable, but another national security requirement to protect an individual's information is identified, Defence will make an application to the court to protect such information. The final decision on such an application is a matter for the courts.

Irrespective of a person's identity status, protected or not, it is Defence policy and practice to only release official content, or make public comment, that will not compromise an individual's privacy in accordance with the Privacy Act 1988.

Defence continues to provide welfare support and legal assistance to ADF personnel who participated in the Afghanistan Inquiry and/or are now participating in criminal investigations or proceedings relating to matters arising from the Afghanistan Inquiry. Welfare and other support services, along with information on legal assistance, is available.

¹Bold inserted by Editor and not in original Media Release.





RSL
Australia



Media Release

Veterans Condemn CDF Proposal to Strip Soldiers of Distinguished Service Medals awarded in the Afghanistan War

(Embargoed until Wednesday 24 May 2023)

Senior Veteran leaders are calling on the federal government to reject outright the Chief of the Defence Force (CDF) General Angus Campbell's second attempt to strip awards for distinguished and conspicuous service on warlike operations from soldiers who served the nation with honour and resolve in the Afghanistan war. We are advised that General Campbell wrote to at least seven officers in recent days telling them he has decided to go ahead with his effort to remove the awards, stating that.

".... I am.... referring the matter to the Minister for Defence (the Minister) for consideration. It is then for the Minister to independently determine whether he accepts the assessment in my letter after considering the relevant information including your response. If he is of the view that your award should be cancelled, the Minister will make a recommendation to the Governor General. The Governor-General will then make a decision. This is in accordance with the Letters Patent. My consideration of your command accountability is now closed."

In a joint statement in November 2022, the Australian Special Air Services Association (ASASA) and the Commando (CDO), with the support of the Returned and Services League (RSL) expressed the clear view that any administrative action against soldiers should cease until criminal charges were dealt with and the facts established, in accordance with due process. The SAS Association wrote to the CDF on 8 February 2023 repeating the request. General Campbell has ignored our advice. Mr Hamilton-Smith said.

"Whilst we respect the institution of the ADF and the appointment of CDF as part of that institution, we now recognise that General Campbell's actions necessitate a more prescient response. In our opinion this CDF has mishandled the yet to be proven war crime allegations from the outset and has in the view of many veterans, created an inference of guilt against those involved before the defendants account of events had been heard, in accordance with due process."

"The removal of awards for distinguished and conspicuous service from soldiers after a war in this way appears unprecedented in the history of ANZAC. This second attempt by CDF in effect impugns and humiliates dedicated young commanders who led brave soldiers in the fight against terror in Afghanistan with great distinction. It is in the opinion of veterans both

it is putting at further risk soldiers' mental health, it is delivering adverse publicity to Defence,

"This action by CDF disparages our ANZAC legacy and the foundations of military leadership, unjustified and a stunning demonstration of poor leadership from our top-ranking military officer."

"SAS soldiers volunteered to get the job done but they were worn down and overused by their government in a lethal and under resourced workplace to minimize the government's political risks and to fight the war on the cheap by avoiding the need to deploy and put at risk, larger conventional combat forces. Because they were so few, some soldiers were required to deploy on 9 to 10 rotations and spent up to three and a half years in combat. Our soldiers and their families paid physical, psychological, and moral price for their service. Each of them continues to carry a burden."

"General Campbell was commander of these soldiers as Commander Task Force 663 in 2011-12. He had oversight of all operations and reviewed after action reports. On the back of the efforts of Special Forces facing the enemy in the Afghan desert, General Campbell was awarded a Distinguished Service Cross (DSC), the same award he wants to take away from the soldiers. As the senior Australian commander General Campbell had a moral and command responsibility for Australian operations. He excludes himself from the standard he requires of others. The General should hand in his own medal, or he has no credibility. This is not the leadership example of Sir John Monash or Weary Dunlop." Mr Hamilton-Smith said,

We are concerned first and foremost for each of the individual veterans who were ordered to fight the Afghanistan war, particularly former troopers, commandos and noncommissioned officers, officers, and their families. We are



sensitive to the work of the Royal Commission into Veterans Suicide currently undertaking hearings in Perth. General Campbell's actions this week follow the constructed dismissal of soldiers from their employment, a high rate of medical discharges and will further impact veterans' mental health and that of their spouses and children. On behalf of the Commando Association Steve **Pilmore said.**

"Soldiers and veterans feel the system which sent them to war has turned its back on them. It feels to them like organisational betrayal."

The suggestion that any soldier or officer not subject to any allegation within the Brereton Report is guilty by association of wrongdoing warranting punishment, is a very dangerous precedent with potential ramifications to the very top of the chain of command.

"Any punitive administrative action taken to remove awards or sanction veterans must be supported by evidence, it must be fair and considered, and individuals must be afforded due process. General Campbell has not made the case that awards should be removed from soldiers, and he has not held himself accountable as an SAS officer and as Commander of the Australians in Afghanistan in 2011-12." Mr Pilmore said.

Ministers Dutton and Hastie in the former government dealt with general Campbell's first attempt at this folly decisively. How Defence Ministers Marles, Conroy, Keogh, and Thistlethwaite deal with it and with the Governor General, will demonstrate to Australians whether they have a government which stands with veterans and their families, or with a General who is manifestly out of touch with Australian **community sentiment.**

"This action by CDF disparages our ANZAC legacy and the foundations of military leadership, it is putting at further risk soldiers' mental health, it is delivering adverse publicity to Defence, a drop in recruiting and an alarming separation rate. General Campbell should be focussed upon the future, upon lifting recruiting and retention, implementation of the Defence Strategic Review and unblocking defence procurement and capability. The General's preoccupation with events 10 years ago during the last war in Afghanistan, is a distraction" Mr Hamilton-Smith said.

Supporting the SAS and Commando veterans Associations, RSL national president Greg Melick said,

The RSL is concerned about this recent development from Defence to remove awards from commanders. Whilst the RSL believes that there must be command accountability for any wrongdoings on their watch the facts of allegations of wrongdoing in Afghanistan are untested and the truth not yet established by a court. It is expected that the legal processes underway at the moment may do that.

The RSL believes that until those processes are complete no further action against commanders, or anyone else, should be taken. In the meantime, all involved have a right to a presumption of innocence.

We remain very concerned about the breadth and depth of the impact that this is having on the mental health of our veterans. We call for the legal processes to be worked through fairly but also as quickly as possible. In the meantime, the RSL offers its support and services for the wellbeing of any veterans affected". Greg Melick said.

The ASASA and CDO Associations and the RSL will discuss these issues widely with Ex-Service Organisations and the Australian community to determine next steps. We ask no more than that expected of any capable Australian leader; we expect judgement guided by compassion, a deep respect for democratic and legal due process and the moral courage to support and respect the service of those placed in harm's way by Australian government and senior ADF commanders' decisions.

We look to the government to stand beside veterans and their families by rejecting General Campbell's recommendation and his advice on these matters.

Martin Hamilton-Smith

Hon Martin Hamilton-Smith National Chairman
Australian SAS Association

24 May 2023

Steve Pilmore

Steve Pilmore
Vice President
Australian Commando Association

Greg Melick

Greg Melick
National President
RSL

Further Comment

Hon Martin Hamilton-Smith 0408854707 chairman.asasa@gmail.com

Mr Pilmore 0418314940 steve.pilmore@tvpc.com.au

Mr Melick and - Media contact: Tony Harrison 0417318178 tony@wearbright.com.au



Government Must Prioritise 'People First' in Implementing Recommendations of the Defence Strategic Review

The Returned & Services League of Australia (RSL) says the Government must prioritise supporting and increasing both frontline and supporting Defence personnel, in line with the recommendations of the Defence Strategic Review (DSR).

While the RSL has supported the Government's commitment to implement the recommendations of the DSR, with serious misgivings regarding the announced reduction in resources for the Army, it says people are at the heart of Australia's defence capability and a 'people first' approach is essential.

Investing in the recruitment and the retention of our Defence Force personnel was one of the stated six key pillars of the Review and the other five will fail if this pillar is not achieved.

RSL Australia National President Greg Melick said service men and women must be front of mind as the Government implements its response to the DSR.

"An entire chapter of the review was dedicated to the workforce crisis facing the Australian Defence Force (ADF), pointing out that issues including pay and service conditions and workplace culture in the ADF, and public service, need to be improved," Greg Melick said.

"This should not be news for the Government as an incoming brief for Defence Minister Richard Marles warned that the ADF faced an uphill battle to find and retain staff and security experts have warned it will struggle to meet its ambitious recruitment and retainment targets.

"As stated, the RSL welcomes the announced investment in critical systems capable of bridging our air/sea gap. This investment is required on top of existing commitments to ensure that the Australian Defence Force has longer-range strategic capability.

"But the ADF also requires the capability to win close land battles, recognising that close land battles having taken the vast majority of ADF lives in recent operations. One cannot be traded off for the other.

"History clearly demonstrates that Australia requires balanced forces, trained, and equipped for a wide range of contingencies including land-based operations wherever our strategic alliances may cause us to deploy."

Greg Melick said the health and wellbeing of ADF personnel remained a top priority for the RSL and this needed to be an unequivocal highest priority requirement in the decision-making of our nation's leaders.

“The RSL recognises that Defence spending should always align with strategic needs. At a time where ADF recruitment and retention is a strategic consideration, our nation’s finest who are ready to sign the contract to defend Australia’s interests will be looking keenly at the investment to support their decision.

“The RSL urges the Australian Government, through the ADF to adopt programs to improve recruitment and retention in our armed services. The RSL stands ready to assist where it can as we see people as the most important investment in providing a secure future for our nation and its people.

ENDS

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Leaving the ADF



At some point in their career, all ADF members will leave the military and transition to civilian life. It's a significant decision that can involve your family. Planning early will make sure you're informed and ready to enter the next phase of your life.

You must complete your transition with ADF Transition Support Services so you understand the process, your administrative requirements, and the support available to you. We encourage you to involve your family throughout your transition experience.

Transition support network

Transitioning to civilian life is a shared responsibility. When you decide to leave the ADF you should engage with your family, your Unit, and ADF Transition Support Services.

Your Unit can speak to you about the transition process and connect you with your local ADF Transition Centre. Your Centre will introduce you to a Transition Support Officer who will help you and your family through the transition process and:

- provide you with an individual transition plan
- offer career coaching during your transition and up to 12 months afterwards
- help you meet your administrative requirements
- help you leave with all documentation like service, medical, and training records
- facilitate connections to Defence and government support services

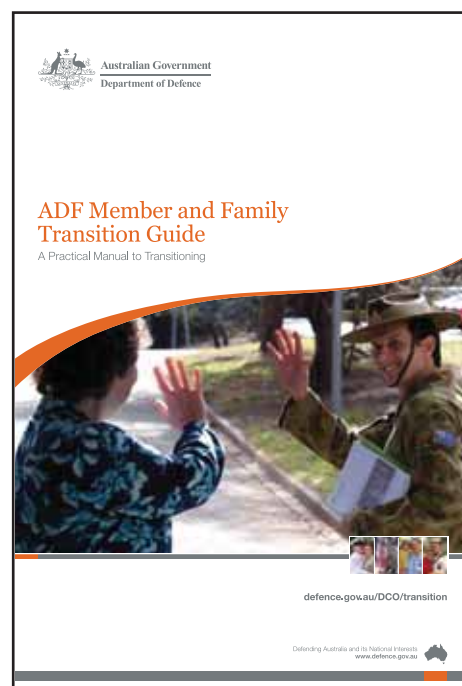
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You and your family can attend an ADF Transition Seminar at any time during your ADF career to help you prepare for your transition. Seminars are held

nationally throughout the year. You'll receive information from Defence and other organisations on topics like finance and superannuation, health, relocating, employment, and ex-service organisation support.

ADF Member and Family Transition Guide

The ADF Member and Family Transition Guide – A Practical Manual to Transitioning contains detailed information on the transition process for ADF members. The Guide includes information on support services and administrative requirements. It includes checklists to help you navigate transition process.



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Photos from Chainsaw Operations and Maintenance training on 03-03-23



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#1 Thing ADF Candidates Do to Block Their Own Career Transition

By Next Job Now, ADF Career Transition Experts – 1300 112 114

...When it comes to job interviews, Navy, Army and Air Force candidates just don't see shades of grey. Ask any of the thousands of Defence members I've coached over the years and you'll almost always get the same response.

The answer to one simple question is a major reason why military professionals struggle to transition quickly and effectively.

So here's the 64,000 dollar question...

'Do you have **EXPOSURE** to....(DESIRED SKILL)?'

When we hear that little gem of a question our military training kicks into gear. In fact, the preferred answer to this common question is:

'Oh no... **I couldn't claim to be an EXPERT** in that...I'd be lying.'

After so long collecting the Queen's coin and working in an environment where integrity is paramount...**we self-impose a rule** that we need to be considered a Subject Matter Expert before we can stake a claim to even having 'exposure'.

Civilians aren't normally burdened by any such impediment: You can almost picture the worst offenders sitting across from the interviewer explaining, 'I've got a friend who knows someone that can spell that word...so I've had some exposure.' Sure, I'm exaggerating...but not by much if the latest research into resume fraud is to be believed.

So, we have two groups of candidates (military and civilian), each at different ends of the spectrum (black and white). The big question now is '**How do we get ADF folks to start seeing shades of gray and move them closer toward the other end of the spectrum whilst still holding true to their values.**'



Think about the reality of the situation. Even a soldier who graduated Kapooka yesterday has exposure to leading teams, since they can't graduate without being assessed as a supervisor even for a short period. So rather than say 'I'm not a supervisor' that sailor could say 'I've had some exposure to supervising teams in a training environment for specific work activities.'

Similarly, a Sergeant might be slow to claim expertise in human resources (perhaps due to an ADF understanding of what a civilian views as HR) but when prompted they typically agree that they have **exposure** to specific HR skillsets such as coaching, mentoring, training, counselling and leadership development.

At the end of the day saying that 'I've had some exposure to XYZ' could be validated by the fact that you've seen it done, maybe assisted once, and can read the policy if needed.

Opportunity helps those that help themselves

If you want to give your Defence transition the best possible chance of success, then you need to start seeing shades of grey. 'Exposure' is your new best friend.

Stop being your own worst enemy. Never claim what you don't have, but always claim what you do have...to the degree that you have it!

David Penman is a Certified Professional Resume Writer, ex-Commando and one of Australia's leading ADF career transition experts. Call 1300 112 114 to enquire about NJN's ADF resume services.

Nuance is the key

The answer lies in our willingness to accept that its okay to be 'less than an expert'...and that we do indeed have exposure to a great many skills that we can talk about in an honest fashion. Its simple. If you are an expert, then claim expertise. If you are not, then just claim whatever level of skill you possess. Here are a few suggestions for claiming different levels of capability:

- I do have an awareness of...
- I've had exposure to...
- I'm okay at...
- I'm good at...
- I'm very good at...
- I'm competent at...



The Positive Relationship between Sport and Physical Activity and PTSD

Exercise has a positive clinical effect on depressive symptoms and may be as effective as psychological or pharmaceutical therapies for some individuals with PTSD.

Rosebaum *et al*, 2014 suggests Physical activity/exercise is a highly effective method in reducing symptoms of depression and for people experiencing other mental health disorders.

Evidence demonstrates that an appropriate exercise intervention can achieve significant benefits to symptoms, depression, anxiety and stress, changes in body shape and sedentary time associated with PTSD, and non-significant trends for sleep quality improvement according to Rosenbaum, 2013.

The associated symptoms and the improvements may be related to psychosocial benefits of the intervention, rather than functional capacity, but there is also a strong empirical (observational) link between improvements in functional capacity and psychological status according to the author, 2016.

People with PTSD are four times as likely to have type 2 diabetes (Lukaschek *et al*, 2013) and rates of overweight and obesity are as high as 92%.

To add to these statistics, sufferers of PTSD are shown to be less physically active due to a number of factors including pain, dysfunctional and general lack of desire or both, according Boscarino *et al*, 2004.

Adding some form of regular physical activity can have a significant effect on a sufferer of PTSD. It's important to note, the type of activity doesn't matter, what matters is that the person is moving and also having fun doing it.

If you would like to become physically active again and help to combat some of your PTSD related symptoms then please consult your GP and discuss your options for referral to another health care professional (exercise physiologist or physiotherapist) for help with your other associated or co-morbid conditions ie lower back pain, arthritis and or obesity.



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After four days I was sent home and this pressure from the swelling was extremely difficult to handle. I remembered I had half a bottle of **be relieved** in the bathroom and I was needing relief and a decent night's sleep.

I applied around my wound and my thigh and calf, seriously 10 minutes later the relief was a Godsend. The next day I put it on 3 times during the day and had the same result.

So, I ordered 2 more bottles, this oil is magnificent.

I'm 16 days post-surgery and I'm riding an exercise bike and can do all the exercises required, my physio is in disbelief at how quickly I'm recovering as I can bend the new knee 100% which is unheard of at week 2.

So your product is getting a massive plug from me at my Surgeon's office and Physio and I hope it can help others."

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Defence Personnel Primed to Thrive In Franchising

Kerry Miles, Director, FranchiseED

While entering the world of franchising may not be top of mind for most Australian Defence Force personnel planning a transition to civilian life, it is a career path that presents many synergies and can play to your proven strengths.

The battleground of franchising requires strict adherence to systems and procedures, hard work, dedication, leadership and teamwork to achieve the shared mission of business success.

This makes those leaving the Australian Defence Force perfect candidates to conquer the challenge of franchising when returning to civilian life. The structure of a franchise system provides franchisees with the ability to work to set policies and procedures while at the same time allowing the independence to lead, inspire and develop their own teams to achieve shared goals.

These are all concepts very familiar to those who have train and served in the Australian Defence Force, and ones that make you suited to forging your own path to business success in franchising. Indeed, the transition from defence to the franchise sector can be a 'win win' situation for franchisors and franchisees alike.

Franchise businesses are actively seeking out high quality and committed candidates as franchisees, while you may be targeting a new autonomous career where you are calling the shots and putting your considerable skills to good use.

Where others may fail, those trained in the Australian Defence Force bring an appetite for hard work, a hunger for success, the proven ability to lead teams and the discipline to adhere to set systems to survive and thrive in the world of franchising.

Your life experiences and skills sets could be highly suited and transferrable to owning and operating your own franchise business, of which there are countless options to choose from. Everything from fitness franchises, food franchises, home improvement franchises and everything in between are available. It all depends on what you love doing and where you see yourself thriving.

There are over 1200 franchise systems operating in Australia, from the world's biggest consumer brands to local success stories and up-and-coming franchisors providing just about every product or service imaginable. Within these systems, there are nearly 100,000 franchise units in Australia, which are local and usually individually owned and operated businesses.

The opportunities are endless in franchising and whatever path is chosen, it is one in which the owner-operator is in charge and driving their own destiny, with the security of a set plan of attack and supporting systems for long-term sustainable success.

As former Australian Defence Force personnel are



comfortable with following systems and procedures in order to successfully complete a mission, you are therefore very well equipped to deal with the challenges of franchising and make a new owner-operator business work.

While having the right skills set, experience and attitude is a competitive advantage in franchising, they do not alone guarantee success. Just like in the Australian Defence Force, preparation is the key to setting the course for victory.

Knowledge is power and nowhere more so than in the world of franchising where new franchisees are taking the ultimate leap of faith into owning and operating their own business.

Thoroughly researching the sector, the options that are available and are best suited to each individual circumstance, and fully understanding and managing the financial and lifestyle expectations and demands, should be the starting point in any franchising journey. I cannot emphasise this point enough. While there are considerable opportunities in franchising, you need to work out which one is right for you and to ensure the franchise you choose is both ethical and sustainable.

While a franchise provides a set structure to follow, compared to buying an independent business, this in itself is no guarantee of success. Seeking out quality information and resources on franchising in order to make informed choices, and exploring the reality of being a franchisee, is the logical starting point for any former Australian Defence Force personnel considering their future career options.

If you are wanting to educate yourself about franchising, there's a lot of free information at www.franchise-ed.org.au.

If you are looking at buying a franchise and would like to understand how FranchiseED can help you, book a free 15-minute conversation with Kerry at <https://calendly.com/kerry-franchise-ed/meeting-with-kerry-miles-1>

About the Author:

Kerry is at the forefront of understanding what it takes to create thriving franchises with a comprehensive perspective encompassing both the franchisor and franchisee. Shifting from 5 years owning a business within the franchise sector, to more than 10 years heading up Griffith University's Franchise Centre as General and Business Manager Kerry's work is unique and driven by maintaining an independent perspective. Her clients include prospective franchisees, large and small franchise organisations and not-for-profits looking to scale up their operations. For more information visit www.franchise-ed.org.au. You can connect with her via LinkedIn www.linkedin.com/in/kerry-miles-franchiseed/





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Buying a franchise can be an exciting experience. However, before you commit to a franchise opportunity, it's important that you understand your rights and obligations under the Code.

- Franchise agreements
- Before entering a franchise agreement
- Doing your due diligence
- Know your 'cooling-off' rights
- Marketing funds
- Sourcing stock and services
- What is 'churning'?

Franchise agreements

A franchise agreement is a contract (written, verbal or implied) under which:

1. one party (the franchisor) grants another party (the franchisee) the right to carry on a business in Australia supplying goods or services under a specific system or marketing plan substantially determined, controlled or suggested by the franchisor or its associate
2. the business is associated with a particular trademark, advertising or a commercial symbol owned, used, licensed or specified by the franchisor or its associate
3. the franchisee is required to pay, or agree to pay an amount to the franchisor or its associate before starting or continuing the business (this excludes certain payments).

If an agreement meets this definition, it will be covered by the Code regardless of whether it's referred to as a 'franchise' or not.

Note: A motor vehicle dealership agreement (including a motor boat dealership agreement) is taken to be a franchise agreement even if the above definition has not been met.

Before entering a franchise agreement

The Code requires franchisors to provide you with certain information, including:

- a short document setting out some of the risks and rewards of franchising.

The Information statement for prospective franchisees (PDF 102.79 KB | DOCX 53.38 KB) must be given to you when you formally apply, or express interest in, buying a franchised business.

If you decide to proceed with the franchise, the franchisor must also provide you with:

- a disclosure document
- the franchise agreement (in its final form); and
- a copy of the Code.

You must receive these documents at least 14 days before you sign an agreement or make a non-refundable payment.

Note: Make sure you receive, read and have a reasonable opportunity to understand each of these documents.

Doing your due diligence

When considering a franchise opportunity you should also:

- seek advice from a lawyer, accountant and business adviser with franchising expertise
- speak to current and former franchisees about the system and their relationship with the franchisor
- take steps to identify it's a genuine business and reconsider a business opportunity if you see warning signs
- undertake some franchising education to help you assess business opportunities and decide whether franchising is right for you. For example, FranchiseED offer a Free franchising education program.

Know your 'cooling-off' rights

You are entitled to terminate a new franchise agreement (not a renewal, extension or transfer) within seven days of:

1. entering into the agreement (or an agreement to enter into a franchise agreement); or
2. making a payment under the agreement.

Note: The cooling-off period will commence from whichever of the above occurs first.

If you choose to exercise this right, you are entitled to a refund of the payments you have made. The franchisor must provide this refund within 14 days, although they may keep an amount to cover their *reasonable* expenses if the franchise agreement allows this.

Marketing funds

Marketing fund income must be kept in a separate bank account from other money held by the franchisor. Under the Code, the marketing fund can only be used to meet expenses that:

- have been disclosed in your disclosure document
- are legitimate marketing or advertising expenses
- have been agreed to by a majority of franchisees; or
- reflect the reasonable costs of administering and auditing the fund.

The marketing fund financial statement must be prepared, and audited, within four months of the end of your financial year. Copies of these documents must be provided to contributing franchisees within 30 days of their preparation.

Note: It's the franchisor's responsibility to provide these documents. A franchisee shouldn't have to request this information.

The marketing fund doesn't have to be audited if 75 per cent of franchisees who contribute to the fund vote against undertaking an audit.

Sourcing stock and services

In franchising, it's common for franchisors to request that franchisees purchase products or services from either the franchisor, a related entity or a specified third party.

Such arrangements are illegal if they *have the purpose, effect or likely effect of substantially lessening competition in a market.*

In most situations, franchisor-imposed limitations are unlikely to raise competition concerns.

What is 'churning'?

Churning is the repeated selling of a franchise site by a franchisor in circumstances where the franchisor would be reasonably aware that the site is unlikely to be successful, regardless of the individual skills and efforts of the franchisee. Although churning is not prohibited under the Code or the Competition and Consumer Act, a franchisor's conduct may raise concerns if it is false, misleading, or unconscionable. If you suspect churning, you should contact the ACCC.



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Exploring Career Opportunities in the Resources and Infrastructure Industry

The resources and infrastructure industry encompasses various sectors, including civil construction, coal and metalliferous mining, quarrying, and drilling. It plays a crucial role in the development of essential infrastructure and the extraction of valuable resources. While many defence force personnel may naturally gravitate towards roles in civil construction or mining companies to utilise their acquired skills, there is another equally valuable career pathway to consider: become a trainer and assessor.

One of the most significant advantages that defence force personnel bring to the table is their exceptional leadership and training abilities. Through years of experience managing teams, coordinating operations, and ensuring mission success, they have developed strong leadership skills that can be seamlessly transferred to the training and assessing field. By guiding and inspiring others in their professional development, former defence force members can make a lasting impact on individuals and industries alike.

Additionally, many defence force personnel have already gained experience as trainers within their respective branches, conducting training sessions and mentoring fellow service members. That experience will serve as a solid foundation for transitioning into a formal training and assessing role. The expertise acquired in delivering information, facilitating learning, and providing constructive feedback can be highly valuable in the VET (Vocational Education and Training) sector.

To embark on a career as a trainer and assessor, follow these steps:

- Gain industry-specific experience and knowledge in the field you wish to teach.
- Obtain formal qualifications in training and assessment, such as pursuing training and assessment skill sets or obtaining a full TAE (Training and Assessment Education) qualification.
- Develop strong subject matter knowledge, effective communication skills, patience, adaptability, empathy, and organisational skills.
- Seek mentorship and support from experienced trainers and assessors, engage in professional development courses, and acquire relevant licences and certifications.
- Familiarise yourself with the principles of designing, developing, and delivering training programs.
- Stay up to date with industry trends through continual professional development.

Whether you choose to upskill through our services or become a trainer yourself, Civil Train SA, Civil Train WA, and Civil Train NT are your gateways to success. Explore our website (www.civiltrain.com.au) to find the industry-specific courses that align with your career goals, and book yourself into the programs that will unlock your full potential. Reach out to our friendly training team at courses@civiltrainsa.com.au or call **08 8111 8001** to discuss the process, learn more about the opportunities that await you, and embark on an exciting career in the training and assessment field.

Embrace Your Future Today!

RTO No. 45621



Thank you to the following companies for supporting Commando.



Free 12 Month Health and Fitness Program

- Returned Veterans, Peacekeepers & ADF Firefighter Scheme -

Run on behalf of the DVA by Corporate Health Management, the program aims to help you increase your physical health and wellbeing through practical exercise support and 12 months of telephonic health coaching and advice on healthy lifestyle choices provided by one of our team of highly qualified allied health professionals.

The Heart Health Program is flexible and able to accommodate participants living in metropolitan areas, rural or remote areas, those still working or retired, studying or with other time constraints.

www.veteranshearthealth.com.au/eligibility



Am I eligible?

Started over 20 years ago for those returned from Vietnam, the Heart Health Program is free and open to all veterans with operational service, peacekeepers and those covered under the ADF firefighters scheme who have not previously participated in the Heart Health Program before.



Program Exercise Resource - Exercise how you like to

The program can provide an exercise resource to help participants to exercise the way they like to or provide an opportunity to try something that's different than the usual.



Registering Your Interest

Registering your interest or checking eligibility is easy.

Simply visit our website and follow the steps.

Call the program phone number 1300 246 262 at any time to speak to one of our team.

Heart Health Team - DVA Heart Health Program

Program proudly delivered on behalf of the DVA by:
CHM Corporate Health Management Pty Ltd
Toorak Place, 521 - 529 Toorak Road, Toorak VIC 3142