



COMMANDO

THE MAGAZINE OF THE AUSTRALIAN COMMANDO ASSOCIATION



Registered by Australia Post ~ Publication No PP100016240

Edition 4 ~ 2020



Come Sailing with us

"Just go Sailing. Do it for yourselves."



- Bareboat charter - sail yourself
- If your skills are a little rusty we offer a Sail Assistance Session
- Or hire a Sail Guide and let us sail for you
- 32 vessels to choose from
- Catamarans, Monohulls, Powerboats
- 5 night minimum
- Seasonal specials year-round
- Great savings on our Super Specials
- Sail from Coral Sea Marina or Hamilton Island
- We are an Eco Certified Company

Freecall: 1800 075 013

Office: 07 4946 7400

Email: reservations@yachtcharters.com.au

**QUEENSLAND
YACHT CHARTERS** MEMBER OF

DREAM YACHT CHARTER



www.yachtcharters.com.au



AUSTRALIAN COMMANDO ASSOCIATION INC.

LIFE PATRON: Gen Sir Phillip Bennett AC KBE DSO
PATRON: MajGen Tim McOwan AO DSC CSM

NATIONAL OFFICE BEARERS

PRESIDENT: MajGen Greg Melick AO RFD SC
VICE PRESIDENT: Maj Steve Pilmore OAM RFD (Ret'd)
SECRETARY: Maj John Thurgar SC MBE OAM RFD (Ret'd)
TREASURER: Maj Bruce O'Conner OAM RFD (Ret'd)
PUBLIC OFFICER: Maj Brian Liddy (Retd)

STATE ASSOCIATION OFFICE BEARERS

ACA NSW PRES/SEC.: Mr Wayne Havenaar
ACA QLD PRES/SEC.: Mr Graham Gough
ACA VIC PRES.: Mr Doug Knight
ACA VIC SEC.: Mr Glenn MacDonald
ACA WA PRES/SEC.: Mr Paul Shearer
WEBSITE/MEDIA MANAGER: Mr John Roxburgh
WEBSITE: www.commando.org.au
FACEBOOK: Australian Commando Association
EDITORS: Mr Nick Hill
Mrs Marilou Carceller

The Australian Commando Association's membership consists of Servicemen & women who have served with WW2 Independent Companies, Commando Squadrons & Regiments, "M" and "Z" Special units, 1st & 2nd Commando Company's, 1st Commando Regiment, 4 RAR Commando & the 2nd Commando Regiment. The Association also consists of Associate Members who have served in units who directly supported Commando units in time of war and peace and Social members who's 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.

Official Publishers:
Statewide Publishing P/L
ABN 65 116 985 187

PO BOX 682, SURFERS PARADISE QLD 4217
PHONE: 0432 042 060

EMAIL: russell@commandonews.com.au

Printed by **BOOST Design & Print**
Web: **boostgraphicdesign.com**

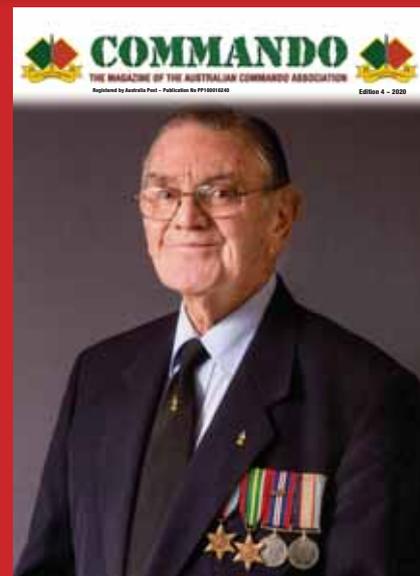
Email: **boostdesign@optusnet.com.au**



CONTENTS

Editor's Word.....	3
National President's Word	5
ACA NSW Report.....	7
ACA QLD Report	11
ACA VIC Report	15
ACA WA Report.....	17
CDO Welfare Trust.....	18
ACA Veterans Advocacy Update.....	19
Significant Commando Dates	23
Commandos for Life	25
Commando Vale.....	26
The Last of the Very First.....	30
A Seamstress Goes to War in a Bathtub.....	32
Eight Men Dropped from the Skies (Part 3).....	34
Chasing Down the Fujino Company.....	36
A VC, Timor and the Independent Coy's in WW2	41
The Last Coastwatcher	44
From the Pen of Harry Bell.....	47
Integra Service Dogs Australia	49
A Commando Medic in the Solomons.....	51
Germany's Kommandos	53
INTERFET 21 Years on	56
Additional Commando News.....	57

Deadline for next edition (Edition 5, 2021):
SUNDAY, 27th DECEMBER 2020
All news on members and interesting articles accepted.
(Subject to editors' approval.)
Nick Hill



FRONT COVER: Able Seaman Mostyn 'Moss' Berryman at The Australian War Memorial in August 2016. Moss was the last of the first Z Special Unit Operatives who conducted the famous raid into Singapore Harbour targeting Japanese Shipping on the night of 26/27 September 1943 known as Operation JAYWICK. Moss passed away with his family by his side on 6 August 2020.
Commando 4 Life





LOOKING FOR A NEW JOB?

Need help with your direction, resume or job applications?

Call 1300 588 088 or go to www.careermanagementservices.com.au to see how we can make it easier ADFMAG for 10% discount



Luke Gosling OAM MP
Federal Member for Solomon

NEXT YEAR - ANZAC DAY 2021 DARWIN, N.T: OUR NATION'S MOST HISTORIC MILITARY LOCATION

The Bombing of Darwin in February 1942 was the largest single attack ever mounted by a foreign power on Australia, with more bombs dropped on the city than on Pearl Harbour.



Pic courtesy of Megan Spencer

There are many WW2 heritage sites around Darwin, including ammunition bunkers, airfields, oil storage tunnels and watch towers - local tour operators offer a range of guided tours, walks and cruises. Defence of Darwin, Aviation Heritage Museum, Bombing of Darwin Facility & more!

In 2021 why not head North and learn more about the Territory's unique military history and commemorate Anzac Day in Darwin - good times.



Electorate Office: 3/266 Trower Road, Casuarina NT 0810 | t (08) 8928 0180 DARWIN | e luke.gosling.mp@aph.gov.au

[luke.j.gosling](https://www.facebook.com/luke.j.gosling)

WWW.LUKEGOSLING.COM.AU

[@lukejgosling](https://twitter.com/lukejgosling)

Authorised by Luke Gosling OAM MP, 3/266 Trower Road Casuarina 0810





www.commando.org.au

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to Edition #004 of **COMMANDO**
– *The Magazine of the Australian
Commando Association.*

I hope that everyone is doing ok during these pandemic times especially our Victorian members in their harsh lockdowns.

I know I can speak on behalf of all the members of the ACA and pass on our sincere condolences to the family of Moss Berryman who passed away on 6 August in South Australia. Moss was the last surviving member of OP JAYWICK conducted by Z Special Unit in September/October 1943. *Commando 4 Life.*

Again, we have some great articles in this edition including our normal reports from Nationals and the States. Our DVA Entitlements Advocate has some interesting DVA points including those entitled to SFDA.

We have another classic story from letters home from Harry Bell (2/9th Cdo Sqn) during WW2 as well as another one from our M Special man, Jim Burrowes on one of the Last Coders, Dixie Lee. Part 3 of 8 Men Dropped from the Sky and an extract from 'Kill The Major' by Paul Malone on 'Chasing Down The Fajino Coy' at the end of WW2. Some interesting articles on Service Dogs in Australia, Germany's Kommandos the KSK and other interesting articles submitted by our members.

Unfortunately, since our last magazine we have lost two of our WW2 members Berny Crutchfield (2/6th Cdo Sqn) and Moss Berryman (Z Special Unit) and the second OC of 2 Cdo Coy John Hutcheson. October – December has also seen the loss of 2 Commandos KIA, 3 Killed in Training and 2 who had died during their service. May they forever Rest In Peace and have fair winds and blue skies. *Commandos 4 Life.*

I hope you enjoy this edition, and please feel free to submit an article for the magazine regardless of how small or big it is we will always try to fit them in but this does come down to the number of pages allocated per Magazine and remember 'Keep Your Powder Dry & Your Sights Straight'!

Commando 4 Life
Nick Hill

Editor - Commando Magazine

E: editor_commandomag@commando.org.au

W: www.commando.org.au



**Australian Commando
Association Inc**

AVAILABLE TO ALL ACA MEMBERS

MIND, BODY, SOUL & LEGAL SERVICES

PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT: **Ms. Megan Fry** (Ex 1 Cdo Regt & IRR)

Phone: 07 3261 6434 or by her website www.mfry.com.au

Level 1, 11 Bald Hills Rd, Bald Hills, Brisbane QLD

PHYSICAL SUPPORT: **Dr Kieran McCarthy** (Ex RMO 2 Cdo Regt)

GO2 Health **Phone: 07 3355 5540** or at www.go2health.com.au

468 South Pine Rd, Everton Park. Brisbane QLD

SPIRITUAL SUPPORT: **Chaplain Michael Pocklington** (Ex Padre 2 Cdo Regt)

Phone: 0474 222 202 or by email mpocklington@gmail.com

LEGAL SUPPORT: **Mr John Cockburn** (Honorary ACA QLD Solicitor)

Phone: 07 3356 9366 or at john@cockburnlegal.com

98 Enoggera Rd, Newmarket, Brisbane QLD



SAIL YOUR DREAMS WITH THE WORLD'S LEADING CHARTER COMPANY

What is the perfect vacation idea during COVID if you still want to find a getaway this year? The world of travel has changed so much for so many and experiencing the world freely is a little more challenging.

You may not want to travel so far or be around too many people, perhaps even self-cater. A sailing holiday offers the perfect opportunity to get away from it all and just be with your friends and family on the water. In fact, Forbes recently highlighted our charters as one of their great vacation ideas during COVID and a way to have an adventure and easily maintain social distancing. Our flexible booking policy and COVID measures also give peace of mind.

Being out on the water has a beneficial effect on happiness, health and wellbeing, as highlighted by marine biologist Wallace J Nichols in his book, *Blue Mind* (a great read on board). The ocean has a calming effect and the big expansive views help quieten busy minds. There must be something in it, as some of the world's most creative people enjoy sailing, from Einstein to Steve Jobs.

If you want to completely relax, we offer a Sail Guide and Hostess which means you can benefit from the experience of captains who know the area well and how to make the most of your Whitsunday Yacht Charter.

Established in 1980, Queensland Yacht Charters has been providing unparalleled bareboat yacht charters in the Whitsundays for over 30 years, now a member of Dream Yacht Charter we offer over 60 stunning Worldwide locations with the largest and most diverse fleet of Catamarans, Monohulls and Powerboats from the top manufacturers in the market, we have a boat for every budget.

Here in the Whitsundays we have a fleet of 32 vessels from which to choose and depending on the dates you wish to travel we offer some very attractive seasonal discounts and super specials.

This special sailing ground is a nature lover's dream with idyllic stretches of beach, numerous uninhabited islands teeming with wildlife and stunning coral reefs. The Whitsundays region is one of the few places in the world to combine nature at its unspoilt best with your choice of civilisation – from six-star sophistication to a hammock on the beach.

Today in this special World Heritage area, our base team can help you plan your dream itinerary, whether you love fishing, snorkelling, bush walking, paddle-boarding, playing pirates with the kids, watching for migrating whales and their babies during the months of May to September or kicking back in a calm beautiful bay with a glass of wine and a stunning sunset. Starting from a five-night minimum and based on extensive local knowledge we provide you with plenty of time to explore and experience our exciting custom itineraries and hidden gem recommendations.

Add the Whitsundays' Ngaro Underwater Marine Sculpture Trail to your Charter itinerary. It's a unique tourist attraction and is best experienced at your own pace on board a Queensland Yacht Charter.

If you're looking for the ultimate destination wedding, birthday celebration, proposal, or a get together with friends and family, the Whitsunday Islands will not disappoint. For Kids, the boat is an exciting adventure playground, and as every boat comes with a dinghy, you can explore the Islands to your hearts content.

Queensland Yacht Charters has been Eco Certified for 14 years and continues to improve and implement sustainable practices in all areas of our business.

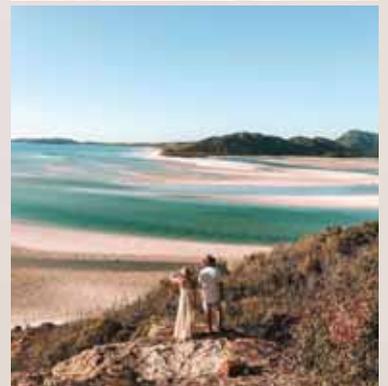
We pride ourselves on superior boat maintenance and customer service, and our team is committed to your safety, comfort and delight. Sailing the Whitsundays and the World is now even more accessible with Dream Yacht Charter, and if you're hooked on sailing, ask us about our new or used Boat Ownership deals, we're here to help you Sail Your Dreams.

Contact us:

Freecall: 1800 075 013

Office: 07 4946 7400

Email: reservations@yachtcharters.com.au



DREAM YACHT CHARTER



www.yachtcharters.com.au



AUSTRALIAN COMMANDO ASSOCIATION INC.

PRESIDENT – MAJGEN Greg Melik AO. RFD. SC. (Retd)
azizgmelick@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT – MAJ Steve Pilmore OAM. RFD. (Retd)
steve.pilmore@commandotrust.com

SECRETARY – MAJ John Thurgar, SC. MBE. OAM. RFD. (Retd)
aca_secretary@commando.org.au

TREASURER – MAJ Bruce O’Conner, OAM. RFD. (Retd)
bruceatg@bigpond.com

PUBLIC OFFICER – MAJ Brian Liddy (Retd)
brianliddy@bigpond.com

Web Address – www.commando.org.au
Contact - aca_secretary@commando.org.au

FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Members,

Clearly the issue at the forefront today is the impending release of the Inspector-General of the Australian Defence Force’s report into possible breaches of the Laws of Armed Conflict by Australian forces in Afghanistan.

It is disappointing that the inquiry process has taken so long which has in turn allowed so much misinformation to be spread via the press and social media, however, the Inquiry is in its final stages and reportedly there is no intention to issue any further notices to PAPs - “Potentially Affected Persons.”

This of course does not mean that the matter is at a close – just the opposite. I implore you to stay close to your mates particularly those who you know may have received PAP notices. This is where our worth as an Ex Service Organisation will be measured as we close up and support our fellow veterans and, as importantly, their families. Details of the support available to anyone affected by this inquiry is listed elsewhere in this edition of Commando.

Sadly, in the middle of all this upheaval, a significant and solemn event has taken place. Able Seaman

“Moss” Berryman, the last living participant of Operation Jaywick, passed away in Adelaide on August 6th, 2020, aged 96. Moss joined the RAN as soon as he could in April ‘42 and just on 16 months later he found himself sailing North towards Singapore on the MV *Krait*. He is survived by his four daughters to whom we send our heartfelt condolences.

I would like to take this opportunity to add my heartiest personal congratulations to the “Starlight Commando”. Barry Grant, OAM, JP was for so long the heart and soul of the NSW Commando Association and I am truly delighted he has been publicly recognised for his untiring work over many years, not only for Commandos, but all Veterans within NSW.

Similarly, Bruce Parker, OAM has been a stalwart of the Victorian Branch of our Association and was honoured for both his work in the automotive industry in Australia and to the wider community. Bruce has served twice as President of the ACA in Victoria and his support of both the ACA and the Commando Welfare Trust is unparalleled.

To Barry Grant, OAM, JP and Bruce Parker, OAM - “Bravo Zulu”

Commando 4 Life

Major General Greg Melik, AM, RFD, SC (Retd)

----- COMMANDO FOR LIFE -----



ACS
ADELAIDE CAREER SOLUTIONS
WHAT OTHER CAREER SOLUTIONS WE MAKE THE SOLUTION

NEED A RESUMÉ?

We support our clients with tailor-made services including career re-design, interview, and personal development coaching.

Contact us on **0421 201 812**
email at admin@adelaidecareersolutions.com
or visit our website at www.adelaidecareersolutions.com

IPC, MEA, IFR, FIRA GRADE 3, FE BOOKINGS

NSW AIR FLIGHT TRAINING

www.nswair.com.au Mob: 0498016989



Kangaroo Island says Thank You!

Nobody can underestimate what someone goes through who has been involved in a bushfire.

Whether it be a direct or indirect involvement, the bushfires on Kangaroo Island affected thousands upon thousands of people, even though the population is only just over 4,700.

Whilst Kangaroo Island, like most of Australia, is regularly impacted by bushfires during summer, the summer of 2019-20 saw an unprecedented bush fire event that seriously impacted Kangaroo Island, as well as other parts of Australia.

Many hundreds of on ground and aerial firefighters were involved, supported by many other agencies, private industry, and the local community to bring the fires under control. Of the 440,500-hectare island, approximately 211,000 hectares was affected by fire.

The Defence Force, emergency services, wildlife caring organisations, BlazeAid and hundreds of volunteers have assisted in its recovery and nature is recovering at a lightning speed.

Fire is a natural reset button for nature, and it is not slow to respond. The fascinating and dynamic process of nature's recovery is something that really must be seen to be believed. Visitors coming to Kangaroo Island are now being treated to the unique opportunity of seeing the harsh blackness but also the amazing new signs of growth and life.



Wildlife has also returned to the recovery grounds in droves and tourism is buzzing!

In order to say a big Thank You to those who helped in some way, or would just like to visit as part of a road trip, or holiday and spend some welcome dollars, SeaLink has generously offered a 10% discount across its range of ferry services, tours and holiday packages. All you need to do is quote the promotion code of KITHANKSYOU!



GETAWAY TO
**Kangaroo
Island**

Remarkable Rocks, Kangaroo Island

Taking a trip to Kangaroo Island is a breeze with SeaLink. With two large passenger and vehicle ferries, we'll get you there quickly and safely.

We'll also find you the right place to stay and give you tips on all the amazing things to see whilst you are there, whether you self-drive or jump on a tour.

To thank you for your service, quote "KITHANKSYOU" to receive 10% off your booking*.

CALL 13 13 01 OR VISIT SEALINK.COM.AU

SEALINK

A *Brilliant* TRAVELS EXPERIENCE

*Conditions apply, valid for travel to 31 March 2021





AUSTRALIAN COMMANDO ASSOCIATION NEW SOUTH WALES INC.

PRESIDENT / SECRETARY – Mr Wayne Havenaar
president_nsw@commando.asn.org

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT – Mr Barry Grant, OAM.
barrygrant1945@gmail.com

Web Address – www.commando.asn.org **Contact** – secretay_nsw@commando.asn.org

THE GUNNER & THE AMATUER COMMANDO

GNR Derek Rixon, DCM, RNZA & MAJ Peter King, DSO, MC

4 Commando & RNZA

By Martin Bland, ACA NSW

The Gunner

From July 1971 to September 1974, I was employed at the Tomoana Freezing Works in Hasting NZ [and No – I'm not a Kiwi!].

One of "The Gunner's" annual tasks was to walk around at the end of the sheep slaughtering season and lay a few hundred people off. For a long time, I thought his nickname was because he gave people 'The Gun'.

Even though I was almost 19 years of age (186 cm tall and 77 kg) and as strong as an ox from handling both live and dead animals **AND** training 4 times a week in a boxing gym with 4 current NZ National Champions, I was terrified of Derek RIXON.

There were rumours that he was a decorated war hero and he had killed several enemy in close quarters combat but no-one knew the true story. I suspect now that his demeanour was a façade as he wanted to be an enigma, especially given that we were all armed with knives and knew how to use them!

On the 4 November, 1951 Gunner Derek Edwin RIXON, 16 Field Regiment, Royal NZ Artillery, was in the Forward Artillery Observation Post on Hill 355 in Korea with Captain Peter Frank KING MC, when a massive Chinese attack was mounted on Hill 355. The observation post party called in gunfire which broke up the first assault, however, further attacks swarmed up the hill and the barrage destroyed GNR RIXON's radios and cut the telephone lines. With communication lost with the guns, the enemy managed to penetrate the position. Both soldiers therefore charged through heavy fire to the danger point in the position, engaged the enemy at close quarters and initially succeeded in holding them off with grenades and small arms fire.

They returned several times to Company Headquarters for a resupply of grenades and ammunition and each time returned to the battle in spite of the

intense bombardment, heavy fire, and overwhelming numbers of enemy. While hurling grenades from exposed positions, GNR RIXON was wounded once and CAPT KING three times.

In spite of their complete determination to defend the position, after two hours, sheer weight of enemy numbers and high casualties forced the Company Commander to order a withdrawal. GNR RIXON then carried CAPT KING out of action through heavy shelling and was wounded again.

For their actions, KING was awarded the Distinguished Service Order to go with his Military Cross (earned in WWII with 4 Commando) and RIXON won the only Distinguished Conduct Medal awarded to a NZ soldier during the Korean War for his "*fine example of courage, commitment and comradeship while fighting alongside his officer*".



GUNNER Derek Rixon, DCM at an OP in Korea

In the three (3) years I worked at Tomoana, I think I only ever spoke about three (3) words to Derek RIXON. I wish I had got to know him better and learned all this much earlier.

Derek RIXON (05/01/1925 – 31/12/2015) died peacefully in Havelock North NZ on New Year's Eve in 2015, not far from the Tomoana Meat Works, which closed-down in 1994.



The Amateur Commando

Before emigrating to NZ in 1946 and joining the NZ Army in 1950, Peter Frank KING provided one of the most unusual stories to arise from World War II.

In March 1939 (aged 23), KING enlisted in the British Army Dental Corps and excelled as a weapons instructor. Within a year he achieved the rank of Sergeant and spent 2 years as a Drill Sergeant. In spite



MAJ Peter King, DSO, MC

of its inspirational motto – ‘An Army That Can’t Bite Is an Army That Can’t Fight’ – KING wasn’t getting much job satisfaction and applied for a transfer to a fighting unit, which was refused. In April 1942, increasingly dissatisfied with his relatively unglamorous role, KING and another dental assistant, Private Leslie CUTHBERTSON (aged 20), went AWOL. They pilfered grenades and weapons, commandeered a fishing boat and mounted their own personal Commando raid on the German-held French coast. After three (3) days and British Intelligence later reporting they did “some damage to German communications” the two stole a French motor boat and set sail back for England but ran out of fuel; drifting for

15 days before being picked up by the Royal Navy, who initially treated them as spies.

In July 1942, both men were court-martialled and KING lost his Sergeant’s rank but got his fondest wish – he was posted to the Commando training base at Achnacarry in Scotland, albeit as a Private. After training, he was allocated to 4 Commando, at the request of Lieutenant-Colonel [later Brigadier] Simon Christopher Joseph FRASER, DSO, MC, TD, JP, DL 15th Lord LOVAT and 4th Baron LOVAT, who had heard about KING’s exploits. KING was a highly successful recruit to the Commandos, becoming Troop Sergeant Major of C Troop before the D Day landings. He was commissioned in the field to 2nd Lieutenant in July 1944, rising to Captain and awarded his MC in Northern Belgium during the Battle of the Scheldt (02/10/1944 – 08/11/1944).

In 1954 KING joined the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan in Kashmir and he was commissioned as a Major in the regular Army. Between 1956 and 1959, KING served on the Kashmir cease-fire line based at Srinagar.

The exploits of the two dentists were told in a book, *The Amateur Commandos*, and a film, *Two Men Went to War*, was based on them. Both the book and the film are said to make light of their exploits and treat the whole thing as more of a comedy than anything else.

In peacetime, KING was the Chief Ranger of the Westland National Park on the west coast of NZ’s South Island from 1960 until he sadly drowned on the 12/12/1962 (aged 46) when his Land Rover ran off a dirt road while passing a truck and plunged into Lake Wahapo, [about 100 km north-west of Mount Cook].

COMMANDO FOR LIFE

RIGHT OF PASSAGE

By Tony Marsden, Vice President - ACA NSW

I was first introduced to Rick through a mutual friend who said this bloke is doing great stuff with some of his Year 9 students that needed some guidance because of the lack of good male role models in their lives. Rick teaches at Cherrybrook Technical High School and identified early on in his time there that there were some kids that were falling behind in their school work, this didn’t seem to be because they weren’t interested but because they had other issues and most of them were involving their home life.

Rick and one of his fellow teachers decided that one way to get these boys to focus and better themselves was through hard physical training and discipline (Fancy that) and came up with a program that put the boys through sustained physical tests as well as psychological stress on top of their usual school work and found that with team work and focus they were not only improving in their study but were calmer



and better members of society. They were asked at the start of the program to sign a form which states in part - WARNING: This program will not be easy. It will push you mentally, physically and academically to your limit to help ensure you become the best man you can be in the future. However, your teachers, and more importantly YOUR BROTHERS in the program standing beside you, will support you the whole way.

The style of training the young men are put through is Commando esq, and they’re asked to perform different tasks carrying a steel bar and if at any time the bar touches the ground then 50 reps is added to that task.

The final hurdle for the year is a 24hr forced march and in 2018 it ran from Brooklyn to St Ives through the walking trails. Steve Willis, or Commando Steve as he goes by (Ex 4 RAR Cdo), was on board during the march and helped push the boys through to the finish line at St Ives, where we met them and congratulated them on finishing and



presented two of the standout students with 1 Cdo Regt lapel badges for their outstanding efforts during the year.

Every year the students move on and a new, different push comes through with different challenges that the staff has to adapt to, but the methodology is basically the same.

Step 1 - Wear Full correct School Uniform at all times, failure to do so will see you removed from the program.

Step 2 - Create and participate in a fund raiser for The Commando Welfare Trust.

Step 3 - Participate in family activities e.g. cook certain meals per week, or host a BBQ for parents/care-givers at school.

Step 4 - Ensure your room is returned in a neat and tidy manner at the end of each week.

Step 5 - Participate in a weekly/fortnightly reading session and log material you read over the term.

Step 6 - Complete two assignments from a chosen subject and score 75% or higher.

Step 7 - Have an agreed school attendance of over 85%.



The Right Of Passage Students with members of ACA NSW & Steve Willis (Commando Steve front left).

Step 8 - Achieve a sound grade in Right Of Passage (ROP) for your end of year school report.

Step 9 - You will undergo an interview process at the end of the program to show why you want to go and why you deserve to participate in the final Rite of Passage trek.

Those candidates who are not successful in the interview will have another chance when the next program runs.

This year the candidates were considerably more intelligent than last years but not as physically strong. Therefore, they required a different approach but there were three core values that they wanted the boys to live by:

1. Do I make my brother weak or do I make him strong?
2. We have three currencies, sweat, honesty and loyalty.
3. Breathe, recalibrate and deliver.

In the introduction to the program it stated that at Isurava on the Kokoda Track, you will find four stone pillars, Courage, Endurance, Mateship and Sacrifice. This to us sums up everything there is to being not only male, but Australian. These four pillars encapsulate what we are striving for.

Once again, this year at their 24-hour Rite of Passage trek, the Australian Commando Association NSW will be there alongside the boys as mentors, participating and supporting them to get to the finish line.

The overall goal for our participation this year is to provide strong male role-models for the boys. A week or two after the 24-hour trek the boys will prepare a sit-down dinner for us as mentors to solidify the bond made throughout the program.

The ACA NSW is committed to Rick, his fellow teachers and the program for as long as he needs, as it's not only beneficial for the boys but also for us. It also raises much needed funds for the Commando Welfare Trust.

Commando 4 Life

-----COMMANDO FOR LIFE-----

For all advertising please contact...

Russell Maddocks

Statewide Publishing P/L

0432 042 060

Email: russell@commandonews.com.au

**RISK
RESPONSE+
RESCUE**

SKILL. KNOWLEDGE. SAFETY.

EXPAND YOUR HORIZON

When it comes to your safety, there is no better place to train than in the real environment with experienced facilitators.

Specialising in training, assessment and skills recognition for high risk operations and environments.

T: 02 4283 9300 • www.riskresponse.com.au

Land + Alpine + Underground + Aviation + Maritime



DOUBLE DAGGER RIDE

Commando Memorial Seat, Martin Place Sydney to Wisemans Ferry NSW Saturday, 21 November 2020

The Australian Commando Association (NSW) is hosting the 2020 Double Dagger Ride on Saturday 21st November 2020 to raise funds for the Commando Welfare Trust. The ride will commence at the Commando Memorial Seat at Martin Place, Sydney with a memorial service to remember past and present Commandos at 1000 hours.

The riders will then mount their 'iron horses' for the first leg of the ride to biker friendly "Pie in the Sky" (RV1). A 30-minute break here will allow riders to stretch their legs, a convenience break and have a coffee. The views from the back fence at the Pie are picturesque to say the least.



RV1, Pie in the Sky Café

The final leg will be to "Wisemans Ferry Bowling Club", (RV2), along the picturesque tree lined roads contouring along the northern side of the Hawkesbury River with the final river crossing using the Wisemans Car Ferry and ending at the Wisemans Ferry Bowling Club for 'barefoot bowls' refreshments and a fund raising auction, drawing of the major raffle prizes and some tunes from the house band.

The ride is open to past and present members of the SOCOM family with registrations from Sydney as well far away riders from Victoria and Queensland already paid to attend.

The cost is \$35.00 for single riders and \$50.00 for rider and pillion. The entry registration covers a DDR Challenge Coin, a DDR embroidered cloth patch, a DDR sticker and a raffle ticket in the draw for the DDR Utility Knife specifically hand crafted for the ACA NSW DDR 2020 event.

We will have a few spots open to those who feel safer in their car, entry will be \$50.00 per vehicle.

Challenge Coins will be available to non-participants at \$20.00 per coin plus postage.

If you have any enquiries call:

Tony Marsden on: 0412 747 371 or Mark Reilly on: 0411 186 054



The DDR Sticker (C)



The DDR Challenge Coin

UNDERWATER MEDICS

STUDENTS HONE SPECIALIST SKILLS

First Published in NAVY News 01 October 2020

Article By LUET Anthony Martin (RAN)

Students of the RAN Underwater Medicine Clinician course celebrated the completion of seven months of training with an informal graduation held outside the Submarine Underwater Medical Unit at HMAS Penguin.

Underwater medicine is a specialist area of military medicine that requires expertise not generally available from civilian organisations. The training provides an advanced level of skills and knowledge that can only be gained through experience within the Navy submarine and diving medicine environment, in combination with the appropriate post-graduate training. In addition to providing hyperbaric therapy, the underwater medicine clinicians are skilled in supporting and providing expert advice on diving and submarine medicine to the ADF.

Tasks include providing health care for ADF diving personnel, including emergency recompression for diving

accident victims, monitoring and maintaining health standards for ADF diving and submarine personnel, training in underwater medical treatment and, advice and support in times of emergency.

Graduating from the course was a career highlight for LSMED David Bell. "It has been a challenge to get here and I am looking forward to getting out there and doing the job," LS Bell said. Director of Fleet Health CAPT Amanda Garlick commended the graduates for their achievements and spoke of the importance of their role. "The course provides a vital capability to support the diving and underwater community in the ADF," CAPT Garlick said. "The underwater medics provide immediate and qualified healthcare to operations especially in remote locations when their expertise is required." The seven course members included Army (SOCOMD) and Navy personnel.





AUSTRALIAN COMMANDO ASSOCIATION QUEENSLAND INC.

PRESIDENT/SECRETARY – Mr Graham Gough
acaql_d_president@commando.org.au

TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY – Mr Luke O'Brien
acaql_d_treasurer@commando.org.au

Web Address – www.commando.org.au

Postal Address – PO Box 185 Sherwood, QLD 4075

Contact - acaql_d_secretary@commando.org.au

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello and welcome to members and supporters of the Association.

Well here we are in September, and not all that much has happened socially since my last report. I was able to catch up with Nick, Peter Mac and their partners for a nice lunch up the coast in August, also Mark and Granny Johnston at a Café in Strathpine. The Social Committee is planning an event towards the end of year which more information will be available as it's firmed up.

It was good to see that Jaquie Lambi was successful in arguing the case that any service personnel accused under the IGADF investigation are covered by the "Presumption of Innocence" and afforded the legal support by the Commonwealth at no cost to the member, as it should have always been. We will be following with interest as this investigation unfolds in the near future.

The QLD Association remains in a strong financial position with introduction of new membership system by former President Nick Hill late last year. We have new black polo shirts available as single orders, LT Col Harry Smith, SC. MC. (Ret'd) was the first (kid on the block) to receive one of these, with the only difference being the wings and flag are higher up on the sleeve than they were before. If interested in a shirt, contact me via acaql_d_president@commando.org.au for more information. Cost is \$45 plus \$10 postage. This is actual cost as we don't make any profit on the shirts.



New ACA Polo Shirts
Now Available.
Cost \$55 including postage.

Maj Gen Pearn, AO, RFD gave his keynote address after laying of the wreaths had taken place.

Fifteen of the 134 lost on the Montevideo Maru were from Queensland. The 1st Independent Coy is listed as differing Units, but easy enough to work out. Bob also generously donated a copy of his book, "Keepers of the gate" Individual stories of WW2 NGVR members collected over many years. The ACA Qld is most grateful for the PNGVR's continued support.



ACA Qld President Graham Gough paying his respects during the Montevideo Service at the Cenotaph, Brisbane City, 01 July 2020.



'Keepers of the Gate' graciously donated by the author, MAJ Bob Collins (Retd). Bob is also a member of ACA Qld.

Commemorative Events

PNGVRA – Montevideo Maru Service, 1st July 2020

Just before the last issue went to print, I had the pleasure of attending the Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles Association memorial for the sinking of the Montevideo Maru, on Wednesday 1st July at the Brisbane Cenotaph. Once again held under strict COVID directions, the PNGVRA members and guests made the most of the event with a great turn out followed by a short visit to the Hall of Memory (pictures on the right).

OP Rimau & Commando/Special Forces Day, 12th July 2020

The 76th anniversary of Operation RIMAU is in early October. As you all know, the ACA QLD holds our service as close as possible to the captured Z men's Execution date of 7th July 1945. This avoids overlaying with Op JAYWICK ceremonies held in September. This year was the 75th anniversary of the last ten Z Operatives execution.





The ACA Qld Banner with the Qld Commando Association wreath (L), personal wreaths & the ACA Qld wreath (R),

There was extremely short notice of the event going ahead, and it was only confirmed on the Tuesday afternoon by Brisbane Council. Superb last-minute organisation by our social members negotiated the use of the lower ground of the Brisbane Cenotaph near the entrance to the Hall of memory, using the sandstone wall as our backdrop. With food and drinks coming from a café close by.

The Queensland Maritime Museum had still been unable to open to the public at this point in time. The CV-19 rules changed on the Wednesday before our service, allowing us to have up to 100 attendees, not the original 10. We had a comfortable setting of 30 people attend the event.

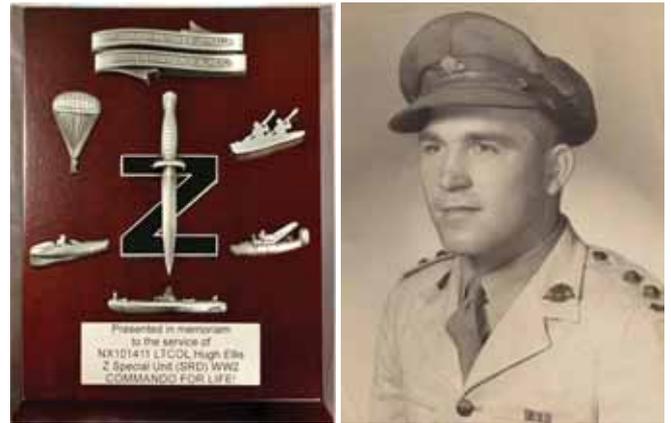
The Governor of Queensland, His Excellency Paul De Jersey, AC, SC, was emailed via his secretary, with a request for an official video address to be produced for the ceremony. It was also asked that the address be made available on a public media site for us to share with the membership. We thank His Excellency for responding favourably to the short notice video and thoughtful words used during his speech.

This year the Association had the proud Honour of hosting Mrs Beverley Ellis, widow of Mr Hugh Ellis of Z SRD, and Hugh's daughter Mrs Jacky Wood. We rolled out the red carpet and treated Beverley to a chauffeur-driven car from her house near Bribie Island and return, along with a personal assistant to keep her company on the drive each way. Mrs Ellis has been a proud supporter of the Association for many years and attends as many events as possible. This year she laid the Commando Association perpetual wreath in memory of her late husband, while Jacky laid the wreath on behalf of the Governor of Queensland. Mrs Ellis was also presented a Z Special plaque and Certificate of Appreciation by the committee.

We have tentatively requested Mr D'Arcy Hardy, younger brother of LCPL John Hardy (Op Rimau), to be one of our official guests at next years' service.

I would like to thank our affiliate associations being ASASAQ, PNGVR, RMAQ, RLI Aust & NZ, Boer War Assn, along with Pardre John Saunders 1st Int Bn and pipe Major

Rolley McCartney of National Service Pipes and Drums for their strong attendance which added significantly to the day being a success.



The Z Special Plaque presented to Mrs Bev Ellis in memory of her late husband, LTCOL Hugh Ellis (R), Z Special Unit WW2.



Some of the attendees of OP RIMAU and Commando/Special Forces Day. Mrs Beverly Ellis (front centre) with her Certificate of Appreciation.

Commando Impersonators

Out of left field, I have had a number of enquiries recently into members of the public presenting or misrepresenting themselves as having served in either 1st or 2nd Commando Regiments.

If you have any questions regarding someone's Facebook page or public profile, please send your concerns to myself or any committee member. The QLD Association has links to currently serving members that can verify or otherwise some of these claims. I have contacted some of these people directly and asked for clarification of their service, and usually get some sort of result. I'm not a fan of the public lynching style of approach with plastering a photo along with "Who knows this bloke?" or "I'm sending this photo to ANZMI" As I always say, be proud of your service as everyone did something, and wear the beret you earned or were issued with pride.

From My Personal Collection

This issue's interest piece from my personal collection is a wooden model of the Commando Memorial Cairn at Tidal River, Wilsons Promontory. It was originally picked up by Michael Lobb of Sydney from a local "trash and treasure market" in Liverpool NSW for an absolute steal, as the seller didn't know anything about it. Mick re-made the missing double diamond for the top out of alloy.



On investigation we were pleasantly surprised that it was not just someone's nice model, but an actual Architect's design prototype presentation piece, made by **M. Chester Architect's** in Melbourne who had designed the memorial in 1964. The card on the base is the actual inscription on the memorial. It is approx. 30cm tall and 15cm square at the outer base.

Not long after he showed it to me, I started bugging him to sell or trade it to me, as I knew it wasn't something he usually collected. Sure enough, we came to a deal and it became part of my hoard.

Another great piece of Commando history, follow the link to see more.

<https://monumentaustralia.org.au/themes/conflict/multiple/display/33724-australian-commando-memorial>



An architect's original wooden model design of the Commando Cairn made by M. Chester's Architects in Melbourne including the original inscription (on base) that is on the Memorial,

I look forward to another great read from our Editor in this latest issue.

Until our next meeting.

Regards,

Commando 4 Life
Graham Gough
President

----- COMMANDO FOR LIFE -----

ADDITIONAL COMMANDO NEWS

Lost Soldier Program

By Ms Megan Fry – ACA QLD Honorary Phycologist

Ms Megan Fry started working at the Tobruk Lines Medical Centre, Holsworthy Barracks, supporting 2 CDO REGT, SOER and SOLS in 2008

Megan provided clinical psychology services, as a civilian contractor, at the medical centre. As an ex-serving military psychology officer, Megan also supported 1 CDO REGT as a Reserve Psychology Officer. Megan is an active member of the ACA QLD.

Megan is passionate about veteran mental health and she has a particular interest in supporting veterans transition out of the military.

Megan has come to identify what she calls "The Psychological Effects of Service" (you may recall the article she wrote in Edition 16).

Megan is now exploring the cultural adjustment and identity issues ex-serving military personnel experience at transition as part of a PhD research project she is conducting at Griffith University.

If you are interested in further information see the attached flyer, visit <https://is.gd/lostsoldier>, or email at megan.fry@griffithuni.edu.au.

Have you served in the Army and deployed on operations?
Have you transitioned out of the forces in the last 5 years?

Transition from the military is an important issue.

We are seeking ex-serving Army personnel to complete a confidential on-line survey: The Lost Soldier: Understanding Soldier Identity

If you are interested in participating visit:
<https://is.gd/lostsoldier>

At the end of the survey, you can express interest in a face to face intervention being run in Brisbane.

For more information email megan.fry@griffithuni.edu.au

If you have a device that has or can download an app (e.g. QR code) capable of reading QR codes, you may scan the QR code below, which should take you directly to the survey in a web browser.



MILITARY HISTORY BROUGHT TO LIFE

Military history fans were thrilled to see one of only three of the world's operational Panther Ausf A World War II German battle tanks on display at the Australian Armour and Artillery Museum's Aus-Armourfest in Cairns 29th 30th August.

The fifth annual event, which also celebrated the museum's sixth birthday, marked the first viewing in Australia of the Panther Ausf A.

"Our Panther Ausf A tank is only one of four held in private hands in the world, and it's only one of three in running condition," said Australian Armour and Artillery Museum owner Rob Lowden. The tank, which took five years to restore, arrived in Cairns days before the event.

The 10,000sq m museum is home to the largest private collection of tanks, armoured vehicles and artillery in the southern hemisphere (and possibly the world). It houses hundreds of collection pieces from the 1800s onwards including large tanks, armoured cars, engines, combat equipment, howitzers and artillery from all over the world including Great Britain, Russia, United States, Czechoslovakia and Japan, to name a few.

All were on display at the AusArmourfest, and visitors were also treated to 30 vehicles rumbling into action on the museum's grounds over the two days.

"To see the tanks and vehicles in the museum is one thing, but to see them outside driving around and feeling the ground shake while listening to them is a completely different experience," Rob said. "It's one thing to see a lion or tiger in a cage, but it's another thing to see them bounding around in their natural habitat. We say the same for tanks."



The annual festival was also the only place in the world where visitors were able to ride in certain tanks, but organisers weren't able to offer the rides this year due to Covid-19. They were also expecting the numbers of guests would be less this year due to travel restrictions (many previous visitors were from overseas as well as from throughout Australia), but were pleasantly surprised.

"In the Covid environment with the Queensland border closed, we weren't expecting as many people, but we were

really pleased to see such a good turnout," Rob said. "We had over 500 on Saturday and 800 on Sunday."

It was also the first time the festival was livestreamed on Facebook, held in conjunction with the global online video game World of Tanks.

"We had 30,000 views, which was excellent," Rob said. "We will definitely be doing that again next year even if Covid restrictions are lifted by then."

The museum holds one of the most important military collections in Australia where guests are able to see these historic machines and tanks, such as a German Jagdpanzer 38(T) and the Australian Cruiser Mark 1 (AC1) Sentinel, up close and personal. They are also able to learn about their applications during the world wars with plaques providing the history of each item.

The museum also has an underground 50m shooting gallery which offers a selection of military and related bolt action rifles to use including a WW2 British 303 and German Mauser. It also features a café, kids' corner, repair/restoration workshop and a retail shop which offers a diverse collection of speciality items.

Learn more about the museum at www.ausarmour.com



THE AUSTRALIAN
**ARMOUR &
ARTILLERY**
— MUSEUM —

WE'RE OPEN 9:30AM - 4:30PM EVERYDAY

A: 2 Skyrail Drive, Smithfield (Cairns) QLD 4878 **P:** 07 4038 1665 **E:** info@ausarmour.com

VISIT US TODAY!  AUSARMOUR.COM





Australian Commando Association Victoria Inc.

PRESIDENT – Doug Knight
dougknight88@gmail.com

SECRETARY – Mr Glenn MacDonald
acavic_secretary@commando.org.au

TREASURER – Mr Chris James
acavic_treasurer@commando.org.au

Web Address – www.commando.org.au **Postal Address** – 1/65 Ashburn Grove, Ashburton VIC 3147

Contact - acavic_secretary@commando.org.au

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

September 2020

Recent Activities

Due to the COVID 19 restrictions all the Association social and commemorative activities this year to date have been cancelled and those for the remainder of the year are currently under review. The Association Annual General meeting has also been deferred until late 2020. The Shrine of Remembrance service on Sunday, 27 September was conducted by Shrine staff and posted online and accessible on YouTube at...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L7w8GuiASo4&feature=youtu.be>

Funeral of VX141557

Corporal Bernard 'Berny' Crutchfield – 2/6th Commando Squadron

It was my sad duty and also a great privilege to be given the opportunity to perform the military component of the eulogy for Berny at his funeral on 2 July 2020 just prior to Melbourne going into another COVID lockdown. Berny was the last remaining member of 2/6th Commando Squadron in Victoria. It was a privilege for me in that this was also the last occasion that I would wear an Army uniform after 49 years of full and part time service as I retired several weeks after the funeral due to age.

Berny was a long-standing member of the M&Z Commando Association Victoria and then ACA, and frequently attended post war ANZAC days and



Doug Knight, President, ACA VIC delivering the military service component of the eulogy.

reunions. However, after relocating from Melbourne to Mt Macedon his remoteness and age inhibited attendance in later years. It was fascinating to hear of Berny's lifelong commitment to his community and there was significant representation at his funeral by volunteer members of the local Country Fire Authority where Bernie was a very active member for many decades until his death. He was also active on many other local community activities. A separate article on Berny's service is in the Vale Section.

Presentation of Motorised Submersible Canoe (Sleeping Beauty) Model

Once again long standing Association member CAPT Don Bergman, OAM, RFD (Retd) has been busy in his 'mancave workshop' during the Melbourne COVID lockdown and has produced a scale model of the officially named Motorised Submersible Canoe (MSC) and locally known as the 'Sleeping Beauty'. The MSC was originally intended to be the attack craft during 1944 Operation RIMAU raid



Don Bergman with his latest Motorised Submersible Canoe (Sleeping Beauty) Model at 1:30 scale.

into Singapore Harbour, however of these craft were discarded and Folboats used once the parent craft had been compromised by Japanese forces.

This cross-section model will be an invaluable display piece within the Historical Collection along with MV *Krait* and enable ACAV to loan out quality exhibition materials of WW2 Special Operations activities.

Commando 4 Life
Doug Knight

Email: dougknight88@gmail.com

Phone 0400877323



ACA VIC Q STORE

ITEM		\$	QTY	POSTAGE	TOTAL
Embroidered ACA Windcheater (black, long sleeve, XL, L, M)		\$40.00		\$ 10.00	
Embroidered ACA Polo Shirt (black, short sleeve, XL, L, M)		\$30.00		\$ 10.00	
Embroidered ACA T-SHIRT (grey, short sleeve, XL, L, M)		\$ 20.00		\$ 10.00	
**** SPECIAL OFFER – save \$15.00 **** 1 each of ACA Windcheater + Polo Shirt + T-shirt ***confirm size availability before payment*** via sales@austcdsoassocvic.com		\$75.00		\$15.00	
REGIMENTAL TIES		\$ 20.00		\$ 10.00	
NATIONAL TIES (silk)		\$ 30.00		\$ 10.00	
GREEN BERET (without badge) for qualified personnel only		\$ 30.00		\$ 10.00	
ACA Black Cap		\$ 25.00		\$ 10.00	
1 Regt or 2 Coy or ACA FLAGS – cotton/embroidered 45CM x 90CM (Sub-Unit Size) 90CM x 180CM (Battalion Size)		\$ POA \$ POA		Post incl. PIF at time of order	
STUBBY HOLDERS – VELCRO (last two)		\$ 10.00		\$ 2.00	
1 REGT BELT BUCKLES		\$ 10.00		\$ 5.00	
ACA LAPEL BADGE		\$ 10.00		\$ 2.00	
ACA NAME BADGE Option 1: Mbr/Ex-Mbr: with motto "Commando for Life" Option 2: Family/Associates, without motto		\$ 20.00		\$ 5.00	
2 COY 1 REGT D/D LAPEL BADGE (2nd/2nd Independent Coy)		\$ 10.00		\$ 2.00	
1 REGT LAPEL BADGE		\$ 10.00		\$ 2.00	
PARA LAPEL BADGE - GREEN		\$ 10.00		\$ 2.00	
60TH ANNIV LAPEL BADGE		\$ 10.00		\$ 2.00	
1, 2 Regt & SOER BERET BADGE current styles only for serving, ex-members or family only		\$15.00		\$ 5.00	

ITEM		\$	QTY	POSTAGE	TOTAL
1, 2 Regt & (SOER-RAE O.R.) COLLAR BADGES EA current styles only for serving, ex-members or family only		\$10 EA or \$15 PR		\$ 5.00	
CDO PARA WINGS, GREEN, CLOTH for qualified personnel only		\$ 5.00		\$ 2.00	
PII WINGS, GOLD, SILVER, BRONZE for qualified personnel only		\$15.00 ea		\$ 5.00	
2 Special (Grey- Family Only) 2 Special (Black), Flight 200 Badge		\$ 20.00 ea		\$ 2.00	
BREW MUG - Stainless Steel, Matt Black W/- ACA LOGO ETCHED ON THE LID (350ML)		\$30.00		\$10.00	
2020 Australian Commando Association Wall Plaque		\$50.00		\$15.00	
2020 Special Operations Australia/Allied Intelligence Bureau wall plaque		\$90.00		\$15.00	
SOA, AIB, Operation BIMAU commemorative wall plaque		\$ 90		\$15.00	
Window Decals as viewed L to R: a,b,c Please state quantity of which is required example: 2 x a + 3 x b		Any 3 for \$10		\$ 2.00	
Snakes in the Jungle (by Jim Truscott ex SASR and OC 2 Cdo Coy)		\$ 25.00		\$ 15.00	
4 RAR in E. Timor - Op TANAGER		\$ 15.00		\$ 15.00	
40 th Anniversary 2 Commando Company		\$ 5.00		\$ 15.00	
Humour in SAS Sigs Uniform		\$ 5.00		\$ 5.00	
Australia's Special Operations 1940 - 2003		\$ 20.00		\$ 5.00	
RIP Incident 50 th Anniversary		\$ 5.00		\$ 10.00	

ITEM		\$	QTY	POSTAGE	TOTAL
SOA, AIB, Operation Bimau commemorative coin (numbered)		\$20.00		\$ 2.00	
Red Double Diamond Patches – Multi cam		\$ 5.00		\$ 2.00	
				TOTAL	

Note: When purchasing multiple items, ring Pete on 0425 738 716 to confirm total postage before payment

\$3.00 surcharge for use of EFTPOS service, i.e. other than direct deposit/cheque/cash payments

Payment by: **DIRECT TRANSFER (preferred)** using as a reference: "Your name, Memorabilia" to:

ACAVicInc.
Bendigo Bank
BSB: 633 000
Account No: 155069099

Or by sending a cheque payable to **ACAVicInc**, addressed to:
Treasurer,
ACAVicINC
26 Petral Close,
Blind Bight, Vic, 3980.





Australian Commando Association Western Australia Inc.

PRESIDENT – Mr Paul Shearer **VICE PRESIDENT** – Mr Rob Murray **TREASURER** – Mr Darren Freeman
 acawa_president@commando.org.au acawa_vpresident@commando.org.au acawa_treasurer@commando.org.au
Web Address – www.commando.org.au **Postal Address** – PO Box 297 Bassendean, WA 6054
Contact - acawa_secretary@commando.org.au

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

To all on the East Coast, our thoughts have been with you over the period of turmoil we have experienced from COVID-19. Many of our friends and family live on the eastern seaboard and to hear of the restrictions being placed on day to day life reminds us of how much we take simple freedoms for granted.

We consider ourselves fortunate here in WA to be able to move around our vast State unencumbered, after earlier tight restrictions, but a recent tourism campaign reminded us that we could only go as far as the end of the cul-de-sac in Kununurra, some 3200 kilometers away! Even without restrictions it seems we are more wary of social gatherings with attendance at planned events being well below previous levels.

We recently made a request to the ASASA to conduct our meetings at the SAS House behind Campbell Barracks. Our request was put forward by Troy Simmonds, President of the WA Branch of the ASASA, and we thank him and the committee for their support. Our first meeting is to be held at The House in mid-October. We look forward to building on the relationship between the two Association branches into the future.

With a membership of over 700 in WA, the ASASA is well established and supported here.

Our membership, by comparison, of 18 financial and 2 honorary members is growing steadily from the original 7 members that started the branch in 2017. At our next meeting we will be planning out activities and events for the 2021 calendar year which will include a day on the range for each of the staple of rifle, pistol and archery along with other possibilities.

Lynn McNamara and I visited the R&R Transition Centre in a fantastic bush setting in Jarrahdale, in the hills on the outskirts of Perth. We were hosted by Greg Green and Al Ingram, both ex SASR, who are managing and developing the facilities on site with the help of volunteers and corporate support. The Centre offers accommodation chalets and facilities as well as activities, primarily for veterans, in a peaceful and secluded environment. The ACAWA look forward to supporting the R&R Transition Centre and their work to support veterans along with utilising the facilities for meetings and events into the future.

We look forward to the borders opening up again so that planning can continue on fund raising activities and events going forward.

Commando 4 Life
 Paul Shearer
 President
 ACA WA

WANT TO IMPROVE YOUR SURFING?

HPC
HIGH PERFORMANCE COACHING

WWW.SURFINGAUSTRALIAHPC.COM

CALL 1800 DECKCLEAN (1800 332 525)

**WANT A CAREER CHANGE?
 LOVE WORKING OUTDOORS?**

CALL DECKSEAL TODAY

WE ARE LOOKING FOR MOTIVATED PEOPLE WHO WANT TO SECURE THEIR FUTURE IN A GROWING AND HIGHLY IN DEMAND SERVICE.

DeckSeal WWW.DECKSEAL.COM.AU | INFO@DECKSEAL.COM.AU

For all advertising please contact...
RUSSELL MADDOCKS ~ 0432 042 060
Statewide Publishing P/L **Email: russell@commandonews.com.au**





COMMANDO WELFARE TRUST

PATRONS

MAJGEN Tim MacOwan, AO. DSC. CSM. (Retd)
The Honourable Dr Brendon Nelson, AO. BMBS. FRAC (HON). FAMA.

CHAIRMAN – BRIG Mark Smethurst, DSC. AM. (Retd) EXECUTIVE OFFICER – MAJ Steve Pilmore OAM. RFD. (Retd)

TRUSTEES

Mr Bruce Parker, OAM. - Ms Miriam Dwyer - Mr Peter Laverick – RADM Robyn Walker, AM. RAN. -
Mr Ian Breddon - BRIG Alison Creagh, AM. CSC & Mr Mark Coad

CONTACT

E: steve.pilmore@commandotrust.com - P: PO Box 5082 Pinewood VIC 3149 - W: www.commandotrust.com

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Members,

The Inspector General of the Australian Defence Force has recently announced that the inquiry into alleged breaches of the Laws of Armed Conflict by Australian soldiers in Afghanistan is “in its final stages” and that all notices to Potentially Affected Persons (PAPs) have been issued. Even though the inquiry is now according to the press focussing on only 8-10 alleged incidents, it will still place great stress on the serving and ex-serving members involved as well as their families.

As the President of the Australian Commando Association has said in his message this edition, this is where the Australian Commando community now has to stand up and provide support where it is needed. In a similar way, a unified approach to the support of all members and families of the Special Forces Community is being taken with constant liaison between the Australian SAS Association, the Australian Commando Association, the SAS Resources Trust, the Commando Welfare Trust and the Special Operations Engineer Regiment Association, in addition to representatives of SOCOMD and the Department of Defence.

It has been reported that there have been 419 suicides of serving, reserve and ex-serving ADF personnel from 2001 to 2017 and the number is increasing annually. The group at most risk is ex-serving personnel. For those still serving there are networks and links that can be accessed by members and their families, however; for those no longer serving the process is not that simple.

For ex-serving members to identify that they need support can be confronting and, in some cases, seen as failure. This is not the case; just like any mission that we have conducted in the past we have relied upon our Mission Support Elements to provide what we

need to achieve mission success. You may no longer wear the uniform but your dedication to duty, honour, loyalty and self-sacrifice should never be forgotten.

From a general welfare point of view the Dept of Veterans' Affairs provides the following resource: <https://afghanistaninquiry.defence.gov.au/welfare-support>

For those individuals that are needing to find a new Mission Support Team, here are some options to support your mental health and wellbeing:

- Consult a general practitioner (GP) or talk to a mental health professional
- Open Arms Veterans & Families Counselling - 1800 011 046 – www.openarms.gov.au
- 1800 RESPECT – 1800 737 732 – www.1800respect.org.au
- Lifeline Australia – 13 11 14 - www.lifeline.org.au

Please reach out to your mates once in a while and see how they are going. Should you have any doubts or questions, never hesitate to contact your local ACA officers or the Commando Welfare Trust staff – all are prepared to assist in any way they can.

Commando 4 Life

Brigadier Mark Smethurst, DSC. AM. (Retd)

BRETT'S
OUTBACK
TASTING ADVENTURES
Proudly Australian Owned and Family Operated

FEATURING THE TROPICAL 'DELIGHTS' OF THE ATHERTON TABLELANDS
Boutique small personalised tours specialising in service excellence






Wines, Spirits, Beers, Cheeses, Atherton Red Claw (Cray Fish), Kangaroo, Crocodile, Coffee, Chocolates, Nuts, Tropical Fruits and Platypus Viewing!

Taste the BEST of Queensland

BOOK ONLINE or PHONE
07 4098 5059 or
0418 909 818

info@outbacktastingtours.com.au
www.outbacktastingtours.com.au
 f @ /BrettsKurandaOutbackTours



ACA VETERANS ADVOCACY UPDATE

Mr Paul Copeland, OAM, JP - ACA Veteran Entitlements Advisor
aca_entitlements@commando.org.au

As at 26 September 2020

In my last report, I highlighted the arrangements put in place by DVA for the COVID-19 pandemic. There are varying restrictions around Australia, the more robust in Victoria, in particular Metropolitan Melbourne. The situation has seen an increase in mental illness, of which DVA are aware of the impact to the veteran community.

DVA and Open Arms reported an increase in the use of psychological services by veterans and their families in the past three months. This is understandable, particularly for veterans who are isolated from the community and are doing it tough on their own. For some veterans, it has made not much difference, particularly those who are significantly incapacitated.

Either way, should you feel the pinch of the 'Black Dog' or just want to talk to someone, Open Arms runs a 24-hour service to help those who are doing it tough. The 24-hour hotline is: 1800 011 046.

REMEMBRANCE

Australians Remember Our Second World War Veterans

On 15 August 2020, Australians tuned into watch a national commemorative service acknowledging the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

Link: <https://www.dva.gov.au/newsroom/latest-news-veterans/australians-remember-our-second-world-war-veterans>

Vietnam Veterans Day In Northern Australia



The Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony in Townsville.
Photo: Troy Rodgers

Commemorative ceremonies were held in Townsville and Darwin to mark Vietnam Veterans Day (18 August). Other services were conducted around the country, with attendance rates much lower than normal due to the COVID 19 Restrictions.

Link: <https://www.dva.gov.au/newsroom/latest-news-veterans/vietnam-veterans-day-northern-australia>

They Will Not Be Forgotten.

Editor's Note: In many areas of Australia, Vietnam Veterans Day has been renamed as Veterans Day to encompass and celebrate all Veterans from our post WW2 conflicts and their service to this nation. Speak with your local RSL Sub-Branch or ESO.

WELL-BEING

Open Arms is Open for Business

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a significant impact on all of our lives, and is leaving some people with feelings of anxiety, worry, stress or fear. To support you during this time, [Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling](#) is remaining open for business.

Link: <https://www.dva.gov.au/newsroom/latest-news-veterans/open-arms-open-business>

PAYMENTS

COVID-19 - Overseas Financial Assistance

Support for vulnerable Australian citizens whose return to Australia has been impacted by the pandemic. On 2 September, the Australian Government announced additional support for vulnerable Australian citizens whose return to Australia has been impacted by the pandemic.

If you are unable to return to Australia due to COVID-19 restrictions and you are experiencing financial distress, you may be eligible to access financial support from the Australian Government. Further information is available on the Smart Traveller Website:

Link: <https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/COVID-19/covid-19-overseas-financial-assistance>

Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment

On 3 August, the Prime Minister announced a pandemic leave disaster payment. People living in Victoria, Tasmania, New South Wales and Western Australia who do not have enough sick leave through their employer and are required to self-isolate due to COVID-19 can access \$1500 for the fortnight through Services Australia. The dedicated enquiries line is 180 22 66.

This payment is not available to those who receive a JobSeeker payment or a JobKeeper payment. Further information is available on the Service Australia Website.

Link: <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/pandemic-leave-disaster-payment>

OTHER NEWS

Meeting Your Rehabilitation Needs During COVID-19

DVA's Rehabilitation Program and Rehabilitation Appliances Program have been working with providers and suppliers to maintain services during the pandemic.



Rehabilitation Program

DVA has been working closely with your DVA Rehabilitation Program provider to ensure that they are delivering rehabilitation services and supports in line with your State or Territory's health advice.

In line with the changing COVID-19 restrictions and situation, your provider may be in touch to discuss, review and adjust some of the activities outlined in your rehabilitation plan. If you live in, or near, a restricted area and have found it difficult to access or participate in certain plan activities, your provider may discuss the need to extend your plan's end date so you are able to achieve your goals.

Please contact your DVA rehabilitation provider if you have any queries or concerns relating to your rehabilitation program in general.

For more information on DVA's Rehabilitation Program, visit the DVA Website.

Link: <https://www.dva.gov.au/health-and-treatment/injury-or-health-treatments/rehabilitation-0>

Rehabilitation Appliances Program

If you are receiving aids and appliances under the Rehabilitation Appliances Program (RAP) that do not require complex set up, installation or training, and can be delivered by mail or courier, the item will be sent directly to you. For example, Personal Response Systems may be left at your doorstep with instructions for self-installation to minimise any contact. In-home installation will occur only if self-installation is not appropriate. Suppliers of RAP items that require close contact will check your consent to supply/install items in the home. If consent is provided, all safety precautions will be followed in line with the Department of Health's advice and industry protocols. If consent is not provided, the supply/install will be deferred to a later date. For more information on the RAP, visit the DVA Website.

Link: <https://www.dva.gov.au/health-and-treatment/care-home-or-aged-care/equipment-and-modifications-you-and-your-home>

Connecting with DVA

Limited booked face-to-face service delivery is returning to Veteran Access Network (VAN) shopfronts for veterans and their families.

Link: <https://www.dva.gov.au/newsroom/latest-news-veterans/connecting-dva>

Community Nursing Program and COVID-19

If you currently receive DVA-funded community nursing services, your provider can develop an individual pandemic plan with you and your family to help you stay well during the pandemic.

New Approach strengthens ADF Ties with Civilian Employers

A new, collaborative approach to employer relationships is set to usher in a new era of support for ADF Reservists and their civilian workplaces.

Link: <https://www.dva.gov.au/newsroom/latest-news-veterans/new-approach-strengthens-adf-ties-civilian-employers>

Countdown to Inclusion of Veterans in Census

Monday 10 August marked the one-year countdown to the 2021 Australian Census. For the first time, the 2021 Australian Census will seek veteran related data, to assist with identifying the dynamics of the Veteran population.

Link: <https://www.dva.gov.au/newsroom/latest-news-veterans/countdown-inclusion-veterans-census>

MyService Making Real-Life Impacts

'I wasn't expecting to submit a claim. I did it on my phone in ten minutes while leaning against my kitchen bench.' In the past week, I have coincidentally advised a couple of Commando Veterans that they are able to apply for Non-Liability Health Care (NLHC), for various Cancers, TB and Mental Illness (Conditions Apply). A veteran who applied online via MyService had his application accepted for treatment within 2 days of applying for NLHC for Skin Cancer treatment. Keep the receipts for any previous treatments, pharmaceuticals and travel information, as you may be eligible to claim your expenses. Don't forget to apply for the condition to be also accepted for Permanent Impairment Compensation, or Incapacity Payment Compensation – should those conditions prevent you from working, or have impaired your wellbeing. Please do not hesitate in contacting me, should you seek any information outside of DVA.

Link: <https://www.dva.gov.au/newsroom/latest-news-veterans/myservice-making-real-life-impacts>

Veteran Family Advocate

Ms Gwen Cherne has been appointed as the inaugural Veteran Family Advocate for a five-year term. Ms Cherne is a contemporary war widow and has dedicated her career to providing essential advocacy for Defence personnel and veterans' families through a range of primarily volunteer and not-for-profit roles at both the national and international level.

Ms Cherne will directly engage with the families of veterans to help shape policy and improve the design of veteran programs and services provided through our portfolio, including those relating to veteran mental health. She will work closely with the National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention and will be a Commissioner of the Repatriation Commission. Ms Cherne is the widow of 2 Cdo Regt soldier SGT Peter Cafe who unfortunately took his life in February 2017. Gwen is also an Ambassador for the Commando Welfare Trust. The Minister announced Ms Cherne's appointment on 22 August. More information on her role is available in the Winter edition of Vet Affairs.

Link: <https://www.dva.gov.au/newsroom/vetaffairs/vetaffairs-vol-36-no2-winter-2020/advocate-gives-veterans-families-voice-support>

Defence Engagement Commissioner

Major General Stuart Smith, AO, DSC. (Retd) has been appointed to act in the newly created Defence Engagement Commissioner role for an initial period of 12 months from 31 August 2020.

The Commissioner's role will be to work closely with the ADF to support DVA's response to the Senate Inquiry into Suicide by Veterans and Ex-service Personnel and the



Inspector-General of the ADF's Afghanistan Inquiry. The role will also include a focus on strategic planning for the Repatriation Commission.

Link: <https://www.dva.gov.au/newsroom/latest-news-veterans/significant-repatriation-commission-appointments>

Veteran Health Week

24 October to 1 November 2020

Social connection is one of the most important contributors to a person's emotional, mental and physical wellbeing, and is even more important this year as we face barriers to the types of connection that we've always relied on. DVA is encouraging the veteran community to reach out to those who are feeling or becoming isolated. So, it's time to get creative and create new opportunities to connect, either in person or virtually over the phone or internet. Veterans' Health Week will be held from Saturday 24 October to Sunday 1 November 2020. Events can also be held during the week before and three weeks after these dates.

Link: <https://www.dva.gov.au/newsroom/latest-news-veterans/veterans-health-week-focus-social-connection>

More Psychiatric Assistance Dogs Providers On Board

Two new providers – the Royal Society for the Blind of South Australia and Integra Service Dogs Australia – have joined the DVA Psychiatric Assistance Dog Program (See the Integra Service Dogs Australia article written by former RSM 2 Cdo Regt Ken Lloyd in this edition).

Link: <https://www.dva.gov.au/newsroom/latest-news-veterans/more-psychiatric-assistance-dogs-providers-board>

Using Your Veteran Card

Some veterans have had questions about how they use their new Veteran Card.

Link: <https://www.dva.gov.au/newsroom/latest-news-veterans/using-your-veteran-card>

Long Tan Bursary Applications Now Open

On 18 August – Vietnam Veterans' Day – applications opened for the 2021 Long Tan Bursary, which awards the children and grandchildren of Vietnam veterans with up to \$12,000 over three years of continuous full-time study. Applications for the Long Tan Bursary 2021, close 31 October 2020.

Link: <https://www.dva.gov.au/newsroom/latest-news-veterans/long-tan-bursary-applications-now-open>

Active Choices: A New Physical Activity Program

If you are based in Brisbane, you may be eligible to participate in a new 12-week physical activity program.

Link: <https://www.dva.gov.au/newsroom/latest-news-veterans/active-choices-new-physical-activity-program>

VETERAN ADVOCACY

Compensation Advocates

Veterans who are considering lodging a claim for Compensation as a result of their service-related conditions are encouraged to contact a competent

Compensation Advocate to assist you through the process of Initial Primary Claim Lodgement, Review and/or Appeals. Veterans and their families who are seeking assistance with Well-being services that are provided by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, State Governments and Local Governments are also encouraged to contact a competent Well-being Advocate. For both Compensation and Well-being matters, the Advocacy Training and Development Program (ATDP) provides information and access to competent Advocates, via the ATDP Website.

Link: <https://web.atdp.org.au/>

Commando Welfare Trust

ACA Members and SOCOMD Veterans (Minus SASR) are reminded that significant support maybe provided through a range of DVA Entitlements, in addition to the support from the Commando Welfare Trust (CWT). It is encouraged that Veterans contact me, in order to seek information of these Entitlements. Also included are Concessions available to veterans, particularly those who have a DVA Gold Card For All Conditions within Australia.

Special Forces Disability Allowance (SFDA)

The matter of Special Forces Disability Allowance (SFDA) has developed, with positive contact with the RSM Special Forces Group, WO1 Frank Carey. Veterans who have been advised by DVA that their SFDA has ceased, should contact me to further discuss, as there exists a potential and positive outcome, depending upon the veteran's service to SOF, and when the claimable medical condition was manifest during service in SOF. There are a number of Legislative conditions to satisfy, prior to applying for SFDA to be included into MRCA/DRCA Incapacity Payments. If there are concerns toward the SFDA component of any Incapacity Payments received under MRCA or DRCA, please do not hesitate in contacting me to seek assistance.

Email: aca_vetentitlements@commando.org.au

MEDALLIC RECOGNITION

I continue to receive queries relating to the Australian Service Medal 75- Clasp CT/SR (ASM CT/SR), particularly by former ARA Members of 1 Commando Regiment. As many readers will know, the ASM CT/SR was struck to recognise ADF members who served in a Tactical Assault Group (TAG), for up to 60 consecutive days, whilst being on-call. The Medal is also awarded to Support Staff such as Signallers and Intelligence Operators who served in a given SOCCE.

Members of 1 Cdo Regt (RHQ and 126 Sig Sqn) have been recognised in a Review conducted by SOCOMAUST (COL Donaghue), of which they provided the Regimental SOCCE (RSOCCE) Staffing and other Signals and Intelligence support for Domestic CT and Special Recovery Operations (SRO) Duties during, for what was for most, the entirety of their posting to the Regt. The Report is known as the "Donaghue Report", dated 27 Aug 2014. Many eligible former members of 1 Cdo Regt may not be aware that they are eligible for the Medal.

It is encouraged that 1 Cdo Regt members who were on-call for CT/SRO Duties apply to the Defence



Directorate of Honours & Awards (DH&A). The DH&A Website link is: <https://www.defence.gov.au/Medals/Content/ApplyOnlineInstructions.asp>

Should there be a problem with the ASM CT/SR Application, please do not hesitate in contacting me. However, be sure to mention the Donaghue Report in your initial application to point the Staff toward the acceptance of the recognition. Also provide as much information as possible such as SVA for CT Clothing Allowance; and any other evidence that will support your application.

Commando 4 Life
Paul Copeland OAM, JP
Advocate Level 4
ACA Veteran Advocacy Advisor
Australian Commando Association
E: aca_vetentitlements@commando.org.au



COMMANDO FOR LIFE

BOOK REVIEW

'THE COMMANDO WAY'

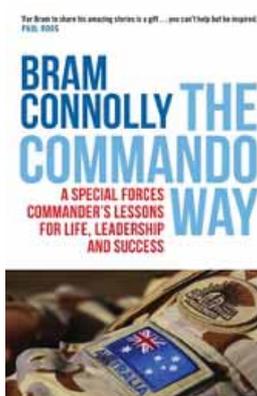
A Special Forces Commander's Lessons for Life, Leadership and Success

By MAJ Bram Connolly, DSM. (Retd) Allen & Unwin, Crows Nest, 2020

Reviewed by MAJ Jim Truscott (Retd) - ACA VIC

It is always fascinating to review a book written by someone that you know somewhat well, especially a combat commander. The author did some consulting work for my Crisis Management company in the past but I had never seen him perform on the job with any of our clients. As he is quite a deal younger than me, our military paths had not crossed in our first careers either, although he chose to immortalize me in one of his other fictional books 'Off Reservation' much to my delight! This non-fiction book which reads like an 'autobiographical manual' certainly filled in some gaps in my knowledge about him. I was actually drawn to read the book by the powerful testimonials that it has received from several military notables, some of whom I have served with on operations.

The author recounts 27 short stories primarily from his military service in peace and war, but some from his non-military life, all examined under the topics of resilience, optimization, leadership and values, with a concluding call to action for all readers to pursue personal self-development. Some of the chapters are humorous and whimsical. Most of the story telling is reflective and near confessional. Other vignettes are gripping and pervading with an undercurrent of fear. All successful Special Forces officers seem to find themselves on the wrong side of the railway tracks for some misdemeanour at some stage in their careers, but this is the first time that I heard this happening from having mistakenly eaten the foot of a goat in front of some less than impressed Afghan warlords!



The book is not all about Bram as he uses several case studies of many other men that he has served under, or been in charge of. It illuminates the unique style and criticality of leadership in independent Australian Commando subunits in the field of operations. I cannot recall having read a similar style Australian book about mission men and combat leadership under often extremely tense and very difficult operational situations. The subject has not been addressed previously in such a singular and operator focused way.

I liken his lessons learned to an easy to read, playbook for life. Some readers who do not have a military background may not full appreciate all of his experiences, but the lessons that he summarizes at the end of each story will be obvious to all. I was intrigued by his very last story about humility where he recounts a consulting experience in business that did not go so well. It begs a follow-on book covering the application of his framework for life covering the ten years since he left the bounds of the military.

The author's descant on leadership is an informative read for anyone seeking to take charge be they a digger spokesperson, a junior commander, a manager of people in their first appointment, or a doyen in business. All leaders and all followers will find this book equally of value as the author rightly says, to be a good leader you first have to be a good follower, but to be a great leader you have to remember that being a good follower wasn't easy. I bet the Afghan warlords will have a chuckle as well!



SIGNIFICANT COMMANDO DATES

OCTOBER to DECEMBER

OCTOBER

October 1941

2nd/2nd & 2nd/3rd Independent Company's were raised at Wilsons Promontory, Victoria.

1 October 1942

2nd/5th Independent Company launched a raid on Mubo, New Guinea.

October 1943

2nd/3rd Independent Company was renamed 2nd/3rd Cav Commando Squadron (Cdo Sqn) after reforming at Atherton Tablelands, Queensland.

2nd/4th Ind Coy reforms as the 2nd/4th Cav Commando Squadron (Cdo Sqn) whilst deployed overseas.

Z Experimental Station (ZES) moved to the Fraser Commando School (FCS), Fraser Island, Qld.

24 October 1943

SGT Leonard George (Len) Siffleet, M Special Unit (Coastwatcher's) was executed on Aitape Beach, New Guinea. The moment is captured and became an infamous image of Japanese brutality to POWs during WW2.

October 1944

2nd/8th Cav Commando Squadron (Cdo Sqn) was transported to Torokina, Bougainville to begin the Bougainville Campaign.

2nd/9th Cav Commando Squadron (Cdo Sqn) relieves US Forces in Aitape.

10 October 1944

Z Special Unit members aboard the junk Mustika are compromised by a Malay Police Boat Patrol off Kasoa and Samboe Islands, Malaya during Operation Rimau.

22 October 1944

2nd/7th Cav Commando Squadron (Cdo Sqn) departs Brisbane to relieve the US Army Regiment at Babiang, New Guinea.

25 October 2001

4 RAR Commando returns to Australia after a successful 6 months deployment as part of the UNTAET Mission in East Timor.

NOVEMBER

20 November 1942

2nd/6th Independent Company was engaged in heavy fighting around the New Strip airfield Bona, New Guinea against the Japanese Imperial Army.

November 1944

2nd/10th Cav Commando Squadron (Cdo Sqn) conducts combat operations in the Suain-Luain area of New Guinea.

November 2008

1 Company, 1st Commando Regiment deploys to Afghanistan on SOTG Rotation VIII. This is the first time an Army Reserve sub-unit had deployed on Combat Operations since WW2.

DECEMBER

December 1941

2nd/3rd Independent Company is sent to New Caledonia to support the Free French against a Japanese invasion.

The 2nd/4th Independent Company was re-raised at Wilsons Promontory, Victoria

17 December 1941

2nd/2nd Independent Company arrives in Dili, Portuguese Timor and begins to provide protection to the Dili Airfield.

December 1942

2nd/2nd Independent Company begin withdrawing from Portuguese Timor.

11 - 13 December 1944

2nd/7th Cav Commando Squadron (Cdo Sqn) is involved in significant engagements against the Japanese in Yourang & Kumbun New Britain, New Guinea.

December 1944 – August 1945

This eight-month period saw the 2nd/8th Cav Commando Squadron (Cdo Sqn) in action almost continuously in the Bougainville area against the Japanese.

15 December 2013

Charlie Commando Company, 2nd Commando Regiment is the last SOTG Commando Company to withdrawal from Uruzghan Province, Afghanistan. This ended Australia's presence in the Province which began in August 2005.



10698NAT
Diploma of Weight Management

- A holistic approach to health and weight management
- 100% Online Study | Nationally Accredited



**CAIRNS + PORT DOUGLAS
 GREAT BARRIER REEF**

**TAKE THE PLUNGE
 WITH THE DIVE PROFESSIONALS.**



LEARN TO DIVE

There's no better place to learn to dive than the Great Barrier Reef! Pro Dive Cairns and Quicksilver Dive Port Douglas have 5 Star PADI Training Centres where we can get you ready and take you on the adventure of your life!

LIVEBOARD TRIPS

Pro Dive Cairns' exciting liveboard experience will take you on a 3 Day 2/Night adventure to the majestic Outer Reef. Included with our 5 Day Learn to Dive Course.



ASK ABOUT OUR AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE DISCOUNTS.
 (DIRECT BOOKINGS ONLY)

Free Call 1800 353 213
prodiv Cairns.com quicksilverdive.com.au

*Have you dreamed of owning your own business and being your own boss?
 Have you always wanted to build a worthwhile business that not only has strong profit potential but also allows you the satisfaction of helping others?*

Have you got the desire to work in an ethical and sustainable business to see others save energy, save money and reduce greenhouse gas emissions?

Then SuperGreen Solutions has a business solution for you... SuperGreen Direct!

SuperGreen Solutions is the world's leading sustainability advisor and we started right here in Queensland, Australia. Over the past 20 years, we have opened 81 locations in over 13 countries. So as a SuperGreen Solutions franchisee you will be able to uniquely help Residential clients, Business owners, Builders and the Construction sector, also Government and Commercial clients to save a fortune on both sides of their balance sheets. Also you will be able to help save them money and energy while reducing their greenhouse gas emissions.

Let's face it, the way business has been done in the past, will not be how business will be conducted in the future. SuperGreen is here, it's Now, it's Fresh, it's Mobile, it's Modern, it's Efficient, It's Green, it's Direct to the client with direct results and rewards.

With SuperGreen Direct, you can gain access to the world's most trusted brands, products and will be able to provide multiple solutions for your clients. Simply take your business to where it's needed, and where the business is at the time. Then provide the solutions that the clients need. SuperGreen Direct enables you to do more business, more cost-effectively, more efficiently, and more often. As you would expect training, quoting tools and systems are offered along with access to world leading brand name products, so you can start selling from day one.

As a SuperGreen Solutions franchisor, you will help your clients save money and enable them to differentiate themselves from the competition via Green products. Green marketing initiatives, you will be able to deliver services such as sustainability planning, world leading brand name products, product installation, product, energy and dollar saving monitoring tools, as well as claiming their rebates and offering after sales services, in one clean and green business. Let's face it SuperGreen Solutions supplies and installs 4 out of the Top 10 growing product sectors in the world today, which is creating waves because we have found a way to take it mobile and to take it directly to the clients with 'SuperGreen Direct', which is simply a Mobile Green Solutions Showroom on wheels.

To find out more, and if you would like to meet with the founder of the SuperGreen Solutions brand give us a call on **07 4772 7655** or **0481167423** and we will arrange for you to get a personal look at this opportunity and get started.

Or check out <https://supergreensolutions.com.au/mobile-franchise/>



**Getting out, or Looking to be your own Boss
 in a future proof business?**

**\$8,500
 Military
 Discount**



- Operating for over 10 years
- Franchises opened in 9 countries
- Winner of Entrepreneur Magazine Top 500 Franchise awards 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017

SuperGreen Direct is SuperGreen Solutions new mobile franchise model. This condensed SuperGreen Solutions showroom on wheels offers an agile and low cost option for the franchisee to take the products directly to the customer so they can see the products first hand. They also make exhibiting at shows and expos a piece of cake.

GOODBYE RENT!

As well as differentiating yourself from the herd with this disruptive franchise, you're also free of expensive rent and increasing overheads. Coal fired power is slowly coming to an end with Solar, Battery Storage, energy efficient products and electric vehicles taking centre stage! SuperGreen Solutions has an innovative new angle that helps pose their franchisees to take advantage of a

wide range of energy efficient products for this new age of energy. SuperGreen Direct owners are able to Bundle a wide range of energy efficient products thus offer attractive discounted solutions, leaving competitors in the dust. Training, quoting tools & systems all included along with access to leading brand names such as:

- Tesla, Sonnen, LG & BYD Battery storage
- Canadian Solar, JA & LG Solar products
- Rheem, Apricus & Stiebel Eltron efficient water heating
- Fletchers & Bradford Insulation products
- Tesla, Solar Edge, E- Station EV Chargers



SuperGreen's winning business pedigree, formulas, systems and procedures have been tested, tried and proven in several markets globally and are ready for you to benefit from in your area. To find out more reach out for the local SuperGreen direct team.



Contact Sean today on **0481 167 423** or franchise@supergreensolutions.com.au
supergreensolutions.com.au



COMMANDOS FOR LIFE

OCTOBER to DECEMBER



14 October 1958
LCPL Peter James Herd
2 Commando Company
Died In Training at Half Moon Bay
Victoria



20 October 2009
LCPL Mason Edwards
Alpha Commando Company,
2nd Commando Regiment
Killed In Training at Cultana
Training Area, South Australia



21 October 2001
PTE David "Tbags" Twining
Bravo Commando Company, 4
RAR Commando
Died In Service at Engadine,
New South Wales



25 October 2011
WO2 Chris "Gotchy" Gotch
Commando Training Wing
Special Forces Training Centre
Died In Service in Sydney
New South Wales



23 November 2007
PTE Luke Worsley
Bravo Commando Company
4 RAR Commando
Killed In Action in Urazghan
Province, Afghanistan



27 November 2008
LT Michael Fussell
Operational Support Company
4 RAR Commando
Attached to 1 Company
1st Commando Regiment
Killed In Action in Urazghan
Province, Afghanistan



14 December 1955
MAJ John Anderson
2 Commando Company
Killed In Training at
Plymouth, United Kingdom



COMMANDO VALE

VALE - VX 141557

CORPORAL BERNARD PERCIVAL CRUTCHFIELD

2/6th Commando Squadron - WW2

03 June 1924 - 26 June 2020



Bernie attending the 2013 ANZAC Day March in Melbourne.

Image courtesy of Crutchfield Family Collection

Bernie enlisted in the Citizen Military Forces (Full Time Duty) 18 June 1942 until 28 May 1943 and following some short time in Headquarters and administration units he was posted to 7 Australian Infantry Training Battalion in Darwin on 09 October 1942 where they were involved in Defence of the Darwin area.

On 29 May 1943 he transferred to Australian Imperial Force and volunteered for overseas service and went to Canungra in South East Queensland to No 1 Australian Commando Training Battalion on 07 July 1943 and upon completion of his arduous Commando training was posted to 2/6th Australian Independent Company on 28 September 1943. Just prior to joining 2/6th in March 1943 the Squadron had returned to Australia from a long period of hectic operations in New Guinea and after some leave, reassembled at the Army's Jungle Warfare Centre at Canungra, Queensland.

This was a period of reorganisation for the Independent Companies as the 2/6th, along with the 2/3rd and 2/5th Independent Companies were brought together to form the 2/7th Cavalry (Commando) Regiment. Similarly, the title Independent Company was later changed to Cavalry (Commando) Squadron. By the end of the year the 2/6th Independent Company had become the 2/6th Cavalry (Commando) Squadron. This name was later simplified to just Commando Squadron. In the meantime, the 2/6th was preparing for its next campaign.

They sailed from Townsville for Port Moresby in August, and then, in the middle of September were flown to Leron, in the Markham Valley. The 2/6th was to support the 7th Division in its coming Ramu-Markham Valley campaign where it provided "flank" protection for the Division by carrying out reconnaissance and

long-range patrols, and, where necessary, capturing and holding ground. The 2/6th performed these roles well, particularly at Kaiapit, where, on 19 and 20 September, it captured the village and then repelled a large Japanese counter-attack.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

Dumpu, Ramu Valley, New Guinea, 21 March 1944.

Members of the 2/6th Commando Squadron pictured at Dumpu airstrip homeward bound. They have been in the valley since the Battle of Kaiapit eight months ago. Bernie is in this photo third row second last from the right side.

Image courtesy of Australian War Memorial.

Bernie joined the unit shortly after this big attack and participated in many patrols and small-scale offensive operations continuously until April 1944 when the squadron returned to Australia. For the remainder of 1944 and into early 1945, the 2/6th was based in the Mapee/Kairi area on the Atherton Tablelands, where it trained and conducted exercises with the rest of the 7th Division.

Between May and July 1945, the 7th and 9th Divisions made a series of amphibious landings on Borneo as part of the OBOE operations. The 7th Division landed at Balikpapan on 1 July and the 2/6th was attached to the 25th Brigade and went ashore on the second day of the battle. Over the next three weeks the squadron supported the Brigade in its advance along the Milford Highway. Among its other tasks, the 2/6th conducted many successful ambushes along Pope's Track.

Following Japan's surrender in early August and the end of the war, the ranks of the Squadron thinned quickly as men were discharged, transferred to other units, or volunteered for service in Japan with the British Commonwealth Occupation Force. Bernie was one of these and in November 1945 he transferred to 2/27th Australian Infantry Battalion which formed part of the occupation force in the Celebes until March



VALE – COLONEL JOHN E. HUTCHESON, MC.

3 RAR & 2 Commando Company

04 October 1927 – August 2020

John Hutcheson graduated from the Royal Military College (Duntroon) in 1947. Promoted to Captain in 1951, he graduated as Bachelor of Civil Engineering from the University of Sydney in 1952. After serving with the Occupation Forces in Japan John served with the British Commonwealth Forces and the Third Battalion RAR in Korea, and had a number of postings with the Royal Engineers in the United Kingdom.

Robert Macklin wrote, in *Keep off the Skyline* – the story of Ron Cashman and the Diggers in Korea, “The enemy was still very active, however, and 3RAR was instructed to continue the policy of aggressive patrolling to dominate no-man’s-land. The Pioneers - the battalion’s explosives experts, under the command of Captain John Hutcheson - were ordered to locate and mark the outer perimeter of the minefields”.

“Hutcheson brought a distinctive sangfroid to his dangerous work: he often ventured out on his own because of the danger to his men of unlocated mines, and on such missions, he always carried his toilet kit with him in case he was taken prisoner. One morning he was returning towards A Company’s position when a sentry opened fire on him. Major James Norrie, the Company Commander, apologised for the mistake. Hutcheson’s only comment was, ‘That man fires high and to the right’. He was later awarded the Military Cross”, Macklin wrote. The Aussie War Dogs Association wrote, “It is noteworthy that John must be the only person in military history who handled a war dog on operations at the rank of Captain and with a Military Cross”.

During 1955-56 as Major Hutcheson he trained with 42 Commando Royal Marines, undertaking various courses, including serving with 22 SAS in Malaya, before his posting as OC of 2 Commando Company in August 1956. He was already a qualified diver, and he and Mac Grant had done their basic parachute course together in Australia. John wrote, “When I took command the unit was located in a neat compact timber building at Picnic Point in Sandringham.”



COLONEL John Hutcheson, MC.
Pictured here as a Royal Australian Engineer.

He later wrote, “On the 15th October 1957, the depot and its contents were totally destroyed by fire.” “Incidentally, because we were about to run a 14-day course in the Sandringham Depot I placed all my records, photos, lecture notes etc in the depot on the Tuesday, the night of which the depot was destroyed. Those records included many photos and movies which I had taken from the time that I enlisted on the 24th February 1945. Hence, a valuable irreplaceable record, in particular photographic, was lost of the Korean War, RM Cdo Training, 22 SAS in Malaya – including trackers and the natives in the Jungle villages and more.”

Frank Read, Jim Trainor and others said, “I remember Major Hutcheson’s first weekend at Picnic Point - we all had to get around a Holden ute and lift it to shoulder height”. “And he marched us off the end of Brighton Pier, fully booted and geared up, as a fitness test.”

“During the 1958 Annual Camp the unit operated from the AV Vasse conducting water craft exercises in Western Port. Vasse went aground about 200 metres offshore near Cowes on Phillip Island. During the morning the press assembled in force with excellent coverage in the evening press”, Jim Trainor recalled. Those who served under John recall him with great affection and respect. John handed over the command of the Unit, with pride in a job well done, to Major Phillip Bennett on July 3rd 1958.

Following an interesting time as the OC of 2 Commando Company John filled senior postings in various Australian states, retiring from the ARA as Chief of Staff - Headquarters Communication Zone in 1973. John then served in various capacities with the CMF in NSW and retired from military service in 1982.

After his retirement from the ARA John filled senior positions in tertiary education at the University of New South Wales and in private enterprise. John and his wife Pauline had five children and six grandchildren.

All members of the Australian Commando Association, we extend our deepest sympathy to Pauline and all of John’s family.

Commando 4 Life



VALE – 37643 WO2 DERRILL de HEER

1 & 2 Commando Company's, 4 RAR/NZ, 8 RAR & 1 Psyops Unit

12 October 1943 – 29 September 2020

Dearest members. It is with regret that I inform you of the passing of 37643 Derrill de Heer who passed away peacefully on 29th of September 2020. Derrill served in 2 Cdo Coy from 1960 to 1962, again in from 1966 to 1969, 1 Cdo Coy from 1972 to 1975 and again in from 1976 to 1979. He enlisted as a recruit in mid-February 1961, under major Bennett. Remarkably, he completed his 21/61 Basic Parachute Course on June 2nd, (with Geoff Woodman, Peter Beasley, John Gray, et al) whilst still a recruit! Derrill became a Private in late June, and among other courses completed the Small-Scale Amphibious Raids course in December 1961 – again with Geoff Woodman, and also the Milliken brothers, Marshall Power and 'Danny' Daniliuc. It was a busy and high performing year for a young recruit.

One of Derrill's memorable occasions in 2 Commando Company occurred during an unarmed combat demonstration at the Royal Melbourne Show. Derrill raised his arm to fend off a simulated knife attack from Alan Leicester – using a real weapon – and in a split second the Fairbairn-Sykes knife had impaled his hand. LT Ted Malone immediately ushered the two shocked diggers off the mats, invited the crowd to applaud the departing pair and pushed the next demonstration duo on, to do their thing. The knifing happened so quickly that few realised the enormity of what occurred, as Derrill walked away with the blade of the knife protruding from the back of his hand. He was taken to hospital but suffered no serious damage. Derrill discharged in April 1962 to enlist in the ARA. He served in Malaya and completed two tours of duty in South Vietnam. He returned to 2 Cdo Coy and spent time with 1 Cdo Coy in a training role.

This from Bob Hall

“Over the last couple of months Derrill was aware that his health was declining but he continued to “live life to the full” with his beloved Christine and family. Over many months I chatted with him about life and death. He was very satisfied with his life and that he had managed to cram into it so many varied experiences, from his early army career, through business connections and finally in his academic career. He was particularly proud of his work with Operation Wandering Souls and he approached his death with equanimity”.

Derrill has been a long-standing UNSW @ ADFA Visiting Fellow from 2009-2020 – a big achievement. He has Master of Arts in History from UNSW. And



SGT Derrill de Heer in Phuoc Tuy province in 1970 before a parachute descent from a helicopter. He was a member of one of the pathfinder teams prior to an 8th ARVN (Airborne) Bn, mass jump.

was a Research Associate in a research team lead by Dr Bob Hall.

From November 1969 to April 1970 Sergeant Derrill De Heer worked in the Operations Section of the Battalion headquarters of 8 RAR churning out typewritten orders on Gestetner wax skins. Then he was posted to the formation of a new unit, the 1st Australian Psychological Operations Unit (1 Psyops Unit). He believed he got the job because he had previously served in Asian countries [Malaya and Thailand], was infantry, and intelligence-operator and signaller-trained. Derrill did a second tour in South Vietnam with 4 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Battalion as the unit Intelligence Sergeant.

A Celebration of Derrill's life will be held at a Commemorative Service in a few months' time.

From all members of the Australian Commando Association we extend our deepest sympathy to Christine and the family.

Commando 4 Life

-----COMMANDO FOR LIFE-----



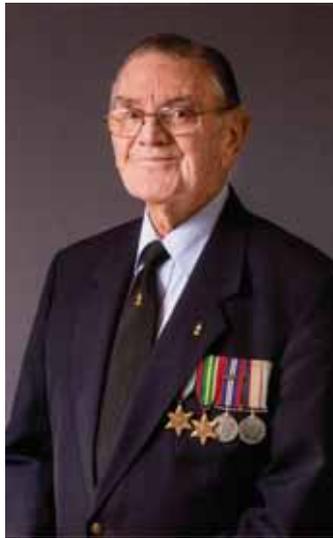
THE LAST OF THE VERY FIRST

ABLE SEAMAN MOSSTYN 'MOSS' BERRYMAN, MiD. THE LAST SURVIVING MEMBER OF A DARING MISSION OFF SINGAPORE

With the Australian and his comrades posing as Malay fishermen, Operation Jaywick destroyed or damaged 37,000 tons of Japanese Shipping

First published in 'The Telegraph' - 04 September 2020

Able Seaman Moss Berryman, who has died aged 96, was the last survivor of Operation Jaywick, perhaps the most long-ranged and audacious special forces raid of the Second World War. On April 7 1942, as soon as he could, Berryman volunteered for the Royal Australian Navy. He and his friend, Able Seaman Fred Marsh, were still under training in Melbourne when they heard that a British officer was looking for volunteers to do something special.



Able Seaman Mosstyn 'Moss' Berryman, MiD @ the AWM in 2016.

Image courtesy of the AWM.

Sent to Refuge Bay on the Hawkesbury River, north of Sydney, they discovered that they were members of Z Special Unit, or "Z Force", commanded by Major Ivan Lyon and part of Special Operations Australia, formed to operate behind Japanese lines in South East Asia. "My mate and I looked sideways at each other," he recalled. "We were basically Sunday school boys. We had no idea how we were going to learn to kill people."

However, on September 2 1943 Berryman, now a fully trained Commando, sailed north from Exmouth Gulf, Western Australia, in the 70ft MV *Krait*, a former Japanese fishing vessel, with seven other British and Australian Commandos from the Army and the Navy, and six boat's crew. Only once at sea did Lyon tell them that they were off to Singapore, some 3,500 miles away, "to blow up a few ships".

Berryman knew that the Japanese did not have a reputation for treating prisoners well, but, he said, "we were young ones, we thought we were indestructible, just like they do today," and Lyon maintained morale by insisting: "This isn't dangerous, it's exciting." "Still," recalled Berryman, "I think if we had known earlier some of us may not have volunteered. There were definitely times we thought, 'What the hell are we doing here? We're getting five bob a day for this?'"

The two-week voyage though Japanese-occupied

waters was uncomfortable. They flew the Japanese flag and posed as Malay fishermen, wearing sarongs and constantly applying foul-smelling brown dye to their skin. Berryman spent much time at the top of the mast with binoculars looking out for other craft, which would be given a wide berth. When, occasionally, a Japanese float plane flew over, members of Z Force would wave and stand in a circle pretending to unpick fishing lines.



OP Jaywick group shot, 1943.

Moss is top left & MAJ Lyons is centre front.

Image courtesy of the AWM

On September 18 the *Krait* arrived off Singapore – which was ablaze with lights and where the Japanese thought themselves safe – and offloaded six Commandos in three two-man canoes. Much to their disappointment, Berryman and Marsh were told to stay behind. "Of course, we put on a bit of a turn – 'We've done all the training, sir, why can't we be in it?' – and he said, 'Nope, you two are going to be babysitters and look after *Krait*'". The canoeists established a base in a cave on a small island, and on the night of September 26 they paddled into the harbour to attach limpet mines to seven vessels, sinking or damaging 37,000 tons of shipping.

However, when *Krait* reached its rendezvous, the island of Pompong, 50 miles off Singapore, on the night of October 1-2, only one canoe was found. Lyon had told *Krait* to leave that night no matter what – but "being good old Australians, we decided we'd break the law and go back in two nights later," when the other two canoes were recovered.

On the return voyage, a few minutes to midnight on October 11, a Japanese patrol boat intercepted *Krait*



in the Lombok Strait. As Berryman crouched low with his Bren gun trained on the warship, Lyon, who had packed *Krait's* bows with high explosive, prepared a suicide ramming which would have destroyed both vessels, but after the longest 15 minutes of Berryman's life the warship drew away without switching on a searchlight or hailing *Krait*. "It was pure luck," said Berryman.

Krait entered Exmouth Bay after a 48-day mission. Berryman was Mentioned in Despatches for gallantry, skill and devotion to duty in a hazardous enterprise. When later in 1943 Lyon asked Berryman whether he would care to return to Singapore as part of a larger, repeat mission, he carefully considered the proposal for two seconds before declining. All members of Operation Rimau were killed in action or executed by the Japanese. Instead, Berryman completed his war service in the destroyer HMAS *Vendetta*, and was demobbed in February 1946.



Some members of Operation Jaywick aboard the *Krait* en route to Singapore. The dye they used to disguise themselves required constant re-application. Moss Berryman is bottom right, applying dye to the back of a fellow Commando.
Image courtesy of the AWM

Post war Berryman returned to the stockbrokers SC Ward & Co, where he had been a clerk, and remained there until his retirement 46 years later. Berryman was aboard *Krait* when she entered Sydney in 1964 to become a museum ship, and in 1993, on the 50th anniversary of Operation Jaywick, he met Lyon's son – "the spitting image of his father" – at Kranji War Cemetery. Lyon's French wife, Gabrielle Bouvier, and their baby son, had spent the war in Japanese internment camps, and together Berryman and the son cried that the son had never met his heroic father.

Operation Jaywick, one of the most successful clandestine raids in Australian history, left a bitter aftermath. Lyon had intended that Jaywick be publicised to rattle the Japanese and boost Allied morale, but senior commanders decided against this as they wished to conduct similar raids in the future. Not having the slightest idea of how the attack had been mounted, the Japanese inflicted savage reprisals on Singaporeans, whom they suspected of aiding the attack. "Sometimes," a troubled Berryman mused in later life, "I feel that we shouldn't have done it because they murdered untold numbers of people trying to find out who did."

For many years Berryman was owed the five-bob-a-day danger money which he had been promised, and which the government topped up to A\$5,000. He married his childhood sweetheart, Mary Cant, who predeceased him in 2018, and he is survived by their four daughters.

Below: MV *Krait* at the ANMM, Darling Harbour, Sydney pre restoration.
Image courtesy of ANMM



A SEAMSTRESS GOES TO WAR IN A BATHTUB

Pseudo Operations – Aussie Style in 1943

By Ms Lynette Silver AM and MAJ Jim Truscott (Retd) ACA VIC

When approval was given for Operation Jaywick to sail under the enemy's flag in 1942, Mrs Manderson, the wife of SOE-Australia's Harry Manderson, was entrusted with the making, in total secret, of two Japanese flags. They were to be flown or displayed on an ex-Japanese fishing vessel, *Krait*, allowing the small ship to penetrate enemy waters with a special forces' raiding party, in order to attack enemy shipping in Singapore.

Before Mrs Manderson could create the flags, by stitching a red circle to a white background, she had to dye some fabric red, using the family bathtub in Melbourne's suburban Camberwell. The dye must have been of excellent quality, because it left a red tidemark, or ring, in the tub, which took months to disappear.

Mrs Manderson's flags were far too pristine to be flown on what was a supposedly scruffy, run down Japanese fishing boat. Before entering enemy waters, the Jaywick team applied liberal amounts of engine oil and scuffed the flags around the deck, until they resembled filthy rags.

One flag was then flown from the stern. The other was laid flat on the roof of the wheelhouse, where it could more easily be seen by Japanese reconnaissance aircraft.

After *Krait* returned from Singapore in October 1943, she was assigned to the Allied Intelligence Bureau's Luger Maintenance Station in Darwin. Before the crewmembers left the ship, Jaywick's 2IC, Lieutenant Commander Davidson, told them that they could take everything off the ship except her chronometer and her compass. Navigator Ted Carse souvenired one of the Japanese flags. Telegraphist Horrie Young took a small vice from the engine-room hatchway, which his son, Brian, still has.

We have no idea what has happened to the second flag but Brian Young seems to recall that his father also had a flag and that it may have been donated to the Australian war Memorial. If so, it is not recorded as being one of the 166 Japanese flags listed in the memorial's collection.

The only flag catalogued as having any connection with the ship is a white ensign flown on HMAS *Krait*. It was presented to the Memorial by Able Seaman Robert H Easom, who joined the naval component of SOA in late 1944 and was assigned to *Krait* in June 1945. When he left *Krait*, following her decommissioning at war's end, he took the ensign with him. It can be seen at <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1011697>

The Japanese flag that Carse souvenired, along with his medals, are now in Blue Burrige's safe in Swanbourne. It appears that the artefacts were acquired by a Sydney collector before Carse's death there in 1970. The flag is signed in two of the corners by Arthur Jones, DSM, and Horrie Young, Leading Telegraphist, RANR.

Henry (Harry) Manderson, an exceptionally well-travelled and well-connected journalist/ publisher/ inventor/ aviator who also had interests in Timor Oil, was associated with SOE-Australia from its inception, and then SOA. He was on headquarters' staff and was head of the Timor Section, having extensive knowledge of that country.

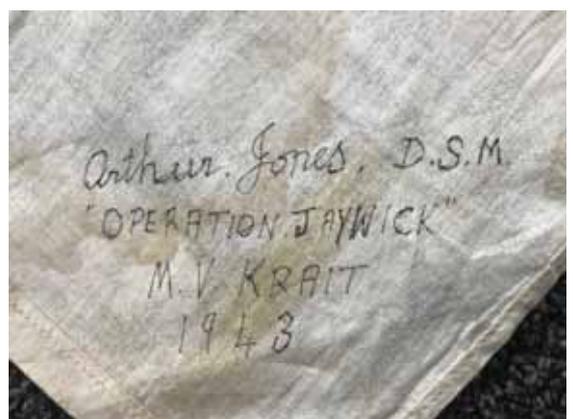
Mrs Manderson's sewing skills were brought into the fore once more in 1944, for Operation Rimau. Once more using the family bathtub to dye the fabric, staining it again, in the process, she produced another Japanese "poached egg" flag, along with a Port of Singapore Registration flag - a white pennant with grey lines, a red star



Brian Young (L) and John Burrige, 11 August 2020, holding one of the two Japanese flags that were aboard the MV *Krait*.



Signature of LS Telegraphist Horrie Young on bottom right of Japanese flag.



Signature of Arthur Jones, DSM on bottom right of Japanese flag.



and oriental characters. However, the skipper of *Mustika*, the Indonesian vessel the Rimau team used to enter the islands off Singapore, advised that if a Japanese vessel approached they must have no more than three men on deck, display no flags or signals, and keep on sailing.

In the final analysis, the flags were of no consequence. Caught on a slack tide as they passed a village, they were spotted by a Japanese collaborator, who realised that white men were on board the vessel, and raised the alarm. The two unused flags were tossed into a folboat by Davidson, as the Rimau men split up and fled. What became of them is not known.



The medals of Lieutenant Ted Casse. Note the Commando Cross of Valour on the left.

COMMANDO FOR LIFE

ADDITIONAL COMMANDO NEWS

Blast From The Past

Balik Papan Commando Thrills

Article supplied by Debbi Nicol, daughter of TPR Dave 'Shorty' Amor 2/7th Cdo Sqn - WW2.

BALIK PAPAN COMMANDO THRILLS

From Rupert Charlett, a War Correspondent of "The Mercury."

BALIK PAPAN, Fri.—Commandoes fight their own particular brand of warfare, and their part in the Balik Papan campaign is no exception. In some situations only infantry tactics suffice, and whole sections depend on individual acts of gallantry.

SGT DICK McLAUCHLIN, of Brisbane, was leader of a section which was ambushed by 40 Japs. McLauchlin and his 14 men had only one Bren, seven rifles, and several Owen guns against the Japs' one heavy and three light machine-guns, but they fought an hour and a half, allowing two other sections to get out. McLauchlin then joined the other sections, dragging a wounded companion and firing his Owen gun. McLauchlin organised another rear-guard stand to enable a wounded man to be taken to safety. Next day a stronger force of commandoes hung the Japs from the ridge, causing heavy casualties.

COMMANDO tactics brought heavy Jap fire on a small group, and for many minutes there was a desperate fight for a ledge.

Sgt Dick McLauchlin during the height of the battle shot one Jap and heard Tpr Dave ("Shorty") Amor, of Ballarat, call out "McLauchlin I was thinking that Jap (or have you)?"

Tpr Hc. Hoistin, of Malvern (NSW), another commando, was about to fire his rifle when a Jap bullet passed between his legs, smashing the rifle without injuring him.

Two days later he was saving covering fire in one of our patrols when an enemy bullet crashed into the dash of his Bren gun, smacking but not injuring him.

Tpr Harry Boyle, of Albany (NSW), was collecting unit gear when a Jap made a wild charge, unable to reach his rifle in time, tackled the Jap with his fists and a three night was in progress when two companions at close range killed the Jap with Owen guns.

Boyle was deafened by the noise and two days later when his companions dived for cover as bullets whistled past Boyle was sitting calmly on a log. He had not heard the enemy bullets and a companion had to signal him to take cover.

Tpr Jack Noorman, of Bairnsdale (V), on patrol came on a Jap machine-gunner and promptly emptied his Owen gun magazine of 39 rounds into him.

Noorman turned to the commanding officer and asked: "Do you think it necessary for us to confirm that he is dead?"

Tpr Joe (Smokey) Greene, of Melbourne, has never been permitted to forget the time when he was pinned down for 20 minutes by an orangutang which he mistook for a Jap.

His companions vouch for this story against Tpr Arthur Childs, of Sydney. Exasperated by a Jap machine-gunner whose bullets were ripping into the trunks of trees 10ft above his foxhole, Childs called out "Down 100."

The Jap stopped firing for a few moments and then bullets splattered round Childs' foxhole.

Since then Tpr Childs has let enemy snipers work out the range for themselves.

SEARCH FOR MISSING CHILD

DENTINE PLIMING, who is in charge of the search for Evelyn Manning (7), of 100 Goulburn St., Hobart, who has been missing since July 2, said last night that people travelling at the weekend might keep a look out for anything which was likely to prove a clue to the girl's disappearance.

It was possible, he said, that the girl's hat might be found. It was a yellow straw hat with flowers round the brim. Anyone finding such a hat should report it to the police without delay.

There was great interest in the case through Tasmania as well as up the mainland, he said. Yesterday he had received a letter from Port Pirie, South Australia, setting out a theory about the child's disappearance.

Sgt Anthony of the Glenorchy Police, said yesterday he received a telephone message from an unknown person last night that he had seen that morning what resembled a body on the shore of Knights Bay, Claremont.

The object was near a tree, and a seagull was beside it. Sgt Anthony visited the vicinity last night, and made a search near the tree, but because of the high tide could not discern any object resembling that mentioned by the anonymous telephone caller.

A big flock of gulls was flying and screaming about 50 yards off shore.

The police launch will search the waters of the bay this morning.

For Coughs, Colds, Remedy Woods' Great Peppermint Cure

—ADVL

Original article written by Rupert Charlett, a war correspondent of 'The Mercury' Newspaper.



EIGHT MEN DROPPED FROM THE SKIES – PART 3

THE SILENT KILLERS OF THE BORNEO JUNGLE

By MAJ TOM HARRISSON, DSO. MBE. Z Special Unit ~ WW2

Edited by Doug Knight – President ACA VIC

By May 1945, from our headquarters up in the rich Shangri-La tableland of interior Borneo, our tentacles reached far out in every direction, softly creeping around the unsuspecting Japanese on the coasts. We had several hundred organised blow-pipers, and a whole nation ready to co-operate when required. Yet the Japs remained peacefully unaware of it. When at last arms began to come in by plane three or four times a week, the hill tribes became almost overwhelmed with .303 rifles, Brens, Owens and Austens, carbines, two-inch mortars, pistols and silent-killer Welrods, grenades and phosphorus bombs.

Natives Quick To Learn

Our guerrilla troops naturally, had no knowledge of such triggerry things. Apart from a few shotguns owned by the rich upper classes, the machines of western civilisation have passed by Central Borneo and left no trace.



OP Semut 1 Personnel at Labuan, November 1945.
Image: Courtesy of the AWM #AWM2017-7-126

But the speed with which those people acquainted themselves with modern weapons was extraordinary. In half an hour an illiterate Kelabit, knowing nothing of mechanics; could learn how to strip and assemble a Bren gun. It took me a fortnight to learn how when I was a private! To master little things like sub-machineguns and pistols was for them often a matter of minutes. And the trouble they took to keep their weapons clean! The danger was that a man would clean and polish his rifle to pieces.

Before D-Day in June we staged several special raids to collect Jap auxiliaries for intelligence, but we avoided any regular Jap post, or anything that would make the Japs suspicious of what was going on. One raid gave great pleasure to our own forces and caused terrible frustration among the Japs. For we captured a party of top-line dancing-girls going to a Japanese banquet for a

very important visiting officer. After D-Day we had a "Yellow Slave" group which specialised in snatching Japanese women. They made good jungle charwomen. Although our native troops proved to be brilliant at mastering the handling of our arms, they were morons when we started them shooting. At 100 yards a man-sized target was never hit by anyone - or anything. Even at 30 yards the keenest soldier seldom managed to register a hit. This was an unexpected turn of events. How could we send such men into any organised action? But they refused to go back to their blowpipes. The blowpipe was by now infra dig, a weapon for second-line troops and the Pioneer Corps. So, I took a chance and one anxious day sent the first team to do an experimental ambush. These strange, sensible people did not let us down. First time they opened fire they shot true and dead - 100 per cent success. As they apologetically explained - once they saw a real live man down the sights there was no question of missing their mark. But with a cardboard dummy there just wasn't any incentive.

Thrill Of The Trigger Pull

The irregular troops became extremely effective with .303 rifles, but never with sub-machine guns, because they were so fascinated by the thrill of squeezing the trigger that they fired off the whole magazine in one burst. Their superb skill in jungle movement, shadowing, stalking, playing silent tip-and-run, gave them every advantage. They could travel for days in the jungle, barefoot, in a loincloth, carrying a few pounds of rice, or living on wild sago, jungle fruit, game. Once in an attack on a Jap post an elderly native soldier was slightly wounded and lost touch with the main force. After a week he was given up as lost. The inland people celebrate death, in fact everything, with marathon drinking parties. They consume oceans of rice wine. On this occasion the old chap arrived home and found, to his indignation, all his in-laws gloriously drunk, feasting on the last of his pigs and fowls. During the whole eight days he had had no



OP Semut Personnel Train Kelabit Guerrillas
in Northern Borneo in 1945.
Image: Courtesy of the AWM



proper food and had to cut his way right across the great jungle ranges. Yet three days later, having drowned his troubles in pork and wine, he was back in service. The ambush, the slit-throat, or jungle-shadow sniping unnerved the Japs most. It often led them to make ridiculous mistakes, largely because they did not realise that the natives were well organised, armed and led. Long after D-Day they were still thinking that any regular attack from the rear was something purely local, from fellows who had happened to get some weapons.

The Way To Treat Tribesmen

As we armed more and more natives, over a larger and larger area, leader-ship became correspondingly more important. Each group of guerrillas became personally attached to a particular officer or N.C.O. of our irregular parachute force. Strange brigadiers meant nothing in their lives. Any sensible white man can control such tribes provided he does not shout at them or throw his weight about and is honest and straightforward. The idea that a white man among native peoples must always show his superiority is out of date and absurd. Some of the chaps that were parachuted into my command started off with this arrogant point of view. They were very soon changing it. I have spent a lot of my life among native peoples in Borneo and other parts of the world. As a result, I am sure the best way to get on anywhere is to behave as the natives do. Respect their manners and observe their customs. If you do sensibly you automatically have prestige and control, because they regard the white man as richer, stronger and more clever than themselves. You actually gain respect if at the same time you can fraternise, learn to dance their dances, sing their songs, drink their chiefs under the bamboo table. The basic law of Borneo society is this: The best man is the last one to pass out!



A rare wartime photo of MAJ. Tom Harrison in North Borneo 1945.
Image Source: <https://www.pbs.org/wnet/secrets/the-airmen-and-the-headhunters-image-gallery/475/>

'Aussies' Are Fine Soldiers

I had never had much to do with Australians before. Like any good Pommy as the Aussies call us - I had been brought up to believe that the Tommy was the finest soldier in the world. There are no finer soldiers than the Australians. Their greatest quality is initiative. More difficult to discipline than the Tommy this makes them all the better for leading others. When things got really hectic, I used to have Australians dropped to me by

parachute. Some, like Corporal Sterelny, had never dropped by parachute before, and volunteered for the job without training. After only an hour's briefing, I would send each one of them off, with a bunch of native troops, to hold a remote pass, or to contain a Jap post 100 miles away over the mountains. They hardly ever failed to make a job of it. On my side, I always knew that I had done a decent job by a Digger if he ended up by calling me "Sir". Bosses aren't officially recognised in Australia. Any Aussie officer can take it as a compliment if he is called "Sir". For an Englishman, it is a positive bouquet. The only serious defect of the Australian soldier is his tin obsession. Even in the midst of plenty he would rather have tinned pork and beans than fresh. The calmest soldier I know, ultra-tough Paratroop Sergeant Bill Nibbs, once, and only once, to my knowledge, got into a panic when we were in a difficult spot with some Japs. After we had sorted out the frantic whirlwind of his neurosis, it turned out he had lost his tin-opener!

The Torturer Caught At Brew"

One day in June 1945 the Australians landed at Brunei, Weston and Beaufort. Simultaneously, our guerrilla forces struck from the rear. We took the Japs completely by surprise. Aussie Lieutenant Rob Pinkerton bagged at his breakfast a notorious Japanese officer who had tortured many of his troop's own tribesmen. Our success was almost embarrassing. Especially to the Australian Regular Forces. For example, Lawas was a key point in the centre of Brunei Bay. In due course a large Australian Regular Force,



The Five 'Other Ranks' of the original Semut II Party. Sergeant Bob Long, Sergeant Wally Pare, Warrant Officer Shorty Horsnell, Sergeant The Soen Hin and Sergeant Abu Kassim.
Image courtesy: Voices from Borneo
- By Jim Truscott

accompanied by two-gun boats, came upriver to take Lawas. They found a wild, unshaven corporal of mine, surrounded by even wilder and nearly naked hill guerrillas, living in state off the relics of the Japanese occupation in the Residency. Australian patrols cautiously advancing from the coast would meet up with one of our chaps leading an irregular force, who might well be singing and perhaps carrying a couple of fresh Jap heads. Some of my fellows, like W.O. MacPherson, became almost mythical figures in Australian Army eyes. But the brass hats found it rather humiliating when an N.C.O. taking his commands by wireless from an unseen Englishman 100 miles away in the unknown hinterland, was found gently asleep in solitary occupation of the target area, for which Divisional H.Q. had detailed an infantry company with several support groups.

PART 4 - FAREWELL TO SHANGRI-LA
AND THE WHITE MAN'S FRIENDS
TO BE CONCLUDED IN EDITION #005, JANUARY 2020



CHASING DOWN THE FUJINO COMPANY

The Last Japanese Company to Surrender in Borneo

An extract from 'To Kill The Major' by Paul Malone

In August 1945 atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Soviet Union invaded Manchuria and Emperor Hirohito finally surrendered. But the war in Borneo did not end with the broadcast of Hirohito's surrender speech on 15th August, nor with the signing of the surrender documents aboard the battleship USS Missouri on 2nd September. Two renegade companies of Japanese troops numbering some 570 people refused to surrender and headed into the mountains. On their way they pillaged villages and killed locals, many of whom had supported Australian and New Zealand guerrillas who had been dropped behind enemy lines.

With Hirohito's surrender the Ninth Division was under pressure from the Australian Government to minimise casualties. In September Japanese generals in Kutching, Labuan, Jesselton and Tenom surrendered and the following month Ninth Division commander, Major General George Wootten ordered all allied guerrilla forces out of the field by 15 October. To the Semut 1 guerrillas under British Major Tom Harrison the order amounted to betrayal. They had been dropped behind Japanese lines in March and found loyal local supporters. With these tribal warriors the 42 ANZAC guerrillas had taken control of 41,000 square kilometres of Borneo and killed over 1000 Japanese. Now they were being asked to disarm their supporters, pick up their gear and abandon the villages to the mercy of two ruthless companies of Japanese troops. The guerrillas had no doubts about how ruthless their foes could be. In late August Sergeant Fred Sanderson, who ran an Iban guerrilla force on the Limbang River, encountered the renegade companies as they made their way inland.

With the AIF now withdrawn from his region, and finding a large party of Japanese troops moving at a slow pace down the Madalam River with Kayan prisoners out front and women in the rear, Sanderson told his men that he would approach the party. His Iban would not hear of it. Instead three of his men volunteered for the mission. The Japanese were led by Lieutenant (later Captain) Tsunekichi Fujino, who was commissioned in 1935 and had previously spent nearly three years serving in China. In early July, after the AIF landing on the west coast, the Fujino Tai (Company) joined a company led by Lieutenant Eikichi Kamimura. Accounts vary a little about what happened, but there is no dispute that Fujino was told that the war was over and all would be well if his men laid down



MAJ Tom Harrison at the OP Semut 1 Base, Borneo 1945.
Image courtesy of Paul Malone

their arms. According to one account there were envoys and Fujino had all four executed. In his post-war recollections Sanderson says three Iban went in and were taken prisoner and tied up. One was untied to relieve himself and made a break for it, returning with a bullet graze. He reported that Fujino did not believe their story because the message they conveyed did not have the Emperor's 'chop' on it. The other two were executed. Iban recollections recorded after the war are that Tuan Sandy ordered five people to take a letter to the Japanese leader instructing them to surrender. When they arrived at the longhouse three of them were held and shot while Limping and Ujih escaped.

Guerrilla leader Tom Harrison had nothing but contempt for the withdrawal order. He had no intention of pulling his men out of their Bawang Valley headquarters, deep in the jungle covered mountains of central Borneo. He told headquarters it was quite impossible to finish the job by 15 October and requested that a small volunteer nucleus remain. He also signalled his men: "Under no circumstances allow anyone to rush us. I insist on time. We refuse to leave until satisfied job is decently and honourably discharged. Do not hesitate to take strong action including reinforcements where Japs threaten!"

The day after receiving the order from the Ninth Division to withdraw Harrison's second in command, Flight Lieutenant Paul Bartram also sent a message to the Semut guerrillas telling them that Harrison was away down the Kayan River and could not be



CAPT Tsunekichi Fujino
Image courtesy of Paul Malone



LT Eikichi Kamimura
Image courtesy of Paul Malone



contacted: "I am banking on him being retained," Bartram said. "In any case I know he would take a Court Martial rather than leave this area without seeing that it is cleared up." He added that he had no information on the surrender of the Fujino company. "A party of 400 is being left in Sarawak, as far as I can gather and we are not allowed to touch them. An envoy is doing something about it, but we are to go whether he is successful or not. I'm not going to tell you how everyone feels about these orders and what effect they will have. It is too painfully obvious. But I am powerless to do anything about them, as I think A1 [Harrison] will be. The trouble is that he is out of the picture of recent events."

But Harrison was not out of the picture. He confronted the Acting GOC Ninth Division on or about 12 October. The officer first tried to dismiss his concerns as of no importance. "Oh, there are only a hundred of them Harrison, and they are in very poor condition," he said. "In any case they are obviously making for Jap GHQ on the BNB [Sapong Estate British North Borneo] border where we can round them up at our leisure." "You may be right Sir," said Harrison, "but my information is that there are more like 400 of them." He added that he did not believe Fujino wanted to give in, and his company was stealing the natives' food and leaving them with nothing, to which the Acting GOC replied: "Well, damn it all, Harrison, the Japs must eat, mustn't they?" The confrontation worked. Harrison was given permission to return to the interior with two volunteers. Here he was extremely lucky in the quality of his recruits Major Rex Blow and Sergeant W.G.P. (Bill) Nibbs, an experienced member of the Semut team.

At Labuan Harrison had the good fortune to meet up with Blow, a tall assured athletic blond who was fast on his feet. Blow already had a record that would make him stand out in Australia's military history. He had been captured at the fall of Singapore and sent to Sandakan, but escaped soon after his arrival. He and seven other escapees were welcomed by a band of Moro guerrillas in the islands between north Borneo and the Philippines. The escapees refused the opportunity to be evacuated to Australia by submarine, instead joining the guerrillas and helping train them and organise their campaign of harassing the Japanese. Eventually flown to the Allies' base of Morotai, Blow and his colleagues were ordered to take leave in Australia. But that was not the end of Blow's service. Despite having spent two years fighting in the Philippines, he volunteered to return to north Borneo



MAJ Rex Blow DSO.
Image courtesy: AWM

to command an Agas unit, (a brother guerrilla operation to Semut, run by the Services Reconnaissance Department) to gather information on the Japanese still holding prisoners at Sandakan.

By October 1945, with the war officially over, Blow was ready to call it a day. But as fate would have it he bumped into Harrison in Labuan who told him of his need for two volunteers. "No way," Blow replied. He was tired and wanted a break. The little leave he had previously taken had been hurried affairs. Now he needed a bit of time to sort things out and relax. But as Blow said later, "the bastard had a bottle of whisky and by the time we'd finished it, I'd agreed to go!" As Harrison saw it, Blow was essential to his mission. The 9th Division – now under the command of Brigadier-General W.J. V. Windeyer, a lawyer in civilian life – was not enthusiastic about their action. The AIF command had repeatedly queried Semut's estimates of the forces they confronted and Harrison wanted a respected Australian to verify his account. Strictly speaking, the Semut guerrillas were no longer operational and their tribal allies were being disarmed. But Harrison still had key forces in place, not least to the south-east in the mountains at the headwaters of the Trusan and Limbang rivers, where Bartram was running Semut 1 headquarters, supported by long-standing loyal locals. After some difficulties Harrison finally got through to Bartram, who he found fully alert. There was no certainty as to the course the Japanese would take. The AIF command was of the opinion that they would head to the Sapong Estate, where the Japanese Commander in Chief, General Baba, had had his headquarters, and they would surrender there. But this was not what they were actually doing. Slogging through the equatorial jungle, with its extreme heat and high humidity, they were in great need of salt. Locals told them there were salt springs further upriver. From past experience, they had also become highly fearful of guerrilla ambush. They had been unable to contact another Japanese company that had set out before them and the natives told them this force had suffered heavy casualties. As a result they decided to push inland up the wide Trusan Valley.

On 20 October Harrison, Blow, Nibbs, and Lieutenant Dick Thomas, who volunteered to go as a radio operator, and 20 native troops left Lawas to head up the Trusan. They were accompanied by a highly-educated English-speaking Japanese officer, with orders signed by General Baba, telling Fujino to surrender at once. Leaflets were air-dropped, but drew no response. As they travelled they were greeted with enthusiasm. Along the way they recruited Murut, Kelabit, and Iban and other individuals who had already served with them, such as the "lion-hearted" Sikh, Jita Singh. Harrison was supposed to have only personal arms and certainly nothing that would enable "aggressive" action, let alone this private army. On route they found much of the native population had gone bush. A Malay ex-Dutch army escapee, Sergeant





An Iban warrior with a perang.
Image courtesy of Paul Malone

Cusoy, was at Long Beluyo and he and reliable locals told them the Japanese were three or four days ahead. But the party had to wait to allow the wireless operator and food to catch up. "This area has been devastated by the Japs, who threw what padi [rice] they could not carry into the river." Harrison wrote in his official report.

Heavy October rains flooded every stream and tributary making it a difficult trip, but four days hard-going brought them to Long Semadoh. Weather conditions were not their only problem. Harrison was still having trouble with the 9th Division. Running a private war in peacetime he observed: "I was excessively bothered by trying to keep the peace with the 9th Division and avoid their reaching a state of nerves where they would actually call the whole thing off." He left the chase to try to get across the complete picture to the 9th while Blow and their recruits maintained the pursuit up the Kelalan River, a tributary of the Trusan with the settlement of Ba Kelalan at its head. Near Long Semadoh the radio operator brought Blow the news that his father had died, making him doubly angry that he had agreed to the jaunt.

In the mountains at Belawit headquarters, Bartram was also planning to halt the Japanese should they come his way. He sent New Zealander Frank Leckie to Ba Kelalan to take charge of native troops, who

reported that the Japanese were some 20 kilometres to the north at Long Beluyu. A few days later Bartram joined Leckie and was told that the Japanese had started to move their way. If they kept going they would bump into an ambush. Leckie returned to Belawit to oversee a planned "denial scheme." Bartram, an RAAF administrative officer with no army training, sat in a good position on a lonely hill overlooking the track the Japanese were surely bound to use. In front of him lay a stretch of about 1000 yards of open padi fields flanked by jungle-covered hills, which the main force would have to cross. Alongside him stood an Indonesian Sergeant with the Bren gun – with a maximum range of 1,850 yards and most effective range of 600 yards – and about 100 natives armed with rifles and submachine guns. An advance native patrol was assigned to nip back and give good warning of the Japanese arrival.

On 25 October they reported that the Japanese were coming. "Presently we saw a few little waddling figures issuing forth along the track into the open padi fields," Bartram wrote later. "We did not open fire immediately and more and more of them followed behind. We waited until the forward bunch was well within range and then, two months and ten days after the 'Cease Fire' had flashed around the world, we opened up on them with the Bren." He recalled that he did not



Penghulu Lawai Bisari
Image courtesy of Paul Malone

know how many were hit with these first few bursts but those that were not slid quickly into the flooded padi. The ambush was in a commanding position and they could see the strike of the Bren bullets on the water, allowing accurate fire wherever there was movement. But demonstrating the failings of untrained troops, Bartram's men began casually strolling away from their hidden jungle positions on his flanks. Finally the Japanese opened up with something that sounded like a mortar, and although Bartram saw no bomb blast he decided that they could not hold their position until nightfall, and



ANDYWORKS
YOUR JOB IS OUR PRIDE

FRANCHISES AVAILABLE

1300 644 997



reluctantly withdrew. Nevertheless, he felt they had achieved their objective of slowing the enemy down and helping the pursuing force catch up.

The second ambush position at Ba Kelalan was also a good one, overlooking padi fields. Native troops stayed in position throughout the night, expecting the Japanese to arrive soon after breakfast. Having experienced a baptism of fire, the locals were much steadier. The Japanese were stopped by the first burst of the Bren gun and retired out of range. Each time one moved to within range he was greeted with a burst of fire and either bobbed down or was killed. That night Bartram went to bed in the Ba Kelalan longhouse, but was awakened by natives who told him that Japanese had crept up and jumped his men while having their evening meal. Two Murut men were lost in the attack. The denial scheme was swinging into full operation, with stores being dispersed in the jungle. The wireless station was moved to the next settlement of Long Bawang, and Bartram and Leckie planned to set up a new headquarters there. But on their first night the Indonesian sergeant burst in, telling them that the Japanese had left Ba Kelalan and were coming their way. But they did not. The pursuing force, with Harrison now back, had caught up and engaged in sporadic clashes. Almost out of ammunition, the Japanese could hold out no more. At Ba Kelalan, four kilometres from Sarawak's border with Kalimantan, the Japanese envoys, who had been travelling with Blow and Harrison, sloshed across the padi fields waving a

large white flag. The envoys were armed for their own protection as they considered it possible that they could be ill-received.

Their fears were not unwarranted as they were first received with hostility and suspicion. Fujino refused to surrender. But as it turned out, his second in command, Lieutenant Kamimura, knew an envoy personally and persuaded Fujino that he should obey his General's orders. With the same white flag, a messenger trudged back across the fields in full view of both sides. In what Harrison describes as a "highly inconsequential ceremony" the Japanese commander handed him his sword. (In their discussions with the envoy, Fujino and Kamimura acknowledged having read the leaflets dropped earlier in the month. Under interrogation later in the year Fujino claimed it was not until his surrender day that he had received what he considered to be a suitable, authentic surrender order.) On the cleared ground, on the last day of October, 346 Japanese paraded, stacking their firearms and swords. It was, more than two months after the war's official end. Fujino and Kamimura's obstinacy had cost their own forces 200 dead, and caused much pain, loss, and injury to the native people they encountered on their trek.

Release Date: 01 July 2020 By - For Pity Sake Publishing Pty Ltd, Web: www.forpity sake.com.au Distributed In Australia By - Novella Distribution, Email: sales@novelladistribution.com.au

----- COMMANDO FOR LIFE -----



RFSG HQ

REGIONAL FORCE SURVEILLANCE GROUP (RFSG)

THE TOP END RECONNAISSANCE, SURVEILLANCE & INTELLIGENCE GATHERERS



NORFORCE

The Regional Force Surveillance Group (RFSG) was formally established on 4 October 2018 to Command the Australian Army Reserve's three Regional Force Surveillance Units and a training unit. The RFSG forms part of the 2nd Division. The RFSG is tasked "to provide a littoral surveillance and reconnaissance capability in Australia's north and northwest in order to support whole-of-government efforts to maintain national sovereignty and border security".



PILBRA REGT

The three Regional Force Surveillance Units conduct operational patrols as part of Operation Resolute. Upon formation, the Regional Force Surveillance Group comprised:

- Group Headquarters located at Larrakeyah Barracks in Darwin
- NORFORCE (Responsible for the Northern Territory and Kimberley region of Western Australia)
- The Pilbara Regiment (Responsible for the Pilbara region of Western Australia)
- 51st Battalion, Far North Queensland Regiment (Responsible for North Queensland)
- Indigenous Development Wing



51 FNOR

The Group headquarters provides a single formation headquarters to formalise command and control arrangements and knowledge sharing between the three units. The Indigenous Development Wing is responsible for delivering key training programs to Indigenous Australian soldiers across the Army and running the Regional Force Surveillance Group Education and Development Course. It was also established on 4 October 2018.





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

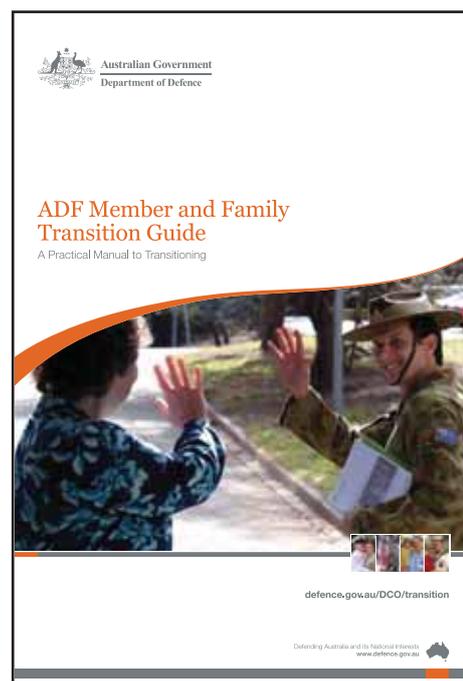
ADF Transition Seminar

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 requirement. It includes checklists to help you navigate transition process.



A VICTORIA CROSS, TIMOR & THE INDEPENDENT COMPANIES IN WW2

By Roger Spence – Ex 126 Sig Sqn

As of September 2020, Roger is currently undertaking a Postgraduate “Master of War Studies” at the University of New South Wales (ADFA). He has previously served as a Reservist in the 1st Commando Regiment as a Patrol Signaller with 126 Signal Squadron.

“Teddy died, but none of us who survived, I am sure, will ever forget his gallant deed...”

Ordinary Seaman R. M. Caro, PM4100, crew member of HMAS Armidale, December 1942

In August 2020, Ordinary Seaman Edward “Teddy” Sheean was finally, after 78 years, awarded the Royal Australian Navy’s first (and only) Victoria Cross, for an “act of valour that was truly extraordinary” on 1st December, 1942 onboard HMAS *Armidale* as she rapidly sank into the Timor Sea. This honour followed another first, since the 1999 naming of the Collins Class Submarine HMAS *Sheean* after Teddy is still the only Australian naval vessel named after a sailor, it’s appropriate motto being “Fight On”. At just eighteen years of age (the ship’s youngest crewman), Teddy helped free his ship’s small motor-boat whilst under fire from Japanese aircraft, and then dashed back to his action station at *Armidale*’s rear anti-aircraft gun, blazing away at the Japanese fighter and torpedo bomber aircraft which were strafing the men already in the water but losing his own life in the process. Teddy Sheean who went down with the ship, strapped to his gun, firing at the enemy to the very end. Teddy was Tasmanian, and it would be hard to imagine a final resting place further from home than the warm tropical waters somewhere between Darwin and the southern coast of Timor.

His courageous and selfless actions drove off the attacking planes, certainly saved the lives of many men, and indeed the motor-boat he helped to free did in fact make it to safety four days later with 20 survivors on board, including the *Armidale*’s Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Commander David H Richards. This in itself was an incredible feat of maritime endurance by the survivors, with little food, water, or protection from the scorching December sun. Miraculously an additional 29 blistered and salt-encrusted men were rescued from the ship’s whaling boat a further 4 days later on the 9th of December, however 100 souls were lost at sea, including Teddy.

This tragic episode in our military history was also a dramatic example of how global this conflict really was. Teddy probably didn’t know it at the time, but the 20mm Oerlikon Canon that he was firing was of German design, and an almost identical gun was potentially being fired back at him by the attacking Japanese fighters since the Mitsubishi A6M Zero was armed with its own Swiss produced version of the Oerlikon. That Teddy’s ship, an Australian built “Bathurst Class” minesweeper corvette with a crew of 83, was also carrying three AIF soldiers, two Dutch



Ordinary Seaman Edward Sheean – Marsh, Dale, 1978. Depicts the figure of Ordinary Seaman Edward Sheean, HMAS ‘Armidale’ from back half prone on deck at stern of ship dressed only in shorts and boots, a wound on his right thigh, firing an Oerlikon anti-aircraft gun at Japanese bombers; a number of seamen are in the water having abandoned ship. Retrieved from Australian War Memorial under Licenced Copyright:

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C172710?image=1>

Army officers and 61 Indonesian (Netherlands East Indies) troops to be landed on Portuguese Timor only serves to further highlight how complex and interconnected World War Two was.

Teddy’s ship was taking part in Operation HAMBURGER, which was the codename given to the ongoing naval supply, reinforcement and ultimate extraction of the exhausted and depleted Australian 2/2nd Independent Company (2/2nd) who had been fighting a guerrilla war against the Japanese in the mountains of enemy occupied Timor since February 1942, as well as a number of Dutch colonial troops who had been working with the 2/2nd and some Portuguese civilians wanting to flee the Japanese occupation. Importantly, HMAS *Armidale* was ferrying the detachment of Dutch officers and Indonesian troops so they could relieve the 2/2nd on Timor and work with the 2/4th Independent Company (2/4th) who had been deployed on the island since September of 1942.

The frequent inter-dependence of combined operations is spotlighted by the Independent Companies and their efforts on Timor. Contact had been lost with “Sparrow Force” (a battalion from the doomed 2nd AIF’s 8th Division along with some Dutch troops and the





HMAS Kuru – Sydney, NSW, c.1938. Port side view of the Northern Territory Administration Vessel Kuru. She was later commissioned as a Patrol Vessel by the RAN.

(Naval Historical Collection, Print provided Mr J. James, Public Relations Office, Garden Island.). Retrieved from Australian War Memorial: <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C227874>

Australian 2/2nd Independent Company) in February 1942, however once the 2/2nds ingenious Signaller Loveless had cobbled together a working wireless set (affectionately known as “Winnie the War Winner”) and re-established contact with Darwin in April, efforts were made to commence urgent airdrops for critically needed ammunition and other supplies. In May, a regular system of supply via the sea from HMAS Kuru, a small naval launch, was established. Kuru also participated in multiple Allied Intelligence Bureau operations.

It cannot be under-estimated how dangerous these re-supply missions were for both the naval personnel and the Commandos involved, since both would be concentrated in a small area, usually on a broad beach at Betano on the south coast of Timor, making them extremely vulnerable to attack. This was well within range of the patrolling Japanese aircraft and the Commandos themselves were under almost constant pressure from Japanese land forces and hostile local inhabitants as well. Even the thought of undertaking multiple runs from Darwin, across almost 670km of open ocean, under skies full of Japanese aircraft, to the beach at Betano in a small, slow, wooden hulled launch like HMAS Kuru seems exceptionally brave in itself, especially given that the craft was fragile enough to eventually sink in a storm while at floating dock in 1943!

The 2/2nd were expecting to see the Armidale on the night of 30th November to help extract around 190 Dutch troops as well as 150 Portuguese civilians, however only the Kuru arrived, since Armidale and a sister corvette HMAS Castlemaine had been delayed by aggressive air attack from the Japanese. The Armidale did in fact arrive in Betano Bay, but by then the Kuru had already left the area. Although approximately 70 Portuguese women and children were loaded successfully onto the Kuru that night, the 2/2nd

men must surely have been jittery knowing that something was clearly going wrong with the plan. When originally told in late November of their imminent extraction from Timor, the 2/2nd had replied asking to make sure there were “duplicate paybooks waiting for the Coy personnel who have lost their originals whilst on the island” – they were more than ready to come home! They must have been devastated to learn that their extraction, originally planned for the night of 4/5th December, was to be delayed. They had been under immense pressure, in combat for over 9 months, isolated from Australia under the most dire conditions of malnutrition and sickness, and had even been presumed killed or captured for many weeks following the fall of Timor back in February. Now they would have to re-group once more, hold themselves together, stay vigilant and prepare for a revised exfil. Having plans change so close to the perceived finish line is surely to be expected in military life, but it can still be a demoralising experience. Even more unfortunately for the 2/2nd their delayed departure did contribute to further contacts with the Japanese troops in the area and one of their attached Engineers was killed.

Even once aboard naval ships, the men would have been keenly aware that they were far from being safe. The destroyer HMAS Voyager that deployed the 2/4th Independent Company to reinforce the 2/2nd in September 1942 had run aground in Betano Bay and been attacked by Japanese aircraft before being deliberately destroyed by her crew after abandoning ship. And now they were to learn of the sinking of the Armidale and hours of relentless air attacks on the Kuru as well. Thankfully their eventual extraction was achieved via the Dutch destroyer HMNS Tjerk Hiddes, which undertook three daring runs from Darwin to Timor between 10th and 19th of December and ultimately withdrew not just the grateful men of the



Betano Beach, Timor - Davis, Keith Benjamin, 15 December 1945. It was on this beach that the many of the men of the 2/2nd and 2/4th independent companies embarked, disembarked and received stores during their stay in Timor. On the left is the hulk of HMAS VOYAGER. Retrieved from Australian War Memorial: <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C200667>



2/2nd but hundreds of Dutch troops and Portuguese civilians as well.

In the Official Report of the 2020 Expert Panel that reviewed the event, Australian Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Michael Noonan, rightfully described Teddy Sheean's actions on the 1st December 1942 as being "absolutely amongst the most conspicuous and most gallant we've seen in our Navy." These incidents never happen in isolation, and it is more than worthwhile to reflect on why this teenager, of similar age to my own daughter today, was in harm's way so far from home. The fact that the troops *Armidale* was ferrying never reached Timor and were not able to reinforce the remaining 2/4th Independent Company surely accelerated the departure of the bulk of this remaining AIF force in January 1943.

Commando operations, by their very nature, often involve the co-ordinated contribution of multiple assets from combined arms. It is gratifying to know that in this case at least one (and thus far the only) young sailor has been recognised with our highest Military Honour, and commandos everywhere should reflect with thanks for his sacrifice.

References

Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Australian Government Website. "Historic Victoria Cross Report of the Expert Panel." Published Monday, 10 August 2020. Retrieved from : <https://www.pmc.gov.au/resource-centre/pmc/historic-victoria-cross-report-expert-panel>. Accessed 19 September 2020.

Gill, (George) Hermon. Second World War Official Histories, Australia in the War of 1939–1945. Series 2 – Navy. Volume 2, 1942 - 1945. Chapter 8, "South-West Pacific – Prelude to the Flood Tide." (1968). Retrieved from Digitised Collection : <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1417531>

McCarthy, Dudley. Second World War Official Histories, Australia in the War of 1939–1945. Series 1 – Army. Volume V – South-West Pacific Area – First Year: Kokoda to Wau (1st edition, 1959). Appendix 2, "Timor." Retrieved from Digitised Collection : <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1417255>

National Archives Australia. AWM52; Item Number 25/3/2/11. 2nd AIF Unit War Diary, 2/2nd Independent Company. November 1942 to October 1943. Retrieved from Digitised Collection : <https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/awm-media/collection/RCDIG1022711/bundled/RCDIG1022711.pdf>

Royal Australian Navy Website. "HMAS *Kuru*." Retrieved from : <https://www.navy.gov.au/hmas-kuru>. Accessed 18 September 2020.

Royal Australian Navy Website. "HMAS *Armidale* (1)." Retrieved from : <https://www.navy.gov.au/hmas-armidale-1>. Accessed 18 September 2020.

Royal Australian Navy Website. "HMAS ." Retrieved from : <https://www.navy.gov.au/hmas-sheean>. Accessed 18 September 2020.

Wilkinson, Stephan. 'MYTH OF THE ZERO'. *Aviation History* 22, no. 6 (2012): Page 28. Retrieved from : https://search-proquest-com.wwwproxy1.library.unsw.edu.au/docview/1318541537?rfr_id=info%3Axi%2Fsid%3Aprimo

For all advertising please contact...

Russell Maddocks

Statewide Publishing P/L

0432 042 060

Email: russell@commandonews.com.au

RTO : 31078

BECOME JOB READY WITH MAT

A nationally accredited provider of Health Administration, Medical Terminology and Medical Reception courses around Australia since 2004.

Get started here >

or call 1300 887 082 for more information



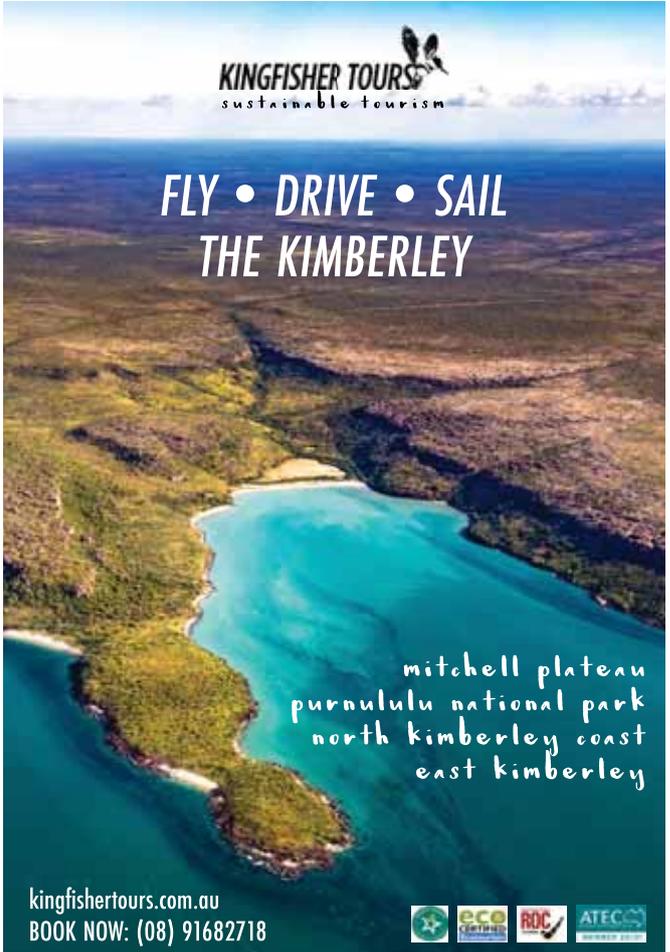
mat MEDICAL ADMINISTRATION TRAINING

KINGFISHER TOURS
sustainable tourism

**FLY • DRIVE • SAIL
THE KIMBERLEY**

mitchell plateau
purnululu national park
north kimberley coast
east kimberley

kingfishertours.com.au
BOOK NOW: (08) 91682718



eco CERTIFIED RDC ATECO



THE LAST COASTWATCHER

The Other Surviving Coastwatcher – Coder Ron 'Dixie' Lee M Special Unit (RAN)

By Mr James 'Jim' Burrowes, OAM. – M Special Unit, WW2

S ometime after the creation of this website, during which I sought to identify any other surviving Coastwatchers, I met a fellow called 'Dixie' Lee at a Commando Association AGM, and on later occasions at a Tidal River commemoration and a Coastwatchers' Tribute in Surfers Paradise. However, I had not been able to acquire a detailed picture of his operations until, by sheer luck, in June 2020 I came across an interview of Dixie by Walter Burroughs, who is editor of the *Naval Historical Review*, which was conducted on 24 March 2018. Given the informative and interesting nature of the interview and with Dixie's consent, I have now included some extracts below, focused on his time as a Coastwatcher, with the introduction by the editor, along with some supplementary material added by me.

The Naval Historical Society of Australia's December 2017 edition of their magazine contained a story 'The Last Coastwatchers' featuring James (Jim) Burrowes. Mention was also made of endeavours to contact another Coastwatcher, ex RAN Coder, Ron (Dixie) Lee. We were exceedingly pleased to receive a telephone call from Dixie on his 93rd birthday, Tuesday 4 July 2017, and from this beginning we have recorded his story.

Ronald George Lee, universally known as 'Dixie', was born at Ulverstone, Tasmania on 4 July 1924. With the aid of his father he enlisted in the RAN in Hobart on his 17th birthday on 4 July 1941. A month after enlistment, Dixie (S/N24856) joined the Flinders Naval Base, HMAS *Cerberus*, where he was allocated to a new category, an adjunct to the Naval Signals Branch, known as Coder. These were specially selected bright youngsters who could be trained in crypto analysis. Coder was equivalent to an Able Seaman.



A very young Coder
Ron Lee, aged 17,
HMAS *Manoora* RAN.

After 2½ years adventurous service on the HMAS *Manoora*, Dixie was posted to the Brisbane base, HMAS *Moreton*, for duties in General McArthur's new temporary Brisbane headquarters at the AMP Building in Queen Street. He remained there for about a year, mainly involved in coding and decoding signals. Dixie, in common with a number of other Coders, because of their signaling/morse and radio skills, was encouraged to volunteer for Coastwatching duties. While a Coast-



Ron 'Dixie' Lee (L) & Jim Burrowes, OAM at the Commando Commemoration at Tidal River, Wilsons Promontory, Victoria on 17 November 2019.

watching training facility had been established at Tabragalba near Beaudesert in South East Queensland this was a recent initiative and was not available to Dixie. So, without any formal training the boy from Tassie, who had rarely seen an aircraft, was sitting in the back of a RAAF version of the B24 Liberator bomber enroute to Vila in the Solomon Islands.

Dixie then spent about four months inserted in Combined Operations Intelligence Unit gathering information in the Treasury group and the nearby Stirling Island, with the Japanese ready for the next big push to take Guadalcanal with its strategic air base. When activity quietened down Dixie was posted back to PNG, firstly at Finschhafen and later at Milne Bay.

His next move was north to the island of Bougainville, the largest of the Solomon Islands administered by Australian New Guinea. Bougainville is over 120 miles (194km) long and 40 miles (64km) wide, a mountain chain forms the backbone and heavy rainfall feeds short but swift rivers and streams leading to forested hinterland and coastal swamps where mosquitoes abound.

It was in this environment that Dixie then operated, where rank did not matter and for survival, they all worked as a team. His leader – with whom Dixie spent most of his time in Bougainville, and greatly admired – was Lieut. 'Snowy' Rhoades, RANVR. Dixie and Snowy, widely separated by background and age, were kindred spirits. It was during this period that radio warnings of impending Japanese bombers and escorts were regularly dispatched to the US Forces at Guadalcanal to enable their defence preparedness in the air, sea and on land, thus saving countless lives.

Because of their local knowledge and ability to operate behind enemy lines, the Coastwatchers were engaged in finding small isolated units and reporting enemy positions. In December 1944 raiding parties



were taken to Choiseul Island which was defended by about 500 Japanese marines. Snowy Rhoades's party was attached to one of these patrols in which the commanding Army lieutenant became sick and for eight days Snowy led the patrol which conducted guerrilla warfare and guided air strikes from NZ Squadrons. This harassment led to the Japanese withdrawing by barge to the relative safety of Bougainville.

The Coastwatchers were supplied with teleradios, a heavy and unwieldy radio and telegraph combination set. It was battery operated, with a voice range of 650km and a telegraph range of around 950km. The radio was sturdy and very efficient but because of its weight, batteries, charging engine and benzene fuel, it needed several native carriers to carry the lot. The Coastwatchers were trained in the use of the 'Playfair' code, a low grade cipher based on a list of key words. Later Coders, trained at HMAS Cerberus Signal School near Victoria's Western Port Bay, were drafted to parties of Coastwatchers and



The AWA 3B Teleradio



A typical Coastwatcher campsite.

was comprehensive and accurate so there was little the Allies didn't know about the strength and location of the enemy. Knowledge of the terrain in which they operated and the friendship and assistance of the local natives operating as Scouts were the essential elements needed for the Coastwatchers to operate and evade Japanese patrols. In fact, without local native recruitment, it would have been very difficult, if not impossible, for the Coastwatchers to have achieved anywhere near the success they did.

In November 1944 the US forces in Bougainville were relieved by five battalions of Australian infantry and support troops. Dixie's summary was that the so called 'mopping-up' campaigns in Bougainville and New Guinea were seen to be of limited value by the troops on the ground and the Australian public at large who could all sense the war coming to an end. In one commendation of Coastwatching operations, US Admiral 'Bull' Halsey famously issued the statement

that 'The Coastwatchers saved Guadalcanal, and Guadalcanal saved the South Pacific.'



Dixie Lee on his 90th birthday in 2014.

Post War

After nearly five years in the RAN, over half of which was as a Coastwatcher, Dixie was discharged on 4 March 1946. After such an adventurous early life it would not have been easy settling down to a steady job. However, this he did and become a successful land surveyor.

In the 1970s he first hand-built a 30ft wooden ketch, but gave her up after forever chasing leaks occurring after rough weather. He next had a larger, and dryer, steel-hulled 45ft ketch custom built, and sailed in her for three years through much of the South Pacific retracing some of his wartime adventures. He was especially anxious to reach the Treasury Islands and Bougainville and for a time gained work there as a surveyor. Here it was like stepping back in time and 'Masta Dix' was reunited with many of his wartime friends.

In 2015 Dixie was one of a small number of WWII veterans who was chosen to visit PNG as part of a commemoration marking the 70th anniversary of the Victory in the Pacific.

Dixie has now eased into retirement with his fifth wife Mem. They have been together 44 years. They live in the Melbourne suburb of Werribee, having 10 children, 17 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.



Dixie (C) being presented a M Special Plaque by ACA National President MAJGEN G Melick, AM, RFD, SC at Tidal River 2019.



Bring your healthcare career to life with Mater Education

Get hands-on, hospital-based education at our South Brisbane or Townsville campus.

 Mater Education

 1300 070 350

 matereducation.qld.edu.au

RTO 5210



Mayfield Education

RTO: 3938

A Leader in Health Care Courses since 1963

Thinking of a career in health?



Secure your future with a quality course

We can assist you to make a positive change and a difference by becoming an

- Operating Theatre Technician
- Instrument Technician
- A Nurse or Pathology Tech
- Allied Health Assistant

www.mayfield.edu.au

Ph: (03) 9882 7644 or [Apply online](#)



FROM THE PEN OF HARRY BELL

2nd/9th Commando Squadron, WW2



Ted MacMillan (L) on leave in 1946 wearing the good post-war Australian gaiters & self portrait (R). Image courtesy of Ted MacMillan

There's not much news on my desk at present; not surprising, because there are so few surviving WW2 members. My closest friend, Ted MacMillan, (2/9) now of Burra, S.A., is one of them and he sent me a wonderful book for my 95th birthday (his will be coming up soon). The title is "The Art of Ted MacMillan" and it was put together by one of his sons-in-law and privately published. I

had long been aware that he was a gifted sketcher but had no idea of the output he had achieved over the years. I'll send you a photo of the cover (representing a rabbit who has pulled a conjurer out of his hat) plus a self-portrait in JGs, with webbing and Owen gun. I shouldn't have been surprised; he can turn his hand to anything from lead-lighting, stained glass, horse-breaking, managing sheep-stations, market-gardening and poultry-farming to soil-analysis or windmill repairs! His son, Warwick, who sadly died young, was also a very talented artist.

Next, I would like to quote some extracts from a letter home, dated 14th September, 1945 from But, a one-time coconut plantation an hour-and-a-half west of Wewak by landing barge. We had been picked up at crack of dawn by truck, had then picked about 30 blokes from 7 Squadron and a 10 Squadron contingent to make up the 2nd/6th Commando Regiment's contribution to the Divisional Guard of Honour at the formal surrender parade on the Cape Wom air strip.

Then we had to settle down for an hour-and-a-half to cape Wom - - - cutting between Muschu Island and the mainland. Muschu, where the prisoners are to go, is a large, flattish island with a large, open kunai patch, looking for all the world like a golf course. Along the coast were occasional Boong villages and camps but near Pus is the biggest village I've seen; it runs along the beach for easily half a mile and every little way is a 6-family 3-holer, a rickety structure running straight out over the sea. [a communal latrine. The title, I borrowed from "The Specialist", by Chic Sale].

We landed at Wom, then, and marched down to the airstrip, where they placed us in position. The guard was formed up along three sides of a hollow square, with the Navy on our right flank and the arty on

our left. Our Squadron of 150 was completed by a contingent of 50 from 2/4 Armoured Regiment, dressed the same as us, except that they had their colour-patches on their berets, whereas we wore no colour-patches. We couldn't see much of the other units but across from us was a small detachment of the R.P.C. [Royal Papuan Constabulary] looking tremendously smart and efficient in their navy shorts and singlets with red trimmings and broad, polished leather belts. We didn't look so bad ourselves, if it came to that - all with green shirts and slacks, Australian type gaiters, belts scrubbed white, rifle-slings ditto, scabbards and boots polished. And set off by the old black beret with the big badge, worn only by us and the Armour. (i.e. 7 and 9 Div Cavs don't have it.)

Of course, a couple of 7 Sqn blokes turned up in grey slacks and with Yankee gaiters but that was to be expected for 7 Sqn don't give a tinker's cuss for anyone (the nicknames are "Fighting Seventh", "Hungry Ninth" and "Talkative Tenth". Still, they were in the rear, so we must have looked OK on the Newsreel. I don't think you will see me for I was about 12 from our right flank.

Our showpiece was, of course, Colonel Hennessey. He's a man of about 32 who went away as R.S.M. of this Regiment and is now its C.O. He's About 6ft 2" and with his MC, his 39/45 Star, Pacific Star and Coronation Medal on his chest, he's a fine figure of a man. If we were photographed from the flank, we wouldn't have looked much, though, for our new R.S.M. Haggis MacKenzie made a botch of dressing us.

Anyway, we were all standing up like Jackie, when in comes Red Robbie's staff car and deposits him, as we present arms in the General salute, in the guts of the square. Then, we stand at ease and Adachi and staff climb out of the jeeps where they'd been sitting for some time. Three or four massive great provosts' line 'em up and march 'em the full length of the parade ground, about 400 yards.

Adachi himself is a disgusting little scrub, in a dirty old brown uniform (apparently made when his belly was in



Major General H.C.H. Robertson (right) accepts the sword of Japanese Lieutenant General Hatazō Adachi (left) following the Japanese surrender, 13 September 1945. Image courtesy of Wikipedia



pre-New Guinea form) all hung with medals. And to cap it, he's wearing RIDING BOOTS AND SPURS!!! How would he be! His Naval Attaché was in shorts, with a gold dressing-gown cord twisted about his shoulder. A couple of ADCs carry bulging suit cases ("Coming for the weekend?") and there were some big, arrogant-looking brutes amongst them.

Then a big wait in the now blazing sun (berets offer little protection) until they sign the doover and then back they tramp. We couldn't see the actual signing from where we were – the Arty stood their rear rank on a bit of a bank, but of course that's a bit much to expect of our crowd. We could see them walking past, though, and there were some pretty pungent – and unrepeatabe – comments passed, too. It's just as well no-one led off with A boo, or there'd have been no holding the mob. And we'd have paid dearly for it.

Before they got out of earshot, Robbie got up and said: "You have just witnessed the surrender of the Japanese 18th Army which you have defeated". He went on to say a lot of nice things, and to tell us that we were the oldest and finest division in the A.I.F. That our tradition – etc – etc – had spread through the whole A.M.F. for from 6 Div had come over half a hundred Brigadiers and General Officers, as well as Commanding Officers by the score, for the other Divisions. And finally, that he was proud and pleased to finish the war with the same division in which he had entered it. I'd love to get the full text of it but it probably won't be printed in full, though it deserves to be.

We had just time for a drink and a meat sandwich before hopping on the barge – we'd brought our lunches with us. And that silly old haggis had the hide to go crook about the talking in the ranks and to say that if he'd had time, he'd have given us half an hour's drill straight off – I don't like his chances. We'd about had it and he'd not have got much out of us – they used to call him "Haversack" when he was in our Squadron – always on someone's back.

The barge trip home was the worst part of the whole day. The sun blazed straight down into it, heating it like an oven, as there wasn't a breath of wind. Add to this our condition when we got in and you'll not wonder at our pleasure on disembarking at

Karawop.

The ride in the truck was a bit better – it rained, and the road was worse than Stumpy Lane [that led to my uncle's block in

the Pilliga Scrub] but at least it was cool. So, we were O.K. when we hit home – especially as old Karl Haydon was keeping me a bottle of beer.

Altogether, I was very pleased that I'd gone, though we were a bit disappointed when we found that spectators (officially there were none, but actually they were on every truck roof and up every tree near the strip) saw far more of it than we did. But it was good to see those bastards walking down and to think that right there was what we'd been after for the last ten months. Adachi is No 3 on the list of War Criminals and I certainly hope they hang him. [He beat them to it, committing hara kiri.]

Saw another film last night: "Sea Hawk" with Errol Flynn. It wasn't a bad show, though the sound track broke down on the first reel . . .

The letter went on about things at home. I am surprised that I omitted reference to some of the comments shouted (mostly by the "unofficial" spectators during the signing. Adachi was having trouble taking off his enormous sword and someone yelled out: "Take it off 'im, Robbie!". Someone else shouted: "Go through 'is kick, Robbie! (meaning "turn out his pockets. You might find some loot.")

Notwithstanding the sunburn and all the usual whingeing, it was a momentous day and I wouldn't have missed it for the world. I certainly never imagined that, exactly 60 years later, I would be standing on the spot where Red Robbie (Sir Horace Robertson) stood, a lei of frangipanni round my neck, making a speech to a crowd of dignitaries – including Sir Michael Somare, Prime Minister of P.N.G. and Major General Michael Jeffries, G.G. of Australia, a fellow member of a Commemorative Mission sent to PNG by the D.V.A. to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the surrender!

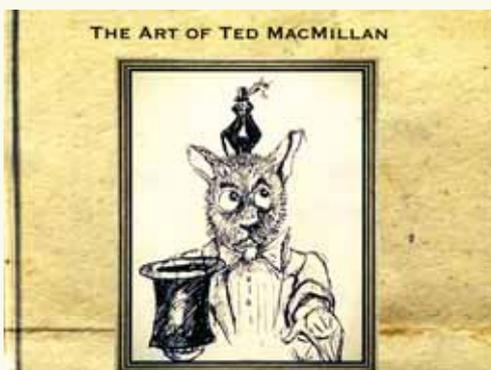
A couple of other notes about that letter: the "grey slacks" worn by the two or three 7 Sqn lads weren't from Fletcher Jones: they were issue gear, officially classed as Jungle Greens but in fact of a light grey. The Australian gaiters that we wore that day were only about 5 inches in height – and with no under-instep strap; quite useless in mud or when wading gravelly creeks. Australia did have a stock of excellent gaiters which they didn't issue to us till after the cessation of hostilities, so a lot of us wore knee-length Yankee gaiters, which the Yanks were more than happy to sell us – price for a pair: one bottle of Australian beer. I shouldn't complain. I cut my Yank gaiters down and used them as my "going on leave" gaiters after our return. The belatedly-issued long Aussie gaiters, I used, until they disintegrated, as anti-Tiger Snake gear when trout fishing.

I hope the above was of some interest to readers. It's not "News" any more, but just typing it out carried me back 75 years.

So long for now; best wishes from...

Harry Bell
(2/9 Cdo Sqn)

-----COMMANDO FOR LIFE-----



Ted MacMillan's soon to be released book
The Art of Ted MacMillan.
Image courtesy of Ted MacMillan



INTEGRA SERVICE DOGS AUSTRALIA

Transforming & Enriching the Lives of Veterans and First Responders

By WO1 Ken Lloyd, OAM. - ACA E Member

The 2016 Senate Inquiry into Veteran Suicide report, with advice from ex-service organisations and former Australian Defence Force (ADF) members, indicated that the number of veterans in our community who had committed suicide since 1999 may be more than 280. Staggering!

Unfortunately, this report is not telling us, the veteran community, anything we did not already know or have concerns about. On the contrary, since my own mental health breakdown in July 2014, I had become acutely aware of the process driven, precarious state of institutional veteran care in Australia.

Fortunately, about a year into my illness, I agreed to go into the Xavier Wing of the St John of God Psychiatric Hospital in North Richmond, and I shall always be grateful for their care and support as it was a turning point for me. Now having had, what some might call, a high-profile career I wasn't without influence and after struggling with the system for several years I had to call on a few high placed individuals to help move my case along. This support motivated me to think about how I might help and assist other veterans who didn't have a few generals, senior public servants or politicians to advocate on their behalf and I decided to find a way that I might

have a direct impact on reducing veteran suicide.

Whilst in St John of God I noticed a lady with an assistance dog. I was amazed at the calming supportive capability of this dog and found that its mere presence not only had that effect on her but on the whole ward. In talking to others on the ward it was clear that many of our first responders are, in some cases, in a worse situation than we as veterans are. They may have unions, but they do not have a single government agency charged with advocating for and managing their care.

When I returned home, I discussed the idea of training my own assistance dog and set about finding out how to do it. Jaeger, my then three-year-old, black Labrador was already well trained and had, what I considered, the right temperament for the role...so why not give it a try. I found a trainer who mentored me through the process and whilst I was still hyper-vigilant, racked with anxiety and shaky speech, I pretty soon realised that I'd found a way I could directly help other veterans and hopefully save lives.

It was at this time I mentioned my crazy plan to one of my long-time family friends, Ben Johnson, who knew of my career, my illness and my time in St John of God and wanted to reach out to me in support. Ben is a

former senior public servant with a big heart and he quickly volunteered to help me with training and administrative organisation. It was not long before we started training a small cohort of veterans in Canberra with dogs, they either owned or we were gratefully provided through Guide Dogs Victoria, Seeing Eye Dogs Australia, or Australian Border Force.

Whilst it had been my original intention to specifically help former and current serving ADF veterans my experience at St John of God made me realise that first responders, struggling with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, were



Patrons of Integra Service Dogs Australia, Their Excellencies The Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, General The Honourable David Hurley, AC, DSC (Retd) and Mrs Linda Hurley with Co-Founders of Integra Mr Ken Lloyd, OAM. Mr Ben and Mrs Viv Johnson and Integra Board Chairman Brigadier Mark Holmes, AM, MVO (Retd) and assistance dogs Jaeger and Hooper.



equally in need of the support and life changing opportunities having an assistance dog can provide. Ben and I decided to broaden our fledgling organisations remit to include first responders as their service to the community is no less important as that of our ADF veterans.

As a result, Ben and I revised our training techniques, became fully qualified dog behaviourists and trainers specialising in training a handler client (the veteran or first responder) to train their own assistance dog. Since then we have raised the not for profit charity Integra which comes from the Latin for integrity – 'Integritas', which for those who know me is a core principle I have always attempted to live by.

Today Integra Service Dogs Australia has assisted 80 former and current serving ADF veterans and first responders and their families suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and other physical injuries. Our training model steps the handler client through an application and vetting process, if they already have a dog, we will assess it for suitability of temperament, intelligence, ease of training and longevity amongst other things. If their dog is not publicly acceptable or lacks the longevity to be trained as an assistance dog, we will discuss this with the handler client as no promises are made beyond those that we can meet.

If a handler client does not have a dog, we can provide an 18-month to two-year-old Labrador and following a rigorous paring process place a dog with them for training. That training usually commences after the dog and handler client have had time to bed in and get to know each other. As people with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder generally become isolated our training is deliberately low key and doesn't have fast paced training evolutions. On the contrary it is aimed at slowly getting the veteran or first responder off the couch to become a handler client, training one to one with one of our trainer mentors in their yard or an open space, moving to a quiet community area and into more complex environments with increased stimuli and public activity. In building the handler clients relationship with their dog in this way and developing their lifelong skills to train their own dog, we help improve the handler client's self-worth, increase their confidence and mobility. This in turn can help them reconnect to their family – particularly their kids, improve their relationships at work and within the general community.

This isn't easy basic park dog obedience training... successfully training an accredited assistance dog is about having trust in the trainer mentor, the process, your own ability, the people around you and most importantly the dog! This is a massive thing for someone with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder who feels like they've lost everything. I've never met a handler client whose first therapeutic decision was to get an assistance dog. People who take this path have generally tried most other medications and therapy options and come to this choice as almost a last resort.

On average the training can take anywhere from six to twelve months to prepare the handler client and their dog for the Public Access Test (PAT) in the state or territory they are from. Generally, this training is driven by the ability of the handler client to take onboard the advice and guidance of their trainer mentor.

Our highly skilled and motivated trainers each have experience with supporting people with disabilities. They'll quietly but confidently use scientifically proven, force free training techniques to develop the handler clients understanding canine physiology and husbandry, canine psychology and body language, basic and advanced obedience, canine motivational resilience, product denial and specialist skills like item retrieval, room or building searches, button pressing, night terror disruption, anxiety reduction and many others.

As an adjunct therapy support, a PAT certified, and accredited assistance dog is entitled, under commonwealth law, to travel with their handler and go wherever the handler wishes to go. Generally, the only exceptions to this are a hospital surgical theatre or the kitchen of a commercial restaurant or café. That's why assistance dogs aren't cheap, their behaviour, demeanour and skills have to be bomb proof and the reason Integra's program is so successful is that veterans and first responders who become our handler clients understand how the dog was trained and have a lifelong commitment to its training maintenance and care.

Integra Service Dogs Australia was recently accepted to the panel of providers for the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA), Rehabilitation Appliance Program – Psychiatric Assistance Program. Through this program, eligible veterans may be entitled to receive funding for an assistance dog through Integra or another regionally based panel provider.

Unfortunately, as this program is provided by DVA, it doesn't extend to federal, state or territory first responders without some form of ADF service and the departments acceptance of liability. Despite this, we strongly encourage first responders to apply to Integra for assistance and where possible we'll provide support based on the applicant's location and our ability to provide the appropriate level of support free of charge or at significantly reduced cost.

Ken Lloyd

Commando 4 Life

To donate or find out more information about Integra Service Dogs Australia or the DVA Psychiatric Assistance Dog Program click on one of the links below.

<https://isda.com.au>

<https://www.facebook.com/integraservicedogs/>

<https://www.dva.gov.au/newsroom/latest-news-veterans/psychiatric-assistance-dog-program>



A COMMANDO MEDIC IN THE SOLOMONS

Operation SHEPHERD By LTCOL Kevin Farrell (Retd)

First Published in PAULATIM – The Magazine of The Royal Australian Army Medical Corps - 2003

This is a tribute to 230136 CPL Barry Grant, an army reserve medic with 1 Company, 1st Commando Regiment in Sydney who was conspicuous in his performance of duty during Operation SHEPHERD, conducted in the Solomon Islands (SI) in May – June 1995. CPL Grant, a senior airline steward in civilian displayed considerable courage and skill in small-boat handling at sea, as well as strong leadership throughout the Operation.

The Operation was mounted by Headquarters Land Command and involved the provision of humanitarian assistance to the civilian population in the more remote areas of the Solomon Islands. Part of this assistance was the provision of primary medical care to pre-identified government rural health clinics in the Makira Province, by a team comprising a Medical Officer OC (the author), a nursing officer (LT) and 3 medical assistants (CPL Grant and two Privates).

The team was transported from Honiara to Makira (formerly, San Christobal) by the patrol boat, RSIPV Lata, disembarking at Kirakira, the provincial government headquarters and the only "town" on the island. 26-day medical patrol was conducted by circumnavigation of some 230 nautical miles (NM), in two outboard motor powered "canoes", with clinics conducted at 15 village locations and some 920 persons treated for conditions including dermatomycoses, tropical ulcers, respiratory and ENT conditions, malaria, childhood malnutrition and pyomyositis.

It operated essentially as a self-contained, small craft transported RAP, with the use of (limited) civilian infrastructure (mainly for purchase of OBM fuel. A Solomon Island male nurse accompanied the team for purpose of liaison with the villagers. Movement between the health centres was mostly in the open sea and up to 3.5 nm off shore (for reef avoidance or direct passage) or at times, excitingly close to a rocky shore as seen fit by the local SI driver hired locally to operate the lead boat containing the author. The "Canoes" were hired at Kirakira, were of alloy or fiberglass construction, with length a little over 7 meters and a beam about 1.5 meters.

Sea conditions varied from slight to 2-meter swells in strong wind, being worst along the "weather"/ Southern Coast, particularly at both ends of that coast. Weather forecasts were not available and there was no radio communication between boats or from boat to shore. One boat acted as safety boat for the other. The second boat was driven by CPL Grant, south of Anuta Island (near the Western end of the weather coast) and well offshore, his boat hit an unidentified submerged object causing the OBM to be knocked off the stern into the sea. The OBM was held by a chain and ran under the water briefly before stopping. The boat was taken into tow by the lead boat until CPL Grant, with the assistance PTE P. Marshall (ARA for 1st Field Hospital, recovered the OBM and got it going again.

Conditions at the time were most unfavourable with swells of about 2 meters, wind and rain. The propellor was found to be damaged and was replaced by CPL Grant at the next port of call. In addition to demonstrating his considerable expertise in small craft handling under difficult conditions at sea, CPL Grant maintained the OBM's thus ensuring no mechanical breakdowns. With the support of his medics, he assisted health centres and villagers with general handyman tasks including minor repairs and maintenance, repair of water supplies, showers and taps, as well as repair of canoes and electrical items, when not required for medical treatments or team logistics. He established great rapport with villagers both young and old. Despite the often-trying conditions, he always had a positive attitude and this combined with his courage, innovation and leadership skills, contributed in a highly significant way to the success of the mission.



CPL Barry Grant and friends at Makira.



CPL Barry Grant (L) and the two other medics.



How upskilling online can help veterans transition back into the workforce

It can be a difficult transition for individuals to figure out the next steps post-military life. With a unique skillset and work experience, veterans have that added pressure of changing back to a more normalised lifestyle when returning to a traditional job.

These are the questions that may crop up when it comes to transitioning back to the workforce:

- What type of skills and knowledge do I need for my ideal career pathway?
- How can I avoid doubts when it comes to returning to a "normal" job?
- What opportunities can I do to improve my employment prospects?

Studying a relevant qualification can help those who have served the Defence Force develop the skills and knowledge needed to be work-ready. It can also provide them with the self-confidence and motivation to keep working towards their career goals outside of the Defence Force.

Upskilled is a leading online course provider in Australia, offering plenty of courses across some of Australia's in-demand industries like IT, community services and business.

As courses are delivered online, it makes it an easy choice for those wanting to study anytime, anywhere. With most courses having a duration of 12 months, this could be an excellent opportunity for veterans to upskill and renew a new lease towards their career.

Get in touch today by calling **1300 009 924** or visit <https://www.upskilled.edu.au/courses> to find out how an online course can help re-shape one's professional life.



UPSKILLED

**GET READY
GET UPSKILLED!**

- ✓ Business Courses
- ✓ Community Services
- ✓ IT Qualifications

www.upskilled.edu.au/courses

1300 009 924

Online Learning | Certificates & Diplomas | Start Today!

RTO 40374

PROVIDENCE V
DAY SAILS TO WHITEHAVEN
& SUNSET SAILS
CATCH THE BREEZE ON A 62FT
GAFF-RIGGED SCHOONER

QUOTE
"COMMANDO"
FOR
10% OFF
PROVIDENCE

MI LADY
SMALL GROUPS /
PRIVATE CHARTERS

**WHITSUNDAY
SAILING**

0427 882 062
whitsundaysailing.com.au
Airlie Beach, QLD





The KSK Unit Badge

GERMANY'S KOMMANDOS

The Kommando Spezialkräfte (KSK)

Germany's Bundeswehr and organized under the Rapid Forces Division. KSK has received many decorations and awards from NATO, the United States and its affiliates. KSK operatives are frequently requested for joint anti-terror operations, notably in the Balkans and Middle East.

History

From 1973 until the KSK's formation in 1996, the West German (and later German) government assigned all counter-terrorist and special operations activities to the GSG 9¹, a highly trained police force created shortly after the hostage-taking that transpired during the 1972 Munich Olympic Games². Prior to 1973, the army's *Fernspäher* (Long-Distance Reconnaissance), the navy's *Kampfschwimmer* (Combat Swimmers/"Frogmen"), and (until 1989) the *Special Weapons Escort Companies*—*Sonderwaffenbegleitkompanien* were the only military units comparable to anything that other nations may have seen as dedicated special forces units.

One political concrete reason for the establishment of the KSK was the fact that in 1994, during the genocide in Rwanda, German citizens had to be evacuated by Belgian para-commandos. The decision that this task was carried out by special operations forces of the former colonial power Belgium had been made in advance by mutual agreement between the NATO partners. The Federal Government of Germany also refused to intervene on its own, as in its view neither the GSG 9 nor the Bundeswehr "Bravo Companies" were trained to operate in a guerrilla situation and there was also a lack of the necessary transport capability. Several belgish para-soldies died at this operation. Due to the political pressure to have own forces ready for special operation within NATO became obvers.

¹GSG 9 der Bundespolizei (formerly *Grenzschutzgruppe 9* (English: Border Protection Group 9)) is the police tactical unit of the Bundespolizei the German Federal Police. The Landespolizei (state police) maintain tactical units, the *Spezialeinsatzkommando* (SEK).

²The 1972 Summer Olympics (German: *Olympische Sommerspiele 1972*), officially known as the *Games of the XX Olympiad*, was an international multi-sport event held in Munich, West Germany, from 26 August to 11 September 1972. The event was overshadowed by the Munich massacre in the second week, in which eleven Israeli athletes and coaches and a West German police officer at Olympic village were killed by Palestinian Black September terrorists.

The Kommando Spezialkräfte (*Special Forces Command*, KSK) is an elite special forces military command composed of special operations soldiers selected from the ranks of

Following the KSK's activation on April 1, 1997, all but one of the *Fernspähkompanie* have been either disbanded or merged into the newly constituted unit.

Like those of all German military units, KSK deployments require authorization from the German Bundestag(Federal Assembly). The unit has engaged in numerous anti-terror campaigns both in Europe and abroad; known engagements include operations inside Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina and most recently in Afghanistan.

During the War in Afghanistan, although nominally under OEF command, the KSK worked under ISAF command since 2005, carrying out numerous operations in the vicinity of the German deployment in Kabul, including a successful raid on an al-Qaeda safehouse for suicide bombers in October 2006. KSK operators have commented in the German media about the restrictions placed on them by their national caveats and stated a preference for working directly for the Americans as part of OEF-A as they had done as part of Task Force K-Bar.

As is to be expected with such units, specific operational details such as success and casualty rates are considered to be top secret and withheld even from the highest-ranking members of the Bundestag. This practice has elicited some serious concerns, resulting in agreement to increase both transparency and accountability, by disclosing mission details to selected members of the Bundestag, in relation to the future deployments of KSK forces.

On May 4, 2013 the KSK reported its first casualty. First Sergeant Daniel Wirth was fatally shot in Baghlan Province - Afghanistan during operation "Maiwand". US Army forces were part of the attempted rescue mission. Daniel Wirth was honored by his sister Kathrin Wirth-Torrente in a book titled "Brothers in Bravery". It not only tells her brother's story, but also reflects on 40 additional military members who lost their lives while fighting The Global War on Terror in the Greater Middle East. The book was published by the Travis Manion Foundation in September 2017.

KSK Commanders

There have been eight commanders in the 20-year period since KSK was formed in 1996. They are as follows:

- 1996–1998: Brigadier General Fred Schulz
- 1998–2000: Brigadier General Hans-Heinrich Dieter
- 2000–2003: Brigadier General Reinhard Günzel
- 2003–2005: Brigadier General Carl-Hubertus von Butler
- 2005–2007: Brigadier General Rainer Hartbrod
- 2007–2010: Brigadier General Hans-Christoph Ammon



- 2010–2013: Brigadier General Heinz Josef Feldmann
- 2013–2017: Brigadier General Dag Knut Baehr³
- 2017–2018: Brigadier General Alexander Sollfrank
- 2018–present: Brigadier General Markus Kreitmayr



KSK Vehicle Training Operations in 2017.

KSK Structure

- KSK Staff
 - Psychological Service
 - Language Service
- Staff and Command Support Company
- 1st Commando Company
- 3rd Commando Company
- 4th Commando Company
- Special Commando Company
- Special Reconnaissance Company
- Signal Company
- Support Company
 - Quartermaster/ Handling Platoon
 - Maintenance Platoon
 - Parachutes/ Air Handling Platoon
- Medical Centre
- Training Department
- Development Department



KSK Airmobile Training Operations from a Luftwaffe CH53 in 2017.

Operational Forces

Combat-ready units are divided into four (4) Commando Company's of approximately one hundred men. The *Special Commando Company* is normally staffed with veteran members, taking on various supporting roles. Each of the 4 Commando Company's has five specialized platoons, each with a unique specialty and ability that can be adapted to both the terrain and situation, depending on type action(s) required:

- Commando Company
 - 1st Platoon: Vehicle Insertion
 - 2nd Platoon: Airborne Insertion
 - 3rd Platoon: Amphibious Operations
 - 4th Platoon: Operations in special geographic or meteorological surroundings (desert, jungle, mountain or arctic regions).
 - 5th Platoon: Reconnaissance, Intelligence Operations and Sniper/Counter-Sniper Operations

There are 4 Commando Squads in every platoon. Each of these squads consists of four equally skilled members that have been hand-picked from the German Army into the platoon that best suits their abilities. Each squad member is specially trained as a weapons expert, medic, combat engineer or communications expert, respectively. Additionally, some groups may contain other specialists, such as a heavy weapons or language expert.

Support Forces

The Staff & Command Support Company is responsible for supply duties in Germany. For that, the unit is made up of:

- HQ Platoon
- Material Platoon
- Supply Echelon
 - Catering Section
 - Transport Platoon
 - Ammunition and Refuelling Platoon



The KSK maroon Beret with sword, oakleaves and the German Flag on a metal badge.

The Signal Company consists of three signal platoons.

The Support Company takes supply duties during Operations. Therefore, the company is organized as follows:

- Repair Platoon
- Supply Platoon
- Parachute Equipment Platoon



The Kommandoabzeichen (Commando Badge)

KSK Insignias Beret & Badge

Members of the KSK wear maroon berets as a symbol of their roots in airborne units. A metal badge is worn which consists of a sword surrounded by oak

³**Brigadier** General Dag Baehr has previously served twice as a field officer in the KSK: First, under the command of Brigadier General Schulz, when it was founded from 1996 until 1999 and then again between 2004 until 2007 under the command of Brigadier General Hartbrod.



leaves. The flag of the Federal Republic of Germany is depicted on the bottom of the sword.

The Kommandoabzeichen

The *Kommandoabzeichen* (Commando badge) is a cloth patch worn on the right pouch of the uniform. The commando badge's design is similar to the metal badge worn on the beret. It depicts a silver sword on light green background surrounded by oak leaves. The badge was permitted to be worn in 2000 by Federal President Johannes Rau.

Waffenfarbe

KSK units wear green as their *Waffenfarbe*, similar to infantry units. Before becoming an independent military force, the KSK was a part of infantry units.



The *Waffenfarbe* worn by the KSK & Infantry Units.

Selection & Training

Initially, only officers and non-commissioned officers of the Bundeswehr could apply for service with the KSK and the subsequent evaluation period. As a prerequisite for entry, the Bundeswehr Commando Course (*Einzelkämpferlehrgang*) must have been completed by the applicant. Since 2005, however, applications have also been opened to civilians and enlisted personnel who must complete an 18-month Long Range Surveillance training cycle before the intense KSK selection process begins.

The selection process for the combat positions is divided into two phases:

- A three-week-long physical and psychological training regimen (normally having a 40% pass rate), and later
- A three-month-long physical endurance phase (normally with an 8–10% pass rate). During latter phase, the KSK use the Black Forest as their proving grounds for prospective operators. In this time, candidates must undergo:
 - o A gruelling 90-hour cross-country run, followed by
 - o A three-week international *Combat Survival Course* at the German-led multinational *Special Operations Training Center* (formerly the *International Long Range Reconnaissance School*) in Pfullendorf.

Upon successful completion of the selection process, candidates may be allowed to start their 2–3-year training cycle with the KSK. This training includes roughly twenty courses at over seventeen schools worldwide: in Norway for Arctic terrain, Austria for mountainous terrain; El Paso, Texas, or Israel for desert and/or bush training; San Diego for amphibious operations; and Belize for jungle experience.

According to press releases from May 2008, the Bundeswehr aims to advance the attractiveness of service in the KSK to women. This is partially because



KSK Sniper Training in 2016.

the KSK was previously unable to reach its targeted number of troops. The KSK was no longer restricted to male troops after the Bundeswehr opened all units to women in 2001. As of 2020 in KSK, women occupied auxiliary positions.

Controversy

In 2018, the German Federal Criminal Police Office uncovered a plot involving unknown KSK soldiers to murder prominent German politicians such as Claudia Roth, Heiko Maas and Joachim Gauck among others, and carry out attacks against immigrants living in Germany. Also, earlier that same year in a separate investigation, the State prosecutors in the city of Tübingen investigated whether neo-Nazi symbols were used at a "farewell" event involving members of KSK.

In June 2020, German Defence Minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer announced that the unit would be partially disbanded due to growing far-right extremism within the ranks. The KSK had become partially independent from the chain of command, with a toxic leadership culture, and one of the force's four Commando Company's, where extremism is said to be the most rife, was to be dissolved and not replaced.

Article References:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kommando_Spezialkräfte

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GSG_9

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1972_Summer_Olympics

Have you thought about what you're going to do when you leave the Defence Force?

Why not buy a business?



For other business listings, visit thebrokerageconnection.com.au

or contact
Matt Butcher
The Brokerage - Queensland
0401 193 999

CHEMDRY CLEANING
Work your own hours, own your own business
with the support and lead generation of a great brand!



INTERFET 21 YEARS ON

INTERFET & Other Veterans Gather In Darwin to Remember

By MAJ Luke Gosling, OAM, MP (Retd) - ACA E-Member

On the 19th September 2020 INTERFET and other veterans and families gathered at the Darwin Cenotaph to commemorate 21 years since INTERFET deployed to East Timor, (now Timor-Leste). The keynote speakers for the ceremony were Corporal Sam Weston (5/7 RAR) and Colonel John Papatilas CSC, Commander of the Regional Forces Surveillance Group. In 1999 John was a Platoon Commander with 3RAR and started his speech with an amusing anecdote from the Darwin Port as they departed on the HMAS Jervis Bay:

'...Walk up the gangway and into the vehicle deck, stay in your Company, Platoon and Section groups, place your pack, webbing and body armour down in the order in which you are standing, take your weapons with you to the passenger area, more orders will follow...'

It's just like Parachute Parade...but on a boat..."

Special Forces were already on the ground (and did an awesome job throughout) as the Royal Australian Navy and the Royal Australian Air Force brought in the battalion groups to secure Dili. We were the lead nation of the multinational International Force for East Timor or INTERFET. It would become Australia's largest deployment since the Vietnam War, and our largest ever contribution to a Peacekeeping or Peace Enforcement mission.

As you all know INTERFET was commanded by Major General Peter Cosgrove and it deployed under a United Nations Chapter VII Peace Enforcement mandate to restore peace and security to East Timor following the violence which had gripped the nation post the independence referendum held three weeks earlier.

At its peak INTERFET would consist of more than 10,000 troops from 22 countries. 5,500 ADF personnel were deployed, with the next most significant contribution made by our ANZAC brothers and sisters of New Zealand.

On the morning of the 20th of September 2020, the Ex Service Organisation Veterans Australia NT, who had hosted the ceremony the day earlier at the cenotaph, hosted a BBQ lunch. VANT were previously the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia (NT) and to their great credit have removed the word Vietnam to make themselves more inclusive of the younger veterans.

21 years earlier on the morning of the 20th of September 1999 the lead elements of INTERFET arrived in East Timor and began the immediate task of restoring the security situation so that humanitarian assistance could be provided. 4 RAR (Cdo) soldiers were amongst their numbers serving in Close Personal Protection roles as well as linguists during INTERFET.

The mission was a success and the members of the force are rightly proud of their role in bringing peace to Timor during those very dark times when most of the infrastructure had been destroyed and many hundreds of people were dead and many more injured.



WW2 Veteran Hon Austin Asche, AC, QC (front right) stands to welcome the INTERFET Veterans.
Image courtesy of Megan Spencer

We remember those members of INTERFET and subsequent UN and stabilisation missions who died or who were injured during service in Timor and we pay our deep respects to the Timorese, many of whom made the ultimate sacrifice to vote for their freedom. We also continue to look out for those who were forever impacted by the scenes of devastation that they saw, heard and smelt.

I wasn't on the INTERFET mission but 2 of my brothers were and they are rightly proud of their service there. I did serve later in East Timor in 2005 advising the Timor Defence Force as part of the Defence Cooperation Program but even before INTERFET I had always known of the 2/2nd & 2/4th Independent Companies, so made a film about the Australian Commandos and SRD operations in Timor during 1942/43, through to the UN peacekeeping missions some 60 years later. You can watch the film on YouTube, just search for 'A Debt of Honour': Australia In East Timor or use this link;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SEnkhfKg6c>



WW2 2/2nd Independent Company Commando Paddy Keneally (L) with his Criado mate Rufino Correia.

Thank you to all those members who over the last 21 years have played a role in assisting Timor-Leste on its continuing path to an independent, prosperous and peaceful future. Thanks to those like my brother Dan who is still serving in Timor-Leste today, continuing the bonds of solidarity that the Australian Commandos had with the Timorese, in those same mountains, almost 80 years ago. They are neighbours for life.

Commando 4 Life
Luke Gosling MP



SPECIAL OPS ENGAGEMENT A SUCCESS

First Published in ARMY News 01 October 2020

Article By Sgt Sebastian Beurich

A greater insight into Defence's special operations forces and how they provide government with threat options was the key take-away by a group of 10 parliamentarians who recently visited Holsworthy Barracks.

The Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (JSCFADT) parliamentarians visited the base to hear briefings about SOCOMD's history, achievements, transformation, capabilities, modernisation program and tasking. SOCAust Maj-Gen Adam Findlay said the parliamentarians engaged with SOCOMD personnel, saw a TAG-E Counter-Terrorism demonstration and were able to get hands-on with 6 Avn Regt helicopters and 2 Cdo Regt specialist equipment and capabilities.

"Visits like these are incredibly important for Army and SOCOMD because it allows our political leadership to better understand who we are as an organisation and what capabilities we contribute to the ADF and wider Commonwealth," Maj-Gen Findlay said.

"Army – and particularly the TAGs (Tactical Assault Groups)– bring a unique set of skills and equipment, which we can use to supplement the options government has to respond to certain situations. SOCOMD's two TAGs are world-class and operate at the highest level of capability to respond where required to support Australia's national interest.

"I'm confident each of the committee members walked away with a greater understanding of how the ADF and



Soldiers from 2 Cdo Regt prepare to fast-roped from A 6 Avn Regt Black Hawk on to a target during the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade visit to SOCOMD Units at Holsworthy Barracks.

SOCOMD approach and can resolve a range of situations when called upon."

The JSCFADT is responsible for investigating matters of policy and administration relating to foreign affairs, defence and trade as referred to it by parliament or a minister. Its 32 members are drawn from both houses of parliament, with 12 from the Government, eight from the Opposition, five senators from each side and two senators from a minority or independent group.

----- COMMANDO FOR LIFE -----

TIER 1 SPECIAL OPERATIONS UNITS (USA)

From special-ops.org

By Eric SOF

The term **Tier 1 (Tier One)** in the United States military is often referred to as the Special Mission Unit or Special Missions Unit (SMU). It is particularly used to describe some military Special Operations Forces. Special mission units have been involved in high-profile military operations such as Operation Neptune Spear (the killing of Osama Bin Laden). Tier 1 Special Mission Units are closed teams that are staffed by invitation. They fall under the ultra-secret *Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC)* which is within USSOCOM. They are the best of the best. They frequently staff teams coordinated and commanded by the CIA's Special Activities Division in teams called Special Operations Groups when full political deniability is required (*clandestine missions*).

There are only four acknowledged Tier 1 SMUs:

- **DELTA Force** (1st Special Forces Operational Delta) – U.S. Army
- **DEVGRU** (Naval Special Warfare Development Group, Seal Team Six) – U.S. Navy
- **24th Special Tactics Squadron** – U.S. Air Force
- **Intelligence Support Activity (ISA)** – CIA

The operators who are assigned to the Tier 1 units are the creme de la creme of special operations forces, usually,

admittance into Tier 1 units is only possible after service in a Tier 2 unit. For example, as for DEVGRU, one must also be ex-spec ops, unlike regular SEAL Teams which admittance does not require prior military service. In Delta Force, most of the unit comes from either RB or SF, but it's not a prerequisite. Members have come from traditional infantry and non-infantry units. The only requirement is that if you are not a Military Occupation Specialities (MOS) 11B (Infantrymen) (Australia ECN 343) or 18 Series (Special Forces) after your initial 3-year commitment you will reclass to one of these specialties. The skills set that Tier 1 applicants would have due to prior service in Tier 2 units would be impeccable marksmanship skills, explosives skills and knowledge of military strategy tactics, etc. Once fully trained as a Tier 1 spec ops member the soldier would have been trained in psychological training to resist torture/interrogation and trained in evasion tactics such as Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) training. At some points, there is also possible that members of the Tier 2 units, like those from the Army's 75th Ranger Regiment, Special Forces, and 160th SOAR are controlled by JSOC when deployed as part of JSOC Task Forces such as Task Force 121 and Task Force 145.





Meaningful Engagement First Aid & Water Course Training Package

Mr Paramedic provides a complete First Aid & Water Course training package for personnel discharging from the army. All courses are nationally accredited and aim to put participants at the top of the list of potential employees. The Mr Paramedic Meaningful Engagement Training Course package includes -

+ *Instructors are on-road paramedics*

+ *Most up-to-date training*

+ *Refreshments*

+ *Small class sizes*

+ *Online available*

+ *Available nation-wide*

+ *No out-of-pocket costs**

- ✓ HLTAID001 PROVIDE CPR
- ✓ HLTAID002 PROVIDE BASIC FIRST AID
- ✓ HLTAID003 PROVIDE FIRST AID
- ✓ HLTAID004 PROVIDE FIRST AID IN AN EDUCATION & CARE SETTING
- ✓ HLTAID005 PROVIDE REMOTE FIRST AID
- ✓ HLTAID006 PROVIDE ADVANCED FIRST AID
- ✓ HLTAID007 PROVIDE ADVANCED RESUSCITATION
- ✓ HLTAID008 MANAGE FIRST AID SERVICES AND RESOURCES
- ✓ HLTSS00027 PROVIDE OCCUPATIONAL FIRST AID
- ✓ UETDRRF06B LOW VOLTAGE RESCUE
- ✓ PUAEME005A PROVIDE PAIN RELIEF
- ✓ SISCAQU002 BASIC WATER RESCUES (BRONZE MEDALLION)
- ✓ SISS00111 POOL LIFEGUARD

Courses help qualify participants for jobs in the following industries -
mines, trades, aquatics, medical, education and government.

**Contact us today for more information -*

0400 019 158 - INFO@MRPARAMEDIC.COM.AU

The Positive Relationship between 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.



ETM Course

EMERGENCY TRAUMA MANAGEMENT



The definitive trauma course
for clinicians who manage trauma.

ETM is a 3-day face-to-face course teaching trauma reception and resuscitation from the Australasian Emergency Medicine perspective. Designed by Emergency physicians, ETM Course focuses on practical trauma resuscitation, trauma team leading and trauma team member skills.

The ETM Course is accredited in Australia for CME/CPD by ACEM, CICM and ACRRM. RACGP members can self-record ETM Course as a CPD activity at 2 points per hour. ANZCA and FPM CPD program participants may claim the ETM Course as a Major Haemorrhage emergency response activity.

Course dates now available for 2021
+61 3 8672 5945 | admin@etmcourse.com
etmcourse.com



Truckloads of Courses to Get You Moving

Call us today on **1800 350 320**

Or send us an email to info@tdttraining.com.au

- Truck Licensing (LR to MC)
- Forklift Licence
- Order Picker Licence
- EWP/Boom Lift & Scissor Lift
- Dangerous Goods
- Traffic Management/Control
- Load Restraint/Secure Cargo
- Earthmoving/Plant Equipment
- Construction Induction Card
- Chain of Responsibility
- Work Diary
- Onsite Training

Fatigue Management courses

- TLIF0005 Apply a Fatigue Risk Management System
- TLIF0006 Administer a Risk Fatigue Management System

TDT Training Australia is Victorian Worksafe and VicRoads accredited RTO ID 6855. Please visit tdttraining.com.au for more information

HALLAM (Head Office) ~ Ph: 03 9703 2488
4/161 Princes Highway, Hallam VIC 3803

BENDIGO ~ Ph: 03 5448 5515
154-156 Midland Highway, Epsom VIC 3551

SALE ~ Ph: 03 5143 1177
164 Patten Street, Sale VIC 3850

SUNSHINE ~ Ph: 03 9318 0690
Level 3, 58 Boundary Road, Sunshine West VIC 3020

BALLARAT ~ Ph: 03 5335 5838
55 Wallis Street, Delacombe VIC 3356

TDT Training Australia
Call us **1800 350 320**

RTO No. 6855
www.tdttraining.com.au

Need to upskill? Or perhaps you're looking for a career in the Mining or Transport Industry?

contact... rmstraining.com.au

We offer the following courses from our Perth based location:

- Dump Truck Rigid
- Dump Truck Articulated
- Front End Loader
- Excavator
- Watercart
- Grader
- Dozer
- Forklift
- EWP
- Heavy vehicle licencing
- Cert IV Road Transport Heavy Vehicle Driving Instructor
- Safe Working at Heights
- Confined Space Entry
- Gas Test Atmospheres



Looking for a career as a Trainer? RMS is currently taking expressions of interest.

PH: (08) 9400 7500

Email: merryn.richards@rmstraining.com.au





Are you looking to transition your career in the direction of Cyber Security?



At ALC, we specialise in training people for industry-leading Cyber Security certifications. ALC is 100% Australian owned and operated and the longest running provider of cyber training in our region. Our testimonials and the calibre of our faculty are second-to-none.

TAKE A MOMENT TO CONSIDER THESE COURSES:

Cyber Security Foundation+Practitioner™

This Australian Cyber Security qualification is specifically designed for the Australian and New Zealand IT Cyber industry. The perfect entry-level, 5 day course to kick-start your Cyber Security career.

Certified Ethical Hacker Masterclass

One of the most sought-after global Cyber Security certifications, learn the concepts, tools and attack methodologies that the hacker mindset uses. Find the security vulnerabilities and exploits, defend and mitigate the risks.

“

I really enjoyed the course and learning about cyber from Chris and Peter, who clearly knew what they were talking about. It was a great crash course on cyber for someone who comes from a non-technical background.

Senior Security Consultant
BANKING CORPORATION

OTHER LEADING CYBER CERTIFICATIONS:

CISSP® The #1 sought after industry Security Professional certification.

CISM® Be recognised as a Security Manager of information Security professionals.

CISA® Be recognised for Auditing information security systems, processes and people.

CRISC® Be recognised as an Information Security Risk Management professional.

CCSP® The leading certification for Cloud Security professionals.

SABSA® The leading Enterprise Security Architecture Framework.

The Whitsundays

THE HEART OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

Receive 10%* off your holiday!

 Hill Inlet, Whitsunday Island

The Whitsundays, on the beautiful tropical coast of Queensland, is located in the Heart of the Great Barrier Reef. Discover 74 island wonders, world famous Whitehaven Beach and Hill Inlet Lookout. Explore the vibrant colours, tropical rainforest, picturesque hinterland dotted with waterfalls and lakes, casual coastal towns and historic country villages.



 Cedar Creek Falls



 Great Barrier Reef



 Rose Bay, Bowen

To book visit tourismwhitsundays.com.au and use the code 'COMMANDO' at checkout!

*Discount valid until 31 December 2020