



COMMANDO

AUSTRALIAN COMMANDO ASSN (NSW) INC.

News

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Photo taken on Anzac Day 2015,
at the Commando Memorial Seat Martin Place.

L to R: MAJGEN Lere Anan, Timor Leste Defence Force; Barry Grant,
NSW President Australian Commando Association; Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao,
Timor Leste Minister for Planning and Strategic Development and
BRIG Philp McNamara CSC ESM OAM, Honorary Colonel
of the Commando Regiments.



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The Australian Commando Association's membership consists of Servicemen who have served with Independent Companies, Commando Squadrons, "M" and "Z" Special units and Special Forces during and since the Second World War.

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

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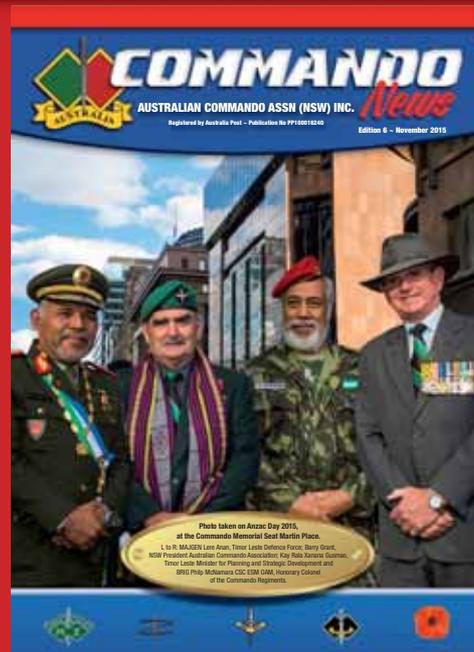
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Deadline for next edition:

MONDAY, 29TH FEBRUARY 2016

All news on members and interesting articles accepted.
(Subject to editors' approval.)

Barry G





VIETNAM VETERANS, PEACEKEEPERS & PEACEMAKERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA CENTRAL COAST SUB-BRANCH INC.

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- An ongoing project – the Nambus – which is a mobile museum that travels to schools, where the vets talk to students about their experiences, and to functions around the State;
- A social program which includes activities for members as well as their families, e.g. Golf Days, annual Bowls Day, Theatre groups, Yoga;
- Organised Commemoration Days, e.g. ANZAC Day, Vietnam Veterans' Day and more to be organised as requested.

For more information contact us on **(02) 4344 4760**, centralcoastveterans@bigpond.com or www.centralcoastveterans.com/ We are located at 32 Broken Bay Rd, Ettalong NSW 2257.

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The Australian Commando Association National Committee

What is it and why now?

As many would know the Commando Community has been served by State-based associations dating back to WWII. As the WWII Commando population dwindles there has been a natural consolidation around the largest States Victoria and NSW; and more recently with the population move north, a Queensland-based Association has been formed. As the 'modern' Commando Community has grown, and in this regard we are talking about those of the Special Forces community outside of SAS, and the processes around which the veteran's community nationally is organised and managed has evolved, it became clear that there was a need to establish a National Committee to ensure the commando community's interests were supported and where necessary co-ordinated.

The establishment of a national structure has been a work in progress for some years. In 2013 the three State Associations agreed to the current federated formulation. The rationale for a federated approach was as much historical as pragmatic. It builds on the work the States have done over decades. Thus we see it as critical that the State Associations continue to be seen as the underpinning strength of the Australian Commando Association.

To this end the National Committee is made up of representatives from the three State associations. The Vice-President is a serving ARA member and the President, Secretary and Treasurer are elected annually by representatives from the States on the National Committee.

The primary purpose of the National Committee is to look up and out; that is as national advocates for the Commando Community, be it to DVA, Defence or to ensure that the other national bodies such as the RSL, Legacy, Mates for Mates or Soldier On are aware of the needs of the broader Commando family. There is no doubt that the best ongoing support will be focussed and delivered by State-based organisations.

We well understand that young servicemen and women may not see the need for the Commando Association but experience tells us that this need will change as circumstances change. The organisation must be ready to offer a helping hand; be that to advocate on their behalf, or to help co-ordinate or architect the necessary support.

There will also be a developing need for some national co-ordination to ensure that the Commando Welfare Trust is able to deliver effectively overtime.

Priorities

The National Committee is very much a work in progress. It is the new kid on the block and must learn how to best co-ordinate with the States and the Commando Units. This will take time, but our current priorities are:

- To lock down the governance relationships with the States and Units.
- Based on the philosophy of 'Commando for Life' improve the education of the broader Commando community both past and present as to the support structures that are currently available and identify those that will be needed in the future.
- Communicate to the national level of the Veterans community how the Commando family is represented and organised.

Australian Commandos have served our Nation with valour and distinction for over 70 years. It is a proud tradition and the people who have served deserve to be supported in the best possible way. The Commando Association is focussed on ensuring this is achieved.

Michael Clifford
Major General
National President
Australian Commando Association

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Letters to the Editor



Thanks, Barry, for sending me those two copies of Commando News (December & June). I'll have a September instalment for you shortly which I'll send to you and Barbara.

There was one thing that I meant to point out to you – it doesn't really matter but you might like to remember it for future reference. In Keith's eulogy it is stated: that 2/5 Independent Coy was renamed 2/5 Aust Cav Commando REGIMENT. This is not quite right. It was briefly known as 2/5 Aust Cav Commando SQUADRON and then as 2/5 Aust. Commando Squadron. It then became part of 2/7 Aust Cav (Commando) Regiment. This in turn was a "rebirth" of 2/7 Aust Cavalry Regiment, formerly 7 Div Cav. There never was a 2/5 Cav Commando REGIMENT. Each of the three Div Cav Regiments was reborn in this way. 6 Div Cav eventually became 2/6 Cavalry (Commando) Regiment, 7 and 9 Div Cav Regiments undergoing similar changes. The changes went deeper than that, however. The new 2/6 Regiment comprised 2/7, 2/9 and 2/10 Aust Commando Squadrons. 2/7 Regiment comprised 2/3, 2/5 and 2/6th Aust Commando Squadrons while 2/9 Regiment comprised 2/4, 2/11 and 2/12 Aust Commando Squadrons. 7 Div Cav (despite the various official changes of name, each Cav Regiment was always familiarly known as the "Div Cav"), had suffered severely at Sananda so it had to be reconstituted by combining three former Independent Coys. The other two regiments, however, each retained a fair number of originals and those who were fit enough – and willing – were combined with a large injection of "Canungra Cannibals" to make up the four new Squadrons, 9, 10, 11 & 12.

There had originally been eight Independent Companies. 2/1 was decimated in the early Nip offensives and never reformed – many were killed, many were captured and lost when the Montevideo Maru was sunk by an American submarine on its way to Japan. Those survivors who were fit were mostly redrafted to 2/3 or 2/5 Independent Coy. That left 2/2 and 2/8. Each was given the new name ("Commando Squadron") but neither was absorbed into a Cavalry Regiment; 2/2 went eventually to New Britain (they had, of course, served heroically in Timor, where they had been followed by 2/4) and 2/8 served with conspicuous success on Bougainville.

Another tid-bit that may interest you is that the colour patches of those eight Independent Companies derived from the original Infantry units: the first four (2/1, 2/2, 2/3 and 2/4, in that order) from the four brigades that made up the original 1st Division 1st A.I.F. Those Brigade Colours were,

respectively, Green, Red, Light Blue and Navy Blue. The next four companies took the battalion colours.

It will be recalled that until 1939 there were four battalions to a Brigade and we marched in fours, not threes. In each Brigade, the Battalion colours were Black, Purple, Brown and White. When the new Cav Commando regiments were formed, 2/6 and 2/9 Regiments kept their old Cav patches: for 2/6, a rectangle and for 2/9 a T (though 2/4 and 2/7 Squadrons, despite the Regulations, each kept loyally to its double diamond.) 2/7 Regiment was given a new, "made-up" colour patch consisting of red and blue diamonds.

I hope you find this of interest and that you don't think I'm trying to "old soldier" you. Back in 1939 I was just a school cadet and didn't get to New Guinea until 1944.

Cheers,

Harry Bell

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Hi, my name is Jennifer Williamson. I'm the daughter of Alex Rex Stubbings from the 2/6th Commandos squadron of 2nd World War.

Dad had always kept in contact with most of his old mates, either on Anzac Day or by phone, but over the years the group has gotten smaller and smaller. He no longer marches, but for the last three years his two grandsons have marched for him [one being my son].

He still has one mate he has kept in contact with over the years – Charles Banks. This is the reason for my mail.

Dad and Charlie were in the same 2/6 squadron and as far as dad knows they are the only two left. Dad's 93 and Charlie is 92.

For years they marched together. Charlie owning a pub at Woolloomooloo, they would all end up there after the march to have a few drinks and reminisce about the past. Then around 15 years ago Charlie moved to Bundarra near Armidale so their contact was just by phone.

Then just recently Charlie's son rang dad to tell him that Charlie's health had failed and he was now in a nursing home on the Central Coast [Toukley].

Now that he was close and with dad still being in good health our family suggested that dad could now go to visit him. This made dad very happy. He said they are not getting any younger and it would be nice to catch up, maybe for one last time. The visit was priceless, Charlie remembered dad as soon as he walked in, then the reminiscing started, two old diggers telling stories from the war.



It was such precious moment that I thought it might be a good story for the Commando News.

We took a photo of the two of them which I have included. I hope you will print this story, my dad would be so appreciative. He can't read the magazine any more as he has macular degeneration but we read each edition to him when he gets them, so it would be nice if we could read a story about him in the next edition.

If you want any other information you can contact me on 0488007179.

Thank you.



"Great letter, Jenny, and it is good to hear of these two old mates – Does Dad remember the time that Charlie nearly ran the Anzac Day ferry aground? And tell them that they are not the only surviving Purple Devils: Max Drummond is another and he is still in touch with a couple more. He lives at Laverton, NSW. Keep it up."

Harry Bell

Dear Barry,

It's a great shame to hear about the death of Mick Dennis.

Mick was a true hero who showed such compassion for his long lost mates last year in PNG after all those years of wondering about their fate and living with the regret of losing so many team mates.

I'm sure Mick's heart was lighter as he went to his maker knowing that his mates were returned to their loved ones and now lay in peace.

The members of Operation Copper are all together now all together once again and at peace.

It was a true privilege to have met Mick and to have laid to rest his mates, I'm sure the Commando Community will ensure that Mick is given a similar and deserving farewell.

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Landmark reforms to ADF conditions of service

25 June 2015

The Government today introduced legislation establishing a new military superannuation scheme for members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and accompanying legislation to enable ADF members to work part time.

The new military superannuation scheme, to be known as *ADF Super*, will for the first time allow ADF members to join the superannuation fund of their choice. They will also have access to a default military superannuation fund.

ADF Super fixes one of the longest running grievances of the veteran and ex-service community, namely the lack of flexibility and portability of a member's superannuation benefit.

In recognition of the unique nature of military service *ADF Super* members will receive an employer contribution rate of 16.4 per cent, regardless of the superannuation fund they choose.

This rate is higher than that offered to Australian Public Servants (15.4 per cent) and significantly higher than the 9.5 per cent available to the majority of Australians through the Superannuation Guarantee.

ADF Super will apply to ADF members who join on and after 1 July 2016. Additionally, members of the current Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme

(MSBS) may choose to move to the new scheme or remain in the current scheme – they will not be compelled to move to *ADF Super*. The MSBS will be closed to new entrants from 1 July 2016.

Due to the unique nature of military service it is often difficult for ADF members to obtain death and invalidity cover at a reasonable cost.

To ensure ADF members continue to receive full death and invalidity cover the Government is also establishing *ADF Cover*, which will provide death and invalidity cover consistent with that provided to members of the current MSBS.

Accompanying the introduction of *ADF Super* and *ADF Cover* is legislation that will provide for significantly more flexible service for permanent ADF members. ADF members will, for the first time, be able to seek part-time work arrangements, subject to Defence's capability requirements.

This significant improvement to the ADF's work-force model will provide additional flexibility for members of the military while also improving the ADF's ability to recruit and retain personnel.

ADF Super

What's different?
ADF Super is the new military superannuation fund proposed to be established from 1 July 2016.
ADF Super will be the default fund for anyone joining the permanent ADF for the first time.
ADF Super is a fully funded accumulation plan with an employer contribution rate of 16.4 per cent.
ADF Super is underpinned by a new death and invalidity scheme – *ADF Cover* that continues to recognise the unique nature of military service.

What's flexible?
Members will be able to transfer their accumulated benefits to a new fund at any time.
Members will not be required to make personal contributions, unless they wish to.
Members will be able to make salary sacrifice contributions in line with relevant superannuation or taxation legislation.

ADF Super and Military Superannuation Benefits Scheme (MSBS)

ADF Super	MSBS
Fully portable benefit	Partly portable benefit
Able to choose any complying fund	Contributors can only be made to MSBS
No requirement for member to contribute	Member must always contribute at least 1%
Preservation age 55-60	Preservation age 55-60
Fully funded and insured	Partly funded (Government guarantee)
Lump sum only	Lump sum, can be converted to pension
Death and invalidity benefits	Death and invalidity benefits

Member and employer benefit only

For more information, visit defence.gov.au or

Delivering Australia and its National Defence www.defence.gov.au

IS IT OK TO SING "GOD SAVE THE QUEEN"?

On 19 April 1984 the Governor-General in Council, Sir Ninian Stephen, acting on the advice of the Hawke Government, issued a Proclamation which proclaimed "Advance Australia Fair" as Australia's National Anthem and "God Save the Queen" as Australia's Royal Anthem.

It also proclaimed a new Vice-Regal Salute for the Governor-General and national colours for Australia.

When it was first submitted to the Governor-General, the Proclamation stated that the Australian Royal Anthem was to be used only in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen or a member of the Royal Family.

The Governor-General was aware that a number of organisations were in the habit of singing "God Save the Queen" at their meetings and it was also sung in Church as a hymn.

Later that day Prime Minister Hawke issued a press statement announcing the matters which had been approved and proclaimed by the Governor-General in Council.

The press statement contained an error, in that its reference to the Royal Anthem contained the word "only" which had been deleted from the Proclamation.

Apparently the Ministers had failed to inform the Prime Minister's press office of the alteration which they had made to the Proclamation in the Executive Council.

As a consequence of the incorrect press statement, since April 1984 State Governor's offices and Premiers Departments' protocol offices, and even Commonwealth Government agencies, have given out incorrect information on the use of the Royal Anthem.

Regrettably, the error also appeared in a guide to protocol published in 2001 by a former Victorian Chief of Protocol.

The fact is that "God Save The Queen", the Royal Anthem of Australia, may be played or sung by Australians wherever and whenever they think it appropriate, regardless of whether the Queen or a member of the Royal Family is present.

Written by Sir David Smith July 2012



ONE OF THE LAST KNOWN BRITISH SOLDIERS WHO WORKED ON THE BRIDGE OVER THE RIVER KWAI DIES AGED 94

(SAMUI TIMES) -- During the Second World War, British soldier Harry Motteram endured diabolical conditions as a prisoner of war. During the three years he spent in a Japanese camp he was forced to work on the 258 mile "Death Railway". During that time he lived on just one cup of rice a day that provided virtually no nutrition to get him through his 18-hour shifts.



died at 94 from cancer.

The Burma Railway as built between Ban Pong in Thailand and Thanbyuzayat in Burma by Japan in 1943 to support its forces in the Burma campaign using forced labour.

More than one hundred and eighty thousand Asian civilian labourers worked on the railway alongside more than sixty thousand Allied prisoners of war.

When he finally returned home after the war he became a plumber and married a lady called Eileen. Together they bore six children. Harry carried on working until he was 86 and lived to become a great grandfather.

Six years ago this brave soldier returned to Thailand to see part of the railway that he helped to build. It is thought that he was the last member of the 137th Field Regiment, also known as the Blackpool Regiment. He

The project nicknamed Death Railway claimed the lives of around ninety thousand civilians and over twelve thousand Allied POW's including over six thousand British, nearly three thousand Australians over two and a half thousand Dutch and over one hundred Americans.

The heroic men who built the railway inspired the film Bridge over the River Kwai with Alec Guinness and Jack Hawkins.

Australia receives pass approval for Austeyr F88 rifle upgrade project



The Australian Department of Defence has received second pass approval from the Federal Government for the LAND 125 Phase 3C – Soldier Enhancement Version 2-Lethality project.

Valued at approximately \$467m, the project provides a new Austeyr F88 rifle, which is the enhanced F88, and advanced ancillary devices to help improve effectiveness for soldiers involved in close combat.

Australian Defence Minister Kevin Andrews said the approval augments ADF's close combat and general combat capability by modernising the ergonomics and balance of the rifle, and also increases the mounting options for ancillary devices, such as optic sights, laser aiming devices, and grenade launcher attachments.

Andrews said: "This enables personnel to more

effectively identify and engage targets with improved precision and discrimination, and enables ADF personnel to operate more safely and effectively on the battlefield."

Thales Australia recently won a \$100m contract to design and supply enhanced F88 Austeyr rifles to the soldiers.

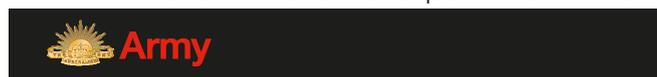
The new rifle will be manufactured and receive heavy grade repair at a facility in Lithgow New South Wales, which currently employs 140 personnel.

According to Andrews, the signing of the contract will result in ten direct manufacturing positions being created.

Used by ADF since 1988, the F88 rifle had undergone refurbishments that have gradually enhanced its capability over the last decade.

A modified version of the Steyr AUG A1, the F88 Austeyr features a bayonet lug, a 1:7 in rifling pitch seen in the M16A2 rifle, and an automatic lockout selector that can physically disable the fully automatic position of the two-stage trigger mechanism found on the standard AUG.

The Steyr AUG rifle and its variants have also been inducted by the armed forces of Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Ecuador, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malaysia, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Pakistan, as well as the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency.



Enhanced F88 Rifle and Grenade Launcher Attachment

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10. Improved Check Valve
11. Improved Red Dot Grenade Launcher Sight
12. Extended NATO-STD Top Rail—in-line accessories
13. Redundant overall mass, improved balance
14. NATO-STD Rail—grips, bipods and Visual Illumination Devices
15. Folding Cocking Handles—less vulnerable to damage
16. Bolt Release Catch—faster magazine exchange



Serving our Nation



GOODBYE LANDROVER, HELLO HAWKEI



After almost six decades the venerable Landrover is being replaced by "son of Bushmaster", the Hawkei.

The Landrover was adopted by the three services in 1948, and has been used on the Snowy Mountains Scheme and used to convoy the Queen on her visits to Australia among many other uses..

The Queen herself is rumoured to still own one.

Named after a deadly Australian snake our largest Death Adder *Acanthophis Hawkei*, which itself was named after a former Australian Prime Minister.

Manufactured by Thales Australia, it weighs in at about 7000kg, Hawkei can achieve a maximum speed of 100km/h with a range exceeding 1000km. Its six-cylinder Austrian Steyr Motors GmbH diesel engine is related to the current FA88 Steyr personal weapon.

With removable armour and optional mounts for weapons including automatic grenade launchers, the vehicle can carry up to six diggers and is light enough to be airlifted into battlefields.

Equipped with a V-shaped hull which Thales says will help deflect

IED blasts, and removable armour the vehicles can be armed with weapons including heavy machine guns and grenade launchers, and is light enough to be carried by a Chinook helicopter.

The Federal Government has announced it will spend \$1.3 billion on 1,100 of the new 'light armoured personnel carriers' for the Army.



“WINNIE” THE WAR WINNER

Reproduced from “Army” August 30 edition. Grateful appreciation is acknowledged to Major J. Hancock, OC/Editor, in allowing us to use this article.

In 1942, when the tide of Japanese success had engulfed the Pacific almost to Australia’s shores, a tiny Aussie force was engaged in a ceaseless war against 15,000 Japanese troops on Portuguese Timor.

Its communication with the mainland was severed in February and, for almost two months, the fate of the 400-strong group was unknown.

Then, on April 18, Darwin received a transmission from Timor, and all Australian stations were warned to keep off the air and listen for more signals the following night.

They did not know that they were listening for transmissions from a conglomeration of salvaged and stolen radio equipment – including a Dutch power-pack, a Japanese battery charger, pieces of bamboo, and part of a metal can.

When the Japanese landed at Dili, Portuguese Timor, on February 10, 1942, 20 men of 2/2nd Independent Company managed to blow up the airstrip and fight their way back into the hills.

There they joined the Australian garrison of 400 commandos, known as “Sparrow-force”, who were fighting a bitter guerilla war against the enemy – in spite of the fact that contact with the mainland had been severed.

It was vital for them to re-establish communications with Australia.

Soldiers of Independent Company, the Fortress Signals Section, and men of Signals, 8 Aust. Div. therefore pooled their resources to build a wireless set – their target would be Darwin.

They began their task, working from scratch without spare parts or batteries.

Sets they possessed were too weak, so a system of scrounging and raiding was organised.

The scroungers recovered buried and damaged equipment, while raids were made by fighting sections into enemy camps.

Both played their part in the construction of a set which would be nicknamed “Winnie the war-winner” by its creators.

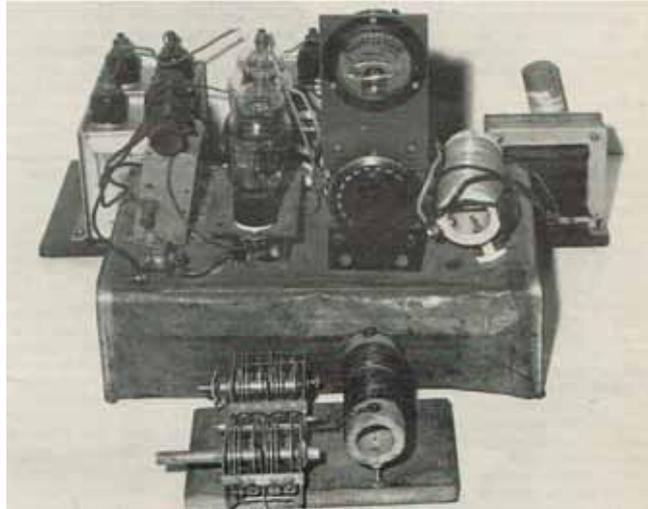
First plan was to build an oscillator with a stage of amplification necessary to work on the frequency previously used in communication with Australia.

With no receiver or instruments, this was a tall order.

But Capt George Parker, with four men – Cpl John Sargent, Lcpl, Max Donovan, Sig Max “Joe” Loveless, and Sig K. Richards – tackled the job.

Sig Loveless, in civilian life, was a technician with 7ZL, Hobart.

He began by building a transmitter with a crystal which, by luck, was close to the required frequency.



“Winnie” as she appears in the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, today

Power supply was a problem and the two available accumulators were nearly flat.

News was received that there was a charging plant in a nearby village, and the accumulators were carried there under escort to be charged.

The method of charging was quite novel.

A procedure which was adopted quite a few times eventually became known as the “boong charger”.

A system of wheels, and a belt driving a car generator,

was turned by natives.

As their enthusiasm for the job fluctuated, so did the charging rate.

Later, a broken-down 109 set was discovered, and the transmitter was stripped for parts to provide another amplifier for the oscillator – giving more punch, stronger signals, and a better chance of being heard.

Sig Loveless planned the circuit and asked the commandos to keep their eyes peeled for useful parts.

Cpl Donovan went on a scrounging trip to Attambooa, on the north coast, and returned with a power pack from a Dutch transmitter, two aerial tuning condensers, 20m of aerial wire, and a receiving set.

The task of building “Winnie” went ahead without delay.

Coils were wound on to bamboo formers, accumulators were recharged, points were soldered and valve sockets were made.

In the absence of precious tools and instruments, guesswork was a major ingredient.

A battery charger was recovered from the enemy when 14 commandos went through the Japanese lines to the old Australian HQ at Villa Maria.



The commandos, while only 100m from the Japanese, dug up a charger which was buried when the HQ was forced to move.

On April 13, it was all systems go.

The operator tried to raise Australia, but no reply was received.

As the dial of the receiver turned, sounds of music floated through the small radio shack.

Some troubadours were entertaining their audience with "The Last of the Hillbillies".

On April 18, after the transmitter was revised, another attempt was made to contact the mainland.

Again no reply was received, but the men's disappointment would have been allayed had they known that their signals were picked up and passed on to Darwin.

All Australian stations were warned to keep off the air, and to listen for Timor on the following night.

A few days before April 19, "Sparrow force" HQ had given the operators two coded messages "just in case".

"Joe" Loveless tuned up the rig, and a group of soldiers bunched around the set.

The "brass" was pounded" and the call was given highest priority.

Although the operator was prepared to continue for a number of hours, a strong signal replied almost immediately.

With suppressed excitement he tapped out his answer.

A tin of tobacco, kept for such an occasion, was opened in celebration and a toast in coffee was drunk to "Winnie".

On the following night contact was established

again, but this time Darwin was suspicious and demanded proof of the guerillas' identity.

Messages flashed across the Timor Sea:

"Do you know Jack Sargent?"

"Yes, he is here."

"What rank? Answer immediately"

"Corporal."

"Bring him to the transmitter."

"What is your wife's name, Jack"

"Joan."

"What is your street and house number?"

The correct answer was given, and the Australian mainland knew that Aussies were alive and fighting in Timor.

On April 27 an Allied plane flew over and dropped parachutes with precious food and stores.

Bush wireless received the news and men who had been barefooted to save their boots for active work were issued with new pairs.

"Winnie" had done her job.

No time was wasted in asking for bombing targets – which were promptly supplied.

Allied bombers passed overhead on their way to giving the Japanese a taste of their own medicine.

On one occasion a convoy of three enemy ships was sighted and a message despatched to the mainland.

The RAAF sank all three ships.

As a fitting climax to their career, "Winnie" guided the rescue party which eventually took the guerillas out of Timor.

"Winnie" now resides in the Australian War Memorial, Canberra – a symbol of Australian ingenuity in the face of great difficulty.

(Courtesy 'Amateur Radio' March 1980)

Quote for the Day...

*"An amateur rehearses until he gets it right.
A professional rehearses until he can't get it wrong."*



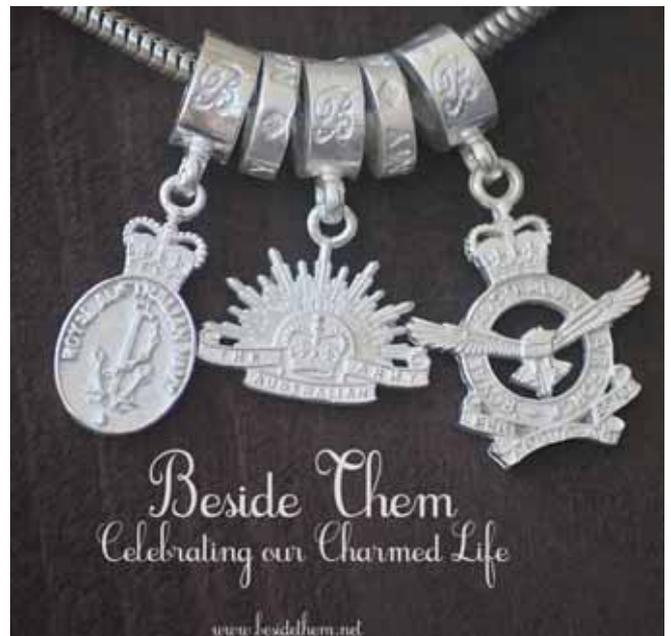
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TIMOR LESTE COMMEMORATES 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF FALINTIL

On the 20th August this year, Timor Leste, formerly known as East Timor, commemorated the 40th Anniversary of their fight for independence following the invasion of their territory by Indonesian forces on the 20th August 1975.

This former Portuguese colony of some 500 years was declared as Indonesia's 27th Province in 1976 and this declaration was accepted by successive Australian Prime Ministers at the time, much to our shame.

I was invited, along with the State Presidents of the RSL and Department of Veterans' Affairs representatives, to be their guests for the week-long celebrations.

My presence was no doubt a reflection of the WW2 2nd/2nd and 2nd/4th Independent Companies involvement in the guerrilla warfare against Japanese occupation in 1942.

One of the observation posts used by the Commandos is at Dare, overlooking Dili. It was here that the Australians radioed information on the invaders to Australia and in fact quite a few bombings

by the RAAF were the result of their intelligence. My guide to here was the Timor Leste Ambassador to Australia, Abel Guterres.

Having visited this former observation post, I can see why it was used by the Commandos. It has commanding views over Dili. There is a memorial to both commando units and photos on display, visitors are made welcome by an English speaking local.

A lot has changed since they gained independence on 20th May 2002. New buildings are going up, roads are being repaired and the nation is slowly coming of age.

Whilst new roads are being built, some of the network outside of Dili the capital, many roads are potholed and a 4 wheel drive is recommended if you venture there.

We were warmly greeted by the President Taur Matan Ruak, Prime Minister Rui Maria de Araujo, Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao former Prime Minister and now Minister for Planning and Strategic Investment and



Members of the Timor Leste Army with the Editor, NSW State President of the RSL Mr. Rod White AM RFD and Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao Minister for Planning and Strategic Development at the Heroes Cemetery.



MAJGEN Lere Anan, Chief of the Timor Leste Defence Force.

The celebrations included a huge military parade where they presented awards to retiring Falintil soldiers who had fought during the journey for independence.

One of our interesting nights was at a solemn ceremony of the breaking of the ground for an "Eternal Flame". We were invited to observe the ceremony conducted by the traditional chiefs in the grounds outside the Museum de Resistance.

Interesting, two water buffaloes were "offered up", cooked and handed to the guests, this was washed down by a local liquor. If NASA ever find out the recipe for this brew we are back in the space race!

The following day we were invited back for the official ceremony attended by, amongst others, Jose Ramos Horta. During this ceremony the Australian contingent placed poppies on the pit where the Eternal Flame will be built.

After most of the contingent departed for Australia, I was driven to the southern part of the country to Viqueque where I visited two widows of Timorese who were trained in Australia by SRD (sometimes incorrectly referred as Z Special Unit).

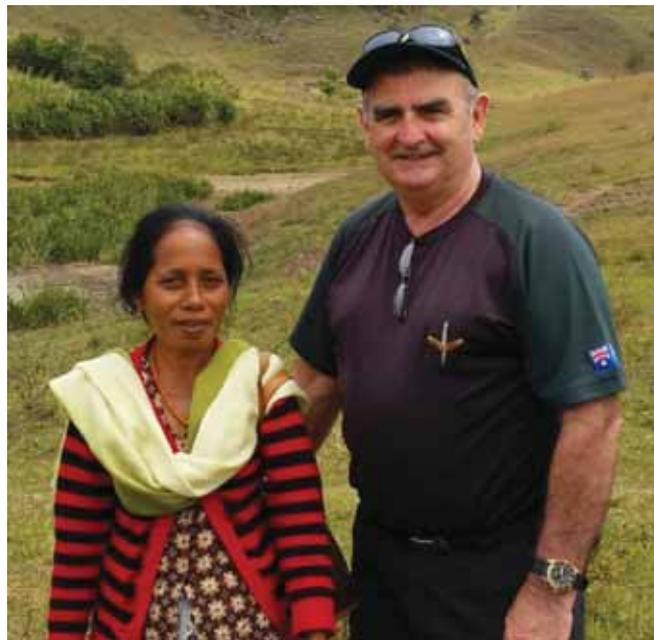
They were trained in guerrilla tactics on Fraser Island and other training areas before being returned to East Timor as it was then known.

The widows still have in their possession their husband's pay books and one is receiving an Australian War pension.



Mrs. Laurentina da Silva, her husband was a member of Services Reconnaissance Department (SRD) and was trained at Fraser Island among other places, before returning to East Timor as an agent.

Also accompanying us was one of the women who fought with Xanana Gusmao during the struggle. Fatur Nina spent 15 years with the guerrillas during which time she had two children and also lost her husband to the Indonesians. Not a bad tour of duty, but she was fighting for freedom and independence.



Fatur Nina spent 15 years fighting the invaders. Her weapon was an M16 and would have been almost as big as her.

Timor Leste relies on most of its aid from Australia and other nations, as well as royalties from the oil fields between Timor Leste and Australia, however, these oil agreements were made when Indonesia had a say in their future use.

The struggle goes on to renegotiate these agreements with Australia.

Travel to Timor Leste is by air from Darwin, with daily flights by Air North.

Tetum is the local dialect as well as Portuguese and English is spoken in the hotels.

Local currency is US dollars (ensure the notes are dated after 2006) whilst transactions under \$5.00 is using the local coinage.

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The Commando Welfare Trust

Steve Pilmore - Trust Executive Officer

As the Trust Executive Officer of the Commando Welfare Trust I am every now and again asked:-

"When I make a donation to the Commando Welfare Trust what do the Trustees do with my money?"

That is a legitimate question given the raft of seemingly worthy causes we are faced with each and every day!

The Commando Welfare Trust is a perpetual trust and the Trust Deed allows only the interest earned on deposited funds to be used to support beneficiaries. This means that your donation will keep on giving as the children of members killed or seriously injured in action or training for combat are protected for the life of the Trust which has no "use by date."

This is some of the support provided by the Trustees since its start just a few years ago:

- Paid school fees at the school of choice for 21 children of Commandos KIA or seriously wounded.
- Provided financial support for extra tuition for 4 more children.
- Provided financial support for a young man starting an apprenticeship in the building industry as well as supporting the partner of a Commando KIA who is wishing to train in a vocation that will allow her to support her family.
- Supported the travel costs of bereaved families attending the first anniversary commemorative services in honour of family fallen members.
- Provided financial support for specific treatment for significant spinal damage received by a Commando where neither the Dept of Defence nor Dept of Veterans' Affairs would cover the costs.
- Purchased two electronic treatment devices used in reactivating lazy muscles affected by gunshot or explosive device wounds – this was not covered by Departmental funds.
- Provided often in conjunction with the Dept. of Defence, financial support for a number of wounded members who are retraining for another career following the effects of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.
- Purchased computer equipment and developed a safe work environment to support a wounded and PTSD affected soldier's recovery by allowing him to develop his considerable artistic skills for both his own welfare and to supplement his income.

- Assisted a severely wounded soldier with financial support for legal costs following a dispute with a former manager,
- Provided financial support to the family of a young child facing a complicated medical procedure overseas.
- Each year we have provided a Christmas cash gift as well as substantial "back to school" financial support to each of the children the Trust supports where the father was either KIA in Afghanistan or has returned from Afghanistan severely incapacitated as a result of events or wounds received.

You will see that there is a wide range of support that the Trust provides, and will keep on providing into the future. Thankfully a pause has occurred in battle fatalities but we are now facing a different kind support requests as we face the inevitable and ongoing cost of warfare even after the last shot has been fired.

So I implore you to not stop supporting the Trust if you do already, or consider it as worthy of your support in the future if you have not already done so.

JOKES

The lawyer says to the wealthy art collector tycoon: "I have some good news, and I have some bad news."



The tycoon replies: "I've had an awful day, let's hear the good news first."

The lawyer says: "Your wife invested \$5,000 in two pictures today that she figures are worth a minimum of \$2 million."

The tycoon replies enthusiastically: "Well done, very good news indeed! You've just made my day; now what's the bad news?"

The lawyer answers: "The pictures are of you and your secretary ."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Little boy gets home from school and says "Dad, I've got a part in the school play as a man who's been married for 25 years."

His Dad replies: "Never mind Son. Maybe next time you'll get a speaking part!!"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Paddy caught his wife having an affair and decided to kill her and himself. He puts the gun to his head, looks at his wife and says "Don't laugh, your next!!"



Vietnam War's medical history to be rewritten to correct record on Agent Orange

A new official medical history of the Vietnam War is to be written to correct the record on the Agent Orange controversy.

The council of the Australian War Memorial decided on the move after a long campaign by veterans dissatisfied by Barry Smith's account in the original history.

Jim Wain, the national president of the Vietnam Veterans Federation of Australia, told veterans the "wonderful news" over the weekend.

He said that Professor Smith's account was "fatally flawed" and "unjustly insults" the veterans over their "years of campaigning" to have the repatriation system acknowledge Agent Orange's harmfulness.

Mr Wain said that Professor Smith's history "goes so far as to accuse the campaigning veterans of dishonesty and greed".

Instead, he said, the "veterans turned out to be right about the harmfulness of Agent Orange" and "their behaviour, far from being dishonest and motivated by greed, was a fine example of the Anzac tradition of veterans looking after their comrades-in-arms".

Mr Wain succeeded Tim McCombe, who died this year after leading the long campaign to achieve this result.

Professor Smith also died this year, but when contacted by Fairfax Media last year, when the possibility of a new history was first raised, he was unavailable for comment.

Brendan O'Keefe was the main author of the 1994 volume *Medicine at War: Medical aspects of Australia's involvement in Southeast Asia 1950-1972* that included Professor Smith's chapters on Agent Orange.

Mr O'Keefe did not wish to comment but had previously "welcomed" the prospect of a new history.

Mr Wain said the campaign was important for veterans because Professor Smith's history omitted two key findings of a Royal Commission on the effects of chemicals on Australian Personnel in Vietnam, established under Justice Phillip Evatt in May 1983.

The findings were that "under the standard of proof prescribed by Repatriation law, there were two categories of cancer attributable to exposure to Agent Orange" and "the Department of Veterans' Affairs purposely disobeyed Repatria-

tion law in not allowing veterans the prescribed 'benefit of the doubt' ".

In July 1993, the year before Professor Smith's chapters were published, the Institute of Medicine of the US National Academy of Sciences found "sufficient evidence" and "limited/suggestive" evidence to conclude there was a positive association between the herbicides used in Vietnam and various cancers.

Graham Walker, AM, who was an infantry company commander in Vietnam said, on behalf of veterans, that Professor Smith had "ridiculed their case and accused them of dishonesty and greed" but without interviewing anyone.

The council has appointed Dr Peter Yule, History Department Research Fellow at the University of Melbourne, to complete by 2019 a volume entitled *Medical Legacies of South East Asian Conflicts – Vietnam War*, which will also cover other medical issues such as post traumatic stress disorder.

Mr Walker, who was directly involved in the lobbying to commission the new volume, said: "Of course the veterans' campaign has been vindicated. The official war history must now tell the true story and restore the reputations of those fine Vietnam veterans."

A spokesperson for the Australian War Memorial explained the council's decision "to proceed with the history", which will be "an independently written single volume funded from within the memorial's resources".

The volume is not intended to "rewrite history but instead be informed by 25 years of new knowledge and interviews with Vietnam War veterans".

However, Mr Wain cautioned: "It remains to be seen whether the new history redresses these omissions and insults ... We can only hope so."

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For several months Z Special Unit (Z Special) laboured in preparation for a mission that they were yet to learn the nature of. Their mission would strike deep within Japanese dominated territory atoning for the allied defeat, just nine months prior, when the fortress of Singapore fell. The mission was Operation Jaywick and it would see a small Japanese sampan, the MV Krait, travel to Singapore where canoe teams would sink enemy shipping in the harbour. Little did they know that Operation Jaywick would become one of the most audacious and celebrated allied raids of WW2.

Late in 1942 the 'Ann', a work boat requisitioned by the Service Reconnaissance Department (SRD), made its way down the deep Coal and Candle Creek. Ann's final destination was a highly secret Z Special training camp known as Camp X. The camp was perched high on cliffs overlooking Refuge Bay just 30 km North of Sydney. At the camp, Z Special readied for the arrival of Ann's long awaited cargo.

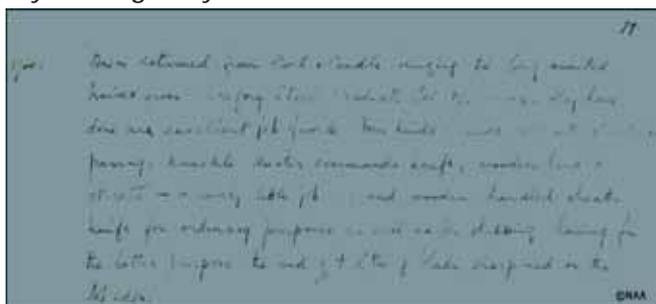
On board the boat was a bespoke order of knives from Melbourne, these knives would form an important part of an ever growing arsenal of deadly weaponry needed for the operation.

Amidst the relentless and gruelling training Lieutenant Donald 'Davo' Davidson the missions' second in command recorded the knives arrival in the Jaywick mission log.

1700h.

"ANN returned from Coal & Candle bringing the long awaited knives from Gregory Steel Products Ltd, Melbourne. They have done an excellent job/work. Four kinds of knives; all with sheaths:- parang; knuckle duster commando knife; wooden handled stiletto – a lovely little job - ;and wooden handled sheath knife for ordinary purposes as well as for stabbing, having for the latter purpose the end 1/3 rd of the blade sharpened on the top edge."

Jaywick Log entry



Page 79 of the Jaywick Log dated 26 November 1942.

SRD notes dated 3rd January 1943 go on to elaborate;

"Four types of knives are used; the stiletto, the knuckle-duster knife and the 'parang' or jungle knife. The fourth is a sheath-knife" for normal seamanship purposes but it has half the upper edge sharpened for offensive use if needed." This document then describes the knives in some detail.

Service Reconnaissance Department

SRD were authorised 'Carte Blanch' by the Master General Ordinance to draw upon stores from across the three services equipment tables. SRD also had access to items not available for wider use within Australia. SRD's technical directorate was responsible for the testing, improvement and design of mission specific equipment for SRD s' use. Much of SRD's special equipment was at the cutting edge of technology for the era.

SRD had funding available for the development and purchase of items through the provision of a special account. The organisation used its unique circumstance to procure blade ware to meet the operational needs of missions. SRD files state "special equipment which was not obtainable as normal service issue, is obtained through local purchase or by direct purchase out of ISD funds from the manufacture". In addition SRD Technical Directorate documents state that "Jungle Knives: Detailed investigations were made as to the performance of jungle knives available and special knives were produced to specifications of party leaders."

Based upon all available evidence the Jaywick knives were provisioned specifically for the raid from Gregory Steel to meet the parties' needs for the operation. Mostyn 'Moss' Berryman, the sole surviving member of Jaywick, has kindly identified the four Gregory Steel knives provided for the raid.

Below is a collection of recollections about the Jaywick knives from the men who were there.

Knives delivery to Camp X

Moss Berryman who was trained as a paddler and was taken on the raid as a reserve canoeist had the following recollections of the knives;

"The knives were stored in Davidson's tent."

"We had no instructors to show us how to use the knife variants properly."

Jack Mackay, who was removed from the raid just before its departure from Camp X due to injury recalled;

"We had the knives, the stiletto and the knuckleduster, and the working knife."

(Continued next page)



Z Special training camp – Camp X



To the right side of the photo a Sheath Knife being worn by Sub-Lt Bert Overell (Jaywick's explosive expert) Refuge Bay (Camp X), 17 January 1943.

Knife fighting training at Camp X

SRD notes observe;

"Knife Combat. Unfortunately there has been no instructor in knife combat available for training at "X" Camp in this type of warfare, so common sense and a knowledge of anatomy has supplied the want. The heart has been the point of aim of all premeditated blows, for sudden and silent dispatch. Other vulnerable parts such as the head, the neck and main arteries have also received attention."

Arthur 'Joe' Jones who was a member of canoe team three also described how training with these knives was conducted in camp;

"So you got to use hand guns and even knives. We would have bags done up to resemble a sentry or something like that and you'd be taught where to come in and how to use a knife on them."

"Lieutenant Davidson was pretty well versed in that (knife fighting) and he would go through the motions."

Moss Berryman stated;

"Attacking the sand bags with Knuckle Duster knives we soon became aware of sore fingers."

Knife fighting training at Camp X



Able Seaman Jones and Huston conduct knife fighting training at Refuge Bay (Camp X), late 1942.

The Jaywick Knives

The Parang

Parang is a collective term for swords, big knives and machetes originating from all over the Malay Archipelago. SRD notes confirm;

"The 'parang' is of hardened steel taking a fine edge. Its use is mainly domestic as a jungle knife but as an offensive or defensive weapon it can be very formidable. A hit or slash with the 'parang' would dismember a hand or arm, or cleaver right through the skull, whilst a hit on the side or the back of the neck would kill instantly."

Gregory Steel Parang



Parang issued to Jaywick members for the raid (sheath design remains unspecified at this time).

The Knuckle Duster Commando Knife

SRD notes specify;

"The knuckle-duster knife is of hardened steel and takes a very fine edge slightly hollow ground. The upper edge is sharpened to half the way. The handle is of heavy alloy. The weapon would break a jaw in the punch, would crunch the skull with its butt, whilst the damage inherent in the blade needs no elaboration."

Jack Mackay recalled;

"And the knuckleduster, that's a working knife that fits on your hand, and you could cut his throat and use this thing at the same time. Heavy knife but it is a very versatile knife."

Ron 'Taffy' Morris the medic for the operation said;

"In addition to firearms we used quite a variety of other potentially lethal weapons such as a knuckle duster with short, extremely sharp pointed blade facing inwards for a follow up thrust into the abdomen after a downward facial blow with the knuckle duster section – a formidable weapon but fortunately not used in reality."

Gregory Steel Knuckle Duster Commando Knife



Knuckle Duster Commando Knife and sheath issued to Jaywick members for the raid.

The Wooden Handled Stiletto

SRD notes account;

"The stiletto has an elongated diamond cross-section and tapers gradually in plane and elevation. Its two fine edges are sharpened to a cutting edge. The steel is specially toughened."

Jack Mackay described;

"The stiletto was the long one. That's got the long shank. That fitted down here into the bloke's heart. You'd get him from behind or down there. The blade would penetrate and just go right through his heart. That's the idea. There's a V in your neck there, you'd get the blade in there and go straight through. He's no longer with you."



Gregory Steel Wooden Handled Stiletto



Wooden Handled Stiletto and sheath issued to Jaywick members for the raid.

Sheath Knife

SOA notes describe;

"The sheath-knife is for normal seamanship purposes but it has half the upper edge sharpened for offensive use if needed."

Joe Jones went on to say;

"I carried an ordinary sheath knife but we had knuckle-duster knives and we had stilettoes as well as our equipment but I didn't take mine, I didn't want to get that close to anyone. No, I thought they were a bit useless and a sheath knife was all you wanted."

Taffy Morris detailed;

"We had the other working knife just on your belt and my number was seven, so I always wore this thing on my belt."

Gregory Steel Sheath Knife



Sheath Knife and sheath issued to Jaywick members for the raid.

The Jaywick Knives on operations

On route to Singapore

Moss Berryman confirmed that on board the KRAIT;

"The Knives were stored on deck in a small locker behind the wheel house."

Taffy Morris stipulate;

"On the actual trip most of these weapons were available and although not actually carried on deck they were always available immediately."

Horace 'Horrie' Young (Leading Telegraphist) recounted how Davidson enjoyed ambushing others in using his 'favourite trick' during a stopover, on route to Singapore, at Z Experimental Station in Cairns;

"He (Davidson) would straddle himself across a bough going across the path and drop down on top of some unsuspecting people passing down the trail, put a head lock on them with his knife."

Ronald McKie's book *The Heroes*, discusses the same episode and goes on further to say *"He (Davidson) snatched a knife from the sheath he was wearing and the next second it was twanging in a tree-trunk. The double movement,*

draw and throw, was so quick that Carse (the Krait's Captain) was amazed."

Horace went on to say;

"They were playing with arms and slashing at each other with these great stilettoes and parangs. They weren't mucking around either. You had to be quick to get out of the way. Davidson was always the showman, a wonderful fellow. Always liked to play to the gallery a bit. I was very impressed with them."

Moss Berryman recalled;

"The sheath knife would be used now and again, three or four of us would jump overboard and scrape off the fouling growing on the hull." Paddy (Leading Stocker, James McDowell) was sure we gained an extra knot after it was removed."

During the raid

SOA notes reveal that for the raid each man as a member of the canoe teams carried a '.38 Revolver' and a 'knife' for self-defence on the man as part of a standard load list.

Joe' Jones observed;

"Each one had a knife, they could choose whatever they wanted, they'd carry a sheath knife."

"We didn't carry any implements (knives, forks and spoons) we just had a sheath knife to do anything like that (eat) with."

Ronald McKie outlined in *'The Heroes'*, on the 20th September 1943, at Pandjang Island, as the craft (canoes) were being set up for transit to Singapore Harbour. *"each craft carried two parangs" and "each man carried a sheath knife, Davidson also wore a throwing Stiletto."*

Conclusion

Drawing upon the operational needs of mission Gregory Steel provided an important addition to the Jaywick arsenal of weapons. The number of knives issued for the raid are unknown but by January 1943 there were 20 members in the Jaywick raiding party with the final number of participants being drawn down to a total of 14 by September due to changes in the mission. This collection of knives clearly had an important impact on the psyche of the men of Jaywick as they prepared and conducted one of the most daring raids in modern history. This bespoke delivery of knives to Z Special is one of the least known and most significant events of its type for Australian blade makers during WW2.

Compiled by;

Michael Lobb, 2015.

Acknowledgments

Personnel Correspondence: Mr Moss Berryman & Family of Horrie Young.

Contributors: *The Australian Commando Association (ACA) and Australian Blade Forum (ABF).*

Publications: *'The Heroes'* by Ronald McKie - Angus & Robertson, 1960 and *'KRAIT'* by Lynette Ramsay Silver - Sally Milner Publishing, 1992.

Online resources: *National Archives of Australia (NAA), Australians at War - Film Archives and The Australian War Memorial (AWM).*

Imagery: *Australian War Memorial (AWM), Personal Collection (MLC), 'KRAIT', Lynette Ramsay Silver (LRS) and Private Collection (PC).*



NEW DVD HISTORY OFFERS RARE INSIGHT INTO AUSTRALIA'S SPECIAL AIR SERVICE REGIMENT

For the first time the history of Australia's Special Air Service Regiment (SASR) has been captured on film, offering rare insights into the Regiment's war-fighting and peace-making activities around the world.

The Australian SAS: the Untold History follows the Perth-based Regiment's formation as a company after the Korean War in 1957 through to the close of Operation Slipper in Afghanistan last year.

Launched by the Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove at Government House on September 3, the commercially available DVD examines in word and picture the Regiment's major campaigns from Konfrontasi in Borneo through South Vietnam to Cambodia, Timor-Leste, Iraq and Afghanistan.

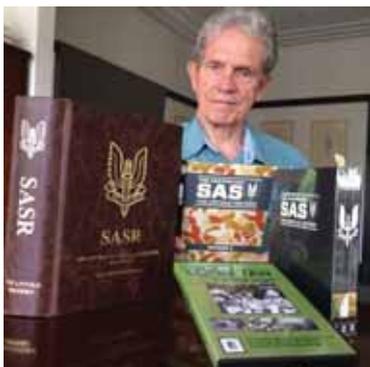


Included are SASR's winning hearts and minds strategy, the key role SASR members played in the MV Tampa and MV South Tomi affairs, the pressures faced by wives, partners and families of SASR soldiers who must spend long periods away from home on rigorous training programs and overseas deployments, and the impact of PTSD on SASR veterans and their loved ones.

"The 11-part DVD series gives an insight into the SASR, its history, its role and its place in Australia's military," Sir Peter told more than 120 VIPs, journalists and SAS veterans including one of the Regiment's two Victoria Cross winners, Cpl Mark Donaldson VC.

"This is a unique and thoughtful view into the world of the SASR from those closest to it."

The Australian SAS: the Untold History is the work of retired University of Southern Queensland Professor Bruce Horsfield, a former Special Forces soldier with Sydney's 1 Commando Company and producer of the classic Australian Forces Vietnam battle saga, Long Tan: the True Story.



Series patron is former Governor-General, Major General the Honourable Michael Jeffery AC, AO (Mil), CVO, MC (Ret'd), who commanded the Regiment

before becoming Australia's first Special Forces commander.

Funding came from the Department of Defence, United Arab Emirates Armed Forces, University of Southern Queensland and private donors.

Dr Horsfield spent 18 years gathering imagery and interviews with past and serving SASR members to piece together an anecdotal history that not only forms a valuable video catalogue of one of Australia's most mysterious military units but does so in a way that has gained the blessing of the tightly-knit SAS "family".

"For the first time there is an officially-sanctioned but independent history of the Australian SAS that details how a group of dedicated men overcame bureaucratic obstacles and official uncertainty to transform themselves from a fringe unit into one of Australia's most effective operational forces," Dr Horsfield said.

"Theirs is a remarkable, inspiring history told by former and serving members of SASR with rare archival and amateur vision that reveals the real people, the unorthodox culture and the strategic war and peace-time flair that have catapulted the Regiment into the very front ranks of elite soldiering."

Videos are available from www.forwardscout.com
Association members mention this article in
Commando News when ordering.

Special Xmas Gift Offer for Readers

The 11-episode history [1957-2014] comes in two formats –

- the limited edition hand-crafted pure leather box set [left], and
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Commando for life

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NSW President & Editor's Report

The 1st Commando Regiment had much to be proud of this year with the celebration of its 60th year since the reformation in 1955.

Celebrations were held in all States and many of the "old & bold" from 1955 attending.

In Sydney, we were pleased to have Ken Curran, who turned 90 in September, and Reg Davis, both WW2 Commandos attending.

Ken then put his hand up in 1955 and was on the first parade in Sydney.

He served for several years until his forced retirement due to age. He had also served as the Company Sergeant Major.

From simply an Army Reserve Unit status to their first operational deployment where the unit came of age so to speak, we have much to be proud of our service with the units.

Many spoke of their willingness to serve overseas, but sadly they were denied this opportunity due to the regulations in force at the time.

My trip to Timor Leste in August was undoubtedly the highlight of my year.

Along with State Presidents of the RSL, we were the guests of the Timor Leste Government for the week-long celebrations of the 40th Anniversary of Falintil.

This was the struggle to gain independence from the Indonesians who had invaded their country in 1975.

I had the opportunity to visit some of the areas our WW2 Commandos operated in, some of this country

has the steepest hills I have seen and can only imagine how difficult their conditions would have been.

The country is one of our nearest neighbours and we still owe them a debt of gratitude for their assistance to the 2nd/2nd and 2nd/4th Independent companies during WW2.

Without their help in providing guides, food and the "Criados" who assisted and carried supplies of the rugged terrain, our commandos would have simply vanished.

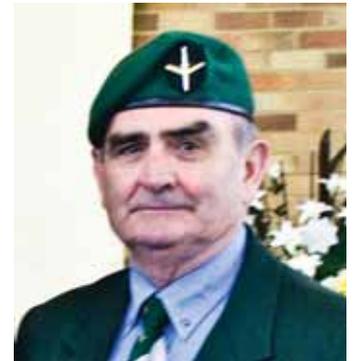
The cost, to what was then known as Portuguese East Timor, was the loss of thousands of their population by the occupying Japanese forces in retribution.

So when the Indonesians invaded, successive Australian Prime Ministers simply turned their backs on the population whose only wish was to govern their own destiny.

This was much to the disgrace of Australia and many other nations who simply did nothing to assist, until 2002 after their vote for independence when the United Nations took action.

It should not have taken that long to act as many more lost their lives when the retreating Indonesians destroyed everything they couldn't carry with them, many burnt out buildings are still evident today.

There is still much we can do to assist their country as they have a large number of unemployed youth which could lead to further unrest.



Barry Grant



Australian Commando Association (NSW) Inc





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THE JAYWICK DINNER



Ken Curran's 90th birthday was a few days before the dinner, and the President presented Ken with a copy of his service records from the National Archives. Only time we have seen Ken lost for words.



Julian Hall, Barry Grant, Wayne Havenaar, Matt Godbold and Martin Blandy



WELFARE OFFICER

By Brian Dunbar

At the NSW ASSOCIATION AGM on 18th October 2015, Ken Curran stood down as the Association's Welfare Officer and was replaced by me. Many thanks Ken, for the many years of loyal service looking after the welfare of the members and being such a great role model for the troops. Well done!!! Enjoy your retirement mate.

AIMS OF THE WELFARE OFFICER:

To provide physical, mental, social and spiritual support for members and their families.

As some members may not know me; my background and what I can provide as Welfare Officer is as follows:-

- I was a member of 1 Commando Company for 30 years, from 1963 to 1993.
- I was a member of 2nd Division Intelligence Company for 4 years from 1994 to 1997.
- I have qualified as a Welfare Officer on a Department of Veterans' Affairs, Welfare Course.
- I am a member of the Forestville RSL Sub-Branch.
- Following the death of our son, my wife and I founded the international, non-denominational, self-help group for bereaved parents, in NSW, called the "Compassionate Friends". I was the NSW Co-ordinator and later the Australian Vice President. We founded 22 other chapters in NSW. We have had a lot of experience talking with the bereaved and those suffering grief.
- I am an active member of our local church and lead the seniors' group called "Prime Time".
- I am our local church's Volunteer Drivers' Co-ordinator, looking after the welfare of the sick and needy, by driving them to and from hospitals, doctors etc.
- I was a member of our local "Neighbourhood Watch" committee, looking after the welfare of the community.
- I run "Brian's Photo Club", with over 400 members. It is just a fun thing, which costs nothing and members don't have to send me any

photos. Some members send me professional sets of photos, which I forward on to the other members. A lot of members of the Association are members of "Brian's Photo Club". You don't have to be a photographer. It is good relaxation therapy, if you are lonely, depressed or under a lot of stress.

As Welfare Officer, I am prepared to email or talk with members, who would like to contact me in confidence, to share their problems or just to have a talk. You may know of other members, whom I can contact, particularly the ill or those in hospital. However, we must respect the wishes of members, if they don't wish to be contacted.

DISCLAIMER:

I must stress though, that I am not a counsellor, nor do I have any professional qualifications in this area. However, I do have a good "listening ear" and years of experience.

Keep "Striking Swiftly" - perhaps not as swiftly as we used to - ay!!

Cheers

Brian Dunbar
Welfare Officer
E: dunbar33@bigpond.com
PH: (02) 9452 2589



PORT MACQUARIE FUND RAISER FOR



SOLDIER ON

HELPING OUR WOUNDED WARRIORS

Reg "Chips" Pierce, has issued an invitation to our Association for this fund raiser.

It is a joint fund raiser between Wauchope Rotary and Wauchope RSL Sub-Branch for "Soldier On."

Date is 17/02/16 which is a Wednesday.

6.30 for 7 pm. Dress is suit & tie with medals.

Venue is the Panthers Club in Port Macquarie. Ticketing will probably be done through the Glass-house facility (if Council gives the OK).

There will be a dance band for those whose knees are still OK! Auctions & raffles.

Guest speaker to be announced. Billeting can be provided if we get early notice. 60% of funds raised will go to "Soldier On" and 40% to "Australian Rotary Health" for research into mental health and depression.

In effect, 100% goes to the Diggers. Rotary will handle the money, so there will be NO service fees or charges.

\$40 per head for 2-course meal and wine on table, full bar service.

Panthers is in the heart of town, so accommodation will generally be within walking distance, or short cab ride.

FORAS ADMONITIO PRIVATE X

Artist Jodi Daley entered this work in the 2012 Archibald Prize and it was one of the finalists.

The work now resides in the Commando History & Research Centre at Holsworthy.

She says of her work, which is in pigment, charcoal and glue;

Foras admonitio means 'without warning' in Latin. It is the motto of the 2nd Commando Regiment, an elite Special Forces unit that forms part of the Australian Army's Special Operations Command. Private X, who is a commando within this unit, was deployed to Afghanistan in 2007-08 and again in 2010. Due to the nature of his duties, his name and full features cannot be disclosed.

This portrait forms part of a wider body of work that Jodi Daley has been developing over the last three years, evolving from a close association with the unit. 'Through this portrait of Private X, I have used the concealment of individual identity to explore and define the unique spirit, characteristics, essence and elusive qualities of the soldier of the 2nd Commando Regiment,' she says. 'Essentially it is a "collective portrait" that aims to embody the qualities of confidence, courage, discipline, fortitude, purpose, resolve, belief, competence, responsibility and a strong sense of justice.'

'I wanted to recreate an image from Afghanistan of Private X that exemplified those qualities. We had four informal and lengthy sittings/sessions in the garage where I work. To create an authentic sense of time and space I set up specific lighting representative of a certain time of day. The background is notional, a partly imagined Afghan landscape based loosely on footage and past works. Proximity and format were important, as I wanted to achieve an illusion that the viewer is very close to the subject and can almost sense his presence.'



From the Prolific Pen of Harry Bell



I began this on 5.6.15, having sent the previous instalment a couple of weeks ago. I note that the last edition of Commando News (NSW) began with an extract of my email of about October 2013 – or was it 2012? I don't know how it happened, but it looked very odd.

Perusal of the NSW "Reveille" for May/June 2015, reveals more notifications of the deaths of former commandos, namely:

VALE NX 30419 Sig J.R. Besnard, (2/8). I believe Jack was living in Queensland at his death and I fancy he may be one and the same as Inspector Besnard of the NSW Police Force. Can anyone confirm or deny this? An officer of that name presented himself to me when I was presiding in the District Court at Tamworth in the 1980s. It didn't occur to me to link the name with the Commando Association. My father also had friends of that name who lived at Young towards the end of the 19th century.

VALE NX117153, Trooper du Frocq (2/4) and **NX86579, Sgt M.R. Pedersen (2/7).** Each of these gentlemen is referred to in the appropriate Unit History, but with very little personal detail. The only other information I have about Trooper Du Frocq is that he seems to have joined 2/4 in Borneo, He did not return to Australia at war's end, but enlisted in the B.C.O.F. and went straight to Japan.

27.6.15: Further to my note about Sgt. M.R. Pedersen (above) I have consulted my 2/7 contacts, Ted Byrne, Con Bell (just back from the U.K.) and Jack Johansen, and the best we can come up with is that he joined 2/7 at Aitape in November 1944, having arrived per Liberty Ship. His relatively low number indicates that he had already been in the Army for a considerable time, so he was not a raw recruit.

People who read "Last Post" in Reveille will have noticed that no detail is ever disclosed; often not even the deceased's unit. The current edition contains an exception to that rule: **VALE NX 93552, Cpl Alexander Murdoch McKay (2/6).** The note goes on to state that Alex was born at Lismore on 31.10.1921, died on 25.2.2015 and was brought up on dairy farms. He enlisted aged 20, on 25.3.1942 and served with The Purple Devils in the famous battle at Kaiapit. He was later an instructor at the Jungle Warfare School at Canungra and after the war was variously a farmer, a milkman and a coalminer. He died at Crookwell, aged 93, and is survived by 5 children, 11 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

Victorian news from *Double Diamond* includes word that **Bert Potter (2/9)** has been hospitalised for repair and replacement of his pace-maker, a procedure that was complicated by an infection. But the latest word is that he is home from hospital having filched a vital organ from some unfortunate swine to provide him with a new heart valve. Bert is coping well with the bit of pig and is surviving on Meals on Wheels until he is strong enough to remember to put some salt in the taties himself. Porky would have liked to help. He is also hoping that he will soon be cleared to drive.

Double Diamond contains some 2/4 news also, courtesy of Cheryl Hoban, the daughter of "Snakes" Hoban (2/4); she may be contacted on (03) 5974 8889. She reports the deaths of **Stanley William Baldistone** (previously announced in these pages) and of **Len Hodgkinson(2/4)**. But, on the bright side, she added that **Maurie Wright (2/4)** of Mitchell Park, SA was to celebrate his 94th anniversary on Anzac Eve. **Ralph Coyne (2/4)** is, she says, in a Care Facility at Ringwood and is visited daily by Bobbie. Ralph, she adds "has retained his gentlemanly demeanour, despite his lack of hearing." Blindness, they say, isolates you from things; deafness from people.

Peter Beasley (2 Cdo Regt) reports a chance meeting with Pat Peterson, widow of **Bill Peterson (2/2)**. Both were at Fish Creek for Australia Day and found that each was sporting a Red Double Diamond.

DD reports the publication of another history of 2/3, this time by Darren Robins, grandson of the late **Bill Robins (2/3)**. It is entitled "Proud to be Third" and is the companion volume to "Men of the Third", a biographical roll of the 800 odd men who served in the squadron over the years,

Kathie belongs to the Bowral District Art Society and at a recent exhibition entitled "Remembrance", at their gallery, she saw a painting of a house. Nothing special about that. Green lawn, some red poppies in the garden - - - BUT the caption was THROUGH THE MUD, THROUGH THE BLOOD, TO THE GREEN FIELDS BEYOND. Now, as we all know, that is the Cavalry motto, dating back to the Tank Corps in WW1, so a search was begun. This revealed that the artist was Carol Willis, a Bowral lass, hitherto unknown to us, and that she is the daughter of the late **NX8733, M. G. ("Mick") Willis, WIA**. Mick was one of a group from Gloucester who joined the 7 Div Cav. Regt. early in the piece and who stayed on as Commandos when the regiment was re-organised. He and "Hobo" Hobson, another Gloucester lad, distinguished themselves near Tong, in one of the



Regiment's earliest clashes with the Nips in the Aitape-Wewak campaign. The history remarks merely that "Troopers Hobson and Willis killed 9 of them." Keith ("Snowy") Johnston (2/10) recalls that Hobson was the Bren Gunner and Willis his Number 2 and that the killings were the result of an ambush. Not long afterwards, Mick Willis returned to Australia, probably (the history does not make this clear) as the result of a wound. Snowy then took over as Hobo's No 2, until the latter was killed at Milak, when Snow took over the Bren.

But back to Carol. Contact having been made, she visited us, bringing with her a large box of photographs taken by her father in the Middle East and Northern Territory. He was no mean photographer and had the additional quality of being a good historian – on the backs of most snaps he had written the names of the subjects. A priceless archive.

Graham ("Dolly") Dolton, (2/9) – yes, the nonagenarian parachute jumper – has sad news this time. His wife, Shirley, who has been in care for the last year or two, has sadly perished. We all – especially 9 Squadron – send our deep sympathy to Dolly and their children.

But fate moves mysteriously: the most recent news of Dolly is that DVA have chosen him as the Western Australian representative on the Commemorative Mission to PNG, departing on 5th September. They will go to Moresby, Lae and Wewak and I look forward to hearing from Dolly when they return. The object of the exercise is to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the surrender by General Adachi of the Japanese 18th Army, which took place at Cape Wom, near Wewak, on 13.9.1945. I was lucky enough to have been a member of the equivalent Mission ten years ago and it was one of the great experiences of my life. The Late **Ron Scott (2/10)** took part in a similar mission to Pearl Harbour and he, too, found it a very moving experience. Congratulations, Dolly, on your selection: you make two from 2/9 with one from 2/10. Is there anybody else from one of our squadrons who has made the pilgrimage? Apart, that is, from the numbers who have gone back on privately organised trips. **Eric Geldard (2/9)**, of Myles in SW Queensland, had been nominated for the 2015 trip and was disappointed not to have been selected, but the competition must have been strong, with only eight being chosen from the whole of Australia. Incidentally, this trip is one of many for Sig. Dolton. He will have no sooner returned than he will be flying to the UK and then returning via Panama.

But for each bit of good news there seems to be at least one sad piece. **VALE NX179745, George Smith (2/9)** a long-serving Committee of 2/6 Cav (Commando) Regt. Assn (NSW) who perished early in July. George has been in poor health for several years but was often a cheerful member of the Combined

Services Club group. He had an interesting post-war career, involving mining operations in Irian Jaya.

VALE Lee, widow of Stan Carroll (2/9), on 27th July, 2015. Lee had been unwell for some time and had gone up to Kingscliff to stay with son, Pat and his wife Rose. Lee, a former AWAS, marched regularly on Anzac Day and, until recently, attended the 6 Div Cav lunch. We offer our sympathy to all the large extended family. Here are Patrick's comments:

On 27th July, the Carroll family lost the matriarch of the family. The ex-servicewoman was Leonora (Lee) Carroll, née Ford, NF445371, widow of NX203067, Trooper Stanley Carroll. Stan had served with 2/9 Commando Squadron in New Guinea and Lee had been a Sergeant in the AWAS.

Lee was born in Earlwood and followed her father's footsteps in serving her country – he, too, had been a Sergeant and had served in France and Germany with 4 Aust. Inf. Bn in WW1.

Lee had a delightful singing voice and performed and sang with the armed forces during the War. Post war, for 40 years, she regularly entertained the residents of Nursing Homes.

Before her marriage, Lee worked as a clerk but she and Stan went on to have seven children, who have blessed them with 38 grandchildren and 33 great grandchildren – so far. It is wonderful that Stan was able to return safely from the war and bring up such a large family, all proud of their parents' War Service. Stan and Lee were instrumental in the opening and the running of the Hero's Hill Ex-servicemen's Club at Revesby Heights, along with its many affiliated Sports Clubs. Lee held the No. 9 membership of the Club (now, sadly, closed.) Lee passed away peacefully, from a sudden illness, at Patrick's home, her loved ones with her.

VALE T. H. (Tom/"Lofty") Hollis (2/12). M.I.D. Lofty won his award as a POW of the North Korean/Chinese forces. It is unusual for a POW to be decorated, but his conduct in captivity, including a briefly successful escape and a contribution to the morale of fellow-captives. Lofty (he was about 6'4" and big with it) was one of the batch of rookies who, enlisting in early 1944 or late '43, had an almost uninterrupted run through training to posting. There were only about 30 or 40 to be so fortunate for many of their near-contemporaries were sent to Young Soldiers units. Lofty went to Borneo on 1945 and at the end of the war, joined BCOF and eventually, 3 RAR. He was amongst those who gave evidence against the journalist, Wilfred Burchett, in his defamation suit against The Telegraph newspaper for its comments on his conduct when visiting Australian POWs in China.

The citation for his M.I.D. reads as follows: *Private Thomas Henry John Hollis was a member of a 5-man patrol captured by the enemy at Ich'on, Korea, on 21*



Jan 1951. After long and arduous marches over many weeks he reached "Bean Camp" where he and 900 others were held for over one month under very primitive conditions. The staple diet of beans and bean powder was totally inadequate and the PW supplemented it by weeds and grass. Conditions in this camp were chaotic and Hollis, recognising the necessity for self-discipline amongst PW in maintaining health and morale, tried to improve matters. On 24 April '51, Hollis was moved with other PW to Camp 5, Pyoktong, on the River Yalu. Many PW died of exposure during this move.

On 25 June '52 he escaped from Camp 5 with other Australians but was recaptured after four days and sent to the infamous "Sweat Box" punishment cell at Camp 5, to suffer extreme ill-treatment.

Hollis was active in organising resistance to Communist indoctrination and suffered considerable ill treatment as a result. He exercised considerable initiative in evading Communist efforts to use him for propaganda. His courageous spirit and open hostility to Communism was an inspiring example to his fellow prisoners of war.

Private Hollis contributed valuable information on Communist methods of indoctrination and treatment.

VALE NX83333, John S. Ellice-Flint (2/11 Armoured Car Regiment, 2/10). Though a fairly recent addition to 2/10 Squadron, John was neither a raw recruit nor a draft-dodger. He had (like many members of Commando Squadrons) served in what was arguably the most formidable and best trained formation in the AIF: The Armoured Division. 6 Div Cav had contributed many officers and senior NCOs to that Division and in return, received many O.Rs from it when most Armoured Regiments were disbanded. John was every inch a soldier, a fine athlete, a first class swimmer and surfer and all-round good bloke.

Browsing through the November 1970 edition of "Cavalry Capers" (editor: **Trevor Limb**) I happened on the list of Regimental Appointments for Xmas Day. C.O was to be Corporal "Blackout" Boyd and Orderly Sergeant Trooper "Coldgates" Wolter – a nickname that I've never heard for old Battleaxe, the boy from Tumbar-bloody-rumba. The C.O's driver was Captain Johnny "Very Sore" Sautelle, the famous fly-fisherman. WO 11 Ted Martin was Corporal of the Guard, which consisted of Sgt "Pip-happy" Clugston, Sgt f.S.D. Poynton and Sgt "On Guard" MacKenzie (was this Haggis or one of the other MCKs?)

The serving Mess Orderlies for A Sqn included Major Gos Cory and Col "Dad" Abbott while B Sqn was waited on by Major Wally Hair and Barley Wray, inter alia. Sounds like quite a party.

VALE VX126924 Trooper K.C Windlow (2/7). This information is from Reveille; unfortunately I have no other details.

VALE NX37199, Trooper T.R. (Tom) Yates (2/2). This is also from Reveille; however "All the Bull's Men" indicates that Tom served with 2/2 both in Timor and New Guinea. In fact he features in a section photograph taken in New Guinea.

The March 2015 Edition News includes a list of those who drew horses in the Cup Sweep – and a well distributed list it is, including members as far away as South Australia (Ted MacMillan) and across the Nullabor (Ben Mundy) – both 2/9. Ben was also 10th Light Horse Regiment; one of those who were in camp at the beginning of the war, then served in Western Australia until invasion fears had passed. Only then did they farewell their horses, whereupon many of them (like their contemporaries in the Armoured Division, volunteered to retrain as Commandos – a conversion from Mounted Infantry to Dismounted Cavalry! How are you going, Ben? Does your "whisper" still carry the full length of a parade ground? (We could always tell where A Troop was by listening for Benny Mundy's whisper!)

The June edition of Commando News also contained an obituary of **Pat Dunshea, M.C. & Bar (2/7)** probably the most highly decorated Commando. Others, (such as **Eric Hennessy D.S.O., M.C.** and "**Judy**" **Garland (2/3)**) had received one of their decorations in a unit other than a Commando Unit – Henna got his DSO as C.O. of 2/6 Cav. (Commando) Regiment, but his M.C as a Cavalry Loot. in the desert.

Ted Byrne M.C. (2/7) had some reminiscences of Pat. They met at Foster when the newly commissioned Queenslander used to sleep on the bare duckboards, bare-footed and with only one blanket. Later, in the jungle, they were together on one of Dunshea's famous two-man patrols. Somehow, they found themselves in a creek bed instead of on the spine of the razor-back that they had been contouring. The choice was between back-tracking for a fair distance or cutting a track ahead, through impenetrable cane. To Ted's surprise, Pat whipped out his bush-knife and forged ahead to the top. Afterwards, Ted quizzed him, to know how he, Pat, had been able to swing a knife for an hour and a half while Ted was stuffed from just walking behind him – and remember, they were all very fit young men, by normal standards. Pat explained it. "You were never a cane-cutter", he said. Post war, he managed a large cattle station but his Boss went broke and Pat's super went down the drain with him. Incidentally, if you missed the Obit, in Commando News, have another look in the June Edition. It is toward the end, in the Tok Tok section. And you will find many references in Don Astill's history of 2/8.

I hope you find something of interest in the foregoing – and that it may encourage others to send in a line or two of news or reminiscence. Cheers all,

Harry Bell (2/9)



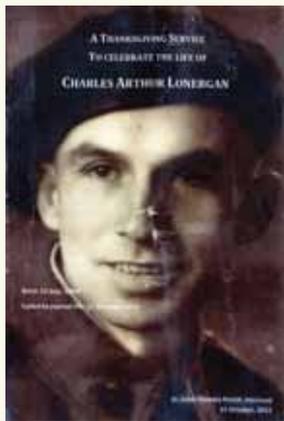
More from Harry Bell...

VALE NX1115172, Charles Arthur Lonergan (2/7), 13.7.1914 – 11.10.2015.

On Saturday, 17.10.15, I was enjoying my leisurely breakfast and reading the Death Notices to make sure my name wasn't there, when I noticed the above name. There was no suggestion of War Service, let alone Commando Service, but the name "Charlie Lonergan" was familiar to me from my days, over 40 years ago, as Editor of Commando News. I knew I'd heard Lloyd Carrington and Geoff Leyson talk of him and the stated age, 101 years, sounded right. "To the Green Fields" confirmed his second initial, so I rang the 2/7 Brains Trust: Con Bell, Jack Johaneson and Ted Byrne. Yes, that was Charlie – he lived up Morisset way. Loved a yarn; "a good little bloke", who had invited Con and Paddy McBride to the opening of the RSL Club which he had been instrumental in founding. They also remembered him for impulsively flying to Melbourne on Anzac Day, when the Sydney reunion got a bit quiet. An original, Wilson's Prom.-trained 7th Independent Coy member, his Regimental Number looked a little high, but Jack had the answer: Charlie had been in the CMF, number N256925, but got his X Number when he joined the AIF and the Independent Companies to face the Japanese. He was a member of the Engineers section in 7 Coy (later 2/7 Commando Squadron) and after sailing on 2.10 1942 to Moresby was flown to Wau for the Wau-Mubo campaign, followed by a stint in the Bena Bena – Ramu Valley stoush. Then followed more training at Wondecla when 2/7 joined the new Commando Squadrons, 2/9 and 2/10 to form 2/6 Cavalry (Commando) Regiment, formerly known as 6 Div Cav.

On 14.10 1944, 2 years and 12 days after his first embarkation, he sailed again from Townsville, this time to Aitape. He then served throughout the Aitape-Wewak campaign.

Jack was able to put me in touch with Rose Masters, widow of Charlie's mate, Stuart Masters (2/7). Rose knew Charlie well and used to visit him in his Retirement Village where she found him with all his marbles (he was still playing bowls at 99!) and interested in the doings recorded in Commando News. She was unfortunately unable to get to Charlie's funeral, at Morisset on 21st October, but was represented by her daughter. And Barry Grant was



there, as he so often is, to represent the Commando Association, along with Kevin Mahony. I hope Barry knows what a great comfort his presence at the funeral must be to the relatives (he even rode in the hearse on one occasion!). Even though he belongs to a younger generation, he represents the comrades of the deceased – most of whom, in the second decade of the 21st century, have already perished. His green beret rested on Charlie's coffin

Charlie had never married but is mourned by numerous nephews, nieces and their children as well as by a sister in law – all his four siblings predeceased him. The RSL component of the funeral was performed by Des Green of Morisset Sub-Branch - Charlie was a Life Member. A celebration of his life was held at the Morisset Country Club, of which he had been a Board Member for many years. Barry tells me that Charlie had been a carpenter in civvy life and that his work may be seen in many local buildings, including the Catholic Church.

Rose Masters kindly sent me an Obituary from the front page of the Lakes Mail, the local Morisset newspaper. My wife Kathie, has scanned it and it appears below, along with photographs from the Order of Service, sent to me by Barry Grant. Rose's daughter took Rose's flowers to the church, accompanied by a double-diamond cut-out (in case any readers are unaware of this, each of the eight independent companies had a colour-patch in the shape of a double diamond). Rose also rang the widows of former 2/7 members, Geoff Leyson, Jack London, Clive Jarman, Jack Palmer as well as Howard Tankey's daughter and Ben Davies. She tells me that Ross Mountier of the Commando Museum, Holsworthy had recorded an interview with Charlie and had accepted a number of souvenirs from Charlie and from her husband, Stuart.

Obituary
By DAVID STEWART

THE district has lost a pioneer, war hero, community stalwart and gentleman with the death of Charles Lonergan, of Brightwaters.

He was 101.

"Charlie passed away peacefully in the early hours of Sunday morning," great-nephew Christian McCallum said.

"He was the epitome of a war veteran – tough, resilient, and completely unselfish, putting his mates, family and even strangers first.

"He was a man of character and a bygone era."

Charles Arthur Lonergan was born on July 13, 1914, the first of five children for May and Charles.

Originally from Belmore, his parents built a house on waterfront land at Brightwaters, from where a young Charlie and sister Mary attended the one-room school at Morisset.

Mr Lonergan became a builder.

In Morisset, he built the Masonic Hall, convent school, and the original post office, and helped with major renovations to Cooranboog and St John Vianney catholic churches.

He also helped to build the air force base at Rathmines.

"I stood on the roof of the hangar at Rathmines when the first Catalinas came in," he told the Lakes Mail last year.

Mr Lonergan served as a Commando in World War II.

In 1942, at the age of 28, he flew to Papua New Guinea and was stationed in Wau with the 7th Commando Squadron.

He worked with engineers building bridges in dense jungle, and repairing communication lines during intense fighting.

Mr McCallum said his great uncle never married, and was fiercely independent.

"He started renovating his house at Brightwaters when aged in his 90s, and was still climbing onto the roof when he was 99," Mr McCallum said.

"And he continued to drive until he was 96."

Community was always a priority.

Mr Lonergan was president of the South Lake Macquarie RSL sub-Branch.

For 14 years, he was president of Morisset Country Club.

He continued to reside in the family house until shortly before his 101st birthday.

Mr Lonergan is survived by a sister-in-law, nine nephews and nieces, and 22 great-nephews and nieces.

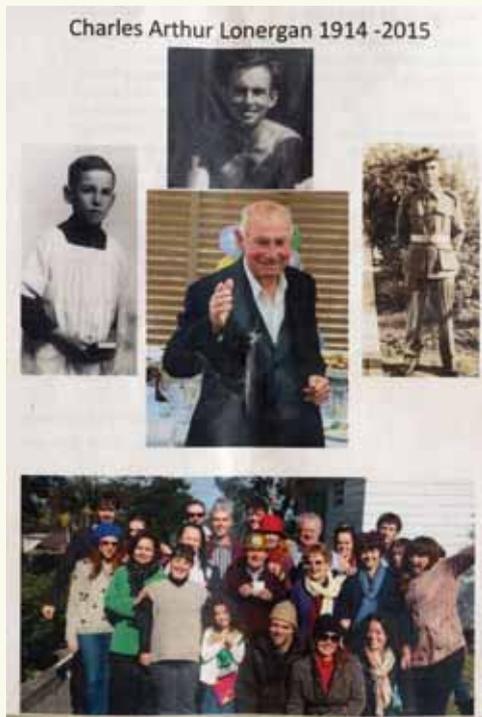
A service will be held for Mr Lonergan at St John Vianney Catholic Church on Wednesday, October 21.

It will be followed by a ceremony at Rathmines.

A color photograph of Charles Lonergan, an elderly man with white hair, wearing a dark suit and tie, standing in a room with several people. A young girl in a pink dress is in the foreground, looking towards the camera. Other people are visible in the background, some standing and some sitting.

LEGACY: Charles Lonergan with family and friends at his 100th birthday last July.





When I rang Reg Davis (2/9) to tell him, he and Barry Grant had gone to the Barracks in Randwick for a Commando lunch, but Phyllis was able to tell me of their wonderful trip to Alice Springs, Ayers Rock and The Olgas, escorted by their family. Phyll was just able to fit it in amongst functions of the various Doll-making societies of which she is a valued member. Reg doesn't do much sewing himself though he reckons he got a stitch in his side climbing East Hill. And he can sing "I'd rather have a paper doll to call my own - - -"

Mention of the attendance of old friends at funerals and memorial services, reminds me of a conversation I had about 30 or 40 years ago with dear old Frank Rheinberger (2/9). I had attended a service for one of our mates; Frank had been unable to do so – he had had to see his oncologist. I named those who had been there before saying: "it was good to see them all; it would be pretty lonely being the last one...". Frank, knowing of his limited life expectation, responded, quick as a flash: "Well, Ding, if you don't want to be the last one, I'll be quite happy to swap you!" Touché! I've probably told this story before but nobody will remember...

VALE VX64527, Ralph Coyne (2/4); 20. 07.19 – 7.10.15. Ralph's funeral took place on 13.10.15 at Ringwood. Con Bell tells me that Ralph had been Hon. Sec. of the Victorian Commando Association back in the early post-war days and in later years, a Trustee of the Welfare Fund. He had been Secretary and then President of the 2/4 Association in Victoria and later an Honorary Life Member. He was also prominent for many years in Legacy.

Commando; From Tidal River to Tarakan tells me that on 2.3.1942, when 2/4 left Wilson's Prom, Ralph was a sig and that by 12.3.42 had achieved two stripes. Next stop was Timor where, on 27th December he was

sprung by the Nips and had to leave his boots behind! Fortunately, Harry Levy had a spare pair of sneakers. An even closer call came in September 1943 when his Landing Ship Tanks (or "Troops"?) was torpedoed and bombed near Lae. Ralph, then a Sergeant, was one of the few survivors. He went on to train on the Tableland and accompanied the Squadron (by now, part of 2/9 Aust Cav (Commando) Regiment.) to Tarakan. I am greatly indebted to "Tidal River to Tarakan for its personal detail and helpful index – a rarity in such books.)

VALE VX109380, Arthur Norman Bear (2/3); W.I.A. 15.05. 1925 – 1.11.2015. His funeral took place at Cranborne Estate on 6.11.2015. Unfortunately, Ron Garland's otherwise excellent history, *Nothing is Forever*, lacks an index and I have not yet found any reference to him. No doubt Double Diamond will fill the gaps.

Don Newport (2/11) is not tap-dancing but he gets about pretty nimbly on his two sticks. Ted Workman (2/10), Editor of Cavalry News and former long-time Secretary of the NSW branch of 2/6 Cav (Cdo) Regt Assn tells me that Don, being geographically isolated from the few survivors of 2/9 Regiment, would like to join our Association. I look forward to his doing so.

East Timor Hearts Fund is still very active, having recently flown another two deserving emergency cases to Melbourne for surgery, one of them a 14-year old girl.

VALE NX73110, Corporal E.T. ("Mick") Dennis; M.M. (2/5), Z Special. The funeral took place on 18.11.15 of a very special member of the Commando Association. Yes, they are all special but their deeds are not all as well known as those of Mick Dennis. He was a member of the first draft of 2/5 Independent Coy that left Foster by train on 9.4.42 and he served with them in New Guinea. But by 1944, with no further action looking likely, he volunteered for Z Special. Of course, 2/5 were to go back into action shortly as it turned out, but meanwhile Mick had become involved in what I might call a heroic tragedy. He was the only survivor of a ten-man force that landed on Muschu Island in April 1945. The story has been told by his nephew Don Dennis, in "The Guns of Muschu" and by Geoff Black, a Fairmile man, with experience in that same area, in "Against the Odds". Silent Feet", G.B. Courtney's history of Z Special, devotes six pages to the story. If you haven't yet read it, get hold of one of those books as a matter of urgency. "Operation Copper" as it was named was in many respects a balls-up, but all ten operatives were heroes and Mick Dennis's role was epic, deserving of a higher award. 6 Div had a tiny role to play in the drama because it was NX86324, Len Osborn, (2/7) who found him after he had fought his way through Muschu and back to the mainland, west of Wewak. I won't go into any more detail because I want you all to read the book.



VALE

E.T. (Mick) Dennis MM

initially a member of the 2nd/5th Independent Company and recruited by SRD (Service Reconnaissance Department) also known as Z Special Unit.



LTCOL Rex Lipman

LTCOL Rex Lipman

former CAPT in SRD, Timor, 05 July 2015

PTE Matthew Gordon Kappler

2nd Commando Regiment



Pte Matthew Gordon Kappler

Mrs.Cynthia Rankin

the widow of the late Jack Ranken formerly 1st Independent Company, M Special and awarded Military Medal for action in New Guinea.



D.W. Minehan

2nd/6th Independent Company

John Lyon

1 Commando Company 1969 - 1970

R.A. Wicks

WW2 (Unit unknown)



E.T. Mick Dennis

Charlie Lonergan

2nd/7th Independent Company (101 years old)



Vale: E.T. (Mick) Dennis MM

Mick, as he was known, initially was a member of the 2nd/5th Independent Company and saw action in PNG.

Later he was recruited by SRD (Service Reconnaissance Department) sometimes referred to as Z Special Unit.

He was on Operation Copper, when he and seven others were inserted by canoe off Muschu Island by patrol boat to recon the island's gun emplacements.

During the insertion they were capsized on a reef and lost most of their automatic weapons and some of their paddles.

The paddles were discovered by the Japanese the next morning and they were then fighting for their lives.

Three were killed in the fighting the another four took to the sea on tree trunks and their remains were not discovered until recently.

Mick paddled on a plank through shark-infested waters to the mainland of PNG where he was able to fight his way back to Australian lines.

For this effort he was awarded the Military Medal for his courage and initiative.

Mick has been living at Maroubra with his son.



Update for Harry Bell

STOP PRESS



Further to my note about Sgt M.R. Pedersen. I have my 7 Squadron Sources and the best that Ted Byrne, Con Bell and Jack Johansen can do is: He joined 7 Squadron at Aitape on 17.11.1944. His regimental Number tells us that he was no new recruit; he was one of the first 100,000, whereas those of us who joined in early 1944 were already into the second. The main body of 2/6 Cav (Cdo) Regiment had sailed from Townsville on 14.10.44 and the Rear Party left Cairns by "Duntroon" late in November. Pedersen sailed on "Thomas Corwen", probably a "Liberty" Ship, with a few other "odds and sods" who had somehow missed the first embarkation. A few had been AWL (probably not our man, for he finished up with 3 stripes) and some had been sick - that sounds more like him. We await more news of these "unknown" soldiers.

Harry Bell



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BOOK REVIEW

LONG TAN

The start of a lifelong battle

Another book on the famous Vietnam War battle that saw 17 Australian diggers from Delta Company 6 RAR dead and another 24 wounded of which another died nine days later.

Many more would have been casualties had it not been for the hard "commando style" lead up training that Harry had insisted upon.

The battle occurred on the 18th August 1966 just five kilometres from the Australian Task Force Base at Nui Dat.

Battlefield clearance revealed 245 enemy bodies along with captured documents later confirming the count at over 500 enemy killed and a further 800 wounded.

This time the book is written by Officer Commanding Delta Company, the gruff and gutsy Major Harry Smith SG MC

Long Tan is also Harry's life story and portrays his many personal battles from failed marriages, horrific parachute accident through to his modern day struggles with bureaucracy for recognition of his soldiers.

Harry takes the readers on an extraordinary journey – one that ultimately reveals a remarkable

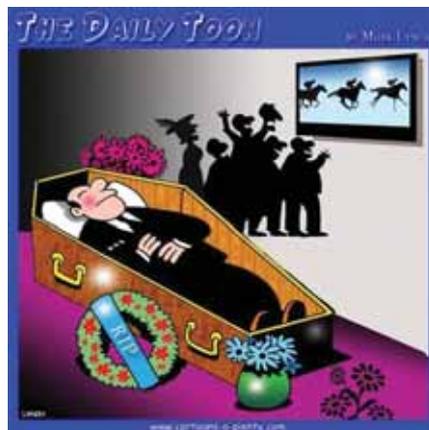
cover up at the highest military and political echelons.

And the fight continues.

Many of our readers will remember Major Smith as the OC of 1 Commando Company 1968 - 1970 prior to that posting he was the Adjutant of 2 Commando Company in 1963.

It's a "warts and all" book and I think the readers will enjoy the journey.

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GOVERNOR PAYS TRIBUTE TO FALLEN COMMANDOS FROM OPERATION RIMAU

Sunday, 12th July at the Queensland Maritime Museum on the Brisbane River at South Bank, His Excellency Paul De Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland presided over the 70th anniversary commemorating the loss of all 23 Z Special commandos sent on World War Two Operation RIMAU. Included on this operation was the brother of an earlier State Governor, Sir Walter Campbell. Sir Walter found his brother's grave at KRANJI War Cemetery and did not know until then he was in Z Special Unit and lost his life on RIMAU. During a recent State visit to Singapore, the Governor found the grave of Sir Walter's son along with other Rimaus and it bought home to him the reality of the tragic losses sustained in this SRD mission and the reach of grief among families and friends.

The raid was to revisit Singapore Harbour following the very successful JAYWICK operation which destroyed 39,000 ton of Japanese shipping in Singapore Harbour a year earlier. Whilst JAYWICK was a triumph for boldness, courage, hard training, meticulous preparation and absolute surprise, RIMAU carried much greater risks for it had only one of the major elements that gave JAYWICK success – courage.

Whereas the first mission was well planned and executed, the second was bedeviled with setbacks and incompetence from higher authorities and controllers that left the party in a desperate position and on their own among unfriendly islands, weather and an implacable enemy hunting them down.

Thus began a series of desperate actions where mates sacrificed themselves to allow others to evade the enemy until there were only 11 left and all captive to the notorious Kempei Tai secret police. They were executed in Singapore 3 weeks before the end of the war. By then they were in terrible condition having endured months of starvation, torture, medical experiments and every indignity including a mock trial. But above all this their universal courage, tenacity and sacrifice in adversity stands out like a beacon for those

who would follow in their footprints. And they do. The spirit of the RIMAUS is part of the canons imbedded in our Special Forces today.

Around 200 people attended on the cold but sunny morning including the Board of the Australian Commando Association. In a limited open area were crammed a wide representation of SF veterans, members and families facing a Vice Regal Honour Guard complete with Colours provided by 9RQR. They were supported by the Band of the 1st Regiment Royal Australian Artillery and our piper from the National Service Pipes & Drums, Piper Adam Regnart, who piped the Governor into the Museum precinct. The assembly was completed by members from ACAQ, Major L from 1 Commando Regiment, Royal Marines together with Standard; Special Air Service and AATTV associations.

MAJGEN Mike Clifford AC and President of ACA acted as Host Officer to the Governor whilst Keith Long, Tony Mills (MC) and WO2 Nick Hill (2 CDO REGT) carried out the tasks of presenting the Operation and "calling of the RIMAU Roll".

His Excellency led the laying of wreaths followed by all organisations present whilst the Band played "Going Home". This was followed by the calling of the Roll by WO2 Nick Hill.

As each name was called out, including employment prior to enlistment, age and circumstances of death, selected students from Ambrose Treacy College planted in turn, the 23 individually named crosses with own national flag whilst Piper Regnart played several laments from the Frigate DIAMANTINA behind the monument, as the RAN catafalque party stood fast.

At the end of the roll call, family members of the Rimaus laid personal tributes including the Grimwade family for Able Seaman "Happy" Huston DSM and Mrs Ann Inman for LT Walter Carey (AIF). They attend every year.



Of the 23 lost, 5 including the leader LTCOL Lyon DSO, were Britons, whilst the remainder were AIF or RAN. The Service was conducted by FR William Pearson RFD MNSC RANR, also Chaplain to the Royal Marines Association. WO1 RSM Ceremonial Craig Howe augmented the Band with visiting US Service Musicians here on Talisman Sabre and the Guard included members from as far as Rockhampton who had a long but unforgettable day. All performed admirably.

All reports received were highly complementary across the board but it was well expressed by the Governor himself in a letter to the writer which included the following passage:-

"....it was a most fitting tribute at this stage in UK/Australian history, to such outstanding courage and devotion to duty. Thank you and the Association for such a memorable and moving Commemoration.

*Yours Sincerely
Paul de Jersey."*

A copy of the Governor's succinct and memorable speech, plus a host of photographs taken on the Day can be found on our new website ~ acaq.org.au

Keith Long

OPERATION RIMAU BRIEF

The RIMAU Mission Objective was to attack shipping in Singapore Harbour, following on from JAYWICK success which sank 39,000 tonnage of shipping and escaped on the Krait without casualties. This suggested to SOE in London that a similar raid to JAYWICK could be mounted in support of Lord Louis Mountbatten's South East Asia Command strategies for para military support operations within British and Dutch colonial possessions in South East Asia, away from the northern USA interests and thrust by MacArthur towards the Philippines and Japan.

Special Operations Australia via its cover, Special Reconnaissance Department, expressed skepticism about repeating JAYWICK as Japanese precautions would be in place for a repeat raid. It is alleged that political pressure was applied to Higher Command to rule in favour of the second raid on Singapore shipping. The reasons determining this decision apparently were to demonstrate to the Asians and the Americans for that matter that the Anglo-Australians were on their way back and had to be taken seriously.

The project had the full support of General Thomas Blamey and LTCOL Lyon DSO of the Gordon Highlanders and commander of the JAYWICK mission, was to command RIMAU with mainly new operators. LYONS arrived from England along with a secret weapon for the raid-Mechanical Submersible Canoes called "sleeping beauties".

A 66ft trawler under construction in a Melbourne shipyard was requisitioned for the role of MOTHERCRAFT from which the sleeping beauties could be launched in the AO, and preparations were made to alter its appearance to craft similar to that in Singapore waters. Powered by 225HP marine diesel engine it was to be armed with a concealed 20MM Oerlikon gun.

A serious limiting factor was the operation had to be completed before the breaking of the monsoon on or before 15 October. Many factors came into play including serious setbacks in shipping construction including wharf strikes which denied the country craft to the operation in time necessitating a change in plans, from which point, things began to go wrong. The mission proceeded with the objective of capturing a native craft from which to close the target area and launch the operatives in their Sleeping Beauties and attack shipping and explosive anchorages, docks and wharves..

They left Fremantle 11 Sept 1944 aboard HM Submarine PORPOISE and proceeded to the operational area dropping supplies on an uninhabited MERAPAS ISLAND for the extraction phase before proceeding to the junk sea route near Dutch Borneo to seize such a junk.

On 26 September, members boarded and captured the MUSTIKA, a sailing vessel with no auxiliary engine to use as a close-in mother craft. In the opinion of the submarine commander it was not the right type of vessel for the area into which they would sail. His words were to prove prophetic. However they parted company and pressed on alone for PULAU LABAN.

10 Oct and just south of Singapore the unusual type of craft drew attention from a Police Coast watching post. A launch manned by Malay HEIBO volunteers under control of the Japanese closed to investigate. Mistaking the patrol vessel for a Japanese one, the party opened fire killing all aboard bar two who reached shore to report the contact. Following the



A Sleeping Beauty: a motorised submersible canoe similar to those intended to be used on the RIMAU raid.



firefight, the operation was abandoned by Lyon as now compromised and the MUSTIKA and secret submersible canoes were scuttled in deep water.

The party then split up into four groups in rubber boats and executed an Escape & Evade plan with MARAPAS ISLAND as the Rendezvous. Three days later the Japanese learned of the action and alerted all island garrisons to be on the lookout.

By coincidence all four parties ended up on SOLE (ASORE) ISLAND where they clashed with the Japanese and in the pursuit by Japanese troops, 12 were killed, including Lyon, or died in prison or whilst attempting to escape thru the islands. The last 11 survivors were captured and taken to Singapore where one allegedly died of malaria and the remainder butchered on 7th July, 1945.

The sequence of events and what actually transpired is uncertain but the remains of the Party married up on MARAPAS Island where they came into heavy contact with their pursuers and had to leave for a nearby island several days before the RV with the replacement submarine HMS TANTALUS. They returned for the agreed rendezvous but the submarine failed to arrive. When it did so finally it surfaced on the wrong side of the island and went ashore in daylight instead of the agreed darkness. It ignored its orders and never came back, leaving the Rimaus to their own fate. The party split into groups and started paddling to Australia. But were closely pursued by the Japanese in pursuit. The fighting went on from island to island until 12 had been killed or taken prisoner. Of this one Able Seaman died shortly after, allegedly from malaria. The other nine were taken to SINGKEP Police Station and then the notorious Kempei Tai interrogation centre in SINGAPORE.

Of those other parties escaping thru the islands.

One group of three got as far as TIMOR when their rubber boat was stranded on fishing stakes. Two companions in this remarkable voyage were lost-one to shark attack and the other killed by a Chinese. The survivor, an officer, was brought to Singapore and lodged with the other survivors until they were all transferred to OUTRAM Road Goal.

Another party of three managed to capture a junk near the Borneo coast but were thrown overboard by

the Chinese crew. Two drowned and the survivor floated ashore on a log only to be handed over to the Japanese by local fishermen. He also ended up in Singapore with the other survivors.

Another three sailed on down the BORNEO coast and thru the JAVA Sea reaching ROMANG Island off NE coast of Timor, where one had to be left on an island as too sick to travel. Here they were betrayed to the Japanese HQ in DILI where they eventually died of wounds and neglect. Their companion was also picked up and died in hospital. Such an epic and near completed voyage deserved a better fate.

When PORPOISE was rendered non-operational the submarine HMS TANTALUS was hastily diverted to make the first RV but could not make it due to operational and unusual enemy activity;

When it turned up at last during the next RV schedule, 30 days later, there was nobody waiting and the SRD conducting officer went ashore and found the island deserted with evidence of a hasty departure. It was not until 9 January when a radio intercept revealed that the men had been killed or captured that the fate of RIMAU became evident.

On the 5th July 1945 the surviving 10 were sentenced to death by a military court and butchered like cattle in the execution ground off Reformatory Road on 7th July where their mass grave was discovered by chance just two months later following the Japanese surrender.

We don't know and may never know all the details of what befell RIMAU and how all the 23 Z men individually met their fate as all records concerning the capture, interrogation, trial and execution of the RIMAU prisoners were destroyed and even their existence concealed. The mass grave discovery aside, the only evidence eventually obtained from the Japanese officers involved in the Military Court was concocted by themselves, then in prison awaiting trial for war crimes.

It was long believed that RIMAU had no success but eventual release of secret American "Y" material and intercepts revealed they sank or damaged three ships including a cruiser by attaching delayed action mines to ships in the harbor before they dispersed and executed their E&E plan.

RIMAU was the single most expensive operation in terms of human loss for SRD but their courage, tenacity and sacrifice shines in the histories of our commando and special forces and the same quality of men then exists today in our Armed Forces-especially in Special Operations.

THERE SHALL BE NO MORE PAIN FOR THEM
AND NO MORE LABOURED BREATH.
THEY SET A BRAVE EXAMPLE
BEYOND THEIR PLACE OF DEATH.
AND GOD WILL LET THEM ACHE NO MORE
"Z" MEN AT SINGAPORE
LEST WE FORGET

The Malayan junk
MUSTIKA; captured
for use in Operation
RIMAU
(NAA: A3269,
Q11/58(B)).



Special Duties Flight No. 200 (Liberator)

Leyburn – Queensland 1945

"If Courage can be judged by individual acts of bravery, then the crews who flew those lonely Special Duties Air Operations are deserving of a lasting tribute, for theirs was the loneliest War of all".

Ken Merrick, Author of "Flights Of The Forgotten"

Very little is publicly known and much still is about the activities of 200 Flight which directly supported clandestine operations during 1945. Engaged in dropping Z Special Unit personnel behind enemy lines in Borneo and Timor, the Flight continued to then resupply parties with stores, munitions and food on behalf of the Special Reconnaissance Dept (SRD), cover name for Australian Intelligence Bureau (AIB), until after hostilities ceased.

These operations were performed under most hazardous conditions and circumstances requiring great courage, resourcefulness, ingenuity and risk taking.

The Flight consisted of 6 Liberator aircraft with crews especially equipped and trained for supporting AIB projects on behalf of the JCS.

Three Liberators crashed on operations resulting in the loss of 32 airmen and 14 "Z" operators.

Leyburn RAAF WW2 Memorial

Liberator Place, Leyburn, Queensland, Australia

Saturday, August 15th saw the dedication of the Memorial for the Leyburn RAAF WW2 airfield, the home of 21 Squadron, 23 Squadron, 99 Squadron, 200 Special Duties Flight, flying consolidated B24 Liberator Bombers as well as SRD Units, and Z Special Unit operatives.



was also the sprints and a vintage car rally, and they were not only from the township.

The Department of Defence was represented by LTCOL Scott Nicholls, CO of the Aviation Training School; Padre Major David Snape; and SQNLDR Scott Harvey from the Amberley based unit responsible for RAAF

Flight 200 flew missions in support of the Z Special Unit throughout South East Asia and the South West Pacific.

Three liberators – A72-191, A72-159, A72-177 – were lost, including the flight commander, 31 airmen and 14 SRD operatives.

The attendance of approximately 100 people for such an obscure and little known activity was outstanding, given that in the township of Leyburn there

Bases.

Also placing wreaths were the Queensland Police Service, represented by Inspector Paul Hart and Senior Constable Steven Gibb.

The memorial was at the junction of the two major runways that, along with the taxiway, formed a triangle. The unveiling was performed by one of the veterans of the Base in that era, Mr Gary Laing.



AUSTRALIAN COMMANDO ASSOCIATION VICTORIA Inc.



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60th Anniversary of the Reformation of Australia's Special Forces

All generations of the Australian Commando 'family' came together when post-World War 2 serving and former Commandos and their WW2 forebears held a 60th anniversary celebration dinner in Melbourne a few days before Vietnam Veterans Day in August.

Master of ceremonies Major Steve Pilmore (Rtd) welcomed Brigadier Vance Khan DSC, the Deputy Special Operations Commander Australia, and the Commanding Officers and RSMs of the 1st and 2nd Commando Regiments, the Officers Commanding 1 and 2 Coys, 1st Cdo Regt, and other senior officers, NCOs and partners who attended the evening.

Other ex-service organisations and support organisations present included the Commando Welfare Trust, Cam's Cause (the Cameron Baird VC Trust), the AATTV and Regimental associations, and many guests.

At the end of World War 2, in August 1945, the Commando Squadrons that fought so effectively against the Japanese in the Pacific area were demobilised. In 1955, realising the skills of the Commando units were in danger of being lost, and in the climate of the cold war between the western powers and Russia, two Commando Companies were raised – the first of the post-WW2 Special Forces units.

In early 1955, then Major WH 'Mac' Grant was appointed to raise and command 1 Commando Company in Sydney, while Major Peter Seddon raised and commanded 2 Commando Company in Melbourne.

Grant's service symbolised the link between the WW2 and the later Commandos. He served in New Guinea in 1942-43 in 2/5 Independent Company, then with 2/12 Commando Squadron in the North Borneo campaign and the liberation of Sarawak, before commanding 1 Commando Company from 1955 to 1959. Grant and Seddon are regarded as the 'fathers' of the post-WW2 Commandos.

Guest speaker at the anniversary dinner, held a few days before the anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, was David Sabben, a platoon commander during the historic battle when 108 Australian soldiers from D Company 6 Battalion fought off attacks from about 2000 Viet Cong. In a merciless clash that ended with 18 Australians killed and 24 wounded, a body count after the battle found about 250 Viet Cong had been killed.

Captain Harry Smith, the commanding officer D Company, was the Adjutant at 2 Commando Company in the early 1960s. Sabben explained how the demanding Commando skills that Smith instilled in his Infantry soldiers before they went to Vietnam saved the men when the Viet Cong heavily outnumbered them.

"The higher level of performance demanded of the D Coy men due to their Commando training under Smith made a difference." Sabben gave a number of examples, saying he and his men did not think much about the pressure they faced at the time, because their training and instincts kicked in.

During the evening Commando Association Victoria president Captain M conferred a life membership on Roman Stuczynski, an original post-WW2 member of 2 Company who was also the founder of the Victorian post-WW2 Association.

Former Royal Marine 'Mac' McDermott from the UK who was attached to 1 and 2 Commando Companies to conduct specialist training and provide support for the development of the newly raised Commando units, sent congratulations, 60 years on, from his home on the Isle of Skye. Other former members also sent their best wishes.

Apart from the WW2 Commando veterans, perhaps the most inspiring guest at the dinner was Keith Smith, who enlisted in 2 Cdo Coy when it was first raised in 1955, before moving to Sydney for work and transferring to the NSW- based 1 Cdo Coy; he later returned to Melbourne and again joined 2 Cdo Coy.



Recently losing a leg through diabetes, Smith walked with a prosthetic until he lost his other leg. He told his daughter Diane he would get a second prosthetic and start walking again. And when he heard of the anniversary celebrations, he organised, with Diane and granddaughter Brooke, the 320 km round trip from his hostel in Traralgon to meet up with his old mates in Melbourne.

As Keith said, you are "a Commando for life".



1 and 2 Commando Company post-WW2 veteran Keith Smith, left, with Victorian Association Secretary, Glenn MacDonald. Photo: Sheryl English.



Victorian President, Captain M, presented guest speaker Dave Sabben with a MV Krait carved wooden pen set.



WW2 veterans Keith Johnston, left, Ron 'Dixie' Lee and Con Bell, shared the evening with their families.



Old friends meet again. Rear, from left: Wayne Jenkins, David Waterston, Ian Storey, Rob Osborne, David Rice, Don Bergman, David Dew, Dick Pelling, Danny Williams. Front: Adrian Cookson, Rob Prior, Doug Knight, 'Jack' Ripa, Ray Hinde, Bruce Parker, Terry Beckwith.





AUSTRALIAN COMMANDO ASSOCIATION - INC.

Incorporated A.C.T A04607, ABN 93 194 911 542

"COMMANDO FOR LIFE"



*Membership is open to all serving and former members of Special Forces.
The Committee will also consider applications for affiliate membership from other persons who identify with aims and objectives of the Association.*

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

SURNAME		RANK & GIVEN NAMES	
DATE OF BIRTH		REGIMENTAL NUMBER or PM KEYS	
ADDRESS (For Correspondence)			Post Code
		<input type="text"/>	
CONTACT DETAILS	(Home)	(Business)	
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	(Mobile)	(E-mail)	
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NEW MEMBERS TO COMPLETE THIS SECTION

UNIT DETAILS	ENLISTMENT DATE	DISCHARGED/CURRENT
Served With From To		
Served With From To	Signature	Verifying Unit: e.g Commando Unit
Served With From To	Signature	Position/contact details e.g RXO
Date	Signature of Applicant	Signature of verifying officer

It is up to the individual to provide proof of their service and membership may be refused if the Committee are unable to verify this service vide Central Army Records Office (CARO) or other Government authorities.

By Signing this Application you agree to be bound by the Constitution of the Australian Commando Association Inc. of the State Branch that you have nominated to join. (See Reverse side).

Note: The State Branches of the Australian Commando Association Incorporated are autonomous entities and comply with respective State Incorporations Act and Regulations. The President and Secretary of the State Branches are members of the National Committee of the Australian Commando Association Inc.





Australian Commando Association Inc.

State Incorporated Branches

You are invited to join the Australian Commando Association Inc family;
most members join with the State Branch that is convenient to your circumstance.

The State Branch Details are as follows: Please tick the box of your choice.

Australian Commando Association New South Wales Inc. (Y0204417)

The Secretary
PO Box 1313
Sutherland NSW 1499
Telephone (02) 9644 8794
0425 279 111
email: starlightcdo@gmail.com

Financial Year 1st January to 31st December
Annual Fee \$30.00 + \$25.00 Joining fee for new members
The Annual fee is subject to review by committee.

Banking:
Australian Commando Association (NSW) Inc.
Police Bank BSB 815 000 Account No. 41117 *Please indicate name with Deposit.*

Australian Commando Association Victoria Inc. (A00114983Z)

The Secretary
1/48 Karnak Road
Ashburton, Vic 3147
Telephone (03) 9886 9825 Mobile 0414 311 093
email: gmac1950@gmail.com

Financial Year 1st January to 31st December
Annual Fee \$45.00 subject to review by committee.

Banking:
Australian Commando Association Victoria Inc.
Commonwealth Bank
BSB 063239 Account No. 10492290 *Please indicate name with Deposit*

Australian Commando Association Queensland Inc. (IA40186)

The Secretary
PO Box 185
Sherwood QLD 4075
Mobile 0419 136 772
email info@austcdoassocqld.com

Financial Year 1st January to 31st December
Annual Fee \$45.00
The Annual fee is subject to review by committee.

Banking:
Australian Commando Association Queensland Inc.
Heritage Bank
BSB 638070 Account No. 12906174 *Please indicate name with Deposit*





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