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Registered by Australia Post ~ Publication No PP100016240

News

Edition 16 ~ 2019





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The Australian Commando Association's membership consists of Servicemen & women who have served with WW2 Independent Companies, Commando Squadrons & Regiments, "M" and "Z" Special units, 1st & 2nd Commando Company's, 1st Commando Regiment, 4 RAR Commando & the 2nd Commando Regiment. The Association also consists of Associate Members who have served in units who directly supported Commando units in time of war and peace and Social members who's direct family member was either Killed In Action, Died In Service or Killed in Training or a member of the ACA who has passed.

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

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

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Printed by **BOOST Design + Print**

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Deadline for next edition - Issue 17
SUNDAY 24th NOVEMBER, 2019

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

Nick Hill



FRONT COVER:

VALE WO2 Ken "Bluey" Curran, OAM. JP.

2nd/11th Commando Squadron WW2 & 1 Commando Company
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A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Hello all and welcome to Edition #16 of Commando News (Spring Edition) August - November 2019. A lot has happened over the past few months since our last magazine and we all trust that you are well.

This issue sees a lot of great and interesting articles. This year marks the 75th Anniversary of Operation Rimau conducted by Z Special Unit in which unfortunately saw all 23 members KIA or Executed after the mission was compromised. There is an article by a M Special Unit member during WW2 as well as a story on the Battle of Kaipit which was fought by the 2nd/6th Cdo Sqn on 19/20 September 1943 and a personal story on 1 Cdo Coy in the 1960's.

The Honorary Phycologist of ACA Qld has written an article on the effects of service, there is an article on Whiskey's Wish which is a program about assistance dogs and a new section on Books of Interest. Keep the articles coming in as we will always endeavor to have

your articles published and if we can't then we will have them for the next edition.

Keep well and if you are down range, keep your powder dry and sights straight!

Commando 4 Life

Nick Hill

Editor

Commando News Magazine

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NATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Hello Members,

I am writing this editions Presidential Report as I have a pleasant duty to perform.

On behalf of you all, I am pleased to offer our collective congratulations to our President on the occasion of his election as National President of the Returned & Services League of Australia.

Before he accepted this new role GEN Melick, as we would expect of a senior Barrister, a Major General, an Integrity Commissioner, a Wine Producer and a former Special Investigator for Cricket Australia, examined all matters relevant to any perceived or actual conflict of interest in holding the same position at both the RSL and the ACA.

Given all those roles, I am surprised that our President found time to look at anything extra, but he did and fortunately for us he found no reason why he cannot fulfil both roles as well as all of the others he handles on a regular basis. Recent events indicate he will have plenty to do in his new role as well!

Both the President and most members of the National Committee attended the now traditional Op Rimau Commemoration held mid- July. This event in recent years has been held on the aft deck of the original HMAS Diamantina – now a decommissioned River Class Frigate and one of the major attractions at the Queensland Maritime Museum.

The service featured an emotional call of the Roll of Honour of all Commandos lost in both training and combat operations post WW II whilst young schoolboys came forward with a small white

cross bearing the name of each soldier lost. It is a moving service attended now for many years by the Governor of Queensland, His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC QC, as well as senior Special Operations Command members.

The National Committee then takes the chance to gather for one of our quarterly National Committee Meetings.

Many issues were addressed and your State delegates to the National Committee will fill you in on the major points but it is worthwhile here reporting that one matter addressed was that of E-membership – a sure sign that the Australian Commando Association is moving, albeit slowly and carefully, into the modern era of internet and social media platforms.

From the Commando Welfare Trust news desk – a Black Tie Dinner is being held in Sydney on Friday 13th September 2019 at Doltone House Hyde Park Sydney – the booking form is available elsewhere in this edition of Commando News. It would be great to see some support from ACA Members (see attached flyer).

Finally, if you’re going to be in the Wilsons Promontory region of Victoria around the 15-17 November 2019 period be sure to find out about the ACA Vic Tidal River Pilgrimage as this year it will feature some VIP guests at what is already another wonderful ACA traditional event.

Commando 4 Life

Steve Pilmore

National Vice President
Australian Commando Association



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SIGNIFICANT COMMANDO DATES

AUGUST TO NOVEMBER 2019

AUGUST

2 AUGUST 1942

2nd/6th Independent Company deploys to New Guinea on board MS Tasman.

AUGUST 1943

2nd/4th Commando Squadron lands in Milne Bay, New Guinea.

SEPTEMBER

23/24 SEPTEMBER 1942

2nd/4th Independent Company lands at Betano, Portugese Timor from HMAS Voyager to replace the 2nd/2nd Independent Company. HMAS Voyager becomes aground and both Independent Company's begin to fight against the Japanese.

2 SEPTEMBER 1943

14 members of Z Special Unit depart Exmouth aboard the MV Krait as part of Operation Jaywick.

19/20 SEPTEMBER 1943

2nd/6th Commando Squadron in action during the battle of Kaiapit, New Guinea.

26/27 SEPTEMBER 1943

Z Special Unit conduct raids on Japanese Shipping in Singapore Harbour as part of Operation Jaywick.

4 SEPTEMBER 1944

2nd/4th Commando Squadron landed at Lae during the Salamaua-Lae campaign. This was the first Australian amphibious landing since Gallipoli in 1915.

11 SEPTEMBER 1944

23 men of Z Special Unit depart Garden Island in WA aboard HMS Porpoise as part of Operation Rimau.

OCTOBER

OCTOBER 1941

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

1 OCTOBER 1942

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

OCTOBER 1943

2nd/3rd Independent Company was renamed 2nd/3rd Commando Squadron after reforming at Atherton Tablelands, Queensland.

OCTOBER 1944

2nd/8th Commando Squadron was transported to Torokina, Bougainville to begin the Bougainville Campaign. 2nd/9th Commando Squadron relieves US Forces in Aitape.

10 OCTOBER 1944

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

22 OCTOBER 1944

2nd/7th Commando Squadron departs Brisbane to relive the US Army Regiment at Babiang, New Guinea.

25 OCTOBER 2001

4 RAR Commando returns to Australia after a successful 6 months deployment as party of the UN mission in East Timor.

NOVEMBER

20 NOVEMBER 1942

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

NOVEMBER 1944

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

For all advertising please contact...

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

RECENT ACTIVITIES

Submission of grant for development of audio-visual materials for use at Tidal River

ACA VIC did receive \$54,000 in funding from the Victorian Government and is currently working with Ryebuck Media for the development of an audio-visual training package for use by Parks Victoria education staff at Tidal River. The package will focus on primary and secondary school students and local and international visitors. Current planning is that the package will be available for presentation to Parks Victoria at the November commemorative activity at Tidal River.

Welfare

ACA Victoria continues to liaise and attend regular meetings with the Victorian Veterans Council, Legacy, RSL and DVA network to promote ACAVIC's objectives/expectations and support requirements in the very crowded Welfare & Advocacy arena. There have been no requirements for financial support in recent months.

Annual Dinner 2019 Commemoration of the Operation RIMUA Raid into Singapore

Tickets for this function of sold out already as many very interested to hear Lynette Silver, a renowned author of JAYWICK and RIMAU operations who will be speaking specifically about RIMAU and we have some family members of Sergeant Goodey, who was an operative from the operation who was also an initial instructor at Tidal River, Guerrilla Warfare Training School. It promises to be a great night and an opportunity for a few small presentations from the Association for commemoration of 'some special people'. We will be recording Lynette's presentation so that it can be loaded onto the Association website for all to see.

2019 Tidal River Memorial

The annual pilgrimage to Tidal River is well on track and formal invitations will be going out in the next fortnight as it was confirmed that the CDF is still attending. ACAV is intending to invite some major VIPs in order to make them aware of the need for funding

for the enhancement of the Tidal River 'Commando Track' as well is our local commemoration for Operation RIMAU. Some family members of Sergeant Goody OP RIMAU have indicated they will be attending. We will also be providing transport so that those few remaining World War II members and their families who wish to attend will be able to do so to provide that extra level of reverence to the day. It is also been confirmed that we will again have Catafalque party provided by commando units.

1. In addition, it is also the hundredth anniversary of the Foster RSL at planned that a few the Association members will be joining with them to celebrate on the night prior to our activity.

New Commemorative Memorabilia

2. In order to support the commemoration of World War II members of Special Operations Australia and supporting in its we have recently instigated the creation of several commemorative items as shown below. These will shortly be available for sale through our website and for those interstate associations who wish to purchase bulk quantities for local resale these will be provided at a significantly reduced cost.



Flight 200 badge which is an exact copy of the earlier Association version. There are 50 numbered and 50 unnumbered with numbered being available to family members of the original unit.



A new Z Special Association lapel badge.



A new Z Special Association lapel badge for families of Z Special Association.





A newly designed plaque showing the various forms of insertion used by members of special operations Australia to undertake the many operations they performed in the Southwest Pacific and elsewhere during World War II. Only 100 have been produced and priority will go to Australian special operations units, ACA members and families of former members of the units. We are also anticipating having

a small number of slightly modified version made for those who served with the Coast Watcher organisation 'M Special'.

Forthcoming Activities

We have commenced planning for the 2020 anniversary of the Rip Incident were several unit members along with support staff loss of lives. More details to follow in the near future.

ACA VIC LIFE MEMBER AWARDS

The last of the few remaining Victorian WW2 ACAV members were recently presented with Certificates of life membership of ACAV, and an appreciation for their WW2 Service. Two members, who have been acknowledged in previous newsletters, are Sgt Norm Wallace, "Z" Special unit, and Ron (Dixie) Lee "M" Special Coast watcher. Other recipients were:-

LT Jim Ellwood - 2/2 Commando Squadron and Z Special Unit



Andrew Gordon, LT Jim Ellwood & Dick Pelling.

Lt. AKS185 Jim Ellwood 2nd/2nd Commando Squadron and "Z" Special unit, Timor.

It was indeed a pleasure for Drew Gordon and me to meet up with Jim, his charming wife Loretta, and their son Damian, (Damian served for a short time with 2Cdo in 1966) to make the presentation to Jim.

In 2010 AWM Canberra convened a commemorative service for "Z" Special operatives, where a long overdue 'Thank you' was made by speaker Brendan Nelson to members of WW2 Special Operations, and a special mention was made to both Jim Ellwood and Jack Tredea in his address. Brendan went on to say "We are here today to honour giants", there is a different kind of bravery, recognised not only by medals. It is the kind of bravery that was manifested in these remarkable men of "Z" Special. It is no surprise to me that the words

on the plaque are ex certamine contubernium: "out of conflict comradeship is born". Out of the conflict and all of the remarkable things done by you, the men of "Z" Special, of whom our nation is so proud, has come not only comradeship but also a love and respect for you, the families who love and support you, and, for us, a deeper understanding of what it means to be an Australian and our pride in being so.

LT Thomas Henry – Z Special Unit



Glenn McDonald, LT Tom Henry & Dick Pelling.

The next member on our list was that of LT AKS15 "Z" Special unit, LMS Cipher man, LT Thomas Henry. LMS, was known officially as the "Lugger Maintenance Section", so Japanese spies would not get suspicious. 'Z' Special members would dress up as sailors and lug small ships through the base, it was 17 kilometers by road or 4km as the crow flies from Darwin, and was a major WWII operational base Z Special Unit. Selection of Darwin to host a major LMS base reflected the proximity of Darwin to the frontline of the War and to the strategically significant islands just to its north. The base operated from 1942 to 1945 and at its peak accommodated 500 personnel.

Jim Burrowes, OAM. - M Special Unit



Dick Pelling, Jim Burrowes OAM, and Glenn MacDonald



Jim Burrowes OAM "M" Special Coast Guard Watcher was determined to finish his game of Lawn Bowls when we paid him a visit to make the presentation. So, Glenn and I, Jim's wife Beryl, and son Robert watched the family's beloved footy team the Swans, beat Carlton so it was smiles all round when Jim fronted up.

Much has been written on Jim's Coast Guard experiences.

Jim gave a compelling address as the speaker at the 2015 Tidal River memorial service, where he also spoke of the origins of the WW2 Commando units. Jim has tremendous knowledge of the Coast watcher operations in the South Pacific area, and of the many tragic incidents that were part of the toll in the war against the Japanese.

Peter Poole – 200 Special Duties Flight, RAAF



*President ACA VIC.
Doug Knight, Peter Poole
& Andrew Gordon.*

On 31st May, President Doug Knight and Secretary Glenn McDonald visited our next recipient, "Z" Special Unit member Peter Poole, RAAF WW2 flight 200, during and for many years a member of the Commando Associations.

No. 200 Flight was formed at Leyburn, Queensland on 20 February 1945. The flight was controlled

by the AIB and was tasked with the insertion and supply of intelligence gathering parties behind Japanese lines.

No. 200 Flight began training operations with Z Special Unit immediately upon formation. Despite the priority accorded to the unit, it experienced shortages of equipment and its accommodation and maintenance facilities at Leyburn were basic. By mid-March No. 200 Flight had strength of nine eleven-man aircrews, 450 ground crew and six B-24s. On 18 March these aircraft conducted a reconnaissance flight over Borneo and were subsequently joined by a third B-24. Two B-24s dropped a party of eight 'Z' Special Unit personnel near Bario on 24th March, but the aircraft flown by No. 200 Flight's commanding officer, Squadron Leader Harold Graham Pockley, disappeared on its way back to base. No. 200 Flight continued supporting AIB operations until the end of the war. On the night of 15/16th of April three of its aircraft dropped personnel assigned to the SEMUT 2 operation in Borneo. It subsequently flew over 30 operations to drop AIB personnel and supplies in Borneo, Ambon, Lombok, Sumatra and Timor. No. 200 Flight continued flying after the end of the war on 15 August 1945. It continued dropping AIB operatives and supplies until mid-October. No. 200 Flight's last sorties were made to drop leaflets and the unit was disbanded on 15 December 1945.

TPR Charles (Charlie) Black 2/4 Commando Squadron



Andrew Gordon, TPR Charles Black & Glenn McDonald.

The 2/4th Commando Squadron was one of 12 independent companies and commando squadrons raised by the Australian Army during the Second World War. Raised in August 1941, it was disbanded not long after due to conceptual problems, but it was quickly reformed following the entry of Japan into the war in December 1941.

In August 1943, the 2/4th was deployed to New Guinea, arriving at Milne Bay where they were placed under the command of the 9th Division, attached to the 26th Brigade. The squadron then experienced a hiatus from operations for over a year, during which time it conducted numerous training exercises in northern Queensland, before embarking from Townsville and sailing to Morotai in April 1945. From here the squadron took part in the landings at Tarakan Island near Borneo as part of the "Oboe" operations.

Throughout May and June, the 2/4th played an important role in the campaign. The landing on Sadau Island was unopposed and a few days later on 3rd May at Tarakan it was once again tasked to act in support of the 26th Brigade. In the coming days and weeks the 2/4th saw extensive service during the liberation of Tarakan, suffering heavy casualties with four officers and fifty-two other ranks being killed or wounded in this time. Upon its return to Australia, the 2/4th regrouped at Ravenshoe, Queensland, where in March 1944 it became part of the 2/9th Cavalry Commando Regiment and was officially attached to the 9th Division with whom it had served during the recently concluded operations in New Guinea.

Charlie was known to be nimble on his feet which would have stood him in good stead in the Commandos. He was a football boundary umpire for some years, and was also a quick middle distance runner, both codes requiring good stamina, a good asset for Commandos. Charlie and Lorraine have both been long and loyal members of the Australian Commando Association.



LT Bill Beiers – Z Special Unit



Bill and Vona Beiers.

It was a privilege for Glenn and I to drop in to Bill and Vona Beiers and present Bill, a Lt with "Z" Special unit, with an Australian Commando Association Vic life membership. Bill was a busy member of "Z" Special, being involved in 1945 Ops Squirrel, (Tarakan), Magpie, (Tifore), Finch (Halmahera), and SEMUT, meaning ant (Sarawak). Operation Semut was a series of 1,2,3 of reconnaissance operations and was part of the 1945 Borneo Campaign in Sarawak, north western Borneo. A great deal more about these operations are written up in Gruff Courtney's "Silent feet". The Timor Coffee that Vona offered was accepted and was a well received bonus. I have been converted now to Timor Coffee.

WO Bob Cherry – 200 Special Duties Flight, RAAF



Bob and Joan Cherry.

It was a cold wintry day when ACAV President, Doug Knight met with Bob Cherry, formerly Warrant Officer Cherry of the RAAF No. 200 (Special Duties) Flight. Bob had been an early member of the unit and served as a Radio Operator/Air Gunner with Flight 200 during 1945 at

the latter part of World War II.

The unit history 'Leyburn's Liberators and Those Lonely Special Duties Air Operation' shows the Bob was a crewmember of Flying Officer Tom Bridges Liberator crew and undertook many missions to North Borneo to drop in and resupply operatives from the Allied Intelligence Bureau (AIB) element the Services Reconnaissance Department (SRD) probably on the SEMUT series of operations.

Doug reported that "I had a great chat with Bob with regard to current activities of the Association and our appreciation of the legacy that has been left to us by the M&Z Commando Association, including 200 Flight, both in historical terms but also in the material support with finance for Patriotic Welfare Fund and many items of historical significance which are now within our historical collection and on display in several locations.

Bob indicated that following the end of the war and the creation of the various associations including M&Z,

Commando's, RAAF etc that he joined M&Z and had attended a number of social activities over the years and maintained his membership and was very pleased that catch up with his old mates over the years. Unfortunately, only Bob and Jim Banks, a member of ACA Queensland, are unfortunately the only 2 surviving members of 200 Flight that are known to the Association. Bob said they are in regular contact. Bob indicated that he was very pleased to receive his hard copy of Commando News and was particularly interested in the 2019 ANZAC Day edition and the article on CPL Cameron Baird, VC. MG. as Bob had been neighbours in his youth when he was growing up in West Brunswick, Melbourne with John Baird, also known as Jack.

Jack Baird was Doug Baird's father and therefore grandfather to Cameron. Bob and Jack were such good mates that Jack attended Bob's wedding but unfortunately over the years and with many relocations they had lost touch with each other.

Bob's lounge room wall is proudly decorated the number of plaques commemorating his service in the RAAF, "Z" Special unit, in the M&Z Association and a graduation photo of his grandson is currently serving as a Major in the Royal Australian Signal Corps, based in Canberra".

Elizabeth MacKenzie – Z Special Unit



Glenn McDonald, Elizabeth MacKenzie & Andrew Gordon

Elizabeth Mackenzie "Z" Special Unit, 'Movements manager' at Airlie House South Yarra. 'Z' Special unit.

Some SOE British Officers who had escaped to Australia from Singapore. One of these SOE British Officers was Major G.E. Mott who arrived in Australia from Java after it was taken over by the

Japanese. Major Mott had been Head of British SOE in Java. Since he was a member of the Civil Component of SOE Far Eastern Mission he was retained in Australia. LTCOL G.E. Mott established the Inter-Allied Services Department (ISD) on 17 May 1942 two months after arriving in Australia. It's headquarters was established in "Airlie", located at 260 Domain Road on the corner of Punt Road in Melbourne.

A recent book described their operations in the following terms. "It was from within Airlie's cold stone walls that Mott's team would plan and monitor missions sent into enemy territory north of Australia. Mott's team of six officers and three administrative staff included some of the best and brightest."

Ref source: Wikipedia & 'Silent Feet' G.B. Courtney

Commando 4 Life

Doug Knight
President
ACA VIC





27 August 2017
WO2 Mick Craig, CSM.
Regimental
Headquarters,
1st Commando
Regiment,
Died In Service
Swansea,
New South Wales



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



22 September 1966
SGT Daniel Lorkin
2nd Commando
Company,
Killed In Training
Melbourne,
Victoria



25 September 1983
PTE Sean Ryan
1 Commando Company,
1st Commando
Regiment
Died In Training
Holsworthy,
New South Wales



14 October 1958
**LCPL Peter James
Herd**
2 Commando
Company,
Drowned In Training
Half Moon Bay,
Victoria



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



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



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



30 August 2012
**LCPL Mervyn
McDonald & PTE
Nathan Gallagher**
Alpha Commando
Company, 2nd
Commando Regiment,
Killed In Action
Helmand Province,
Afghanistan



27 November 2008
LT Michael Fussell
Operational
Support Company,
4th Battalion
Commando,
Killed In Action
Urazghan Province,
Afghanistan

The Positive Relationship between Physical Activity and PTSD

Exercise has a positive clinical effect on depressive symptoms and may be as effective as psychological or pharmaceutical therapies for some individuals with PTSD. Rosebaum et al, 2014 suggests Physical activity/exercise is a highly effective method in reducing symptoms of depression and for people experiencing other mental health disorders.

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

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

People with PTSD are four times as likely to have type 2 diabetes (Lukaschek et al, 2013) and rates of overweight and obesity are as high as 92%. To add to these statistics, suffers of PTSD are shown to be less physically active due to a number of factors including pain, dysfunctional and general lack of desire or both, according Boscarino et al, 2004.

Adding some form of regular physical activity can have a significant effect on a sufferer of PTSD. It's important to note, the type of activity doesn't matter, what matters is that the person is moving and also having fun doing it. If you would like to become physically active again and help to combat some of your PTSD related symptoms then please consult your GP and discuss your options for referral to another health care professional (exercise physiologist or physiotherapist) for help with your other associated or co-morbid conditions ie lower back pain, arthritis and or obesity.





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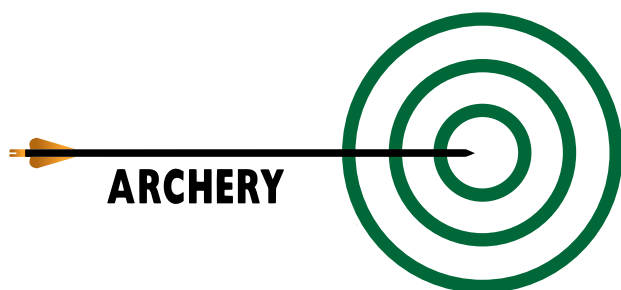
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acaql_d_president@commando.org.au

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TREASURER - Mr Rafael Torijos
acaql_d_treasurer@commando.org.au

Web Address - www.commando.org.au **Postal Address** - PO Box 185, Sherwood, QLD 4075

Contact - acaql_d_secretary@commando.org.au

PRESIDENT'S WORD

Hello all, this quarter has seen a lot of events for the Queensland crew of the ACA. In early April saw some of our members attend a Weapons qualification course organised by the ASASAQ and ran by the Qld Rifles Association. Most members that attended qualified for both long gun (A&B) and pistol (H) licences and even some of the wives and partners came along and even a daughter of a member. Great day out and well worth attending the next one if you are interested in getting a shooters licence. As a result of this day and discussions between ourselves and the Aust SAS Assoc Qld (ASASAQ) and the amount of people who really enjoyed the shooting competition last year, an SF Shooters Association is going to start up very soon so if you are keen to start shooting again keep an eye out for more detail to come.

On ANZAC Day this year we had 20 members march which was the biggest numbers we have seen in a very long time, well the biggest since we amalgamated with the Queensland Commando Association in 2012. Our

banner was carried by six Year 11 & 12 students from Muller Collage which was a great honour for them to do. We also had a straggler turn up right at the end of the march whose grandfather was a member of the 2/2 Cdo Sqn during WW2. After the march we headed down to the Jade Buddha with the ASASAQ, great spot looking right over the Brisbane river & at a very cheap \$25 a head. Good food, great beer and great to see some old faces, even old Graham Brammer from those in the early days of 4 Cdo was there having a laugh and few beers. The President and another member from the SOER Assoc Qld attended the gathering as well. From all reports from both our members and the ASASAQ guys it was a great day, no egos, no stink eye, just good fun and great laughs and we've agreed to do the same again next year, hopefully a few more will come as well as other SF organisations. The ASASAQ graciously donated \$250 for us to start our own welfare fund for us to use on our members where the CWT I not able to support. More details to follow on that in the



Some of the ACA Qld members and Muller College Students after the march on ANZAC Day.



next couple of months. Personally, I'd like to say thanks to everyone who came along and made it one of the best ANZAC Days since leaving the Regt, and I hope that more of you come along next year.

Sunday 14 July saw our annual Commemorative service of OP Rimau & Commando/SF Day being held at the on the Quarterdeck of HMAS Diamantina at the Qld Maritime Museum. This year we combined both OP Rimau & Commando/SF Day together to not only Commemorate the 74th Anniversary of the last 10 Z Special Unit Operators being executed by the Japanese on 7 July 1945 but we also commemorate all Commandos and since 1955. All 57 names including the 23 of Operation Rimau and the 34 names of every Commando & IRR/SOER member who have died serving with the Commando Company's & Regiments since WW2. The day was well attended with His Excellency, The Governor of Queensland as the Guest of Honour, the ACA National President, Commander & RSM SF Group, one of the Sqn Commanders of SOER as well as the ACA State representatives, our sister associations The Royal Marines, The ASASAQ, The Rhodesian Light Infantry Assoc and approx. 100 family members and quests. Thanks to the National Service Pipes & Drums for playing throughout the service and the Qld Maritime Museum from allowing us to use the Quarterdeck of HMAS Diamantina.

At the luncheon after Rimau Day our Vice Patron Mr Doug Baird received a replica of his OAM from Roxy of JR Medals, The Governor of Qld presented both MAJ Jack Thurgar ((Retd) ACA National Secretary) his Life Member Certificate & Lapel Pin to ACA Qld and Mr Ian Millard the Pipe Major of the National Service Pipes & Drums received a certificate of appreciation for his outstanding contribution and thanks on behalf of the National Service Pipes & Drums from ACA Qld & specifically for Op Rimau & Commando/SF Day by The Governor of Qld.

As part of our mental health & wellbeing program some of our members are off to Somerset Dam in SE Qld to have week away camping, fishing, crabbing, telling stories and having a great time getting together to reengage with each other but also help each other during some the hard times since they have served and had discharged. Hand in hand with this we also have two



The Wreaths, Crosses and Star of David laid at the 74th Commemorative Service of Op Rimau & Commando/SF Day.

our members are off to Timor Leste to represent ACA Qld at the 20th Anniversary of INTERFET in September as well as conducting battlefield tours and conducting some health and wellbeing practices with Veterans Care Inc. We wish them both well and have a great time in Timor.

Just to finish off there is an open invite for all Commando Association members from Jack Thurgar, SC. MBE. OAM. RFD. (ACA Qld Life Member) to attend the Australian Bravery Association events on Saturday 24 August in Ballina NSW (See the attachment at the bottom).

Not only had we been donated \$250 from the SAS guys to start our own welfare fund but we ended up having a silent Auction on a bronze cast of a WW2 Commando Dagger. The highest bid of \$1000 was greatly appreciated. Muller Collage who carried our Banner on ANZAC Day raised \$2000 towards our Welfare Fund at the 1st State of Origin night held at their School and on Rimau & Commando/SF Day Cams Cause graciously donated \$2000 to fund a member of ACA Qld to attend Commandos Return to Timor Leste which is great news for those about to head over in September.

Keep your powder dry & sights straight!

COMMANDO FOR LIFE

Nick Hill

President, ACA Qld

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(Vice-Patrons: Keith Payne VC, AM; Darrell Tree CV; Victor Boscoe CV; Allan Sparkes CV, OAM; Tim Britten CV; Richard Joyes CV; and Doug Baird, father of Corporal Cameron Baird VC, MG)

Invitation for members (& their partners) of the **AUSTRALIAN COMMANDO ASSOC.**
TO JOIN WITH
MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN BRAVERY ASSOCIATION
FOR A SERIES OF EVENTS AT **BALLINA, NSW on 24 AUGUST 2019**

PROGRAMME - SATURDAY 24 AUGUST 2019

12.00pm – 2.00pm Informal Meet and Greet Luncheon, The River Café - Ballina RSL Bistro. PAYG.

3.00pm – 3.30pm AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE ASSOCIATION – PARADE OF HONOUR
River Street Ballina NSW (Route – assemble at Maritime Museum along River Street to the Ballina RSL Cenotaph)

3.30pm – 4.00pm SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE
Assemble at the Cenotaph at the Ballina RSL. Padre Jim Cosgrove to conduct the Service. Note: Please note members of the public will also be encouraged to attend the Parade of Honour and Service of Remembrance. Medals to worn.

4.15pm – 4.45pm SCREENING – KNOWN UNTO GOD
An award-winning DVD of the story of Pte John Whitworth, a member of Z Special Unit, reported missing in action during Operation Raven II in the Celebes during WW2 and the investigation into and the recovery of his remains.
Ballina RSL – Sportsman Bar area.

6.00pm RECEPTION (To be hosted by Councillor David Wright, Mayor of Ballina Shire Council) - Ballina RSL, Riverside Function Centre
Dress: Black Tie/Mess Dress/Lounge Suit for gents, After 5 Wear for ladies, with miniature medals.
The Headliners Cappella Choir will perform during the Service of Remembrance, Reception and Dinner.

7.00pm – 10.30pm BLACK-TIE DINNER Riverside Function Centre Ballina RSL Club

Cost: \$70 per person (please see Registration Form) **Dress:** as for the Reception

Guest of Honour: Major-General, The Hon. Justice Paul Brereton AM RFD

A two course Dinner, wine on table, coffee and mints.

Note: *The Australian Commando group will be seated in the same section of the Dining Room.*

First Name: _____ Surname: _____ Mob: _____

Email address: _____

☐ **Reception – 6.00 pm** ☐ **Black Tie Dinner – 7.00pm** \$70.00 \$ _____

Special Dietary Requirements: _____

Guest Title: Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms First Name: _____ Surname: _____

Mob: _____ Postal address: _____

☐ **Reception** ☐ **Black Tie Dinner** \$70.00 \$ _____

Special Dietary Requirements: _____

SHOULD YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE, PLEASE PHOTOCOPY.

Child Under 12 Title: Mr / Miss First Name: _____ Surname: _____

☐ **Reception** ☐ **Black Tie Dinner** \$20.00 \$ _____

Special Dietary Requirements: _____

GRAND TOTAL: \$ _____

Please email or post registration forms to:

John Thurgar SC MBE OAM RFD
125 Lagoon Drive, Myocum, NSW, 2481
Email: johnthurgar@hotmail.com

Due Date: Registration and payments
should be made by **15 August 2019.**

Payments can be made by DIRECT DEBIT or CHEQUE as follows:

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Account Name: Australian Bravery Association
Reference: ABA Ballina & Your Name (Eg. ABA Ballina John Brown)

CHEQUE:

Made out to "Australian Bravery Association"
Enclosed with registration form



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

Transition support network

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

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

- provide you with an individual transition plan
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- help you meet your administrative requirements
- help you leave with all documentation like service, medical, and training records
- facilitate connections to Defence and government support services

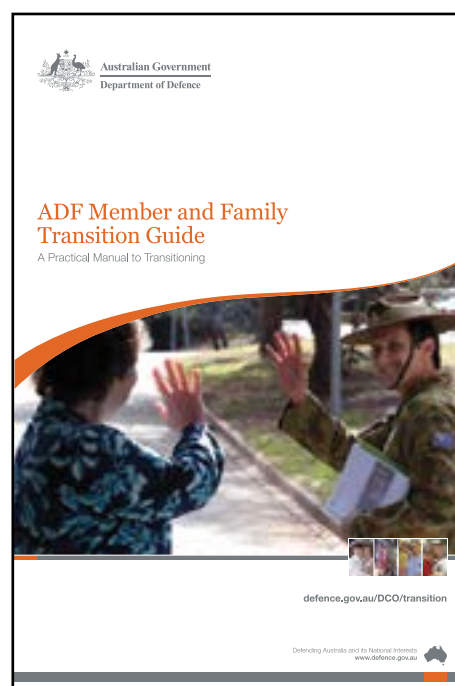
ADF Transition Seminar

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

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

ADF Member and Family Transition Guide

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



THE BATTLE OF KAIAPIT 19/20 SEPTEMBER 1943

2nd/6th Commando Squadron

The **Battle of Kaiapit** was an action fought in 1943 between Australian and Japanese forces in New Guinea during the Markham and Ramu Valley – Finisterre Range campaign of World War II. Following the landings at Nadzab and at Lae, the Allies attempted to exploit their success with an advance into the upper Markham Valley, starting with Kaiapit. The Japanese intended to use Kaiapit to threaten the Allied position at Nadzab, and to create a diversion to allow the Japanese garrison at Lae time to escape.



*The Double Diamonds
of the 2nd/6th
Commando Squadron.*

The 2nd/6th Commando Squadron flew in to the Markham Valley from Port Moresby in 13 USAAF C-47 Dakotas, making a difficult landing on a rough airstrip. Unaware that a much larger Japanese force was also headed for Kaiapit, the company attacked the village on 19 September to secure the

area so that it could be developed into an airfield. The company then held it against a strong counterattack. During two days of fighting the Australians defeated a larger Japanese force while suffering relatively few losses.

The Australian victory at Kaiapit enabled the Australian 7th Division to be flown in to the upper Markham Valley. It accomplished the 7th Division's primary mission, for the Japanese could no longer threaten Lae or Nadzab, where a major airbase was being developed. The victory also led to the capture of the entire Ramu Valley, which provided new forward fighter airstrips for the air war against the Japanese.

GEOGRAPHY

The Markham Valley is part of a flat, elongated depression varying from 8 to 32 kilometers (5.0 to 19.9 mi) wide that cuts through the otherwise mountainous terrain of the interior of New Guinea, running from the mouth of the Markham River near the port of Lae, to that of the Ramu River 600 kilometers (370 mi) away. The two rivers flow in opposite directions, separated by an invisible divides about 130 kilometers (81 mi) from Lae. The area is flat and suitable for airstrips, although many tributaries of the two main rivers intercut it. Between the Ramu Valley and Madang lies the rugged and aptly named Finisterre Ranges.

MILITARY SITUATION

Following the landing at Nadzab, General Sir Thomas Blamey, the Allied Land Forces commander, intended to exploit his success with an advance into the upper Markham Valley, which would protect Nadzab from Japanese ground attack, and serve as a jumping off point for an overland advance into the Ramu Valley to capture airfield sites there. On 16 September 1943—the same day that Lae fell—Lieutenant General Sir Edmund Herring, commander of I Corps, Major General George Alan Vasey, commander of the 7th Division, and



The Ramu Valley Operation.

Major General Ennis Whitehead, commander of the Advanced Echelon, Fifth Air Force, met at Whitehead's headquarters. Whitehead wanted fighter airstrips established in the Kaiapit area by 1 November 1943 in order to bring short-range fighters within range of the major Japanese base at Wewak. The 7th Division's mission was to prevent the Japanese at Madang from using the Markham and Ramu valleys to threaten Lae or Nadzab. Vasey and Herring considered both an overland operation to capture Dumpu, and an airborne operation using paratroops of the US Army's 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment. Blamey did not agree with their idea of capturing Dumpu first, insisting that Kaiapit be taken beforehand. Until a road could be opened from Lae, the Kaiapit area could only be supplied by air and there were a limited number of transport aircraft. Even flying in an airborne engineer aviation battalion to improve the airstrip would have involved taking aircraft away from operations supporting the 7th Division at Nadzab. Moreover, Whitehead warned that he could not guarantee adequate air support for both Kaiapit and the upcoming Finschhafen operation at the same time. However, Herring calculated that the 7th Division had sufficient reserves at Nadzab to allow maintenance flights to be suspended for a week or so after the capture of Kaiapit. He planned to seize Kaiapit with an overland advance from Nadzab by independent companies, the Papuan Infantry Battalion, and the 7th Division's 21st Infantry Brigade.

Fifth Air Force commander Lieutenant General George Kenney later recalled that Colonel David W. "Photo" Hutchison, who had been the air task force commander at Marilinan and had moved over to Nadzab to take charge of air activities there, was told to work out the problem with Vasey: "I didn't care how it was done but I wanted a good forward airdrome about a hundred miles further up the Markham Valley. Photo Hutchison and Vasey were a natural team. They both knew what I wanted and Vasey not only believed that the air force could perform miracles but that the 7th Division and the Fifth Air Force working together could do anything."



The airstrip at Kaiapit was reconnoitered on 11 September 1943 by No. 4 Squadron RAAF, which reported that it was apparently in good condition, with the Kunai grass recently cut. Lieutenant Everette E. Frazier, USAAF, selected a level, burned-off area near the Leron River, not far from Kaiapit, and landed in an L-4 Piper Cub. He determined that it would be possible to land C-47 Dakota aircraft there. On 16 September, Hutchison approved the site for Dakotas to land.

PRELUDE

The 2/6th Independent Company arrived in Port Moresby from Australia on 2 August 1943. The unit had fought in Papua in 1942 in the Battle of Buna–Gona and had since conducted intensive training in Queensland. The company was under the command of Captain Gordon King, who had been its second in command at Buna. King received a warning order on 12 September alerting him to prepare for the capture of Kaiapit, and had access to detailed aerial photographs of the area.

A Commando Squadron at this time had a nominal strength of 20 officers and 275 other ranks. Larger than a conventional infantry company, it was organised into three platoons, each of three sections, each of which contained two subsections. It had considerable firepower. Each subsection had a Bren light machine gun. The gunner's two assistants carried rifles and extra 30-round Bren magazines. A sniper also carried a rifle, as did one man equipped with rifle grenades. The remaining four or five men carried Owen submachine guns. Each platoon also had a section of 2-inch mortars.

The company was self-supporting, with its own engineer, signals, transport, and quartermaster sections. The signals section had a powerful but cumbersome Wireless Set No. 11 for communicating with the 7th Division. Powered by lead-acid batteries, which were recharged with petrol generators, it required multiple signallers to carry and the noise was liable to attract the attention of the enemy. The platoons were equipped with the new Army No. 208 Wireless Sets. These were small, portable sets developed for the communication needs of units on the move in jungle warfare. However, the 2nd/6th had not had time to work with them operationally.

For three days in a row, the 2nd/6th prepared to fly out from Port Moresby, only to be told that its flight had been cancelled due to bad weather. On 17 September 1943, 13 Dakotas of the US 374th Troop Carrier Group finally took off for Leron. King flew in the lead plane, which was piloted by Captain Frank C. Church, whom Kenney described as "one of Hutchison's 'hottest' troop carrier pilots". As it came in to land, King spotted patrols from the Papuan Infantry Battalion in the area.

One of the Dakotas blew a tire touching down on the rough airstrip; another tried to land on one wheel. Its undercarriage collapsed and it made a belly landing. The former was subsequently salvaged, but the latter was a total loss. King sent out patrols that soon located Captain J. A. Chalk's B Company, Papuan Infantry Battalion, which was operating in the area. That evening Chalk and King received airdropped messages from Vasey instructing them to occupy Kaiapit as soon as possible, and prepare a landing strip for troop-carrying aircraft. Vasey informed them that only small Japanese parties that had escaped from Lae were in the area,

and their morale was very low. Vasey flew in to Leron on 18 September to meet with King. Vasey's orders were simple: "Go to Kaiapit quickly, clean up the Japs and inform division."

As it happened, the Japanese commander, Major General Masutaro Nakai of the 20th Division, had ordered a sizeable force to move to Kaiapit under the command of Major Yonekura Tsuneo. Yonekura's force included the 9th and 10th Companies of the 78th Infantry Regiment, the 5th Company of the 80th Infantry Regiment, a heavy machine-gun section, a signals section and an engineer company—a total of about 500 troops. From Kaiapit it was to threaten the Allied position at Nadzab, creating a diversion to allow the Japanese garrison at Lae time to escape. The main body left Yokopi in the Finisterre Range on 6 September but was delayed by heavy rains that forced the troops to move, soaking wet, through muddy water for much of the way. Only the advance party of this force had reached Kaiapit by 18 September, by which time Lae had already fallen. Yonekura's main body, moving by night to avoid being sighted by Allied aircraft, was by this time no further from Kaiapit than King, but had two rivers to cross. Since both were heading for the same objective, a clash was inevitable.

THE BATTLE

King assembled his troops at Sangam, about 16 kilometres (9.9 mi) south of Kaiapit, except for one section under Lieutenant E. F. Maxwell that had been sent ahead to scout the village. On the morning of 19 September, King set out for Kaiapit, leaving behind his quartermaster, transport and engineering sections, which would move the stores left behind at the Leron River first to Sangam and then to Kaiapit on the 20th. He took one section of Papuans with him, leaving Chalk and the rest of his men to escort the native carriers bringing up the stores.

King's men walked for fifty minutes at a time and then rested for ten. The going was relatively easy insofar as the ground was fairly flat, but the 2-metre (6.6 ft.) high Kunai grass trapped the heat and humidity and the men were heavily loaded with ammunition. The company reached Ragitumkiap, a village within striking distance of Kaiapit, at 14:45. While his men had a brief rest, King attempted to contact the large Army No. 11 Wireless Set he had left behind at Sangam—and from there Vasey back at Nadzab—with the new Army No. 208 Wireless Sets he had brought with him. Unfortunately, King found that their range was insufficient. He also heard shots being fired in the distance and guessed that Maxwell's section had been discovered.



Japanese dead after the battle.



The 2nd/6th Commando Squadron formed up at 15:15 in Kunai grass about 1,200 meters (1,300 yd) from Kaiapit. As the company advanced it came under fire from foxholes on the edge of the village. A 2-inch mortar knocked out a light machine gun. The foxholes were outflanked and taken out with hand grenades and bayonets. The Japanese withdrew, leaving 30 dead behind. The Australians suffered two killed and seven wounded, including King, who was lightly wounded.

The company established a defensive position for the night. While they were doing so, Lieutenant D. B. Stuart, the commander of one of the Papuan platoons, arrived. They had become concerned when radio contact had been lost and he had been sent to find out what was going on. King ordered him to bring the Papuans up from Sangan with extra ammunition and the No. 11 set. At around 17:30, a native appeared with a message for the Japanese commander. The paper was taken from him and he was shot when he tried to escape. Later, a Japanese patrol returned to Kaiapit, unaware that it was now in Australian hands. They were killed when they stumbled across a Bren gun position. Four more Japanese soldiers returned after midnight. One of them escaped.

Yonekura and his men had reached Kaiapit after an exhausting night march. Yonekura was aware that the Australians had reached Kaiapit but his main concern was not to be caught in the open by Allied aircraft. Spotting Australian positions in the pre-dawn light, the Japanese column opened fire. A torrent of fire descended on the Australians, who replied sporadically, attempting to conserve their ammunition. Although he was running low on ammunition, King launched an immediate counter-attack on the Japanese, which took them by surprise.

Lieutenant Derrick Watson's C Platoon set out at around 06:15 and advanced to the edge of Village 3, a distance of about 200 yards (180 m), before becoming pinned down by heavy Japanese fire. King then sent Captain Gordon Blainey's A Platoon around the right flank, towards the high ground on Mission Hill, which overlooked the battlefield. It was secured by 07:30. In the meantime, some of the Squadron signallers and headquarters personnel gathered together what ammunition they could, and delivered it to C Platoon at around 07:00. C Platoon then fixed bayonets and continued its advance.

A bullet, apparently fired by one of his own men, nicked the commander of No. 9 Section of C Platoon, Lieutenant Bob Balderstone. He led his section in an advance across 70 yards (64 m) of open ground, and attacked three Japanese machine gun posts with hand grenades. He was later awarded the Military Cross for his "high courage and leadership". Lieutenant Reg Hallion led his No. 3 Section of A Platoon against the Japanese positions at the base of Mission Hill. He was killed in an attack on a machine gun post, but his section captured the position and killed twelve Japanese. By 10:00, the action was over.

After the action, King's men counted 214 Japanese bodies, and estimated that another 50 or more lay dead in the tall grass. Yonekura was among the dead. The Australians suffered 14 killed and 23 wounded. Abandoned equipment included 19 machine guns, 150 rifles, 6 grenade throwers and 12 Japanese swords.



Members of the 2nd/6th Commando Squadron hold captured Japanese flags.

RESULTS

The 2nd/6th Commando Squadron had defeated the vanguard of Nakai's force and stopped his advance down the Markham Valley dead in its tracks. The Battle of Kaiapit accomplished Vasey's primary mission, for the Japanese could no longer threaten Nadzab. It opened the gate to the Ramu Valley for the 21st Infantry Brigade, provided new forward fighter airstrips for the air war against the Japanese, and validated the Australian Army's new training methods and the organisational emphasis on firepower. Vasey later told King that "We were lucky, we were very lucky." King countered that "if you're inferring that what we did was luck, I don't agree with you sir because I think we weren't lucky, we were just bloody good." Vasey replied that what he meant was that he, Vasey, was lucky. He confided to Herring that he felt that he had made a potentially disastrous mistake: "it is quite wrong to send out a small unit like the 2/6th so far that they cannot be supported." The Japanese believed that "an Australian force in unexpected strength" had attacked them. One Japanese historian, Tanaka Kengoro, went so far as to argue that the mission of the Nakai Detachment—to threaten Nadzab so as to draw Allied attention away from the troops escaping from Lae—was achieved; this argument passed over the fact that Nakai fully intended to hold Kaiapit, just as the Allies planned to secure it as a base for future operations. The Australian historian, David Dexter, concluded that the "leisurely Nakai was outwitted by the quick-thinking and aggressive Vasey. "In the end, Vasey had moved faster, catching the Japanese off balance. The credit for getting to Kaiapit went first to the USAAF aircrews that managed to make a difficult landing on the rough airstrip at Leron. The 2nd/6th was to be the ideal unit for the mission, as it combined determined leadership with thorough training and effective firepower.

For his part in the battle, King was awarded the Distinguished Service Order on 20 January 1944. He considered it a form of unit award, and later regretted not asking Whitehead for an American Distinguished Unit Citation, such as was awarded to D Company of the 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, for a similar action in the Battle of Long Tan in 1966. ■



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Nuance is the key

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

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

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

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

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

Opportunity helps those that help themselves

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

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

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

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OPERATION RIMAU

11 September 1944 – 07 July 1945

The 75th Anniversary of the Second Raid on Singapore Harbour

By Z Special Unit

The Operation RIMAU Mission Objective was to attack shipping in Singapore Harbour, following on from the Operation JAYWICK success, which sank 39,000 tons of shipping and escaped on the MV Krait without casualties. This suggested to Special Operations Europe 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 Gen. 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 Operation had the full support of General Thomas Blamey and LTCOL Lyon DSO of the Gordon Highlanders and commander of Operation JAYWICK mission, was to command Operation 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 Mothercraft 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 on 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. 10th of



The Mustika

October and just south of Singapore the unusual type of craft drew attention from a police launch manned by Malay policemen, which closed to investigate. Mistaking the patrol vessel for a Japanese one, the party opened fire killing all aboard. Following the firefight, Lyon abandoned the operation 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 executed by beheading 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 the island several days before the RV with the replacement submarine HMS TANTALUS. 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 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 3 managed to capture a junk near the Borneo coast but were thrown overboard by the Chinese crew. 2 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 3 sailed on down the

BORNEO coast and thru the JAVA Sea reaching ROMANG Island off the NE coast of Timor, where one had to be left on an island, as he was 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 1945 when a radio intercept revealed that the men had been killed or captured that the fate of Operation RIMAU became evident.

On the 5th July 1945 the surviving 10 members were sentenced to death by a military court and beheaded in the execution ground off Reformatory Road on 7th July where their mass grave was discovered by chance just 2 months later following the Japanese surrender. We don't know and may never know all the details of what befell Operation 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 3 ships including a cruiser by attaching delayed action mines to ships in the harbor before they dispersed and executed their E&E plan.

Operation RIMAU was the single most expensive operation in terms of human loss for the Special Reconnaissance Department 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 Commando Regiments. ■

Honor Roll

Z SPECIAL UNIT

OPERATION RIMAU



LTCOL Ivan Lyon DSO, MBE. Killed In Action, Soreh Island, 16 October 1944

LIUET H. Robert Ross, Killed In Action, Soreh Island, 16 October 1944

LTCOMD Donald Davidson, DSO. Killed In Action, Tapai Island, 18 October 1944

CPL Archibald Campbell, Killed In Action, Tapai Island, 18 October 1944

SUB LIUET J. Gregor Riggs, Killed In Action, Merapas Island, 05 November 1944

SGT Colin Cameron, Killed In Action, Merapas Island, 05 November 1944

AB Andrew Huston, DCM. MiD, Drowned off Boeaja Island, Borneo, 16 December 1944

LIUET Bruno Reymond, Drowned off Borneo, 21 December 1944

CPL Colin Craft, Drowned off Borneo, 21 December 1944

AB Frederick Marsh, Executed, Singapore, 11 January 1945

WO Jeffery Willersdorf, Died Of Wounds, Timor, February 1945

PTE Douglas Warne, Executed, Soerabaya, April 1945

LCPL Hugo Pace, Died Of Wounds, Timor, June 1945

MAJ Reginald Ingleton, Executed, Singapore, 7 July 1945

CAPT Robert Page, DSO. Executed, Singapore, 7 July 1945

LT Walter Carey, Executed, Singapore, 7 July 1945

LT Albert Sargent, Executed, Singapore, 7 July 1945

WO Alfred Warren, Executed, Singapore, 7 July 1945

SGT David Gooley, Executed, Singapore, 7 July 1945

CPL Roland Fletcher, Executed, Singapore, 7 July 1945

Corporal Clair Stewart, Executed, Singapore, 7 July 1945

AB Walter Falls, DCM. Executed, Singapore, 7 July 1945

LCPL John Hardy, Executed, Singapore, 7 July 1945



AITAPE-WEWAK CAMPAIGN

2nd/6th Commando Regiment November 1944 – August 1945 (2nd/7th, 2nd/9th & 2nd/10th Commando Squadrons)



Article Source: Wikipedia

The Aitape–Wewak campaign was one of the final campaigns of the Pacific Theatre of World War II. Between November 1944 and the end of the war in August 1945, the 2nd/6th Commando Regiment (2/6 Cdo Regt) comprising the 2nd/7th, 2nd/9th & 2nd/10th Commando Squadrons (Cdo Sqn) of the 6th Australian Division, with air and naval support, fought the Imperial Japanese 18th Army in northern New Guinea. Considered a “mopping up” operation by the Australians, and although ultimately successful for them with the Japanese forces cleared from the coastal areas and driven inland, amidst difficult jungle conditions, casualties from combat and disease were high. With Japan on the verge of defeat, such casualties later led to the strategic necessity of the campaign being called into question.



BACKGROUND

In 1942, the Japanese occupied the Aitape region in northern New Guinea as part of their general advance south. Throughout 1943 and into 1944, the Allies began a series of offensives in New Guinea and the surrounding area as they sought to reduce the main Japanese base around Rabaul on New Britain, as part of a general advance towards the Philippines that was planned for 1944 and 1945. On 22 April 1944, United States Army forces—primarily the 163rd Regimental Combat Team from the 41st Infantry Division—landed and recaptured the area to help secure the flank of US forces fighting around Hollandia. Following this, Aitape was developed as base from which to support the continuing Allied drive towards the Philippines and the US forces in the area swelled to include elements of the 31st and 32nd Infantry Division. Largely these forces stayed inside a small defensive area around the airfield, and apart from the Battle of Driniumor River in July, fighting was limited. As preparations began for this drive, it was decided that defence of the area would be passed to Australian forces to release the American troops for

service elsewhere. Consequently, in early October 1944, troops from the Australian 6th Division along with some support personnel from the 3rd Base Sub Area began to arrive at Aitape to relieve the American garrison. The first unit to arrive was the 2nd/6th Cdo Regt and they began patrolling operations almost immediately.

The Japanese troops in Aitape consisted of approximately 30,000 to 35,000 men from the Japanese 18th Army. This force had suffered heavily during the Salamaua–Lae campaign in 1943–1944, as well as its failed attack on the American garrison at Aitape in July 1944. As a result, the Australians believed that they faced three Japanese divisions—the 20th, 41st and 51st Divisions—which had been reduced to brigade-strength. The Japanese lacked air and naval support, and many troops were sick and short of food, with resupply efforts being limited to occasional deliveries by aircraft or submarine. In contrast, the Australians were better equipped, better fed and had better medical and other support services. They also had a moderate amount of air support, which was provided by No. 71 Wing RAAF, which included Nos. 7, 8 and 100 Squadrons, equipped with Beauforts, while aerial reconnaissance was provided by Boomerang and Wirraway aircraft of No. 4 Squadron. A naval force, known as Wewak Force, supported the landing at Dove Bay (2nd/9th & 2nd/10th Cdo Sqn's secured the beach head), and included HMA Ships *Swan*, *Colac*, *Dubbo* and *Deloraine* as well as ships from the 1st New Guinea M.L. Flotilla, under the command of Bill Dovers, captain of HMAS *Swan*.

THE BATTLE

Following their defeat on the Driniumor River in July, the Japanese commander, General Hatazo Adachi, withdrew his forces from their forward positions and in the lull that followed, Adachi's forces focused upon foraging operations into the Torricelli Mountains and Wewak as hunger and disease began to take its toll on the Japanese force. During this period there had been very little contact between the Japanese and US forces in the area, and US forces had remained on a primarily defensive footing, restricting their operations to limited patrols around their position on the Driniumor. The Japanese for their part, lacking air and naval assets, and low on ammunition and other supplies, had also sought to avoid engagement.

Upon the arrival of the Australians, however, the 6th Division's commander, Major General Jack Stevens, decided to begin offensive operations, albeit on a limited scale, to clear the Japanese forces from the coastal area. The 2nd/6th Cdo Regt was the first Australian fighting unit to arrive at Aitape, and as it waited for the rest of the division to arrive, having left Brisbane on



22 October 1944, the regiment relieved the American outpost at Babiang and began to assist the ANGAU patrols in the area. Once they had concentrated fully by November the 6th Division began its advance eastwards towards the Japanese base at Wewak, in order to destroy the remnants of the Japanese 18th Army. Prior to this, however, the 2nd/7th Cdo Sqn conducted preliminary patrols in order to gather information on topography and enemy dispositions in the region.



Initially tasked with the defence of the port, airfield and base facilities at Aitape, 2nd/6th Cdo Regt was ordered to advance towards Wewak to destroy the remnants of the Japanese 18th Army. Patrols by the 2nd/6th Cdo Regt preceded the main Australian advance of the 6th Division. The attack, which began in November 1944, proceeded along two axes—the 19th Brigade (2nd/9th Cdo Sqn was attached) moved along the coast towards the Japanese base at Wewak, while the 2nd/7th Cdo Sqn, working with ANGAU detachments, advanced into the Torricelli Mountains, driving towards Maprik, which provided the Japanese with most of their supplies. While the advance was under way, the 17th Brigade was assigned the task of building a defensive position around the airfield and base facilities at Aitape, while the 16th Brigade was held back in reserve.

On 19 December, the 19th Brigade crossed the Danmap River and began moving towards the east to cut the main Japanese line of communication. A series of minor actions followed, but no significant engagements took place, and at the end of four weeks they had reached Wallum, about 45 miles (72 km) east of Aitape. A week later, on 24 January 1945, the 16th Brigade relieved the 19th, while the 17th Brigade continued the advance towards the west through the Torricellis.

The operations were characterised by prolonged small-scale patrolling with small-scale company attacks. Progress was slowed by the difficulties of transporting supplies overland or by barge and the flash flooding of a number of the rivers the Australians had to cross. In one incident, seven men from the 2/3 Battalion drowned in the swollen waters of the Danmap River, which had risen suddenly after a torrential downpour. After Dogreto Bay was occupied, the supply problems eased somewhat. On 16 March 1945, the airfields at But and Dagua on the coast were occupied, although fighting continued further inland from there over the course of the following fortnight as the Australians fought to gain control of the Tokuku Pass. On 25 March, Lieutenant Albert Chowne, a platoon commander from the Australian 2/2 Battalion (not 2nd/2nd Cdo Sqn) led an attack on a Japanese position that was holding up the advance on Wewak. For his actions he was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross. Heavy fighting continued for four days after this, and the Australians resorted to the use of flame throwers for the first time in the war, using them effectively against heavily entrenched Japanese positions; the weapon had a profound psychological effect, boosting the morale of the Australians and sapping that of the Japanese defenders, many of whom simply fled in the face of flame thrower teams.

In the Torricelli Mountains, as well as keeping the enemy from the flanks of the two infantry battalions of the 17th Brigade, the 2nd/10th Cdo Sqn was tasked to clear the populous areas to the northeast of the Ami villages. Initially the Australians were very successful, managing to use surprise to their advantage in dealing with the pockets of Japanese resistance that they encountered, however, as the fighting continued they began to suffer for lack of fire support. In an effort to overcome

this problem air support from Aitape was called in, and each of the squadron's three troops were given a 2-inch mortar, while a 3-inch mortar section was attached to the squadron. Throughout February a number of ambushes and attacks were undertaken by the squadron, before on 20 February 1945, 'C' Troop carried out an attack on Kualigem which failed to remove the Japanese from the village and resulted in the loss of two officers killed and five troopers wounded.

The 17th Brigade continued its advance against stubborn Japanese defence. Nevertheless, by 23 April 1945, they had secured Maprik. The fall of Maprik allowed the Australians to begin constructing an airfield 8 miles (13 km) away at Hayfield, and this was completed on 14 May allowing reinforcements and supplies to be flown in. Elsewhere, the 19th Brigade had begun its assault on Wewak in early May. HMA Ships Hobart, Arunta, Waraamunga, Swan and HMS Newfoundland (of the British Pacific Fleet) as well as the RAAF bombarded the Wewak defences. On 11 May, a landing at Dove Bay secured by the 2nd/9th & 2nd/10th Cdo Sqns as part of the Farida Force was undertaken to encircle Wewak and prevent the escape of its garrison. Along with the 2nd/9th Cdo Sqn, the 2nd/10th Cdo Sqn formed the initial assault force. Coming ashore ahead of the main landing force, the assault squadrons came up against only very sporadic Japanese resistance and as the rest of the force moved inland, the 2nd/10th Cdo Sqn secured the beachhead. Later they were moved to the west to Mandi, where the squadron headquarters set up in the Mandi garden and they began patrolling operations along the Wewak-Forok road.

Wewak fell on the same day, as the 19th Brigade occupied its airfield. The fighting around Wewak Airfield continued until 15 May, however, when men from the 2/4 Battalion, with armoured support, attacked Japanese positions overlooking the airstrip. It was during this attack that Private Edward Kenna carried out the deeds that led to him being awarded the Victoria Cross, attacking several Japanese bunkers.

Following this, the remaining Japanese in the area withdrew into the Prince Alexander Mountains to the south of Wewak. To counter this, the 16th Brigade with the 2nd/7th Cdo Sqn was dispatched to follow them up, and push them towards the 17th Brigade (2nd/10th Cdo Sqn attached), which advanced towards the east towards Maprik. Meanwhile, the 19th Brigade came up against strongly defended positions around several high features known as Mount Kawakubo, Mount Tazaki and Mount Shiburangu.

In the first half of June, the 2nd/10th Cdo Sqn



moved into a position about 2 miles (3.2 km) west of the Brandi Plantation and here they came into close contact with a force of Japanese that had been forced out from Wewak and were attempting to raid Australian positions in the hope of gathering supplies. Casualties and losses from illness had been heavy and the squadron had been reduced to roughly half its effective strength, regardless the 2nd/10th Cdo Sqn maintained the pressure on the Japanese in the hills to the south through a program of aggressive patrolling. On 5 June 1945, a full squadron attack was launched upon a complex of Japanese bunkers that was discovered about 1,000 yards (910m) south of the Australian perimeter. Only 70 men could be mustered for the attack and when they encountered heavy machine gun fire from the bunkers, they were forced to withdraw and call for fire support from the artillery of the 2/2nd Field Regiment at Boram. In less than 10 minutes, the 16 guns of the 2/2nd Field Regiment fired over 800 shells and the result was devastating, as 17 of the 25 Japanese bunkers were totally destroyed. Japanese casualties were estimated at being at least 32 dead. On 14 June the squadron was relieved by a company from the 2/3rd Machine Gun Battalion, however, in the third week of June they were back in action as the regiment was given the task of dealing with the a daring infiltration of Japanese forces to the west of Boiken. On 24 June five Japanese raided the ANGAU camp at Wisling, capturing a number of weapons. The following day, a party of about 10 Japanese ambushed a patrol from the 2nd/10th Cdo Sqn south of the plantation, killing one officer and wounding four troopers. These

raids continued throughout the rest of June and into July before the 2nd/10th Cdo Sqn were relieved by the 2nd/7th Cdo Sqn on 5 July and they moved to Cape Karawop, where the regimental headquarters of the 2nd/6th Cdo Regt had been situated. The 2nd/10th Cdo Sqn remained at Karawop until the end of the war, however, they continued to see action right up until the Japanese surrendered. On 23 July 1945, a patrol from the 2nd/10th Cdo Sqn clashed with a force of about 40 Japanese in the hills south of Wanpea; eight Japanese were killed, while the Australians lost four men, including one officer.

AFTERMATH

The 2nd/6th Cdo Regt's casualties in this final campaign were high. There were 29 KIA, nine died of wounds, four died in accidents, and 99 wounded in action. This is a total of 141 casualties. When this is compared with the overall total of 204 for the Regt for the entire war, it can be seen that the final campaign was the most costly. Against this, 778 Japanese were killed and the 2nd/6th Cdo Regt captured 23. Following the cessation of hostilities in the Pacific, the Regiment undertook guard duties at Boiken where a Japanese prisoner of war centre was established. While the men awaited transfer, educational programs were instituted to prepare the soldiers to return to civilian employment. The Regiment was disbanded in September 1945, and the individual Squadrons were slowly depleted of their manpower, as they were deemed surplus to requirements, their personnel either repatriated back to Australia for discharge, and was finally disbanded in 1946. ■



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BATTLEFIELD GUIDE TO TIMOR LESTE

WWII, The Timor Leste Independence War and UN Operations

By Jim Truscott ACA VIC

Ed Willis who is Vice President of the 2nd/2nd Commando Association and Jim Truscott are preparing a non-commercial Battlefield Guide to East Timor encompassing Sparrow/Lancer Force and ISD/SRD in WWII, Fretilin, Falintil (armed, underground and diplomatic Fronts) in the Independence War, INTERFET and other UN operations.

Ed Willis is the son of a 2nd/2nd Independent Company Signaller and Jim Truscott is a former Officer Commanding of 2 Commando Company in Melbourne from 1990 to 1991. He was also the Operations Officer in the INTERFET SAS Response Force.

Their challenge is to distil hundreds of locations where significant combat and combat-related events took place by commandos, creados, operators, sailors,

airmen, operatives, guerrillas, clandestinos, couriers, demonstrators, people killed in massacres, many headquarter locations and peace keepers.

The guide describes where the battle locations were in the 13 Districts, when the battles took place, and how to research and plan visits to the battle locations.

While it will be another six months before the field research will be completed, the authors are happy to share the current version for anyone planning to visit Timor Leste in August and September 2019 to participate in the country wide celebrations to commemorate the Autonomy Vote and arrival of INTERFET. Contact Jim Truscott in Perth on jtruscott@crusisleaders.com or 0421 915 441.



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The Outlaws Return to Timor Leste (East Timor)

The Old & Bod Motorcycle Tour 19 May – 03 JUNE 2019

By

Taipan and his Band of Brothers (Colette, Keith, Barry, Bruce, Dick and Marc)

Everywhere we rode we were greeted by cries of Malae! Malae! Foreigner! Foreigner! by groups of young children. There have been many Portuguese, Indonesian, Chinese and Australian foreigners in East Timor over the last 400 years, but apart from 9 days between 28 November and 7 December 1975, it is only in the last 18 years that the population has experienced true independence from colonizers, occupiers and invaders. Yes, even Australia invaded Portuguese Timor, a neutral country, when the 2nd/2nd Independent Company landed in Dili on 19 December 1941. These days we call it pre-emptive defence.

Following the decimation of 60,000 Timorese people by the Japanese Army in WWII and the annihilation of 200,000 Timorese people by the Indonesian Army in the 24-year East Timorese Independence War, now 40% of the population are under 14 years of age and 60% of the population are under 24 years of age. It is a young country filled with young people, and foreigners are an entertaining concept for them.

Our motorcycle tour had its genesis in December 2018 when I telephoned Bruce Parker to see if he wanted to walk the Commando Track from Dili in the north to Betano Bay in the south. It was approaching 20 years since we had established the Timor Roofing & Training factory in Baucau to aid the demobilization of the Forças Armadas da Libertação Nacional de Timor-Leste (Falintil) guerrillas in late 1999 and the factory had just been handed over to the Trade Training Wing of the Don Bosco College for the enduring benefit of the people of East Timor. I wanted to walk across the island in the footsteps of the 2nd/2nd Independent Company, the predecessors of our old unit that had spent a longer period in actual contact with the enemy than any other unit of the Australian Army.



*The old and bold outside Australia House at Balibo:
Barry Hughes, Marc Preston, Keith Hughes, Dick Pelling,
Bruce Parker and Jim Truscott.*

However Bruce Parker reluctantly advised that his marching days were over and he cunningly suggested that with motor bikes we could cover more ground. I had not ridden a motorbike for 38 years and without

thinking any further I said yes. It was to be a crash and bash course for me as our band of brothers came together, because with the exception of me, they were all bikers and regularly rode Harleys to coffee shops in Melbourne!

And so it was, that six 'old and bold' former Commandos from Melbourne, myself and my Patrol Medic qualified wife from Perth got together as the Outlaws Motorcycle Gang. Our average age was 71½ years old and our average length service was 18 years in Special Forces. On 13 March 1942 the Japanese had declared the Commandos to be outlaws and they had warned that if they did not surrender, they would not be given prisoner of war privileges, and if captured they would be executed. The men of the 2nd/2nd Independent Company, who were not officially known as Commandos until 1943, simply replied 'surrender be fucked!'

The modern day 2 Commando Company in Melbourne has an identical approach to soldiering and when new Operators have qualified to wear their green berets and are awarded them in a public ceremony, it is tradition that the older members of the company yell out 'ah fuck him' to each and every one. It can leave parents and friends a little bewildered when they do not have an appreciation of its warfare origins.

Likewise when Ali Alatas the former Foreign Minister in Indonesia, launched his book *The Pebble in the Shoe: The Diplomatic Struggle for East Timor* in 2006, he explained that the title had come in response to questioning from a journalist about the international stigma over East Timor, to which he replied that it was only as bothersome as a pebble in a shoe. But he went on to say that in retrospect it had become a veritable boulder, dragging down Indonesia's reputation to one of its lowest points.

And so it was that that the people of East Timor gained their freedom after a colossal struggle against the 24-year Indonesian occupation. I in turn as the point linguist became the first Australian soldier from the International Force in East Timor (INTERFET) to step out of the front door of a RAAF C130 onto the tarmac at Dili airport soon after dawn on 20 September 1999 and to have my photograph taken by an international journalist in a blinding flash of light. It was a bizarre arrival as I simply commandeered an Indonesian Army truck and ordered the Indonesian Army driver to drive me into the almost totally deserted city which was burning like Dante's Inferno.

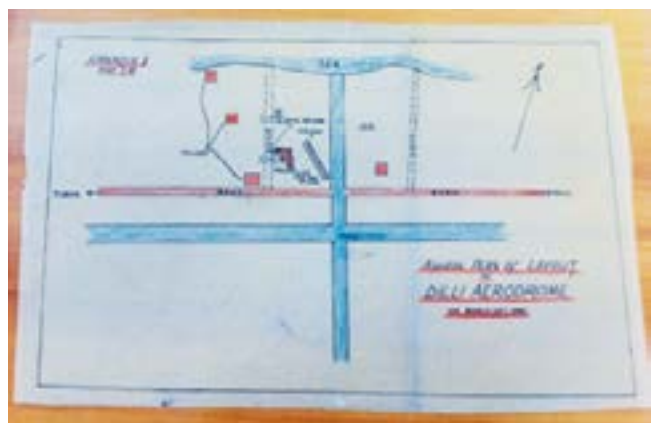
Within a few days I had walked into a bamboo hut below the Mundo Perdido (Lost World) massif in the mountainous spine of the island to meet a man who had been fighting a guerrilla war for 24 years of his life. At the very moment that I first met Taur Matan Ruak at his



Uaimori cantonment, I saw a 2 Commando Company plaque nailed to the centre pole of an otherwise bare bones hut. As I had commanded the company in 1990 and 1991 it immediately provided us with a common bond and it set the tone for the months that followed. The guerrilla Commander of Falintil and I were to spend the next three months working closely together.

Almost 20 years later I stepped onto the tarmac again on Sunday 19 May 2019. Australia has historically landed troops in foreign countries on Sundays. This time I was greeted by Dave and Shirley Carlos, Australian guides from Timor Adventures, an East Timorese travel company www.timoradventures.com.au with whom our group of old and bold commandos were about to ride their Indonesian 150cc Honda motorbikes around the country. Last time I had flown just about everywhere in a Blackhawk helicopter and this tour was the opportunity to sniff the ground and gain an understanding of the complexity of conducting Special Operations and Special Intelligence activities in denied areas.

We arrived at the current airport built after WWII to the west of the Comoro River. It had been operated by the Indonesian Army as the commercial airport from 1975 onwards when they restricted Baucau to military aircraft. The original muddy north to south airport that had been defended by the 2nd/2nd Independent Company on 19-20 February 1942 is now half built over by the Presidential Palace. It was interesting to learn that the Chinese had built the palace in 2009. The less muddy east to west cross runway that had been constructed by the Japanese Army in 1942 is astride the Australian Embassy on the south side of the road and now totally built over.



Drawing by Captain Callinan and Lieutenant Turton after their reconnaissance on 24 March 1942. Before dawn we were awakened by the roaring of the Zeros and shortly afterwards two took off. They were away about an hour and then came back sweeping in from the west, banking to land on a new runway that now ran across the old padi fields across the road and joined the old north to south runway. There were tractors and diesel rollers making an east to west runway across the old padi fields on the south side of the road, and it gave me a peculiar feeling to look down and see the enemy working away quite unconcerned, and ignorant of our observation.

On our very first day in Dili we were delighted to view the parade to mark the 17th anniversary of the

Restoration of Independence Day and presentation of medals, and to attend the function at the Presidential Palace. The Portuguese style of marching brought back vivid memories of when Tim McOwan and I were called to the dais by Xanana Gusmao at the Falintil Victory Parade at Remixio just after the last Indonesian soldier had left East Timor in late October 1999. There are now only about 100 surviving and original Falintil guerrillas; all old men, and scattered across East Timor with only a few other local people having direct linkages to WWII.



The 17th Anniversary of the Restoration of Independence Day Parade on 20 May 2019.

That night we shared an equally memorable dinner with Taur Matan Ruak who is now the Prime Minister of his country and his wife Isabel in their home in the hills overlooking Dili. It was with pleasure that we presented him with a Fairbairn-Sykes fighting Knife from his Australian Commando friends. I asked him if he preferred to be a soldier or a politician. He said politician, but I could tell that he also hankered to be free of the shackles of his long post-guerrilla government service as the Chief of the Defence Force, President and now Prime Minister facing the challenges of getting his country out of financial recession. He saw the need for private investment and business to generate prosperity. We are the same age and it was pleasurable to talk about his vision for his country and to also meet his children. I encouraged him to telephone and congratulate Scott Morrison which he subsequently did as a way of further bonding our two countries.

It was very pleasing for Bruce Parker and I to once again meet Eduardo Belo Soares at the dinner. His Clandestino code names were Camaleao Lahafodak and Lahakfodak Gattot. Camaleao is the Portuguese name for the lizard that changes its colours and Lahakfodak means Not Surprised. Gatot is the original name in Indonesian and Eduardo's is Gattot as he escaped from Colonel Gatot Purwanto! Now Eduardo is a successful businessman in East Timor; an absolute necessity to get a vibrant and stable economy going. Our very close relationship dated back to late 1999 when Eduardo called Bruce Parker in Melbourne to report on Militia who were about to attack an Australian Army patrol at Same and this action was successfully thwarted.





Eduardo Belo Soares, Barry Hughes, Keith Hughes, Bruce Parker, Dick Pelling, Isabel, Colette Truscott, Jim Truscott and Taur Matan Ruak on the occasion of their 18th wedding anniversary on 20 May 2019.

Taur Matan Ruak now has to read with glasses having once been hit on the side of his head by an Indonesian rocket propelled grenade. The Indonesian Army could not believe that he had survived the blast and they spoke of him as a ghost. Taur Matan Ruak meaning Two Sharp Eyes is his guerrilla code name as very few people know him by his real birth name of José Maria Vasconcelos. Taur Matan Ruak was a veritable combat commander. I recall from 1999 when I had asked him to provide us with a United Nations radio so that we the SAS could insert Lafu, a 15-year-old boy guerrilla back into the Oecussi enclave to report on the Militia, he said to me, if he dies, he dies a hero for his country.

In early October 1999 on the day that we flew Major General Cosgrove to meet Taur Matan Ruak at Uaimori, it was a very formal occasion and Taur Matan Ruak put him to the test. He asked in Portuguese, I have sat with 19 Generals like you and they all lie, rob and kill. Why should I believe you? To his credit Cosgrove asked to be taken on face value for the man he was. He presented Taur Matan Ruak with a pen with which to sign the commission of the first officer in the new East Timor Defence Force and most importantly he allowed Falintil to keep their weapons if they stayed in their four cantonments across the country.

As we were walking back to the Blackhawk helicopters and wading a small stream, I vividly remember seeing Taur Matan Ruak jump in excitement on the back of Lieutenant Colonel Tim McOwan, the SAS commander. General Cosgrove did not see this gymnastic event but his approval for Falintil to keep their weapons was an act of exquisite victory in Guerrilla Warfare. It was laurels to the victor, highly symbolic of Falintil having won their Independence War and I was privileged to witness it.

Before we got on our motorcycles, we had two more eventful days visiting significant sites around Dili. Sadly, the Commando memorial at the WWII observation post at Dare overlooking Dili is now in disarray and something must be urgently done.



The Commando memorial at the WWII observation post at Dare overlooking Dili Barry Hughes, Jim Truscott, Dick Pelling and Keith Hughes.

It was most informative to meet the Director and to tour the well-presented Timor Resistance Archive & Museum containing many artefacts from the Independence War including the impressive Order of the Guerrilla medal display. It is on par with the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.



Reproduction of the underground guerrilla shelter in Mirtuto, Ermera where Konis Santa lived, in the Timorese Resistance Archive & Museum.

It was equally informative to meet the Executive Director of the Chega Exhibition housed in the former Portuguese gaol which was used as dark cells by the Indonesian Army to torture and kill East Timorese people. It was a chilling tour. The gaol now also contains their all-important national archives and Chega are charged with mapping historical sites and recording their war, village, family and individual history.

I had longed to see the separate underground torture chamber used by Lieutenant Colonel Yayat Sudrajat (AKA bloody bastard) in another part of Dili but the Indonesian Embassy has covered it over and turned it into a cultural centre as if to bury their war crimes from view. See <https://trialinternational.org/latest-post/yayat-sudrajat/>





Jim Truscott and Hugo Fernandes, the Executive Director of the Chega Exhibition discuss the Battlefield Guide to East Timor project.



Reproduction of the torture of a member of the Resistance in the real dark cells used by the Indonesian Army. Chega, meaning stop or no more in Portuguese, is now housed in the former Portuguese goal. It contains the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation (CAVR) documents which record the multiple human rights abuses from 1974 to 1999.

It was very pleasing to once again meet Falur Rate Laek, the Vice Chief of the Defence Force who had been a Falintil Regional Commander with the code name of the Dove With No Grave. We were later to stay in his private lodge below Ossu on the south coast where a huge effort has been made by veterans to build memorial tracks.



Falur Rate Laek, the Vice Chief of the Defence Force (F-FDTL), Jim Truscott and a Portuguese interpreter discuss black flights from Australia by old Commandos!

It was also pleasing to visit Max Stahl's film studio and view some of the footage that this brave journalist has captured over a long period of time dating back to the two massacres at the Santa Cruz cemetery on 12 November 1991 and before.



Max Stahl enthraling Bruce Parker and Barry Hughes.

On our first day on the road we initially rode east along the northern coast on variable roads and tracks. Most of the road was woeful but some intermittent Chinese black tops were brilliant at 70km/hour. We stopped at the Garden of Heroes at Metinaro where many Falintil fighters are buried and we paused at several other places where Services Reconnaissance Department (SRD) Operatives had parachuted in, landed on beaches and worked with the local people as partisans in WWII from 1943 to 1945. Most of these brave Operatives were either captured or killed in action due to headquarters incompetence. I shake my head. It was a long first day's bike ride as we got used to the Hondas which mostly bounced well on incredibly pot holed roads, much worse than they were in WWII.

The Indonesian Government actually built a lot of roads and bridges during their 24 years of occupation but mainly because this gave ground mobility to their military to kill the Falintil guerrillas and it also enabled their military to extract commercial products like coffee to fund their fiefdom. Many steel bridges also have plaques displaying that they were donated by Australian Aid. But over the last 20 years the East Timorese Government has had competing priorities for their meagre budget coming from declining oil and gas royalties in the Timor Sea and this will soon stop. Hence the roads and bridges have fallen into chronic disrepair and the people just seem to accept their fate when it comes to horrendous road travel.



A day in the life of a motorcyclist in East Timor. Don't look at the oncoming truck. Simply accelerate through the narrow gap and don't even think of looking at the hole!

The long first day's ride was to set a pattern for each of the enduro days to follow. Jonias Exposto our lead rider was a former boy guerrilla who had served as an Estafeta or courier and he was now a petroleum



engineer. His code name had been Lulius meaning Sacred or Majic. His father's code name was Odamatan Usluli Loke-Taka, meaning Open and Close the Door and as the Secretary for the Falintil Commander in Region 3, he had been responsible for recruiting guerrillas from a secret political headquarters location at Aileu that we were to later visit along with Jonias' family who still live close-by.

In the afternoon we toured the Don Bosco training college at Fatu Maca just south of Baucau to dine on fresh deer meat, fresh milk, fresh bread, all produced at the technical school as well as drinking cold Bintangs. It was pleasurable to meet the Italian Father Eligio Lochtelli who had run rings around the Indonesian Army as a Clandestino. I did not ask him if he had been given the Order of the Guerrilla but he was certainly deserving of such recognition; known to God.



Bruce Parker and Father Lochtelli, Master Clandestino, at Don Bosco College at Fatu Maca.

It was interesting talking to Brother Andriano about the massacre of the religious people on 25 September 1999 as I did not know that Falintil had killed some Militia in reprisal. His older brother had been in Falintil and he was killed in the early 1980s. His father was also a Falintil Commander. While the country is 90% Catholic, he said that 'spirits' are still used to identify names from the recovered bones of Falintil fighters. We also passed an Indonesian Army Cemetery just outside Bacau and apparently there are similar cemeteries in every one of the 13 Districts of East Timor. The Indonesian Government does not want to move the 3,804 bodies back home as they are still embarrassed by the large body count. That night we stayed in the former Portuguese Pousada (AKA luxury) in Baucau and dined on a white tablecloth for dinner. Yahoo!

Before leaving Baucau on our second day on the road we visited the Timor Roofing factory, which due to the gigantic efforts of Rotary in Melbourne over 20 years in the face of many naysayers, it is now the most successful NGO Project in East Timor. It has had a huge impact on the rebuilding of infrastructure especially

compared with lower quality Chinese roofing iron. It has enabled the mental and physical transition of the population to the use safely stored water in tanks and of mini grain silos for no loss of produce.

Then it was an incredible ride, standing mostly on the foot rests, on a veritable muddy motor cross track for several hours up to the old Portuguese Fort at Baguia on the eastern side of Matebean, the (Mountain of the Dead) massif in the middle of the island where I made arrangements with a former Falintil guide for a predawn start the next day.



The motor cross track to Baguia. Take the Hudson River option every time!

At O dark hundred hours on our third day we ascended steeply in continuous warm rain at guerrilla speed for several hours to the old Falintil headquarters which had been the target of the encirclement and annihilation operations by the Indonesian Army in 1978, but cloud negated going any further to the summit. Several tens of thousands of East Timorese people perished here at the hands of the Indonesian Army. Defeated by Commando weather, I was none the less satisfied in being able to bear witness to the many graves of fallen Falintil fighters enroute and to have a narcotic breakfast coffee with Aquelino De Oliveira, the village head of Uai Boro, who was also a former Falintil fighter.

My guide Manuel Menezes and I descended via what felt like a black ski route with my nonchalant companion wearing thongs, smoking and carrying a machete; shades of Kokoda! Somehow or another we discussed route and weather options in my now rusty colloquial Indonesian language. Taur Matan Ruak's family village is close-by Baguia but I was shattered from the gruelling descent and I could not endure any more motor cross that day. Our retreat by bike downhill from Baguia to the north coast was thwarted by heavy rain and so we gladly handed our bikes across to local riders so we could descend in our supporting troop carrier. Our driver Edu Driker was very safe at the helm. Interestingly he is a dual East Timorese and Portuguese citizen as his father had served in the Portuguese Force 1965 to 1970, the Portuguese Navy 1970 to 1975 and then in Falintil. His code name was Siak meaning Brutal, Excited or Aggressive.

On our bouncy Day 4 drive back down to the north



coast we passed a large and emotionally charged funeral procession for an old Falintil fighter and we got out of our jeep to pay our respects for this fallen soldier. Back on the motor bikes that afternoon we headed for the eastern tip of the island through very different terrain for my 63rd birthday and two spills. In the first one I had to put my motor bike down on its side when a truck pulled out in front of me, going uphill on a narrow and gutted dirt road. Luckily it was low speed. The second time I went arse over tit and did a forward parachute roll going downhill in fading light on a road full of rocks like marbles. I sustained a very bruised shoulder from the roll and I had to stay off my motor bike the next day. I wish I had taken a kidney belt as well.

The next day we motored across to the nearby Jaco Island by local fishing boat where the refreshing salt water swim amongst tropical coral bommies did wonders for my bruised shoulder, before riding back west through Los Palos and on to the idyllic fishing port of Com. We, the SAS had raided the town on 27 September 1999 to prevent the forced deportation of hundreds of people and to detain the Militia Team Alpha following their execution of nine religious people at Vera-Kotxo and the feeding of their bodies to crocodiles in the Malailea River on 25 September 1999. The entire town of Com turned out that night with the young women putting on a professionally choreographed show of traditional and modern dancing. How good is that!



The idyllic Port of Com raided by the SAS on 27 September 1999 to capture Militia Team Alpha. Ugly Keith Hughes, Jim Truscott, Marc Preston (observed), Barry Hughes and Dick Pelling's bike



The dancing girls at the town of Com put on a show for the Old & Bold, and the rest of the town turned up to watch! Wouldn't you?

On our sixth day on the road we rode south and uphill on our motor bikes to cross the mountains again between the massifs of Matebean and Mundo Perdido before descending past the town of Ossu on the south coast to a mountainous jungle camp used by SRD Operatives in WWII and also by the Falintil guerrillas in the Independence War. It is still called Compartemento Criado! All of the Cridaos who supported the Australians could say 'bloody bastard' in English.



*If in doubt, read and follow the bloody rendezvous instructions! Shots to the North, Head South.
The Guerrilla Creed: Hit and Run!*

Once again, I made arrangements with Leopollo Augusto, a former Clandestino to guide me to the top of the Foho Watulawa peak early the next morning. In the half-light within a sweaty limestone strewn jungle, we passed a deep cave used as a guerrilla hideout, several defensive rock sangars and well-sited lookouts watching over the southern coast before topping out at a very large golden bullet tip and a memorial to the Commando guerrilla actions and SRD partisan actions in WWII and the Independence War by Falintil. It was simply the best to share a meagre breakfast with my guide and talk about his involvement in the Independence War in my now improving Indonesian language.

Our original plan to ride west across the southern coast along a newly Chinese constructed oil and gas super highway to the town of Same was not possible due to two fallen bridges. So, we rode back north to Baucau and a long dusty ride back to and through peak hour traffic in Dili at which time dog eats dog and it is every biker for himself in the melee.

On our eighth day on the road we once again rode due south from Dili and uphill past the commando memorial at Dare and onto Alieu where we had concentrated about 1,500 Falintil guerrillas in November 1999. It was a great day's ride as we headed up into the cool clouds of the Ramelau mountain range at 1,800 metres, stopping briefly at the misty saddle at Fleica and then down on through the historically significant town of Maubisse for the 2nd/2nd Independent Company where many to and fro combat actions took place with the Japanese Army and their Timorese black columns.

On the steep descent on the relatively good road to Same we passed an old French AMX tank that had been used by the Indonesian Army. It is interesting that we saw few remnants of war on our tour apart from the many graves to fallen Falintil fighters and Indonesian soldiers in each District. It is the same at Gallipoli and the Western Front. That night we stayed in a hotel run by an Australian agriculturist just south of Same and we also inspected what could be a Bofors gun lying in a garden which may have come from the scuttled HMAS Voyager, Sparrow Force in West Timor or Malaya.





The Golden Bullet Memorial which was opened by the President and the Prime Minister in 2018 on an isolated peak known as Foho Watulawa about one hours walk from Loihuno, a small village near Ossu. The Ossu/Baucau Area was known as the Naroman region meaning 'lit up' or 'bright' as it was always active and intense. It is a naturally well protected area with steep sides and excellent views of the surrounding countryside. The Australian names of the memorial are SRD Operatives and from H Detachment of the 2nd/2nd Independent Company; Alfred Allen, Frank Bennett, John Carey, John Cashman, James Cloutt, Colin Doig, Jim Ellwood, J Grimson, Frank Holland, Alfred Jones, Eric Liversidge, Charles McKenzie, Harold Newton, Keith Richards, William Rowan-Robinson, Arthur Stevenson, George Timms and Albert Walton.



The Old & Bold on a French AMX tank built in 1944 and used by the Indonesia Army, on the road just above the town of Same. It was knocked out by Raoul Isaac, brother of Leandro Isaac and some other Fretilin fighters in December 1975. He was killed shortly after. It is classic ambush country used by the Commandos and Falintil!

Motorcycling is good fun but it takes all of your concentration to hang in there on steep winding roads. You whiz past the few signs and it does not allow much time to take in the vista. So I rode in the troop carrier on the return to Dili so I could take photographs of the Same Saddle where two Commando Platoons had killed 50 Japanese enemy in rolling contacts over several days around 29 September 1942, the Pousada and other parts of Maubisse that had been bombed by the RAAF, the secret CNRT political headquarters in Aileu where civilian reinforcements were screened before being sent into the mountains to become guerrillas, and the Falintil memorial at Dare overlooking the raid that they had conducted on the radio station in Dili on 10-11 June 1980. The 2nd/2nd Independent Company had also raided the Japanese barracks in Dili on 15 May 1942 to attempt to rescue two Commandos and they killed some 20 to 30 Japanese troops. They

had also unintentionally shot up the adjacent brothel which really upset the Japanese Garrison troops!



The "Kannon Japong" in the town of Same. It may have been taken by the Japanese Army off the wreck of HMAS Voyager or it could have been captured from Sparrow Force in West Timor. There used to be two guns and more than likely they were deployed to Same to defend against raids by Australia Hudson bombers flying from Darwin. Beside it is a small gun of 18-19th century Macau origin which once would have been carried on the side of a Portuguese ship.



The Falintil memorial at Dare commemorating their raid on 10-11 June 1980 on the Indonesian Army depot in Becora, the radio station at Marabia and Army checkpoints at Fatunaba and Daren over six hours.



Late on our ninth day we rode further west along the north coast past the new sea port being built by the Chinese at Tibar just west of Dili and onto an almost empty tourist resort at the coastal town of Liquica and a cautious swim in the ocean. The crocodiles who are the people's ancestors in Timorese mythology have been getting more numerous and noticeably bigger in recent years with some saying that they are swimming up from Australia.

It was a pleasant ride through the border town of Batugarde where my mobile phone piped welcome to Indonesia and then a short uphill piste to the old Portuguese Fort at Balibo which was built in 1750. It is now a hotel managed by the Balibo Trust. When Tim McOwan and I had landed here in a Blackhawk helicopter in September 1999 the town was completely deserted and it was soon to become the battalion headquarters for eleven successive Australian infantry battalions over the next five years. The underground workings have all but been filled in with modern accommodation units built on top.

Eleven days and 1,200 kilometres later we were back in Dili, crashed and bashed, battered and bruised, but totally appreciative of the hardships of fighting an enemy in this ravished country. We paused momentarily at the new Comoro Bridge where the ration truck massacre of four Commandos had occurred in the hands of Japanese Marines and again at the southern end of the original north-south runway close by where 12 Commandos were brutally executed by Japanese Marines on 20/21 February 1942 for a minute's silence. Lest we forget.



The memorial to the eleven Australian infantry battalions that were headquartered in the Fort at Balibo from 1999 to 2004. The F-FDTL now have a Forward Operating Base on the western border close by at Moelana.



The INTERFET Hotel! The hangar where Force Headquarters, Major General Cosgrove and 3 SAS Squadron slept on 20 September 1999, the day that INTERFET landed in Dili. This location is close by the original aircraft dispersal area on the southern end of the north-south airfield defended by the 2nd/2nd Independent Company. Dick Pelling, Bruce 'Never Better' Parker, Barry Hughes, Jim Truscott, Marc Preston and Keith Hughes.

Last but not least we managed to find the site of the old Dili power station from WWII which at one time had been used by the Kempetei to imprison four Australian SRD Operatives from RIMAU, LAGARTO and COBRA and of whom only Jim Ellwood at 97 years of age is still alive in Melbourne. Jack Hanson who is also 97 years old is the last surviving member of the 2nd/2nd Independent Company and he lives in Toogum, Hervey Bay. For those who are about to die, we salute you.

The last word goes to Bernard Callinan the initial 2IC of the 2nd/2nd Independent Company in December 1941, who in 1953 wrote in his book *Independent Company* that Timor has today the same strategical importance to Australia, and it is vital that the island should not be occupied by an enemy power.

What we, the old and bold, now know is true, is that the wheel will turn and in some future time Australia will need to be able to re-apply this knowledge especially in the Special Forces realm. 'Surrender be fucked!' ■

OLD AND BOLD MOTORCYCLE TOUR

23rd May -
2nd June 2019



DISTANCES

Dili - Baucau	125km
Baucau - Baguia	42km
Baguia - Tutuala	123km
Com - Loi Hunu	129km
Loi Hunu - Dili	173km
Dili - Same	117km
Same - Liquica	142km
Liquica - Balibo	94km
Balibo - Dili	126km





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Franchising Agreements

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

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

Franchise agreements

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

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

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

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

Before entering a franchise agreement

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

- a short document setting out some of the risks and rewards of franchising.
- The Information statement for prospective franchisees (PDF 102.79 KB | DOCX 53.38 KB) must be given to you when you formally apply, or express interest in, buying a franchised business.

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

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

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

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

Doing your due diligence

When considering a franchise opportunity you should also:

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

Know your 'cooling-off' rights

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

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

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

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

Marketing funds

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

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

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

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

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

Sourcing stock and services

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

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

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

What is 'churning'?

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



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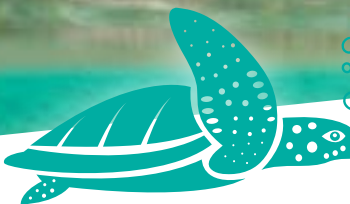
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LIVE NATION



1 COMMANDO COMPANY in the 1960's

By

Ron Melville 1 Cdo Coy 1960 - 1966

Although sixty years have passed, I still have very fond memories of those years. The swinging Sixties. "Those were the days my friend!" and I have enclosed a few photos. I passed my interview and medical in late 1959 and was in the first intake in 1960 to join 1 Commando.

Although sixty years have passed, I still have very fond memories of those years. The swinging Sixties. "Those were the days my friend!" and I have enclosed a few photos. I passed my interview and medical in late 1959 and was in the first intake in 1960 to join 1 Commando.

Most of the Q-Store dress and equipment were leftovers from National Service and needed quite a bit of reworking. Blanco had previously been used on some webbing. This had to be boiled out before many tins of black boot polish were applied to establish the regulation black, for all items.

"Friendly" NCO's and in particular Ken Curran, a friend and mentor to many, offered advice on all matters from boots to dress. Boots came with a leather sole and it was strongly suggested to get a rubber sole fitted, at one's cost, as soon as possible after the boots had been given some water treatment and were broken in. Training was conducted in around Middle Head, making use of the "lower area" as well as the new Drill Hall. Construction of the Kitchen, Messes,

Offices and Lecture Rooms were still work in progress. The Sixties were a decade of change. Not only were we getting a "new home" with wonderful facilities, the Unit went from Company to Battalion strength with a new name - 1st. Battalion RNSWR (Commando) and the new Pentropic structure.

The year 1960 started with a Bang. A steam train trip back to Sydney from the Gan Gan camp saw an alleged number of railway stations, their staff and passengers as well as innocent Hawksbury fishermen subjected to random targeted Thunder Flash experiences.

On arrival at Central Station we were greeted by a large contingent of officials who paraded us on the platform and searched the train. One, senior NCO who shall remain nameless told us that anyone who knows anything about the explosions (tic tic) on the journey home should come forward now, so we can all go home. We finally were dismissed and Thunder Flashes became hard to obtain, except for, you know who, as he often "found" a couple about the place and they were put to good use.

I was fortunate to be able undertake a number of courses which gave me the opportunity to experience many things I may never have been able to do or afford. The most memorable was in 1961 where our platoon was selected to attend one of the first Recondo courses conducted in WA by the SAS.



First Para Jumps from C130's 1962.



This course had recently been introduced along the lines of similar courses conducted by American Rangers. Its purpose, was to produce patrol commanders. From the start students were put under pressure and deprived of sleep by having to attend a series of long lectures on numerous of topics. We were all given tasks to prepare and undertake while being constantly accessed. From the planning and conducting of overnight raids we progressed to multiday patrols over a variety of terrains. Our position and LUP's were often disclosed and we were harassed by "enemy patrols". At any time, anyone of us could be told to "take over" as the patrol commander often with additional Orders/Instructions.

The Course broaden our horizons, we all learnt a little more about ourselves, pushing the boundaries, by doing some things most of us had never contemplated.

No doubt, you like me have memories both good and bad coupled with the highlights from your days in the Unit. Like the day you joined, your first mates, the training and tests, being awarded your Green Beret, the Para Course and your first jump. Did anyone you know, win the prize at "Green ON - Stand in the Door?" There was also some discontent within the ARA, where some members resented why priority was given to us on certain courses which they felt restricted their opportunities to move to other units or advance their career. Training on courses together smoothed this over to some degree.

Most ARA posted to the Unit enjoyed their time. Their experience helped and contributed to training.

I think we all ARA/CMF look back with pride at just what we did and what the Unit meant to us.

These days, for obvious reasons, we don't see or hear too much about them. They are all better equipped using technology we never knew and of course train to continually improve their Standards.



Having a laugh in Yamba after the Para Drop 1964.



Basic Para Cse RAAF Williamtown 1962.



WHISKEY'S WHISH

By

John Davidson - ACA Qld



Whiskey's Wish (WW) provides critical support to Australian Defence Force (ADF) and ex ADF personnel and their families along with support to members of the First Response Community and the Correctional Services officers (the Extended Family). It operates across Australia with 15 trainers approved by WW covering WA, Victoria, Cairns, NSW and Brisbane. They are headquartered in Eatons Hill, Brisbane and can be regularly seen training in John Scott Park in Samford Village.

Many members of the extended family are injured or suffer physical and mental health issues often as a result of their service to their community and Australia. Whiskey's Wish assists their recovery before attempting where possible to return them to gainful employment with the assistance of their service dog helping them overcome their challenges. We include families in our work as they are both affected and are an integral part of the long-term recovery process.

A Veteran and his wife (Scott and Liz Jackman) established Whiskey's Wish with fellow friends and family in November 2014. Both recognised the positive influence dogs had made to recovery efforts for those individuals diagnosed with PTSD. The organisation was registered as a not for profit charity by the Office of Fair Trading QLD and as a charity under ACNC with Deductible Gift Recipient Status (DGR) and under the Collections Act QLD in May 2015. It now has over 117 dogs and handlers under training and has successfully certified 11 dogs as Service Dogs fully accredited nationally.

There are many organisations in the community that provide support to the needy. Whiskey's Wish provides critical support to Defence, First Responders and Correctional Service personnel suffering from Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) among other challenges across Australia. Few truly understand the magnitude of the problem today in Australia.

PTSD is a syndrome of stress reactions that can develop after either direct or indirect exposure to a traumatic event. These reactions are categorised within four symptom clusters: intrusive symptoms (nightmares



and flashbacks), avoidance symptoms, negative changes in thoughts and mood, and heightened arousal. In addition, these symptoms must be present for at least one month and must cause psychological, social, or functional impairment.

The outcome of exposure to trauma is widely variable, and depends upon genetic factors, history of prior exposure, and physical injuries sustained at the time of the trauma. The lifetime prevalence of PTSD varies between countries, but is seen in approximately 5-10% of the population. The 12 month prevalence of PTSD in the Australian population is approximately 5.2%.

Among serving ADF personnel, the 12 month prevalence of PTSD is 8.3%. The recent "Mental Health and Wellbeing Transition Study found that up to a half of transitioned ADF personnel have experienced a mental illness in the previous 12 months, and the lifetime prevalence of a mental illness is almost three quarters of transitioned ADF personnel. With this in mind, it is not surprising that, among transitioned ADF personnel, the 12 month prevalence of PTSD is 17.7% and the lifetime prevalence of PTSD is 24.9%.

The 12 month prevalence of 10% of PTSD among first responders worldwide, with no significant variation among region. Among this cohort, ambulance officers were significantly more likely to develop PTSD than firefighters, who were significantly more likely to develop PTSD than police officers exposed to a major disaster. The prevalence of PTSD among correctional workers is less studied, though the rate is likely to be similar to rates among first responders. This study has been commissioned by Whiskey's Wish and is being conducted by our colleague **Dr David Graham**, BSc (Hons), MBBS, MPhil, PhD Psychiatry Registrar, Concord Centre for Mental Health, NSW Health.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

'Pause Restaurant' on Main Street, Samford has offered to host a **Charity Dinner and Auction** in support of Whiskey's Wish on **Saturday 12 October 2019**.

It's a Special Event that will raise critically needed funding to allow Whiskey's Wish to continue its much-needed work.

Book your spot at: www.pausesamford.com.au

Please feel free to visit John Scott Park in Samford most Thursday mornings to see the increasable group of people and dogs working together.

If you would like to know more visit us at: <http://www.whiskeyswish.org.au/home.html> or call John on 0434 225 877 or email: treasurer@whiskeyswish.org.au



PAUSE FOR PAWS – 12 OCTOBER

Join us at **"Pause for Paws"** as we not only acknowledge the amazing effort this important charity delivers, but help us raise funds to ensure they can continue their work resourced and continue to thrive.

Whiskey's Wish provides critical support to Australian Defence Force (ADF) and ex ADF personnel and their families along with support to members of the First Response Community and the Correctional Services officers (the Extended Family). It operates across Australia, with their team of 15 active trainers. It's a familiar sight in Samford to see their focused group training in John Scott Park.

We celebrate the event by sharing a delicious menu that starts with canapés and small plates, then moves to the table for our main course and dessert. You have a choice of Main, with Eye Fillet, Wild Qld Barramundi, or a Vegetarian platter. Be certain Chef Rino will impress you Pause-style!

Live music from the deeply talented Mark Cryle and Richard Evans (ex Spot the Dog) who will be bringing us a soundtrack of 60's & 70's anthems.

Our generous sponsors have donated many significant Auction items and we welcome your bids on the night, knowing these contributions will be supporting a truly worthy cause.

We hope you can join us for what is sure to be a fabulous celebration of the important work, the People, and the Paws of Whiskey's Wish at Pause on **Saturday 12th October. 6pm arrival.**

A large advertisement for Battery World. The background is a photograph of a man in a blue Battery World polo shirt working on a car battery. The Battery World logo is at the top left. The text 'WANT TO BE YOUR OWN BOSS?' is in large white letters. Below it, a paragraph describes the franchise opportunity. At the bottom, there are three award logos and the contact information 'batteryworld.com.au 1300 793 209'.

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JAMES JOSEPH 'JIM' TRAINOR

19 June 1937 - 11 April 2019 | 2 Commando Company

Many of the "Old and the Bold" members who served in 2 Commando Company in the late 1950s and early 1960s were saddened to hear of Jim's passing. He was a close friend of many, and was regarded with great respect and affection by all who served with him. Jim was the beloved husband of Maureen, loving father and father in law of James and Christine, Anthony and Michelle, Matthew and Nicola, Michael and Susanti, the proud grandfather of fourteen, and the cherished great grandfather of Hudson. At Jim's request light refreshments were served at his and Maureen's home after a private service at the Fawcner cemetery. A large contingent of friends joined Jim's family to support them and share many memories of Jim. On behalf of Maureen and the family Anthony thanked all who attended, and those who could not attend but sent messages.

Old friend Frank Read flew from Queensland, and George Wing travelled from Adelaide where he was visiting family, and many others came from near and far to pay their last respects. Jim had been an apprentice at RMIT, where he already knew Danny Daniliuc, and was keen to join the military. When he found he was to be exempted from National Service because of his studies he insisted on joining up and after his full time training at Puckapunyal was posted to the 15 Lt Regt in June 1957. Jim immediately transferred to 2 Commando Company. He qualified as a Frogman Class 3 in December that year and in a rewarding month in June 1958 was awarded the Green Beret and gained his parachute wings.

In 1959-60 Jim qualified CL3 and CL2, and after discharging his National Service obligation he immediately re-enlisted in the Unit. Promoted to Sergeant in 1960 Jim discharged at his own request in 1962 after many qualifications and five years of dedicated service.

Maureen was a registered Nurse, and Jim met her on a blind date at the Austin Hospital Ball in 1963, and they married in 1965. Maureen became familiar with



Jim & Maureen Trainor

Jim's Commando experiences as he told stories to the children, and later the grandchildren, during weekends away around the campfire. Maureen and the family shared in Jim's life with the Commando Association over the years through many social events and weekend adventure activities. Longtime friend Lyn Gardiner said Jim was very physically strong and had a remarkable memory for facts. "He knew more about the Unit than the Unit itself did", Lyn said. Jim was also good at bestowing nicknames on his comrades, and an endearing quality was his warmth and friendliness. "Jim was a great mate – I will miss him very badly", said Lyn.

Frank Read and Jim shared many experiences in the Unit and later, and Frank still remembers when Jim released the brake during roping practice at Swan Island, causing Frank to do a dirt dive - luckily into soft sand. Despite this they remained friends for another 60 years. Ruben Nordblom sent a moving message that expressed his respect and affection for Jim. He said, "Jim was a great bloke, and helped me and many others through their initial days in 2 Cdo Coy, just a quiet unassuming gentleman who was there when you wanted him".

Chris Williams, now living in Thailand, said, "Jim was my platoon sergeant at McWhea Avenue Ripponlea. He was always someone to look up to, and a great friend who I will miss very much. RIP Jimmy." A talented artist, Chris has painted a portrait of Jim in uniform that he will present to Maureen.

Jim was a member at the 1960 annual camp at Point Lonsdale that endured the 'Rip incident' and despite his illness in recent years still made the effort to attend the annual Rip commemoration service in February this year. Knowing Jim's sense of independence and his determination this was no surprise, and many of his old friends were thankful they had the chance to catch up with Jim one more time, before he left us.

All members of the Commando Association Victoria and the wider Commando community offer their sincere sympathy to Maureen and the family.



VALE

WO2 KEN 'BLUEY' CURRAN, OAM

9th September 1925 – 26th June 2019

2nd/11th Commando Squadron (WW2) & 1 Commando Company

Memories of Ken Curran

by MAJGEN Greg Melick, AO. RFD. SC. ACA National President

Fifty years ago, I fronted up to One Commando Company at Georges Heights and was met by an immaculately dressed Warrant Officer by the name of Gary Holmes who asked me why I wanted to join the Army Reserve. When I told him, I was transferring from another unit, in a apoplectic rage he demanded to know from where I was transferring with hair like that. Obviously, it was University Regiment.

A week and a haircut later I met a big rawboned redheaded Warrant Officer known as Bluey Curran. He had just found out that I had been paneled for the unarmed combat course and suggested I if was going to attend his course I would need a haircut. When I explained that I just had one he gave me exasperated look, reached out with one of his enormous hands, grabbed my hair and started to lift me from the ground. I got another haircut. That was the start of an association with a remarkable man who shaped the lives of so many that passed through 1 Commando. He was one of the originals in more ways than one having served with 2nd/11th Commando Squadron in World War II and being a founding member of the unit that became so much a part of many of us. He was hard but fair and a man of great integrity with one major flaw.

He didn't drink alcohol. For a teetotaler to be CSM was a major drawback especially when he was the one who conducted morning runs all after a night off. He could be absolutely merciless and seemed to delight in the obvious discomfort of those of us that had obviously overindulged. However, he always claimed that he was doing it for our own good and to teach us a lesson about the evils of alcohol. Bluey had a great sense of humour and loved orchestrating the Can Can and march passes involving Joe Eichler standing on a saluting dais acting in a manner which would clearly be outlawed in a politically correct today. His greatest strength, amongst many, was his ability both as a practitioner and instructor in, and of, unarmed combat. Nobody knows just how many people he tortured with



WO2 Ken 'Bluey' Curran, OAM.

his relentless desire for fitness, coordination and aggression that ensured one would certainly finish the course a far better soldier after being subjected to Ken's tender mercies. In my 52 years of service I never came across anybody who could come near his levels of expertise and ability in this area.

So much so that when I was a member of the Chief of Army's Senior Advisory Group I listened with reservations when we were told about a new wave of unarmed combat instructors who were to introduce techniques across the Army. I had seen some of these instructors in action and, although proficient, knew they could not approach Ken's abilities. I suggested Ken be approached to assist and, because of his age and deactivated status, my suggestion

was treated with amusement. That was before they saw Ken in action. The rest is history with Ken being bought out of retirement and continuing to instruct for many years thereafter. Bluey continued to render great service to his country from his teenage years until well after most others would have retired. We are all far better people for having known and/or served with him. We won't see his like again.

Eulogy Of Ken Curran, OAM. JP 9th September 1925 - 26th June 2019

By Barry Grant Immediate Past President ACA NSW

It was estimated that some 450-500 mourners attended ken's funeral "*give your heart a rub son you will be ok*". How often did we hear that expression over the years when we were doing it tough?

Ken curran was the most decent human being that i have ever known. Many members of the special forces community, and indeed, the community in general would agree.

He joined the Australian army at age 18, too young to be deployed, but was assigned to the 13/33rd infantry battalion where he was involved with the breakout of a



Japanese prisoner of war camp at Cowra.

With further training and he was selected for the 2nd/11th commando squadron seeing service in Morotai, British north Borneo and New Britain.

One incident that defined his life, was when they were ordered to conduct a bayonet charge in New Guinea.

One of his mates asked him was he scared, he replied he was. His mate said have a puff on this cigarette, Ken said it was the worst thing he had ever tasted. Sadly, his mate was killed in the attack.

Ken vowed that day he would never smoke or drink alcohol and would attend church every Sunday, which he did. Ken also never swore. How he lasted in the Australian army with those attributes truly amazes me.

Following the surrender of the Japanese he was discharged in 1946. Following his discharge from the army, he enlisted in the newly formed 1 Commando company at the age of 30. His military unarmed combat skills were instantly recognised and many a soldier was introduced to his training. Something never to be forgotten.

Once he was sent to Singleton to introduce new recruits to MUC. One recruit commented "who is the old codger in the cams" Ken walked onto the mats and said "my name is WO Ken Curran and I am here to introduce you to MUC"

"I always need a helper in my demonstrations, you will do son" As the now distraught recruit approached Ken said "I might be an old codger but there is nothing wrong with my hearing" His skills were also used when the newly formed SAS company that was raised in 1957

Members of the police tactical response group, corrective services and security firms also used his expertise including baton and handcuffing techniques. He eventually became the company sergeant major at 1 Commando company and heavily emphasised physical fitness as an important component of MUC.

Blue was also a bit of rascal and played tricks on the soldiers. On one occasion returning by train from the Ghan Ghan training area, whenever the train passed through a tunnel there was a series of explosions. No one owned up, but the train guards suspected it was the soldiers. Those of you old enough to remember the trains of old, you would know that the toilets emptied directly onto the tracks. On arrival at central station they were met by a contingent of military police. Ken rightfully lined up the company and demanded that the perpetrators own up to the explosions. Well no one knew who it was, until they were handing in the stores at the unit and Blue produced a pocketful of surplus grenade simulators. The culprit was unmasked. Some of you may remember the early Australian movies with Chips Rafferty, and one movie called "Smiley Gets a Gun" involved a fight scene in the town hall. Yep, well Ken and members of the unit, including Brian Gerber, were the "fighters", that video is still available. Overtime Ken would become the army's senior military unarmed combat instructor, at this time he was also the last serving WW2 commando with MUC



Bluey with his late wife Norma.

training. His involvement in MUC kept the skills alive, special forces units now include MUC as an important skill. He was inducted into the Australasian martial arts hall of fame for services to the Australian army as an unarmed combat instructor.

Ken was discharged at the then retirement age of 55, but he was keen to continue service. I recently obtained his official records from the national archives. "You have to be careful with these records as they are warts and all." Ken finally found a unit that wanted a drum major and so he re-joined the army.

The enlistment form read something like this:

Name **Kenneth Roy Curran**

Any previous military experience **no**

Drive a truck **no**

Any other skills **no**

Nice try Ken, but you get commando brownie points for trying. However, someone shining a seat in military records smelt a rat, and after some inspecting wrote to his CO, and a few months later, his reluctant discharge occurred.

Ken was active in the community, apart from being the association welfare officer, he was the band major of the northern suburbs pipe band, and for 20 years was a member of "Kaddy", keen, able and disabled of Dee Why. As the association welfare officer for both associations, he visited members in hospital including those who had been incarcerated, without passing judgement. Whilst working at QANATS a former CDF on the aircraft noticed my unit badge.

He enquired if I knew a Ken Curran, it seems he met Ken as a junior officer when they were introduced to MUC, he just shook his head and smiled. He was probably the most well-known soldier in the unit's history, and will be

Remembered as a gentle giant with a heart of gold. Everyone misses you mate.

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VALE

3/165640 SGT BARRY ERNEST CREIGHTON

1936 - 04 July 2019
2 Commando Company

After completing his six-months national service in the RAAF in 1955, Barry enlisted in the still fledgling 2 Cdo Coy in February 1956 and three months later he qualified on his Basic Parachute Course – at a time when they did not wear a reserve parachute. He was awarded his green beret in August, alongside Taffy Drakopoulos, Stan Polan, Ted Malone, Don Bergman, Roman Stuczynski and other early notables – among the first Australians to gain them. He soon qualified Frogman, among other courses, and was promoted Corporal in 1958, then Sergeant in 1960, alongside his good friend Jim Trainor.

One army parachute weekend Barry saw Vic Kaye's stick do a fast exit from only 600 feet - too low. Vic had twists, and was badly injured. "Barry Creighton was already on the ground - I think Barry saw it", Vic said later. Barry discharged at his own request in mid-1963 with many friendships and after more than seven years of dedicated service to the Company. In civilian life Barry was a motor mechanic, and conducted his own repair business. Barry, with Mary and the family, was a strong supporter of the Commando Association, and an active participant in Association activities, including Wilsons Prom long weekend walks, skydiving weekends and the Rip services at Queenscliff.

He joined with his other Commando Association mates on weekends at Corowa and Bridgewater-on-Loddon, to jump with David Waterston's Airports Skydivers, under the steely gaze of chief instructor



Mary and Barry at the 2 Cdo Coy 50th Anniversary Dinner in 2005.

Keith Hughes, until they all became too old to hang off the wing strut of the Cessna at 5000 feet!

Barry was also an active member of the Essendon Bushwalkers club, where among other bushwalks he did ten or more "marathons" – hiking further than 42 kilometers in a day. Barry did many Wilsons Prom hikes with the Association, sometimes from Tidal River to the lighthouse and return, until, again, the distances shrunk and the numbers diminished.

Barry was in the group at Oberon Bay camp on the Prom when 150 millimeters (6 inches) of rain bucketed on to the Prom overnight, driven by almost gale force winds. Everyone was sodden wet in their tents. Barry, Mary and the family also enjoyed indoor rock climbing days, Open Days at Fort Gellibrand, and many other Association activities. Mary was a great supporter of the Association through Barry, and was well known to many of our members.

The celebrant at the service spoke of Barry's love for Mary and their children, and of the holidays and family events they shared over the years. A strong cohort of Barry's Commando friends attended his service, including Victorian vice-president John Woodruff and his wife Joan. Keilor East RSL President John Johnson, OAM. spoke of Barry's Commando experiences and conducted the traditional RSL ceremonies. Mary pre-deceased Barry in July 2010. All members of the Association offer their thoughts and sympathy to their children Brad, Mark and Michelle and family Catherine, Megan and Julie.



Reginald T.R. Davis

VALE

REGINALD T.R. DAVIS

2nd/9th Commando Squadron WW2

KEVIN THOMAS, MM

3 RAR (Korea) & 1 Commando Company
(Original Member Of 1 Company)

R.J. LEE

1 Commando Company



VALE

3155729 WO2 KEITH HUGHES

12th May 1939 - 16th July 2019

2 Commando Company

Keith Hughes transferred from 33 Transport Company in April 1961 as a Sergeant and reverted to private rank. Keith's brother Barry, a Corporal, did likewise. They followed across after Dennis 'Ned' Jenkins and Bob Jones, with whom Keith did National Service. When Keith did his basic parachute course in late 1962, alongside brother Barry, David Waterston, Tony Mills, Norm Ferguson and Rod Sayers, he did not envisage that twenty years later he would still be serving in the unit as a Warrant Officer CSM.

Keith was promoted back to full Corporal in 1962, and to Sergeant in 1963. Over the years he became a senior climbing instructor, unarmed combat instructor, and completed coxswain and diving courses among others – including air loading and submarine familiarisation - and was an instructor on Commando Selection Courses. In the mid-1960s the Unit whaler sailing boat "Strike Swiftly", with skipper and 2 Cdo Coy Adjutant Captain Harry Smith of later 'Long Tan' renown, won numerous events around Port Phillip Bay with crew such as Keith, Barry Rust, Ruben Nordblom, Ian Storey and many others.

Keith was on the light tower platform at the Melbourne Showgrounds in 1966 when his fellow Sergeant and good friend Dan Lorkin fell to his death, and recalled it as his saddest time in the Unit. Among Keith's other courses he attained military freefall and freefall jumpmaster qualifications, achieving 28 freefall descents on his 1/75 Freefall Parachute Course.

After his Army service Keith was the chief instructor at David Waterston's Airports Skydivers at Corowa and Bridgewater-on-Loddon for many years. Keith was rated a Parachute instructor "B" with the Australian Parachute Federation, and was with David for some 20 years of instructing. David said "The students just loved him". Keith was also Chief Instructor of David's Mountain and Climbing business for a number of years.

One of many highlights of Keith's time was a mountain leader course with SAS and 2 Commando troops, requiring three weeks of rock, ice and snow climbing, as well as ski patrolling, at Mt Arapiles, Crackenback, Perisher and Thredbo. Keith followed Bruce O'Connor as 2 Coy CSM when Bruce was



WO2 Keith Hughes.

commissioned, and remained in this position until it was promulgated as an ARA posting and filled by Warrant Officer David Waterston. Keith then completed 12 months full time duty as the Warrant Officer Climbing and did an outstanding job, David said, before finally retiring from the Company in 1985. On Keith's retirement then Corporal Marc Preston gave a farewell oration, recognising Keith's extremely long and successful career at the Company. As Chris Wallis, later to become CSM and then OC of 2 Company, said at the time, "Going through (Keith's) mind would be thoughts of achievement and satisfaction, tinged with regret and sorrow". But what sums up Keith's career in 2 Cdo Coy would be 'love of the job, friendship and achievement'.

Earlier this year Keith shared a motorbike tour of Timor-Leste with his brother Barry, Bruce Parker, Colette and Jim Truscott, Marc Preston and Dick Pelling. They were immersed in the history of the suffering and courage of the Timorese people. It was a fitting farewell tour for Keith, whose life was also 'love of the job, friendship and achievement'.

All members of the Association offer their thoughts and sympathy to Keith's family.

An advertisement for the Academy of Surfing. It features a silhouette of a person standing on a surfboard, holding a long pole. The background is a sunset or sunrise over the ocean. Text elements include: "BECOME an ASI INSTRUCTOR" in large, bold letters; "ACREDITED ASI INSTRUCTOR" in a circular logo; "STAND UP PADDLE" below the logo; "International Training" and "World Leader" in red text; "Instructor & Schools Certification" and "Member Benefits, Insurance" in white text; and the website "www.academyofsurfing.com" at the bottom. Below the website, it says "SETTING THE WORLD STANDARD IN SURF AND PADDLE EDUCATION".





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13163 (V16292, VX147690) WO1 CLEMENT ROY KEALY

13th December 1923 - 21st July 2019

Z Special Unit, 3 RAR, AATTV, SASR,
Parachute Training School & 2 Commando Company

Clem Kealy was wounded on the Kokoda Track while serving with the 2/39 Battalion in PNG during WW2. On recovering he joined Z Special Unit and operated on Timor. After WW2 Clem rejoined the army in 1950 at the still young age of 26 and saw service in Korea with 3RAR at the epic Battle of Kapyong. ARA staff who many 1 and 2 Cdo Coy men encountered in the late 1950s at the Williamstown Parachute Training Wing included Major John Church who was a platoon commander at Kapyong, and both of his WO PJs - "Buck" Buchanan and Clem Kealy - later to join 2 Cdo Coy - who were also on Hill 355 with 3RAR. As a PJI Clem trained Mike Wells in 1957, Mike recalls, and many years later became the PTS RSM, in 1975, succeeding another former 2 Cdo Coy member, Jim Husband.

In Vietnam Clem was an instructor at the Duc My



WO1 Clem Kealy, OAM. whilst RSM PTS.

training camp for Rangers. After his posting to 2 Commando Company at Ripponlea, Melbourne as an ARA WO1 instructor, from late 1962 to 1964 he was assigned to 5th SFGA Nung Company at Danang from 1964-1965. His second tour was as an instructor at the Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol School at Van Kiep. A member of the AATTV, he was also mentioned in dispatches.

In a speech by Governor-General Major General Michael Jeffery at 'The Team' dinner in 2002, Jeffery said, " in my first posting to the SAS as a subaltern in 1959 these were the sergeants, later to serve in the Team, who trained me: Roy Weir, gentleman Jim McFadzean, D J Neville (Trees and Crocodile story), Ray Simpson (Cobber), Clem Kealy, Joe Flannery and George Chinn, to name but a few." Clem became the RSM of the SASR and he was awarded the Order of Australia in 1975.



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THE LAST SIGNALLER COAST WATCHER

PART ONE

By

SGT James (Jim) Burrowes, OAM. – M Special Unit

Former AIF Sergeant James Burrowes (now age 96) served four years, including 2½ years as a signaller Coast Watcher in 'M' Special Unit of the Allied Intelligence Bureau and nine months with the US 7th Fleet Amphibious Landing Force. He spent ten months in enemy-occupied territory over-looking Rabaul and is believed to be the last signaller Coast Watcher survivor in Australia with the research to tell the story. He is a member of the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia, the Box Hill RSL Sub-branch, and a life member of the Australian Commando Association Victoria.

INTRODUCTION

My name is Jim Burrowes, VX136343. I served as a Coast Watcher in the South Pacific during World War II. I have always been interested to tell the history of the Coast Watchers because their secretive and specialist operations were 'hush hush' during the war. I have now decided to publish it, including some of the details of my own role during the war, so that the vital role that Coast Watchers played in winning the war in the Pacific is not lost to posterity.

As a Coast Watcher, I was also a signaller and I was proud to play a key role in Coast Watching operations, as acknowledged by Coast Watching founder, Commander Eric Feldt, on page 99 of his book *The Coast Watchers*. Commander Feldt declared that: **"Without a teleradio, a Coast Watcher was doomed and useless. So, knowing their lives depended on it, they learnt how to code and de-code, how to operate a teleradio and effect simple repairs to it".**

I am the last signaller Coast Watcher to tell the history of the Coast Watchers. These are my stories.

THE ORIGIN OF THE INDEPENDENT COMPANIES AND TRAINING AT TIDAL RIVER

Much credit for the formation of the Independent Companies must go to the British Government, when Military Mission 104, led by Lieutenant Colonel J.C. Mawhood arrived in Melbourne, Australia in November 1940, with the idea of raising and training British style 'special' or 'commando' units, which had proved successful in operating against German-occupied Europe.

The Australian Army decided to raise four 'independent' companies and train them at the innocuously named No. 7 Infantry Training Centre at Wilsons Promontory, a national park since 1898. It was an isolated area of high, rugged and heavily timbered mountains, precipitous valleys, swiftly running streams, and swamps, sand dunes, thick scrub, bays and cliffs. Given this geography, the Prom was "... ideally suited for training troops who might fight anywhere from the Libyan deserts to the jungles of New Guinea, the only drawback being that in winter ... the climate was



Jim speaks at the Commando memorial service at Tidal River, Wilsons Promontory in 2015.

often more polar than tropical", as Captain Freddie Spencer Chapman, instructor in field craft, wrote later.

Spencer Chapman was joined by Captain 'Mad Mike' Calvert, explosives; Sergeant Frank Misselbrook, signals; and Sergeant Peter Stafford, weapons, to train the first Australian Independent Companies. This training led to the formation of eight Independent Companies – later to be redesignated as Commandos. They subsequently became renowned for their achievements during the war in Timor, Ambon, New Guinea, Bougainville and the Borneo islands. Tragically, however, 300 were beheaded at Ambon and 140 were captured and died when the Japanese prison ship *Montevideo Maru* was torpedoed and sunk off Luzon.

Throughout the years of the war, many surviving soldiers of the Independent Companies were seconded to Coast Watcher parties thus augmenting these parties with their jungle experience.

Throughout the years of the war, (following the death of 142 men who were either KIA or drowned on the Prison Ship *Montevideo Maru*) 120 of the original contingent of 273 surviving soldiers of the Independent Companies were seconded to the Coast Watcher parties thus augmenting them with their jungle experience - many of whom were later awarded Medals of Honour.



THE COAST WATCHERS

The Coast Watching Organisation originated at the commencement of World War 2 in September 1939, when Australian Naval Commander Eric Feldt flew to Port Moresby. He was responsible for recruiting expatriate Administrators, District Officers, plantation owners, miners and others as Coast Watchers, supplying them with Teleradio equipment, and training them in their Coast Watching role and the use of the equipment. The purpose of the Coast Watching Organisation was to form a cohesive body to alert Australia of any military threat from the north. The organisation was administered entirely by the Royal Australian Navy through the Navy Intelligence Division, Melbourne. This was 2¼ years before Japan attacked Pearl Harbor thus starting the Pacific War.

At the outbreak of war, training of the Independent Companies (later the Commandos) at Tidal River in Victoria was undertaken in earnest and their units were then deployed to Timor, Rabaul and Ambon, as part of the 'Bird Force' defence outposts against any enemy attack from the north. As the Imperial Japanese Navy drove relentlessly south after the attack on Pearl Harbor, operational Coast Watchers were infiltrated into Japanese invaded and occupied territories throughout the South Pacific.

In July 1942 the Allied Intelligence Bureau (AIB) was formally established with two 'arms': Intelligence (which operated as M Special Unit: the 'Coast Watchers'), and Sabotage (which operated as Z Special Unit).

As it turned out, the Coast Watchers played a vital role in winning the war against the Japanese Navy during World War II. For example, the commendation of the Coast Watchers offered by General Douglas MacArthur, Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers in the Southwest Pacific Area, reads: *"The enormous contribution of the Australian Commonwealth to the Allied war effort contains no brighter segment than this comparatively unknown unit which naturally worked under the cloak of military secrecy during the war ... They are officially credited with having been a crucial and decisive factor in the allied victories of Guadalcanal and Tulagi, and later on in the operations of New Britain especially in the landing on and capture of the Cape Gloucester area"*.

I have decided to tell the Coast Watchers story for three reasons.

First, so that Australians and others understand the vital role that Coast Watching parties played in defending Australia and winning the war in the Pacific during World War II. These Coast Watching parties were led by expatriates from New Guinea and vitally supported by a multi-grouping of Services and other personnel which was unique in the history of the war. Established under jurisdiction of the Royal Australian Navy by Commander Eric Feldt, the Coast Watching Organisation comprised the following personnel: Royal Australian Navy (RAN) 178, Australian Imperial Force (AIF) 174, Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) 10, Solomon Islands Defence Force 8, United States Army 28, Civilians 13 and Native peoples (estimate) 150, for

a total of 561 personnel. The indigenous peoples are the only personnel unidentified in the organisation, but without them the Coast Watchers could not operate.

Second, so that people also know that many indigenous peoples of the South Pacific served as native troops and played a vital role in defending their own countries and defeating the Imperial Japanese Navy. The names of those indigenous Coast Watchers who served and died on duty, including Bougainvilleans, Papuans, Solomon Islanders and Timorese, proudly appear on memorials throughout Australia and the South Pacific alongside the names of their fallen Australian comrades.



Coast Watchers at Tol ... Photo courtesy Jim Burrowes

Back row, from left: Lieutenant Jack Ranken MM, Captain Malcolm English, Lieutenant 'Mac' Hamilton and Sergeant Rob McKay.

Front row, from left: Sgt. Keith King, Sergeant Jim Burrowes (Signaller), and Sergeant Les 'Tas' Baillie (Signaller).

Finally, I have included some mention of my own role and that of my family, including my older brother Bob (who was captured at Rabaul in 1942 and drowned on the doomed prison ship Montevideo Maru) and my twin-brother Tom (who was a Wireless Air Gunner in the RAAF, and was shot down on his first mission over Rabaul in 1943). As both were killed on active service in the South Pacific, the story is told through the eyes of those who fought, and some of whom died, during the war. Coincidentally, my own role as a Coast Watcher in Japanese-held territory included ten months overlooking Rabaul where the fate of my brothers had been decided.

As the account has been written over many years since the war's end, there is occasional repetition of certain events as exclusion may have compromised the context of a particular text. These occasional repetitions may be 'skipped' by the reader if they prefer.

It should be noted that because I served in enemy territory in New Britain my articles do not adequately cover the enormous contributions, nor details, of the Coast Watchers who served in New Guinea and Guadalcanal. Their service was exemplary and worthy of full praise and recognition.

I would also like to note that while these articles



are entirely about the Australian Coast Watchers and those with whom they worked, the articles are in no way intended to ignore or detract from the wonderful contribution to the war effort of the small band of New Zealand Coast Watchers, nor the sterling Coast Watchers of the Gilbert and Marshall Islands, many of whom were captured in early 1942 by the Japanese and spent the remaining years as POWs in Japan. Similarly, the service of the Coast Watchers in the Solomon Islands, called 'scouts', is also acknowledged without further discussion here.

I know of one other comrade in Victoria – Ron 'Dixie' Lee - and there may be others still living elsewhere around Australia and the Pacific islands to the north and I would be pleased to hear from any former M Special Unit personnel either by email, jim@starbiz.com.au, or on my mobile phone: 0409 255 530 (within Australia) or +61 409 255 530 (from outside Australia).

A number of chapters tell more detailed stories of the Coast Watchers, and are intended to be published across the next few issues of Commando News.

HOW THE COAST WATCHERS TURNED THE TIDE OF THE PACIFIC WAR

Australian Coast Watchers brought the tide of Japanese invasive successes to a shuddering halt when two Coast Watchers spotted and reported an invasion fleet of 5,500 Japanese troops. The Coast Watchers' observation was pivotal as it precipitated the Battle of the Coral Sea in May 1942 and prevented the invasion of Port Moresby. In noting the vital role played by Coast Watchers, United States Admiral William F. (Bull) Halsey would later state that "The Coast Watchers saved Guadalcanal, and Guadalcanal saved the South Pacific".

In early 1941, ten months before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the Australian government set up the unpublicised 'Malay Barrier' and deployed a series of 'Bird' defence forces on the islands north of Australia: the Sparrow Force on Timor, Gull Force on Ambon and Lark Force at Rabaul.

Tragically, these undermanned and underequipped forces were totally outnumbered by the Japanese invasion force as it swept south after Pearl Harbor. Hence, these defences were futile disasters incurring huge losses of Australian troops.

The first of these invasions occurred on 23 January 1942, just six weeks after Pearl Harbor, when the Japanese invaded and occupied Rabaul (with the Commander, Colonel Scanlon, surrendering all military responsibility when he issued the infamous 'Every man for himself' order that same afternoon). The Japanese then set about killing or capturing 73% of the token Australian force, numbering just 1,484 ill-equipped troops, left to defend it. Subsequently, 853 army POWs and 200 civilians went down on the unmarked prison-ship *Montevideo Maru* sunk by a US submarine off Luzon in the Philippines en-route to Japanese-occupied Hainan Island. It was Australia's largest maritime disaster of the war.

A week after Rabaul the enemy landed at Ambon and two weeks later at Timor.



Coast Watchers founding father Commander Eric Feldt.



Jim in uniform, just prior to heading North in 1942.

After occupying Rabaul, as explained by founder and commander of the Coast Watchers Eric Feldt in his classic book *The Coast Watchers*, in late February 1942 "the Japanese despatched a force from Rabaul to occupy Lae and Salamaua ... Buka Passage and the Shortland Islands ... Then, in May, they essayed to take Port Moresby from the sea, at the same time occupying Tulagi". (See Feldt p. 69.)

Japan's ongoing effort to strengthen the offensive positioning of their empire in the South Pacific meant that Port Moresby was a primary target. According to James P. Duffy in his book *War at the End of the World*, Port Moresby in New Guinea was the strategic goal of the Japanese codenamed MO Carrier Striking Force with its 5,500 invasion troops. By taking Port Moresby, the Japanese intended to isolate Australia and New Zealand from their ally the United States, in preparation for the Japanese attack on Australia. Fortunately, as Duffy records, " ... *an Australian Coast Watcher on the Solomon island of Bougainville provided the first news of Japanese movements when he sent his message on 2 May 1942 that a large force of enemy ships was sailing south towards Tulagi. Another Coast Watcher on New Georgia made a similar despatch later the same day. Both Coast Watchers transmitted their sightings to headquarters at Port Moresby which relayed the message*".

Two days later, these warnings by Coast Watchers led to the invasion fleet of the Imperial Japanese Navy being met, and vanquished, by naval and air forces from the United States and Australia in the Battle of the Coral Sea, which was fought during 4-8 May 1942. This was the first naval repulse of the Japanese following their series of conquests during their thrust from the northern to the southern hemisphere.

Ironically, it was their preoccupation with rounding up escapees in New Britain following the invasion of Rabaul that had delayed the Japanese in their strategy to invade and occupy Port Moresby. This delay gave the US Fleet an extra three months to deploy to Australian waters and defeat the Japanese in the Battle of the Coral Sea. As Duffy records, "The most important result of this historic battle was that it averted the invasion of Port Moresby, with all it portended for the safety



of Australia and the future of the war". Moreover, he notes, "Never again would an enemy fleet attempt to invade that vital port city". (See Duffy p. 109.)

The critical role of the Coast Watchers in this context was also recognized by the heroic and legendary Colonel Sir Ernest Edward 'Weary' Dunlop, AC, CMG, OBE, surgeon and inspirational leader in various Japanese POW camps during the war. In a Foreword to the 1991 edition of Feldt's book 'The Coast Watchers', 'Weary' wrote the following tribute: *"It could equally be said that the Coast Watchers saved Port Moresby and Port Moresby saved Australia"*.

This left the base of operations at Port Moresby free for the untrained Australian forces fighting in New Guinea such as those courageous young soldiers who fought on the Kokoda Track and who, with some reinforcements by AIF soldiers returned from the Middle East and several US units, were ultimately successful in repelling the Japanese from their Buna, Gona, Lae and Sanananda occupations.

This initial land-based repulse of the Japanese drive south also repelled them at Milne Bay. Subsequently, the combined forces of the US and Australia drove the Japanese from their strongholds at Lae and Salamaua, then Finschhafen, Saidor, Madang, Aitape, Wewak, Hollandia, Biak, Wadke and Morotai on the way to the triumphant US return to the Philippines and beyond.

Shortly after the Battle of the Coral Sea, the Japanese and the United States fought a six-month long battle of attrition for control of Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands, during which the Americans came perilously close to defeat at times. Again, a US defeat would have left Australia isolated. Once more, Australian Coast Watchers played a vital role in a key victory: the ultimate American success at Guadalcanal.

Coast Watchers regularly sent two hour warnings to US authorities on Guadalcanal and to the Australians at Port Moresby, of enemy bombers with supporting fighter squadrons 'headed your way' from their campsites in the enemy-held jungles of New Britain, New Ireland, Bougainville and other surrounding islands. These warnings saved countless lives and casualties of Allied personnel, with planes 'up in the sun' ready to pounce, the Navy's battleships on 'battle stations' and their land forces with their anti-aircraft weaponry ready and waiting for the Japanese attacks. As a result of these warnings, the US forces at Guadalcanal were able to defend hard-won territory, and enemy losses were of enormous strategic value. The official acknowledgement by five-star US Admiral of the Fleet, William F. Halsey, was brief and poignant: *"The Coast Watchers saved Guadalcanal, and Guadalcanal saved the South Pacific"*. A memorial recognising the role of the Coast Watchers stands in Honiara today.

In essence, if the Coast Watchers had not routinely signalled their warnings in plain language, such as those mentioned above, the consequences would have been dire.

First, the capture of Port Moresby by the Japanese

would have virtually severed US support for Australia and, using Port Moresby as a base, Japanese bombers would have been able to bomb Cairns (525 miles – 840 kilometres - away), Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton and Brisbane (2,075 kilometres away), and block the eastern sea approaches to Darwin, only 1,800 kilometres away, thus 'opening the gate' for the invasion of Australia.

Second, as a collateral consequence, the Australians would not have been able to launch their Port Moresby offensive to thwart the Kokoda thrust by the Japanese.

Third, the Allied Supreme Commander General Douglas MacArthur would have been constrained to defending the southern hemisphere disasters of Guadalcanal and Port Moresby, thus precluding him from redeploying his forces to prosecute his successful execution of the island-hopping campaign north of the Equator to reach and occupy Tinian Island to launch the atom bombs to end the war with Japan.

Thus, the Australian Coast Watchers turned the tide to destroy the aim of Japan as identified by General Sadao Araki: "It is Japan's mission to be supreme in Asia, the South Seas and eventually the four corners of the world".

The role of Coast Watchers at critical points in the war was also acknowledged by Allied Supreme Commander General Douglas MacArthur who stated: *"They are officially credited with being a crucial and decisive factor in the allied victories of Guadalcanal and Tulagi and later on in the operations of New Britain"*.

Apart from their vital intelligence gathering role however, the Coast Watchers also rescued 75 prisoners of war, 321 downed Allied airmen, 280 sailors, 190 missionaries and civilians, and hundreds of local people and others who had risked their lives for the Allies. One of those rescued was US Navy Lieutenant John F. Kennedy, whose PT 109 Patrol Torpedo boat was carved in two and destroyed by a Japanese warship in the waters of the Solomon Islands. After the sinking, the Lieutenant and his crew reached Kolombangara Island where they were found by Coast Watcher Sub-Lieutenant Reg Evans who organised their rescue. Many years later, President Kennedy entertained Evans at the White House!

In 1959, a memorial lighthouse was erected at Madang, on the north coast of Papua New Guinea, to honour the Coast Watchers. The memorial plaque bears the names of 36 Coast Watchers killed behind enemy lines while risking their lives in the execution of their duties. The plaque also bears this inscription: *"They watched and warned and died that we might live"*. ■



LAST POST CEREMONY AWM

PTE L.S. SIBERRA 1st INDEPENDENT COMPANY

By

Bob Collins ACA Qld

On 1st July this year the Last Post Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, the fallen soldier honoured was NX34251 Pte Lloyd Sylvester Siberra, 1st Independent Coy who perished off the coast of the Philippine Islands when the Japanese ship Montevideo Maru was sunk by a US submarine USS Sturgeon.

The 1st Independent Company was formed in May/June 1941 and was trained at the No. 7 Infantry Training Centre at Tidal River on Wilsons Promontory in Victoria. Originally the company was raised to serve in the Middle East although, at that time there was uncertainty about the role that the company would fill there. Indeed, within the Australian Army there was a section that saw no need for the independent companies, believing that they would prove to be more of a drain on resources than anything else. However, later in 1941, as the threat of war with Imperial Japan loomed, the main body of the company was sent to Kavieng, New Ireland, to protect Kavieng airfield whilst other sections were sent to Namatanai on New Ireland, Vila in the New Hebrides, Tulagi on Guadalcanal, Buka on Bougainville, and Lorengau on Manus Island to act as observers and provided medical treatment to the inhabitants.

Commanded by Major James Edmonds-Wilson, in the event of an invasion of New Britain by the Japanese the 1st Independent Company was under orders to resist long enough to destroy key airfields and other military installations such as fuel dumps, before withdrawing south to wage a guerrilla war. They did not have to wait very long, as on 21 January 1942, a preparatory bombing raid by about sixty Japanese aircraft attacked Kavieng. A number of aircraft were shot down, however, the company's only means of escape, the schooner *Induna Star*, was damaged. Nevertheless, despite the damage the crew managed to sail the vessel to Kaut where they started to repair the damage. As they did so, the commandos withdrew across the island to Sook, having received word that a large Japanese naval force was approaching the island.

In the early morning of 22 January 1942, the Japanese landed at Kavieng with between 3,000 and 4,000 troops. As the lead Japanese troops reached Kavieng airfield, fighting broke out as the small force that had remained at the airfield blew up the supply dump and other facilities. Fighting their way out, the commandos withdrew towards the main



force at Sook, although a number of men were captured in the process. Once the company had regrouped at Sook, on 28 January they withdrew further south to Kaut, where they helped with the repair of the *Induna Star*, before setting out along the east coast of the island. They reached Kalili Harbour on 31 January but after learning that the fighting on New Britain was over and that the Japanese had occupied Rabaul, it was decided to sail for Port Moresby.

On 2 February the schooner was sighted by a Japanese plane which subsequently attacked, causing considerable damage to the vessel as well as destroying one of its lifeboats and causing a number of casualties. The *Induna Star* began taking on water and as a result the men were forced to surrender. Under escort by a Japanese aircraft and then later a destroyer, they were instructed to sail to Rabaul where they became prisoners of war.

After a few months at Rabaul, the officers were separated from their NCOs and men. The officers were transported to Japan where they remained in captivity for the rest of the war, whilst the NCOs and men, along with other members of Lark Force that had been captured and a number of civilians, were put on to the Japanese



Montevideo Maru.



passenger ship
Montevideo Maru
for transportation.
Traveling unescorted,
the *Montevideo Maru*
sailed from Rabaul on
22 June. On 1 July the
ship was sighted by an
American submarine,
the *USS Sturgeon*,
off the coast of the
Luzon, Philippines.
The *USS Sturgeon*
torpedoed and sunk
the *Montevideo*
Maru, without realising it was a prisoner of war vessel.
Only a handful of the Japanese crew were rescued,
with none of the between 1,050 and 1,053 prisoners
aboard surviving as they were still locked below deck.
All 133 men from the 1st Independent Company who
were aboard the *Montevideo Maru* were either killed
or drowned.



The *Montevideo Maru*
Memorial at the AWM.

The deaths on the *Montevideo Maru* were not fully
revealed in Australia until after the end of the war,
when Major Harold S. Williams of the No. 1 Australian
Prisoners of War Contact and Enquiry Unit, a pre-war
resident of Japan, was sent to Tokyo to investigate this
and other POW matters. ■



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DONATION OF A MV KRAIT MODEL TO ACA VIC

By

WW2 Veteran Bill Wallace, Brother of Norm Wallace - Z Special Unit

This write up is in recognition of WW2 Veteran Bill Wallace's efforts in building the model, and ACAV's appreciation in receiving it. Bill's inspiration to build the model was due to his Brother Norm's service as a member of 'Z' Special unit, and that of the story of the Jaywick Operation which was of great interest to the family.

Norm, was a Member of "Z" Special, Norm died in September 2018. It should be noted that Norm was not involved with Krait operations, and his interest came only from him being a member of "Z" Special unit. Readers might remember that Norm was a team member August 1945 on the Flight 200 that Parachuted into Borneo, (and its possible that it was from the Liberator A72-195 at present being restored at Werribee) for the Operation AGAS3, it's mission was to evacuate the remaining Sandakan POWs from Ranau.

The aircraft that was used for the Sandakan POW recovery was an Auster flown by Flight Lt G. C. Ripley, and the party consisted of an M.O, a Signaller and "Z"

special Operational Agents Sgt J.A Hodges and N.A Wallace The Dropping Zone was 5 Mile From Ranau (from the Book 'Sandakan' "THE LAST MARCH" by Don Wall).

"It was during a visit I made to Norm, when Norm and his wife Nancy were living in the Vasey Care units in Frankston, Norm had explained that his brother Bill, who lived in Cairns had made a model of the Krait, and Norm said that he would investigate the possibility of Bill donating the model to ACAV."

It was not long after Norm had passed away, that Bill's Son Andrew, who lives in Werribee, contacted me to say that he had recently returned from Cairns with the Krait Model, which had been given to him by his father Bill and who would like it to be donated to the ACAV. Norm had not forgotten to ask, always true to his word.

I contacted Bill and asked him if he would put a few words together on how the idea of making such an iconic replica came about, and he replied:



Norm Wallace in the centre, Bill at the end on the right.



"G'day Richard, at last I have got around to answering your request Re-the idea of building the model of the Krait.

I had asked Norm, if he could add anything to the story and he said, "No", because it was classified 'Top Secret'. So I said, I think I could make a model of it anyway, and have since decided that it would go to the Victorian branch of ACA.

Norm was 4 Years older than me, born in Feb. 1926 and he enlisted in the army in 1943 aged 17 and a half and he got away with it.

I was born in 1930 and illegally put my Age up from 15 and half to the required Age of 18, and I also got away with it. I think it was easier to join the Australian Army than the French Foreign Legion in those Days.

I enlisted in Jan. 1946 and after recruit Training I was posted to 3 Reinforcement Battalion and embarked on HMAS KANIMBLA for Japan to British Commonwealth Occupation Force and marched Into 66 A.I.B and was then allocated to support Company assault pioneer platoon.

My Discharge states I served on continuous full time War service in the Australian Imperial Force from March 1946 to 30 June 1947, Interim Army from July 1947 to late 1948 for a total Effective period of 758 days which included active service in Australia for



The model Krait built by Bill Wallace.

257 days and outside Australia for 490 days.

Details regarding the model's construction: the model was started around 2017 and was completed in 2018. The colours came from Wikipedia 'Australian Army Krait'. ■

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THE PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF SERVICE

By

Megan Fry, Clinical Psychologist & ACA QLD Honorary Psychologist - www.mfry.com.au

Human beings have a natural resistance to killing their own kind. In fact, it has been identified that only 15-20% of American rifleman in combat during World War II fired at the enemy (Grossman, 2005). Consequently, military training has been adapted over the years to ensure that soldiers are properly equipped (physically and psychologically) to perform their job and complete the required tasks of a Soldier. This occurs through a conditioning process, which is commenced at recruit training.

From the moment recruit training starts, all individuality, prior identity and sense of self is stripped and discarded, so that there is a clean slate for the military to build a soldier who can perform the set tasks required by the organisation. Each soldier is slowly equipped with the skills and resources required to perform their job. This forced, structured process of socialising people to the military ensures that the Soldier identity is formed and secured, and that the military values are internalised, so that there is conformity to the military culture and separation from civilians (Cooper et al., 2018 and Binks and Cambridge, 2018). This indoctrination process appropriately hardens the individual and strengthens them with masculine attributes (e.g. stoicism, self-reliance, aggressiveness) in order to condition a fight stress response, required for combat.



To overcome the natural human resistance to killing and a human's natural fear response, soldiers are conditioned through repetitive drills, reinforced by fear and shame tactics (such as scolding when standards are not met and threatening rejection), in order to ensure that any required military action can be completed without conscious thought when required. This conditioning process is imperative in operational environments and has resulted in the firing rate in combat increasing from 15% in WWII to 90% in Vietnam (Grossman, 2005). The military has successfully developed the capacity to create an effective soldier that will perform the required tasks for the organisation.

Just as this conditioning process is important for the organisation, it is also important and serves many functions for the Soldier. This process offers security, stability, safety, acceptance, identity and a sense of



belonging to the individual. For some, this can be the first time that the person has experienced some or even all of these core needs. The military becomes a place where the individual can find mates, work, their hobbies, their career, family and fun. A place where the individual develops a sense of competence, meaning and purpose in their life. After years of service and operational deployments the person comes to only identify themselves as a Soldier and has lost their ability to have an independent sense of self. This process works and operates well whilst a Soldier is fit, healthy, well and able to perform their duty and remain within the military. However, it is not sustainable.

Once a Soldier is no longer able to perform their duty (physically, psychologically or in the way demanded by the organisation) in the manner expected, for many people things can start to derail. Once transitioned from the military, the individual is faced with many challenges, which poses significant risks for the individual. Transition from the military is now widely acknowledged as a significant and important issue to be addressed worldwide because of the challenges ex-serving military personnel face, such as changes in identity, occupation, finances, social support, relationships, routines, and residence. This was highlighted in a research study (Mental Health Prevalence and Pathways to Care Summary Report, Mental Health and Well-being Transition Study) published by the Department of Veteran Affairs in 2018. It has been suggested that those who internalize the military identity, beliefs and values the most, find transition more difficult (Binks and Cambridge, 2018).

Due to the disconnection and alienation that can occur at transition for a Soldier, they can get stuck between the two worlds they have existed: the military and the community. They no longer belong in the military and they don't know how or don't want to belong in the community. This causes psychological distress and contributes to a large proportion of ex-serving military

“Man is not by nature a killer”

*Lt. Col. Dave Grossman from his book
“On Killing: The Psychological Cost of
Learning to Kill in War and Society” (2005)*



personnel experiencing mental health problems and some ultimately taking their own life. Often the safest and best option for the ex-serving personnel is to find ways for the Soldier to 'fit in'. There are many ways this can be achieved, but generally it is by sticking with other veterans or veteran organisations. This can be protective and sustainable; however, it is limited.



The cultural adjustment and identity issues evident at transition require attention. In my opinion, it is these cultural adjustment and identity issues which need to be addressed post-transition and that this is far more important, valid and effective than a narrow focus on mental conditions, such as PTSD. Whilst a distressing and difficult process, in my clinical practice I find that when the person can learn to have the Soldier step back and they can find themselves and their own identity again, within the community, they can find contentment, connection and belonging again. ■

Megan is a Clinical Psychologist who owns and operates her own private practice at Bald Hills, Brisbane QLD. As an ex-serving soldier (RACT 1999 – 2004) and Military Psychologist, Megan has spent a large proportion of her career working with military personnel.

From 2008 to 2012, Megan worked as a contracted psychologist at Tobruk Lines Health Centre, supporting 2 CDO REGT, SOER and SOLS, whilst also working as an Army Reserve Psychology Officer for 1 CDO REGT.

In recent years, Megan has enjoyed combining her two passions: Schema Therapy and veteran mental health. Megan has recently commenced a Master of Philosophy in the School of Applied Psychology at Griffith University QLD to investigate the potential of a schema focussed group intervention to assist military personnel transitioning from the military by modifying the "soldier identity". She hopes to start recruitment for this project later this year.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO BRUCE PARKER A 2 COY STALWART AND HM GEM FROM ACA VIC

By
Dick Pelling ACA VIC

In late June the Victorian Automobile Chamber of Commerce announced the 2019 VACC industry award winners at a black-tie gala evening at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, Melbourne. HM Gem Engines, the business of past ACA Victoria president Bruce Parker, was recognised as the best Large Engine Reconditioner – its third award in the past four years since the awards began. Bruce's company was also inducted into the VACC Hall of Fame, as were three other prestigious companies.

Bruce has been a strong supporter of the Victorian and National Commando



Associations over many years, and served as Victorian President on two separate occasions. He is a generous benefactor to both the Association and the 1st Commando Regiment, albeit one who is extremely modest and confidential about his many major contributions.

Congratulations to you Bruce and to the HM Gem, Nason and Premier family from all of us here at ACA VIC.

Bruce enjoying an earlier ACA VIC dinner.



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BOOKS OF INTEREST

DOUBLE DIAMONDS - Australian Commandos in the Pacific War 1941 – 45

By Dr Karl James

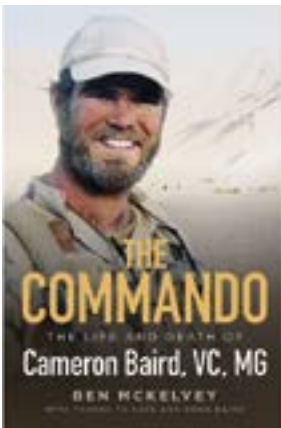


During the Second World War, in the mountains and jungles of Timor, Bougainville and New Guinea, Australian commando units fought arduous campaigns against the Japanese. The story of these elite independent companies and commando squadrons, whose soldiers wore the distinctive double-diamond insignia, is told here for the first time. Through 130 powerful images from the Australian War Memorial's unparalleled collection- some never published before- Double Diamonds captures the operational history of these units and the personal stories of the men who served in them, many of whom lost their lives or the friends who trained and fought alongside them. The book is a brilliant read and gives you an all over history of our forefathers and their war in the Pacific.

>> *Double Diamonds* can be found in any good book store.

THE COMMANDO - The Life and Death of Cameron Baird, VC. MG

By Ben McKelvey

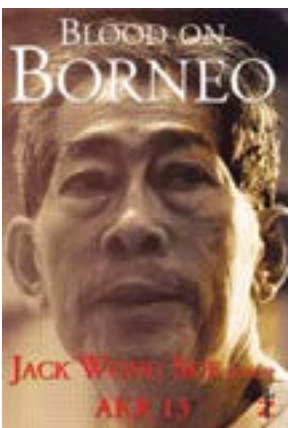


Corporal Baird was a modern-day warrior who set a standard that every soldier aspires to achieve.' - LTGEN David Hurley

On 22 June 2013, Corporal Cameron Baird was a 2nd Commando Regiment Special Forces soldier when he led his platoon into a known Taliban stronghold to back-up another Australian unit under heavy fire. In the pronged firefight, Cameron was mortally wounded.

In 2014, Cameron's bravery and courage under fire saw him posthumously awarded the 100th Victoria Cross, our highest award possible for bravery in the presence of the enemy. Cameron Baird died how he lived - at the front, giving it his all, without any indecision. He will forever be remembered by his mates and the soldiers he served with in the 2nd Commando Regiment.

THE COMMANDO reveals Cameron's life, from young boy and aspiring AFL player, who only missed out on being drafted because of injury, to exemplary soldier and leader. Cameron's story and that of 4RAR and 2nd Commando personifies the courage and character of the men and women who go to war and will show us the good man we have lost.



BLOOD ON BORNEO

By Jack Wong Sue, OAM. DCM.

In March 1945, Jack Sue was part of a 7 man team of highly trained Australian Special Forces of WW2 that was secretly inserted into Japanese occupied Borneo by the United States submarine USS Tuna. They were just 7 Z men amongst an estimated 3000 Japanese troops. They were highly trained members of Z Special Unit (more popularly known as Z Special Force).

They lived and survived up close and personal to the indigenous blow pipe tribes within the depth and darkness of Borneo's jungles; in the land below the wind and home to the wild man from Borneo. It was a place where 'time' didn't exist.





Australian Commando Association Inc.

UPCOMING ACA EVENTS

AUGUST TO NOVEMBER 2019

ACA NATIONAL

SATURDAY 16 NOVEMBER

* National Meeting

Foster, Victoria (Timings TBC)

Contact: National Secretary

Email: aca_secretary@commando.org.au

ACA QUEENSLAND

MONDAY 05 – FRIDAY 09 AUGUST

* Red Claw Camping

Somerset Dam

Contact: ACA Qld Social Member

Email: acaqld_social@commando.org.au

SUNDAY 27 OCTOBER

* Annual Gunfighters Shooting Competition

Vs **ASASAQ** at Brisbane Pistol Club

Contact: ACA Qld Social Member

Email: acaqld_social@commando.org.au

ACA VICTORIA

SATURDAY 03 AUGUST

* 75th Anniversary of Op Rimau & Annual Dinner

Glen Waverly RSL

Contact: ACA Vic. Secretary

Email: acavic_secretary@commando.org.au

SATURDAY 16 NOVEMBER

* Annual Prom Dinner

Foster RSL Club, Foster, Victoria

Contact: ACA Vic. Secretary

Email: acavic_secretary@commando.org.au

SATURDAY 17 NOVEMBER

* Commando Memorial Service

Tidal River, Wilsons Promontory, Victoria

Contact: ACA Vic. Secretary

Email: acavic_secretary@commando.org.au

GLIDING - PURE FLYING EXPERIENCE

Fast jets and rotary wings are great for defence, but gliding is sport flying in its purest form - exciting, serene and challenging.

Get Flying, Go Solo - Special Discount for ADF

Attend a 1 week Flying Start Program - book a Group and enjoy the social environment and team work.

Discount

Book with a club and mention you are from Commando News. The club will offer you a discount, and the GFA will give you a 50% reduction on a 12 month membership.



Air Experience Flight

If you are not sure you want to take a full course, try an Air Experience flight first on any weekend and receive 25% discount on your GFA 12 month membership fee.

Contact these participating gliding clubs

Gliding Club of Victoria - Benalla

www.glidingclub.org.au

Darling Downs Soaring Club QLD

www.ddsc.org.au

Lake Keepit Soaring Club NSW

www.keepitsoaring.com

www.glidingaustralia.org

Facebook.com/glidingfederation





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Offer valid from 15 February 2019 – 15 February 2020 on any purchase within Choices Flooring's exclusive Eternity, Temuka, Plantino and Genero Collections only. The '10% off' is off the product only RRP and does not include installation or any extra services some Choices Flooring stores may provide. Offer is applicable to Serving and Veteran members of the ADF only and can only be redeemed once proof of ID is shown. Discount does not apply to sale items.

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