



COMMANDO

AUSTRALIAN COMMANDO ASSN (NSW) INC.

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News

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

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

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CONTENTS

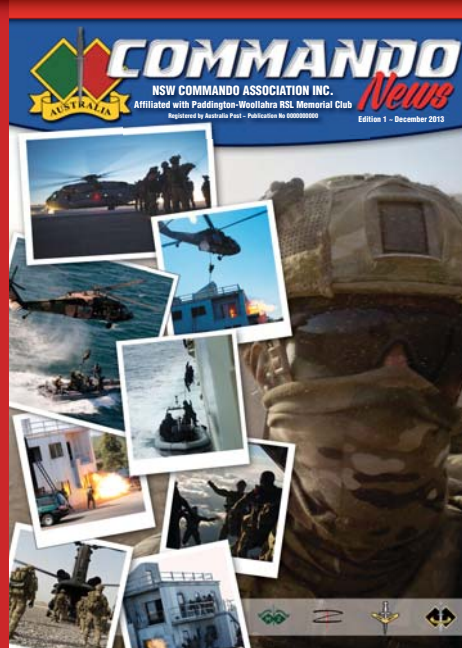
President's Message	3
WW2 Op COPPER Z Special Unit war dead found	4
Commandos' horrific end kept secret.....	4
AGM 2013	5
The Afghanistan Wall of Remembrance ~ Tarin Kowt	6
Opening of the Avenue of Honour	7
Vale: Brig WH "Mac" Grant OAM RFD	8
Internment of Brig WH Mac Grant's Ashes	9
Eulogy: Brig "Mac Grant OAM RFD (Ret)	10
Vale: Arthur "Robbie" Robinson, DCM BEM..	13
Vale: WO2 Joe Eichler	14
Harcourt Hackers.....	15
From the Prolific Pen of Harry Bell	16
Remembrance Day 2013	18
Commando History & Research Centre.....	19
Visit to the History & Research Centre.....	21
Events Calendar 2014	22
Membership Application/Renewal.....	23
"Q" Store Order Form	24

Deadline for next edition: FRIDAY 14TH MARCH 2014

Next edition out in time for Anzac Day. All news on members and interesting articles accepted.

(Subject to editors' approval.)

Barry G





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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, BARRY GRANT

Welcome to our new Newsletter

Well I know some of you will say it's about damn time!

And that is what it is all about, TIME.

For over 10 years I have produced a newsletter of some type in the hope of keeping our members in contact with other members. For over 2 years now I have found that I simply did not have the time to continue, and no one else with the skills came forward to produce a newsletter.

We think the new format in conjunction with a publisher and our printer will be sustainable for quite a while due to the advertising that will hopefully fund this coloured newsletter to the future.

Once again, it is up to the members to forward articles or ask that we investigate a particular issue.

So when you say "where is the newsletter", ask yourself "what have I contributed"?

★ ★ ★ ★ ★



ANNUAL SUBS DUE

At the 31st December 2013 your annual subs will be due.

And the new amount is \$30.00 per year as from January the 1st, 2014.

We believe this will be the first increase since the original Association was formed all those years ago and I am sure most will agree that it is about time for an increase.

We will be invoicing our members in January and every year thereafter as most of us are familiar with this system of reminding us about the telephone, water, and rates etc.

Subs for existing NSW Commando Association members will not change from their existing arrangement.

More importantly, we have a very large number of our current membership who have not paid any monies to the Association for a very long time.

To get everyone back "in touch", we once again will make an offer to those who are more than two years in arrears.

Earlier this year we held a meeting with the WW2 NSW Commando Association and laid the basis for an amalgamation.

This has now occurred that Association has been wound up and once again we are one Association.

The WW2 members are now part of our association and will be receiving this newsletter.

We have "Quarantined" their finances in a separate account and they will be used for their benefit as long as they remain members.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

We propose to have three newsletters each year:

One in early April in time for Anzac Day,

One in June in time for Reserve Forces Day and Remembrance Day,

One in December in time for Xmas.

We believe this is achievable in the long term.

However, we also would appreciate your comments on these proposals.

We will ask those members to pay a rejoining fee of \$25.00 plus one year of \$30.00, and then you will be financial to December 2014.

We will understand that if you do not respond before the end of February 2014 it is obvious that you do not wish to be on our mailing list and no further contact will be made and your name taken from the active membership list.

Newsletters will no longer be sent to non financial members after the end of February 2014.

Fees can be paid by cheque/money order and posted to our Post Office Box number:

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SUTHERLAND NSW 1499

Payment can also be made by Internet Banking:
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Police Bank

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Please note your "name" and "subs" as sender.



WW2 Op COPPER Z Special Unit war dead found

Dear All,

In 1945, Operation COPPER was mounted on Mushu Island, 9 miles north of Wewak, along the north coast of Papua New Guinea. The mission was to capture a Japanese soldier for interrogation; make a beach reconnaissance for a possible landing plus a ground reconnaissance of the south-western sector. The party of 8 ZSU operators was carried aboard HDML 1321 from which it disembarked into 4 folboats about 3 miles ESE of Cape Barabar. Nearing the coast they struck a reef and 3 boats were swamped but they managed to get the party ashore where they ran into superior strength enemy forces. Forced back into the ocean on hand built rafts they were swamped and lost all automatic weapons save one with sapper ET "Mick" Dennis. Back on land they built several smaller rafts on which 4 operators returned to the sea never to be seen again.

The other 4 remained on land and were ambushed returning to the RV after retrieving the radio set from its

original hide. The party scattered and 3 were never heard from again. The lone survivor, Dennis, an experienced bushman with 13 months active service with the 6th Cdo Coy, headed to Dagua where he finally met up with an Australian patrol of the 7th Cdo Sqn. In this remarkable escapade, he personally accounted for 4 x HMGs and killed or wounded at least 9 enemy soldiers. For this action he was awarded the Military Medal.

Recently, as per the story below, the remains of 2 of the missing "Z" men have been found. They are:-

PTE RE Eagleton

LCPL SH Walklate

Sadly, their end was not uncommon for captured Australian commandos in this War.

May they now rest in peace.

Keith Long
President ACAQ

Commandos' horrific end kept secret

Two Australian soldiers, whose bodies were found in a dump, were likely victims of war crimes.

When officials found human remains in an old Japanese medical dump in Papua New Guinea this year, they may have done more than locate two missing World War II commandos.

Instead, they may have unlocked a Pandora's box involving continuing censorship and the failure to punish those involved in some of the worst war crimes perpetrated on Australian soldiers in the Pacific War.

In April, the Australian Defence Force confirmed it had discovered bones suspected of being those of missing commandos Spencer Walklate and Ron Eagleton on Kairiru Island, about 20 kilometres from Wewak on Papua New Guinea's northern coast.

Walklate, 27, a one-time St George rugby league player, and Eagleton, 20, had gone missing during a raid to reconnoitre Japanese gun emplacements on Mushu Island, just to the south of Kairiru on April 11, 1945.

The raid failed when their boats capsized in the surf and they were attacked before completing their objective. Hunted across the island, the eight Australians fought on before most were killed or wounded.

Eagleton and Walklate were thought to have tried to avoid capture by floating out into the ocean on palm logs, where they drowned or were killed by the Japanese.

But when the bones were found on Kairiru this year, and information was obtained from the island's elders,

it suggested the men had suffered a different fate - one that had been covered up for decades.

Previously secret documents from Government archives reveal the two were subjected to a ghastly death at the hands of Japanese who were never brought to justice - facts kept from the dead men's families.

The two young soldiers were thought to have been horrifically dissected while still alive and their organs served up in a ritual dinner to Japanese soldiers or souvenired.

Details of the atrocities were suppressed and some continue to be to this day. They are also misrepresented in military files raising questions about other such crimes being covered up.

The revelations this week prompted Scott Walklate, grandson of Spencer, and some of those involved in the efforts to find the men to call for information about such cases to be made public.

"It's as bad as the German war crimes," says the NSW resident, who had almost no clue about how his grandfather died until informed by Fairfax.

Walklate and Eagleton's case was quietly moth-balled in the 1950s after a decision by the Australian government to release dozens of suspected war criminals after a change in foreign policy towards Japan and pressure from the US government to wrap up the war crimes trials.

According to documents obtained by Fairfax, the file was downgraded to an alphabetically rated "G" status "involving Australians or allied nationals and in

which the accused, if convicted, would be unlikely to be awarded the death sentence".

The controversial ranking system allowed those criminals nominated in the G cases - including dozens of murderers, rapists and torturers - to walk free and their files to gather dust in the archives despite their explosive contents.

In some cases, the details or issues about the horrific treatment by the Japanese troops remains censored as the Archives Act exempts public access to records if it would involve the unreasonable disclosure of personal information.

Fairfax has been told that some of the allegations of the cannibalism and other specific references to atrocities by Japanese on Walklate and Eagleton appear to have been censored or removed from the files.

However, in copies of the "G" files obtained by Fairfax, there is a graphic reference to the murder of the Australians captured on Kairiru about April 1945. The men are not named but there is little doubt they are the victims given the timing and circumstances of their treatment.

"After capture, they [the POWs] were beaten with sticks, slapped in the face and kicked by some of the accused," the copies say. "It was then decided to execute the PW [prisoner of war].

"One prisoner whilst awaiting his execution was beaten about the feet and legs to such an extent that he could not stand. He was thereupon executed where he was then sitting by being struck a heavy blow (by a sword) on the back of the neck.

"Shortly afterwards, an incision was made in the chest and abdomen and the walls of the flesh were drawn apart to expose organs underneath.

"The heart and the lungs were seen to be still pulsating. The skull was then sawn with a surgical saw and the brain was removed and several lumps of flesh removed.

"The second PW was then executed by shooting and liver and portions of the flesh were removed."

The document notes 17 individuals are accused of involvement in the crime.

Another file unearthed from the archives by Vietnam veteran Don Dennis, who wrote a book about the raid and whose uncle Mick was one of the few survivors, confirms the censorship relating to the hideous treatment of the two commandos.

Dennis found a memo detailing an interview with Japanese soldier - Oagawa Waichi, who is suspected of beheading the men - but all details relating to the dissection and cannibalism appear to be censored from the document.

Waichi was reported to have committed suicide in 1947 while in custody, according to media reports at the time, but the other suspects did not face trial for the crime.

The case is just one of a truckload of files that include cover-ups and sensitive information that has

been suppressed about war crimes, says Jim Burke, who runs an organisation that finds missing soldiers and did much of the legwork on the Walklate and Eagleton matter.

He saw documents confirming body parts from the two missing men had been served up as a food to the Japanese soldiers in a ritual.

But, he says, while censorship of such information can make it hard to track down missing soldiers, it still should be respected.

"It could be information that is distressing to the relatives and that makes it difficult," he says.

A National Archives of Australia spokesman said permission to access the information can be sought.

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(Courtesy: SMH ~ October 5, 2013)



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2013

The Annual General Meeting was conducted at the "Simpson VC Club" on October 19th last.

Forty of the "old and bold" turned up for the annual event at Randwick Barracks.

The CO of the First Commando Regiment, LTCOL. "G" addressed the members and brought us up to date on the situation in Afghanistan, also answering questions from the floor.

The election followed and the office bearers for 2013 – 2014 are:

President	Barry Grant
Vice President	Jeff Ireson
Immediate Past President	Alan Grant
Secretary	Kevin Mahony
Treasurer	Ivan Kelly
Committee members	Ted Hartley Norm Wood Laurie Hall David Lynch

Our Welfare Officer is once again Ken "Bluey" Curran.



The Afghanistan Wall of Remembrance, Tarin Kowt



This was issued by the Defence Minister and explains why the wall could not be brought home to Australia.

It is a mute point now anyway as the walls have been recently destroyed.

The wall in question is not Australian property. It bears the names of 112 soldiers KIA from four countries listed chronologically by year of death, and not grouped by country, of which the US is the largest number. The wall would not represent a uniquely Australian memorial if it was returned to Australia. It would also be presumptuous of me to believe that I could bring the wall to Australia on my own account and deny the families of the fallen from our allies the opportunity to visit the wall in their own country. We have consulted with the countries involved and all agree that destruction is the appropriate course.



The imagery on the walls, in addition to the names of the fallen, bears the symbols and badges of the armed forces of five countries. Again, it is not in my gift to unilaterally decide to return these items to Australia.

The wall is about 25m wide and consists of 12 reinforced concrete T walls (blast protection walls) weighing several tonnes that are not designed for transportation once cast and positioned.

In conjunction with the AWM, the ADF has already arranged to return to Australia a number of significant memorials or elements of memorials from Tarin Kot and elsewhere, noting that we have memorials in Kabul, Tarin Kowt, Kandahar and Al Minhad. Importantly we are bringing back the memorial plinth from Tarin Kowt which is normally the focus of memorial ceremonies and where wreaths are laid.

There will be sufficient and appropriate places for our servicemen and women to conduct commemorative services in the future. Earlier this year a National Afghanistan Memorial was opened in North Queensland. The AWM will in time include a permanent display on the Afghanistan War and our fallen are listed in the AWM in line with our tradition. I fully expect that in time a memorial reflecting our participation in the Afghanistan War will be erected on ANZAC Parade and become the focus of memorial services in a manner similar to the Vietnam memorial.

Hon Senator D. Johnston

OPENING OF THE AVENUE OF HONOUR

OUR NATIONAL MEMORIAL TO HONOUR OUR AFGHANISTAN HEROES



Barry Grant and Don Astill (2nd/6th Independent Company) at the entrance to the Avenue of Honour.

The latest National War Memorial was opened on the 22nd June 2013 on the shores of Lake Tinaroo. It is the only memorial dedicated to the war in Afghanistan.

Gordon & Sue Chuck, residents and business people of Yungaburra, lost their son Ben along with Private Tim Aplin, Private Scott Palmer and Brandon Silk from the US Army in a helicopter accident in Afghanistan on June 22 2010.

They were members of the 2nd Commando Regiment on a mission that the Regiment would eventually receive a Unit Citation.

Trevor Bauman (US Army) who was also in the accident attended, sadly he is now a paraplegic.

The winding 200 meter path to the memorial is flanked by flame trees.

The memorial features a "winged" monument with the wings on one side "damaged".

The memorial was opened by the then Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, former Opposition Leader, Tony Abbot, CPL Ben Roberts-Smith VC MG and Defence Chief David Hurley AC also attended.

The memorial is the result of many years of dedicated work by Gordon & Sue Chuck.

The Australian Commando Association (NSW) also contributed financially to the construction of the memorial.

The names of the soldiers are included in the monument, sadly on the same day of the opening we lost another soldier in Afghanistan.



Barry and Don beside the plaques of those killed on active service. They also laid a wreath during the official ceremony.

THE ART OF PASSING THE PORT

The 'passing of the port' is a special precursor to a form of toast which will nowadays usually be found only at Defence Force dinners and a few traditional academic or political societies. But why do we call it a 'toast'? And why do we call it 'port'? And why some of the arcane rituals that go with it?

We drink a 'toast' when we want to wish someone well or accord honour. The custom goes back to unrecorded antiquity, but it is known that the ancient Jews did it (the Old Testament gives instructions for 'drink offerings'), while the early Saxons and Britons observed it at least as early as the fifth century. The glass is held straight out from the right shoulder and here, right away, we find two traditions involved:

First – it is held in the right hand because to the ancients the right hand was the lucky one; if you held the drinking vessel in the left hand you would be insulting the one for whom the blessing was being invoked. (Generations of mariners have learned a part of their rules of the road by reciting "there is no red port left").

Second – the arm held straight out showed that there was no concealed weapon, so no risk of some treacherous assassination plot with a friendly gesture being used as a cover. The proper method of holding the glass is by the base,

with the outer edge between the thumb and forefinger, thumb uppermost.

Civilian toasts clinking often clink glasses together with as many as possible of those nearby. This custom originates from religious practice in the Middle Ages when it was believed that the Devil could not stand the sound of bells; if the glasses were touched together the effect would be like a ringing of bells. Churches having bells in their towers began in the Middle Ages and bells are still rung in some high church liturgies.

We can thank the British for the adoption of the word toast as applied to a drink. The toast of drinking is exactly the same one as applied to the slice of slightly burned bread that most of us eat each morning at breakfast. How come? The British have long been wine connoisseurs but until recently had no significant wine industry of their own. Their forefathers did not have the scientific knowledge that we have today, so continental vigneron and British wine merchants were not too successful at transporting wine over long distances.

Fortified wines (sherry, port, Madeira, marsala, vermouth etc.) travelled well, but ordinary 'still' wine does not take kindly to moving around; any wine buff will know this and will attempt to leave his cellar slumbering in peace.



VALE Brigadier William Harold "Mac" Grant, OAM, RFD

24 June 1922 to 10 June 2013

Life Patron of the Australian Commando Association

In 1940 aged 18 years, "Mac" enlisted in the Permanent Military Forces and served in the 1st Heavy Brigade which manned coastal guns around Australia.

In 1941, he put his age up to 21 and enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force under his mother's maiden name, McArthur - hence his nickname, "Mac".

When the Japanese attacked in 1941, Mac was in a training camp at Cowra and was recruited for Special Forces.

In 1942, Mac joined the newly formed 2nd/5th Independent Company.

With only basic infantry skills, the unit was acclimatised in Port Moresby before being air-lifted into Wau and Bulolo for constant patrolling, interspersed with raids on Japanese positions.

Mac was commissioned early in 1944 and in 1945 was committed with 2nd/12th Commando Squadron into Borneo and to Labuan.

At the end of the war, Mac volunteered to serve in the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan with the 66th Infantry Battalion.

In Japan, he married Joan Brown of the Australian Army Medical Women's Service whom he had met in Sydney during 1945.

On his return to Australia he commanded a "Methods of Instruction Team" before serving in the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment in Korea after the truce.

On 25 June 1955, Mac raised and commanded the 1st Commando Company at Georges Heights in Sydney.

From October 1955 until May 1956, he trained with the Royal Marines in the United Kingdom. He qualified as a Green Beret Commando with the 42nd Commando, Royal Marines.

Further training followed at the Amphibious Warfare School, Poole, and the Amphibious Staff Course.

Mac resigned from the Australian Regular Army in 1959 to serve in the Australian

Secret Intelligence Service and joined the Citizen Military Forces.

In the mid-1970s, Mac was sent to Indonesia under diplomatic cover where his military skills enabled him to foster contact with the Indonesian generals and he developed a close friendship with General Benny Murdani.



Above photo of Mac was taken in 1959 and found recently in documents at the Commando History & Research Centre. The photo was taken at an airport on his way overseas with wife Joan and son Peter.

I am sure Mac's skills would have been handy today with the current "spying" standoff with Indonesia.

Other appointments with the Department of Defence took him and his family to the United Kingdom and Hong Kong.

In addition, he made extended official visits to Singapore and Vietnam during the Vietnam War.

Mac's service in the Citizen Military Forces and its successor, the Australian Army Reserve, included appointments as Commanding Officer of the 6th Battalion, Royal Victoria Regiment, Commander of the 4th Infantry Brigade, and Commander of the 3rd Divisional Field Force Group.

After his retirement in 1977, Mac maintained his interest in defence matters, including as Life Patron of the Australian Commando Association.

In 2003, he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for services to the veteran community.

He was a fine fly fisherman on his small property on the Goulburn River near Kevington in country Victoria, where his ashes and that of his wife and only son are interred.

As a soldier and spy, Mac Grant was dedicated to this country's security.

He will be missed by many, in particular members of the Commando fraternity.

"Mac" Grant, died in Victoria on the 10th June 2013, a few days before of his 91st birthday



INTERNMENT OF BRIG. W.H. "MAC" GRANT'S ASHES

On Sunday the 17th November I accompanied Mac's brother Hugh and other family members and friends to Kevington, some 4 hours north of Melbourne Airport.

In this beautiful countryside, beside a trout stream and under a tree, Mac's ashes were laid to rest with those of his wife Joan and son Peter.

"Mac" once owned this tranquil property and bought it many years ago to improve his fly fishing skills.

I was among representatives from the Australian Commando Association (Victoria), returned soldiers from the 1st Commando Regiment, family and long time local friends of Mac.

The service was conducted by a local minister who led us in prayer and hymns.

Each participant was honoured to be allowed to scatter some ashes in the site with a poppy; of course we also interred a Regimental beret badge, a badge that Mac had helped design all those years ago.

Following the service we toasted Mac as he would have expected.

This ends the final chapter of our Patron and one of the founders of post WW2 Commandos; he has sometimes been called the "Father of Australian Commandos" a title that sits well with all of those who knew him.



Two serving soldiers from the 1st Commando Regiment, Barry Grant President of the Australian Commando Association (NSW) and representing our Victorian branch, Richard Godden.



The plaques of the Mac's family interred under the tree that his son planted in 1975.



Arthur "Joe" Jones centre, with his daughter and President Barry Grant at Horrie Young's funeral.

Arthur Joe Jones, one of the last two remaining members of Operation Jaywick, passed away recently in Perth. He was LT Bob Page's fellow paddler on the canoe raid on the 26th September 1943. Joe made the trip to Sydney a few years ago to attend Horrie Young's funeral at Gosford. "Moss" Berryman from South Australia is the only remaining member of "Operation Jaywick" raid.



BRIGADIER (RETIRED) "MAC" GRANT OAM RFD

Brigadier (Retired) "Mac" Grant was born William Harold Grant at Cordeaux in NSW on 24 June 1922. Cordeaux no longer exists having been inundated by a dam designed by his father. Much of his early life was spent in, what was then called the Hills District, on the outskirts of Sydney. He completed his education at Parramatta and had a brief sojourn in commercial life in 1939 and early 1940.

As recruiting had been suspended for the 2nd Australian Imperial Force, Mac enlisted in 30 Bn (The NSW Scottish Regiment) a militia unit, in September 1940. After completing a 70-day camp of continuous training at Greta in NSW, and as there was still no recruiting for the 2nd AIF, Mac enlisted in 1 Heavy Brigade of the Permanent Military Forces (PMF) and commenced training at North Head in January 1941.

Following the commitment to battle in January 1941, of the 2nd AIF in North Africa Mac applied to join the AIF. However, at that time policy did not permit members of the PMF to join the AIF and his application was not approved.

After several more applications had been rejected, Mac took the law into his own hands and enlisted in the AIF on 13 October 1941, using his mother's maiden name of McArthur. He was known as Mac from then on.

Towards the end of 1941, while Mac was in the AIF reinforcement camp at Cowra, NSW, as a corporal, he volunteered for service with what we now call "Special Forces".

An indication of the urgency of the times then prevailing was that only six weeks after their arrival at training at Wilsons Promontory the partially trained volunteers became a new unit of the 2nd AIF, the 5th Independent Company, later 2/5 Independent Company, and still later as 2/5 Commando Squadron.

The 2/5 embarked on SS *Taroona* at Townsville on 13 April 1942 and disembarked at Port Moresby on 17 April 1942.

2/5 remained in the Salamaua, Mubo, Lae area until May 1943. Their exploits were of course, overshadowed by the large scale operations in the Kokoda, Buna, Gona area.

However, 2/5 continued to harass the enemy with constant patrolling and occasional raids on Japanese installations.

Resupply of Kanga Force was almost nonexistent and the force, of necessity, fought as guerillas. All ranks wore beards and clothing became worn and ragged.

On 11 January 1943, 2/5 in conjunction with 2/7 Independent Company, which had moved into the area in October 1942, attacked the major Japanese outpost at Mubo. This was the largest raid carried out in New Guinea.

Shortly after 2/5 returned to Australia in May 1943, Mac was promoted to Warrant Officer 2 before being hospitalised with malaria at Canungra.

In October 1943, he was nominated to attend the Officer Cadet Training Unit (OCTU) at Woodside in South Australia. He was commissioned lieutenant on 23 January 1944 and posted to 2/12 Commando Squadron, a newly formed unit of 9 Australian Division, then located on the Atherton Tablelands.

2/12 took part in the North Borneo operations and Mac was on Labuan Island when the war ended. Almost immediately, 2/12 moved to Kuching, the capital of Sarawak, to release allied prisoners and intern Japanese prisoners in the same prison camp.

While in Kuching, Mac volunteered to serve with the occupation force then being considered for Japan. He returned to Labuan to become an original officer of 66 Aust Inf Bn, then being raised from volunteers from 9 Division.



While in Japan, Mac served in a number of appointments in 66 Bn and as a staff officer on HQ34 Aust Inf Bde. He was promoted captain in June 1947.

On 23 November 1946, Mac married Joan Irene Brown, a member of the Australian Army Medical Women's Service whom Mac had met on leave in Australia. The actual wedding took place in St. Peter's Church in Kure, but Mac and Joan had to travel to Tokyo for the marriage to be legalised by the British Embassy. At that time, Australia had no Foreign Marriages Act, and an Australian chaplain could not legally perform a marriage outside Australia. Similarly, when a son was born to Mac and Joan in September 1948, his birth was registered at Somerset House in London.

The Grant family returned to Sydney in January 1949 and, shortly after, Mac was given a long service commission as a regular officer.

In 1952, Mac attended the Army Staff College at Queenscliff in Victoria and graduated "PSC" in November.

In May 1953, Mac was posted to Royal Australian Regiment reinforcements, Korea, and duly arrived in that country in early August, a few days after the armistice which ended hostilities on 27 July 1953.

Mac served as a company commander with 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, until January 1954, when he was posted to HQ 1st Commonwealth Division as a General Staff officer.

Under the terms of the armistice agreement, Mac had to leave Korea after 12 months, so in August 1954 he was re-posted to Japan to become second-in-command (2IC) of I Comwel Division Battle School. This was located at Hara Mura in Hiroshima Prefecture and had been a Japanese military field training area. Interestingly enough, Mac's company in 66 Bn had discovered the installation in 1946, during a routine search for weapons, explosives and poison gas dumps.

Mac returned to Australia in November 1954 to be informed that he had been appointed to raise and command a completely new concept in units. This was to be a commando company incorporating current British ideas of commando and SAS training. Because of the envisaged role of the unit and the nature of the training involved, it was intended that the new unit should form part of the Citizen Military Forces (CMF) rather than the Australian Regular Army. This was no reflection on the ARA, but was designed to take advantage of the much wider scope available from the civilian population as a whole. This concept was borne out in practice when recruiting commenced. There was a great deal of favourable publicity, Mac was given a temporary office in Victoria Barracks and from there he proceeded to interview all applicants in person. The first training parade of the new unit was held in July 1955 and everyone agreed it was off to a flying start.

In October 1955, Mac proceeded to UK in company with Major Jack Anderson, OC designate 2 Commando Company which had been raised in Melbourne.

It was intended that the two majors would complete a series of specialist commando courses with the Royal Marines.

Their training began with a cliff climbing course in the vicinity of Lands End in Cornwall. This was followed by a basic commando course which placed great emphasis on physical and mental toughness. Jack Anderson was drowned during the last week of this course after having overtaken Mac, who had a sprained ankle, and starting on what was to be a fatal attempt at the river crossing.

Prior to leaving Australia, Mac had written a detailed training programme for 1 Commando Company to follow during his absence. While in UK, he had kept in constant touch by mail with "Pup" Currell, the training warrant officer.

When Mac returned in May 1956 volunteers flooded in to 1 Commando (including national servicemen) and the strength of the unit grew rapidly until the establishment of 270 was exceeded by some 200. Unfortunately, there was no immediate increase in the regular cadre and the training programme made very heavy demands on them. At Gan Gan in 1958, CMF members of 1 Commando Company conducted specialist commando training for the early members of 1 SAS Company.

Also in 1958, 1 Commando Company staged a cliff assault demonstration at Sydney Showground as part of the military tattoo and was redesignated 1st Infantry Battalion (Commando), the City of Sydney's Own Regiment. To prove that their abilities were not confined to commando training, the soldiers of the unit received high praise for their parade ground work at a ceremonial parade at Victoria Barracks. The reviewing officer was the Governor General, Field Marshal Sir William Slim.

In May 1959, Mac was replaced as OC by Major Jack Skipper MC. Almost immediately Mac, accompanied by Joan, proceeded to UK to undertake a series of attachments and training courses at British Secret Intelligence Service establishments. Mac had been seconded to the Australian Secret Intelligence Service (ASIS) in Australia on completion of his tour with 1 Commando Company. In November 1959, Mac left UK for the USA where he visited a number of American intelligence establishments. On his way back to Australia, Mac spent a few days with the British Embassy in Saigon. Even then, Vietnam was tipped to be the next trouble spot in Asia.

With his extensive commando background, Mac now became something of a specialist in guerilla warfare and special operations. He conducted training courses for selected members of the Australian Defence Force and made several visits to Singapore where, in conjunction with the British, he trained Indonesian and Vietnamese defence and police personnel.

In June 1961, Mac accepted an offer to become a permanent officer with ASIS and resigned his regular commission. Almost immediately, he joined the Citizen



Military Forces and, from then on, pursued a dual career with ASIS and the CMF which, to some extent, complemented each other.

In the CMF, he served initially with I RVR (pentropic) as Deputy Commanding Officer to Colonel George Warfe. When the CMF was reorganised in 1965, Mac was appointed CO 6 RVR (formerly the Royal Melbourne Regiment). He was promoted to Colonel in 1967.

In August 1962, in his ASIS capacity but using his military rank, he had visited South Vietnam and spent some time with US Special Forces at Ban Me Thuot, Buon Enao and Da Nang.

Again in November 1963, Mac visited Vietnam where, in company with Brigadier Ted Serong, he visited US Special Forces outposts at Ban Me Thuot, Nha Trang, A Chau, Khe Sanh, Hue and Duk Me.

During this period, Mac continued to conduct training courses for selected ADF personnel posted to South Vietnam.

In November 1967, the Grants were posted to Hong Kong by ASIS where Mac was attached to Headquarters British Forces and found himself serving in yet another Victoria Barracks.

Joan and Mac returned to Australia in January 1971 and Mac resumed his duties with ASIS in Victoria Barracks. In the CMF, he was promoted to brigadier and appointed to command Southern Command Training Group and then Commander Task Force in 1973 and was made aide to Her Majesty the Queen in 1975.

There was a further re-organisation of the CMF at that time. Just as Mac was scheduled to take command of the 3rd Division, which would have meant promotion to major general, the division was redesignated 3rd Division Field Force Group, as a brigadier's command. Mac remained in command of the new formation until 1977. Shortly after he handed over command and

retired on age, the appointment of Commander 3rd Division was again reclassified to that of major general.

In 1977, ASIS posted Mac to the Australian Embassy in Jakarta under Department of Foreign Affairs cover.

During the two-and-a-quarter years for which he filled that appointment, Mac travelled as widely as possible within Indonesia, visiting Aceh in Sumatra, Ambon, Irian Jaya and East Timor. His military background proved very useful in his dealings with senior Indonesian officers, including General Benny Moerdani, Commander of the Indonesian Armed Forces.

Mac was Honorary Colonel of the Royal Victoria Regiment from 1980-83 and became Honorary Colonel of 1 Commando Regiment in 1990. He held that appointment until 1994, during which time he visited a number of commando training exercises and was very closely involved with the Regiment and its sub-units.

He retired from the ASIS in 1984 and in 1985 Joan had a debilitating stroke. Mac cared for her from then until her death in 2000 which devastated him having already lost their son Peter in 1976.

In 1991 he became President of the RUSI of Victoria. From October 1993 to September 1996, he was National President of the RUSI of Australia. He retired as President of the RUSI of Victoria on 31 December 1999.

Mac was the patron of 1 Commando Association from its inception in 1976 and joint patron of the Australian Commando Association with Brigadier Keith Stringfellow.

Mac was extremely tough and resourceful but also quietly modest about his achievements. It wasn't until I was half way through my ten years at 1 Commando that I realized that the man in the photograph of our first OC was our family friend Mac whom I had known since my childhood.

MAJGEN Greg Melick AM
Official Mourner

HANDS OVER HEARTS OR MEDALS?

How often have you noticed at any Anzac Day or Remembrance Day, or when passing a Cenotaph, veterans will place their right hand over their left side, many believing that they are placing their "Hand over their Heart" in respect or remembrance of their fallen comrades.

This is not apparently so.

The veterans salute to their "Fallen Comrades" originated in London on Armistice Day 1920, during the ceremony to unveil and dedicate the Cenotaph in Whitehall.

At the same time a funeral procession accompanying the remains of the "Unknown Soldier" halted at the Cenotaph during the ceremony before proceeding to Westminster Abbey for internment.

Those present included the senior Soldier, Sailor, Airman and many Victoria Cross recipients.

The ceremony concluded with a "march past".

The Regimental Sergeant Major of the Guard Regiment conducting the ceremony, faced with a gathering of highly decorated and high ranking military men (including many Victoria Cross recipients), all wearing rows of medals, decreed that all would salute the Cenotaph as they marched past by placing their hand over their medals, signifying that;

"No matter what honours we may have been awarded they are nothing compared with the honour due to those who paid the supreme sacrifice".



VALE

ARTHUR "ROBBIE" ROBINSON, DCM BEM

Arthur "Robbie" Robinson enlisted in the British Army in 1945 just prior to the end of WW2 undergoing training at Winchester with the Rifle Brigade, but at the end of the War was trained as a Gunner Mechanic.

At the completion of his training, Robbie became a PTI Instructor in the Army Physical Training Corps at the age of 18.

He was later posted to Egypt and served with the British Protectorate Troops, Betchuna, Basuto and Swazi, responsible for the fitness of the various Units doing Guard Duty on the Suez Canal.

In 1948 he was sent home for demobilisation.

Robbie did several civilian jobs but could not settle down and eventually rejoined the Army in 1950 and was sent to Arborfield Apprentice School as a Corporal PTI.

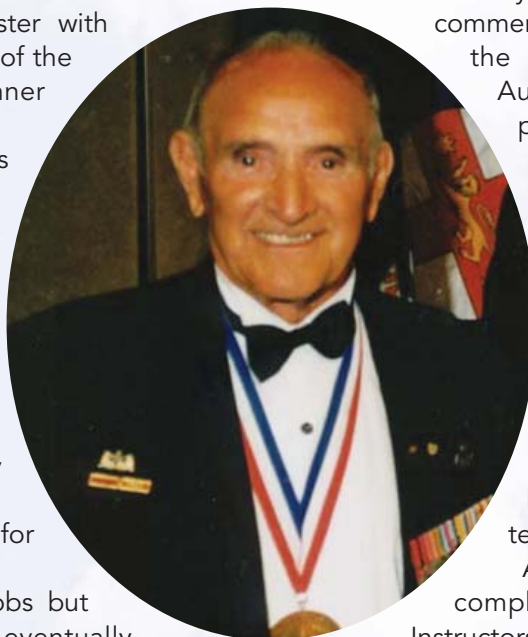
At that time Australia started advertising for ex British Army Instructors as the Korean War had commenced. Robbie secured release from the British Army and joined the Australian Regular Army and was posted to 1 RAR at Ingleburn.

He was not allowed to go to Korea but in 1951 was promoted to Sergeant and sent to 19 National Service Training Battalion, (later known as P&RT) as a PTI.

At a later tour of duty in 1953 at Kapooka, where the Battalion was stationed, he was sent on a Parachute Course, and in December of that year made up to a temporary WO2.

At the School of Land Air Warfare completed the first Parachute Jump Instructors Course run in Australia at the newly formed Parachute Training Wing by the RAAF.

(Continued next page)



L-R: WO2 Robbie Robinson, SLR Guthrie, WO2 Dutch Holland (and dog), WO2 Buck Buchanan and MAJ L Eyles.

Parachute training for Commandos in the early years was carried out at RAAF Williamtown near Newcastle before moving to its current location at Nowra. Note the headgear and harness, straight out of WW2.



VALE WO2 JOE EICHLER

Joel passed away late last year after a long illness.

Remembering that WW2 had only been over for 10 short years, having a soldier who had served with the Germans applying to join, presented its own set of problems.

I quote from the 50th Anniversary Book "Strike Swiftly" The Australian Commando Story written by Peter Collins.

"In January 1945 in Budapest, with the Wehrmacht in full retreat, a wounded German Major just has enough strength to radio for help. Joe Eichler volunteered. 'I'll go he said, 'I have nothing to lose' He had a daringly simple plan.

The Hungarian authorities had ordered cellar walls to be breached so that houses were interconnected, to form an escape route. When Eichler eventually found his man, he was too weak to move so Joe shouldered him and headed back.

Civilians helped him through the cellars and he ran underground for three kilometres, until he felt his legs would collapse. Then, taking a firm grip on the Major, he burst into the open in front of the Russian guns. Instantly, the air was filled with shouts and bullets. A mortar bomb opened a hole



in the street in front of him and more exploded behind. Finally dazed and wounded, Eichler stumbled back to German lines.

This feat earned him Germany's highest award: the Iron Cross First Class.

When asked during the interviewing process who gave him the Iron Cross First Class, Joe allegedly replied "Mein Fuhrer".

With that story to tell, it took Joe a couple of months longer than usual to get through the Commando screening process.

Joe was also later awarded the Iron Cross Second Class in another bravery effort.

The stalwart who had joined the Company in 1955, eventually retired after 19 years of service."

He was well respected and liked by all of those who served with him.

He served as a medic with the company, despite the fact that some made fun of his German background.

His funeral was no different, and some who attended gave him a final German salute and a "Sieg Heil", much to the amusement of his son who said Joe would have seen the humour in the gesture.

Farewell and RIP to a legend.

ARTHUR "ROBBIE" ROBINSON, DCM BEM

(Continued from previous page)

Robbie later instructed on courses designed for Special Forces including 1 Commando Company, also trialling new equipment and was the first Instructor to do a water jump.

For his dedication to Parachuting Robbie was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM).

He also hoped to be transferred to the newly formed SAS, but was sent to North Head Military Gymnasium, where he requalified as a PTI, but in an accident on a vault horse broke his neck.

He was then posted to 1 RTB until September 1963 when he again discharged from the service, took up swimming coaching in New Zealand, but came back to Australia to join the Army Reserve.

Later he rejoined the Regular Army in Kapooka, where he completed various courses in Language,

Small Arms, Heavy Weapons, Infantry Tactics and Communications.

In December 1967 he was posted to Vietnam with the AATTV, taking part in approx 40 operations.

During his tour of duty he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM), the USA Silver Star, ARVN Cross of Gallantry Gold Star, Bronze Cross of Gallantry, Armed Forces Honour Medal, 5 letters of commendation from various US Army Commanders and one from CO of the South Vietnamese Rangers.

Robbie is also the only non-American to be inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame in 1999

On return to Australia in various Units he decided to once again leave the Regular Army and after service in the CMF, finished his service in 1976.

Robbie was a long time member of our Association.





Special Operations Command Australia has approved the re-introduction of the Australian Army Stiletto (AAS) into military service for qualified Commandos, 71 years on from its issue in WW2. The original AAS was specifically designed for Commandos in June 1942 by the Commanding Officer of the 2/6th Independent Company MAJ 'Harry' Harcourt. It is believed that MAJ Harcourt designed the AAS in collaboration with members of Mission No 104, who were from the British Special Operations Executive sent to Australia to raise special resistance units capable of waging guerrilla warfare such as the Independent Companies and Z Special Unit. The AAS was commonly referred to as a 'Harcourt Hacker' by members of the 2/6th in affection for their CO, a name that endures to this day.

The AAS is reminiscent of the British Wilkinson Sword made Fairbairn-Sykes fighting knife (F-S) of which members of the mission would have been issued and trained to use. However the F-S was never issued to Australian troops in WW2 so the AAS's revival is an acknowledgment of the role it has played and its uniqueness on the world stage just like the uniqueness of the modern Commandos of today. The distinct Australian aspect to the AAS and in some respects its improved design on the F-S, make this knife highly desirable, quintessentially Australian.

Two WW2 manufactures produced these knives being Gregory Steel Products (Gregsteel) of Melbourne and also Whittingslowe Engineering (WE) of Adelaide. The knife was produced in three versions, one with a wooden handle and one alloy handled knife with a bright blade both by Gregsteel, as well as one with a blued blade by WE.

It is speculated that combined approximately 500 AAS were made during WW2 making it one of the lowest production number of any WW2 Commonwealth fighting knife. Evidence shows that this knife was used not only by the 2/6th but also by several members of other Independent Commando Companies in the Pacific campaign and by Z Special Unit on Operation Jaywick (the famous raid on Singapore harbour).

Approval has been given for members of both 1st Commando and 2nd Commando Regiments to wear the AAS on ceremonial occasions when in ceremonial orders of dress whilst bearing arms. The AAS will also replace the issued bayonet as an accoutrement when dressing caskets for both repatriation ceremonies and service funerals for OR's up to the rank of WO1.

Issue of the AAS is not retrospective and covers current serving members from mid 2013 forward.

The AAS will be purchased by Commando qualified members in a one off buy, ensuring that it becomes the member's property for posterity sitting alongside his beret as an acknowledgment of his service.

In the fullness of time it is hoped that a similar commercially available knife will be produced for those former Commandos who wish to own one but are no longer serving or for collectors of Australian Militaria.

The knife of today is all black like that designed by WE and comes with a full grain black leather sheath for Soldiers to match the current parade belt and a brown sheath for Officers and Warrant Officer Class One (WO1) to match the Sam Brown Belt. Each knife is individually serial marked on the cross guard for issue and will be recorded in a unit ledgers for posterity. The AAS comes with a certificate of issue should members wish to frame it in the future on completion of their service.

The blade is marked on both sides, on the front with a double diamond the universal symbol for Australian Commandos of all eras and on the obverse with the defence ordinance mark (broad arrow) signifying that this is a Defence requisitioned item. These two distinguishing marks along with the serial number signify that this knife is issued to a qualified Commando and is not for commercial sale.

The manufacture of the AAS has required the collaboration between modern day design techniques and old world craftsmanship to deliver a knife that is faithful to the original AAS in all aspects. From hand stamping and finishing on the blade to a cast mazak alloy handle and gun blueing no compromise has been made.

A tentative delivery date has been set for mid 2014 with the knives being released in batches to meet demand. Although at the time of writing this article the final costing is yet to be established, there is no doubt that the sale price, which is at cost, will be well below the value and quality of the craftsmanship.

The revival of the AAS further strengthens the historical link between WW2 Commandos and their modern day counterparts as they carry on their lineage and seek to forge new customs and traditions. The AAS embodies what is at the core of the Commando ethos being "offensive spirit". This spirit has become the hallmark of the modern day Australian Commando and has earned them many accolades in such theatres as Afghanistan.



WWII Members of the Association

From the Prolific Pen of Harry Bell

I am starting this in August, straight after the expiry of the deadline for September *Commando News*.

First, an omission from my story about Snowy Williams: at the July shoot at Cessnock, 108 marksmen participated, including Snowy's widow, Maureen! No mean hand with a shotgun, Maureen retired from the sport about 15 years ago, but was invited back for the occasion. 2 The Billy Williams Memorial Shoot is to be an annual event at Cessnock.



Sitting at breakfast recently, over my porridge, toast and marmalade and coffee and with my favourite reading matter, the SMH Death Notices (*checking if my name is there*) two names caught my eye; neither an ex-commando but with me. The first was one Keith John Driver, ex 2/48 Bn, aged 87. I scarcely knew him, so why mention him in these pages? Well, we were in the same draft at Sydney Showground on 16.2.1944 and went off to the same unit (2 Aust. Recruit Training Battalion) at Cowra. We were in the same platoon, but were not particular friends. What made him stick in my mind was hearing his name called at the morning roll-call: "DRIVER, K.J." It had a sort of ring to it; those hard consonants, "D" and "K" followed by the softer "J". Try saying it to yourself: "DRIVER, K.J!" See what I mean? I never forgot it. We went our several ways after our D.P. 4 (*or whatever it was*); I to 16 I.T.B. at Bathurst, preparatory to Training Squadron at Canungra, he to 14 or 19 I.T.B. at Cowra.

Years afterwards, in the Sydney Royal Botanic Gardens, where I often lunched with Reg Davis, Frank Rheinberger and Frank Glover (all 2/9) I saw him. "Driver K.J." I said. He was on staff there. End of story – until 20th August 2013 when I read that name again. So mote, it be.

The other name I read that day was "Wyburn, Kevin Thomas." Members of 2/9 and 2/10 will remember that we were joined in Farida Force, after the landing at Dove Bay, by a battery of 2/1 Tank Attack Regiment, equipped with 75mm pack howitzers. They were so keen to locate that elusive Nip gun that used to shell

us from the back of Mandi that they attached an F.O.O. to us; and the young chap – I was still, in my teens and he didn't seem much older – was Lt. Kevin Wyburn. We got talking and I found that he came from Werris Creek, Dave Hammond's (2/10) home town. He knew of Dave, which was a talking point, and I came from Wee Waa so we became quite friendly; that is, considering that he was an officer and I a trooper. Anyway, we moved from Mandi to Brandi and 10 Squadron took over from us. I heard no more of Mr Wyburn until many years later when he was the NSW Commissioner for Stamp Duties, quite an exalted position. I rang him up, re-introduced myself and organised Xmas drinks at the Carlton (the Elizabeth Street Bar, for some reason – perhaps the Castlereagh Street Bar had closed down) with Dave Walker (2/9). We repeated this each year until his retirement but kept in vague contact. He was 92; I turned 88 on 29th August, so back at Mandi he was all of 23. A decent bloke.

Incidentally, if trivia interest you, Werris Creek and Wee Waa were two successive postings for Ossie Pomroy (2/10), then a keen young sergeant in NSW's Finest. He arrived at Wee Waa when cotton was beginning to boom and the town was full of stick-pickers and other itinerant workers. Many were aboriginals and pretty tough – one, a school friend of mine, a strapping red-headed girl, was reputed to have broken a copper's jaw with one punch! – and at closing time (10 o'clock in those days) Ossie had to start swinging as he came in through the doors. Maybe that's why they called them "Swinging Doors"? And was Ossie the original of that favourite dance on the programmes: "The dashing white sergeant"?

Word from Max Drummond (2/6, 2/9). Max went up to Queensland in August to visit Hal Holman (2/6), the famous painter. He has moved into a retirement village but is far from helpless; in fact, he is still painting and sculpting, pursuits that require a considerable physical input as well as the emotional and intellectual. Max and Janet both OK also.

On Sunday, 8th September the Army threw open to interested parties the new Commando Museum at Holsworthy. If the chance is offered again, don't miss it. It is a very worthwhile experience, including the hospitality offered by the Young Lions. Security is high – you will need photographic I.Ds. – and the layout is quite baffling, as you have to drive through miles of bush, interspersed with all sorts of unnamed buildings. But the museum, once you get there, is great. There are memorabilia from 39-45; flags, swords, maps, etc and there are examples of most complicated, and bloody heavy, modern equipment. There was a continuous film which included interviews with two 2/7, one 2/6 one 2/8 and two 2/9 members. All



interviewees looked very relaxed but the background noise, combined with poor hearing, meant that I couldn't hear what any of us actually said! Four of the Rugged and Bugged were there: Rex Stubbings (2/6), Claude Brown (2/8) and Reg Davis and your correspondent, both from 2/9, as well as many wives and children, including our Secretary/Editor Barbara, son Geoffrey, and mother Margaret plus lots of post-war commandos (including at least one ex-Commandress, Norma Jensen). I think Norma may be the only one of her kind; certainly the first.

Ted Workman (2/10 and Commando Association committeeman) is still, or again, in hospital following a nasty fall some months ago, when he broke several ribs. Lola took him to Dee Why RSL for his 89th birthday on 27/9 but he lasted only a couple of hours due to the pain in the region of the fractures. He is having physio twice daily and says the pain is decreasing. Poor old Ted has been having a bad run, but we hope to see him out and about soon - he is battling valiantly.

HARRY BELL

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

My name is Lennie Anderson. I humbly ask for any photo(s) or information on my father, Lennie Anderson (Snowy) of 2/11 Cav Commando and Special force who proudly served at Tarakan, Borneo. His great grandchildren are asking about him and what he did, where he went, and as he didn't say much we would like any information that can be given.

I know my father has one friend who is still involved in the Association, Ken Curran OAM (Bluey) and my father's wish was to meet him again, but sadly he passed away 32 years ago without having that wish fulfilled - but I did. I was on a Promotion Course in Singleton in the late 70s, as I was marching along, at the right marker I noticed the soldier along side us, stride for stride straight as a gun barrel, regimentally correct in every way, he wore the distinctive Commando beret, his service ribbon bar and this intense look, a concentrated stare that had seen it all. It wasn't until one or two of the other Diggers said to me "Geez that old Commando was keeping his bloody eye on you" that it hit home. Over the next couple of days I observed him teaching self defence behind the old 'C' block to some diggers and I thought he may have known me from somewhere in my martial arts background, but was I wrong. On one of the last days of camp we got to meet face to face. He approached me, him a Warrant Officer, me a Sergeant. His words were "What's your last name Sarge?" I replied "Anderson". He then asked where I was from - "Newcastle, Fern Bay/Stockton area" I replied. His eyes dropped, he seemed to be shocked or dismayed in some way. He then said in a strong deliberate voice, "Son, I served with your father, who was my mate," he then told me his name.

Lennie Anderson OAM

Dear Barbara

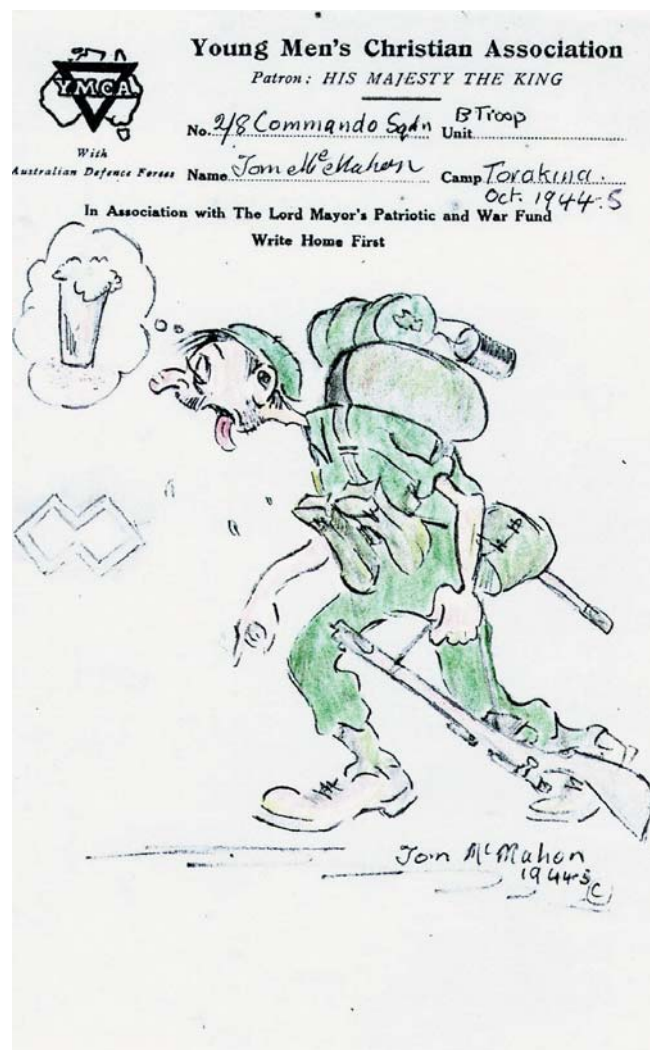
I am the daughter of Tom McMahon (2/8) and thank you for the ongoing work with the NSW Association and newsletter, and hope the Association amalgamation goes off well.

I have been "escorting" both Mum and Dad to the Sydney service since I was about 12 years old and have had some wonderful times with Dad's mates over the years. It was good to hear Bryce Killen is still going strong. The last we saw of him was ANZAC Day 3 years ago when Charlie Parsons's boys hosted Slim Cater, Bryce, Dad and Charlie to lunch at Bravo Coy base in Bathurst on ANZAC Day. Dad is 95 years old now, and not as physically good as he was.



I have included Dad's drawing from his letters to his family from Torakina in 1944 and a current photo of Dad.

We send a special cheerio to Bing down in Griffith and to all of Dad's 2/8 mates.



REMEMBRANCE DAY 2013



Attendees at Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day turned out to be a very wet day and it was to be wondered how the service would be conducted out on the decking with The Krait moored alongside, the Maritime Museum, Darling Harbour. However the Maritime Museum solved the problem. They put up the marquee on the decking, however the service itself was moved into a dockside room where those attending could still see The Krait and the ships moored outside.

The cataflaque party was made up of Cadets from Kogarah – who, instead of standing guard on the gangway of The Krait, stood guard in the marquee.

The service was conducted by Monsignor Brian Raynor OAM, RAN (Rtd), who every year does a wonderful job. The readings were done by Reg Davis and Ken Curran, The Ode was read by Barry Grant



Wreaths laid on board The Krait

(President of the Australian Commando Association NSW).

Present this year were students from Ultimo Public School and Amaroo School ACT. Alana Duncan from Amaroo School told the gathering What Remembrance Day Means to Me and Grace Robson from Amroo School told the story of Operation Jaywick.

Wreaths were laid by Lt Col Garth Gould, Kevin Sumption, Director of ANMM, Barry Grant, Ken Curran and Dianne

Wills (daughter of Horry Young). All were accompanied by students representing both Schools.

The Last Post and Reveille once again reverberated around Darling Harbour, the bugler LSMUSN Marcus Salone standing on the bow of the warship somehow kept his balance in the high wind that was blowing.



Kogarah Cadet Unit



LSMUSN Marcus Salone



Commando History and Research Centre Strides Ahead

Since the official opening of the Commando History and Research Centre in mid 2013, developments have continued apace. The original concept of a museum, coupled with a research library has proved successful and it is open to visitors by appointment through Barry Grant.

The museum focusses on telling the story of Australia's commandos from creation during the Second World War through to today. Currently, the galleries describe a timeline and are divided into eras that describe the various important stages of commando history.

Much work has gone into developing the WW2 displays and the collection boasts several commando fighting knives, Japanese swords and other artefacts that illustrate the tough Pacific campaign of 1942-45. Indeed, the collection may already have the best display of Australian WW2 commando items on public display anywhere.

Other eras include the post war resurrection of the capability, which rightly pays tribute to the late Brig Mac Grant OAM RFD as the father of modern commandos, and a display revealing the little known stories of those commandos who served in the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam.

Some of the other treasures held by the museum are the original artwork for the design of the distinctive commando wings, and the casing of the



first Javelin missile fired by commandos from 2 Commando Regiment in Afghanistan.

But it's not all about the museum, the Research Centre has a rapidly growing library of books about Commando and Special Forces operations and computers that hold video and image libraries for the use of researchers.

An area dedicated for special exhibitions has also been set aside which is currently hosting a revealing exhibition on the life of the late Honorary Colonel of 2 Commando Regiment Hans Fleer OAM, DCM.

The History Centre itself operates almost entirely on donations and volunteer support alone, and without the help of the Australian Commando Association it would not be able to function. In particular, a recent grant application by the ACA (NSW Branch) has secured a large chunk of funding which will be of incomparable assistance in the near future.

So for those who have already helped out we say "cheers mate"! And for those who wish to help out please contact Barry Grant, and remember that as the Centre develops into the future more help will be required over time.

Captain R
Acting Manager
CHRC



Opening ~ Afghan



Opening ~ WW2



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VISIT TO THE HISTORY & RESEARCH CENTRE



Members, families and friends who attended the Open Day at the History & Research Centre.

In his article Harry Bell has given a description of the visit to the Centre in September. Everyone present was impressed by the items that have been donated to the Centre and the way they are displayed.

After the tour of the Centre the Australian Commando Association NSW members put on a BBQ for everyone present. All in all it was a very interesting and pleasant day.

The History & Research Centre is always looking for more memorabilia for the displays – especially

from the original Independent Companies/Commando Squadrons. If anyone has any items that could be shown at the Centre then please contact any member of your Committee who will give you details of where the items can be sent or arrangements made for collection.

Thanks should go to 'Capt R' who is responsible for looking after the Centre which he does on a volunteer basis. Ross is a dad, a Reserve Commando, and works full time and somehow he finds time to look after the Centre.



Independent Company and Commando Pennants



Japanese Good Luck Flags



L-R: Harry Bell, Reg Davis, Reg Stubbings, Claude Brown (WWII Veterans)



Visitors to the History and Research Centre enjoyed a BBQ after the tour of the Centre





AUSTRALIAN COMMANDO ASSOCIATION (NSW) INC

EVENTS CALENDAR FOR 2014

APRIL 25 (Friday)	ANZAC DAY COMMANDO SEAT - MARTIN PLACE Form up 0800 hours service starts 0830 hours FORM UP FOR MAIN PARADE TO BE ADVISED
MAY (TBA)	CARNARVON GOLF CLUB LUNCH 1230 hours for 1300 hours Families always welcome
JUNE 15 (Sunday)	COMMANDO CHURCH SERVICE 1100 hours The historic Garrison Church The Rocks All Special Forces families are welcome
JULY 6 (Sunday)	RESERVE FORCES DAY More info to follow as received
SEPTEMBER 26 (Friday)	JAYWICK DINNER (venue TBA)
OCTOBER 18 (Saturday)	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ASSOCIATION To be held at "Simpson VC Club" Randwick 1030 hours
NOVEMBER 11 (Tuesday)	REMEMBRANCE DAY AT DARLING HARBOUR SERVICE HELD AT THE "KRAIT" Service starts 1030 hours
NOVEMBER (TBA)	ASSOCIATION XMAS DINNER CARNARVON GOLF CLUB Families always welcome 1830 hours for 1900 hours

Please direct your enquiries to our Secretary, Kevin Mahony

Home: (02) 9644 8794 or Mobile: 0425 279 111 or E-mail: kevin.mahony1@bigpond.com





AUSTRALIAN COMMANDO ASSOCIATION - NEW SOUTH WALES INC.

Incorporated New South Wales

Patron: Brig Keith Stringfellow RFD ED



The Secretary
PO Box 1313
SUTHERLAND NSW 1499
Telephone: (02) 9644 8794
Mobile: 0425 279 111
E-mail: starlightcdo@gmail.com

"COMMANDO FOR LIFE"

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

<u>SURNAME</u>		<u>RANK & GIVEN NAMES</u>	
<u>DATE OF BIRTH</u> / /		<u>REGIMENTAL NUMBER or PM KEYS</u>	
<u>ADDRESS</u> (For Correspondence)			<u>Post code</u> <input type="text"/>
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>	(Home) ()	(Business) ()	
	(Mobile) ()	(E-mail)@	

NEW MEMBERS TO COMPLETE THIS SECTION

<u>UNIT DETAILS</u>	<u>ENLISTMENT DATE</u>	<u>DISCHARGED/CURRENT</u>
Nominated by	Signature	Verifying Unit e.g Commando Unit
Seconded by	Signature	Position/contact details e.g RXO
Date / /	Signature of applicant	Signature of verifying officer

By signing this application you agree to be bound by the constitution of the Australian Commando Association (NSW) Inc.

Financial year 1st January to 31st December – Annual fee \$30.00 + \$25.00 joining fee for new members
Annual fee subject to review by committee.

Banking details. Australian Commando Association (NSW) Inc.
Police Bank BSB 815 000 Account number 41117



COMMANDO FOR LIFE
Australian Commando Association New South Wales Inc.
“Q” Store Order Form

Name:				
Address:				
Contact Phone:				
Email Address:				
Price list effective from November 2013				
ITEM FOR SALE	POST	QTY	PRICE	\$\$\$
Association Green Jacket pocket (For new jackets)	\$ 3.00		\$ 80.00	
Association Green Jacket pocket (Replacement pocket)	\$ 3.00		\$ 15.00	
Association Green Jacket, complete with pocket			\$ 350.00	
Badge - Cloth - Commando Parachute	\$ 3.00		\$ 6.00	
Badge - Beret (New Design)	\$ 3.00		\$ 32.00	
Badge - car window decal - Free with any purchase			Free	
Badge – Lapel – 1 st Commando Regiment	\$ 3.00		\$ 10.00	
Badge - Lapel - Australian Commando Association	\$ 3.00		\$ 10.00	
Badge – Lapel - Para Wings	\$ 3.00		\$ 10.00	
Badge - Name (Optional - years of service/nickname)			\$ 20.00	
*Beret - Green (Qualified members only) Size required - see below	\$10.00		\$ 32.00	
Book 'Strike Swiftly' "The Australian Commando Story"	\$18.00		\$ 70.00	
Caps - Black – Australian Commando Association	\$10.00		\$ 20.00	
Coasters - set of 6 - Gold anodised aluminium	\$10.00		\$ 25.00	
Coasters - single	\$3.00		\$ 25.00	
Plaque - 1 st Commando Regiment	\$15.00		\$ 50.00	
Record of Service Plaque - Timber finish (18x22cm) An order form will be sent to you	\$18.00		\$ 65.00	
Shirt – (Grey with Australian Commando Assn logo)	\$10.00		\$ 48.00	
Shirt – Polo (Grey with Australian Commando Assn logo)	\$10.00		\$ 40.00	
Tie - 1 st Commando Regiment	\$10.00		\$ 20.00	

Total \$

Send cheques/money orders payable to Australian Commando Association (NSW) Inc
 The Treasurer, Australian Commando Association (NSW) Inc.
 PO Box 1313, SUTHERLAND NSW 1499, AUSTRALIA

Internet banking details (Australia)

Australian Commando Association (NSW) Inc.
 Police Bank: BSB: 815 000 Account No.: 41117 – Quote your name and Subs/Qstore etc.

Internet banking details (Overseas)

Account with institution/swift code – ANZBAU3M
 BSB: **012010** / Account Number: **777000675**
 Beneficiary customer – **Police Bank**
 Details of payment – **Account Number 41117, Australian Commando Association (NSW) Inc.,**
Quote name and subs/Q store etc.

Your order will be processed by Norm WOOD, Quartermaster, (02)9029-7230 or 0419-484-541 or newwood@ozemail.com.au

*Nominate Size (beret measurement around head cm)



PHANTOMS

Australia's Secret War in Vietnam

www.vietnamvetmuseum.org



A one day conference at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum 12 April 2014

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MR MARK O'SHEA JP (CMAA) CPA
SAL & SEC 755
EX-NAUTIC 1902



Wendy Roseman
SAL & SEC 755



Steven Farrow
SAL & SEC 755

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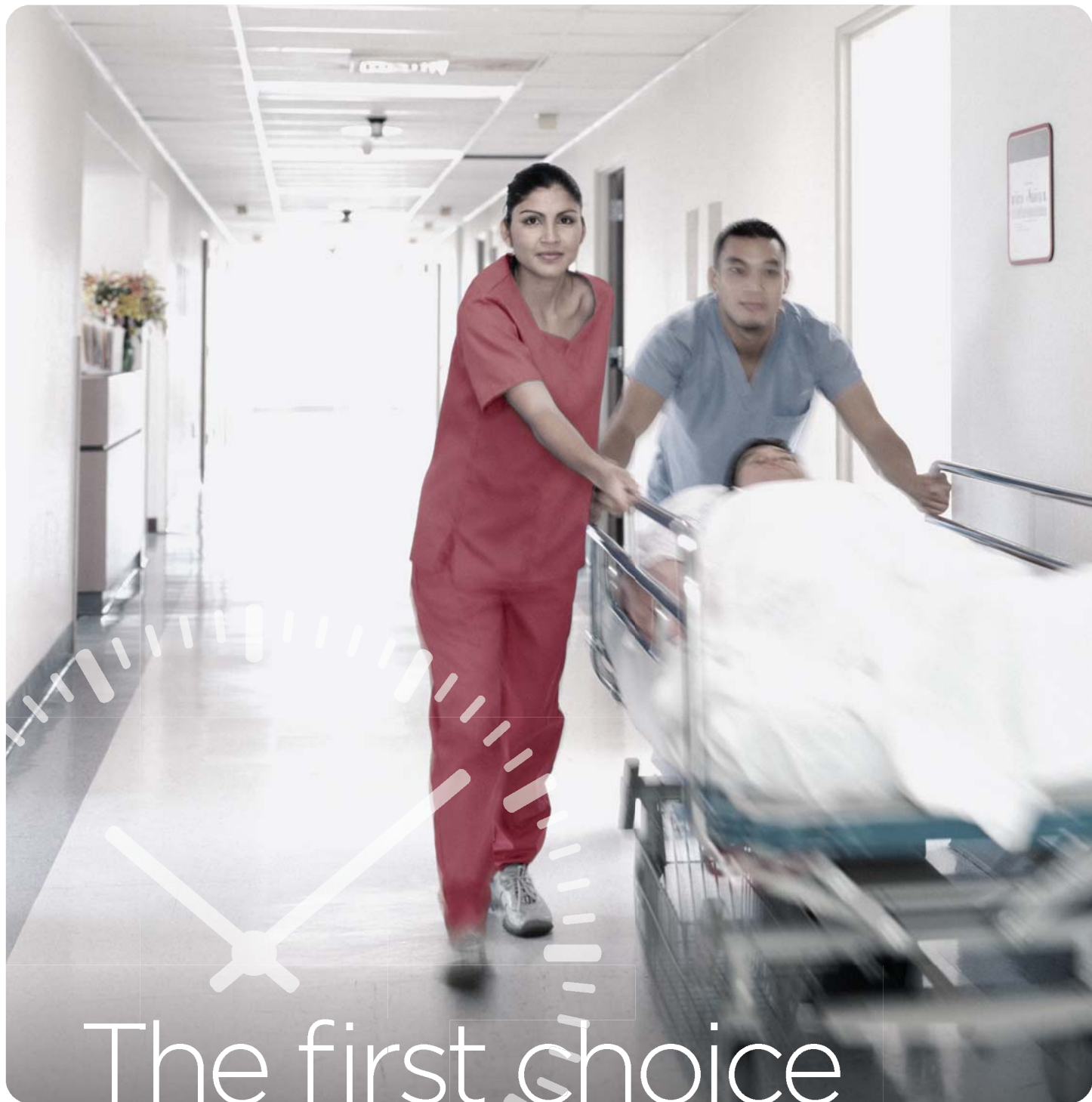
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