



COMMANDO

AUSTRALIAN COMMANDO ASSN INC.

Registered by Australia Post ~ Publication No PP100016240

News

Edition 8 ~ August 2016



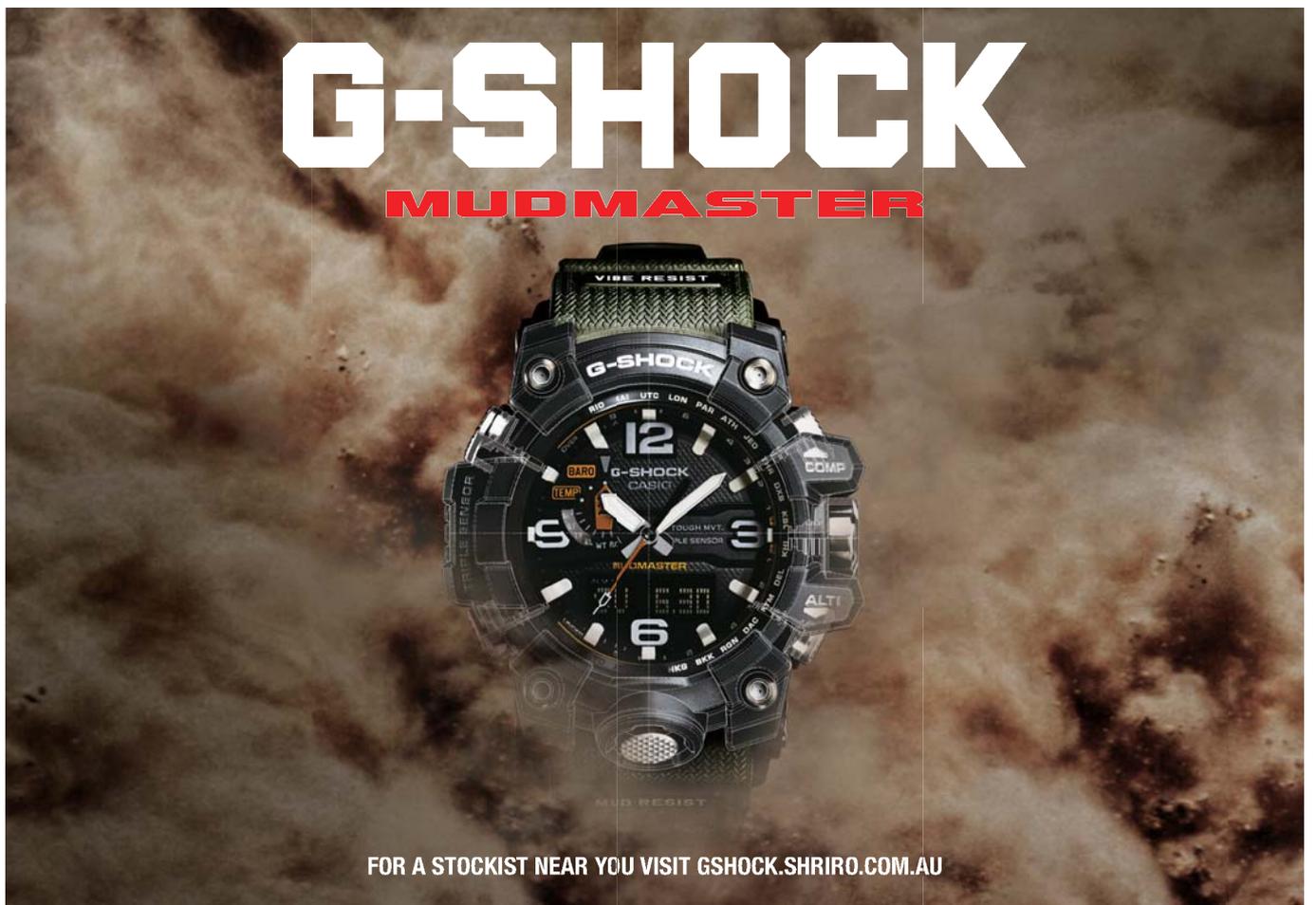
Pictured from left to right are Peter Laurantus, Brian Murphy, Tom Hall, Arthur Eastwood, Ken Curran OAM and Hugh Ralston AM who were on the original Green Beret Parade after WW2 at Victoria Barracks 60 years ago.





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

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

Official Publishers:
Statewide Publishing P/L

ABN 65 116 985 187

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Printed by Galloping Press
138 Bonds Road, Riverwood NSW 2210
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Deadline for next edition:

TUESDAY, 15th NOVEMBER 2016

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

Barry G



Pictured from left to right are Peter Laurantus, Brian Murphy, Tom Hall, Arthur Eastwood, Ken Curran OAM and Hugh Ralston AM who were on the original Green Beret Parade after WW2 at Victoria Barracks 60 years ago.

Front Cover: Pictured from left to right are Peter Laurantus, Brian Murphy, Tom Hall, Arthur Eastwood, Ken Curran OAM and Hugh Ralston AM who were on the original Green Beret Parade after WW2 at Victoria Barracks 60 years ago.



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1941 - 1946

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1955 -

Ivan Kelly, Treasurer
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NSW President & Editor's Report

At recent National Association committee meetings, the future of our State Associations has been discussed.

Among those issues were membership and what we are doing for our returned diggers.

We need to focus less on being a "beer and BBQ" group and more on welfare issues.

Part of this strategy is to form closer ties between kindred bodies such as the RSL, Legacy and other ESO's.

Earlier this year we sought approval to join the Alliance of Defence Organisations (ADSO) and membership was granted.

We join such Associations as, the Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA), the Naval Association of Australia (NAA), the RAAF Association (RAAFA), the Royal Australian Regiment Corporation (RARC), the Australian Special Air Service Association (ASASA), the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia (VVAA), the Australian Federation of Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Ex-Service Men and Women, the Fleet Air Arm Association of Australia, Partners of Veterans Association of Australia, the Royal Australian Armoured Corps Corporation (RAAC), the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia (NMBVAA), the Defence Reserves Association (DRS), the Australian Gulf War Veterans Association, the Military Police Association Australia (MPAA), the Australian Army Apprentices Association, the Australian Commando Association, and the War Widows Guild of Australia.

This will give our State Associations more strength in dealing with government agencies.

There are a number of common issues affecting the members of ADSO, such as DVA Culture and processes, Veterans Disability Payments, Military Superannuation, ADF pay, Defence Housing support, care and accommodation needs of homeless veterans, mental health support programs, the issue of anti malarial drugs such as Mefloquine and many more issues common to sister organisations.

This will be on-going and will require the support of all members of all States.

As a former Prime Minister stated,

"They went forth willingly to do their duty to Australia; Australia must be equally ready to do its duty to them".

Prime Minister Billy Hughes



The parade to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the first beret presentation in 1956 was held on Sunday, the 24th July 2016.

As many of the older members stated, it was an event not to be missed as within a few years many of the veterans of that parade will not be with us.

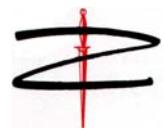
Well done to the Regiment, most of us recognise that marching on parade is not one of our core skills in Special Forces, but after watching the parade, we also recognise that we are quick learners.

The issue of new State Associations has been raised and tentative talks have been held to see if there is enough interest in States such as Western Australia, Tasmania and South Australia.

If you are in these States, and wish to participate please contact us and we will pass on your details.

C4L

Barry Grant



Australian Commando Association (NSW) Inc





AUSTRALIAN COMMANDO ASSOCIATION (NSW) INC.

EVENTS CALENDAR FOR 2016

OCTOBER 15th (Sat)	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ASSOCIATION To be held at HMAS Penguin 1030 hours - Subject to security approval
NOVEMBER 11th (Tuesday)	REMEMBRANCE DAY AT DARLING HARBOUR SERVICE HELD AT THE "KRAIT" Service starts 1030 hours
NOVEMBER 12th (Sat)	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 Email kevin.mahony1@bigpond.com



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NSW Welfare Officer's Report

WELFARE OFFICER'S AIM:

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

"THE FUTURE OF ASSISTING VETERANS AND THEIR DEPENDANTS" FORUM:

This was held in February, at the Dee Why RSL Club. Kevin Mahony & I attended, along with about 80 delegates from a wide range of Defence organisations. Here is some of the information and organisations' details, which may be helpful for the Association's members.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS:

DVA is undergoing, a lot of changes, which should be completed by the end of 2016.

GPO Box 9998, in capital city.

Ph: 133 254 or 1800 555 254.

Email: GeneralEnquiries@dva.gov.au

www.dva or www.dva factsheet index

DEFINITION OF A VETERAN:

This has changed recently from, a member of Australia's Defence Force who has served overseas.

The new definition of a veteran is:- anyone who has been a member of ADF, including reservists, civilians and cadets, irrespective of whether they have served overseas or not.

Advise your doctors of this change, as they may not be aware of this.

CLAIMS:

Veterans and their dependants, MAY BE eligible to claim compensation for any medical condition related to their service.

The entitlements available depend on the legislation applicable at the time of service.

This now includes all skin complaints, such as melanomas, skin cancers and rashes, etc; tinnitus, loss of hearing & hearing aids etc: even if they appear, or are needed after discharge, irrespective of whenever the veterans served.

Many veterans suffer from hearing loss because of weapon firing.

Also, many veterans should be eligible to at least, a DVA White Card.

Contact the DVA if you think this applies to you.

VETERAN SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS & GROUPS

These centres may provide legal and health advice, home modifications, hospital visitations, peer support, transportation, recreational groups, appliances, financial support, funeral assistance, housing, career transitioning into civilian jobs etc, for veterans and their dependants.

I'll just mention some of them, which may be helpful for Association members, their families and others. (Google the "www" references);

1. Most RSL Sub-Branches have Welfare & Pension Officers who may be able to assist you. Some provide funeral benefits to their members. www.rslnsw.org.au
2. Defence Care, ANZAC House, 245 Castlereagh St. Sydney. Ph 02 8088 0388. www.defencecare.org.au
3. Sydney Northern Beaches Veterans' Centre, RSL Club, 932 Pittwater Rd., Dee Why. Ph: 02 9454 4015. www.vcnb.org.au
4. East Sydney Veterans' Centre, RSL Club, 18 Spring St., Bondi Junction. Ph: 02 9389 7245.
5. Veterans' Advocacy Service Legal Aid NSW, 323 Castlereagh St. Haymarket. Ph: 02 9219 5148.
6. Soldier On Australia. In all states. www.soldier.on.australia
7. ADF Centre for Mental Health. HMAS Penguin, Middlehead Rd. Mosman. Ph: 02 9647 5654.
8. Veteran's Health – by Dr Ron Bain. www.racgp.org.au/afp/2016/march/ (change "2016/march" for future and past editions).
9. Women's Veterans Network Australia. Ph: 0403 847 604. E: pennielooker@bigpond.com. www.wvna.org
10. NJF Wellness Centres are in all states and provide gyms and swimming pools for; exercise physiology, occupational therapy, dietetic and physiotherapy services etc. If you, your partner or carer have a doctor's certificate you MAY BE covered by DVA, Medicare or your private health fund. Ph: 1300 890 507; E: sebtodman@gmail.com or www.njfwellness.com.au
11. www.veteranscentre.org.au or www.veteranscounselling.org.au. There is a page of contacts for both of these.

Contact me if you require further information or wish to talk to me in confidence. Also, I would like some feedback on these organisations.

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

Brian Dunbar

NSW Welfare Officer
Australian Commando
Association (NSW)

Ph: 02 9452 2589

E: dunbar33@bigpond.com

UPDATE ON JIM WOOD ex 1 Commando Company

Dear Barry,

Michael Wood has asked me to contact you re a notice you are planning to include about Jim in the Commando Magazine. Please note that Jim does not have Leukaemia. You might like to use the following information:

"In March, Jim was diagnosed with Angio Sarcoma, a rare, inoperable cancer. After nine rounds of chemotherapy he was admitted to the PeterMac Hospital in Melbourne.

Whilst there he was further diagnosed with a lung condition, and is now in the Donvale Rehabilitation Hospital, but hopes to return home in a couple of weeks. The cancer is being held at bay for the time being."

Sincerely,

Colleen Wood





LETTER FROM NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Greetings Ladies and Gentlemen of the Commando Community,

On behalf of the National President, MAJGEN Mike Clifford, and the National Committee, I wanted to connect with you and provide an update on a body of work that the State and National Committees have recently embarked upon. Apologies, this email is longer than I would normally offer. However hopefully it kick starts your awareness of what is changing and why. At the AGM last Nov 15, the ACA State and National Leadership agreed that we wanted to take the Association in the direction of being a more viable External Support Organisation (ESO), able to provide more tangible assistance to our members, their Families and where appropriate, our broader Commando Community. This requires us to be more collaborative between State and National level, improve our organisational structure and processes and commence active fundraising. It was not proposed that this happen overnight or lead to change at the expense of any State. Indeed, quite the opposite. However we agreed that in order to make substantial change, we will most likely seek more assistance from our State based Members than at any time in the past. If we get this right, then we expect that the interest, value and utility of being an active member of the ACA will be far more appealing to the contemporary Commando, both currently serving and perhaps recently discharged. Not only does this improve our long term viability as a community, we want it to enrich the overall nature of the community with stronger bonds being formed between Commandos past and present. Below is a quick summary of the key actions we are pursuing and that I would welcome your assistance with as they unfold:

- 1) **ESO COLLABORATION:** We propose to establish closer relations with key ESOs with the intent of habitually collaborating on projects that benefit our members. The first ESO approached has been the Commando Welfare Trust. Once we have concluded the process, the aim is to replicate it with up to four other ESOs agreed to by the Committee. No assistance is required at this time.
- 2) **SPONSORSHIP:** One enduring initiative will be the intent to underwrite membership in the hope of improving the management of membership as well as increasing the membership base through automatic sign up or a period of free membership for current serving Commandos. I am looking for someone from the States to act as the National Sponsorship Coordinator. If interested, please contact your State President or myself in the first instance.
- 3) **COMMUNICATIONS:** It is proposed that we improve the National wrap around in terms of a centrally funded and administered website with State based and administered pages. We think we have a webmaster who will donate half the cost of standing up and administering the website. We also have some seed funding. However the site will be sustained through sponsorship or some other arrangement in due course. Tied with the Commando Magazine, a Facebook page and whatever else is realistically appropriate and sustainable, the aim is to improve the agility, quantity and quality of information communicated across the Membership. This will be part of a broader Communications strategy. I am looking for a

National Communications Coordinator who is interested in taking on the task of formalising the structure and overseeing the changes.

- 4) **ADVOCACY:** We are opening the aperture of Advocacy. Initially we are looking to build State and a National database of DVA qualified Advocates. However we seek to train more and where possible, pay for those courses and associated expenses. The States will lead on this training in the short term. We now have a Commando Warrant Officer who will soon transition from service sitting on DVA's Young Veterans Board. We also have MAJGEN Clifford occupying a seat on the Australian Defence Support Organisation Board who directly advise DVA. We intend to generate subject matter experts across a range of other ESOs (eg CWT, Legacy, RSL, Soldier On etc) who can act as Advocates or Advisors to Members when seeking assistance. This is a work in progress and more information will come out through the State Branches.
- 5) **Z SPECIAL PLAQUE:** FYI, we are collaborating with the Australian SAS Association and the AWM to support the placement of a commemorative plaque at the AWM honouring the Z Special and associated Cadre. The ACA has committed approx \$7000 from across the State Branches for the purpose of flying members of the ACA (or possible Family Members) who were part of the Z Special story to Canberra in mid 2016. Dates are TBC. However details will be forwarded for those who wish to attend.

Thanks again for reading this far. Any thoughts or constructive feedback is welcomed and probably best channelled through your State Committees. Anyone who wishes to volunteer their services to assist with the tasks identified above, or indeed for tasks not yet specified, please contact your State Committees or myself.

Finally, I want to leave you with a recent quote from the current Special Operations Commander - Australia, MAJGEN Jeff Sengelman who constantly reminds the Command and the Community that we are a 'Team of Teams':

"I engaged with some current and former members of the Command who are doing it really tough as they battle serious medical challenges. I was heartened on all occasions to learn that so many of you have visited these people already and continue to offer your support. Its under these circumstances that I feel most proud of the Command and all of you. The way we support each other in need, back up our mates and have that sense of family for life is a powerful part of what makes it such a privilege to work with you all. I try and meet fortnightly with members of our SOF Family who are wounded, ill and injured. Those conversations are always sobering and uplifting in equal parts but I am determined to dedicate as much time as possible to our people, past and present, to ensure they are being looked after. In the process I have learned of several other former members of Special Operations that may be quietly dealing with challenges but who have not put their hand up. If you know of anyone in this predicament, or who seems to be having problems, ask if they are ok and please let me or any of our leaders know so we can do something about it. **No person must be left behind.**"



1st COMMANDO REGIMENT CELEBRATES THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST BERET PARADE AT VICTORIA BARRACKS



The entire 1st Commando Regiment paraded on Sunday the 24th July 2016, almost 60 years to the day of the first presentation of green berets in July 1956.

The service started with a display by the Army Parachute School display team carrying the Australian Flag and the banner of the Regiment.

The parade was reviewed by the Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC seen here with the Colonel Commandant of Commandos BRIG Philip McNamara CSC ESM OAM (Ret'd).

He praised the members of the unit for their dedicated service, combining their civilian lives, family lives and the high standard of being a Special Forces soldier, was no mean feat.

Members of the Australian Commando Associations and representatives from several visiting overseas military were also in attendance to salute the service of the regiment.

Of those watching the parade were 6 of the "originals", there 60 years ago to receive their own berets from LTGEN Sir Eric Woodward the then GOC of Eastern Command.

They were Peter Laurantus, Brian Murphy, Tom Hall, Arthur Eastwood, Ken Curran OAM (an Ex WW2 Commando) and Hugh Ralston AM. (See cover page.)

However, the first Green Beret in 1956 was presented by MAJ W.H. (Mac) Grant

at the insistence of the general, and was awarded to Captain George Cardy the then Adjutant/Quartermaster of 1 Commando Company.

1st Commando Regiment is unique within Army. As the oldest unit within the Australian Army's Special Operations Command, the Regiment has provided unbroken service from the commandos of WWII through to the modern Australian special operations community of today.

The parade went off without a hitch, and the CO, LTCOL M and his RSM, are to be congratulated for a great performance by the members of the Regiment, as many of the members travelled from Melbourne and had a short time to rehearse.



MV Krait Restoration

Jonathan Herps
PO Box 920, Bowral NSW 2576
p: 0408 748980
e: jonathan@jonathanherps.com

Major Jack Thurgar (Rtd), SC, MBE, OAM, RFD
Australian Commando Association
johnthurgar@hotmail.com

Dear Jack,

Re: Restoration and Preservation of MV Krait and the Establishment of a dockside interpretation exhibit to illustrate the daring and brave sacrifice of the men of Z Special Unit

As you know, my father was an operative in Z Special Unit. Dad passed away just before ANZAC Day last year. His final years were spent campaigning to save MV Krait and to exhibit and have her memorialised.

For veterans like my father, MV Krait became a symbol of the bravery and loyalty shown by all Special Operations men, past and present.

"We regard it as a war memorial. And when I personally look at it, I see mates of mine who were killed." Douglas Herps

Background

In February 1942 Singapore Island was engulfed in flames and smoke. The jewel in Britain's far eastern crown was about to fall to the Imperial Japanese Army, a circumstance unimaginable just a few months earlier.

The fall of Singapore shocked Australians.

The possibility of Australia falling under the Japanese yoke became a reality. The threat to our autonomy and our way of life, surrounded by Japanese-occupied territory was very real. That year Darwin and Broome were bombed, submarines attacked Sydney Harbour and threatened shipping along our coastline. The gruelling Kokoda campaign saved Port Moresby from occupation and the Battle of the Coral Sea was fought to its desperate end to stem the Japanese advance.

Against this background a plot was hatched to infiltrate a small hand-picked commando team deep into enemy territory and with the aid of magnetic limpet mines, to wreak havoc on shipping in enemy-occupied Singapore.

"Operation Jaywick" was one of the most daring raids by Special Operations Australia (SOA). Seven ships were sunk or badly damaged. MV Krait is credited with sinking more enemy ships than any other Australian Navy ship. The Japanese were stunned by such a brazen covert assault.

A crucial element in the success of the operation was a small Japanese fishing vessel, named Krait by the SOA and which carried the Z Special Unit operatives and their equipment to Subor Island from which they launched their attack on Singapore harbour and returned safely to Australia.

Krait is a national icon and survives as a tangible link to the daring act of bravery of those who served in her and in Special Operations during the Second World War and since.

Krait is berthed in Darling Harbour at the Australian National Maritime Museum. She is in urgent need of significant conservation work for her future and a refit to return

her to her 1943 configuration for the Jaywick raid. This will be preparation for her long-term exhibition with related objects and enriched interpretation of her service in the Second World War.

The Australian War Memorial and the Australian National Maritime Museum are collaborating to achieve the long-term conservation of Krait for generations of Australians.

"Z Special Unit is really the origins of our SAS as we understand it today." "This is a project as important as it is exciting and it is long overdue."

- AWM Director Brendan Nelson

Fundraising

Considerable work has been undertaken by the experts at the ANMM to understand MV Krait's future needs. They have ascertained that we need to raise \$1,100,000 for her immediate and extensive restoration and future display.

I am committed to finding the funds necessary to save her for future generations.

All funds raised in the campaign will be applied to the vessel's restoration and new display at the

Australian National Maritime Museum, to preserve the memory of those who served so bravely with Z Special Unit, which formed the model for subsequent Australian Army special force units.

All donations will be tax deductible. There will be no fundraising or administration costs deducted from donations made. Every \$ raised will be directly spent on the MV Krait project.

Commitments to date

Maritime Museum and the Australian War Memorial have each committed to investing \$100,000 immediately. My family have committed \$50,000.

How can you help?

Jack, I now seek your support to raise the additional funds required to complete this very important project. I would very much appreciate the help of the members of the Australian Commando Association:

- ♦ Providing their opinion and recommendations on how we can raise these funds;
- ♦ Providing introductions to potential benefactors for this project;
- ♦ If you are in a position to, please donate to this most important project. All donations, big and small will help us achieve the goal. ANMM has established a dedicated account for MV Krait. Details can be found in the form on the opposite page:

Jonathan Herps and Andrew Markwell – Foundation Director at ANMM – are available to speak to you and your members regarding this most important project. Jonathan can be contacted at jonathan@jonathanherps.com and Andrew at amarkwell@anmm.gov.au if you require any other information.

We thank you in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely,

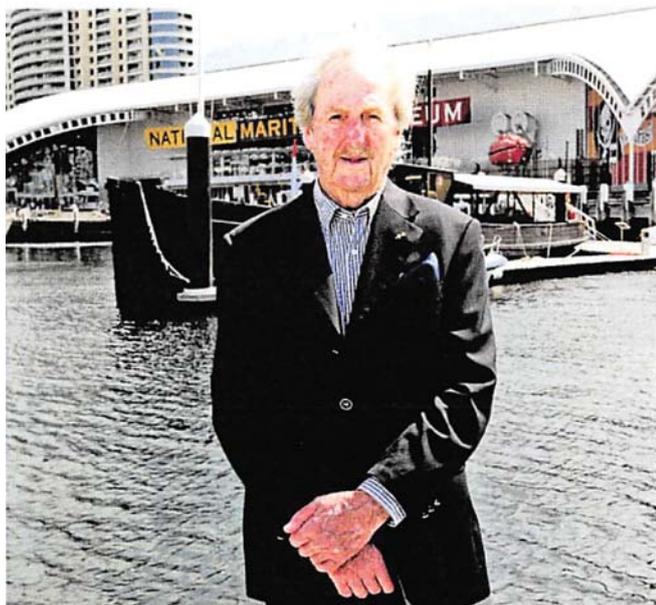


Jonathan Herps, RFD



A campaigner for Krait

VALE DOUGLAS HERPS OAM
30 JULY 1923 – 23 APRIL 2015



Douglas Herps pictured at the museum in front of *Krait*, 2012.
Rohan Kelly/Newpix

The Museum was saddened to learn of the death of former Z Special Unit Commando Douglas Herps OAM on 23 April, aged 91.

For several years Douglas campaigned strongly to ensure that the stories of the commando vessel MV *Krait* and his fellow Z Special mates who served on it are never forgotten.

On loan to the Australian National Maritime Museum from the Australian War Memorial, *Krait* was

central to Operation Jaywick, one of the most daring and dangerous covert missions undertaken by Australian forces during World War II. From *Krait*, which was disguised as a Japanese fishing vessel, six commandos paddled folding canoes behind enemy lines into Singapore Harbour under cover of darkness for a secret raid that resulted in seven Japanese ships being sunk or badly damaged.

Krait is currently on display at the Museum's wharves and for many years Douglas Herps lobbied tirelessly for the vessel to be preserved as a permanent memorial out of the water in a more appropriate and solemn display.

Over the last 12 months, the Museum and the Australian War Memorial have taken significant steps to realise Douglas's vision. Douglas worked closely with the Museum towards raising the funds needed to preserve and display *Krait* in a new purpose-built facility adjacent to the Museum's Wharf 7 building.

Douglas's mission has now been passed on to his sons Nicholas and Jonathan, and the Museum is committed to working with them and other stakeholders to raise funds and support for the new display.

Douglas Herps is survived by his wife, two children and five grandchildren.

Shirani Athihas
(Courtesy SIGNALS)



Yes, I would like to support the restoration of historic vessel MV Krait

Please accept my gift of:

\$25 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____ OR

Please accept my monthly gift by credit card of:

\$15 \$25 \$50 Other \$ _____

(You can change or cancel at any time.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

State: _____ Postcode: _____

Email (optional): _____

Phone (optional): _____

My Payment Details:

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Visa MasterCard American Express

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Please send me information on how to include the Australian National Maritime Museum in my will.

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. Thank you.

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From the Prolific Pen of Harry Bell



Dear Editors,

Well, Anzac Day has come and gone and as far as I am concerned it was a great success. **Reg Davis (2/9)** and I began in wheelchairs – Reg propelled by his sons, I by my grandson, Max Barz, up from Melbourne for the occasion. Each of us, when we realised that the tempo of the (somewhat distant) band was reasonably slow, cast away his bed and walked. The new route was easier than the old (though with no Cenotaph, it was hard to know where the saluting base was situated) and the crowd reception was grand. And yet there was a feeling that the RSL rather wished that WW2 personnel would either hide themselves in taxis or just go away. The Commando Association was told that, in the absence of sufficient WW2 marchers, it should form up with “Subsequent Conflicts” (no disgrace, but for WW2 vets, not accurate). 2/6 Cav (Commando) Regt. Assn. was not eligible for “Subsequent Conflicts” and, since it too lacked the mandatory 6 WW2 marchers, it was relegated to the “Descendants” category – and not allowed a unit banner. Undaunted, the Association produced a small flag bearing the Regiment’s colour patch (the brown, red and green rectangle) and Reg and I, with carers, inserted ourselves into the approximate beginning of 6 Div. Our flag was born by **Pat Fagan’s** son, Rhys and **John Ellice-Flint’s** grandson, Jack, after Pat had got it right-way round. Nobody hindered us and we finished the march satisfactorily – though we sorely missed our real banner.

After the March, Reg and I rejoined the rest of the Association at lunch in the Grace Hotel, where we met **Ted Workman (2/10)** and Lola, along with **Ken Buckler (2/10)** escorted by daughter Jo and her man, David Smith. Lunch was most satisfactory, with the usual family tables; notably the Wickhams, the Davises and the Ellice-Flints. The Bells were not disgraced; I was surrounded by daughters Fiona and Lucinda, son-in-law Alan Duri, granddaughters Ella and Eleanor and grandson, Max. As usual, the names of comrades who have died during the year were read, followed by Laurence Binyan’s “Ode” and a toast to Absent Friends. I insisted on reading Tom Hungerford’s poem “Anzac Day”, which cast a bit of a pall over the festivities. **Tom (2/8;** author of “The Ridge & the River” inter alia) is watching the WW1 blokes ride by and one of his mates says: “That’s us in a few years; medals and ribbons, hair brushed, bums wiped, shoes shined, our teeth in, wheeled out once a year for the Anzac Day shindig and then carted home”. No further comment.

Reg Davis (as usual) performed, rather than merely proposed, the Toast to the Regiment, and **President Ralph Martin** conducted an interview of three of the oldies. He also gave notice that there is to be a General Meeting to discuss the future of our Association: to be, or not to be.

Ted MacMillan (2/9) writes from Burra, S.A. that Burra RSL has a new president, a young RAAF regular who, it is hoped, will attract some of the local ex-Vietnam vets to join up. It’s unsurprising that many are uninterested, but the League has already changed its complexion. Ted has been having dizzy spells which his GP attributes to his medication. Ted reckons that his only options seem to be: Clear head but hypertension or low blood pressure and dizzy spells. Those drugs are notoriously difficult to manage but with proper supervision you’d think they could maintain a proper balance. However, Barbara has just about every nursing qualification that has ever been on offer, so I expect they’ll get it right eventually. “Apart from that” he says “I seem to get around well enough. I only do half a day’s work per day, mainly gardening; however, I do seem to need a lot of sleep.”

Talking about young servicemen, did anybody see the article in The Australian about the new EF88 rifle on issue to the infantry? The bore is 5.56 mils, which I think is rather less than .303 of an inch and it has a little short barrel, yet it has 97% accuracy at 600 metres! What would **Bluey Clark (2/9)** have given for one of these! It weighs 3.25 kg, which I think is about 8 lbs, substantially less than the old SMLE. And wait, you rifle-bombers, it has a clip-on, 40mil grenade launcher that everybody can use. EF88 can be used on automatic or repetition and it comes with special sights that can transmit to HQ whatever the rifleman sees. They’ll have robots instead of troops before long.

A former 2/6 Squadron and Z Special member, **William Allan Campbell Russell**, has turned up recently. **Max Drummond, (2/6, 2/9)** remembers him as “Wac” Russell. Max, incidentally, is giving Janet some rec. leave shortly, and going into the Albury Lutheran Age Care Facility while she is gallivanting overseas. Max, who is down to his last half-toe on his remaining foot, is feeling a bit “ordinary” these days after a heavy fall. That is the nearest to a complaint I’ve ever heard from the old Bulldog. But they are rejoicing at present because their Japanese daughter-in-law has just been granted a residential visa in Australia.

As usual, the last two editions of Reveille have recorded the names of departed comrades, including **NX108052, Trooper C. H Fox, 2/3, NX104835, Cpl W.J. Callanan, (2./4)** and **NX110955, Pte R.K. Turner (Z Special)**. As so often happens, “Silent Feet” does not list Private Turner as an Operative, indicating either that the nominal Roll is incomplete or that the deceased was “attached” rather than an “Operative”.

“Commando, From Tidal Rive to Tarakan” discloses that “Chick” Callanan joined 2/4 when it reformed in 1943, serving on the Huon Peninsular and at Tarakan. He seems to have been a good scrounger – he and a



couple of his mates "found" a large truck, mislaid by its American owner, and put it to good use until they were dispossessed of it by people higher up the food chain. He won his stripes at Tarakan and you may find his photograph in the book.

Charlie Fox's name appears in the nominal roll of 2/3 but unfortunately "Judy" Garland's otherwise excellent unit history, "Nothing is Forever" shares with Andy Pirie's equally fine work, "Commando Double Black" the defect of not having an index, so I cannot add to this brief note.

While we're talking of 2/3, most readers will have seen the report of the death of **SX14004, The Hon. Tom Lewis, former Premier of NSW**. He was awarded a State funeral but the full page obituary in the Herald failed to do him justice. My letter to the editor of the SMH, unsurprisingly, was not published, so I will resubmit it to this publication, hoping for better luck:

Damien Murphy's obituary for the late Tom Lewis (SMH 9.5.16) was rather lukewarm and in my view did rather less than justice to its subject. The heading: "Premier left crucial mark on history" was a backhanded reference to his appointment, in breach of convention, of a senator other than the choice of the party of the senator being replaced. It could just as easily have referred to Lewis' work in the field of the environment and his creation of The National Parks and Wildlife Service. The latter was brushed off as 'one of his few lasting achievements' – as if most politicians could point to a string of 'lasting achievements'. In fact, very few can point to a single 'lasting achievement', let alone an achievement that has met with universal approval.

Lewis was sometimes criticised for his lack of what are these days termed 'people skills', another way of saying that he did not suffer fools gladly and did not care whom he offended. This, of course, led to the claim that he 'lacked political nous'. Had he been prepared to put up with fools, some of those fools might not have been so opposed to him.

Mr Murphy did make passing reference to Lewis' war service but failed to mention that that service was in one of Australia's truly elite units, 2/3 Commando Squadron.

Notwithstanding his admitted abrasiveness, he had a wider circle of friends, of all sorts of backgrounds, than anybody I know. He deserves respect.

Tom was indeed abrasive – even rude on occasion. Nobody could complain of lack of transparency! But what I said about his circle of friends was quite true. He loved the outdoors – he and the late **Clay Donnelley (2/4)** used to run annual camping/fishing/shooting trips to the Gulf country - and he was a keen surfer as well as a cattleman. He was an enthusiastic skier and devoted to the preservation of our natural heritage. It is sad that his final years saw him stricken with dementia.

The May edition of Reveille notes one **NX144277, G.H. Phillpot** as having belonged to "2 Special" (sic)

but recourse to "Silent Feet" shows that he was in fact a member of Z Special. He was a Corporal, taking part in operations Opossum, Swift, Magpie, Raven, Finch and Semut, all in the Borneo region and all during 1945. All these ops are described in the book, Opossum being particularly memorable, resulting in the rescue of an important Sultan from Japanese held territory.

Reveille also mentions one "48274, Sabien, W.S 2/5 Sqn".

"Commando, Double Black" lists **NX48374, Sabien W.S.** as a member of 2/5 Commando Squadron. Names are easily missed when inaccurately recorded. As to personal details, I can only repeat what I said above about the absence of an index from this otherwise excellent history.

VALE NX 83183, Corporal Haldane Sinclair (Hal or "Gidgee") Holman, O.L; O.A.M. (2/6). 29.08.1922 – 22.06.2016 Hal was a great mate of **Max Drummond (2/6. 2/9)** whose wife, Janet, sent me the details. Oddly, in "Purple Devils" his initial is shown as "W" but Max thinks this must have been a typographical error. Gidgee is mentioned a number of times in Purple Devils, but always as W Holman. He was given the nickname by a mate who had known him when both were working in the outback, where gidgee is a thick scrub. He was a good soldier, says Max, but that is only the start of it. Keith Jackson, who received his OAM in Sydney on the same day, describes him (in Google) as "a prodigiously talented artist and sculptor who devoted much of his life – and art – to Papua New Guinea, where he designed the national crest and had "major influence in the design of the PNG flag. As well as serving with 2/6, he was attached to U.S. Marines who effected a landing in New Britain. He left PNG when it became independent (September, 1975) but maintained frequent contact. He worked on many commissions in Australia – the mermaid on Mermaid Beach in Queensland is his – and his PNG designs include the uniforms of the RPNG Constabulary band as well as numerous fountains, busts and the crest for the Supreme Court building, a 1 ½ tonne metal piece. The "O.L" sounds puzzling; it is the Order of Logohu, one of PNG's highest awards. Hal is survived by his wife, Jo, son David and daughter, Lisa.

Max is back home after a month's respite care at the Lutheran Care Centre in Albury. He must have met Lutheran missionaries in New Guinea – I seem to remember that he used to attend the R.C. Church Parade. But that may have been to avoid fatigue duty.

That intrepid sky-diver, **Graham ("Dolly") Dolton (2/9)** crossed the Nullabor to spend Anzac Day in Melbourne, where he joined Jimmy Muir to march with the 2/6 Cav (Cdo) Regt. He enjoyed the Victorian hospitality so much that he stayed 6 weeks, during which he managed to visit Lake Eyre and Tasmania and to dine with Sue McLoughlin. He's now back in Perth, which must feel dull by comparison. (Cont'd next page)





UNVEILING OF THE "Z SPECIAL UNIT" PLAQUE AT THE AWM

The Z Special Unit Plaque Unveiling and lunch on Monday, 1st August 2016 was a resounding success.

Fifty veterans, wives and widows from Z Special Unit, FELO, RAAF 200 Flt and RAN Snakeboats and ML1321 plus 900 plus family members from all Australian states, New Zealand and Indonesia attended.

Director of the AWM Dr. Brendon Nelson, CDF (for the Governor General) and SOCAUST spoke; Minister representing the PM and Min for VA, plus CA, CAF, DCN, SOCAUST most SOCOMD Unit CO's and RSM's attended; and Jack Tredrea MM and Jim Ellwood unveiled the plaque.

Jack served with Z Special Unit and parachuted into Borneo in Mar 45 and operated behind the lines for over six months as a guerrilla leader and medic on Op Semut 1.

Jim served with the 2/4 Independent Company in Lancer Force in Timor in late 42 then transferred to Z Special Unit and reinserted into Timor in mid 43 as the signaller (and only Australian) on Op Legarto. He was subsequently captured, tortured, starved and held in solitary confinement for long periods until the end of the war.

The funding was a joint effort of the West Australian Branch of the SASR Association and the Commando Associations.

Donations to the fund can be made via the internet to:-

Defence Bank
The Benevolent Fund
BSB 803205
AC 20617655

Include the following notation: "ZSU your name"

From Harry Bell...

Con Bell (2/7) is home after treatment for mesothelioma. It seems that Con had been exposed to asbestos early in his working life and it lay doggo for all these years. But Con is not waving any white flag; he is, as you would expect, giving it a run for its money. Good luck, Con!

Dick Pelling had an email from Greg Wade which is worth repeating: "I gave the ABC TV/Radio a blast for the reporting of the Dr at NSW Uni doing the history of Z ("ZEE"! Special Unit. Asked them to correct the pronunciation to "ZED" Dad's old mate would have turned in his grave!". Well said, Greg.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

NOTE FOR EDITORS: Kathie's computer has been out for about a month. It came back on today. Now my word processor has followed suit. I may have to add a Stop Press tomorrow.

Cheers,

Harry

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

STOP PRESS: Ted Workman (2/10) is back in hospital. He had had a fortnight in haus sik after his last fall and had barely arrived home when an infection materialised in his arthritic arm, so he's back there again, all bandages and catheters, unable to handle a telephone. Talk about the daring young man on the flying trapeze!

I tried to ring Con Bell (2/7) this afternoon, to check on the progress of his mesothelioma but got his voice mail. I rang Keith Johnston (2/10) who told me that he has been in contact with Con recently. Con is well aware of the seriousness of his predicament; he has had his last treatment and is carrying on as usual.

Cheers,

Barry

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Barry

I was so glad to be part of yesterday's absolutely unique occasion. This will NEVER happen again.

It was good to see so many old contemporaries, a couple who I have not seen for nearly 60 years e.g. Peter Laurantus and Ian Headrick.

The real surprise was the attendance of Jack Skipper who I was so very pleased to see. The last time that I saw him was at Kit's funeral nearly 10 years ago.

He was an RMC classmate of Brig Colin Khan, former CO of 5RAR (SVN 2n tour). They were both posted to 3RAR in Korea where Colin was seriously wounded and Jack won his MC.

I see Colin twice a year at the 5RAR reunions here in Canberra.

The occasion was very well planned and went without a hitch. The highest echelons of the Army and Special Forces was very well represented.

I particularly enjoyed the conversation that Mike Wells and I had with Maj Gen Jeff Sengelman – he came up to us and chatted for about 10-15 minutes.

Would you be able to forward to me, please, a copy of the newsletter which includes the note that wrote about Ernie Tarr's passing.

Best Wishes,

Brian Murphy



THE JOHN KINSELA STORY

In the Mount Druitt Police Citizens Youth Club, the beating heart of Sydney's working class western suburbs, Wally Koenig, a 58-year-old former detective and Olympian, watches over a group of young wrestlers. Wrestling is a different world and Koenig speaks the language fluently – snap downs, bridges, duck-unders, cradles. Whistle at the ready, his mind is on the upcoming national championships. "I want nothing but gold medals in Adelaide," he shouts. "We can do it but we've gotta be serious."

The Mount Druitt PCYC wrestling room is a spartan affair with a spongy mat, benches for parents and large posters, one marking Koenig's 1988 Seoul Olympics experience, a portal to glory in a faraway land. The others – Mexico, Munich and Istanbul, chart the extraordinary journey of the Club's founding father, the first Aboriginal to wrestle in the Olympics and the man known in these parts as Uncle John.

Uncle John Kinsela, the oldest of 10 children born to a Wiradjuri father and a Jawoyn mother, enters the wrestling room with a big smile, pushing the wheelchair of an old friend. Parents instantly surround him. One mother thanks him for posting tournament videos on Facebook. It's early evening and he's full of energy despite being up at 5.30am to work with Koori kids in the Breaking Barriers program. "Boys and girls wrestling together, all cultures mixing," he says as he surveys the room. "It's fantastic."

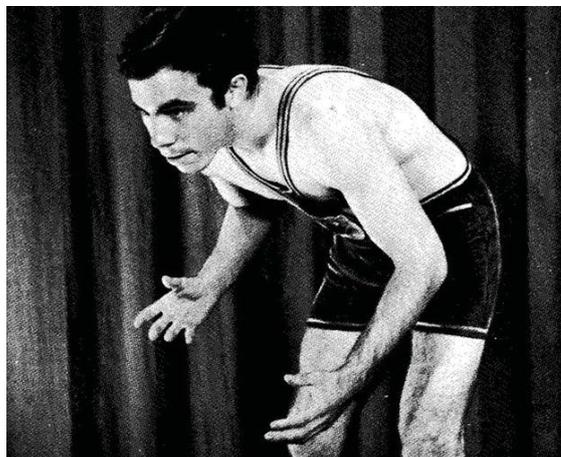
Koenig takes a break from the training mat to share the history of the Club, noting Kinsela's role as founder and earlier as his mentor. "In my teens John looked like a big man, my first wrestling hero," he explains. "When I was coming through we were the same weight for a few years and he spent a lot of time sharing the skills and techniques he'd learned overseas. If you look at him now its he's such a gregarious, fun loving guy – it's hard to believe he was a gladiator for a big part of his life."

When Kinsela got too old to run the wrestling classes, Koenig was glad to step in and maintain the tradition. The succession plan worked and the Club is thriving: "We've never enjoyed this level of talent, including six Australian champions," says Koenig.

Born in Sydney's Surry Hills in 1949, Kinsela's childhood was a story of movement between Aboriginal communities. His sister Lorraine describes it as moving in a "bubble of Aboriginal cousins". The family finally landed in Redfern and at 14, Kinsela was forced to leave school and provide for his family, working in a sock factory and on a paper run.

Kinsela didn't plan to be a wrestler. Like most Kooris he had boxing in the blood and one day his boxing trainer didn't turn up and the wrestling trainer invited him to the mat. He excelled and made the final of the NSW State Titles three months later. "It's survival of the fittest and so strategic," recalls Kinsela. "You have to outthink and outmanoeuvre."

His meteoric rise saw him win the Australian Championships and selection for the 1968 Olympics in the 52kg division whilst still only 18. "I couldn't believe it," he says. "It was my first time overseas and we were given 10 weeks in Mexico to acclimatise."



Kinsela pictured training with South Korean and Soviet wrestlers in Mexico in 1968. Photograph: courtesy of John Kinsela

The Mexico Games were a blur for Kinsela but he remembers thousands of fans at the Olympic Village entrance and for the first time in his life he "felt important". It was a culture shock and he remembers seeing the Indian wrestlers "walking around holding each other's pinkies".

On the wrestling mat he lost both his matches to Italian Vincenzo Grassi and Soviet champion Nazar Albarian. "These guys were full time professionals," he says. "It was their job and I was just a part timer but I learnt a lot."

Not all sports escaped the politics and Kinsela remembers Australian 200-metre silver medallist Peter Norman wearing a human rights badge to support fellow medallists and African Americans Tommie Smith and John Carlos in their famous black power salute. Norman was subsequently banned from running for Australia and died a broken man. "It was a rude awakening for me," says Kinsela. "All Norman did was wear a badge and a simple gesture cost him his career. He was a gentleman, a Salvation Army officer and it's so sad what happened to him."

Following his return from Mexico, Kinsela was called into national service for the Royal Australian Artillery in Vietnam. In 1970, conscripted Gunner John Kinsela flew to Nui Dat in Vietnam and joined 106 Battery, 4th Field Regiment. On his first day he saw Viet Cong bodies piled up and covered in lime. The smell stays with him to this day.

He saw action early but his nerves were shredded and the constant fear of being overrun by the Viet Cong "sent a shiver down my spine and I slept with one eye open". He experienced no racism and great camaraderie which made him "equally proud to be Australian and Aboriginal".



Kinsela returned from Vietnam in 1971 suffering from appendicitis and tonsillitis and after a series of operations had five months to prepare for the Munich Olympic trials. He surprised the wrestling community with his fitness after the layoff and was selected as one of only three wrestlers across 10 weight classes.



Kinsela on sentry duty at Camp Horseshoe in Nui Dat.
Photograph: courtesy of John Kinsela

Kinsela arrived at the 1972 Games a man of the world in contrast to how he was in Mexico. He won his first bout against the Guatemalan, Pedro Pineda, making headlines back home as the only Australian winner on day one. On day three he faced his old nemesis, Grassi, and his progress would be tested. In an epic nine-minute struggle the Italian prevailed by two points – and complimented Kinsela on his improvement.

Kinsela finished seventh in the 52kg division and was on a high but his mood was shattered when he heard the familiar dry crackle of an AK47 machine gun. The horrifying Munich massacre had begun in the Olympic Village, in which Palestinian terrorist group Black September slaughtered 11 Israeli athletes, including four from the wrestling team.

The Games were suspended for the first time in history and Kinsela was devastated by the unfolding events. The Australian wrestling coach Dick Garrard was friends with his Israeli counterparts and the two teams were close, often sharing a sauna to lose weight. Kinsela decided to retire.

He returned to a nation divided over the Vietnam War, which had now swung in favour of Ho Chi Minh's North Vietnam. Kinsela was heckled in public for wearing his returned services badge and this triggered confusion, resentment and depression in many servicemen, including Kinsela. They were unwelcome at Anzac Day marches and in response he "never mentioned to anyone that I fought in Vietnam and got on with life".

He married his childhood sweetheart Yvonne in 1972 and was talked out of retirement to wrestle again, making the Australian team for the World Championships in 1974 in Istanbul. He again qualified for the 1976 Montreal Olympics but did not make the final team due to internal politics, retiring for a second and final time.

Missing the structure of military life Kinsela joined the 1st Commando Regiment. Kinsela had always wanted to join the SAS and in 1981 he won the Commando of the Year award scoring 100% in his demolitions exam, one of his proudest achievements. "I beat barristers and policemen," Kinsela says.

After a six-year stint in the Commandos he returned to work as a courier and with the Aboriginal community. But the jungles of Vietnam have a long reach and Kinsela started to show signs of post-traumatic stress disorder. He felt anxiety and panicked if people were late, became quick tempered and began to binge drink as a coping mechanism. Confused, he lost his bearings and too proud to admit his problem, he "hit the wall". In 2001 Kinsela suffered a mental breakdown and was admitted to a veteran-friendly institution for treatment.

Kinsela was treated successfully and today is bursting with a sense of mission, no longer dragging the glacier of the past behind him. He has moved from the valley of the shadow to enchanted ground and at 67 he values every day, although pancreatitis and depression still take their toll. "I don't want anyone feeling sorry for me," he says. "It just impacts my ability to get around and help."

He proudly attends Anzac ceremonies and is preparing to speak at the upcoming Indigenous veterans' memorial service. His lifelong passion for social justice has found a home as the chairperson of the successful Mt Druitt Circle Sentencing program in which Aboriginal offenders face up to a circle of elders who act as jurors.

"John puts his heart and soul into everything he did," says sister Lorraine. "He's still doing it with the kids' programs and the court program. He served his country twice, is a dual Olympian, been a great father and husband and survived personal hell. And here he is, resilient, busy, pushing on and helping others."

His legacy in keeping kids out of jail is matched by his wrestling legacy. He is on the board of Wrestling NSW, does judging and pairing at local competitions and is friends with all the wrestlers on Facebook. Some of his students have stayed in wrestling and contribute as coaches and referees including Shane Parker who kept the Aboriginal wrestling tradition alive at the Delhi Commonwealth Games. "It's the best club in NSW," he says of the achievements of this little wrestling room.

Koenig ends the training session with some encouraging words for his young students. "You guys worked like demons, well done." The kids scatter back to their parents and its time to leave with everybody saying goodbye to Uncle John.

As we head into the night John Kinsela, the first Aboriginal Olympic wrestler and Commando of the Year, who breached the limitations of race and education, reflects on the underlying foundation of his success. "The reason I did so well is that I was nurtured and now I am passing on someone else's legacy," he says. "I'm doing things for other people and there's nothing more important than giving back."

Credit to Patrick Skene of The Guardian



WHAT DID YOU DO DURING THE (COVERT) WAR?

The Australian Love Memorial makes up for lost love time

By
Taipan

"I was a wireless operator but my job was to clean the toilet on the Snakeboat." When Ted Dubberlin, the 95-year FELO Operative rose to his feet it was living proof that you have always needed a sense of humour to go behind enemy lines, just as it is today. His remarks came towards the end of a very august and spiritual day in a Canberra pub close by the Australian War Memorial. It was a fitting conclusion to the long overdue need to give national recognition to the men and women who had served in Special Operations Australia.

It all started about six months earlier when out of the blue, Christine Helliwell, an anthropologist at the Australian National University contacted me about the battlefield research that I had done into Operation Semut called *Voices from Borneo, The Japanese War* in 1995-96. She had been studying the incredibly close relationship between the native people and the Operatives who had infiltrated to collect human intelligence and later wage guerrilla warfare against the Japanese. She wanted to know why there was no recognition for these men at the Australian War Memorial? This inspirational question began three months of word-smithing between the few surviving Operatives, a handful of modern-day Friends of Zed and some code-stripping historians from the Australian War Memorial to agree these simple words for an inscription on a plaque which was placed beside the existing SAS dedication. *Z Special Unit of Special Operations Australia. Personnel from this unit were involved in more than 80 Special Operations in the South West Pacific and South East Asia 1942-1945. In honour of those who served and in memory of all who gave their lives. Ex Certamine Contubernium - Out of Conflict Comradeship Is Born.*

Little had Christine Helliwell realized that the SOA archives were only released in 1981 and that much of their records were sanitized in late 1945 when SOA was closed down in secrecy to enable the Joint Clandestine Organization (JCO) to also be born in secrecy! By this time all other WWII units had been given due recognition at the Australian War Memorial and Zed was all but forgotten; caste into 'secret squirrel' oblivion. I kicked myself for not having done something about it earlier myself as the initiative lay with the baby boomers and Generation X. I had paddled the evasion route of the Rimau Operatives, been to their execution ground and brought home of one of their Limpet mines in 1994. I had also trudged

through cyclonic mud for three months in 1996-97 to retrace the footsteps of the Semut Operatives and their indigenous guerrillas. The Semut operatives are still legendary in the eyes of the local people. Indeed Semut is unique in world terms, akin to any of the world's great guerrilla offensives in the battles of history. I had spoken at their last national reunion in Launceston in 1999, but I had regrettably let it go after that when I had demobbed and became a business man.

I called Min Moor and he took decisive action to mobilize the SAS and Commando National Associations who now manage the former Z State Associations which had disbanded. Six months later, after a monumental effort by Christine and Min and some 'General Blamey style' SOA financial accounting, 15 Zed Operatives, 21 widows and over 1,000 people, most of them family members, had assembled on a cold bleak day in the grounds of the Australian Memorial to bear witness to the redress of a national disgrace. It was Christine Helliwell and Min Moor who had done all the hard work and they deserve special mention. Maybe it will neutralize Min's special censure that all successful SpecOps Operators have!

I felt incredibly honoured to meet Jack Tredrea (AK133) from Semut I for the first time and Jim Ellwood (AKS185) from Lagarto. I had spoken with Jim Ellwood in the early 1990s, but at that time he did not want to anything to do with the military as he had been wrongly blackballed after the war. In reality his isolation was an indictment of the military regime who had committed a frightful Special Operations sin in not recognizing that he was correctly signalling that



Surviving Operatives surrounded by more than 1,000 people



he was broadcasting under duress in East Timor. The nation owed a mighty “say sorry” to Jim Ellwood and I was delighted to shake his hand on behalf of Special Operations Command (even if I was now a civvy) and say so. Why did we leave 71 years to say sorry to a man that had endured brutal torture simply because of faulty headquarters signally authentication procedures? Were we just bullshit legends in our own lunch boxes? I could tell that Jim Ellwood, even at 95 years of age, was still a tough bloke. He had overcome his demons and he could now go to his death a happy man. It was equally pleasing to listen to Brendan Nelson explain that while the Australian War Memorial is called as such, that it is really all about a house of “love of mates.” By coincidence I was sitting beside the family of Happy Huston (AKN59) one of the Rimau Naval Operatives who had drowned in a gunfight while evading and I was able to tell them about the rock fort that I had found in mangroves nearby the failed submarine RV tree on Merapas Island that is still there to this day. It serves as a covert field memorial to the tremendous psychological blow that Rimau had struck at the Japanese soul. Yes, Rimau was more successful in strategic Special Operations parlance than Jaywick and I bet that the War Memorial would like to have the sacred SpecOps Sanger in its collection. It will be far superior to the puny cupboard and artefacts that are there now.

By chance I met Barney Schinckel, another Agas IV Operative (AKS90) who with Rex Blow (AKO395) ran an observation post on the Sandakan death-march track and who had signalled their observations back to SOA. I learnt from him that headquarters had refused the pleas of some 30 Agas Operatives stuck on an island who had operationally demanded a Snakeboat so that they could mount, perhaps a suicidal attack, on the POW camp to prevent further death marches from happening, I did not know about this intercession before and it left me thinking what were the strategic shiny bums in GHQ SWPA thinking? It is damning to this day that the Agas pleas

were refused no matter what the Americans in the Allied Intelligence Bureau stipulated for fear of their own POWs in the Philippines being executed.

I had always found it fascinating that no one Zed man had ever earned a Victoria Cross, but such is the nature of covert warfare. It remains unfinished business to grant a covert Victoria Cross to Lieutenant Colonel Lyon as the Rimau men epitomised courage and audacity. It was also very pleasing for me to shake the hands of the two sons of Julius Tahija who had won a Militaire Willems-Orde (Dutch Victoria Cross) in a combined Australian Dutch operation and who came all the way from Jakarta for the commemoration ceremony. Let us never forget the indigenous people from multiple Asian and South West Pacific countries who were part of SOA. I am an old fart now but I proselytize that we will never be ‘Special’ again until we have Asian Operatives in their droves at secret camps, L-capsules in abundance in the Q store in Swanbourne and for it to be a NOGO precursor to speak an Asian language fluently before you can even think about attending a SAS Selection Course. **QRU?** Why do we forget about these survival lessons that were learnt in beheaded blood? Why? Why? Why?

Why do our brass masters in Fort Russell get sucked into thinking that signals and imagery intelligence and standard financial accounting will be enough to keep filibusters alive in the Asian Century? The phrase taken from William Shakespeare's *King Lear* and GHQ SWPA. “Thou whoreson, Zed, thou unnecessary letter” kept rattling around my mind as I flew back to Perth; mission accomplished (less the VC for Ivan). However Professor Powell has the last word (at least in this treatise) from the last page of his *War by Stealth*, “While the exact conditions of the war in South East Asia are never likely to be repeated, beyond that again is the image of courage, endurance and daring left by the men who fought, in AIB's name, a ruthless enemy among the forests and mountains of South East Asia. Theirs is a tale to be remembered.”



Commemoration Plaque



AKO395 Barney Schinckel and Jim Truscott



A BRIEF HISTORY OF CAPT RAYMOND JESSE ALLSOPP

Raymond was born on 15 June 1915 and was the last of five children. His family was a respected family of orchardists who settled in the Hills area in Sydney in the 1820s.

Raymond completed his Leaving Certificate in 1933 and topped the State in Physics and did very well and all other subjects. He enrolled in the faculty of medicine at the University of Sydney in 1934. In 1935 he was awarded the GS Caird Scholarship for the male student who showed the greatest proficiency in Anatomy and Physiology. He is believed to have topped the first three years of his medical studies. In the two clinical years at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital he graduated second in his year and was awarded Second Class Honours. During his five years medical studies he developed into a highly skilled and knowledgeable surgeon. On graduation he shared the Craig prize for Operative Surgery and Surgical Anatomy and shared the Sydney R Chisholm Memorial prize for proficiency in Operative Surgery.

After graduation Dr. Allsopp was invited back to Royal Prince Alfred Hospital to do postgraduate studies but shortly thereafter entered into a partnership with another doctor and set up practice in the Illawarra area. After approximately one year the partnership was dissolved and Dr. Allsopp enlisted in the army at Wollongong on 18 July 1941.

Capt. Allsopp served as a medical officer in a regular army unit and during this time he became deeply impressed with the ethos of the Independent Companies. He applied to join one as a medical officer. Being older than the average recruit and being 5'4" tall and not particularly fit or robust he twice failed the stringent fitness tests. Undeterred, in his free time, Dr. Allsopp put himself through an intensive physical fitness program and passed the physical test the next time he attempted it.

He was accepted into an Independent Company as their medical officer and after completing a jungle training course returned to serve as a medical officer in the 2/5 Cavalry Commando Squadron.

On the morning of 1 July 1945, after an intense naval bombardment



units of the Australian Army went ashore and seized control of the town of Balikpapan, Borneo. Once this action was completed the 2/5 Commando Squadron went ashore and passed through the lines of the regular units and went forward into enemy territory.

They proceeded along the road on either side of which the Japanese had laid mines and were being funnelled into a very well-prepared Japanese ambush. The Japanese had six LMGs, one HMG, mortars and infantry and had placed the guns for maximum effect. The Japanese had the element surprise, the high ground and strong firepower and when they opened up a number of the 2/5 Commando Squadron were hit. Capt. Allsopp and another soldier positioned themselves to the side and when they saw other soldiers repeatedly hit and clearly dying, Capt. Allsopp asked his fellow officer for his water canister and ran forward to the dying comrade and gave him water and comforted him as he died. Capt. Allsopp was shot either in the side or hip. Fortunately it was a flesh wound. Capt. Allsopp went forward and instructed a number of soldiers

to retire. He dressed the wounds at least three badly wounded before being killed by a mortar exploding in front of him. A large fragment of shrapnel pierced his forehead. The officer he was with was blown off his feet but was otherwise uninjured. A Japanese soldier came forward with fixed bayonet to finish them off but when he saw that Allsopp was dead he assumed his fellow officer was also dead and turned around and went back to his position.

Capt. Allsopp had spent approximately 1 hour tending to one dying comrade and to number of wounded although he himself was wounded. The area was under incessant enemy machine gun fire the whole time and his action saves lives at least three fellow soldiers. His commanding officer, the commander of the 2/5 Commando Squadron and the Brigade commander of the 21st Infantry Brigade recommended him for a posthumous VC. This was subsequently changed to a Mentioned In Dispatches.

The citation attached to the recommendation for the Victoria Cross States that: "on the afternoon of 1 July 1945 in open country to the north-east of Balikpapan, a section of the 2/5 Australian Cavalry Commando Squadron was trapped in an enemy ambush. Shortly after the commencement of the action, the officer commanding the section and a trooper were wounded. Although their position was in the open, on a low spur, which were swept with at least six enemy LMGs and one HMG, Capt. Allsopp, the Squadron medical officer, with total disregard for his personal safety went forward to them and dressed their wounds. The officer was sent back as walking wounded and Capt. Allsopp endeavouring to carry the wounded to safety, had proceeded only 30 yards when the wounded man was again hit, and Capt. Allsopp was wounded.

In spite of his own wound went to another trooper who was wounded, dressed his wounds and then carried water to the dying man. He then proceeded to the assistance of another wounded trooper who is unable to extricate himself, dressed soldiers wounds and then carried him

(Continued next page)



“Double Diamonds”

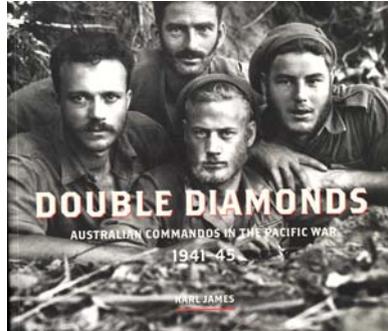
Australian Commandos in the Pacific War 1941 - 1945

By Karl James

In the mountains and jungles of Timor, Bougainville and New Guinea, during the Second World War elite Australian Forces fought arduous campaigns against the Japanese.

The story of those independent companies and commando squadrons, whose soldiers wore the distinctive double – diamond insignia, is told here for the first time.

Through interesting images from the Australian War Memorial’s unparalleled collection – some never published before – *Double*



Diamonds profiles the operational history of these units and the stories of the men who served, many of whom lost their lives or the friends who trained and fought alongside them.

KARL JAMES is a Senior Historian in the Military History Section of the Australian War Memorial, specialising in Australia’s involvement in the Second World War. He is also a Departmental visitor with the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre at the Australian National University, Canberra, and the author of “*The Hard Slog*”: *Australians in the Bougainville campaign, 1944 – 45*.

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(Continued from previous page)

to safety. When returning to bring out another badly wounded man Capt. Allsopp was fatally wounded by fragments from a mortar bomb or grenade.

In the recommendation for the Victoria Cross it was recorded that Capt Allsopp was exposed to incessant heavy machine gun and rifle fire, tending to the wounded for a whole hour. His actions throughout were cool and deliberate and although wounded he remained at his post even after the return to safety of the troopers who had been unharmed. His action undoubtedly save the lives of the three badly wounded men at the cost of his own, for which he showed not the slightest consideration. The extreme courage, fortitude and devotion to duty displayed by this officer in the face of such risks will ever remain as an inspiration to the men of his unit. In addition, five witnesses presented sworn statements providing details of the bravery and devotion to his duties as medical officer that went well beyond what would reasonably be expected of him in the situation he was in. His actions represent the highest standard of courage, resourcefulness and dedication to the saving lives wounded soldiers under his care, as well as consideration of the safety of soldiers

assisting him to rescue wounded men that he showed he considered their safety and well-being of more importance than his own.

CAPT Allsopp' had been recommended for a posthumous VC at the time by the Squadron commander MAJ Ian Kerr, he commented at the time "I have never known a braver man".

This recommendation by the 2nd/7th Cavalry (Commando) Regiment but was dismissed by the 21st Brigade's commander.

Allsopp was posthumously Mentioned in Despatches.

Captain Allsopp's son Patrick, submitted an application for the award to be upgraded to a Victoria Cross in 2012 with the assistance of one of our then committee members.

This application was declined by the then Chief of Army.

However recently the application was resubmitted and Patrick was interviewed by Honours and Awards staff.

We await this decision.

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ACA National Committee Meeting & Operation Rimau Commemoration

10 July 2016

The July 2016 Quarterly meeting of the ACA National Committee took place, as has become the custom, to coincide with the Operation Rimau Commemoration conducted annually by the ACA QLD branch. Both the ceremony and the meeting were held at the Queensland Maritime Museum.

The commemoration was once attended by the Queensland Governor His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC who was escorted by the ACA National Vice President in the absence of the President who is hopefully on the mend after a period of ill health.

The commemoration is a simple but moving event consisting of Vice Regal patronage, surviving Z Special Unit members, serving and former members of SOCOMD units, the Queensland National Service Pipes and Drum and students from Ambrose -Treacy College. The Roll of Honour was called by a former Commando Warrant Officer and a Pipers's Lament was played as students placed a national flag and a cross for each of the Z Special Unit members lost on the operation.

After a quick lunch the ACA National Committee convened in entirely appropriate surroundings – the Ward Room of the former HMAS Diamantina – a WW II

River Class Frigate now on display at the Queensland Maritime Museum.

The meeting started with a minutes silence in memory of the former ACA QLD President MAJOR Keith Long RFD (Ret'd)

The following areas were then discussed:

- The changing role and purpose of the ACA in both the states and nationally.
- Member welfare issues including advocacy, networking and employment opportunities.
- The 2016 / 2017 events calendar including social and commemorative events.
- Fundraising to expand the reach and capabilities of the ACA nationally.
- Working in tandem with the Commando Welfare Trust.
- Comparing and aligning the ACA State Constitutions.
- Forms of communication with the national membership base.

The next meeting of the ACA National Committee will be held in Foster, Victoria to coincide with the Victorian Branch's annual commemoration held at the Commando Cairn at Tidal River Wilson's Promontory.



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Career in financial crime fighting

A Growing Part of the Law Enforcement Community – Is a Career in Financial Crime Fighting Right for You?

It is no secret that financial crime has been on the rise. From the well-known Ponzi scheme orchestrated and executed by Bernard Madoff, to countless smaller scale cyber attacks and identity thefts, the bad guys are increasingly going online in search of victims.

The Australian Crime Commission conservatively estimates that serious and organised crime costs Australia \$15 billion every year. This cost comprises loss of business and taxation revenues, expenditure on law enforcement and regulatory efforts, and social and community impacts of crime.

Law enforcement has taken notice, and the field of financial crime fighting has been growing as well. In addition to dedicated law enforcement and government personnel fighting financial crime, private companies are also hiring professionals to detect and prevent break-ins to their networks. If you have an interest in law enforcement and fighting crime and a high degree of tech savvy, a career in financial crime detection and prevention could be the right choice for you.

People who work in the field of financial crime prevention take on a number of different roles and work for a wide variety of governmental agencies, public institutes and private companies. An IT expert with advanced training in cybersecurity may be employed by a Fortune 500 company to detect flaws in the

network infrastructure and make recommendations for enhancing the security of the system. A financial crimes expert employed by a government agency may review the policies and procedures in place and look for ways to make those processes more secure for end users. No matter what role they play, the need for financial crime prevention specialists is expected to grow substantially over the next decade.

The growing number of cyber threats has caused many companies — both large, international firms and smaller businesses — to reevaluate their network security. The severe financial penalties assessed to companies that fail to safeguard information more than justify the cost of hiring an expert in financial crime prevention, so the job market is likely to remain strong for many years to come.

The day to day job of the financial crime prevention specialist will vary depending on where they work and the role they play. Some financial crime prevention specialists are asked to analyze and review existing caseloads of suspected fraud — picking out the cases that are most likely to involve fraud. An IT worker with a background in preventing financial fraud may also be asked to tweak existing systems to prevent false positives and make the detection process more precise.

Others in the financial crime prevention field work directly with law enforcement agencies, The Australian Crime Commission Board—which includes Commissioners from every state and territory police jurisdiction and the heads of key Commonwealth agencies—has established a multiagency response called Task Force Galilee. Those individuals may be tasked with investigating

“Task Force Galilee involves 19 State, Territory and Commonwealth government agencies and 25 industry organisations.”

specific instances of large-scale fraud. They may, for instance, lead task forces investigating a break-in at a large corporation and the theft of its customer data and credit card numbers. They may be asked to investigate criminal activity within investment banks or other financial institutions. They may investigate dishonest financial advisors who prey on the elderly by selling them unneeded or unsuitable insurance and financial products. This kind of fraud detection is an integral part of protecting consumers, and it is just one of the many roles financial crime prevention specialists play in an increasingly dangerous world.

Task Force Galilee involves 19 State, Territory and Commonwealth government agencies and 25 industry organisations. Through Galilee, the Australian Crime Commission and its partners seek to disrupt serious and organised investment fraud operations and the organised crime groups behind them, and to educate the Australian community about this type of investment fraud and the threat it represents.

The primary agencies contributing to the detection, investigation and/or prevention of investment and Serious and Organised Investment Fraud activity in Australia include law enforcement agencies and regulatory agencies (e.g. ASIC, ACCC and AUSTRAC). However, a range of government agencies (e.g. ACMA, AGD, DIAC, ATO, ACBPS, DHS, DBCDE) and private sector agencies (banks and the superannuation sector) also have a role to play.

Australia is not alone in attempting to disrupt and prevent Serious and Organised Investment Fraud. The AFP's International Liaison Officer Network provides Australian law enforcement agencies with a mechanism to collaborate with their international counterparts in relation to fraud and other crimes.

If you think a career in financial crime prevention is the choice for you, it is important to get the right training today. Financial crime prevention specialists need to be experts on a wide range of systems, including network infrastructure, database design and existing security measures. They also need to constantly upgrade their skills to stay one step ahead of the criminals. The world of cyber crime is constantly changing and evolving, and workers in this area must work hard to secure additional training throughout their careers.

A background in law enforcement techniques and applicable government regulations is another essential part of life as a financial crime prevention specialist. This is most important if you plan to work in a formal law enforcement setting, but a basic

understanding of how law enforcement works will be helpful no matter where you end up working.

If you think that a career in the world of financial crime prevention is right for you, talk to your guidance counselor or career coach about the training and education you need. Degrees in computer programming, network infrastructure and database management will be helpful, as will training in cybersecurity and related fields. Many experts currently working in this field hold computer science degrees, while others hold degrees in mathematics, statistics and similar fields. You may want to talk to people you know who are currently working in the field to discuss your educational plans and design a training plan that works best for you.



Ray Mancini ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mancini is an internationally known law enforcement educator and trainer. His hard earned experience and knowledge has been gained from more than 20 years of dedicated and diversified commitment within the industry. He is the CEO of SIG GROUP International based in Perth, Western Australia, with offices in America, Italy, Ukraine and UAE. SIG is an organisation renowned worldwide for security consultation, specialist firearms and tactical training for law enforcement, military and private security industry.

Ray is also author of the book, *Zen, Mediation & The Art of Shooting*





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Commando Volume 12 Number 98

Double Diamond No 254

President's Report

2016 is now well underway with ACA Vic having undertaken a number of key events and activities. The most significant of course was the ANZAC Day commemorative activities including representation at the 2 Coy Dawn Service, supporting our WW2 colleagues at the March and then enjoying the camaraderie at the Commando Lunch held at Eden on the Park and saw over 150 people in attendance.

Following on shortly thereafter was the 71st Commemorative Service of Operation Rimau conducted by Z Special Unit during WW2 which was held at the Queensland Maritime Museum, Southbank, Brisbane Sunday 10th of July, 2016. This was an excellent opportunity to mix with the other State Branches and the National Committee and to cement our interstate ties which are only growing stronger.

In conjunction with the Op Rimau service, the National Committee and State Branches conducted a Committee Meeting which saw a number of key issues discussed including the proposed appointment of a National DVA Advocate Manager. We are hoping that this appointment will be announced in the very near future as it will enable us to significantly expand our veteran and member welfare activities.

Members should also be aware that ACA Vic will be holding its Annual dinner for members and their partners this year at Upton Room at Box Hill RSL on Saturday 6 August 2016 where the Guest Speaker will be Brigadier Terry Nolan AM (Retd) who is well known to all of us as the National Chairman of the Australian Special Air Service Association (ASASA)

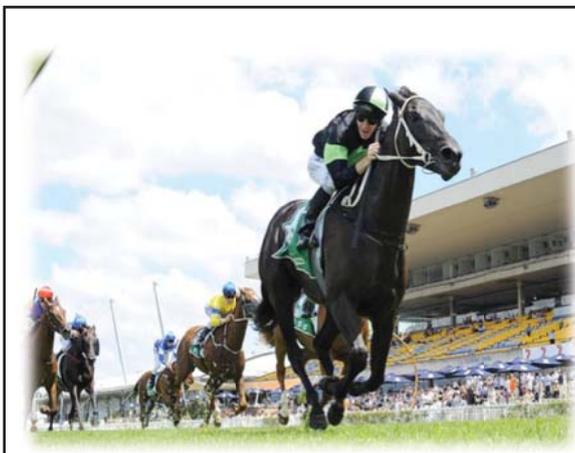
Terry had a successful career in the Australian Army which included a long involvement with the Special Air Service Regiment, firstly as a Troop Commander on active service in South Vietnam, later as Commanding Officer of the Regiment and finally as the Commander Special Forces. He is now the National Chairman of the Australian Special Air Service Association.

It is important that you advise Glenn MacDonald by 1 March if attending the dinner on (T: (03) 9886 9825, 0414 311 093, gmac1950@gmail.com.)

I look forward to meeting with you all then and in the meantime.

Strike Swiftly

Marc Preston
President
July 2016



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2 COMMANDO COMPANY UNIT NEWS

2016 has continued to remain busy for 2 Coy with training and operational commitments presenting both opportunities as well as challenges for the Unit.

The last few months have seen Commandos participating in Exercise Hamel which takes its name from a battle fought in France in 1918, has been designed to develop, confirm, and evaluate the foundation war fighting skills of Darwin's 1st Brigade and assigned Force Elements within a Joint Task Force

setting. The Unit acquitted itself well by providing a opposing force to realistically test the 1 BDE JTF.

In addition, 2 Coy supported the PNGDF as a part of its international engagement with a team who deployed to Goldie River to undertake mentoring and training assistance. This proved to be an excellent opportunity for both operators and support staff to experience a challenging environment and allowed them to visit key historical sites including the Kokoda Trail and the Bomana War Cemetery.

As well as the focus on operations and exercises, 2 Coy will continue to place energy into recruiting as a well prepared group of soldiers from 4 Bde will attempt the Special Forces Entry Test and Commando Selection later in the year. 2 Coy are hopeful that these recruiting efforts will provide a much needed boost to the Units commando capability.

2 Coy would like to thank the Victorian Branch of the Association for their continued support and camaraderie. 2 Coy continues to value the relationship with the ACA and will continue to support its flagship events such as the Rip Memorial Service and Tidal River Pilgrimage which we view as defining moments in the Unit's proud history.



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The Magen David Star

A Tribute to Private Greg Sher, 1st Commando Regt

Where is the largest Magen Star in the world? Read on.

There is insufficient space in this newsletter to accommodate all of the information I have read on this topic, but let me begin.

I was prompted into putting pen to paper after a visit earlier this year to the Chevra Kadisha Cemetery at Lyndhurst to pay my last respects to a friend and teacher colleague from my early days in teaching. Teacher Eddie Zavod, a remarkable violinist.

I was the first to arrive at the Lyndhurst Cemetery and was waiting alone on the forecourt when I was approached by a Rabbi from the office of the cemetery who asked me if I was there for the service, and was it my first visit to the cemetery? I said I had been before but in the capacity of a privileged tree planter, indicating the young trees on either side of the entrance pathway, planting trees as in tribute to a fallen Commando.

Instantly he said, that must have been Gregory Sher. He then beckoned me into the chapel foyer and pointed to a polished aluminium sculptured metal, Magen David Star with a plaque below it, which was inscribed 'Star of David Presentation' presented by the Officer Commando 2 Commando Company 1st Regt Maj P. to Felix Sher and family for the tragic loss of their son, Gregory.

Gregory was the first Australian Jewish soldier on his first tour of duty to lose his life in a war zone, since July 1945. Greg's untimely death was the result of a rocket attack in Oruzgan Province, Afghanistan on Sunday the 4th January 2009.

At that moment I was slightly overcome with emotion at seeing the Star for the first time and remembering receiving the sad news of the tragedy at the time, and then, upon reading the plaque, I made a silent promise to find out about the story of 'Greg's Star'.

A few weeks later I was visiting the battlefields and cemeteries of Normandy when I was again reminded of the Magen when I walked among the headstones of the Normandy American Cemetery and was aware of the number of Stars among the



thousands of crosses, each representing a loved one lost in battle in WW2.

Greg's Star began its life in a place where Greg lost his life, in Oruzgan one of the thirty-four provinces of Afghanistan, which is in the centre of the country.

The maker of the Star, a soldier from another unit, who wishes to remain anonymous, who may not have envisaged the journey that his work would take, ending in Australia and eventually, now resting at the Chevra Kadisha Cemetery at Lyndhurst.

The initiative for 'Greg's Star' was suggested by a fellow soldier from 102 Field Workshop and supported by S M, both wish to keep a low profile. As there was already a conventional cross in location (made by a previous rotation) to be used for

a memorial services 'in country', it was thought that a Star (of David) could be made for the memorial service for Greg that would be a fitting farewell 'in country'. The material that was used to make the star was left over sheet aluminium that was cut out by hand using the limited tools available in the location. The tools used were a set of bench shears and hacksaw. The required shapes were cut out and then TIG welded together and filed to give the end result that you see today. It was passed over at the end of Australia's commitment to activities in Afghanistan and eventually positioned where it is today at Lyndhurst.

"All I did was spend some of my time to make something appropriate for a fallen comrade who made the ultimate sacrifice and needed to be appropriately represented at the memorial service that was held in country".

The Star of David known in Hebrew as the Shield of David or Magen David is a generally recognised symbol of modern Jewish identity and Judaism. Its shape is that of a hexagram, the compound of two equilateral triangles. Unlike the menorah, the Lion of Judah, the shofar and the lulav, the Star of David was never a uniquely Jewish symbol. During the 19th century the symbol began to proliferate amongst the Jewish communities of Eastern Europe, ultimately being used amongst the Jewish communities in the Pale of Settlement.

As reported in March 2009, as a memorial for Greg, the Sher family will have trees planted on the ANZAC trail, south of Jerusalem and Greg's name would be inscribed on an obelisk at a dedication area so that his passion for Israel would be permanently recorded.

Lest we forget.

The answer to the question. *Where is The largest Magen David?*

Answer: It is in WA at the Harold Holt Naval Communications Station, and is 2.400 metres in diameter, an amazing sight from the air.

Dick Pelling



ANZAC Day Address

from the CO of 1st Commando Regiment in Melbourne

by LTCOL Matt Stevens



ANZAC Day 2016 ~ Melbourne

Today as we stand here overlooking the bay and as the people of Williamstown stood here in the same spot a hundred years ago, watching as the troop ships sail past, waving our last goodbyes and hoping for our love ones' safe return.

And amongst the thronging crowds those most touched by it all, the mothers, wives and girlfriends of these soldiers would whisper to themselves....

I saw them go. I waved goodbye... I'll hold back the tears.... I'll keep it together for the kids... I'll keep myself busy and I'll try to avoid reading the news...

Fort Gellibrand, the home of soldiers from Williamstown for over 100 years and the home of 2 Company for 50 years, contains today men and women of Special Forces community. They are product of a legacy forged in adversity, tried in conflict with their feet firmly planted on the west bank of the Yarra.

Older than the average soldier, aged of 39.9 years, and in the majority married with kids and these

men and women have seen active service multiple times... in Timor, Afghanistan and Iraq. The most subtle attribute of their service is the resilience and unwavering support of their families.

So too were the characteristics of three Melbourne men, of similar age, volunteering for a high threat mission nearly 100 years ago.

Not well known and obscured by history. These three Australians volunteered to conduct a final raid into enemy territory.

On 04 November 1918... 7 days before the Armistice and an end to the Great War, a combined UK and Australian Force was assembled to establish a bridgehead and cross the Olse-Sambre Canal, destroy an enemy strong point... and allow tanks to cross to breach the final German defensive line.

Back home in the District, the Williamstown advertiser had announced that Turkish Forces had surrendered to Australians in Damascus. The feeling in the town was one that the war would soon be over.

A month prior, the Australian public had been informed that the majority of Australian Army had withdrawn from the front line in Northern France.

However little did they know that three Australian specialists, proficient in the use of demolitions and breaching skills: CPL Albert Davey, Privates Arthur Johnson and Charles Barrett were preparing for their final mission. Steeping off at 5:45am in the cold morning light, the boys were in the first wave about to cross the canal when an enemy barrage landed amongst them.

After heavy fighting, the position was taken and clearance complete, Albert 34, Charles 44, and Arthur 43 were found near the breach of the strong hold... face down.

In the confusion of the last week of the war, no reports from the front had arrived... the word slowly filtered back to Australian HQ in England and on 10 November 1918 a flash signal was cabled back to Victoria Barracks in Melbourne!!

(Continued next page)

Melbourne Commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the Black Hawk Accident 12 Jun 16 under the SAS Tree at The Shrine



ANZAC Day Address...

(Cont'd from previous page)

Across the bay the large blue-stone barracks near where the Shrine casts its shadow still stands! And in that office 100 years ago a light would shine late into the night. Here, a small bespectacled officer and his staff would issue signals and telegrams reporting on the arrival, departure, illness and death of loved ones overseas.

But as the sun rose to a new day the streets of Williamstown were already a buzz with the rumour that the War was over and the Armistice had been signed. Mrs Margret Davey and Lilly Johnson were overjoyed their husbands would soon be coming home.

That afternoon the Williamstown Post Office sent out their final batch of telegrams for the day.

Unknown to most, The Post Master had felt a cold shiver come over him as had someone had walked over his grave and with that, amongst all the joyous celebration in Cole Street... the angle of death had cast her last spell... issued on brown paper in purple coloured type... 11

November 1918. We regret to inform that..... has been killed in action... no further information is at hand at this time.

Cast our mind forward to now. There is an old terrace house in Williamstown where the floorboards creak and the corridor is just wide enough for a man to pass through... designed so when he came home from the pub he would remain up right and not to fall foul of his wife's steely glare.

In a picture frame on that wall, a face radiates its internal youth to those who pass by; dressed in battle dress with metal rising sun on the collar... and down the hall the clock chimes and out the back on a masonite kitchen table, a plate of SAO biscuits with butter, tomato and cheese awaits.

In the kitchen an old lady sits and listens to the service on ABC radio... and for a fleeting moment her thoughts drift back.

Feeling a cool breeze on her face she can faintly hear a young man's voice with air of confidence and invincibility whisper...

I was that, which others did not want to be,

I went where others feared to go and did what others failed to do,

I asked nothing and accepted the thought of eternal loneliness should I fail,

I have seen the face of terror and have lived times others would say were best forgotten... I have been loved and have loved.... my dear

And the old lady clutches her locket and quietly replies in a very frail voice:

I saw you go. I waved goodbye... I held back the tears... I've have looked after the kids... I kept myself busy my love.

Throughout our history we too have had our Alberts and Charles and Arthurs but they were called Roger and Taffy and Greg and their legacy has seen our unit continue to seek for those special missions and go that little further.

So on this ANZAC day we too have our Margaret's and Lilies. They stand among us... they have received no medal... have kept the family together... and can stand equally as proud as the soldiers here today.

So I say all STRIKE SWIFTLY!!!

Lest we Forget.



HOW THE COASTWATCHERS TURNED THE TIDE OF THE PACIFIC WAR

by James Burrowes OAM

The Australian Coastwatchers brought the tide of Japanese invasive successes to a shuddering halt, when two Coastwatchers reported the impending fleet of the Japanese invasion force with 5,500 troops which precipitated the Battle of the Coral Sea in early May 1942, and aborted the invasion of Port Moresby.

This repulse of the enemy was followed by the declaration of the U.S. Admiral William F. (Bull) Halsey when he reported several months later that "The Coastwatchers saved Guadalcanal, and Guadalcanal saved the South Pacific".

The hitherto untold historical and substantive story of the M Special Unit of the Allied Intelligence Bureau (the Coastwatchers) unfolds hereunder:

In early 1941, ten months before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the Australian government set up the unpublished "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 under-manned and under-equipped forces were totally outnumbered by the superior Japanese invasion forces, 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 January 22, 1942 just six weeks after Pearl Harbor, when the Japanese invaded and occupied Rabaul, killing and capturing 73% of the token Australian force left to defend it. Subsequently, 1,053 POWs were casualties on the unmarked prison ship *Montevideo Maru* sunk by a US submarine off Luzon in the Phillipines, on the voyage to the Japanese-occupied Hainan Island. It was Australia's largest maritime disaster of the war.

Enemy landings, followed by occupation, then took place at Ambon a week later, followed by Timor a further fortnight on.

After occupying Rabaul, as explained by founder and commander of the Coastwatchers Eric Feldt in his historic 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".



Furthermore, 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 *MO Carrier Striking Force* with 5,500 invasion troops, as it was codenamed by the Japanese, and it was intended to isolate Australia and New Zealand from their ally the United States, in preparation for the Japanese attack on Australia.

However, fortuitously, Duffy records, "an Australian Coastwatcher 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. A second, similar despatch was made later the same day by another Coastwatcher on New Georgia. Both Coastwatchers transmitted their sightings to headquarters at Port Moresby which relayed the message."

Two days later, these warnings by Coastwatchers 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 May 4-8, 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. 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".

Immediately following the After its defeat in the Battle of the Coral Sea, the battered and bruised Japanese invasion force limped back to Rabaul, thus saving Port Moresby from the 'walk-in, capture and occupy' fate that had been suffered at Rabaul, Timor and Ambon.

Immediately following the Coral Sea battle, 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, which would have left Australia isolated. But again, the Australian Coastwatchers played a vital role in a key victory: the ultimate American success at Guadalcanal. See "The role played by Australian Coastwatchers in the Battle for Guadalcanal"

http://www.battleforaustralia.org/Theyalsoserved/Coastwatchers/Coastwatchers_Guadalcanal.html

Coastwatchers regularly sent two hour warnings of 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 to the US authorities on Guadalcanal, and the Australians at Port Moresby. The alerts thus 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 particularly was 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 Coastwatchers saved Guadalcanal, and Guadalcanal saved the South Pacific." A memorial recognising the role of the Coastwatchers stands in Honiara today.

In essence, if the Coastwatchers had not routinely signalled their warnings by Morse Code, such as those mentioned above, the consequences would have been dire.

Firstly, 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, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton and Brisbane - 1,297 miles, and block the eastern sea approaches to Darwin, only 1,126 miles away, thus 'opening the gate' for the invasion of Australia.

Secondly, 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. This protected a base of operations for the untrained forces fighting in New Guinea with those incredibly courageous young troops who fought on the Kokoda Track and who were ultimately successful in repelling the Japanese from their Buna, Gona, Lae and Sanananda occupations, which in turn was the **first land-based repulse** of the Japanese drive south, and also repelling the Japanese at Milne Bay. Subsequently, the combined forces of the US and Australia drove the Japanese from their strongholds at Lae and Salamaua, then Finchafen, Saidor, Madang, Aitape, Wewak, Hollandia, Biak, Wadke and Morotai on the way to the triumphant US return to the Philippines and beyond.

And thirdly, 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 Coastwatchers turned the tide - to destroy the aim of Japanese 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 Coastwatchers at critical points in the war was also acknowledged by Allied Commander-in-Chief General Douglas MacArthur who stated in a Foreword



The Group of Coastwatchers are:
Back Row, L-R: Lieut. Jack Ranken MM, Capt. Malcolm English, Lieut. 'Mac' Hamilton, Sgt. Rob McKay
Front Row, L-R: Sgt. Keith King, Sgt. Jim Burrowes (Signaller), Sgt 'Tas' Baillie (Signaller)

to Eric Feldt's book "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 Coastwatchers 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. See "The role played by Australian Coastwatchers in the Battle for Guadalcanal"

http://www.battleforaustralia.org/Theyalsoserved/Coastwatchers/Coastwatchers_Guadalcanal.html

One of those rescued was US Navy Lieutenant John F. Kennedy, whose PT 109 Patrol Torpedo boat was carved in two by a Japanese war-ship and destroyed in the Solomons waters. After the sinking, the Lieutenant and his crew reached Kolombangara Island where they were found by Coastwatcher Sub-Lieutenant Reg Evans who organised their rescue.

In 1959, a memorial lighthouse was erected at Madang, on the north coast of Papua New Guinea, to honour the Coastwatchers. The memorial plaque bears the names of 36 Coastwatchers 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."

Writer: Ex AIF Sergeant James Burrowes (now age 93) served 4 years, including 2½ years as a signaller Coastwatcher in 'M' Special Unit of the Allied Intelligence Bureau, and 9 months with the US 7th Fleet Amphibious Landing Force. He spent 10 months in enemy-occupied territory overlooking Rabaul, and is the last signaller Coastwatcher survivor in Australia with the research to tell the story. Member of the Australian Commando Association.



An excellent soldier and a great mate...

Daniel Ambrose Lorkin

Each February the Regiment and the Victorian Association conduct a service at Queenscliff to remember the three men who were lost in the Rip tragedy in 1960.

In June this year 2 Commando Company again marked the anniversary of the SAS Blackhawk tragedy thirty years earlier. One of those lost was Andrew Constantinidis, a former member of 126 Commando Signals Squadron who had transferred to the SAS.

And this year is also the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Sergeant Dan Lorkin during a roping demonstration at the Royal Melbourne Show in September 1966.

Dan Lorkin grew up in Daylesford and attended St Patrick's College, Ballarat.

Dan was a talented footballer and had rowed with the St Patrick's College team. As a country boy who moved to Melbourne to work he enjoyed sporting activities and a busy social life with his friends in Moonee Ponds. He joined 2 Commando Company in late 1959, following his friend Barry Higgins.

An excellent all-round athlete, Dan would demonstrate standing forward somersaults during PT and unarmed combat training. Denis Jenkins recalls, "Danny was a frequent partner of mine in all the unarmed combat we used to do, being of similar weight."

Dan was in the Unit in February 1960 in time to go through the Rip incident. Around 11.30 at night about 9 kilometres off Point Nepean Dan, Jock Tait and Roy Hemmings were aboard a Zodiac 3Z whose motor had broken down.

WO2 Peter Askew's tug, with Sgt Duckworth, Sgt Brown and Pte Edsell, sighted the Zodiac and took it in tow, but then developed an engine blockage.

Askew dropped the tug's anchor, which promptly dragged, and then fired a number of distress flares as the tug drifted towards the Rip.

Major Bennett's DUKW, that had already picked a number of men out of the water, closed on the tug but conditions were so rough that Brown broke his leg while making fast the tug's towline to the DUKW. Soon after the 3Z in tow capsized.

"The three of us went into the sea, so we got aboard the tug and the DUKW tried to tow us out of danger," Dan said.

"The waves, coming from side on, hit the tug first and made it veer towards the DUKW. I thought we would land on top of the DUKW and started to figure out how to get out. But... the towrope broke and I

never saw the DUKW again. By this time the tug was half full of water from the waves breaking over it."

Meanwhile the tide had pushed all three craft out through the Heads. With the injured Sgt Brown still aboard, the tug was now drifting in the open sea.

Like all shipping in the area the Shark boat *Acquilla* was now on high alert. It fortuitously sighted the tug and after some difficult moments managed to fasten a line and tow the tug back to shore.

Like his fellow Unit members, Dan never considered leaving 2 Commando Company after this experience.

One of the early unit members to do the SAS Recondo course – regarded years later by Major General Mike Jeffery as the toughest training he had done in the army - Dan was an intelligent and skilful soldier who possessed the usual diggers' initiative - as well as a quiet ability to get into mischief!

Sergeant Jim Trainor said, "Swan Island was the base for the 1962 Annual Camp. Some of the blokes were really keen. Danny Lorkin and Barry Higgins borrowed a kayak and paddled from Swan Island across to Portsea, with a successful late night strategic insertion back into the camp."

Because of the proximity in time and location to the earlier ill-fated "Rip" annual camp the OC, Major Stewart, took a dim view of their behaviour and they were both reduced to the ranks.

Bob McDowell later explained, "I remember once being on an NCO promotion course... LCpl Dan Lorkin made it all look so easy and handled himself with such aplomb that the impression he created on me remains to this day."

"I only came to understand after witnessing this performance that Danny had previously held higher rank, but had been demoted due to some indiscretion involving AWOL from Swan Island per medium of kayak, which resulted in a search mission and a whole heap of trouble."

In the 1960s the SAS had no dedicated diver training instructors. SAS staff were trained by 2 Commando Company, under the steely gaze of Warrant Officer Ray Hinde, who also trained a number of Unit members to



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instructor level, including Dan, David Waterston and Bruce Parker.

Dan obviously redeemed himself in the eyes of Major Stewart, as he was promoted to Sergeant, alongside Geoff Woodman, in March 1963 - still in Jim Stewart's period of command.

Dan married Patricia in 1965 and they had a son, Christopher.

Dan was killed at the Royal Melbourne Show on the 22nd of September 1966. In Major Noel Williams' time (1965-1968) as in many previous years, the Company demonstrated a wide range of their skills before large crowds at the Show. Along with unarmed combat displays, speed marching, para ground demonstrations and infantry tactics, the aerial rope work from the light towers was a crowd favourite.

On this occasion there was a tragic accident. Dan had begun his slide down the rope, which ran from the top of the tower and was anchored to an army vehicle on the arena. When Dan was halfway down and Keith Hughes was about to step off the tower platform the rope snapped, throwing Dan to the ground.

Patricia later married Ray Smith. Pat and Ray have two daughters, Kelly and Rebecca and grandchildren in their extended family that includes Dan and Pat's son Chris and his family.

Dan's son Chris Smith (Lorkin) served in the Monash University Regiment and 5/6 RVR, before later joining the Regular Army. Chris was a Sergeant with the Signal Troop Training Wing, providing 2 Company with highly skilled Cdo Sigs Tp operators. In 2009 Chris was awarded a commendation by the Chief of Army as the Troop Commander and Troop Sgt of the Ken Clift Troop, at the Defence School of Signals.

Now based in Queensland, Chris continues the proud Army heritage of his father.

When the memorial "Rock" was built by 2 Commando Association to honour the memory of those who had died while training with the Company the first names inscribed on the memorial plaque were those of Peter Herd, 'Taffy' Drakopoulos, Roger Wood and Dan Lorkin.

At the dedication of the Rock in February 1986, Association president Roman Stucynski said, " Let us remember Sergeant Dan Lorkin, the quiet achiever, an example of dedication, loyalty and love for the Unit. "

Bruce Poulter said, "I was in 2 Platoon and Danny was Platoon Sergeant. I was at the Show the night Danny died. He was an excellent soldier and a great mate."

Ian Wischusen, who transferred from 2 Commando to the SAS and served in Viet Nam with the SAS and the Team, said recently, "Danny Lorkin will always live in my memory . . ."

Fifty years after his life was tragically cut short, those who served with him throughout the 1960s remember Dan Lorkin.

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Donald McKenzie Murray

20th National Service Battalion, 2 Commando Company

8th December 1939 – 3 May 2016

Don's Commando service was recognised at his memorial service in Melbourne.

Don passed away in Sydney in May after a long period of illness. He moved from Melbourne to Sydney so his family could care for him in his later years.

Don and a friend, Rob Dunball, attended Essendon Technical School together, and played football against each other in the Essendon District League.

Later Don was called up for compulsory National Service at the same time as Rob, and also Glen Doyle. Coincidentally all three had completed the second year of their mechanical apprenticeships when first called up, and as was the practice were deferred until they completed their third year. At the start of 1959 they were all posted to E Company, 20 NS battalion, where Don and Glen, and others, shared the same hut, with Rob next door.

At the end of their three-months full time service they were posted to their CMF units in Melbourne to complete their National Service obligations as part time soldiers, and all three transferred immediately to 2 Commando Company.

Don was recorded as transferring from 6 Transport Platoon, Light Aid Detachment, in April 1959, but in fact went immediately to the Commando Unit at Ripponlea.

Two months later he was selected to undertake the basic Parachute Course at Williamtown in NSW, qualifying alongside Glen, Rob, Phil Meekins, Lyn Gardiner, Claude Gillard (who became an Australian skydiving pioneer), Ian Wischusen, the Company adjutant Captain John Fletcher, and others.

Glen Doyle recalls he, Don and Jim Trainor used to have a meal (and drink) at the legendary 'Don Camillo' in Victoria Street, on their way home from their weekly parades.

In February 1960 Don's Commando Company was based at Point Lonsdale for sixteen days of intensive training and exercises – Don undertook the small craft-handling course.

On the evening of 17 February the raid flotilla assembled on Lonsdale Bight beach for an amphibious raid on Portsea. The plan was to paddle a course deep into the bay on the flood tide, then set course for Port Nepean, taking advantage of the change of tide.

As it became dark the wind rose, the seas become increasingly rough and most of their craft were sunk, overturned or swept out through Port Phillip Heads (the Rip) into Bass Strait.

Three of Don's comrades were drowned, and a number were hospitalised with injuries.

Despite their experiences in the Rip disaster, in June 1960 after completing their compulsory National

Service training Don, Glen and Rob, along with many of their mates, re-enlisted in the Commando unit as CMF volunteers.

With changed circumstances in his civilian life Don discharged from 2 Commando Company in late 1960.

Don began umpiring AFL games as a boundary umpire when he was eight years old. He progressed to be a field umpire and continued to umpire until he was into his late 40s early 50s. He travelled to many Victorian country towns to umpire so that local teams could have an official umpire for their games, even though some towns were two-plus hours away.

Don was also a very keen supporter of his beloved North Melbourne 'Kangaroos'.

After teaching for many decades, Don built his own go-cart company. Initially he bought a go-cart business, but developed such a passion for the go-cart and the delight it brought young and old, that he had his own custom-made go-cart designed and built.

Don joined the Freemasons when he was approximately 21 years old, and continued to be a part of the Freemasons until he left Melbourne at approximately 73 years old. Don took his responsibilities, friendships and loyalty very seriously. He also travelled all over country Victoria to attend special meetings and events for the Freemasons.

A service for Don was held in Sydney following his death, and because of his lifelong Melbourne residence, a memorial service was held in the Chapel of Reflection at the Springvale Botanical Cemetery in July, attended by family and friends, Don's former Commando comrades and his Masonic Lodge colleagues.

All members of the Commando Association offer their sincere sympathy to Don's family – daughter Andrea, her husband Oliver, Don's grandchildren Jack and Georgina and all family members.

To the Australian Commando Association Victoria From Don's daughter, Andrea Martic

Today (July 22nd) we said a final goodbye to my Dad – Don Murray, Pte 3785282/3165840.

It was a beautiful service, with many present, from so many different walks of life - that was my Dad; he walked in so very many shoes over his lifetime, and met so very many truly amazing people.

The Commandos were some of those.

Thank you so very much for being a part of Dad's send off. All that the (former) Commandos present did meant so very much to us.

To see my son, Dad's Grandson, wearing the Commando pin, that meant so much to my Dad, gave me so



very much pride. Pride in my Dad, but also pride in my son, knowing that he had been brought up well, that he would recognise what others had given and what a huge responsibility and honour it was to wear it on Dad's special day. Thank you!

You see, my Dad was part of the Rip tragedy in 1960. All I was told when I was little, was that he was in the Commandos and they had been on a training manoeuvre. He was in a kayak. They got caught in the Rip. His kayak tipped over, trapping him and he couldn't get his safety harness off. He said that if it weren't for his commanding officer pulling him out, he would have died. I also remember him saying something about drinking a fair amount of cognac that night.

What I have only found out in the last few months is just what really happened - yes, they were on a training manoeuvre; yes, they got caught in the Rip; yes, he got pulled out. What I know now is that a thunderstorm hit, causing 10 metre high waves, and the unbelievable destruction it caused. Three men passed away that night. It is considered one of the worst peacetime maritime disasters, still to this day. Having learnt more about this tragedy has helped me to understand my Dad just a little bit more, even after his passing. For this I will be forever grateful.

I understand the solidarity, companionship and loyalty that is developed amongst Commandos, but what you have done for my Dad is overwhelming. What you have done means the world to my family.

You ensured he had his green beret again, something I will hang with pride in my own home; you gave us the Commando pin, which my 15-year-old son wore with pride and honour, knowing his Grandfather had been a part of something so much bigger; (Dick Pelling's) speech gave us all an insight into the history of the Commandos, and my teenagers a history lesson that was more relevant to them than some of what they learn in school, because it had a personal connection.

Your Guard of Honour almost brought me to tears, and when sharing it with others once I returned to NSW, they said they got shivers when I told them, because it was so special.

I know that the Commandos are a 'close lot', but you made us feel that we had a connection to a part of my Dad's life that we didn't really know about; you made us feel like we were a part of something bigger.

Thank you so very much for all that you did to make my Dad's final send-off as special as it was. I would like to thank all those past and present Commandos for all that they do, and all that they sacrifice - it is because of you, we can live the lives we can and do.

Once again, thank you so very much!

Kindest regards,

Andrea Martic

VALE

Colin Young 1 Commando Company

Lloyd Campbell (SGT)

Lloyd first served with the 2/17 Bn at the siege of Tobruk, El Alamein and New Guinea.

He then transferred to Z Special Unit, trained as a frogman (a very rare skill in those days) and participated in a number of submarine ops into Vietnam (in 1945).

Then as a guerrilla team leader in Borneo at the end of the war and participated in Ops Semut IV, Optician and Politician.

Lloyd's passing marks the end of an era.

Geoff Honey 1 Commando Company

Alan Blythe 2/8th VX 32667



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“STRIKE SWIFTLY &



WITHOUT WARNING”

The Newsletter of the Australian Commando Association Queensland

ISSUE 0001 ~ JUNE-AUGUST 2016

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HONORARY MEMBER: Mr Doug Baird, father of the late CPL Cameron Baird, VC. MG. of 2nd Cdo Regt

Website: acaq.org.au • **Postal Address:** POBOX 185 Sherwood, QLD 4075 • **Email:** secretary.acaq@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S WORD

Welcome to the 1st edition of our new quarterly newsletter, “STRIKE SWIFTLY & WITHOUT WARNING”, the Newsletter of the ACA Qld. Previously the ACA Qld had the newsletter TOK-TOK which was well maintained with the former President MAJ Keith Long, RFD. (Retd) who suddenly passed away at the end of 2015. We have given life back into our newsletter; we revamped it and renamed it so we hope you enjoy what we have done and you are always welcome to submit articles and photos. Your newsletter will have historical battles fought by Commando units, birthdays, unit history, DVA notices, advertisements of events and businesses now run by Commando members as well as insight stories on members of the Association and Commando units.

The beginning of 2016 has been quite busy for our Association with Commando & SF Day being conducted at Kakoda Barracks, Canungra, in April, which was well represented by members of the Association and other kindred Associations as well as, ANZAC Day in Brisbane, where the Associations new banner was displayed for the first time.

The months of June, July & August are very significant for the Commando brethren, with the raising of the 1st Independent Commando Company in 1941, The Battle of Eastern Shah Wali Kot in 2010 fought by Alpha Commando Company Group, 2nd Commando Regiment, The Salamaua Raid in New Guinea conducted by 2/5 Commando Company in 1942, The 71st Commemorative Service of Operations Rimau conducted by Z Special Unit against Japanese shipping in Singapore Harbour and unfortunately the loss of no less than eight members of the 2nd Commando Regiment in Afghanistan and in training.

I hope that you enjoy the newsletter and it brings some insight into what we are all about and what we do for each other.

Commando For Life

Nick Hill

President

June 2016



The ACA Qld Banner



THE BATTLE OF EASTERN SHAH WALI KOT 10 – 14 JUNE 2010

Alpha Commando Company Group, 2nd Commando Regiment

Background

In June 2010 the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) began Operation Hamkari as part of an attempt to increase security around the southern city of Kandahar, in Afghanistan. As part of the operation Australian forces were tasked with conducting a series of disruption operations in the Shah Wali Kot district of northern Kandahar province. A five-day airmobile operation subsequently began in the second week of June, targeting an insurgent stronghold, which had been controlled by the Taliban since 1995. Forces involved included the Australian Special Operations Task Group and Afghan National Army units, supported by United States Army helicopters from 1st Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, known as Task Force No Mercy.

The Battle

Alpha Commando Company Group from 2nd Commando Regiment made the initial attack on 10 June, and was later reinforced by a troop from the 2nd Squadron, Special Air Service Regiment (SASR) when it was discovered that the insurgents were preparing a counter-attack. Fighting was particularly intense on the second day of the operation when insurgents fired upon Australian and Afghan soldiers shortly after they disembarked from their helicopters during an assault into Tizak, with the engagement lasting for 13 hours. After five days of fighting the surviving insurgents withdrew from the area.

Following the operation the ISAF stated that an insurgent force numbering over 100 strong had been defeated. The commander of Australian forces in the Middle East, Major General John Cantwell claimed that the operation had "dealt a major blow to the insurgent forces and their commanders and made a major and direct contribution to ISAF security operations focused on Kandahar province and its nearby districts" and would also improve security in Uruzgan province. The Australian troops also captured large numbers of weapons during the operation.



Commandos Board a US Army CH47 Chinook during Operations in Afghanistan

The Aftermath

The Australian Department of Defence claimed that the operation resulted in the deaths of "a significant number of insurgents" but did not provide a figure for the number killed. One Australian soldier and an Afghan soldier were wounded by gunfire during the operation and several

helicopters were damaged. An Afghan civilian also approached the coalition troops seeking medical assistance for a wound in his hand, but the Australian Department of Defence stated that it was not clear how he had received this injury. The ISAF stated that no civilians were injured in the operation. As many as 100 insurgents were believed to have been killed.

Later, during further operations in the area on 21 June, three Australian commandos were killed when the US Army UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter they were travelling in crashed in northern Kandahar Province. One of the crew of the helicopter also died, while another seven Australians and a US crewman were seriously injured. In total 13 individual awards for bravery were made, while the 2nd Commando Regiment were awarded the battle honour "Eastern Shah Wali Kot" for their actions.



500lb bomb dropped on Taliban Insurgent position during the Battle.

The Battle Honour

The Battle Honour Eastern Shah Wali Kot is awarded in due recognition of extraordinary heroism, exemplary combat performance and the relentless destruction of a highly trained and fanatical Taliban enemy of numerical superiority within the extremely inhospitable region of Eastern Shah Wali Kot, Afghanistan, during the period May to June 2010.

(Citation)

The Australian Special Operations Task Group Rotation XII, which included combat elements from the 2nd Special Air Service Squadron of the Special Air Service Regiment, Alpha Company Commando Group from the 2nd Commando Regiment, and supported by the Incident Response Regiment and the United States 101st Airborne Division, Task Force No Mercy, is awarded the Battle Honour Eastern Shah Wali Kot in due recognition of extraordinary heroism, exemplary combat performance and the relentless destruction of a highly trained and fanatical Taliban enemy of numerical superiority within the extremely inhospitable region of Eastern Shah Wali Kot, Afghanistan, during the period May to June 2010.

Tasked with a mission of vital operational importance within Regional Command – South, and of strategic significance for the International Security Assistance Force, from May 2010 the Task Group conducted a series of daring daylight helicopter-borne raids, deep into enemy territory, to



destabilise local insurgent networks and to identify key Taliban leaders. Often resulting in fierce engagements with the enemy, these deadly shaping raids created fractures throughout the command and control architecture of the Taliban.

During the early hours of 10 June 2010, immediately realising a tactical opportunity, Alpha Company Commando Group audaciously established an attack by fire position inside the insurgents' strong hold of Chenartu. Shortly after first light, the enemy surrounded the commandos and employed sophisticated tactics in an attempt to overrun the commando positions throughout the day. Holding their exposed positions doggedly under heavy and sustained attack, the commandos, determined to regain the initiative, launched several aggressive counter attacks against the assaulting enemy. Surprised by the ferocity of the commando response, combined with having lost significant numbers of fighters, the enemy withdrew to the village of Tizak to conduct deliberate planning for the destruction of the isolated commando company.

Receiving intelligence that a high level Taliban commander had now been drawn to the village of Tizak, a troop from the 2nd Special Air Service Squadron deployed by helicopter to conduct a kill or capture mission on the morning of 11 June 2010. Upon landing in Tizak, the troop was immediately engaged by a maelstrom of small arms fire and a stream of rocket-propelled grenades from insurgents in the village and the surrounding high ground, resulting in two friendlies being wounded in action and four helicopters sustaining battle damage. Despite being outnumbered four to one and suppressed under a hail of machine gun fire, the troop inched forward until they were again checked and fixed by the interlocking fire of three machine guns. Drawing on the deepest reserves of collective courage, combined with notable acts of individual valour and gallantry, the

initiative was regained, allowing a subsequent break-in of the enemy's defensive position. Exploiting a tenuous tactical foothold, the troop unflinchingly cleared the remaining depth positions in close-quarter combat throughout the remainder of the day while being relentlessly supported by U.S. AH-64 Apache helicopters from Task Force No Mercy. At the conclusion of the battle, late on the evening of 14 June 2010, a significant number of high-level Taliban commanders, a significant and disproportionate number of enemy fighters were killed, and the remaining enemy were routed and fled from the region.

The extraordinary heroism and exemplary combat performance displayed during the Shah Wali Kot Offensive resulted in a major enemy supply line from Pakistan into Kandahar being destroyed and the Taliban in eastern Shah Wali Kot being rendered ineffective. The battlefield orchestration, courage, gallantry and determination displayed by the combat elements of the Special Operations Task Group Rotation XII, under extremely adverse and hazardous conditions has set them apart, and by their achievements they have brought distinguished credit on themselves and the Australian Defence Force.



The Battle Honour Eastern Shah Wali Kot is the First Battle Honour Awarded to Australian Commandos

Reference: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shah_Wali_Kot_Offensive

..... COMMANDO FOR LIFE



A SHORT HISTORY OF THE 2nd COMMANDO REGIMENT

The 2nd Commando Regiment is an elite Special Forces unit of the Australian Army, and is one of three combat-capable units within Special Operations Command. The regiment was established on 19 June 2009 when the 4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (Commando) was renamed. It is based at Holsworthy, New South Wales. The 2nd Commando Regiment often trains and deploys with the Special Air Service Regiment, is highly regarded by coalition special operation forces abroad, and has been involved in operations in East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan, where it was used in a direct action warfighting role. It has also been involved in a number of domestic security operations including the 2006 Commonwealth Games and the 2014 G20 Leaders Summit.

Role

Part of Special Operations Command (SOCOMD), the 2nd Commando Regiment is one of three combat-capable units within SOCOMD and operates in conjunction with other SOCOMD units, services and interagency organisations in joint and combined operations. According to the Department of Defence the role of the regiment is to conduct special recovery and strike operations, being created "to

conduct offensive and recovery operations beyond the range and capability of other ADF elements". Formed to complement the Special Air Service Regiment (SASR), it is designed to be a "self-contained flexible and rapidly deployable force" and is structured for both domestic counter-terrorism and other special operations. The regiment is capable of operating in the air, land and sea environment and is tasked with conducting advanced force operations and direct action missions in Australia and overseas. In its domestic counter-terrorism role it provides the basis for Tactical Assault Group (East), which is tasked with conducting high-risk missions beyond the capability of civilian authorities to respond to. Meanwhile, as a result of the decision to no longer maintain a conventional parachute capability, after 3 RAR was reorganised as a light infantry battalion in 2011 the 2nd Commando Regiment has also provided this role.

Formation

In 1995, as part of an expansion of the number of Australian Army infantry battalions, the 2nd/4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment—then operating as a standard light infantry battalion—was delinked into separate battalions which resumed their original identities as the 2nd and 4th Battalions. The decision was then taken that the 4th Battalion



would become a Regular Army commando unit and on 1 February 1997 the unit was renamed to 4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (Commando). The unit would be structured for both conventional operations and domestic counter-terrorism, with an initial establishment of a battalion headquarters, Tactical Assault Group (East), two commando companies, logistic support company, logistic support company, operational support company and a signal squadron. Regular serving members were given the opportunity to undertake special forces training provided mainly by the reserve 1st Commando Regiment, or elect to be posted to a conventional forces unit. No General Reserve positions existed in the new structure, and reserve members discharged or posted to reserve units.

The initial years were busy with the unit creating a structure and recruiting members suitable for commando training, while conducting sub-unit and unit training activities. Bravo Commando Company was raised in 1998, followed by C Company in 1999, both of which took 24 months to reach full maturity. In 2000, elements were involved in the evacuation of Australian nationals from the Solomon Islands in June. While later that year the regiment provided a second Tactical Assault Group (TAG) to augment that provided by the SASR in support of security arrangements for the Sydney Olympic Games. A period of rapid capability development, equipment acquisition and training subsequently followed. The unit that was developed as a result is highly regarded by coalition special operation forces abroad, and has conducted operations in East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan. It has also been awarded a number of citations for bravery and meritorious service. On 19 June 2009, the battalion was renamed the 2nd Commando Regiment. Regardless, the name 4 RAR remains on the Army's order of battle and its history, colours and traditions have been preserved, ready to be re-raised as a regular infantry battalion in the future if required. All awards and battle Honours received during the time as 4 RAR (Cdo) were passed onto the 2nd Commando Regiment, while those awarded before the transformation to a commando battalion were retained by 4 RAR. Along with the renaming, a new badge was chosen to reflect the history and traditions of the Independent Companies that served during the Second World War by including the distinctive "double diamond" unit colour patch shape in the regimental badge along with the traditional commando knife. The unit's motto is *Foras Admonitio*, which is Latin for "Without Warning". Qualified commandos are awarded the Sherwood green commando beret. Distinctive commando parachute wings are worn, depicting a parachute backed by a pair of black drooping wings on a green background. The Australian Army Stiletto dagger is also worn on ceremonial occasions.

Operations

Not long after 4 RAR (Cdo) later 2nd Commando Regiment was formed members had began deploying around the world in numerous capacities. Individual members deployed to Bougainville, The Sinai, Lebanon and small teams deployed during OP Spitfire the prelude to Australia's military involvement in East Timor and Bravo Commando Company deployed on Op Plumbob the prelude to Australia's military involvement in the Solomon Is.

East Timor

The 2nd Commando Regiment, then known as 4 RAR (Cdo), was deployed as a part of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) in 2001. When notified to replace 1 RAR in East Timor, 4 RAR had not

long previously been raised as a commando battalion, developing Special Forces capabilities to supplement those of the SASR. With the commitment to East Timor continuing, however, 4 RAR was re-roled as a light infantry battalion for deployment to East Timor as AUSBATT IV. This involved reorganising from the existing two commando-companies structure to a light infantry battalion with four companies and a growth in the unit from 220 to 670 personnel. This saw B and C Company remain commando-qualified and A and D Companies filled with Regular infantry soldiers posted in to the unit, with its strength growing to 1,100 men. The unit arrived in East Timor in April under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Jeff Sengelman, taking over Area of Operations (AO) Matilda in the northern border region.

During its time deployed as a part of UNTAET, the battalion established a security partnership with the East Timorese, focusing strongly on languages and maintaining the relationships previous Australian battalions had established, as well as transferring new technologies to the local security forces. This "intelligence-led" but "people-focused" approach saw the battalion group conduct the majority of its operations in close proximity to the Tactical Coordination Line (TCL) on the border with Indonesian West Timor. The battalion saw few contacts while in East Timor. These included a TCL violation on 5 May 2001 which was intercepted by a section from D Company, an outbreak of violence involving a grenade attack by militia members at the Maubasa markets on 29 May which resulted in several people killed and about 50 wounded, and shallow cross-border militia raids in June, including an attack on a section patrol from A Company. The battalion was withdrawn and replaced in October 2001.

Counter Terrorism Duty (TAG-E)

Following the return of 4 RAR (Cdo) from East Timor it was again restructured to resume its role as a two-company commando battalion. However, in 2001 the Australian Government directed the permanent establishment of a second Tactical Assault Group (TAG) to be based on the east coast of Australia. Charlie Commando Company (CCC) was re-rolled from a Commando Company and became the Tactical Assault Group – (East (TAG-E)) and became Operational in July 2002. CCC held the responsibility of TAG - (E) until it was rotated with DCC in 2009. Following the creation of SOCOMD in 2002 and the Bali bombings in October that year, further resources became available. The Battalion was subsequently involved in security operations for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Queensland in 2002. Elements of the Battalion were also involved in the boarding of a North Korean freighter, the MV *Pong Su*—which was suspected of drug smuggling—off Newcastle on 20 April 2003, Op Scrummage (Rugby World Cup) and deployed during George W. Bush's visit to Australia in late 2003. Also in 2002 Alpha Commando Company was raised to fill the gap that CCC had left due to taking the TAG – E responsibility. In 2005, a fourth commando company was subsequently raised, with D Commando Company (DCC) being formed. Later, the Battalion was tasked with supporting the security arrangements for the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne. In 2007 TAG – E again deployed during OP Deluge the APEC Summit being held in Sydney and in 2010 twice when President Obama visited Australia. In 2014, elements of the regiment were deployed to Brisbane to protect the G20 Leaders Summit held in the city on 15 and 16 November.



Iraq

The battalion provided a commando force element as part of the Australian contribution to the 2003 invasion of Iraq, known as Operation Falconer. A reinforced commando platoon formed an element of the Australian Special Forces Task Group (SFTG), which also included 1 Squadron, SASR, a troop from the Incident Response Regiment, and three CH-47 Chinook helicopters from the 5th Aviation Regiment. The commandos formed the "quick reaction" element for the task group. The SFTG operated in western Iraq where it was successful in securing its area of operations, including the huge Al Asad Air Base. After the invasion was complete, the 40-man commando element provided security to humanitarian assistance missions and other security operations, later providing close protection for Australian officials in Baghdad as part of Operation Catalyst. In 2004, claims appeared in the media that Australian Special Forces were involved in counter-insurgency operations inside Iraq, although the government denied this. The last commando element was withdrawn in 2006.

Timor Leste

Later, in May 2006 A Commando Company Group was deployed to Timor Leste as part of Operation Astute, after relations between the East Timorese government and military forces broke down. The commandos operated alongside the SASR as part of the Special Forces Component and were tasked with advanced force operations in preparation for the arrival of follow-on forces, focusing on Dili Airport. In March 2007, the commandos, along with elements of the SASR, took part in the Battle of Same during which five rebels were killed during an unsuccessful attempt to apprehend the rebel leader, Alfredo Reinado. After the battle, the commandos and SASR elements were withdrawn at the request of the East Timorese government in order to start negotiations with the rebels.

Afghanistan

Meanwhile, in August 2005 an Australian Special Forces Task Group (SFTG) was deployed to Afghanistan as part of Operation Slipper, operating in the southern province of Uruzghan. The SFTG, based on similar structure deployed during Operation Falconer, was made up of elements from the SASR, a commando company and a troop from the Incident Response Regiment. Two CH-47 Chinook helicopters from the 5th Aviation Regiment were deployed to Afghanistan in March 2006 to support the SFTG. A forward operating base was subsequently established at Tarin Kowt. During this deployment the Commandos were involved in Operation Perth, which resulted in the death of over 150



Members of BCCG board a US CH47 Chinook during operations in Afghanistan

Taliban and al-Qaeda fighters in nine days of fierce fighting in the Chora district of Uruzghan Province. The SFTG was withdrawn from Afghanistan in September 2006 and replaced by a Reconstruction Taskforce made up of engineers and conventional infantry. During this period the task group was on patrol for 306 days and involved in 139 contacts and sustained 11 soldiers wounded.

A 300-strong Special Operations Task Group (SOTG) was subsequently deployed to support the Reconstruction Taskforce in April 2007, including a commando company group, elements of the SASR, and an integral combat service support team. In the latter part of 2008 the commando company conducted a disruption operation in Helmand province as part of Operation Eagle's Summit, which was a major coalition operation conducted in support of the transport and installation of an additional turbine for the Kajaki Dam hydroelectric facility. In March and April 2009, SOTG killed 80 Taliban fighters in a major four-week operation in Helmand Province, without suffering any casualties. Further operations undertaken include the Battle of Gizab in April 2010, and the Shah Wali Kot Offensive in June 2010, which resulted in heavy insurgent casualties. In 2011, 12 and 13 CCCG, BCCG, DCCG and ACCG all conducted Counter Narcotic Operations with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). The bulk of SOTG was withdrawn from Afghanistan in late 2013 as part of a drawdown of Australian forces, although some special forces remained after this date as part of the small Australian force maintained in the country. The unit has lost 12 personnel killed while deployed to Afghanistan, along with one killed during a pre-deployment exercise.

For its actions in Afghanistan, the 2nd Commando Regiment was collectively awarded the Unit Citation for Gallantry and the Meritorious Unit Citation. On 26 March 2013, it was announced that Special Operations Command would receive the first battle honour awarded to an Australian Army unit for actions since the end of the Vietnam War for its performance during the Shah Wali Kot Offensive in Afghanistan from May to June 2010. The battle honour, titled "Eastern Shah Wali Kot", was awarded in recognition of the operational actions of the SASR and 2nd Commando Regiment from Australian Special Operations Task Group Rotation XII. A number of the regiment's personnel have also received individual decorations for their actions in Afghanistan. A posthumous Victoria Cross for Australia was awarded to Cameron Baird for actions in Uruzghan Province in June 2013. In addition, as of October 2010 six Distinguished Service Crosses, eleven Distinguished Service Medals, seven Medals for Gallantry and three Stars of Gallantry had been awarded to 2nd Commando Regiment personnel for service in Afghanistan.

Military intervention against ISIL

In September 2014, as part of Operation Okra the Australian Army deployed a Special Operations Task Group (SOTG) of approximately 200 personnel to the United Arab Emirates in preparation for operations to assist and advise Iraqi Security Forces following an offensive by Islamic State forces. The soldiers were expected to be deployed to Iraq when a legal framework covering their presence in the country was agreed between the Australian and Iraqi Governments. The majority of the SOTG was reported to be made up of C Commando Company, 2nd Commando Regiment. It began moving into Iraq in early November.

Reference: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2nd_Commando_Regiment_\(Australia\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2nd_Commando_Regiment_(Australia))



PHYSICAL WELLBEING

Dr Kieran McCarthy

DR Kieran McCarthy is a former RMO with the 2nd Commando Regiment and he deployed twice to Afghanistan with the SOTG in 2010 & 12. Kieran is now the General Practitioner at GO2HP in Everton Park and is also a Committee member of the ACA Qld. Kieran is very well versed in the care of Commando members and takes great pride in doing so. He is very highly recommended by Association members as well as former and current members of 2 Cdo regt. To make an appointment to see him contact GO2HP on 07 3355 5540 or on their webpage <http://www.go2hp.com.au>

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MENTAL WELLBEING

Dr Megan Fry

DR Megan Fry: is a former Psychologist with the 2nd Commando Regiment and deployed numerous times to Afghanistan in that role. Megan has now retired from the Army and is an associate member of Dr Crawford's and Associate Psychologists in Strathpine. Megan has extensive knowledge with the issues facing Commandos and has been highly recommended by Association members, Psychologists and Psychiatrists. To make an appointment to see Megan please contact the office on 07 3205 9759 or on the website www.drcrawford.com.au

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

LEGAL SUPPORT

Mr John Cockburn

The ACA Qld Committee is pleased to announce Mr John Cockburn to be the honorary lawyer to our Association. Some of our members may already have come across John either as diggers under the VEA or the other schemes in the various appeals processes.

He is most happy to provide a basic telephone consultation service to your members to identify if there is an easy solution to any legal issue face or whether they really need some more involved assistance. John has done this with other ex-service organizations for many years and it seems to be of real help on occasion.

He is very committed to providing quality wills, estate and succession law services both front end and also back end in the event that there are family provision claims or other estate disputes. Unfortunately these styles of disputes are now commonplace.

John has also been involved in the preparation of Enduring Powers of Attorney and appeared in numerous QCAT mental capacity and guardianship matters.

His website is a good representation of my practice areas. I also have the benefit of a Professor wife who writes in trusts and succession law. John is a member of the international Society of Trusts and Estates Practitioners, which is only open to those who practice extensively in the area.

If you require legal support you can contact John at john@cockburnlegal.com

DVA ADVOCATE

Mr G.K. (Yorky) Joyce, MM. Level 4 DVA Advocate

I became involved in the Veterans' Advocacy work in 1994, dealing specifically with cases under the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986. Most of my cases were post WW2 veterans, especially Vietnam, but in the early days there were still quite a few WW2 blokes. I was not generally involved in initial applications by veterans as that was the domain of the pensions officers. Subsequent experience proved that this was a beneficial advantage for the applicants as it is easier to pick up and correct errors made by someone else earlier in the process than it is if you were personally involved. Explanations for initial errors needed during review, appeal, tribunal and court processes are far more credibly explained if the "advocate" was NOT involved in the early part of the application. A GREAT advantage for the applicant in the final outcome! In veterans cases this may impact on the rest of their lives and indeed that of very close relatives (wife, kids).

I found the work very challenging and indeed fulfilling. I became a Level 4 Advocate about 2002 after attendance at a course at Canberra University and commenced taking cases to the AAT. I became T&PI in 2002 due to war related conditions. Most of my Advocacy cases were resolved through the S31 Internal Review Process before formal hearings, much to the relief and benefit of applicants, and a much-reduced workload for me.

I had serious reservations about the proposed changes to veterans entitlements being espoused twenty years ago. They are now a fact faced by today's veterans. I don't believe they improve things for veterans at all.

In 2013 I decided to upgrade my knowledge to include the conditions facing current veterans, also assisting to ensure my indemnity through the VITA scheme, and attended a course conducted through DVA/TIP at Maroochydore in 2014. Later in the year I enrolled at Southern Cross University in a Law Course with a view to specialising in Veterans' Law.

If you require any assistance with DVA claims you can contact Yorky directly at yorkyj@bigpond.com

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

COMMANDO BUSINESS ADVERTISEMENT

John Roxburgh (JR MEDALS)

About JR Medals

We are a husband and wife run, and ex Army veteran owned business. As such we understand the sacrifice and peril the men, women, and families of the ADF face daily in pursuit of Australia's national interests. We run the business from our home north of Brisbane and as a small sole trader honest and genuine customer service is our core philosophy. Our low running costs also allow us to provide



competitive pricing without compromising on quality. John is ex WO2 from 2nd Commando Regiment and is a member of the ACA Qld. If you would like to contact John about getting your medals mounted he can be contacted via and let him know you're a member of the ACA Qld;

Email: info@jrmedals.com.au **Phone:** 0466 633 273
web: www.jrmedals.com.au

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

LEST WE FORGET

21 June 2010

PTE's Tim Aplin, Ben Chuck, Scott Palmer, ACCG,
2nd Cdo Regt, KIA, Kandahar Province Afghanistan

22 June 2013

CPL Cameron Baird, VC. MG. BCCG, 2nd Cdo Regt, KIA,
Urazghan Province, Afghanistan

04 July 2014

LCPL Todd Chidgey, ACCG, 2nd Commando Regiment,
DOW, Kabul Province, Afghanistan

04 July 2011

SGT Todd Langley, CCCG, 2nd Commando Regiment,
KIA, Helmand Province, Afghanistan

16 July 2014

SGT Gary Francis, OSC, 2nd Commando Regiment, KIT,
Mount Cook, New Zealand

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

30 August 2012

LCPL Mervyn McDonald & PTE Nathan Gallagher, ACCG,
2nd Commando Regiment, KIA, Helmand Province,
Afghanistan

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday 01 August 2016

Z Special Unit Commemorative Plaque Service,
Australian War Memorial, Canberra from 1000

Sunday 14 August 2016

A Commando luncheon at Surfers Paradise RSL
from 1200. An ACA Qld Committee meeting will be
conducted @ 1000

No Later Than Sunday 21 August 2016

Articles for Edition 0002 of Strike Swiftly & Without
Warning to be submitted.

Sunday 04 September 2016

Edition 0002 of Strike Swiftly & Without Warning released.

Saturday 22 October 2016

70th Anniversary Black Tie Dinner of the ACA Qld
(Queensland Commando Association)
at the Riverside Receptions, New Farm.

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

NEW MEMBERS TO COMPLETE THIS SECTION

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

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

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



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





Australian Commando Association Inc.

State Incorporated Branches

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

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

Australian Commando Association New South Wales Inc. (Y0204417)

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

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

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

Australian Commando Association Victoria Inc. (A00114983Z)

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

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

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

Australian Commando Association Queensland Inc. (IA40186)

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

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

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



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