



COMMANDO

THE MAGAZINE OF THE AUSTRALIAN COMMANDO ASSOCIATION



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FACEBOOK: Australian Commando Association

EDITORS: Mr Nick Hill
Mrs Marilou Carceller

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

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

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PO BOX 682, SURFERS PARADISE QLD 4217

PHONE: 0432 042 060

EMAIL: russell@commandonews.com.au

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Web: boostgraphicdesign.com

Email: boostdesign@optusnet.com.au

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Deadline for next edition (Edition 9, 2022):

MONDAY, 6 DECEMBER 2021

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

Stephen Carter



FRONT COVER: Captain Keith Wolahan – Kandahar February 2010

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A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

My warmest greetings to all. Welcome to the 8th Edition of **COMMANDO – The Magazine of the Australian Commando Association**.

As the new Editor, I wish to acknowledge the exceptional efforts of Nick Hill over the past two years and to thank two of the “quiet champions” of this production, Marilou and Russell, for their patience and advice in bringing this Edition to life.

The Australian Commando Association exists to foster and perpetuate ties of comradeship amongst past and serving members of the Australian Commando and Special Force units and like-minded associations.

COMMANDO – The Magazine of the Australian Commando Association is a key communication channel that is designed to:

- Provide Members and the public with easily accessible information;
- Deliver relevant news and information to Members;
- Provide event updates and authoritative articles and links to credible sources of information.

Consistent with established standards, I am obliged to ensure that the Magazine contains authentic materials and is non-partisan.

These standards can be achieved by adherence to the following:

Accuracy and clarity

Articles and images submitted for inclusion must:

- Observe the protocols governing the identity of members, former members, and the various activities of Australian Special Forces units.
- Be accurate and not misleading and can be clearly distinguishable from other material such as opinion.
- Able to be authenticated by citation of source documents – see

<https://libguides.murdoch.edu.au/Footnote/home>.

Please note that Wikipedia or similar Internet-based search engines are not credible sources for citation.

- In the case of images (including maps) – be clearly labelled with date, location, individuals, and source.

Fairness and balance

Ensure that material is presented with reasonable fairness and balance, and that writers’ expressions of opinion are not based on inaccurate material or omission of key facts.

Privacy and avoidance of harm

Materials should not be offensive, distressing, derogatory or detrimental in nature. The Magazine is not a forum for political discussion or critiques of current Command decisions or direction.

My time at 1 Commando Regiment in the company of comrades training and prepared to do “disagreeable things so that ordinary people here and elsewhere can sleep safely in their beds at night”. (le Carre John, *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold*. 1963) were both memorable and profound in shaping my life.

But of greater significance are Keith Wolahan’s words “We are commandos for life, but we also know that life moves on. In that journey, we get to put the question “what now?” to ourselves.”

I wish to thank the wonderful efforts of contributors to this Edition and look forward to an abundance of articles from Members about their journeys and the “what now”.

Commando 4 Life

Stephen Carter

Editor - Commando Magazine

E: editor_commandomag@commando.org.au

W: www.commando.org.au

AUSTRALIAN COMMANDO ASSOCIATION



Australian Commando Association Inc





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PRESIDENT – MAJGEN Greg Melick AO. RFD. SC. (Retd) **VICE PRESIDENT** – MAJ Steve Pilmore OAM. RFD. (Retd)
azizmelick@gmail.com steve.pilmore@commandotrust.com

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

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

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

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

ACA Vice-Presidents Message – “Commando”

October 2021

It’s safe to assume social media is here to stay and we have already seen incredible examples of either end of the spectrum – from good to harmful.

Crowd funding for worthwhile causes is certainly a significant positive that has come from almost immediate information distribution via social media and resultant swift responses by way of support.

At the other end of the spectrum is of course anonymous bullying which has ended in sometimes tragic circumstances with the perpetrators not ever being held responsible.

Perhaps because of this kind of outcome the Australian High Court has upheld a decision which holds the “publisher” potentially liable for defamatory comments of strangers on an organisation’s social media pages. Potentially a State ACA has the potential via its Facebook page to be seen as a publisher.

Therefore, it behoves us to avoid putting or allowing potentially defamatory material to be put on any of our social media pages. In addition, if you are reading something on such a page that looks even just a bit doubtful then alert the administrators so that they can remove it without delay.

I don’t think this is a big issue with our ACA membership but there is so much going on now in the military related news sphere and no State Branch of the ACA needs to be a test case for such a court case – a very expensive court case whatever the outcome!

On a different issue I implore you all to maintain or step up your contact calls to your Commando and Supporting elements colleagues especially those who have returned from overseas service.

Not many news outlets are interested in publishing positive stories about military issues currently given good news simply does not sell newspapers nor get readers to go online to read something. As a result, nearly every article related to the Afghanistan conflict is overwhelmingly negative and more often than not it is the same stories re-visited.

To any of our comrades who are doing it hard this constant negativity will not be helpful so they will need

all the assistance we can provide. This is where cohesive groups like our ACA branches can really step up and ensure things are not let go too far. Just a text or a call is all it takes, and it can work as possibly one of the few good forms of “pyramid selling.”

Finally, and on a positive note, the Commando Welfare Trust has just, in co-operation with Wandering Warriors and Lockheed Martin Australia, sent ten of your colleagues who are transitioning from their Defence jobs, back to school (QLD TAFE) to study a Diploma of Project Management to further prepare them for their chosen “civvie” job. This is a wonderful joint venture by our SF community and an Australian defence related company with significant outcomes for our Australian Commando Association membership and potential members.

“Commando for Life”

MAJ Steve Pilmore OAM RFD (Ret’d)

Vice President

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The Commando Welfare Trust (CWT) has for more than a decade been assisting Commando and Supporting unit members and their families in situations with the worst possible outcomes all the way to temporary financial support with school or medical fees.

When the focus was on the outcomes caused by combat operations, the information flow was simple – SOCOMD unit to the CWT Trustees for decisions on the support options that could be applied.

These days our support channels are a little more convoluted. Many of our beneficiaries have transitioned out of the ADF and communications is then to the individual and the family but only if we can find them - which is sometimes the problem. Often, surprisingly, what the Trust can do for them is still not known and sometimes there is even reticence to take support for a range of usually understandable reasons.

Therefore, the Trust once again seeks your assistance – not necessarily for a dollar or two, but by using your personal communications networks to participate in identifying that former member or family who could do with a hand, even if it is only temporarily. Encourage those who you believe are hurting to contact the Trust and we can then explore the options which may in the end significantly assist that family - especially when other organisations will not.

You may have seen where the Trust has moved into the provision of support for education courses for transitioning members to fill the gaps military skills courses may have not covered. A good example is a Diploma of Project Management which is the perfect qualification to round out the total skill set a former SF member brings to the civilian workforce. This education project is a joint effort of the CWT, Wandering Warriors and Lockheed Martin Australia which has meant that 10 former SOCOMD soldiers are currently studying a Dip Project Management on-line with TAFE QLD. We are so pleased with this initial outcome, and we look forward to successive iterations of these enrolments supported by Lockheed Martin Australia.

In the same vein, with the support of Jacobs Group Australia Pty Ltd – an engineering firm operating in the Defence industry space, we will be commencing a pilot program where transitioning members are offered advice in preparing their CVs as well as understanding the differences between military and civilian employment. This will start later this year and become an ongoing feature of CWT support to the SF community.

So, the Trust has both the resource and the intent to help as many Commando and Supporting unit families as possible. However, without the assistance of the wider Commando community in bringing the families in need to us, we may remain unaware of them or their needs. Please do what you can do to assist your mates.

BRIG Mark Smethurst DSC AM (Ret'd)
Chairman



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Introducing the Special Operations Commander Australia

Major General Paul Kenny, DSC, DSM

Major General Paul ('PK') Kenny assumed command of Special Operations Command on 26 November 2020, following his promotion in March 2020 to lead Joint Task Force 629 (Operation COVID-19 Assist) and subsequent appointment as Deputy Commander of the Defence COVID-19 Task Force in July 2020.

Graduating from the Royal Military College at Duntroon in 1989, Major General Kenny commissioned into the Royal Australian Infantry Corps. In 1994, he completed the Commando Officer Selection Course. His first posting within Special Operations Command was to 2nd Commando Company as the operations officer.

In addition to leading Joint Task Force 629, Major General Kenny has commanded the Special Forces Training Centre (2006–07), 2nd Commando Regiment (2008–09), and the International Security and Advisory Force—Special Operations Forces (ISAF SOF) in Afghanistan in 2013.

Major General Kenny's extra-regimental positions have included an instructional appointment at the Command, Staff and Operations Wing, and within Army Headquarters in the operations and preparedness staff areas. On promotion to colonel, he was seconded to the Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet as the Senior Adviser Defence Policy & Operations in 2010.

Within Special Operations Command, Major General Kenny has served as Director Special Operations & Plans (2011–12) and, later, as Director-General Special Operations & Counter-Terrorism (2018–20). He also served as Deputy Director of Operations at United States Special Operations Command (US SOCOM) in Tampa, Florida, from 2015 to 2017.

Major General Kenny has deployed to Bougainville (1998), Solomon Islands (1998), Sierra Leone (2002–03), Iraq (2005) and Afghanistan (2008–09, 2012, 2013).

Major General Kenny is a graduate of the Australian Command & Staff College and the Centre of Strategic Studies. He holds a Bachelor of Professional Studies (Disaster Management) degree, Graduate Diploma of Defence Studies, and a Master of Arts (Strategic Studies) degree.



Major General Kenny was awarded a Distinguished Service Cross for exceptionally meritorious command and leadership in Afghanistan, and a Distinguished Service Medal for distinguished command and leadership of ISAF SOF. He has been awarded the US Legion of Merit twice: firstly, for his meritorious service as the Chief Plans Officer at the NATO Special Operations Component Command—Afghanistan in 2012 and, secondly, for his exceptional meritorious service as Deputy Director of Operations at US SOCOM.

Finally, Major General 'PK' Kenny is the first Special Operations Commander—Australia from a commando background.

(Source – Dept of Defence website)

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AUSTRALIAN COMMANDO ASSOCIATION VICTORIA

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

September 2021

RECENT ACTIVITIES

Due to the ongoing COVID 19 restrictions within Victoria many of the Association's social and commemorative activities were cancelled during the latter part of 2020 and in 2021 to date.

FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

Annual Dinner

Due to current uncertainty regarding the release from Lockdown in Melbourne discussion are currently underway regarding rescheduling the 2021 Annual Dinner to a date in late November and if unsuccessful the dinner will be deferred until 2022. The guest speaker will be Captain Keith Wolahan, a former member of 2 Company who deployed on four overseas operations and will be speaking of his service with the Unit, his overseas deployment, and his views on possible future options for the development and training of part-time commando personnel.

Tidal River Commando Memorial commemoration

Subject to Covid restrictions in Victoria, the 2021 commemoration at the Commando Memorial Tidal River is scheduled to be conducted on Sunday, 21 November commencing at 12.45 pm. Personnel attending are also invited to participate in the Foster RSL Annual Dinner which is conducted on the Saturday evening, and anyone interested in attending this function to contact the ACA Vic Secretary by 12 November.

Dedication of the Special Operations Memorial at Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance and Memorial maintenance

Due to Covid restrictions this activity has been postponed and current planning is to attempt to conduct the commemoration on Saturday the 18th green 2022 followed by the over the same Rip Memorial Shortlands' Bluff Queenscliff on Sunday 19th February 2022.

Historical Collection Grant (with Museums Victoria) - Update

Due to Covid restrictions there has been a slowing down of data entry of the historical collection however items continually are being entered. To view the updates, go to

<https://victoriancollections.net.au/organisations/australian-commando-association-victoria>

The grant also provided sufficient funding to enable the acquisition of an additional two secure storage cabinet which are currently being manufactured and will be used to house a selection of ACA Vic historical items at Fort Gellibrand. It is proposed that the items on display will reflect the units' heritage to World War II special operations and discussions are currently underway with OC 2 Company regarding the composition of the display.



Display cabinets

2020 Victorian Veterans' Council Grant

Due to Covid restrictions we have been unable to conduct the oral history interviews however the transcripts of the WW2 special operations oral history interviews and the digitisation of post WW2 M & Z Victoria association magazine 'Double Diamonds' is nearing completion and it is intended that the whole project be completed by the end of 2021.

Tidal River Open Space Development - Update

There has been little movement on this activity over the last 12 months with the exception that \$600,000 was allocated in the last Victorian State budget to fund the 'Commando Walking Track' and ACA Vic was recently advised that the \$80,000 cultural heritage study had been completed. With the impending release from lockdown in Victoria is expected that work on this project will commence soon. Tentatively ACA Vic has offered to provide some financial support for the creation of two or three safety shelters be built along the track providing that these can be named after fallen Victorian commandos and the suitable signage and story boards can be erected.



Welfare

ACA Victoria continues to liaise and attend regular meetings with the Victorian Veterans Council, Legacy, RSL and DVA network to promote ACAVIC's objectives/expectations and support requirements in the very crowded Welfare & Advocacy arena. There have been no requirements for financial support in the past 12 months. There have been numerous requests for support from former members in the preparation and submissions to DVA for acceptance of liability for injuries sustained whilst in service. Many of these have been successful in the former CMF/ARes members are receiving surgical interventions and ongoing medical support for their injuries. In addition, due to difficulties with family visits several Association members continue to maintain active contact with our few remaining World War II veterans and their widows.

Public Inquiries and donations

Association members are frequently engaged in responding to public enquiries with regard to ancestor records and individual service history within Australian special operations units in World War II. There have also been several enquiries regarding items in the Historical Collection and their availability for viewing by relatives. It is hoped that future public enquiries will be able to set be satisfied by individuals researching through our upgraded website. There have also been several donations by families of World War II Commando veterans of items of historical significance to the Historical Collection. Several items that have been donated did not have direct relevance to World War II Special Operations did not comply with our Historical Collection policy and have been on forwarded, with the donors' concurrence, to relevant Army History Unit Museums for inclusion in their collections.

Support to 2 Company

Following on from my previous report the following is an update on actions in support of 2 Company at Fort Gellibrand.

- a. The CSM's Honour Board has been manufactured and delivered but due to Covid restrictions unfortunately there has been no formal handover to date. Hopefully this will occur prior to the Christmas break in the posting out of key unit personnel.
- b. The production of a coffee table type book covering the history of Fort Gellibrand and of its occupancy by 2 Company and 301 Det has been delayed due to the inability to undertake detailed photography at Fort Gellibrand resulting from Covid travel and visit restrictions and will be continued the soon as practicable.
- c. The 1960's era commando badge parquetry floor has been lifted and is in temporary storage pending a decision on identification of a new permanent location. Again, ACA Vic would like

to formally acknowledge the support and assistance of HQ SOCOMD and the staff of 2 Company in ensuring that this historical piece has been retained and available for future use.

New items of memorabilia

During the past 6 months there are numerous new items of memorabilia that have been developed in conjunction with the Platatac Design Hub and in some cases with supporting concurrence from the 1st Commando Regiment.

1st Commando Regiment bottle opener

Following the success of sales of this type of merchandise within 2nd commando Regiment it was decided to do a 1st Commando Regiment version as shown below.



Special Operations Advisor statue

Following the success of sales of the WW2 Commando that you it was decided to update the statute or reflect the current role of 1st Commando Regiment and a new version is shown below.



Front view



Rear view

1st Commando Regiment Challenge Coin

Following numerous requests from Association members and following consultation with the unit, it was decided to design and produce a new challenge coin, which can also be embedded into the base of the Special Operations Advisor statue for presentation use. The initial purchase was for 100 numbered and 100

hundred unnumbered coins. The design of the rear represents a 1955 era Commando alongside a 2021 Commando operator.



Front view



Rear view

These items can be purchased by individuals at the ACA Vic merchandise website at <https://www.austcdoassocvic.com/merchandise/>. For Unit Regimental Funds and interstate ACA Branches seeking to purchase bulk quantities please contact the President or the Secretary correctly as there will be a reduced pricing schedule for these items.

Doug Knight
President
ACA VIC

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28 September 2021

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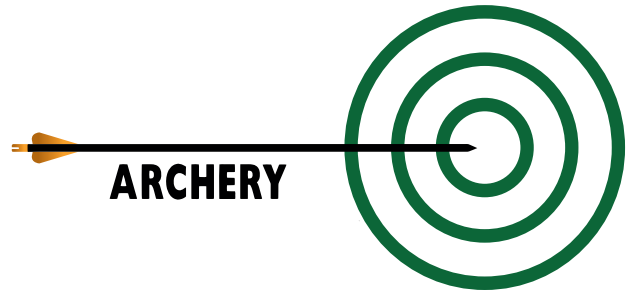
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“What now Wolahan?”

A whole generation of commandos have their own Hans Fler story. There is much about my selection course that I would like to forget, but I remember him fondly. In particular, I remember his deep voice, diction and presence. For someone who was not a native English speaker, his spoken word was crystal clear and commanded attention.

He emphasised leadership and ethics, especially for aspiring officers. And one night after a period of little sleep or food, he sat the officer candidates in a circle to paint a scenario of a potential war crime. We had a time sensitive mission to achieve and had just learnt prisoners under our protection had been executed. He turned to me first (the only reservist) and said “what now Wolahan?”

Those words echoed in my mind throughout both my military and legal career. “What now Wolahan?” reminded me that soldiers and clients had trusted me to make a decision, and often a quick one. That is never easy, especially if we feel like we don’t know all the facts or the law. It is made harder when our fight or flight system accelerates our heart rate and dries our mouth. Not helpful when we are responding to that question put under actual fire, or in my case by a grumpy judge ready to destroy a case. We know that experience makes it easier, but the Army has a way of throwing young people into the deep end of practicing decision-making under pressure.

While the question “what now Wolahan?” used to terrify me, I came to realise what a privilege it was to be asked. It meant we had conquered a common pre COVID fear of missing out (or FOMO). Whatever the field, it meant we had made choices and persevered through hardship in a way that put ourselves at the centre of something meaningful. It is why many do selection. To be given the chance to test ourselves and make a difference. Eventually we realise how fleeting that is and one day we won’t be asked. Or the context has changed, and it is “What now Dad?”

We are commandos for life, but we also know that life moves on. In that journey, we get to put the question “what now?” to ourselves. I know I won’t be the first or last commando to turn my energy to politics. The current Member for Solomon, Luke Gosling, was on that same selection course. I have always thought that politics has the capacity to be a noble calling, where we get to put the nation before



ourselves; where we get the chance to serve again. Where we get to ask that crucial question in a different way: “what now Australia?”

I had mostly forgotten that selection scenario until November last year. Like so many Australians, I was saddened and heartbroken by what was contained in the Brereton Report. That process has a long way to go, with our criminal justice system properly having the final say. That includes affording those accused the presumption of innocence. I thought back to what Hans said. I often wonder what he would think now. I’m sure he would insist we don’t hide, don’t rest, and continue to move forward, doing our best and always asking “what now?”



Keith Wolahan is a Melbourne barrister and Liberal candidate for the seat of Menzies.



Ruby Boye, BEM - The Only Female Coastwatcher

Doug Knight

More than 600 Coastwatchers served in Australia, New Guinea and the Pacific Islands during World War II. They included RAAF, AIF, RAN, 1 WRAN, (Women's Royal Australian Naval Officer), US Marines and US Army personnel, members of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate Defence Force and 13 civilians. The thirty-eight Coastwatchers who died are not always identifiable on the Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial since their names are listed with their operational units and not as Coastwatchers and the civilians do not appear in the Roll.

Much has been written about the heroic exploits of Coastwatchers during World War II who provided vital intelligence to Allied planners and also assisted on many occasions with rescuing Allied aircrew. However very little is known or has been published of the only female to serve in the field as a Coastwatcher.

Ruby Olive Boye-Jones was born on 29 July 1891 at St Peters, Sydney and was the fifth of eight children of English-born parents Alfred Jones, storeman, and his wife Emily (née Wild). Little is known of her childhood, except that she learned to play the piano. On 25 October 1919 she married Skov Boye at St Stephen's Church of England, Newtown. Her occupation was then listed as saleswoman and her husband's as a laundry proprietor. They were to have two sons, Ken and Don.

From 1928 to 1936 the Boye family lived in Tulagi, British Solomon Islands Protectorate, moving in 1936 to Vanikoro Island, in the Santa Cruz group¹, where Skov managed the Vanikoro Kauri Timber Company. At the outbreak of World War II, the operator of the company's tele-radio left for Australia to join the RAAF. Before his departure, he instructed Ruby on how to operate the radio and transmit weather reports in voice code. She later taught herself Morse code, took over complete responsibility for the radio and became a member of Lieutenant Commander Eric Feldt, RAN, Coastwatching service.

Ruby's position was supposed to be temporary, but no replacement ever arrived. Following the outbreak of the Pacific War, the Timber Company decided to evacuate its employees from the island. The two boys were sent to live with relatives in Australia, but Skov elected to stay to mind the company's property, and Ruby to operate the radio. With the departure of the



Ruby in her WRANS uniform (Courtesy Geoff Boye).

company doctor, Ruby also assumed responsibility for caring for the health of the local population.

In May 1942 the Japanese occupied Tulagi and Guadalcanal; and invasion of the Santa Cruz Islands seemed imminent. Most European residents left for Australia, but Ruby and Skov elected to stay. Ruby continued to operate the Coastwatcher radio, sending her daily weather reports and acting as a relay station between Coastwatchers further north and the Naval Intelligence office at Vila, New Hebrides. At five feet 10 inches (177 cm) tall, she was a dignified and imposing woman, with dark, wavy hair and a warm smile.

Initially, Ruby's reports were sent to Tulagi, but it was occupied by the Japanese in May 1942, and after that they were sent to Port Vila in the New Hebrides, and only in Morse, using the Playfair cipher². Vanikoro became completely isolated. At one point they went

¹Vanikoro is located 118 kilometres to the Southeast of the main Santa Cruz group. It is part of the Temotu Province of the Solomon Islands.

²A unique code used by Coastwatchers and later replaced by the 'Bull' code.



without supplies for ten months, subsisting on locally grown and raised fish, chickens, sweet potatoes and bananas. The radio was for military use only, and Ruby received only three personal messages during war, advising her of the deaths of her father, mother, and sister. Her activities became known to the Japanese, who at one point broadcast a message to her in English: "Calling Mrs Boye, Japanese commander say you get out!"³

Vanikoro was completely defenceless, protected only by its formidable coral reef. Japanese boats attempted to discover the channel into the harbour without success. It was bombed once, and leaflets were dropped. Skov and Ruby decided to move the radio station away from their home at Paeu, the main village on the south-west coast, and into the mountains. The plan was to escape into the jungle if the Japanese invaded. In the event, Vanikoro was never occupied by the Japanese. Unfortunately, the suspension bridge over the Lawrence River subsequently collapsed, forcing Ruby to make the trip over its crocodile-infested water in a punt four times a day⁴.

Ruby provided vital information during the Battle of the Coral Sea in May 1942 and the Battle of the Santa Cruz Islands in October 1942. After the Japanese executed an elderly planter as a spy in March 1942, the Coastwatchers were commissioned as officers in the RAAF or Royal Australian Navy to provide some legal protection under the Geneva Conventions, although it was far from certain that the Japanese would honour it; but it was not until 27 July 1943 that Ruby was officially appointed an Honorary Third Officer in the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service (WRANS)⁵. Her uniform was later dropped to her by parachute.

Admiral William 'Bull' Halsey, Jr, then Commander of the US Third Fleet paid her a visit, Upon arriving on the island in a PBY Catalina flying boat to personally thank her for her services he was reported to have walked into their home one day and said: "My name's Halsey. I just want to meet the marvellous Australian woman who runs the radio." He also admitted to "playing hooky" by visiting⁶. When she became ill with shingles in late 1943, he arranged for a PBY to fly her to Australia for hospital treatment, and for four US Navy sailors to man the radio station until she returned. After three weeks she resumed her duty. The station remained operational until she received the news over her radio in August 1945 that the war had ended, but she continued sending weather messages for the

Bureau of Meteorology. Her appointment in the WRANS was terminated on 30 September 1946.



Ruby at her radio on Vanikoro. Source: RAN Historical Society

For her wartime services, Ruby was awarded the British Empire Medal in 1944,^[6] which was presented to her in a ceremony in Suva in 1946⁷. She also received the 1939-1945 Star, the Pacific Star, the Australia Service Medal 1939-1945 and the War Medal 1939-1945; but no pay, as her rank was, unlike that of her male counterparts, considered honorary.

The timber industry resumed after the war ended and in 1947 Skov became seriously ill with leukemia, and he and Ruby returned to Sydney in August 1947. He died two weeks later. She later married Frank Bengough Jones, a departmental manager, at St John's Anglican Church in Penshurst on 19 June 1950, but he died in 1961. In later life, now known as Ruby Boye-Jones, she suffered from diabetes, and had her left leg amputated below the knee. On the occasion of her 98th birthday in 1989, the Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Michael Hudson, wrote to her: "Your name is synonymous with the finest traditions of service to the Navy and the nation. We have not, nor will not, forget your wonderful contribution."

Ruby died in Narwee, New South Wales, on 14 September 1990. Her remains were cremated. An accommodation block at the Australian Defence Force Academy in Ruby left Vanikoro only when her husband became seriously ill in 1947. He died shortly after they arrived in Sydney. On 19 June 1950 she married Frank Bengough Jones (d.1961), a departmental manager and widower, at St John's Church of England, Penshurst, NSW. Mrs Boye-Jones, as she became known, remained alone in her Penshurst home after Frank's death until she reached her late nineties. Survived by her two sons of her first marriage, she died on 14 September 1990 at Narwee, NSW and was cremated.

³Djokovic, Petar (2017). "Calling Mrs Boye". Semaphore. Retrieved 17 April 2018.

⁴"Ruby Boye-Jones oral history interview". National Museum of the Pacific War. Retrieved 17 April 2018.

⁵"Ruby Boye – Coastwatcher Heroine". Naval Historical Society of Australia. Retrieved 17 April 2018.

⁶

⁷"Honours and Awards Recommendation – Ruby Olive Boye". Australian War Memorial. Retrieved 17 April 2018.





Ruby post war. Source: Naval historical Society

An accommodation block at the Australian Defence Force Academy, Canberra, is named after her. The Ex-WRANS Association also dedicated a page to her in the Garden Island Chapel Remembrance Book.

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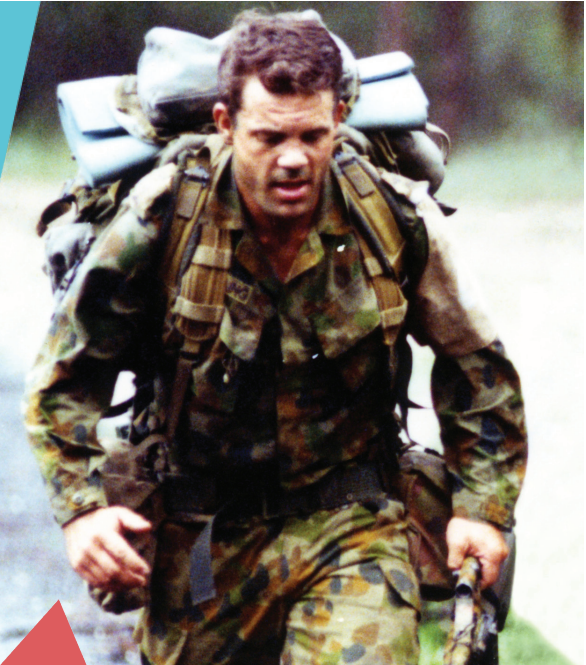


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FIGHTING FOR THE NORTH

Authorised by L. Gosling, 3/266 Trower Road, Casuarina NT 0810



Helping a Mate Out in Turkey during Covid

By John (Jack) Thurgar SC MBE OAM RFD (Retd)

There has been an affinity between the Turkish and Australian peoples for over a hundred years. That affinity has bred many personal friendships. I would like to tell you of one such friendship and in doing so endorse my Turkish friend's attempt to offer an innovative method of our war dead on the Gallipoli peninsula.

How Did the Bond between Australians and the Turks Originate?

It may have started when such men as Dr Charles Snodgrass-Ryan brought stories back to Australia from Turkey when he and others from the then British Empire served as medical volunteers (Red Crescent) in the Ottoman Army in the late 1870s, or it may have been after the Gallipoli campaign when the War Graves Registration Unit and Charles Bean's research team were afforded every hospitality and opportunity to do their work on the Peninsula.

Or it may have been when Ataturk invited a delegation of British, Australian and New Zealanders who had fought during the campaign to revisit the battleground and conduct commemorative services in 1934. Whatever the reason, the special bond was exemplified in 1967 when Lord Casey, who as Governor-General, and an original ANZAC and son-in-law of Doctor Charles Snodgrass-Ryan, commented on the relationship, which prompted the Turkish Government to erect a memorial now known as the 'Deepest Respect' memorial near the trenches of Lone Pine in the ANZAC Sector of the front line.

I first visited the Gallipoli peninsula many years before it became popular and talked with Turkish veterans and their families about the Dardanelles war. It was folk-lore among the Turkish people I spoke to on the Gallipoli peninsula that the Memorial, though it depicted a Turk rescuing an Aussie, could represent an Aussie rescuing a Turk.

The concept of rescuing the wounded from a battlefield was foremost in a conversation I had with



The Turkish 'Deepest Respect to Mehmetcik' Memorial near Lone Pine. All photos supplied.

President Suleyman Demirel, the then President of Turkey, when he told me of the enduring mutual respect between our nation's soldiers. The concept of altruism and compassion on the battlefield was related to him by his father who had served in the Ottoman Army defending his homeland in 1915 in the Australian sector during the Dardanelles War.

That mutual respect between the people of our nations has been repeatedly brought home to me over the past 40 years on so many occasions.



John (Jack) Thurgar and President Demirel discussing 'compassion and respect' on the battlefield.

An Enterprising Turkish Battlefield Guide

Abdurrahim Boz (aka APO), is a fully qualified English-speaking Battlefield Guide and his passion has been to share the history of the events that took place at Gallipoli during those fateful months from 25 April 1915 to 9 January 1916. APO stated recently: "I've been taking visitors to Gallipoli on guided tours for the last 15 years and have made many friends and shared their personal experiences and stories of relatives that lost their lives during the war at Gallipoli."

I first met APO when he was starting out in the tourism industry. He worked in reception at hostels and accompanied tourists by bus on airport transfers. He then 'graduated' from these duties to be an assistant to a well-known Turkish Battlefield Guide, all the while listening to the stories not only of his mentor but also the participants, many who had relatives who had served on the peninsula. Their stories prompted him to read extensively on the campaign from not only the Australian but also the French, British, German and Turkish forces. He then studied for and attained his Guides license. But



APO's learning did not stop there, it has continued over the years as his enthusiasm for his profession flourished.

All members of a Commando Commemorative Sea-Kayak Battlefield Tour remember APO affectionately for his manner, professionalism and enthusiasm. In fact he was ordained an 'Honorary Commando' after surviving our humour (or lack thereof), sometimes bad manners and intemperate Australian ways.



Our 2006 Commando Sea Kayak Battlefield Tour made the front page of the Canakkale Daily.

Commemorating our War dead on the Gallipoli Peninsula

APO's sincerity was first witnessed by our Team when we conducted a Dawn Service after paddling to Ari Burnu in the pre-dawn hours in Klepper Mk11's. He participated at the service representing 'his country'.



APO, on right of photo and Huseyin Gulen at a Gellibolu Lokanta.

Fast forward a decade and a half later. We received an email from APO advising of his new venture to Commemorate the Fallen at Gallipoli. Please see below the concept from APO himself:

Dear friends

I am proud to announce that I am starting a new online commemoration service at Gallipoli and would love to get your support on this.



APO participating in our Commando Dawn Service of Commemoration at Ari Burnu Cemetery.

You can share this e-mail with friends, family members, and people who are interested in Gallipoli. Thank you and kind regards, APO.

APO wrote "The world has changed before our eyes over the last couple of years, things we took for granted are no more. We had to adapt and change our ways to suit the new normal."

"The world tourism industry was hit particularly hard and it is no different here in Turkey. We Turks are a proud nation and events in our history have made us resilient to be able to adapt and make the best of every situation that confronts us.

As custodians of the fallen men at Gallipoli from Turkey and all other nationalities that took part in the war we feel obliged to keep their memories alive for their families in all corners of the world.

Due to travel restrictions imposed because of the Covid epidemic and visitors not being able to visit Gallipoli to pay their respects to the fallen we have started a virtual service so that families of the fallen can experience Gallipoli and pay tribute to them.

I was recently contacted by a family that wanted to visit the grave of a relative to pay their respects and lay a wreath. Due to travel restrictions, they were unable to do this in person. We came up with the idea that I will arrange for the wreath to be made and I will visit the grave and connect to them via an online platform while doing a virtual wreath-laying on their behalf. The family were very satisfied and recommended that we offer this service to all relatives who were not able to travel in person."

Abdurrahim BOZ / Gallipoli Battlefield Guide

Virtual Service of Remembrance

The Covid-19 pandemic has reduced the ability of people from around the world to travel. In particular, it means that we cannot visit the graves or Memorial Walls where our ancestors and their mates from the Gallipoli campaign are commemorated.



What APO is offering is a fee for service where he will work with you and prepare a Service of Remembrance tailored to meet your needs. He will purchase a beautiful wreath of fresh flowers, travel to the nominated site/grave, and on the agreed day/time link up with you via a compatible communications platform, then conduct the Service of Remembrance – all the while transmitting the images and sound to you wherever you may be.

APO can provide this service to not only individuals, but also to ex-service Associations, Veterans Groups and extended families and friends of the Fallen, who are buried or commemorated on the various Walls of Remembrance on the Gallipoli Peninsula.

The service is available to not only Australians, but also Canadian, British, French and New Zealanders.

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For more information or to organise a Service of Remembrance: email bozabdurrahim@gmail.com.
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Who was Sam Carey of AIB?

(PART 1)

An autobiography of Sam Carey and edited by Doug Knight

Recently whilst collecting material for the ACA Vic Historical Collection from the wartime memorabilia of Lieutenant Gilbert Kerr Mackenzie, a WW2 member of Special Operations Australia, (SOA)¹ I came across a very old autobiography of Sam Carey. I asked Elizabeth McKenzie, also World War II veteran of Headquarters SOA, who was Sam Carey? She replied 'he was a world-renowned geologist, Gilberts' best mate and lifelong friend, and a genius of innovation within the Research and Development Section of SOA, as well as an audacious party leader². This autobiography is very detailed and lengthy and covers many aspects of WW2 special operations training, research and development and several operations and will be published in 3 parts over this and the forthcoming editions.

Part One- Early days



Samuel Warren Carey Era Base camp. New Guinea, 1937 at age: 25.
Source: Carey family collection

Reserved Occupation - Civilian

At the outbreak of the war, I was still in New Guinea as senior geologist with the Australasian Petroleum Company and was informed that the Australian

Government had directed that our petroleum exploration work should continue, and that we were classified as in reserved occupations and were not free to enlist. When Japan entered the war with the devastating attack on Pearl Harbour, Colonel N.G. Hatton, the commander in Port Moresby of the 8th Military District, assured me that the same order stood. When the Germans routed the Australian and Allied Forces in Greece and Crete, I again enquired, but the answer was the same. I enlisted in the Home Guard, and at night worked with them wiring³ Ela Beach because we were assigned the defence of Port Moresby itself, the last defence of our own homes.

When the military situation deteriorated, Colonel Hatton was replaced by Brigadier Basil Morris (who was then promoted to Major-General). The Chief Geologist of the Australasian Petroleum Company, Dr. K. Washington Gray, told him that the company had a large group of men with years of experience in all aspects of working in the jungle, with wide knowledge of transport and communications, working with the indigenous peoples, and living off the land, and suggested that the Army could take them over as a fully organized group, who surely would be of great value as the war spread into the jungle. General Morris rejected the suggestion out of hand, as there could be no serious fighting in the jungle. Armies could not fight in a jungle. Morris was a Duntroon officer of the Permanent Army, as was General Rowell who succeeded him.

My experience is that the senior officers who came up through the CMF were more flexible and adaptable than the Permanent Army officers, who tended to be blinkered by their training and what they thought they knew.

In January 1942, all women were evacuated on a troopship which had brought a reinforcement battalion, except that missionary women and nurses, were allowed to stay if they chose. Although Austral was a trained nurse, she was already pregnant, so was evacuated with the others. On the evening before the evacuation, we had arranged a farewell party at our home for some soldiers who had completed their term in Papua and were to go home on leave on the troopship. But next day they were back off the ship and Austral was on.

¹Popularly but incorrectly, often referred to as Z Special Unit, which was the overt, administrative and personnel establishment, particularly for Australian Army members, of SOA.

²SOA operational deployment teams/groups were referred to as a 'Party'.

³Defensive entanglements of barbed wire on the beachfront to impede amphibious landings.



I was then sent to the Vailala River in the Gulf of Papua to complete the detailed mapping of the Nakoro dome, which was the prime candidate for the next drill hole when the current drilling at Kariava was completed.

When Rabaul fell to the Japanese, martial law was proclaimed in New Guinea, and all men were conscripted forthwith into the army. Even in this extremity, I was not allowed to enlist. Orders came from the War Cabinet that ten of us who had specific knowledge were to proceed to Australia to put on record the status of the several aspects of the petroleum exploration program, so that this work could be resumed if the war position in the southwest Pacific region improved. Beside me, the ten included Roy Greenham, who had been well geologist on the Kariava well, Carrington, who was drilling superintendent at Kariava, and Temple-Watts who had been chief superintendent in Port Moresby. One of the company's vessels, the M.V. Chinampa, of about 100 tons, was to sail from Port Moresby with seven of our group and come to the Vailala to pick up Greenham, Carrington, and me. Thence we were to sail her to Cairns and hand her over to the Navy there, because the navy was desperately short of small craft. We were then to proceed by train to Melbourne.

I, along with the rest of us, would have preferred to sail direct from the mouth of the Vailala to Cooktown, the only problem being the passage through the Great Barrier Reef, as Cook had found 170 years earlier. But the Navy had ordered that we sail coastwise via Thursday Island. When we arrived there, the Harbour Master was amazed at the Chinampa's motley crew and read chapter and verse of all the maritime regulations which we were flouting and ordered us not to leave port. We reminded him that there was a war on, and that we were sailing under naval orders.

But this did not impress him, and early in the afternoon he came down to the jetty in full uniform, wearing his World War I ribbands⁴, and ordered us not to leave port. Then Carrington, a heavily built Yorkshireman, landed a hard right to the jaw and laid him out. We cast off and sailed to Cooktown. We never heard any sequel, which is surprising, because Thursday Island was part of a very active radio communications network. I guess he must have realized that he had made an ass of himself and took no further action. But his tooth left a nasty wound in Carrington's fist, which I had to fix, because, inter alia, I had been assigned the duty of ship's doctor.

Although I could have no inkling of it then, I was to meet up with the Chinampa again, in her role as a special purpose ship in the special operations of the SOA, under the command of Lieut-Commander Erricson.

⁴Military medal ribbons metal ribbons metal ribbons are correctly termed ribbands.

At the Australian Petroleum Company headquarters in Queen Street Melbourne, it was 1 June 1942 before I had completed my task and was then free to enlist. But in what capacity? Radar was the new and rapidly expanding development with urgent need for highly qualified technical people, and it seemed to me that, as a Doctor of Science, I could perhaps be of most use there. The RAAF recruiting panel which interviewed me agreed entirely, and after medical and other enquiries, I was accepted and was to be attested next day for entry into radar training, on completion of which, I would be posted forthwith as a flight-lieutenant.

Enlistment

My wife and I had taken a flat in "Hillcrest", an apartment block in Mona Place, the first little street off Punt Road up the hill from Toorak Road. That evening, there was a knock on the door, and an Army Officer, asked could he speak with me, so I ushered him in. He said, "May I speak with you privately" nodding toward my wife. Austral took the hint and went into the bedroom. Then he said, "I have been ordered to request you to volunteer for the AIF, and thereafter volunteer for special duty, which could be hazardous". I told him that he was too late because I had already enlisted in the RAAF and was to be attested in the morning. He told me that he knew that, and they already had my papers, and a dossier on me. Shocked, I asked what did they want me to do? He replied that he could not tell me any more than he had already said. I replied that I was willing to do whatever was most useful for the war effort, but it was a bit tough to expect me to buy a pig in a poke. He said he realized that but could assure me that the matter had been carefully studied, and that the army wanted me to do as he suggested. I learned later that Colonel Mott⁵ had specified to Commander Long⁶ the kind of man he wanted for a specific task and that advice had come from Commander Feldt and Wing Commander Townsend (formerly District Officer at Wewak), "Get Dr. S.W. Carey".

Next day I went up the hill to Airlie on the corner of Punt Road and Domain Road, then the secret headquarters of AIB (now the Victorian Police Academy) and was commissioned as a Captain⁷. Two weeks later I was in New Guinea.

New Guinea Force Headquarters

My primary function in New Guinea was liaison between AIB⁸ and the Commanding General at New

⁵Lieutenant Colonel Gray Mott, British Army SOE Java who joined Inter Allied Service Department (ISD) as Director Operations in March 1943.

⁶Commander Rupert Long, RAN, OBE, Director of Naval Intelligence (DNI).

⁷Sam Carey was will not commissioned on 6 July 1942 and posted to Z Special Unit.

⁸The Allied Intelligence Bureau was established in July 1942 as the overarching organisation for the organisation, coordination and operations of Allied intelligence units in the Southwest Pacific Theatre.



Guinea Force Headquarters. I was given no instructions or briefing before departure but assumed that they would follow. But they never did! When I first arrived in Port Moresby, the Commander of New Guinea Force was Major-General Basil Morris, with whom I established cordial relations. When things were going badly, he was replaced by Lieut-General Rowell, and he in turn was replaced by Lieut-General Sir Edmund Herring (later Chief Justice of Victoria), then General Sir Thomas Blarney, Commander-in-chief of the Australian army, and finally General Douglas MacArthur, Supreme Commander of the Southwest Pacific region, came to Port Moresby, and I served each in turn. Blamey was always approachable, and so was MacArthur, but I did not like his Chief of Staff, Major-General Willoughby, who seemed to have little sympathy or respect for Australians.



Sam Carey, New Guinea 1942.
Source: Carey collection

As even the existence of AIB was Top Secret, no-one but the general commanding and his chief of staff knew my real function, so I was given a cover function— GSI(T), that is intelligence-topographic. This was a full-time job, into which I fitted quite naturally, because of my years working alone in the New Guinea jungle. I had to keep the command fully informed on the current operations terrain, rainfall and flood patterns, the native populations, local food supplies, tides, volcanoes, etc. My fellow officers in the mess knew nothing of my primary assignment, and I took my turn as duty-officer at night when the command slept. The Cipher Officers knew there was something odd about me, because they had been ordered to deliver to me signals with a specific preamble without attempting to decipher them, and to accept from me for transmission signals already encoded. Also, I had a radio station WWZ which I never visited, whose staff

listened continuously to a specified frequency on which things rarely happened, but when they did a specific procedure had to be followed, which meant that the signal ended with me.

Another function was to contact AIB parties or coast-watchers who needed something dropped to them from an "Aggie" (the slang name for an Avro Anson) a long-obsolete bomber, which was ideal for this job of jungle-top hopping to a party in enemy-held country, which I knew how to find.

A final responsibility was that if Port Moresby fell, I was to remain behind and set up an observation post to keep the command in Australia informed. Commander Feldt, head of the Coastwatchers, had a similar responsibility, and had prepared a base on the plateau inland from Port Moresby. I selected Mackenzie⁹ and another to join me, and we examined the wreck of the Macdhui which had been bombed by the Japanese in an early raid on Port Moresby. She was within swimming distance from the Konedobu shore. During the bombing, she had run aground on a reef in the harbour over towards Hanuabada, with her bow high and dry, listing to starboard at some 45° and sloping sternward at about the same angle. Everything moveable had been looted from her by the nearby Hanuabada natives. The forward hatch canted down for two decks, then opened out into the holds and at low tide we could enter the hold at the forward port corner and climb high and dry into the bow. This was to be our OP in the harbour. But Port Moresby never fell, so I was not called on for this responsibility. (Before the war I had travelled to New Guinea on the Macdhui and Austral and I had sailed in her from Brisbane to Port Moresby on our honeymoon).



A drawing by Sam Carey of view from his residence in Port Moresby.
Source: Carey family collection.

⁹Private Gilbert Mackenzie then serving in the Intelligence Section of 55 Battalion.



I got involved in various other things. I saw a lot of Feldt¹⁰ and Proud¹¹ and helped recruit several people for M Special Unit¹², FELO¹³, and the Coastwatchers—Jack Fryer, Clem Searle, Jack Ferguson, Lyn Noakes, G.A.V. Stanley, and others. I selected four natives, whom I knew were good orators, to be taken to Australia to be overawed with evidence of military might, then flown in aircraft low over occupied areas, telling their countrymen by loudspeaker in their own dialects that the Japanese would soon be thrown back. When things were going badly at Kokoda because of the impossibility of supplying our troops over the painfully difficult trail over the Owen Stanley Mountains, I told General Rowell that Australasian Petroleum Company parties under Noel Osborn had used light aircraft to drop supplies to difficult areas in the upper Fly and Strickland Rivers, with a 95% recovery rate. So began the "biscuit bombing" from DC3 aircraft, which turned the tide of battle there.

A veteran Independent Company commander, Major Harry Harcourt, thinking that my years of New Guinea jungle experience were not being fully utilized as GI(T), and unaware that this was only a cover job, wrote to his Headquarters in Melbourne suggesting that I be transferred to command an Independent Company.

When the war came to New Guinea the Army Cartographic office at Ballarat had rapidly printed four-miles-to-the-inch strategic maps, which had hundreds of native village names, which were hard to find in a hurry when signals came in from forward troops. So, as part of my cover job, I decided to index these both by latitude-longitude and grid reference on the back of each sheet. There was a Brigade of conscripted troops on the Koitaki plateau behind Port Moresby, becoming browned off because they had nothing to do except wait. So, I arranged through General Morris that each battalion should send down one man from its Intelligence Section, and I put them to work in an army hut, to systematically index every map, which I then sent down to the Cartographic Unit, where they were immediately added to the backs of all the sheets. As I needed a recruit for my AIB function, I carefully studied each of these men, and selected Gilbert Mackenzie. With appropriate feeler lead-up, I asked him whether he would like to transfer to a volunteer unit for special duties. He said he would, and there the conversation ended.

While the other men, who had been borrowed for the indexing task, returned to their battalions,

Mackenzie was held temporarily at 1 Aust. Corps Survey at New Guinea Force Headquarters, until a movement order came through to fly immediately to Melbourne for transfer to the AIF in Z Special Unit, and return to Port Moresby, under my command. Mackenzie proved to be an excellent selection. By the end of the war, he had advanced through Corporal, Sergeant, Staff Sergeant, to Lieutenant, and after the war he advanced to Colonel in the Citizens Military Forces in the Intelligence Corps

Later, shortly after I had left Port Moresby, Brigadier Shave, had Field Security arrest Mackenzie and demanded from him an explanation of some secret papers belonging to me, which he alleged had been found lying around. Mackenzie denied any knowledge of the papers whatever. Much later I heard from Captain Keith McCarthy at AIB Headquarters in Brisbane, that he had heard that I had blotted my copybook by a security lapse in leaving some secret papers lying around. I was mystified. It was sometime later before I found out what had happened. When Brigadier R.N.L. Hopkins went to Port Moresby as BGS with General Herring, my CO, Colonel Mott told me that I should keep close touch with Brigadier Hopkins, that "Hoppy" was a personal friend and in full confidence with all AIB matters. I called on him at New Guinea Force Headquarters and established cordial relations. Twice I gave him copies of my report to Mott on the status quo in New Guinea. On the original to Colonel Mott, I had written, "Copy to Brigadier Hopkins". They did not have Mott's name on them, nor mine, only our code numbers. For example, I was 117. It appears that Hopkins put them in his secret file with my name on it but omitted to destroy that file when he returned to Australia to become Commandant of the Australian Staff College. His successor at New Guinea Force Headquarters, Brigadier Shave, came across this file, and jumped to the conclusion that I had left them lying around. Security intelligence being what it is, I do not doubt that "the blot on my copybook", was never erased.

Operation SCORPION

One day General Blamey sent for me. 'There is a heavy build-up of enemy shipping in Rabaul harbour'. "Yes sir, I have seen the air reconnaissance photos". "Is there anything you fellows could do about it?" "A limpet raid from Folboats dropped from a submarine some distance offshore would be the obvious solution". "What is a limpet?" "It is a sheet-steel cylinder about 11x8x3 inches, weighing about 4 pounds which can be filled with about 8 pounds of gelignite or plastic high explosive; it has strong horseshoe magnets riding on rubber to attach it to a ship about six feet down, to be fired by a time delay; each limpet blows a 3-ft hole in a normal ship, and usually three would be linked to go off together several yards apart to by-pass bulkheads". "How big a party would you need?" "Ten men in five Folboats could

¹⁰Lieutenant Commander Eric Feldt, OBE, RAN Head of the Coastwatchers.

¹¹Commander John Proud, OBE, RANVR

¹²M Special Unit was the Army administrative unit for personnel within AIB primarily involved in field intelligence duties and Coastwatching in New Guinea.

¹³Far East Liaison Office, other unit within AIB responsible for the preparation dissemination of propaganda and recruitment of native labour and guerrillas.



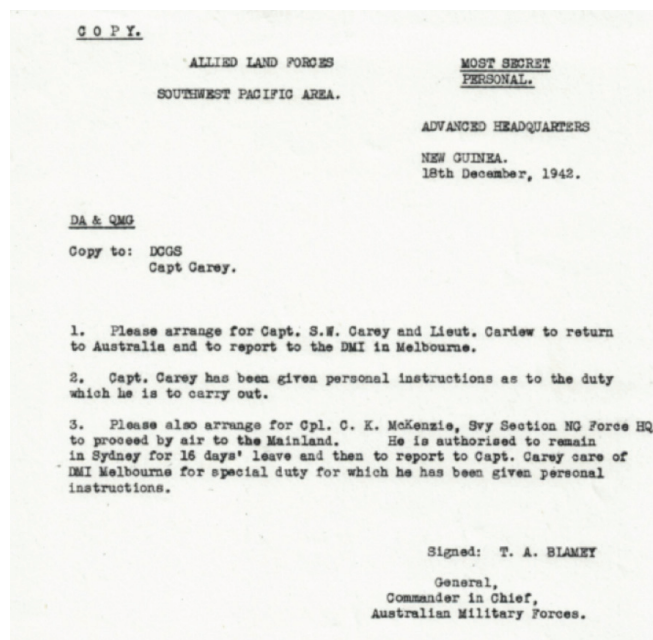
attack 15 ships". He looked me square in the face, "Would you volunteer to lead it?" What could I possibly say to that? "Yes sir". "You'll be shot!" Then he wrote an Operation Order to be typed, and when he handed it to me, unsealed, he said, "You will hold this as evidence that you are operating under my direct orders" .:

Lieut-General F. Berriman,
Rear Headquarters,
Australia.

Captain S. W. Carey is proceeding to Australia with orders I have given him personally. You will assist him in any way you can.

Thomas Blarney,
Commander-in-chief.

This obscure order was consistent with the Top-Secret status of AIB. Blamey presumably communicated directly with Berriman, but I had no knowledge of that. I left next day for Melbourne, stopping overnight in Townsville. There I met for the first time, Chapman-Walker¹⁴, then a Captain. He was on his way to Port Moresby, and not knowing about the orders I had received from Blarney and had expected to meet me in Port Moresby and to be introduced by me. We spent several hours together, and I explained the set-up at New Guinea Force Headquarters. The next time I met Chapman-Walker, long after the Townsville operation, he was a Lieut-Colonel having replaced Mott¹⁵.



General Blamey's orders for Captain Carey and Operation SCORPION.
Source: Mackenzie collection.

¹⁴Captain J. Chapman-Walker a British Army officer from the Special Operations Executive (SOE) would later take over command of SOA from LtCol Mott.

¹⁵Lt. Colonel G. Eggerton Mott, British Army was detached from SOE to Australia on May 17, 1942, Mott set up Inter-Allied Services Department (ISD) later to become part of the Allied Intelligence Bureau (AIB).

Next day, I continued on to Melbourne and reported to Mott, my chief. He was obviously disappointed that I was not in Port Moresby to prepare the ground for Chapman-Walker but was elated about Blamey's order for the Rabaul attack. He made no mention of his own administrative troubles, or of his pending replacement by Chapman-Walker. I prepared to assemble my team for Operation SCORPION, ten men to crew five Folboats.

First was Gilbert K. Mackenzie, NX132907— the young Private I had recruited in Port Moresby, whom I had promoted to Corporal. Next was Captain R.H.C. ("Dick") Cardew, NEX38, recently returned to Australia from the debacle in Greece and Crete with the 2/8th. Battalion selected because he had grown up in Rabaul. Cardew suggested three of his 2/8th. mates, all thoroughly proved under severe battle conditions— Captain A.L. ("Tony") Gluth, VX4802, Lieutenant J. A. Downie, VX6461, and Warrant Officer Tom J. Barnes, VX6078. He also suggested R.B.H. Page, VB217062, who had grown up with him in Rabaul, where his father, Harold Hillis Page, had been Head of the Treasury in the New Guinea Administration, and was now interned there by the Japanese. Bob Page had completed second year medicine at the University of Sydney before volunteering for the AIF, where he had been posted to the 2/4 Pioneer Battalion and commissioned as a Lieutenant. Lieutenant J. E. Grimso was also a pre-war Rabaul man. We also needed a radio operator, so Captain M.S. Israel (in charge of signals for AIB nominated Sergeant Ford, for obvious reasons nicknamed "Henry". The final acceptance was Captain Desmon McNamara, transferred to AIB from the artillery. We called him "Big Mac", because he was a bit taller than "Wee Mac Mackenzie who was only six feet. All surrendered their pay-books (normally inseparable from a serving soldier) but men carry no such identification. Nor did they wear any unit colour patch.

None of us had been in a submarine, and the only one available was a derelict World War I sub lying near the Iron Coy Bridge at Balmain. Cardew and I went aboard, along with Bob Page, whom I had only met that day. This inspection was not much use, but better than nothing.

With the party complete, we left Melbourne late in March 1943 at 6 p.m. by civilian train for the long haul to Cairns with the usual changes at State borders. As was normal under such circumstances, I was appointed O.C. Train responsible for the carriages reserved for troops.

Training at ZES¹⁶

ZES was our training headquarters—"Fairview" (later known as "the House on the Hill") on the outskirts

¹⁶Z Experimental Station (ZES) was an early SOA training facility and was subsequently replaced by the Fraser Island Commando School (FCS).



of Cairns, a fine old hickory, kauri, and red cedar mansion, which has quite a history of its own. Built in 1896 for Richard Ash Kingsford the first mayor of the Cairns council (which had been set up a year earlier), designed by a French architect, Louis Severin, who later succeeded Kingsford as mayor. When Kingsford's daughter Caroline married the local bank manager William Smith, they hyphenated their name to Kingsford-Smith, carried on by their fourth son, destined to pioneer intercontinental aviation, Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith. In 1910, William Munro, another "mayor" (by this time up graded to Chairman of the Cairns Shire Council) bought "Fairview" and owned it for the next decades.



Post-war photograph of the ZES main building
Source:

ZES was originally for all AIB operatives, before the Coast Watchers set up a separate training station in the islands ZES was under the command of Major A.E.B. Trappes-Lomax, who had a typical English public-school speech and bearing seconded from British SOE, which had fathered SOA in Australia. Captain Ross was Adjutant, Captain M.R.O.D. (Dick) Noor was Intelligence Officer. Captain Philip Moneypenny, another British Special Service officer with an intriguing background, was responsible for explosives training. Lieutenant Ted Carse, RANR, was responsible for training in the Folboats and whaler, and later was the Captain of Krait¹⁷.

Although we started as ten fit men, each of whom had lived under hard conditions, training for SCORPION had to be tough. No clothes other than shorts (to darken and harden skins), always bare feet to leave tracks like natives, because Australian army boots would leave unmistakable tracks in enemy country. Every morning before breakfast run at the double all the way to the baths for swimming—breast, backstroke and crawl alternately, with increased distance each day until all could swim a mile at each stroke, then at the double back to breakfast. Judo and

more lethal forms of unarmed combat, and noiseless killing; normal physical exercises, push-ups, muscle building, etc.; workouts in the heavy whaleboat off Machans, San Remo, and other beaches north along the coast; small arms training with pistols, Sten sub-machine gun, Garand rifle, Welrod (silenced weapon with removable stock, used either as a rifle or pistol, with luminous sights for night); survival in the jungle, and living off the land.

None complained of the sustained pressure—rather the attitude was, pile it on, but you won't crack us. A deep team mateship hardened by the day. Subsequently in JAYWICK the barrier between officers and men was firmly maintained at all times, but in SCORPION that sequestration became blurred, without any threat to authority. Also, although I had four captains the same rank as myself, absolute command was never questioned.



AIB Folboat training and Fraser Commando School during World War II.
Source: AWM

Explosives of several kinds (including the lovely new plastic high explosive RDX); each of us kept a small piece of gelignite in our trousers pocket next to the skin, to provide continuous absorption of nitroglycerine to develop immunity from n.g. headaches; primers, detonators, time delay fuses and instant detonating fuse, such as Cordtex, filled with PET (penta-erythritol-tetranitrate), pressure switches of various kinds, delaying charges with time pencils (when you ben' it, an acid solution started to eat away the copper wire which held back the striker) and more reliable AC delays (in which turning a thumb-screw broke a glass ampoule of acetone (in graded levels of dilution) which dissolved a cellulose plug and released the striker—red in half an hour, orange in an hour, yellow in two hours, green in four hours, blue in eight hours, and purple in sixteen hours); offense and defence with booby traps, and so on.

A limpet is a three-inch square steel can about eleven inches long, with two rubber-mounted magnets on each side; they are filled with gelignite or plastic high explosive; they have a hole in each end into which an AC delay can be screwed, and another opening for Cordtex to be connected to another limpet. So, we

¹⁷MV and later HMAS KRAIT was used on Operation JAYWICK and later used extensively by SOA for operations.



learned the theory and practice of limpeting, preparation of the charges, Cordtex, and delays, use of magnetic holdfast to work along the target ship, the folding extension rod to place the limpets six feet down (gently lest a clang alert the crew inside) the first limpet opposite the stack to flood the engine-room, and the next 60 feet aft to pass at least one bulkhead, then the third a further 60 feet aft. With water tamping outside and air inside, each limpet blew a five-foot hole, and with three of them beyond bulkheads the simultaneous group was more lethal than a torpedo which might blow the bow off a ship, which might still limp to port.



A Limpet Mk 4
Source: AWM

Theory and practice of wreath charges—a square metal former with each side of the square bent in section like an M with explosive filling between the legs of the M, and held by magnets against a steel target, such as an oil tank. A charge stuck on the outside of a tank would do little damage because of the air outside and fluid pressure inside would let the charge blow out into the air. But the hollow in the wreath charge focuses the detonation wave on to the tank so that it cuts neatly through the steel like an oxy-acetylene torch, and the piece inside the wreath drops out.

Training in the use of cyanide suicide ampoules was necessary. These are lens-shaped glass ampoules about 2 cm in diameter and 5 mm thick, filled with sodium cyanide and covered with latex. One of these can be kept safely in the mouth all day, or swallowed, when it passes through the intestines without harm to be excreted, but if crunched by the teeth, death follows in seconds. All AIB operatives were required to undertake not to be captured alive. Execution would be inevitable anyway after torture and drugging to extract all possible information which would compromise and lead to the death of other AIB parties, so immediate suicide was the best course even for the soldier concerned.

Once launched, an AIB operation has no possibility whatever of getting medical help, so the commander must be prepared to handle any emergency which might arise. This was a familiar condition for me, because during my years in the New Guinea jungles I was normally weeks away from the nearest medical help, and whatever happened to my labourers of myself, if I couldn't fix it, it was not going to be fixed. Nevertheless, different kinds of problem could arise in the military situation. So before leaving Melbourne I had sought the advice of my cousin, Dr. Harvey Carey, then a RAAF Medical Officer researching high altitude physiology problems, and later for forty years a medical professor. Without disclosing to him Top-Secret AIB matters, he advised me on specific questions. For example, a single spontaneous cough or sneeze could alert the enemy with tragic consequences. To prevent this, he advised me to spray the throat with a synephrine derivative (I have forgotten the precise prescription) to desensitize the throat to irritations and double up this protection with a codeine phosphate tablet to depress the cough reflex in the brain. At the same time, he explained side effects I should watch for. He explained the use of Benzedrine to make operatives trigger-sharp for a few hours. He also explained the spectrum of barbiturates, so that I could relieve inevitable anxiety states in the lead up to a crucial operation but allowing quick arousal. And so, through a variety of physiological problems which might arise.

Reaction to my request for a list of drugs at the Army Pharmaceutical supply base was immediate. Such drugs can only be supplied on a written order by a Medical Officer. I replied, please read a specific order from the MGO (Master General of Ordnance) to the effect that all requests by Z Special Unit¹⁸ shall be filled without enquiring the reason for them. The Warrant Officer referred me to his Officer, and he in turn passed the buck until I reached the Commanding Officer of Pharmaceutical Services, Lieut-Colonel Rex Townley, whom I again referred to the MGO Standing Order. The Colonels replied that the order did not mention drugs. I replied that it was quite general and did not exclude drugs or anything, else. "But what do you want them for?" "Sir, please read the Standing Order again". I came away with the requested list. (And so, did another operative who had requested one thousand gold sovereigns as non-recorded stores! He was going into Sumatra, where there were many Chinese from whom crucial information could be obtained, but only for gold).

Over-shadowing all such "basic" training, was mastering the Folboats. A Folboat is a folding kayak-style two-man canoe about twelve feet long and less than three feet wide amidships. The one-piece skin

¹⁸Z Special Unit was the main administration unit for SOA operations.



consists of seven-ply Indian cotton and rubber. The frame has a bow part and a stem part, each consisting of 2-cm diameter wooden dowels. The bow and stem frames are pushed hard into their respective ends, then a centre hinge section is pushed down and locked, tensioning the whole skin. Sliding brass tubes then slide over the matching dowel pairs, and the Folboat is ready. When taken apart and folded the Folboat fits into a canvas bag six feet long and less than two feet in diameter. We practised assembling and breaking down and repacking Folboats, until each pair could complete the cycle in sixty seconds. A Folboat can carry an all-upload of 330 kilograms. The two men fasten flaps around their waists, so that the Folboat becomes virtually watertight. The man in charge takes the rear position.

On the first day on the water in Folboats, we simply paddled around to get the feel of them and learn basic skills. The next day each pair paddled a mile, and found muscles we did not know existed, even in the buttocks, because you cannot stand, and the thin seat-pad gets harder by the mile. With each day we doubled the distance without rest, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64 miles as we hardened and trained muscles for the new demands on them. We practised stalking a target Folboat as soundlessly as possible on moonless nights. The first thing we saw was a dark shape, from which we realized that the reflectivity of the water surface in the dim light was better than the reflectivity of the Folboat. So, we tried painting a Folboat ivory white, and sure enough it was able to drift closer to the target without being spotted. We practised night landings on Green Island off the coast and made dummy raids on the naval ship moored in Cairns Harbour.

Training in going out and coming in through surf also taught us lessons. WO Torn Barnes said to me, " Sir, we can always get out safely even in high surf, but we always get turned over coming in even through relatively light surf. Why don't we fool the waves and face out to sea when we are really coming in?" He was of course right. Going out we paddle hard into the wave, cleave it and the wave goes over us green water, but we emerge safely ready for the next. But coming in, the wave drives the stern around so that we take the wave almost on the beam and roll over, capsized. We had tried a sea anchor (a trailing drogue) to hold back the stern without success. By facing out to sea, we could paddle backward between waves, then paddle hard forward to cleave the wave, then resume paddling backward. It was a bit slow, but we could get in even through high surf.

We were then ready for the journey up the Barron River and back, with portage around the falls, on hard rations and little

sleep. Big Mac, partnered by Sergeant Ford, lost control of his Folboat in fast water and slammed abeam into a pier of a sugarcane-tram bridge, and the bow jack-knifed to kiss its stern. Our final test was 128 miles at sea, out of sight of land. A sudden squall alarmed us at first, but we soon found that the Folboats were quite stable in a storm, something we were glad to know. Even rolling whitecaps on high swell did not capsize us, because the shape and motion of a wave in deep water is different from the breaking waves in shallow water.

Evenings had been devoted to studying Rabaul. Simpson Harbour itself is a great caldera blown out in a single catastrophic volcanic explosion, rimmed by subsequent volcanoes, now dormant, except Tuvuvur, which currently erupts from time to time and blows off steam and sulphur all the time. I had been down into this crater a number of times. Opposite is Vulcan, which first built up above sea level in the harbour in 1884, then suddenly erupted violently (along with Tuvuvur) in 1937 and in a few days built up an ash cone a few hundred feet high. Heavy tropical rain during the next decade had cut hundreds of deep gullies down its sides. This was to be our operations base, offering excellent cover, and right in the harbour near the target ships.

Next issue: Part 2- Operation SCORPION





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Commando members salute Blue Ribbon Day

Long serving and respected police officer Trevor Bergman is the son of the legendary Don Bergman, an original 2 Commando Company NCO and officer who served in the Unit for over 20 years. Trevor is a strong supporter of the Commando Association and its activities.

Trevor recently wrote, "I was working in the city last night when I went past the Shrine of Remembrance after 11 pm, as it was Blue Ribbon Day".

"This was the first time the Shrine has lit up the columns with blue lights and I thought you would like to see these photos to remember Police members who are no longer with us. I was lucky it was raining and I could capture the reflection."

"The Shrine Guard has been made up of Police and then PSOs since it was opened in 1934, which is the Police connection to the Shrine", Trevor wrote.

Blue Ribbon Day on 29 September each year provides the opportunity for the community to say "Thank you" to those who protect and serve our community and ensure that those who have fallen are never forgotten.

Many current and past 2 Commando Company members have personal connections and friendships with previous or serving Police Force members.

Among many 2 Company men who served with distinction in various state police forces were Paul Carr, who died in a storm on the 8000 metres Cho Oyu Mountain in Tibet, Mark Tregellas, Gary Clapham, Bill Robb, David Maughan, and Bob Johnson. Further afield, Dick Pelling and his wife Sandra both served in the City of London Police Force before migrating to Australia. Ed Nicholas, Col Titmarsh, former 2 Coy OC Chris Wallis and Warren Janson were some of many others to don the blue uniform.

Others gave distinguished service to the Commonwealth Police Force (later the Australian Federal Police), including John 'Jack' Fletcher, Jack Thurgar and Geoff Woodman, each with his story to tell.

(Geoff's wife, Frances, known to many ACA Vic members, served for 17 years in the AFP and had some fascinating encounters in the shadow of the international Underworld.)

Some were in the Police Search and Rescue units. Among these were Paul Butler and Ian Storey. In 2007 Marc Preston said, "Vic Velthuis who was a member of the Unit during the late eighties, and is now a Sergeant at the Victoria Police Search and Rescue, told me that five of his twenty-man team are also former or current 2 Coy members."

Tim Holding, an earlier Minister for Police, Corrections



Trevor Bergman's photograph with the Flame of Remembrance in the foreground. The blue columns of the Shrine commemorate lost members of the Police Force.
Photo Trevor Bergman.



At night the blue lights of the Shrine were reflected in the wet forecourt.
Photo Trevor Bergman

and Emergency Services, served in 126 Signals Squadron.

In earlier years the Australian Defence Force and Victoria Police signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to make it easier for police officers who are also Defence Reservists to also serve their community through their roles in the ADF.



A young Ian Storey was a member of the Police Search and Rescue Unit, served in 2 Commando Company and was a keen Commando Skydiver.
Photo supplied.



Paul Carr died on Mt Cho Oyu while training the Victorian police team for an attempt at Mt Everest to raise money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. He served in 2 Cdo Coy in the early 1980s.
Photo Herald-Sun.

The then Parliamentary Secretary for Defence, Senator David Feeney, said, "This MOU outlines support for Victoria Police members who are also Reservists and helps streamline their release from police roles when they are required to undertake Defence service."

At that time more than 120 Victoria Police members were also Defence Reservists.

The Unit and also the Association has always had very positive and supportive interactions with the current Victorian police at all levels.

It was fitting that ACA Victoria and its members acknowledged and respected the recent Blue Ribbon Day on September 29th.



COMMANDO VALE

VALE – LT COL DAVID BRUCE MUNRO RFD

2 Commando Company Melbourne University Regiment

10th October 1943 – 8th June 2021

David commenced his secondary education at Box Hill Grammar School (now Kingswood College), but left school early and worked full time as an insurance clerk, continuing his secondary education at night school.

David joined 2 Commando Company soon after he turned 18. When he qualified and gained entry to the University of Melbourne he transferred to the Melbourne University Regiment.

He returned to 2 Cdo Coy briefly in the mid-1960s as a junior officer and completed a number of courses with legendary unit members such as Adrian Cookson, Rob Meates, 'Yorke' Joyce and Dick Kluzniak before transferring back to MUR in 1967.

The Victorian Bar magazine wrote, "After David graduated from university with a degree in Law he did his articles with the firm Lander and Rogers and came to the Bar in 1971. Soon after, he established a busy practice in Workers Compensation and then Common Law."

"David was seen as a larger than life personality with a great sense of fun, but also a thorough and skilful advocate with a keen tactical sense. He served on the Human Rights committee of the Bar, and also the Equality before the Law committee."

"Extraordinarily generous with his time and talents, David undertook much pro bono work, including difficult work for war crime victims of the Bosnian War of the 1990s."

Former CMF soldier and later ARA Warrant Officer instructor at 2 Cdo Coy, David Waterston, had also been a Training WO at MUR and knew David Munro.

David W said, "Lt Col David Munro (Retd) was the silk that got Ross Goddard (2 Cdo Coy) his compensation claim after Ross broke his leg parachuting on Exercise Long Vigil in the Northern Territory. I was at MUR as the Training WO when I received a call from David to help support Ross's case, as he was in danger of losing it. I raced down to the court in uniform (which is not allowed) with the training manual under my arm. I was called straight into the witness chair. Boy - was I pulled apart by the Government female 'silk'. After I quoted from the manual, the judge requested a copy of the relevant

section. After some reflection, David won the case - the judge ruled in Ross's favour".

In the MURA magazine Alan Sandbach wrote, "Alongside his busy legal and family life David served in numerous Army Reserve postings. He contributed enthusiastically to the life and work of the University Regiment in many and varied ways over many years, including as commander of the Deakin University Company, until compulsory retirement from the Army. He attained the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel and was awarded the Reserve Forces Decoration for his long and efficient service to the Army".

"Following his retirement in 2008 David developed his artistic skills. In April 2019 the Essoign Club mounted a memorable exhibition of his paintings of Gallipoli."

His family wrote, "David lived a unique and adventurous life".

"He was the loved and loving husband of Helen; beautiful Dad to Jane, Duncan and Cam and father-in-law to Will, Pinky and Kate; and adored Grandpa to Ellie, Aidan, Chiara, Lachie and Ben."

All Association members offer their sincere sympathy to David's family.



David was proud of his Commando service and wore his green beret to formal military occasions.



Compiled with the generous support of Jack Dance, David Madison and Alan Sandbach of the MUR Association. Thanks also to the Victorian Bar magazine, Bar Roll No 975, and ACA Vic member David Waterston.

Photos courtesy of Jack Dance and the MUR Association.



COCKATOO RISE RETREAT



Cockatoo Rise retreat is located at the historic bluestone hotel in the rural township of Macarthur in Victoria's Western District.

Greg Carter, ex Vietnam veteran 6 RAR, invites former and current serving defence personnel and their partners to his Retreat situated between Port Fairy and Hamilton in Victoria's Western District. 1st and 2nd Commando Regiment members and former are most welcome.

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Due to the unique nature of Cockatoo Rise, bookings are essential. We regret that we are unable to cater for children or pets.

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For bookings phone Greg on 0409 418 332.

PO Box 395, Warrnambool Vic 3280.

Address: 26 High St, Macarthur.

See www.cockatooriseretreat.com.au/

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Veterans and their partners relax in the rustic surrounds of Greg Carter's Retreat at the Macarthur Hotel. (Photos supplied.)

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

Cockatoo Rise Retreat is located at MacArthur, Victoria – in the historic old bluestone hotel, 30 minutes from Port Fairy and 20 minutes from Hamilton in Victoria's Western District.

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Medals for Z Special Unit fighter finally make their way home

Two sisters from the Kimberley in northern Western Australia, whose Malay-born father served in Australia's Z Special Unit during WW2, are celebrating the receipt of their father's war medals and service records.

"Z Special Unit" was the administrative unit which provided operatives for the Services Reconnaissance Department (SRD) a highly secret reconnaissance and sabotage unit that operated behind Japanese lines in South East Asia.



Faye Elizabeth Dodson, 85, and Georgina Frances Dodson, 80, are the daughters of Abu Kassim, a pearl diver in Broome who was 27 when he enlisted in Z Special Unit in June 1942.

Abu Kassim's mobilisation form records his next of kin as Patricia Djiaween, from Beagle Bay Mission near Broome; he declared her as "unmarried wife".

He wrote "No" to a question about whether he'd ever been convicted in a civil court, but he had certainly been in conflict with the authorities back in Broome because his relationship with Patricia, an Aboriginal woman, was prohibited by law.

Abu Kassim was indentured to a Broome pearling company, Streeter



and Male, and his relationship with Patricia was closely monitored by local police and native affairs officers.

He was at sea as a diver for long periods but kept up supplies to his young family and faithfully paid maintenance for his daughters into a government trust account – but most of the money was not forwarded to his family.

Deportation was a constant threat until he enlisted in the Army.

After commando and parachute training on Fraser Island, he was parachuted into Borneo where he trained local Dayak people in guerrilla warfare.

He reached the rank of Sergeant and served for 1564 days (1314 days on active service in Australia, 250 days overseas) before he was discharged in 1946.

Faye and Elizabeth remember their father's return to Broome after the war when he would bring lollies and clothes to the orphanage where they were temporarily held and take them on outings.

Abu Kassim resumed his job as a pearl diver, but his health was not good.

He suffered from leukaemia and ongoing effects of a bayonet wound

and was sent south to hospital in Perth, where he died and was buried in an unmarked grave in the Muslim section of the Karrakatta cemetery.

Patricia Djiaween finally got official permission to marry another non-Aboriginal man, Snowy Dodson, after he did 18 months hard labour at Fremantle prison for springing Patricia and her children from Moola Bulla Station near Wyndham, where the WA Government confined Aboriginal families.

With a newborn son, Patrick Dodson, the family were able to move to Katherine in the Northern Territory in 1948 to escape the punitive regime of the Western Australian Commissioner for Native Affairs.

Patrick is now a Labor Senator for Western Australia and told the story of Abu Kassim to another former Commando, Luke Gosling, now the MP for the Northern Territory electorate of Solomon.

Gosling volunteered to secure Abu Hassim's war medals for his surviving daughters.

"We think it strange that he was fighting for the freedom of Australia but was not allowed to marry our mother and that we were subjected to the stolen generations laws at the same time," Faye and Elizabeth reflected when Patrick delivered their father's medals.

"His medals remind us of all this history, but it does not make sense.

"We are proud of what he did for us. Having the medals now means so much. Our grannies can march with them now in future Anzac Day ceremonies."

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Leaving the ADF



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Transition support network

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

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- offer career coaching during your transition and up to 12 months afterwards
- help you meet your administrative requirements
- help you leave with all documentation like service, medical, and training records
- facilitate connections to Defence and government support services

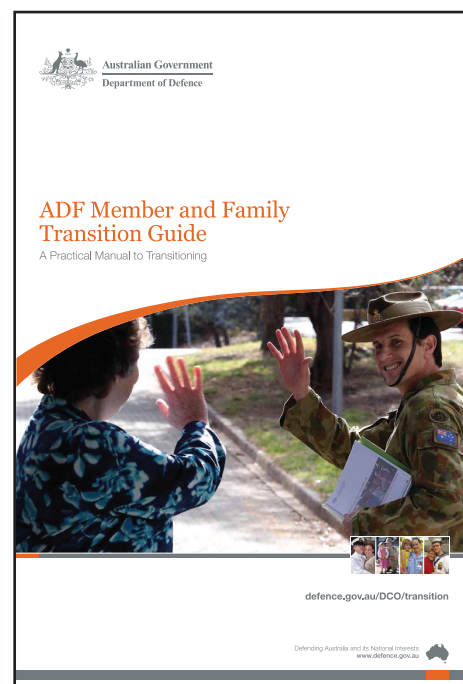
ADF Transition Seminar

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

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

ADF Member and Family Transition Guide

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



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A MONUMENT TO THEMSELVES

*Sketch of the Shrine under construction 1931 by Len Annois (1906-1966) pen and ink on paper
SLV (H91.290/10)*



from **Remembrance 2021**
by **shrineofremembrance**

Shrine Construction Workers, 1928-1934

By Peter Luby

The Shrine was built by an 'army' of master builders, labourers, craftsmen, returned soldiers and the unemployed, but individual workers have rarely been given a voice or even a name. A few surviving stories tell of a troubled worksite during the darkest years of the Great Depression.

In 2010 builders clearing rubble from the subterranean foundations of the Shrine discovered a crate of empty beer bottles dating back to the 1920's. They then noticed at the base of a brick pillar a small, impasto caricature of a man's head—made from mortar and signed 'Lewis.' The brickie who used a trowel to leave behind this little joke would probably be amused to think that 90 years on, people are still looking at his beautifully crafted brickwork and wondering—who was Lewis?

ABC News interviewed Mel Bartlett, a Portland stonemason, in 2014. His grandfather William Thomas quarried the Buchan marble columns for the Sanctuary and Bartlett was sure his grandfather had employed a Lewis, a father of six, during the Shrine's construction. Tantalisingly, he had no idea if Lewis was his first or last name. Back then hiring, firing and payroll was often delegated to the 'ganger'—the foreman assigned by the contractor to a specific job on a worksite. This may account for why Shrine employment records seem lost or elusive, and why Lewis is likely to remain an

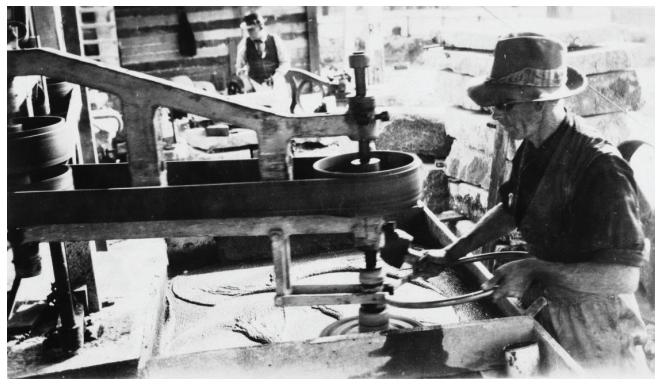
anonymous worker on a brick pillar in our Second World War Gallery.



*Lewis caricature in the Galleries 2014 photographer Peter Glenane
Image courtesy of Major Projects Victoria*

The key creators of the Shrine—architects, surveyors, artisan sculptors—spoke for themselves in letters, public talks and newspaper articles. But the legion of master builders, labourers, craftsmen, ex-soldiers and the unemployed who built the Shrine were just 'workers', occasionally making the news if there

was industrial unrest or scandal. They rarely had a voice or a name, but a few stories survive that depict a building site full of tensions and struggle deeply linked to the economic and social turmoil of the Great Depression that followed the Great War.



*Workman operating a surfacing machine c 1928–34
Shrine Collection*

When construction of the Shrine was announced in June 1928 the first impacts of the Depression were already biting. Unemployment reached 11 per cent. Hundreds of diggers crowded the corridors of Anzac House hoping for work and those who went straight to the building site were turned away. There wasn't work for them all—six men marked out the site and just 30 more began excavation. The contractors Messrs. Vaughan & Lodge promised 200 more would soon join the workforce and 300 others would work offsite.



*Workers pour and screen concrete on the south terrace c 1928–34
Shrine Collection*

Construction of the first stage, the substructure, was swift. A perimeter fence went up and steam shovels removed hundreds of thousands of tons of soil. By the end of June workmen with compressed air drills had dug trenches six feet deep to a bed of solid rock. Workers huts and site offices were built. Streams of lorries carted in bricks, sand, timber and filling. Scaffold-hands built platforms for cement mixers to empty straight onto the formwork. Seven-man concrete teams mixed, screened and spaded the main foundation, which they dubbed 'Jumbo'. Terraces and voids were filled with rubble from city building sites. Bricklayers set to work and the millionth brick was laid by November 1928.



*Bricklayers forming piers for the foundation of the main structure
c 1928–34
Shrine Collection*

Hundreds were employed beyond the Domain worksite. A quarry was opened up at Tynong to get granite for the exterior. Thousand-ton blocks were blasted out of the ground and cut on site with a state-of-the-art circular saw. Other men milled timber, forged steel for reinforcements or quarried the freestone at Redesdale. Stone was dressed at the Vaughan & Lodge yards in West Melbourne then hauled to the Shrine.



*Tynong Quarry c 1928–34
Shrine Collection*

The second stage of construction—superstructure and sculptural embellishments—began in 1929 just as a bitter strike erupted in the timber industry. Most unions went out in support of the timber workers and Victorian industry was crippled for months. Brick and timber yards closed, and work at the Shrine stopped until June. By November the site was 'a hive of industry' again, swarming with 140 builders, stonemasons and allied workmen. The Governor-General Lord Stonehaven inspected progress, stepping off the 'duck boards' and splashing through mud to chat with a workman: 'a typical Digger with a stub of hand-made cigarette drooping from his lips.' Amid noise of drills and clattering stone grinders, contractor David Vaughan frantically waved at the workman to get rid of his cigarette, which he did—he put it behind his ear.

National interest in the Shrine ran hot, level with stories of Sydney's Harbour Bridge. Newspapers relished the slightest growth or change to the building. Enthralled by its scale and grandeur, hyperbolic reports



proclaimed the largest sculptures 'since the days of the Ancient Egyptians.' Shrine construction materials were exalted: 6,000 tons of silver Tynong granite; Redesdale and Hawkesbury freestone; columns of black marble from Buchan; 124 tons of steel; 26,000 bags of cement; two-and-a-half million Brunswick bricks; bronze cases for 42 parchment Books of Remembrance listing all Victorians who served overseas in the war.

Sir John Monash became one of our first tour guides: hosting schoolteachers, judges and former army nurses over the worksite. On Anzac Day 1930, 12,000 people swarmed over the unfinished monument. The perimeter fence was gradually dismantled and the site opened up to the public each Tuesday and Sunday afternoon. This left it prey to vandals and protesters, who broke in and defaced bronze work and threw hollow potatoes filled with grease at the buttress sculpture 'Patriotism'. The damaged granite had to be chipped off with a pneumatic drill, and the 'degenerate' vandal got a year in gaol on bread-and-water.

The final form of the Shrine was slowly resolving above the city. A giant steam crane lifted stone blocks

to the upper galleries and the top of the dome was reached in November 1931. Vaughan boasted there'd only been one serious accident (a broken leg), the only time lost was due to the Timber Strike and more than 100 men had been kept in work. But the Depression was deepening. State governments began handing out sustenance payments to the jobless: up to one pound a week, plus two shillings per child (basic wage then was £5 a week). The 'Susso' was augmented with 'dole tickets,' redeemable for groceries in shops or bags of rations from welfare agencies.

The Shrine stressed its aim 'to employ as many returned soldiers as we can.' Even the Committee's typist—their only female employee—was a bona fide daughter of a veteran. But the press challenged the true ratio of diggers to workers, once claiming it was as low as 24 per cent. Unions accused the Shrine 'of acquiring quite a cosmopolitan tinge' with the extraordinary disclosure that six Italians were being employed at the expense of out-of-work Australians. Vaughan countered that no Melbourne hardstone mason had the skills needed to flute the Doric columns and besides, 30 Australian masons were working the freestone in the Sanctuary. And one Italian, Pietro Porcelli, was sculpting the frieze panels for the inner Shrine, though he was later deposed by their designer Lyndon Dadswell.

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August Rietman in his studio c 1920s
Image courtesy of the Rietman family and CMKS at Box Cottage Ormond

August Rietman was another foreign artisan employed on contract work at the Shrine. The Swiss monumental mason and his wife Frieda had come to Australia in 1914 and settled in Bentleigh. Specialising in pressedcement sculpture, he carved dozens of 'diggers' for country towns in the memorial boom after the war. Shrine chief sculptor Paul Montford wanted him to complete the Sanctuary friezes but Rietman declined, fearing his surname and German wife would stir controversy. Instead, he created the beautiful streetlamp standards for the pathways around the Shrine, and the Rietman family business continues today.



The Shrine looked ahead to its Dedication ceremony in November 1934. The structure was largely complete but public fundraising had slowed, sculptures and the Crypt were unfinished and 'the pyramid in the desert' sat high on a bare 'eminence of raw earth.' Victoria introduced 'work in return for Sustenance', which forced the jobless to labour on road construction, draining swamps or 'beautifying' public space in return for the dole. Relief work was paid by the hour. Men had to register, show up at a site and hope to be picked by the ganger out of hundreds vying for work. It might be a day's work or a few hours a week. In 1933, the darkest year of the Depression, with unemployment at 32 per cent, the Shrine became one of Melbourne's biggest relief worksites.

'An army' of the unemployed set to work on the Shrine approaches to forge lawns and gardens out of the dustbowl. An enthusiastic reporter claimed this work 'brought temporary happiness to many an unhappy home and gave the light of hope to many darkened hearts.' The reality was not so rosy. Hundreds of relief workers removed earth five-feet deep to make 80 acres of sweeping, level lawns—graded and covered with six inches of clay and loam. They furrowed 17 miles of trenches into the banks, planting creeping roots of grass from the Albert Park golf links. A 24-kilometre network of pipes was laid to run millions of gallons of water to 1,000 hidden sprinkler heads. The diggers blasted hundreds of pits to plant trees and dug flowerbeds on the northern approach for 10,000 bulbs of iris and lily. A 'billy boy' moved through the dust, handing out cups of water to thirsty men.



Concrete team spading the foundation trenches down to the bedrock c 1928
Shrine Collection

Trade unions and some of the men slammed relief work as 'slaving under convict conditions for sustenance.' When the state government lowered the rates of sustenance, the Unemployed Workers Movement (an arm of the Communist Party of Australia) organised a strike for better conditions at the Shrine that went for eight weeks. Men who refused relief work were struck off the sustenance lists. Those who accepted it could find their names on another list: of scabs.

On 15th August the Shrine offered work to 213 men but only 87 accepted. Six of them knocked off at 5pm and were walking home on Moray Street when a gang of 20 'dole strikers' set upon them 'with fists and boots,' bashing and jumping on them with shouts of 'there's one of the scabs!' and 'kill the bastard!' Ernest Scott, a 49-year-old butcher from Montague Street, was kicked and punched for three minutes before a police motorcycle attended and broke up the fight. In hospital, Denzel Warren received eight stitches in his forehead. Warren had served in France with the 16th Battalion. Robert Cumberlidge—charged with assaulting him—had fought with the 24th.

George Nelson, who had attacked Scott, was a former member of the Unemployed Workers Movement. He narrowly escaped gaol with a £10 fine. It is likely Scott was No.6107 Private E E Scott of 38th Battalion who had been severely wounded in 1917, wounded again in fighting near Mont St Quentin in 1918, gassed and discharged medically unfit in 1919. In 1933 he was hard up, getting by on relief work, unfairly labelled a 'scab.' Hardly the homecoming envisaged on the Tympanum over the Shrine's south portico.

There was more trouble in February 1934 when F J Hayden was sacked by a ganger at the Shrine. Four hundred co-workers downed tools and marched to the office of the Minister for Sustenance to demand Hayden's reinstatement. They also wanted a morning tea break and a strict ban on 'strong language' at the worksite. One MP complained of the 'lazy fellows' at the Shrine, and people made fun of the 'the Shrine's statuary' and their preposterous demands. D Duncan, for the Job Committee, hit back:

"The assertion that Shrine workers as a body are loafers and indolent is untrue. We are working in the dust and have done so for many months, while at times the heat has been well over the 100 mark. Rest assured that we, the Shrine sustenance workers will not be speeded up by such calumny."

Melburnians had some sympathy for the half-starved figures seen working on the Domain—many in rags and barely able to stand after a few hours of pick and shovel work. They embodied the social dislocation of the Depression. Bank clerks and commercial travellers worked alongside bricklayers, tailors, engineers, insurance agents, painters and plumbers. When the gong sounded and 330 men sat down to sip 200 gallons of tea, a Herald reporter encountered a 62-year-old Professor of Languages from Soviet Russia and the story went round Australia.



John Leopold Howard had taught English, French and German at St Petersburg University for 20 years. He fell out with the Soviets after seeing several people shot dead by the Red Guard and fled to London with his wife in 1920. He came to Perth in 1927 and lectured at the University but lost that job when the Depression hit. Drifting to Melbourne, he pawned all his belongings and now worked for 25 shillings a week sustenance. Too poor to afford the tram fare, every day he walked from North Melbourne to the Shrine in hope of work. This was a fall from grace typical of the Depression: a cultured gent from a wealthy family who'd once 'supped with Russian nobility', seen an empire fall and the terror of revolution.

"Unemployable, a penniless old man. 'I am a professor,' he says, 'a professor with a shovel.' He shrugs his shoulders. 'It all seems so stupid...'"

The Herald, 14 December 1933

One gang of relief workers struck it lucky in May when someone's pick hit a solid gold Albert chain in the dirt. They dug up a small fortune in gold jewellery: a watch for the chain, 25 brooches and pendants, three silver thimbles. It was thought the cache was somehow connected to staff at Government House, 50 yards away. The gang disbanded when the work dried up and apparently never presented their find to police—perhaps making them the best-paid of the Shrine relief workers.

Lifting up the sculptures for the Tympana in June signalled the end of construction works and in November the Shrine was duly dedicated in the Royal presence. The vaunted £250,000 cost of the project did not include £60,000 paid in sustenance to the Shrine's relief workers. Some were still at work on the landscaping in 1935.



Leo Nolan and family. Leo worked as a foreman at the Shrine during the 1920s. Image courtesy of the Nolan family

Last July at the end of a Shrine guided tour, Catherine Smith came forward to tell me that her grandfather was one of the men who had built the Shrine. Leo Thomas Nolan, a 31-year-old builder from Malvern, built the steps. 'it's something we have always been very proud of.' Leo's daughter (Catherine's

mother) Gwen recalled her dad was a foreman whose job was to oversee the quality of workmanship on the stairs. Anyone who visits or works here knows that the Shrine has a lot of very beautiful stairs. Leo Nolan joins the very select band of Shrine construction workers who we know by name. For the rest, the building itself is their testament. Before it was completed, David Vaughan spoke of the 'justifiable pride' of the workers:



Shrine construction site late 1932
SLV (H91.160/396)

"We realised that the men who built such a memorial would leave behind them a monument to themselves as well as to their fighting countrymen... a structure that will tell the story of part of this generation till the world ends."

Peter Luby is a writer and Visitor Experience Officer at the Shrine of Remembrance.



The KA-BAR and the Fairbairn-Sykes: two fighting children of different philosophies

Posted by Roger Norling



The knife is a silent and deadly weapon that is easily concealed and against which, in the hands of an expert, there is no sure defence, except firearms or running like hell.

-From the declassified Special Operations Executive Syllabus

When it comes to modern combat knives, the two most iconic knives of the Western world are undoubtedly the American "KA-BAR" and the British Fairbairn-Sykes Fighting Knife. These two knives represent completely different philosophies with the KA-BAR being a very strong and sturdy fighting knife of utilitarian design, and the Fairbairn-Sykes representing a more elegant design for more delicate use in clandestine operations.

To really understand these knives, however, we have to look back at the contexts for which they were designed and what needs they were intended to satisfy.

Fairbairn & Sykes

So, stepping back in history...

Famous British Lt. Col. W.E. Fairbairn joined the British Marines at the age of 15, using faked documents stating that he was of legal age, *i.e.* 18. He was deployed to serve in Japanese-occupied Korea already in 1903, then at the real age of 18. Here he spent much of his time practicing various forms of martial arts with Japanese and Korean fighters, practiced drilling with the Royal Marines and fighting Japanese Army troops with bayonet.



Lt. Col. W.E. Fairbairn

Fairbairn left the military in 1907 and instead joined the *Shanghai Municipal Police*, serving in one of the red light districts, then considered to be one of the most dangerous places in the world. Shanghai was a

one of the most important centres for the opium trade, the precursor of today's heroin and cocaine trade and just about as sinister, with related crime and well-armed gang activity. This increased dramatically after opium trade once again became illegal in 1906, after having been forced upon and "legalized" in China by the British Empire. (For more on this see the 1st Opium War & the 2nd Opium War). Of course as with any city, and in particular port cities, gambling and prostitution was also common and it was by some called the vice capital of the world. Around this time more than 10% of the Chinese were smoking opium. About 15% of China's crop acreage was dedicated to opium while 20 years later twice as much, a change which would greatly diminish the need for British export of opium to China.

As a result of the initiative taken a year earlier, the Shanghai Municipal Council stopped issuing licenses to opium dens in 1907, the very year of Fairbairn's arrival. The same year he was stabbed a dozen times by members of a Chinese separatist gang and left to die in the back streets of Shanghai, but luckily he managed to survive this brutal experience.

Ten years later, in 1917, the last legal opium shop was closed. Opium trade didn't disappear though. Quite the contrary. This was a golden age for the Green Gang triad, collaborating with the senior Chinese officer in the French gendarmerie Huang Jinrong in taking over the whole opium trade which now made more money than ever.



The Green Gang Triad, led by 'Big Ears' Du Yuesheng (far right).
Photo from tony-henderson.com



As if this wasn't enough, Shanghai was also haunted by increased Chinese nationalist activity, an increasing amount of armed robberies. Terrorist kidnappings & bombings and rioting and large-scale conflict was also very common. The Green Gang was often hired by Chinese Chiang Kai-shek's Kuomintang for political violence and they, along with other criminal gangs took part in the White Terror massacre where some 5,000 pro-communist strikers in Shanghai were slaughtered in April 1927.

It was a huge boiling pot of vicious violence and Fairbairn was right in the middle of it at quite young age, something which would shape the rest of his life, laying the foundation of a very pragmatic and ruthless perspective on violence and martial arts.

Sikh, Chinese and British members of the SMP



Eric A. Sykes

Later, after the war, Fairbairn would create and train a special anti-riot squad for the SMP and many of the tactics and techniques developed here are still in use today.

It is here, in 1919 in Shanghai, that he met Eric A. Sykes, while Sykes was still working with weapons import/export at a British Secret Service-run company. Sykes was an expert marksman and came to

form and oversee a team of civilian & police snipers for the SMP and naturally he also became the head of this unit in 1937. In 1939 Sykes would properly join the British Secret Intelligence Service (SIS-MI6).

Based on their experiences and training the two designed their own martial arts system for specific use for the Shanghai Municipal Police called *Defendu*. For hand-to-hand combat Fairbairn mixed *Savate*, *Jujitsu*, *early Judo*, *Chinese martial arts* (he had studied Kung-Fu with the Empress' former bodyguard), *wrestling* and *boxing*, all of it reflected against his own experience of raw and brutal street fighting as a police.

The system emphasized *pragmatical* rather than *gentlemanly* and *honourable* fighting, teaching rapid disabling of the opponent with potentially lethal force. Fairbairn declared:

Get tough, get down in the gutter, win at all costs... I teach what is called 'Gutter Fighting.' There's no fair play, no rules except one: kill or be killed.

The techniques of the system were brutal and quick, which can be exemplified by the following quote from the SOE syllabus:

The Queensberry rules enumerate, under the heading of 'fouls', some good targets which the boxer is not trained to defend. This, however, is WAR, not sport. Your aim is to kill your opponent as quickly as possible. ... So forget the Queensberry rules; forget the

term 'foul methods'. That may sound cruel, but it is still more cruel to take longer than necessary to kill your opponent. 'Foul methods', so-called, help you to kill more quickly... Don't just stop because an opponent is crippled. If you have broken his arm, for instance, that is only of value because it is then easier to kill.

During his 30 years of service in Shanghai Fairbairn reportedly engaged in at least 600 actual fights. Large parts of his body, with arms, legs, torso and even the palms of his hands are said to have been covered with scars from knife wounds sustained during those years.

The *Defendu* system was designed to be easy to learn and to provide effective results. It included unarmed fighting as well as gun combat & point shooting, use of knives, clubs and improvised weapons such as chairs or table legs. As such it fulfilled the needs of the military quite well too. Consequently, Fairbairn's and Sykes' teachings were adopted by the Allies in 1941 and first taught at the British Commando School in Scotland, although in a militarized form called *British Close Quarters Combat*. Much of Fairbairn's and Sykes' pioneering work in close combat, riot control, clandestine operations and trained instinctive fighting with guns and knives is still in use by military and police around the world today.

The Fairbairn-Sykes Fighting Knife

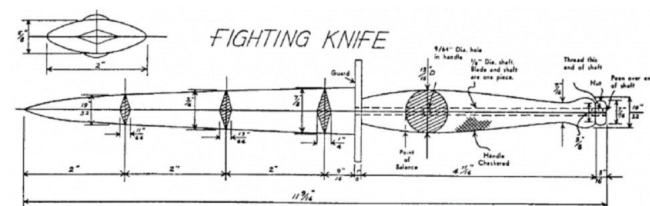
Already in Shanghai Fairbairn was working on designing a combat knife for their martial arts system, together with Sykes and a young US Marines officer; *2nd Lt. Samuel Sylvester Yeaton*.



A rare believed genuine Shanghai Knife, designed to be carried hanging upside-down and used by the SMP.

Photo courtesy of Gota Vapen

The work continued back in England in November 1940, then with the less commonly known, *Col. Leslie Wood R.E* and *Jack Wilkinson Latham* of manufacturer *Wilkinson Sword Ltd*. And this is the actual birth of the now quite iconic knife, the *British commando knife*, commonly called the *Fairbairn-Sykes*.



F-S fighting knife blueprint from FMFRP 12-80, Kill or Get Killed, by Rex Applegate. Image from Wikipedia



Possibly some inspiration was taken from the simple 17th and 18th cent. "plug" bayonets such as the one depicted below, but the design is also similar to many other classical dagger and stiletto designs of the preceding centuries. Regardless, the final result was a very carefully designed and engineered fighting knife.



Plug bayonet from early 1700s

Fairbairn's philosophy for the design was naturally based on his experience of close quarters combat during the preceding decades, although in military version made longer to reach vital organs through thick military garments.

In close-quarters fighting there is no more deadly weapon than the knife. In choosing a knife there are two important factors to bear in mind: balance and keenness. The hilt should fit easily in your hand, and the blade should not be so heavy that it tends to drag the hilt from your fingers in a loose grip. It is essential that the blade have a sharp stabbing point and good cutting edges, because an artery torn through (as against a clean cut) tends to contract and stop the bleeding. If a main artery is cleanly severed, the wounded man will quickly lose consciousness and die.

This knife was designed primarily for *quick, ruthless and silent disposal of enemies*, preferably from behind, and was soon issued to *British Commandos, the Airborne Forces, the SAS* and many other troops. The knife came in many different versions; fully black, half-black, plain steel and also with a nickel-plated hilt. The latter followed Fairbairn's philosophy of;

I believe that a knife should be bright and highly polished for the reason that 20% of the fight is lost by not striking awe in the mind of the victim that a flashing knife gives.

Almost two million of these British fighting knives are estimated to have been produced.

In June 1942 The two partners split ways on less than friendly terms with Sykes claiming that Fairbairn had treated him as an inferior. Fairbairn was borrowed to the US military and the OSS, to teach close combat techniques at Camp X in Canada and later at US Camp B (now Camp David). Maj. Eric A. Sykes stayed in Great Britain, training Special Operations Executive agents at their various training centres.

The OSS stiletto

Col. Rex Applegate, friend of John Wayne and at one time bodyguard of Franklin D. Roosevelt. Said to have been the role model for several characters of the James Bond books.

One of Fairbairn's American students, Col. Rex Applegate con-



tinued working on spreading and developing the teachings of Fairbairn and Sykes in his own teaching of OSS operatives at Camp X. Quite naturally this also led to the OSS's own version of the Fairbairn-Sykes combat knife, the *OSS Stiletto*, a knife also used in Applegate's 1943 manual *"Kill or get killed"*.

The knife was manufactured by several companies including *Pasadena Firearms* and *Landers, Frary & Clark*. The latter had manufactured pancake flappers before the war which is quite apparent from the design of the scabbard. Consequently that was also the name that was given to it, *the pancake flapper*. Reportedly it was Fairbairn's personal favourite scabbard type.



US Made Fairbairn-Sykes Model 2, the "OSS Stiletto", with "pancake flapper" scabbard. Photo courtesy of Gota Vapen

Some 10,000 of these knives were produced until August 1943.

The US V-42 Stiletto

Meanwhile, US Lt. Colonel Robert T. Frederick, who had seen the Fairbairn-Sykes dagger while on duty in England, had come to wish for an American version of this knife and initiated the making of an improved version of it that would come to be designated the V-42 Stiletto.

This was designed for use by the American-Canadian elite commando; the *1st Special Service Force (FSSF)*, the so called Devil's Brigade, and had a pointy pommel designed for cracking skulls, a blade with a double hollow-ground bevel and a ricasso designed specifically to promote thumbing the blade in a side-grip.



The US V-42 Stiletto of the Devil's Brigade. Photo from Wikipedia

The V-42 Stiletto was first issued in 1942 to the FSSF as their standard fighting knife. The knife is said to have had great piercing capacities, even capable of piercing a steel helmet with liner, but also prone to breaking if used for prying. It also commonly got stuck in bone, making it difficult to withdraw and some soldiers are said to have ground down the tip because of this. Only 3000 V-42 Stilettoes were manufactured with only one shipment of 1,750 knives delivered.



The US Marine Raider Stiletto



U.S. Marine Raider Stiletto. Photo from Wikipedia

Following this the US military decided to design a more official copy of the Fairbairn-Sykes knife, albeit with some changes to the design due to financial concerns. The knife was manufactured by Camillus Cutlery Co and was in standard delivery decorated on the blade with the letters "USMC" framed by leaves. Some 15,000 were manufactured, although only ca 6,000 marines served as Raiders.

However, the changes to this version of the fighting knife had turned out to be serious flaws. The hilt was a zinc-aluminum one-piece die-cast directly onto the tang and with time, the zinc ions leaked out, leaving the hilt very brittle and weak. Furthermore, for economical reasons the blade had been made thinner and as the tempering was also inferior the whole knife was rather fragile, if still deadly when used correctly. A retired USMC commented on it in the following words:

It was pointed out that it should never be thrown, as it was designed as a hand-held weapon to be used only in combat. It was also pointed out that it was brittle and would break even if just dropped, particularly the point.

— M.G. Oscar F. Peatross, USMC retired

Consequently, non-commando troops commonly found it lacking for fighting and their need for every day utility use wasn't nearly satisfied, with it's inherent weakness and completely round grip. They would much rather have a more versatile tool that would not just let them fight, but also let them hammer, pry open boxes and tins & cans, cut wire, split wood etc. Consequently, for some troops, the stiletto was thus for a brief period replaced by short machetes or even personal hunting knives, commonly of Bowie-like designs like the Randall Model 1 and the Marble's Ideal hunting knife, where the latter likely served as inspiration for what was to come.

The Mark 1 Trench Knife & Mark 3 Fighting Knife

Still in WWII the old WWI Mark 1 Trench Knife (M1918) was reissued by the Army as a large stock remained from WWI. Most of these were issued to Army Rangers and Airborne troops, but some were reissued to Marines, in particular Raiders.



A replica of the M1918 Mk 1 Trench Knife with brass hilt. The American made variant used bronze.

Support for the knife was mixed but the expensive bronze knuckle hilt limited the gripping options and the somewhat weak blade had a tendency to break when prying things. As such it was not a success and in 1943 it was replaced by the M3 Fighting Knife. Some troops however, initially received the Raider Stiletto described above.

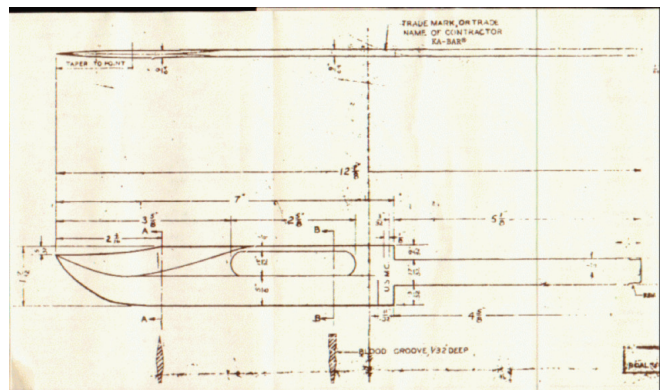


US Army M3 Fighting Knife with M8 scabbard. Private collection displayed at warrelics.eu

The M3 Fighting Knife in turn would be highly influential on military knives around the world and served as the role model for many, many military knives which more or less copied the design.

The USMC Mark 2 Combat Knife

As a result of the issues with the Raider Stiletto and the Mark 1 Trench Knives, the USMC issued a specification for a request for a modern and more versatile fighting knife, sent to several military knife & tool suppliers in 1942. The starting point was to be the US Navy Mark 1 Utility knife and the Marble's Ideal. Basic requirements included e.g. good strength and durability, reasonable cost and low enough weight for



Blueprint showing the blade and full hidden stick tang construction. The blueprint shows a bigger clip point than the Camillus depicted below, with the beveling extending all the way over the fuller.

comfortable hip carrying. USMC Col. John M. Davis and Maj. Howard E. America worked together with Union Cutlery and the result was the USMC Fighting Knife, first designated 1219C2, later redesignated as the USMC Mark 2 Combat Knife.



The original KA-BAR Combat Knife of 1942, manufactured by Camillus Cutlery Co. Image has been reversed to match the blueprint above. Photo courtesy of Gota vapen

It was adopted by the USMC on Nov 23 1942 and the first knives were shipped by the maker of the earlier USMC Raider Stiletto; Camillus Cutlery Co. on Jan 27 1943. In late 1943 it replaced the Raider Stiletto and it was subsequently also adopted by the US Navy, then marked as the *US Navy Utility Knife Mark 2*.

During WW2, the Mark 2 Combat knife was also contracted for manufacture by three more companies; Union Cutlery Co, Robeson Cutlery Co. and PAL Cutlery Co. The quality and design of the Mark 2 Combat Knife led to the knife becoming both popular and hugely successful in many different environments. Consequently it was eventually issued not just to Marines and Navy, but also Army, Coast Guard and Underwater Demolition teams.

The KA-BAR

While Camillus Cutlery Co. was the biggest manufacturer of contracted combat knives Union Cutlery Co. produced nearly as many knives and was the only company to stamp their knives with the mark "KA-BAR". However, already in 1944 marines were referring to the knife type as "KA-BARs" and the name has stuck with it regardless of brand since then.

The name itself is said to come from a badly written letter from a fur trapper who wrote to Union Cutlery trying to describe an encounter he had had with a bear, where he had used the knife to kill it. The maker only just managed to make out a few of the letters of the phrase "K(ill) a b(e)ar". Already in 1923 Union Cutlery was using the name to market their knives, but after the success of the *Mark 2 combat knife* Union Cutlery Co. renamed itself in 1952 to KA-BAR Cutlery Inc.

At first the KA-BAR received criticism for its dual-purpose, since it was believed that it would be lacking as a fighting knife. However, returning veterans and field reports quickly dispelled any such doubts. A fellow HEMA-fencer and ex-soldier recently commented on the practical difference between the Fairbairn-Sykes and the KA-BAR, based on his 30 years of Special Forces instructing in three different armies:

What special forces like most is a nice wide non-slip grip, and these had that! We didnt care too much

about the blade as long as it was over 4 inches long an inch wide at least, and thick enough up the tang not to snap off when cranked about inside a human body. You could soak this grip in water or blood and still keep a good working grip on it.

We hated the Sykes-Fairbairn as the blade tips snapped off in bone and the grip was designed by a surgeon who thought he was doing brain surgery. We had to tape the grips but would mostly use "throwaways" (blades cut from plate steel with the grips taped) as they could be left behind without issue loss, and you could carry several on your webbing.

-Robert Loki Thornton
Former SAS regiment NCO
and Special Force consultant

A change in philosophy with far-reaching effects

This radical change in philosophy for combat knives still lives strong in the market for both *military* and *survival* knives, especially in the US, where knives are commonly expected to be able to handle any need & abuse you submit them to, be it skinning game, clean fish, splitting wood, cutting wire & fabric, pry open cans, open beer bottles, disassemble a tank etc, etc.



More is not less. A fullered Full-Tang-Rambo-Karambit-Tanto-HALO-knife with thumb grooves on the saw-shaped back edge and with holes on the hilt so you can strap it to a stick and use it as a spearhead.

This came to its extreme with the over-the-top Rambo Survival Knives so popular among *chairborn rangers* in the 80s, but it still exists although in upgraded shape and is currently having a bit of a revival among *prepper larpers* endlessly debating the virtues of full tang, different types of exotic steel and the evils of stainless steel, dreaming of a super-knife that will survive the cockroaches and be capable of killing 10 zombies in one single cut and still never need to be sharpened.

However, the same philosophy can also be seen in much more sensible application in various proper military survival knives around the world, and certainly in the knife in focus here; the KA-BAR *Fighting/Utility Knife*.

After WWII

Moving onwards, after WWII other knives also became popular, among them the famous *Randall Model 14 Attack Knife* designed by Bo Randall in the 1950s, and the *Gerber Mark 2*, a knife first issued in 1967 and clearly derived from the Fairbairn-Sykes knife.





Gerber Mark II fighting knife. Photo from Wikipedia

Although not officially a US Military fighting knife for the Korea and Vietnam Wars, many troops still carried the KA-BARs and some old WWII KA-BARs were even given by war veterans to their sons serving in these wars.

The KA-BAR Cutlery brand still exists though, although it has been sold several times e.g. in 1960, -61, -66 and -82, ending up sold to Alcas Co, now renamed to Cutco Co, in 1996. The company still manufactures very good knives for a wide array of uses, including bushcraft, military and tactical.

Camillus Cutlery Co, the first military contractor for this knife, filed for bankruptcy in 2007 and Acme United Co purchased the brand and relaunched it as Camillus Cutlery in 2009. More and more old designs are added to the product range but currently no Mark 2 Combat Knife type or other military/tactical knives.

Ontario Knife Company bought Robeson Cutlery Co, one of the original manufacturers of the WWII KA-BARs in 1971. They have had contract with the US military for making KA-BARs ever since 1980 and is currently the only contract holder.

Reports of 30 year old KA-BARs that still hold up magnificently despite constant use are not uncommon, which certainly says something, not just about their quality, but also about the love and care they are given.

Today still, many US soldiers choose to carry a classical KA-BAR with them into the field, trusting in it to keep them safe. In that, it really is a timeless piece of great design.

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The Positive Relationship between Physical Activity and PTSD

Exercise has a positive clinical effect on depressive symptoms and may be as effective as psychological or pharmaceutical therapies for some individuals with PTSD.

Rosebaum *et al*, 2014 suggests Physical activity/exercise is a highly effective method in reducing symptoms of depression and for people experiencing other mental health disorders.

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

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

People with PTSD are four times as likely to have type 2 diabetes (Lukaschek *et al*, 2013) and rates of overweight and obesity are as high as 92%.

To add to these statistics, sufferers of PTSD are shown to be less physically active due to a number of factors including pain, dysfunctional and general lack of desire or both, according Boscarino *et al*, 2004.

Adding some form of regular physical activity can have a significant effect on a sufferer of PTSD. It's important to note, the type of activity doesn't matter, what matters is that the person is moving and also having fun doing it.

If you would like to become physically active again and help to combat some of your PTSD related symptoms then please consult your GP and discuss your options for referral to another health care professional (exercise physiologist or physiotherapist) for help with your other associated or co-morbid conditions ie lower back pain, arthritis and or obesity.



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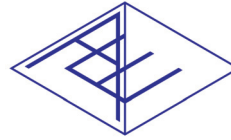
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