



COMMANDO

AUSTRALIAN COMMANDO ASSN INC.

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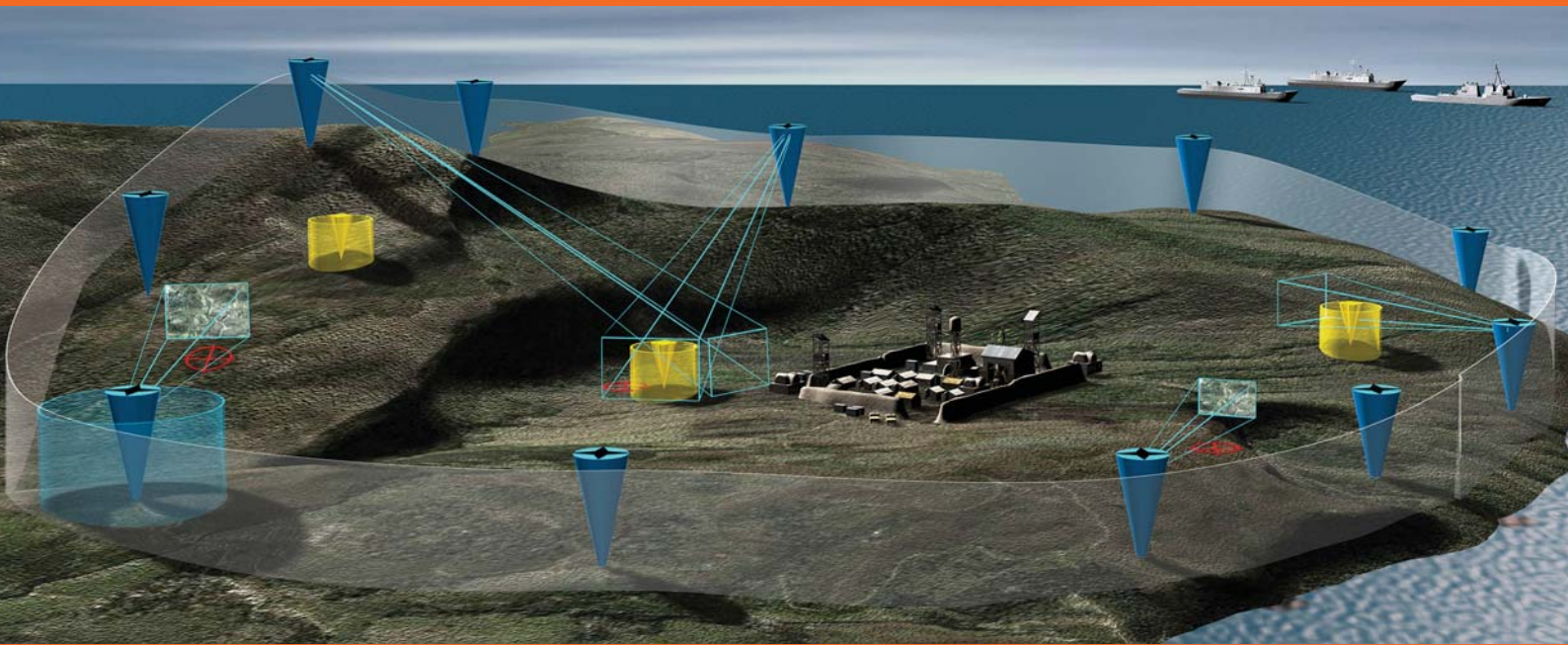
News

Edition 4 ~ December 2014



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

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

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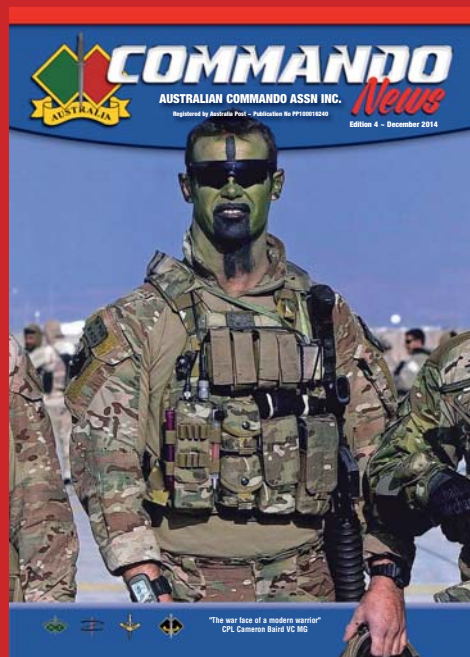
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Deadline for next edition: SUNDAY, 15TH MARCH 2015

Next edition out in time for Anzac Day schedules.
 All news on members and interesting articles accepted.
 (Subject to editors' approval.)

Barry G



Front Cover: "The war face of a modern warrior"
CPL Cameron Baird VC MG





Keyless entry...



NSW President and Editor's Report



As we reported in the last newsletter, this edition is going Australia wide, *i.e.* to all 3 States that the Australian Commando Association have committees.

It will take a little "tweaking" to get the right balance of news etc, so I would like to have your thoughts.

BRIG Keith Stringfellow, one of our life Patrons, has been in hospital recently having an operation on his hip. This has kept him fairly quiet and unable to attend recent functions, however I keep in contact with him and I am sure everyone wishes him a speedy recovery.

A few weeks ago the National Committee of the Australian Commando Association met at the Officers Mess at 2nd Commando Regiment.

This committee is made up of the three State Presidents and their Secretaries, a National President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

- President:** MAJGEN Mike Clifford
AM CSC (Ret'd)
- Vice President:** BRIG Paul Kenny DSC
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The items for discussion were of membership, the Commando Welfare Trust, as well as making a

determination on the official birthdays of 1st & 2nd Commando Companies.

This has been of some conjecture over the years with some suggesting that 2 Company is in February and 1 Company in June, however, as the units were "conceived" at the same time, regardless of their first parade, a decision was made to celebrate the Commando Companies birthdays in February, the same as the 1st Commando Regiment.

End of story.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Former medic at 1 Commando Regiment, Joel Donkin, is now in "harm's way" in a very different situation.

Joel is part of a Red Cross team that has been deployed to Sierra Leone to halt the Ebola Virus.

He will be away over Xmas and I am sure all of us wish him a safe return to Australia after his deployment.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

MAJ GEN Greg Melick AM RFD SC has graciously accepted his appointment as one of our State Patrons saying he was honoured.

MAJ GEN Melick was a former member of 1 Commando Company.

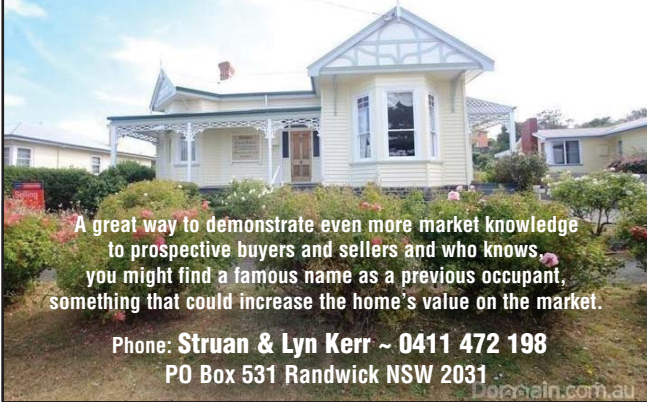
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Merry Xmas to all members of the Commando Associations including those who are in harm's way at this time of the year, may the New Year prosperous one.

Barry Grant



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Special Forces Training Centre - 2014



has one of the most diverse workforces within SOCOMD.

To facilitate the wide range of roles and tasks the Special Forces Training Centre undertakes, the unit is organised into a small Regimental Headquarters supported by three functional Wings; Commando Training Wing, Selection Wing and Trade and Training Development Wing.

While the Centre supports a wide range of tasks, its main effort remains the conduct of individual Special Forces skills training for commando operators and supervisors. The Centre will normally conduct in-excess of thirty multi-week courses per year, generating

The origins of the Special Forces Training Centre are traced to 1st Commando Regiment's Commando Training Wing established in 1997.

The Commando Training Wing was raised to support the establishment of 4 RAR (Commando) (now the 2nd Commando Regiment) and to provide expert individual training of commandos and develop the Tactics, Techniques and Procedures required.

Major Hans Fleer was the Wing's first Officer Commanding. He, along with his staff, formed the solid foundation for what would grow and develop into the Special Forces Training Centre.

The Special Forces Training Centre with a small staff of around twenty came to be in 1999, operating under Training Command - Army. The Centre subsequently developed into a cross functional Army Training Establishment, responsible for training development, delivery and doctrine. The Special Forces Training Centre now operates under the command of Special Operations Headquarters.

The Centre is responsible for a range of tasks including registered training organisation governance, Special Forces trade employment management, the coordination of recruiting, and selection for Special Forces' trades, and management of Special Operations Command (SOCOMD) doctrine. The Centre also supports numerous individual professional development and education functions. Today the unit is manned by in excess of one hundred personnel and

both the reinforcements for the Commando Regiments and the specialist supervisors responsible for ensuring commando capability preparedness.

The process of generating a fully qualified Special Forces operator is complex and utilises a variety of ADF resources.

Individuals apply either as in-service ADF members (both regular and reserve) or through the Special Forces Direct Recruiting Scheme (SFDRS). A Special Forces trade applicant applies for service through annual planned recruiting cycles.

The SFDRS has been operating for the past decade, allowing applicants to enlist directly via Defence Force Recruiting as a Trainee Commando in the Army. Trainees undergo a nine month process that includes regular recruit training, qualification requirements for initial entry to Infantry and the Special Forces Training Centre facilitated Accelerated Infantry Training Program before they then attempt Commando Selection.

The Special Forces trades' application process for both Commandos and the Special Air Service Regiment (SASR) is facilitated by the Special Forces Entry Test (SFET). During the SFET an applicant's suitability to attend either the Commando or SASR Selection Course is assessed. Assessments include, physical, cognitive, service performance and psychological. If assessed as suitable, an applicant is panelled as a candidate on either the Commando or



SASR Selection Course.

Once on the Commando Selection and Training Course (CSTC) or annual SASR selection course, candidates are assessed on applicable Special Forces attributes including resolve, toughness, adaptability, self discipline, teamwork, judgement and ability to be trained.

Commando applicants obtaining a "suitable" assessment during the CSTC progress to the Commando Reinforcement and Training Cycle. The Special Forces Training Centre conducts more than a dozen Special Forces courses over a period of approximately ten months. Commando training prepares trainees for employment within a Commando team serving as part of a Commando Regiment.

Initial Commando training (five to six months) must include:

- Commando selection and training (individual and team movement and tactics),
- Special Forces weapons and the Special Forces heavy weapons qualifications (including M4 Carbine, 40mm Grenade Launcher, F89 Minimi, 7.62mm MAG 58, 9mm Pistol, 9mm Sub-Machine Gun, 66mm Short Range Anti-Armour Weapon, 84mm Carl Gustav, 0.50cal Heavy Machine Gun and the 40mm Automatic Grenade Launcher),
- Basic Parachute Course including the SF water module (conducted at the Parachute Training School),
- Special Forces Advanced Close Quarter Battle,
- Commando Urban Operations,



• Close Quarter Fighting, and
• Special Forces Military and Airborne Roping.
Additional advanced Commando training (four months) could include:

- Commando Breaching and Demolitions,
- Commando Amphibious Operations,
- Commando Vehicle Operations,
- Commando Platoon Commanders Course,
- Armed Response Protection Teams,
- Specialist Driving Techniques, and
- Team specialist skills as either a Commando Team Medic or Signaller.

After months of training, in initial core and advanced skills, Commando reinforcements are awarded the Commando beret during a formal parade. Qualified personnel receive a subsequent posting to either the 1st or 2nd Commando Regiment.

Today the Special Forces Training Centre has developed into a world class training establishment.

Its training methodologies utilise accelerated learning techniques and focus on reality based training.

The Centre's courses have been benchmarked against the world's leading Special Forces training organisations. In conjunction with the 2nd Commando Regiment the Centre has matured rapidly reflecting a continuous pursuit of excellence driven by the operational requirements of the ADF's commitments in Afghanistan and the no-fail domestic counter-terrorism mission's preparedness requirements.

The Special Forces Training Centre ensures the supported SOCOMD units are prepared to meet the threats of any potential adversary.



From the Prolific Pen of Harry Bell



On Friday, 25th October, 1415, St Crispin's Day (check it out in a list of Saints' Days if you like) a small English Expeditionary Force, bivouacking near the town of Agincourt in the north of France, confronted a much larger and fitter French army. The Poms were commanded by the King of England, Henry V, who, as was the custom in those days, gave his troops a good pep-talk before the battle began – a sort of an Eric Hennessey style bit of jolly along¹. Shakespeare wrote a play about it and put into Henry's mouth the words which many of you will have heard at school or subsequently: phrases like "Gentlemen in England, now abed, shall think themselves accurs'd they were not here. And hold their manhoods cheap whiles any speaks that fought with us upon Saint Crispin's Day". They are The Bard's phrases, but probably the sort of words that Henry would have used.

One thing he says (*in the play*) is: "This story shall the good man teach his son." "And daughter", I would add. How many of us have taught our children the story of our Regiment - our Squadron? Troop? Section? What do you – our children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren – know of it? Shakespeare's Henry knew that "old men forget" but thought that his surviving veteran would "remember, with advantages, what feats he did this day." These days, that sort of thing is discouraged. "Battleaxe" Wolter, an old 6 Div Cav man in my section, used to talk about "drivin' the water-cart from Alexandria to Mersah Matruh" but not much about shot and shell. They had sand in their shoes, as the song says, but sand in their craws, too.

I have recently read a novel by an Italian writer named Umberto Eco. In it, he discusses the newspaper headlines and popular songs that he saw and heard in Italy in the 1940s. He was playing his grandfather's old gramophone records when "a beautiful song dropped onto the turntable. It told the story of "the last stand of Giarabub, one of our desert strongholds, where the exploits of our besieged soldiers, who finally succumbed to hunger and lack of munitions, attained epic dimensions."

The song contained such gems as: "You Vile Englishmen Have no Chance to Win, Our triumph instead Will sit proud on your head" and: "'Colonel, sir, I don't want praise, I died for my native land. Just say old England's final stand Started here in Giarabub!"

Later, Senor Eco compares the Italian "cult of horror" with the "encomiums to war . . . uttered by French poilus who had turned the Sedan debacle into their own rabid, vengeful myth, as we were to do with Giarabub".

Hands up anybody who knew that Giarabub was a "rabid, vengeful myth" in 1941 Italy? I was still at school when the Giarabub campaign took place but I learned about it in 1942 from Fergie himself.² You have not that advantage but a glance at "To the Green Fields Beyond" will tell you that Giarabub was indeed a "desert stronghold" of the Italian Army in 1941 when it was reduced by a small Australian force, comprising, substantially, a couple of squadrons of The Regiment, some English artillery and a few hundred Australian infantry (2/9 Bn and one company of 2/10). The Cav had kept the large garrison bottled up for weeks, making them believe that they were surrounded by a much larger force. It was indeed a triumph, but on a relatively small scale. It won a Distinguished Service Order for Fergusson, who was badly wounded before the final attack³ but went on to command a brigade in the newly-formed Armoured Division and later, an Infantry Brigade in New Guinea. I don't recall any popular songs being written about it: "O Giarabub, Sweet Giarabub, Two hundred miles From the nearest pub . . ."?

What I am trying to say is that if you had a father or a grandfather in 6 Div Cav (by any of its various names, including 2/6 Cavalry (Commando) Regiment) then you should not be unaware of all this. As Banjo's Old Harrison said to the boy who had never heard of the honour and glory of Pardon the son of Reprieve: "Really, a young 'un should know!" Take down your copy of Green Fields" and read about it for yourself.

And about old Fergie: when he was in the Armoured Division, his Brigade was camped near Wee Waa and he – Denzil Onslow too – used sometimes to call on my Mother for a meal or a hot bath. I recently found a letter which he wrote to my sister a couple of years later. I had just begun Commando Training at Bathurst, though, of course not knowing that I would end up in his old Regiment. Fergie wrote: "Glad to know your brother has enjoyed his experience in the army. Was he the Commando I heard this story about? He had just passed the training period when he got drunk and, finding his way home in the dark, cut across a bull paddock. The bull attacked. After a struggle lasting 10 minutes, the Commando managed to crawl through a fence to safety. Then he took stock of events and said: "That'll teach me to get drunk; if I'd been sober I'd have got that bloke off his bike!" Then, in case she had missed it, he added: "See the point? Horns; handle-bars."

¹Anyone who does not know who Eric Hennessey was, move to the front of the class and stand in the corner.

²Of course, you are all aware that Fergie (Brig. Maurice Fergusson) was the original C.O. of 6 Div Cav

³Legend has it that when he was thought to be dying, his son, Trooper Derek Fergusson, (6 Div Cav and 2/10)



On the same topic, (*that is, about our duty to pass on the tale to our children*) it was good to see, in June 14, that SBS had similar thoughts. It ran a two part series on Z Special. The concept was splendid: they found footage dating from 1943 which included interviews with a number of the originals. We saw and heard from the heroes of "Jaywick" and "Rimau"; we heard from surviving members of those early days – not, of course, of Rimau, for there were none – but from people like Jack Sue, Jack Tredrea, Norman Wallace, Frank Doyle and Moss Berryman, Arthur Jones, Jim Ellwood and Keith Stringfellow. There was a lengthy interview with Jim Ellwood, who survived unspeakable tortures on Timor and lives to tell the tale. The film makers then staged re-enactments, using folboats and a replica mini sub. The actual participants were descendants of the originals: grandsons, great-nephews – and one great-niece (*Danielle Sisson, great-niece of Bob Page*). The only disappointment, from my point of view, was that we heard little of the Borneo ventures, though we did hear something of Miick Dennis and his amazing escape from Muschu - see back numbers of Commando News and Double Diamond for a review of the two books on the last mentioned disaster (*one by Mick's nephew, Don, and one by Geoff Black, a matelot who served in Patrol Boats*). It was instructive to hear from Keith Stringfellow of his response when invited to join Rimau. He made it clear that his good sense had convinced him that it was a foolhardy venture, bound to fail.

I don't know whether it is yet available on DVD but if and when it is, I recommend it.

While on the topics of T.V. (which I seldom watch) and East Timor, on 12th August I happened to see an edition of Foreign Correspondent (Channel 2) which dealt with conditions in East Timor. As I am sure you all know, 2/2 and 2/4 Commando Squadrons – and Z Special - each performed prodigies of valour there in 1942 – feats which they could not have performed without the courageous help of the native population. Australia owes the Timorese an enormous amount and has been somewhat lax in repaying it. The TV programme depicted the primitive nature of the country's health system, particularly in the remote jungle areas where 2/2 and 2/4 operated. It also highlighted the work of an organisation called East Timor Hearts Fund, which, as and when funds permit, organises treatment for sufferers from heart disease – a real problem in Timor Leste, and one that can be ameliorated with a relatively small expenditure..

I have made some enquiries and can advise that the Chairwoman of the Fund is a Ms Ingrid Svendsen of P.O. Box 761, Warrnambool, Vic, 3280. The fund is a registered charity with the Commonwealth Government, run, she told me, entirely by volunteers, so that all funds are spent on aid rather than administration, an unusual feature. Most Charities seem to have huge overheads so that you feel that your gift is contributing to somebody's salary rather than to the cause. I was so

impressed that I sent her a cheque and undertook to ensure that the fund receives publicity in the Journals of the Commando Association and the 2/6 Cavalry (Commando) Regiment Association (NSW). This, subject to the kindness of the Editors, is what I now seek to do. It seems to be a well-run – affair and I would urge members – and, ex-service Organisations such as our Association - to let the death adders out and write a cheque. There are precious living members of 2/2 and 2/4 who served in that miraculous campaign, but those who knew them would, I am sure, like to contribute. Gifts are tax deductible, too. For the benefit of younger members who weren't even born in 1942, let me just mention that the tiny force, consisting mainly of 2/2 Commando Squadron, aided by loyal villagers; and later 2/4 Squadron, kept many thousands of Nips tied up and hence unavailable for the New Guinea campaigns. This was a remarkable feat of guerilla war – but might not have succeeded without the Timorese.

VALE: Fortunately, there have been fewer deaths this year than usual; a natural consequence of the attrition in senior ranks over past years. The death of most immediate concern to 6 Div Cav folk is that of **WX1142**, Trevor Limb (6 Div Cav and 2/10). Trevor has long been one of the senior survivors in Victoria, and indeed in the entire country. His participation in the campaigns in the Western Desert and Syria is documented in "To the Green Fields Beyond." He is a past president of the Victorian Branch of the 2/6 Cav. (Cdo) Regiment Assn and has a long history of involvement in Association affairs. I am sure that one of our Victorian scribes (Keith Johnston?) will contribute a proper note on Trevor's long life.

The July/August Edition of Reveillé lists the following: **NX43883**, Cpl J.C. Green (2/3); **NX150352**, Lt R.C. Irish (Z Special) and **NX177662**, Tpr WW Watts, (2/4). None of the relevant Unit Histories gives any personal details, so we must hope that someone who knew them will write in. It is doubly sad when men go unrecorded and unremembered.

As I foretold some time ago, Ted Punch (2/7) has brought Annie back to the Southern Highlands and they are now safely ensconced at "Anthem", 25 Retford Road, Bowral, 2576. They are delighted to be back and we are delighted to welcome them back. He still has his driving licence and with a little help from a GPS device, finds his way around his old haunts. Great things, GPSs. His even tells him where the whiskey is on.

Entering one's 90th year has disadvantages, but mine has had bonuses in the shape of calls from Ted MacMillan (2/9) and Ian Seale (2/7). Seale may not have known of my anniversary but he was, as always, chatty, cheeky and amusing (don't tell him said I that!)

Being a Committee member has its responsibilities but occasional compensations, too. 6 Div Cav president, Ralph Martin, doing his duty by attending



the AGM last month, won the jackpot at the Combined Services Sub-branch. And a pretty good jackpot it was, too.

Long-time Secretary and Editor, Ted Workman (2/10) has had another fall at home but an athletic neighbour got him upright. Ted has regular nursing services through DVA and Lola has just succeeded in getting an additional carer once a week; a real help for her. Both of them are cheerful and working together on the Cavalry News. This publication has been going to everybody on the mailing list, financial or not but we may have to rationalise on this. Watch for an announcement.

I was in Tamworth recently and called on Faith Hammond, widow of David (2/10). Apart from her knees, she is in good fettle. It was David's practice that John Ellice Flint (2/10) used to manage.

Max Drummond (2/6, 2/9) cheerful and mater of fact as always, having trouble with his stumps: ulcers, requiring new prostheses. Meanwhile, he has to forego his daily walks. But he has some good news, too: a brand-new drug called Oxytrol, taken along with Panadol, greatly reduces the need to scramble out of bed during the night. I'm sure Bulldog won't mind sharing the news with fellow prostatitis-ees. I can't vouch for it, for I haven't yet had time to ask my GP about it, but I shall certainly do so. Max's other big worry concerns his 63 year old son, who has suffered a stroke. He is paralysed down one side but can speak normally – a huge plus.

Graham ("Dolly") Dolton (2/9) rang to say that he will be crossing the Nullabor in late October, to spend a few days in Canberra. I look forward to seeing him. Tom Hungerford (2/8) always used to reckon that there was absolutely nothing East of Eucla, but Dolly is less parochial.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

I commenced this in September. 2014, so as to be ready for the next editions of Commando News and Double Diamond. I have added to it as news came to hand

VALE NX 98087, Trooper Edward J. (Ted – or "Duke") Carlin, (2/10) 20.9.014. Late of Dubbo, formerly of Trangie, "The Duke", an Old Boy of that famous Rugby nursery, St Joseph's College, Hunter's Hill, was a popular member of 10 Squadron and a keen member of his Unit Association. His illness was reported in the June edition, No 93, but the prognosis then seemed quite good. There will assuredly be tributes paid to him by old mates who knew him far better than I, but he was immortalised in humorous the verse penned by the late Nev Shorrocks (2/10). Ted suffered considerable hearing loss during the Aitape – Wewak campaign and when it was finally accepted as war-caused, Nev made a joke of it, claiming that it was a highly selective loss – all, I hasten to add, in fun!

VALE NX 171986, LANCE Corporal R.R. Baxter (2/10). Reg's death was recorded in the spring edition of Reveille, with no date shown. He had been a patient

in a hospital at Lismore for some years. When I last saw him, he was legless but cheerful despite the amputation. Well known in 10 Squadron, his wounding in action is reported at page 248 of *To the Green Fields Beyond*. Post-war, he returned to Lismore where his organising skill and dedication – with the assistance of his late wife – resulted in one of the best reunions ever, attended by many former members of both 2/9 and 2/10 squadrons. Keith Johnston (2/10) visited him in hospital during 2014; he will no doubt provide more information to readers of Cavalry News.

VALE NX29609, Tpr J.T. Lawrence, (2/10). Jack's death was also noted in Reveille and hence no date is known. Unfortunately, I have no other information about him, though from his regimental number it is clear that he was an early enlistment in the A.I.F. Keith Johnston knew him and may be able to provide further information.

VALE NX28630, Trooper Bob McMahon, (2/3) passed away 8.11.2014, aged 95. Bob was an original member of 2/3, serving with that Company/Squadron in New Caledonia, Wau/Mubo and Borneo. One of his high lights was "taking care" of the famous photographer, Damian Parer; he used to joke that he and his mates had kept Parer safe for months in the jungle (the squadron killed nearly 1000 Nips for the loss of 65!) but when he went off to join the Yanks they let him get killed within a week or so! Post-war, Bob returned to Newcastle to work for Lysachts and later became a Watchman. He is survived by three of his four children; two sons and a daughter, Anne, who is married to Garry Taylor, of 12 Prettejohn Court, Lockleys, SA5031. She would appreciate receiving a copy of the Commando News edition in which this report appears. Bob's death was reported by son Allan, who made contact with both Barbara and Reg Davis. Bob's funeral service was conducted by the Hamilton/Merewether sub-Branch of the RSL.

VALE VX72705, F.S. King-Davies (2/7). Fred's funeral is reported in the current edition of Double Diamond. It took place on 17.9.14 and amongst those present were Jack Johanesen and Con Bell (both 2/7) and Keith Johnston (2/10) as well as Dick Pelling, representing the Australian Commando Association (Vic).

Fred had been a sig. in an artillery unit before volunteering for the Independent Companies. He joined 2/7 on 25.3.1943 at Wau and thereafter fought in each of that unit's many campaigns, including Wau/Mubo, Ramu Valley, and Aitape/Wewak. Post-war, he was an indispensable member of the Victorian branch of the Commando Association, seldom – if ever – missing a reunion or a meeting and serving as the 2/7 Rep on the Committee. He will be much missed.

Don Newport, (2/11) back in the hands of the medical profession in September, but this time, only in Day Surgery, for the excision of some skin cancers.

Ted Workman (2/10) – yes, you've guessed it. Another fall. Do you remember those toys; a male



figure fwith a weight-distribution so that no matter how you knocked them they always sprang up immediately. Ted always reminds me of them. This time he tried to save himself by grabbing the fine chain that controls a blind. Didn't much hurt the chain, but knocked Ted's hand about a bit. A lesser man might have chucked in the towel and stayed in a wheel chair, but not our Ted! He, on the other hand, went on to celebrate his 90th birthday in fine style. He took Lola to a 5-star establishment for a few days and there entertained several of his friends in a series of small functions. Reg Davis (2/9) and Ken Buckler (2/10) were most enthusiastic.

Some readers may remember the plea that I made in the last edition for aid to the East Timorese. The particular vehicle that I spoke of was the East Timor Hearts Fund, an all-volunteer organisation, which had featured on ABC Television. Well, some at least read it and took notice. The CEO, Ms Ingrid Svendsen, has informed me of a number of responses from ex-servicemen and of one very special gift from an ex-commando — I know his name, but do not have his authority to publish it; his cheque was for \$10,000!! I have scoured nominal rolls but have not found his name in any of them, from which I assume that he is probably a post-WW2 Commando. Congratulations, Bob. There are people listed with your surname; do you have a connection with either 2/2 or 2/4?

I quote from a letter received from Ms Svendsen: *Your articles in Double Diamond and other magazines have certainly had an impact, as we have had a number of very generous donations from former servicemen and their families over recent months. We all feel very humbled to be chosen to help repay the debt of honour that Australia owes to the people of Timor-Leste.*

These gifts are incredibly timely as we are about to embark on a significant expansion of our work with Timorese heart patients. This will include partnering with another organisation to offer in-country treatment, as well as support for medical training and education/prevention programmes, amongst other initiatives. In short, these donations will be very well spent in the coming years (and in fact, very soon as our next patient, Melinda, 17, arrives next month.)

A later communication from Ms Svendsen advises that the Fund has now begun flying surgeons to Timor in order to operate up there, as well as flying patients to Australia

So, congratulations to the three journals ("**Double Diamond**", "**Commando News (NSW)**" and "**Cavalry News**") for spreading the word.

Talking about 2/4 Squadron: reading the "Australian" Magazine on 18.10.14, I happened on a summary of a new biography of businessman, Kerry Stokes. It seems that he was adopted as a child and has been seeking his biological parents. His "real" father seems to have been a man named Lancelot William Scullen and a photograph of Mr Scullen is featured,

with the caption: "Likeable rogue". The man in the photo is in uniform and a close look reveals that on his white puggaree is a double diamond colour patch, of a dark hue. Further investigation shows that he is listed in *Commando: From Tidal River to Tarakan* as VX69534, a reinforcement to 2/4 Sqn, "after Lae".

The article goes on to state that he was apparently no "stripe-hunter". I quote: *As his cavalier attitude to army discipline showed, Lancelot played by his own rules. He would serve in Papua New Guinea with his company for 6 months.* It seems that he did time for AWL [Please don't call it "AWOL"; HHB] and for escaping from custody, apparently to care for his de facto (Stokes' mother) who was ill. Does anyone remember him? He is said to have "had dark hair and a strong jaw"; to have been "about six feet tall, lean and broad shouldered." He had been a butcher, a driver and a bandsman — he played the cornet. It would seem that, after his court-martial, he did not rejoin his unit. But the photo bears out the description of "likeable rogue."

On 20th October, I travelled by train to Canberra where I was picked up by Dinny, wife of Darrell Killen (2/7) and taken to visit Darrell in the Fred Ward Aged Care Centre. Darrell looks as if he had spent the last year on Boarding School rations (a bit better than Changi) — but on second thoughts, I now recall that when we first met, at a Divisional Parade at Wewak in late 1945, there wasn't all that much difference apart from the saffron hue of Atebrin. He has lost a lot of agility, though, being dependent on a walking frame at present. And he had filled out a lot after the war. After all, he was still only 19 when it ended. As were many of my mates — I had my 20th a fortnight after VJ Day. He is pretty unhappy with his physical condition, especially a cancer that has attacked his ear, but mentally he is still the same the same old Doctor Killen (a Doctor of Philosophy, not of Medicine. He can't heal himself but he can find ways to put up with things.) He rang his old mate, Ian Seale (2/7) while I was with him and they had their first chat for a long time.

Another of the Young Brigade, Ted MacMillan (2/9) entered his 90th year on 3rd November. He had been left off the draft when we left Bathurst for Canungra in August 1944 and I had gone to see our O.C. to whom I had some access, to try to persuade him to let MacMillan and Ted Punch (2/7) come with me. He (Captain Johnny Gall M.C., 2/3 Bn) explained that there was now a strict rule that no soldier under the age of 19 was to be sent into action and that if he acceded to my request, he was open to Court Martial. I was about to turn 19 (29.8.1944) Mac was doing so on 3rd November and Punch on 17th December. Johnny said that Mac's birthday would probably just precede embarkation but that Punch's would probably not. So he agreed to let Mac come, but not ETP. His calculations were spot on; the main body of the Regiment sailed from Townsville on 14th October by Liberty Ship while our draft was still at Yeerongpilly. We



sailed for Aitape with the Rear Party from Cairns on about the 26th November aboard *Duntroon*.

I of course had the authority of my two mates to make this approach – in fact, they were keen for me to do it. But for John Gall's cooperation, Mac would have joined Ted and most of my other mates in a Young Soldiers' Battalion, joining us – or some other Squadron - in about mid-1945. But then, John Jeffers (2/10) was one of those held back and that didn't save him – he was killed in action at Machouin on 23.7.45, three days after his arrival at Karawop. Tony Hanley M.I.D, who was on the Draft referred to, was Killed in Action on 16.1.1945 near Nambut Ridge, 9 Squadron's first fatality in New Guinea. He was only about 17 when he was killed, having elevated his age by two years to get into the A.I.F. I often think, with horror, of how I would have faced Mr and Mrs MacMillan if Ted had suffered the same fate. As it is, fortunately, Mac was able to celebrate his 89th anniversary safely in Burra and Ted Punch and Annie were able to accompany me to the Bowral Armistice Day service on 11/11.

On 28th October, I went to Canberra with the Bowral sub-Branch (RSL) to visit parliament House, Duntroon and the Australian War Memorial. I had known that Graham ("Dolly") Dolton (2/9) was coming to Canberra from Perth at about that time, so kept an eye out for him at the AWM. Sure enough, there he was with sister, Lesley and friend Peter Horgan (no relation of Max, 2/10).

We spent a few minutes looking at not-to-be forgotten names on the Honour Roll and then attended the Last Post ceremony by the Pool of Reflection, in the forecourt-; a most impressive occasion. We had reserved seats but there was standing room only for the busloads of school-children from as far away as Ballarat and Kyogle. A lone piper gave a moving rendition of *Flowers of the Forest* and a very smart female Bugler blew as good a last Post as I have ever heard.

Our party had booked in overnight at the Mercure Hotel in Page so Dolly joined us for dinner. A couple of bottles of red and a few hundred dead Nips later, I nearly had the doubtful privilege of sharing my double bed with Dolly: His sister, who was to call for him when he rang, didn't answer the phone and a taxi would have been of no use for he didn't know her address! However, honour was saved when he rang again half an hour later.

I have been re-reading some of my letters home, (published in *Wee Waa to Wewak*). On 26/10.1945 Old Tom reviewed ^ Div in a farewell parade. The brass mucked us round with rehearsals and false starts but eventually it took place on the Wom Airstrip, Wewak. It wasn't much fun, especially for people wearing berets rather than slouch hats, with no protection from the sun, bouncing up off the crushed coral of the Strip. Then, a few days later, the Regiment (2/6 Cavalry (Commando) Regiment – "6 Div. Cav.") was disbanded, most of us going to 4th Battalion, with a few retained at a cadre.

4th Battalion was part of 8th Independent Brigade which, under our original C.O., Maurice Fergusson, had been doing a great job, east of the Sepik River.

Here are some extracts from my first letter home after the move: (3.11.45 – the 6th anniversary of the formation of the regiment as well as Ted MacMillans 20th birthday!) *So it's all over. As far as conditions etc are concerned, we've nothing at all to grumble at; it's just the thought – the thought of leaving the Old Divvy and the Old Regiment and of leaving chaps like Joe [Olsen] and Don MacPherson and Allan Russell at the Sqn. I'm especially glad, now, that I was on that Divvy parade.*

"We are being kept together fairly well, luckily - - - they won't try to stop us wearing colour patches and black berets. The tents were all ready for us when we came and we're in a beaut possie, right on the beach, complete with electric light. There is quite a decent surf, too, with shoots of up to 50 yards and the tucker is pretty good, so we've nothing to complain of.

"But the Regiment – the Senior Regiment of the A.I.F. – is dead. "Redundant." It hurts a little. Six years and now – this. There's nothing wrong with the 4th Battalion. They've been almost two years on the Island and most of them have X numbers, now. But it's still a bit of a come down - - -"

I am typing this on 10th November 2014; just over 69 years on. Does it all seem a bit juvenile, I wonder? Somehow, I don't think so. We were proud of ourselves even if (like me) we had performed no daring deeds at all. What do you reckon?

While on the subject of ancient writings, let me quote from *N.S.W. Commando Association News Sheet* of November 1954 – 60 years ago. The President was Norm Carroll, (2/3); the Secretary was Dick Williams (2/1. 2/3) and the Treasurer Bill Kennaway (2/8) all deceased. The Editor was your correspondent, not yet deceased (I think.) My Editorial was mostly about the Petrov Royal Commission and the spy network it revealed. It went on to stress the danger of "McCarthyism" – discrediting people by labelling them communists. "The wheel", I said, "has come full circle: the danger is itself a danger, as distinct from the danger it creates".

News Items included a note that Tom Hungerford (2/8) had written part of the script for the official of the Royal Visit (The Queen had just been here on the first ever trip to Australia by a reigning British monarch) and another that Allan Reid (2/9), the proprietor of the Koala Park at Lone Pine on the Brisbane River had delighted Her Majesty by displaying koalas at the Royal Ball.

Allan was also to have given a lecture on Australian snakes to a platoon of the Pacific Islands Regiment commanded by Lt. Lionel Oxlade M.M. (7 Div Cav and 2/9). However, when the serpents were released, the Troops shot through very smartly!

I reported having been in Brisbane myself and meeting up with Ian Seale (2/7) and "his ravishingly



beautiful bride." A very appropriate description still!

Norm ("Crasher" Carroll (2/5); see above, had been to Kew and there met the Publican of the Royal Hotel, one Ray Lennox (2/5), a former Squadron Sar'Major.

The journal (well, the four roneoed pages) concluded with an invitation to the Christmas picnic and the following exhortation: *Of toys there will be bags full, Of ice cream, tubs and tubs; Your kiddies will have presents – But: where's your bloody subs!!!*

And just one more blast from the past: I was looking at the original Constitution, entitled "*Rules of N.S.W. Commando Association*. Rule 2 sets out the Objects, the first of which is: (1) *Unswerving loyalty to King and Empire and to perpetuate the spirit which brought members to volunteer and serve in Commando Squadrons and to preserve the close and kindly ties of friendship created by mutual service.*

The Membership Rule provided that: (1) *Anyone who is or has been on the posted strength of an Independent Company, Commando Squadron or*

Cavalry Commando Regiment or any other person whose eligibility for membership has been approved by the Committee (should be eligible for Membership). Any soldier who has been dishonourably discharged from the service shall not be eligible to become or remain a member of the Association.

"Double Diamond" has announced a number of dates for 2015 events, including a hike at Tidal River on Jan 24, the A.G.M. on Feb 28, Anzac Day luncheon, at Bayview Eden, Melbourne, Memorial Service at The Shrine (Melbourne) on July 5, the President's Shield Annual Pistol Shoot (!) On October 18, Remembrance Day ceremony at Heidelberg Remembrance Gardens and the annual Memorial Service at Tidal River on November 15.

That's all for now, folks. Have a happy Christmas; best wishes fro Kathie and me'

Yours ever,

Harry (Ding dong Mk 2)



Lance Corporal Todd Chidgey

Lance Corporal Todd Chidgey was farewelled at the Palmdale Cemetery and Memorial Park on the New South Wales Central Coast.

Family, friends and colleagues from Sydney's 2nd Commando Regiment gathered to commemorate Lance Corporal Chidgey's life during a moving private funeral service at the Hillside Chapel.

Lance Corporal Chidgey's fellow soldiers formed the Honour Guard and Bearer Party as their comrade's coffin was carried into the chapel.

Twenty-nine-year-old Lance Corporal Chidgey died in a non-combat related incident in Afghanistan on 1 July 2014, while serving with a Protective Security Detachment at Headquarters International Security Assistance Force Joint Command.

Commanding Officer of the 2nd Commando Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel I (identity protected) spoke of Lance Corporal Chidgey as a dedicated commando and loyal friend to his mates at the regiment.

"Today we mourn and farewell Lance Corporal Todd Chidgey. Todd was the kind of soldier and person who would do anything for his mates," Lieutenant Colonel I said.

"As his unit, family and friends gather to say goodbye, everyone will have their individual memories of Todd, the son, the brother, the partner, the mate and the soldier. Take some comfort in the fact the Army and the 2nd Commando Regiment will never forget him and he will live on in our histories, our memories and whenever we gather and remember those who fell in Afghanistan.



"Todd was a dedicated and committed commando, who served his country, his unit and the Australian community. We should celebrate his service, his life and his contribution to ensure a better world and keep this in our minds as we mourn his passing."

Lance Corporal Chidgey is survived by his mother, father, brothers and partner.

The funeral was attended by the Hon Tony Abbott MP, Prime Minister; Senator the Hon David Johnston, Minister for Defence; the Hon Bill Shorten MP, Leader of the Opposition; Senator the Hon Stephen Conroy, Shadow Minister for Defence; Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin, AC, Chief of the Defence Force; Lieutenant General David Morrison, AO, Chief of Army and Brigadier Dan McDaniel, DSC, DSM, Special Operations Commander Australia.



REMEMBRANCE DAY DARLING HARBOUR

We were a little apprehensive with the weather at Darling Harbour on the 11th November, however we stayed dry and a large crowd assembled on the dock in front of MV Krait for the service.

At the last moment we were advised that our regular MC, Monsignor Brian Raynor would be unable to attend.

That role fell on the shoulders of our President Barry Grant, some would find that a little unusual, Barry taking over the role of a Monsignor.

However the program went off without a hitch thanks to the Director of the Australian Maritime Museum, Mr. Kevin Sumption.

We are always grateful for his support on this important day.

The Amaroo School from Canberra once again attended and presented readings on the meaning of Remembrance Day and what the day meant to them.

Readings were presented by our Secretary Kevin Mahony and Reg Davis 2nd/9th Independent Company.

Gary Wills represented his mother Dianne who is Horrie Young's daughter.

Horrie of course was the radio operator on Operation Jaywick.

Photos below courtesy of Greg Tyerman



Gary Wills and student from Amaroo School



Peter Sweetman and Bruce McGregor ex Rhodesian Light Infantry.



Brian Gerber



Two students from Amaroo School posing with wreaths



Peter Collins



Memorial Service SANDAKAN August 2012

This service was attended by Bill Merchant, ex CDO and SAS; and Col Scott, ex 1 CDO; and their wives, Annette and Lois.

The service was in memory of the 2,345 allied prisoners of war held by the Japanese. Of all the prisoners who had been incarcerated at Sandakan and Ranau, only six Australians survived, all of whom had escaped. In 1942 and 1943, Australian and British POWs who had been captured at the Battle of Singapore were shipped to North Borneo to construct a military airstrip and prisoner-of-war camps at Sandakan.

Our ten-day trip started with two nights in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia, two in Kota Kinabulu Sabah, one night at Kundasang and the Sabah Tea Plantation, and two nights Sandakan. We travelled by car from Kota Kinabulu east to Mount Kinabulu and stayed overnight on the top of a mountain at Kundasang. Kundasang has a fine war memorial and is well worth a visit. Proceeding further east we visited the last camp for the prisoners at Ranau. The last of the prisoners were killed here just before the end of the war. The following night was spent at the Sabah Tea Plantation, good food, and good views.

On reaching Sandakan we stayed in a very new luxury hotel on the waterfront. A great deal was had due to Annette's ability to seek out such.

Our main aim for the trip was to attend the memorial service at the location of the prison about 10 kilometres



The memorial park in Sandakan stand today on the former site of the POW Camp.

out from Sandakan. The service is getting greater attendance every year as people learn more of the trials of these men and the treatment they had to endure.

One interesting incident occurred to me during the ceremony. I was approached by a person who had noticed my 1 CDO beret. His father had been a member of 2 CDO in Melbourne and was killed in a demonstration of the Death Slide, in front of a large onlooking crowd. I remember

the accident and this is when the Death Slide was changed to Rapid Slide.

This was my first trip to Borneo and I hope to go there again. My thanks go to Bill and Annette for taking us along. They go there often and financially support the war memorial at Kundasang. I would like to return with my son Craig and his daughters. They plan to climb Mount Kinabula.

I would encourage more people to travel Sabah as I feel the country is not on the tourist maps yet, the people are great, and are in need of our dollars.

Regards,

Col Scott

Col Scott is also the Welfare Officer at Bundeena RSL Sub.

Visit Bundeena - come across from Cronulla on the ferry.

UPDATE ON SASR HISTORY DOCUMENTARY SERIES

Work continues on the final four parts of the SASR history series [Season 3] – East Timor, Afghanistan, Iraq and niche operations like the boarding and capture under way of the North Korean drug ship Pong Su.

Season 3 features Special Forces battle action in Afghanistan, especially the heavy fighting of Operation Anaconda [SASR] and the battle of the Shah Wali Kot [SASR and 2 Commando Regiment]. Funding permitting, the series will be ready by mid-December. The project continues to benefit greatly from the pro bono work of ex-SAS Vietnam veteran Chook, Bill Gray, co-principal of MG Media Communication.

In a welcome development, Bill and I met recently with Professor Zachary Steel, St John of God Chair of Trauma and Mental Health, School of Psychiatry, University of New South Wales, and St John of God Richmond Hospital, NSW. Professor Steel is interested in using the SASR documentary to treat PTSD:

"In addition to documenting the unique contribution of SASR for over 55 years, the SASR series documents the emotional costs that military service has had on individual SASR soldiers. A number of the participating soldiers have spoken candidly about developing mental health problems resulting from active duty and the high personal costs that result.

To this extent the SASR documentary provides an invaluable resource to assist with the critical task of destigmatizing posttraumatic mental health impairment and the fact that many soldiers will develop an operational stress injury in the course of their service duties".

We look forward to contributing documentary content to Professor Steel's effective treatment of veteran soldiers.

Professor Bruce Horsfield
ex 1 Commando Company



2014 JAYWICK COMMEMORATION DINNER

70 members and friends boarded the former ferry South Steyne on the 26th September to commemorate the successful raid on Singapore Harbour by Krait in 1943.

The guest speaker for the evening was COL John Hutcheson AM (Retired), and as a special guest we had his father COL John Hutcheson MC (Retired) who was the Officer Commanding 2 Commando Company after MAJ Anderson was lost on the training course in the UK in 1956.

COL Hutcheson spoke on the development of Australia's Maritime Capability.

The incoming Commanding Officer of the 1st Commando Regiment LTCOL S, Director of the Australian National Maritime Museum Kevin Sumption, and representatives of the commando units also attended.



COL John Hutcheson AM (Retd) and his father COL John Hutcheson MC (Retd)



Brian Banks, our previous Treasurer, was presented with a plaque in appreciation of his long service on the committee.



BARRY FREDERICK CLISSOLD ("TINY")



BARRY FREDERICK CLISSOLD joined 1 Commando Company straight from "civvy street" in 1957.

As a Sergeant, Barry completed 20/60 CMF Basic Parachutists Short Course which was conducted at RAAF Williamstown, between 16 - 29 October 1960.

As a Captain, Barry volunteered for a period of attachment to the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, in South Vietnam between 26 November 1970 and 10 December 1970. During this short term attachment he participated in Operation Cung Chung, which was a 1 Australian Task Force pacification operation conducted to the north-east of Nui Dat involving extensive patrolling, ambushing and cordon and search operations.

Again, as a Captain, Barry volunteered for a posting to the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) for a period of about 9 months commencing in January 1972.

Robin, and young sons Matthew (then 3 years old) and Murray (then 2 years) accompanied him on this posting where the family lived in Srinagar, the capital of the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir. Subsequently, Barry was awarded a part-recipient of the 1988 Noble Peace Prize, which was awarded to Peace Keepers. Other nominees at the time were Nelson Mandela, Pope John Paul II and Mikhail Gorbachev.

Barry qualified as a roping instructor in the late 1950's and could often be seen on weekends in the company of Paul Benny, John Cope, Mike Wells etc. honing their skills at The Gap and other very precipitous areas of the Sydney coastline.

One anecdote which will always be strongly associated with Barry. As part of Army Week demonstrations in September 1958, 1 Commando

Company put on a roping display from the northern pylon of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Mike Wells and Barry were involved. The act involved the brazen intrusion of a supposed civilian interloper (actually Barry Clissold disguised as a civilian) into the demonstration of rapid karabiner abseiling techniques. Barry appeared from out of the shadows on the catwalk feigning partial drunkenness, some 30 metres above ground level, whereupon he was very promptly "arrested" by several 1 Cdo Coy instructional staff. He was then very quickly and unobtrusively attached by karabiner to the main rope, and with one instructional staff member securing each limb, was unceremoniously thrown off the catwalk. To the casual onlooker, it appeared that he had actually been thrown bodily off the catwalk, which resulted in several people with very faint hearts numbered amongst the many onlookers requiring immediate medical treatment. Of course, the brake man had been surreptitiously positioned at the bottom of the rope, to which Barry was always very firmly attached, and applied the brake when Barry was about 10 metres above the ground, bringing him to stop a metre or so off the ground.

Another anecdote relates to refresher parachute jumps performed out of the recently introduced C130 Hercules aircraft in the mid-1960's using the new US designed T10 parachute canopy. This canopy was significantly larger than the standard 28 foot canopy, which it replaced. On his first jump with the new canopy, Barry was seen to be ascending and NOT descending. This was undoubtedly due to his small stature. There was furious debate on the ground on the best way to get him down. Shooting him down was quickly ruled out as a non-option. He took about 10 minutes longer than any other parachutists in his stick to arrive on the ground.

And then there was the anecdote of Barry being taught to swim in the Qantas Sydney domestic terminal by Mike Wells, Arthur and Barbara Eastwood while Mike was waiting for his return flight to Melbourne. During The "swimming lessons", which straddled several flight postponements, puzzled onlookers were treated to the spectacle of several pieces of waiting lounge furniture being re-arranged for the purposes of the "lessons".

Major General Greg Melick AM RFD SC, had been in contact with Robin to express his sympathies and to offer his apologies for not being able to attend the service. He pointed out that he was a Corporal in Barry's platoon during the annual camp at Tianjarra in 1971. He made specific reference to Barry's leadership qualities and that he always got the best out of his subordinates by leading through example.

REST IN PEACE



VALE - SGT. GARY FRANCIS

SGT Gary Francis, from the Sydney-based 2nd Commando Regiment, died during a training activity on Mount Cook in New Zealand on July 16, 2014.



The 44-year-old former Royal Marine was leading a group of 10 Commandos on a two-week Mountain and Cold Weather Operations (MACWO) exercise when he plunged 40 metres down a crevasse on the Grand Plateau.

Sergeant Francis was leading his team on a crevasse rescue exercise at the time of his death. During the rescue exercise the team would climb down into the crevasse and then use one member as the 'patient' for the extraction exercise.

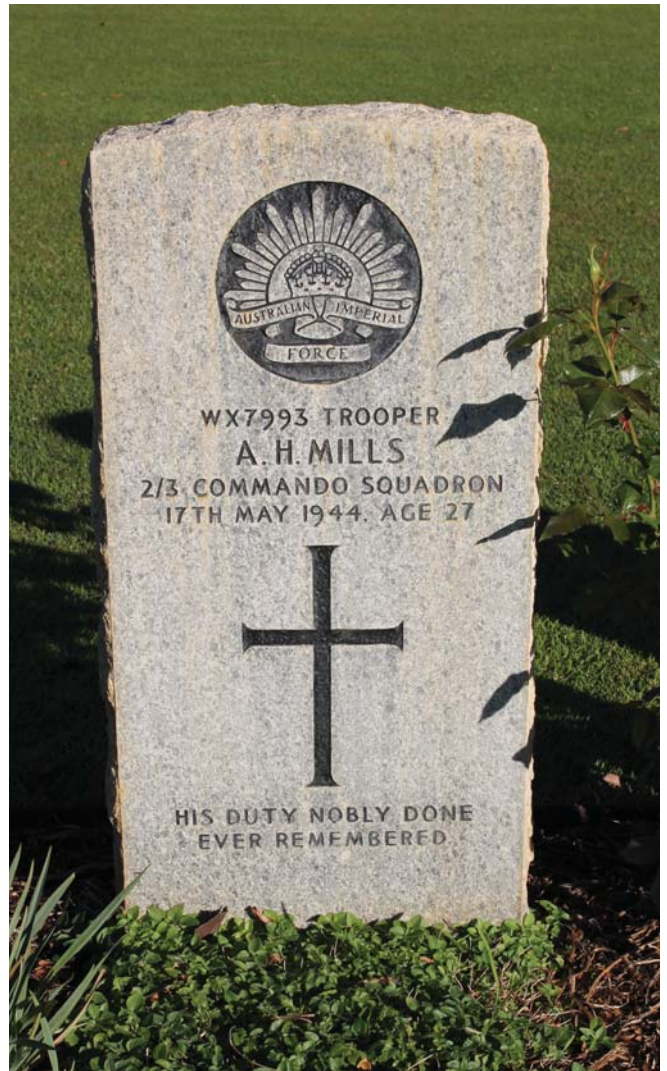
Normally the team would be roped together for the actual exercise but Sgt Francis was surveying the crevasse for its suitability when the crust gave way and snow collapsed around him.

Another commando, who is also a former Royal Marine, led the recovery of his mate's body and the men administered first aid but sadly were unable to revive him.

Sgt Francis had been the ADF's MACWO subject matter expert since January 2011, a year after joining 2nd Commando Regiment at Holsworthy.

The Englishman, originally from Welling in South East London, previously spent 13 years in the British military as a Royal Marine Commando Mountain Leader before moving to Australia in 2010.

SGT Francis is survived by his wife and two children.



Bowmana War Cemetery, PNG

This is one of approximately 100 WW2 Commando headstones in this peaceful place.

Dear Barry

I do apologise for taking so long in writing to thank you and all the other Commandos for coming to Barry's funeral. It must have taken a lot of organising to round up all of them without an army truck.

It was wonderful to see all the Green Berets appear during the Army section at the end part of the service. The poppies and The Last Post was very touching, a few women admitting that was when they burst into tears.

Barry would have been particularly touched as I and the boys were.

We can't thank you enough and will always remember the day and everyone's efforts in coming to Canberra. Thanks Barry.

Best Wishes and have a Great Xmas & New Year.

Robin Clissold

VALE

Warren Balfour	1 Coy 1 Cdo Regt 9th September
Barry Clissold	1 Coy 1 Cdo Regt
Kevin Palmer	1 Coy 1 Cdo Regt
Alan Kelso	2nd/4th
Gregor Mackenzie	2nd/7th 21st Dec 2013
Graeme Starkey	1 Coy 1 Cdo Regt 28th July 2014
Reg Baxter	2nd/10th
Lt. Barbara James	SRD (Airlie House Melbourne)
LCpl Todd Chidgey	2nd Commando Regt
Cpl Cameron Baird MG VC	2nd Commando Regt
Reginald Kenneth Morgan	"Z" Special Unit Past (President)
Bob McMahon	2nd/3rd
Frank Henry Wilson	2/8th Commando Squadron



LIMBANG RAID

The Limbang raid was a military engagement between British Royal Marine commandos and insurgents of the North Kalimantan National Army (Tentara Nasional Kalimantan Utara: TNKU), on 12 December 1962. After an amphibious assault on the town of Limbang in Sarawak, Borneo, the commandos managed to rescue the hostages being held there by the TNKU.

On 9 December 1962, as the Brunei Revolt broke out, TNKU militants led by Salleh bin Sambas seized the small town of Limbang. From the police station, they captured several rifles, Sterling submachine guns and one Bren light machine gun. This greatly enhanced their weaponry, as they only been armed with shotguns. They imprisoned the British resident and his wife, along with 12 others, and announced their intention of hanging them.

The task of freeing the hostages was given to L Company, 42 Commando, commanded by Captain Jeremy Moore, who were deployed from the commando carrier HMS Albion. To bring the commandos to their target, two cargo lighters were commandeered and crewed by Royal Navy personnel. One of them carried a Vickers machine gun. Moore planned to sail his force up the Limbang river, and then to assault the town directly, so as to avoid giving the rebels time to execute the hostages.

The lighters approached Limbang at dawn on the morning of 12 December. The sound of their engines warned the rebels, and the commandos lost the element of surprise. As they moved in to their landing area, they were met by heavy fire from the police station, where Salleh himself was manning the Bren gun. The deck of the lighters offered little protection, and two marines were killed before landing. One craft provided covering fire with the Vickers gun, while the first disembarked its men.

The commandos charged the police station, where they killed ten rebels and captured the Bren gun. Salleh Bin Sambas was injured, but made good his escape. The hostages were discovered in the hospital, where the resident was singing loudly, to avoid being mistaken for a rebel. After all the commandos had landed, they spent the rest of the day clearing Limbang house by house, during which three more marines and two more rebels were killed.

British forces operations continued in the area in the following days, and captured 11 more prisoners. The intelligence they gathered suggested that the TNKU force had been undone by the Limbang battle: the more committed fighters had escaped into the surrounding jungle, while the local conscripts had thrown away their weapons and uniforms. Their leader, Salleh was subsequently captured by the British Forces six months after the raid. He was found guilty for bearing the arms against the Crown, and was sentenced to 15 years of imprisonment at Kuching Central Prison. During the

trial, he pleaded guilty on all charges, and requested the judges to release the other prisoners, citing that he was willing to take the fall himself and would head to the gallows. However, none of his requests were granted and his sentence proceeded as planned. He was later released in the 1970s, and now resides in Limbang as a Penghulu (Village Headman) at Kampung Pahlawan.

For their role in the battle, Corporals Lester and Rawlinson were awarded Military Medals, while Captain Moore was awarded a bar for his Military Cross. He later went on to command the British forces during the Falklands War. Jeremy Black, the RN officer who commanded one of the lighters, later became Captain of HMS Invincible, during the same conflict. After this action L Company became known as "Limbang Company".

The lighters were piloted in by Erskine Muton of the Brunei State Marine who was awarded the MBE for his civilian gallantry. Citation in The London Gazette.

During the Indonesia/Malaysia Confrontation, total British Commonwealth military casualties were 114 killed and 181 wounded, most of them Gurkhas. The losses included Gurkha casualties of 43 killed and 83 wounded, other British armed forces were a further 19 killed and 44 wounded, Australian casualties of 16 killed and 9 wounded (although only 7 were killed in action) and New Zealand casualties of 7 killed and another 7 wounded or injured. The remaining casualties were that of the Malaysian military, police, and Border Scouts. A significant number of British casualties occurred during helicopter accidents, including a Belvedere crash that killed several SAS commanders and a Foreign Office official, possibly a member of MI6. A Wessex collision also killed several men from 2nd Parachute Battalion, and a Westland Scout crash, on 16 July 1964, near Kluang airfield, killed the two crewmen from 656 Sqn AAC. Finally, in August 1966, there remained two British and two Australian soldiers missing and presumed dead, with the Australians (both from the SASR) probably drowned while crossing a swollen river. The remains of a Royal Marine were recovered some 20 years later.

Indonesian casualties were estimated at 590 killed, 222 wounded and 771 captured.

Altogether, 36 civilians were killed, 53 wounded and 4 captured.

Below: Limbang Raid Memorial



First Strike

The Salamaua Raid

by the *Commando History and Research Centre*

During the first half of 1942, there was little good news for Australia. In six months, Japan had attacked and won everywhere, had swept aside all resistance, and was on our doorstep. Thousands of our soldiers were now prisoners, Darwin had been bombed, Sydney Harbour attacked by submarines and it seemed that the enemy was invincible. Many people believed that Australia was about to be invaded, and would likely go under. The successes of Kokoda and Milne Bay still lay in the future.

Then came an Australian commando raid on the Japanese base at Salamaua in New Guinea. It would be the first time the enemy suffered an unequivocal defeat on land, and should have written the names of the raiders into our history, but has become little known today. It is an incredible story of tenacity, skill, victory and nepotism and betrayal.

During June of that year, the 2/5th Independent Company was attached to "Kanga Force" in the Wau - Salamaua area of northern New Guinea, which was under the command of a Lieutenant Colonel Fleay. Fleay received orders from General Blamey to harrass the enemy wherever he could and tasked the commandos of the 2/5th Independent Company to strike at Salamaua.

Leadership of the raid was given to "The Red Steer" as the commandos called him, a Captain Norman Isaac Winning. Winning was a 36 year old Scotsman who had enlisted as a private, risen quickly to captain, and was well respected by his men. He was wiry, red headed, determined and would soon prove to be an outstanding combat leader.



Figure 2: Norman Winning

The commandos formed a joint force with soldiers from the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (NGVR), a collection of Australians who had lived in New Guinea prior to the war and were valued for their local knowledge. It would prove to be a very fortunate pairing indeed.

Winning selected a team of 51 soldiers for the raid and they humped their weapons and heavy packs laden with ammunition and supplies over the hills undetected to a forward base only eight kilometres from the large enemy garrison at the northern coastal town of Salamaua. There they rested and prepared hand-held demolition charges specifically for the raid consisting of anti-tank grenades wrapped in explosive TNT.

Whilst this occurred, Winning took a reconnaissance party forward, and utilising the crucial guidance and knowledge of the NGVR men, for three nights he conducted a very detailed survey of his target areas right under the enemy's noses. Other vital information on the target came from a well situated observation post which had also been manned by the NGVR.



Figure 3: The Japanese Base at Salamaua from the Observation Post.

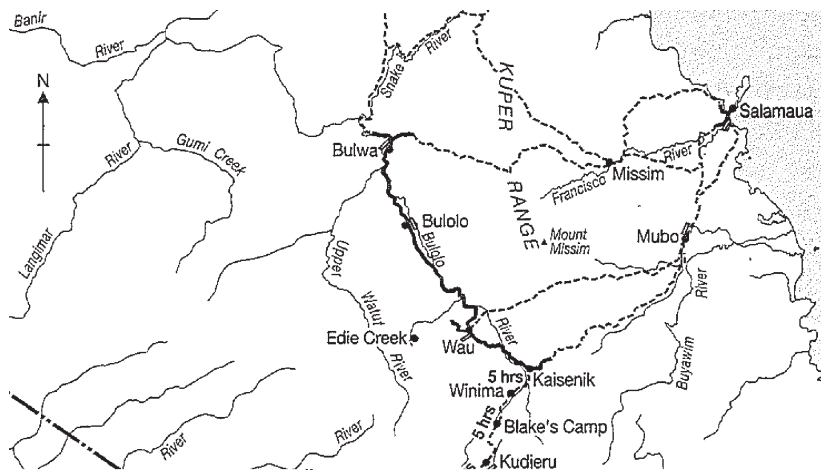


Figure 1: The Wau-Salamaua area of northern New Guinea.

Salamaua was proving to be an excellent target. It had an estimated enemy strength of up to 300 in the area protecting an airfield, large radio masts and



administrative bases. The bay was also used as a seaplane base. The enemy was complacent and overconfident. They had never known defeat and considered themselves to be in a rear area. Winning devised an intricate plan, built a detailed sand model and gave his orders. Over a two day period he rehearsed his force. His men were new to combat, but were highly trained and motivated; they were ready to go.

A Japanese sentry near the bakery walked away from a hut to urinate and found himself staring at a commando from Party B poised in the dark. It was "Paddles" Hatfield and he leapt up and grabbed him in an attempt to kill him quietly. The Jap started screaming the alarm, so was immediately cut down by a burst from Corporal Bill Hunter's Tommy gun.

Corporal Bernie Davis's of Party D: "I raced up the steps of the

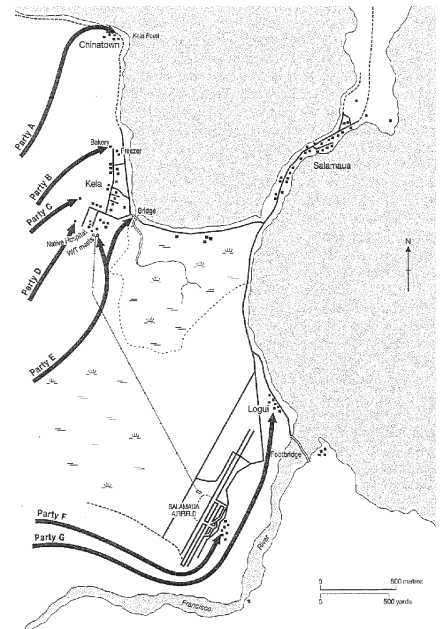


Figure 5: The Raidforce split into seven parties.

fell directly on the most important target, a strongpoint at the neck of the isthmus. Fifteen Japanese were in this post."

Sergeant Mal Bishop in Party A was wounded in the shoulder as he threw his bomb into one of the old Chinese trade stores: "The next thing I knew was a severe blow on the right shoulder, which put me down on my knees. I scrambled to my feet when my bomb went off."

The blast blew him across the road into the sea: "The next recollection I had was of being picked up out of the water by one of the native helpers. He was pushing my Thompson sub-machine gun into my hands and yelling: 'Masta! Kill'em Japan!'"

During the raid Party E went to destroy the bridge, but the mortars had already knocked it out. Whilst near the bridge, an unknown person came running along the road. He was challenged from a distance and froze, but would not answer questions. When he dived off the edge of the road in an attempt to escape, Sergeant Bill O'Neill from Party E shot him dead. Terrified that he had shot an Australian, Bill O'Neill raced forward: it was a Japanese pilot. The great prize of the operation turned out to be a bag of important documents the pilot was carrying.



Figure 4: Salamaua Airfield (foreground) Kela village (background).

Setting out at 2pm on June 28, seven sections infiltrated to their separate targets: the airfield, radio masts, a bridge and troop billets. One section lugged a 3-inch mortar and the bombs to keep the enemy on the isthmus pinned down. The remainder were armed with Thompson sub-machine guns, Lee Enfield rifles and a few Bren guns. Every man had two grenades, a pistol and carried extra ammunition.

As night fell they made their final approaches to their targets guided by the NGVR. It rained heavily, but around midnight the moon came out to help them. By 3.14am, one minute before the attack was to start, almost everyone was in position.

building, tore it open and hurled my sticky bomb inside, yelling: 'Share that for breakfast, you bastards!' The bomb went off, blew the door off its hinges and sent me somersaulting into the garden. Some of the surviving Japanese were escaping through a trapdoor in the floor. Squatting on the ground was an enterprising Aussie. He was calmly killing the enemy one by one as they landed on the ground. He looked like he was stacking bags of wheat under the hut, until the supply of Japs ran out."

Private Donald Suter of the NGVR was in Party G which was tasked to provide Mortar fire support from Logui: "Our mortar unit fired 36 bombs. One of them



After three-quarters of an hour of destruction, killing at least 100 enemy, two red flares signalled the withdrawal. Ken "Andy" Knox of Party F was covering the pullout with his Bren gun. His mate Cliff Biggs, refilling the magazines, complained: "You're firing a bit low, aren't you? My face is covered in mud. I reckon you're hitting the ground about a foot in front of the bloody gun." "Stop your bloody grizzling, Cliff, and say a bloody prayer," replied Knox. "That mud is from the Japanese bullets coming towards us."

Only three commandos had been lightly wounded in the raid. After the withdrawal, Captain Winning quickly realised the value of the captured documents and ordered pre-war skiing champion Bill Harris, who had been in party F, to run the satchel back 50km over the mountains in two days to deliver them to Kanga Force HQ at Wau. They were probably the first documents captured by Australia from the Japanese Army.

The Japanese had been taken completely by surprise and were left bloodied. In response, they reinforced Salamaua which tied down thousands of troops that would otherwise have been thrown into the Kokoda and Milne Bay battles a few months later.

The commanding officer of Kanga Force, Lieutenant Colonel Fleay, who never left Wau, was awarded the DSO for personal gallantry in the Lae-Salamaua area, and in an article in the West Australian newspaper on 31 May 1943 he claimed to be on the raid. Not one of the men who were actually on the Salamaua operation, the first and most successful commando raid of the war, received a decoration for it.

The men of the 2/5th Independent Company were disgusted with this, and a company member, Sergeant Bill Chaffey, happened to be a Member of the Legislative Assembly of NSW on leave to serve in the war. Using his contacts he arranged for a member of the Commonwealth Parliament, Mr

Daniel Mulcahy, member for Lang, to ask a question in the house for the Minister for Army: "*Mr Forde (Minister for Army) was asked whether it was not a fact that an alleged false claim for outstanding deeds of bravery in New Guinea had been made by a recently decorated officer LT Col Norman Fleay DSO. He was also asked if it was not a fact that Fleay had never been in either Lae or Salamaua where he had claimed to cover himself with such personal glory.*"

The Minister for Army made a cursory enquiry with General Blamey and later reporting that: "*General Blamey is satisfied that "Lt Col Fleay is a very gallant and enduring officer and that he is the last person who would attempt to take away credit from other persons".* And the matter went no further.

Blamey and Fleay, however, did not forget the slight. Lt Col Fleay was later appointed Commanding Officer of 2/5 Independent Company when they joined the 2/7th Commando Regiment and Blamey downgraded an end of war recommendation that Captain Norman Winning (at that time a major) receive a Distinguished Service Order, to a Member of the British Empire medal. Some historical sources claim that General Blamey was Lt Colonel Fleay's uncle, but this is still to be confirmed. If true, then it smacks of disgraceful nepotism.

Nevertheless, the commandos of 2/5th Independent Company had struck the enemy fast and hard with minimal casualties. They should be remembered for the First Strike.

Biography of Norman Isaac Winning From the Australian Dictionary of Biography

Norman Isaac Winning (1906-1950), army officer and planter, was born on 27 May 1906 at Oban, Argyllshire, Scotland, second child of Isaac Winning, schoolteacher, and his wife Eliza Clark, née

Greenlees. Probably educated at a local school at Troon, Ayrshire, Norman worked briefly as an apprentice in a shipping company. Before World War II he was employed by an Anglo-Dutch firm, Pamanoekan en Tjiasemlanden, as a planter in Java, Netherlands East Indies. He married Georgie Nell Morris Taylor; they had no children.

Having travelled to Sydney, Winning enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force on 2 September 1940 and was posted to the 1st Cavalry Training Squadron. He rose to temporary warrant officer and in December 1941 was commissioned lieutenant and transferred to the 4th Independent Company. Promoted captain on 16 March 1942, he embarked for Port Moresby next month with the 5th (2nd/5th) Independent Company which was later renamed the 2nd/5th Cavalry (Commando) Squadron. The company flew to Wau, New Guinea, in May and, as part of Kanga Force, began to patrol the tracks leading into the Bulolo Valley and to harass the Japanese forces.

On 29 June Winning led a highly successful raid on Salamaua. At least one hundred Japanese soldiers were killed, buildings were destroyed, and enemy equipment and documents were captured. It was the first offensive action on land against the Japanese in World War II. Winning continued to display inspiring leadership. He earned considerable respect from his troops for his outstanding planning skills, boundless energy, resourcefulness and concern for their welfare in adverse climatic conditions and rugged terrain. The unit's war diary described him as 'not only their leader but their friend—a man among men'. He was twice mentioned in dispatches.

The 2nd/5th returned to Australia in May 1943 for further training in Queensland. In November Winning was transferred to the 2nd/4th Cavalry (Commando) Squadron as second-in-command and sent to New Guinea, where the unit was deployed in operations near Finschhafen. Back in Australia in February



1944, he was seconded to the Far Eastern Liaison Office in April. On 8 July he was promoted major and given command of the 2nd/8th Commando Squadron which trained at Lae, New Guinea, before arriving on Bougainville in October-November. The squadron was primarily employed in patrolling. Winning's men took part in a number of engagements with the enemy near the Jaba River and in the area north of the Buin Road. Following the cessation of hostilities, Winning came home to

Australia where his A.I.F. appointment terminated on 26 September 1945. He was recommended for the Distinguished Service Order for his exploits in Bougainville but, for reasons which are unclear, the award was downgraded to M.B.E. (1947).

Despite an outward appearance of severity, Winning had been enormously popular with his troops. His red hair earned him the nickname 'Red Steer'. Tough, active, unorthodox, enterprising and shrewd, he gained the confi-

dence and co-operation of the men he commanded. The 2nd/5th was often heard singing the ballad 'When the "Red Steer's" eyes are gleaming, Sure it looks like trouble ahead' to the tune of 'When Irish Eyes are Smiling'. After briefly working as a clerk in Sydney, he returned to Java to manage Sumurbarang estate for P. & T. He was shot dead by terrorists on 2 or 3 December 1950 near Subang and was buried in the local cemetery. His wife survived him.

PERSONNEL RECORDS FOR THOSE WHO SERVED AFTER 1970

Those who have served since the Vietnam War, and who require copies of their service records or a Discharge Certificate should write to Personnel Records – Canberra at the address below.

Please provide all relevant service details together with a copy of photographic identification such as a driver's licence or passport. Relations of those who have served since the Vietnam War should also write,

submitting proof of their Next-of-Kin relationship, to the address below.

Postal address:

Defence Archive Centre - Fort Queenscliff (DAC-FQ)

GPO Box 1932

Melbourne VIC 3001

Email address:

adf.persrecordenquiries@defence.gov.au

A genuine joke from Queensland

It is well known that humour is regional, but this is the first joke that I can say is truly a Queenslanders.

At a national conference of the Australian Hotels Association, the general managers of Cascade Brewery (Tasmania), Tooheys (New South Wales), XXXX (Queensland), CUB (Victoria) and Coopers (South Australia) found themselves sitting at the same table for lunch.

When the waitress asked what they wanted to drink, the GM of Tooheys said without hesitation, "I'll have a Tooheys New".

The head of Carlton & United smiled and said, "Make mine a VB".

To which the boss of Coopers rejoined, "I'll have a Coopers, the King of Beers".

And the bloke from Cascade asked for "a Cascade, the cleanest draught on the planet".

The General Manager of XXXX paused a moment and then placed his order: "I'll have a Diet Coke".

The others looked at him as if he had sprouted a new head.

"Well, he said with a shrug, if you poofers aren't drinking beer, then neither will I."



A man calls home to his wife and says, "Honey, I have been asked to fly to Cairns with my boss and several of his friends for fishing. We'll be gone for a long weekend.

This is a good opportunity for me to get that promotion I've been wanting so could you please pack enough clothes for a 3-day weekend".

And also would you get out my rod and tackle box from the shed ?

We're leaving at 4:30 pm from the office and I will swing by the house to pick my things up.

'Oh! And please pack my new navy blue silk pyjamas.'

The wife thinks this sounds a bit odd, but, being the good wife she does exactly what her husband asked.

Following the long weekend he came home a little tired, but, otherwise, looking good. The wife welcomes him home and asks if he caught many fish?

He says, 'Yes! Lots of Coral Trout, some Barra, and a few Sweetlip.

He said but why didn't you pack my new blue silk pyjamas like I asked you to do?

You'll love the answer...

The wife replies, "I did, they're in your tackle box".

Never, Never, Never try to outsmart a woman!!!





1941 - 1946

Keith Long RFD President
president@austcdoassocqld.com
0403 582 920

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0419 136 772



1955 -

Dr. Chris Tucker Treasurer
treasurer@austcdoassocqld.com
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TOK TOK

Greetings everyone,

CRACKING ON !!

It is hard to believe that 2014 is almost done and dusted. Your Executive Committee (EXCOM) has been assiduously cracking on with affairs in what has shaped up to be a very busy year and with an even busier year ahead in 2015. Servicing such a wide ranging membership-stretching from WW2 through to today leads to much thinking off the edge of the plate and we are pleased with progress as members also seem to be, given the comments we receive.

But much still needs to come into the picture as we grow and renew and we appreciate the offers of assistance from you to help share the burden. One concern though is the need to receive your membership dues in order we may function and "stay in business." We continue to fund Commemorative activities, wreaths, travel, our website, communications etc., all of which costs money whichever way we approach it. We understand fully that some members have multiple allegiances to other units in which they have served so, being conscious of this, we have reviewed the membership costs to help minimize their impact whilst maintaining benefits including free magazines that cover areas of interest to our formations. Our funds are slowly diminishing so, please pay your fees as soon as possible in order we may continue to maintain the links of comradeship among our band of brothers. Speaking of brothers, we have established close relations with ASASA Qld and also the Royal Marines Association in particular with whom we share much common heritage, including the Sherwood green beret.

We continue to honor and evoke QCA traditions and Commemorations which form the platform for our heritage. In doing so we realize that the dynamics of our membership suggest we need to be more inclusive by conducting commemorations and events at times where possible that are convenient to most-especially those who still work, have other commitments or have distances to travel. I believe we are doing that and the increased participation levels demonstrate this.

What follows is a snapshot of what occurred in 2014...

2014

2014 Commando Commemoration Day, LWC Canungra. Sunday 23 March. The Commemoration Service was held in the new location behind the flagstaff opposite LWC HQ followed by a luncheon in the SGTS Mess. This year the weather was great as was the lunch and attendance up with the Royal Marines as first time guests. The PA failed but we were saved by our Piper Ian Millard who played the national anthem on the pipes! Members were also more than happy with the relocation of the existing plaques onto the wall fascia behind the flagstaff in a manicured garden and lawn setting.

ANZAC DAY. 25th April. We honoured our undertaking to march with our WW2 veterans as carers and banner bearers. We are planning to do something special in 2015 to celebrate 70 years within the 100 year centenary of ANZAC. More on this to follow in the new year.

ANZAC Day CDO Lunch. 25th April. Following the March everyone reassembled in the "RV" restaurant at Berkley On Anne Hotel for this popular annual luncheon.

RIMAU Day. Sunday 06th June at Queensland Maritime Museum. We moved this Commemoration from ANZAC Square and held it on the quarter deck of HMAS DIAMENTINA which sits in the dry dock of the Qld Maritime Museum followed by a BBQ lunch near the river bank. The National Service Pipes & Drums supported the Commemoration and the Secretary read out the names of the 23 Z Special Unit operators who died in this fateful mission whilst a large crowd watched. The Royal Marines participated and were unaware that one of the heroes was a RM from SEAC which gave them a stake in the Commemoration.

Remembrance Day 2014. Members commemorated this day privately as we could not access the Maritime Museum at Southbank due to G20 operations and shutdowns over this period. But we will be back again next year together with the Royal Marines.



2014 Christmas Lunch. This was held on Sunday 30th November in the RV restaurant of the Berkley on Ann in Brisbane. We invited the Royal Marines and families and a great day ensued.

2015 Planned Events

Pistol Shoot Challenge. ACAQ have challenged the ASASAQ and the Royal Marines to an annual competition similar to the long running event held in Victoria. Planning such an event in Queensland is not straightforward and the increased security levels are impeding progress in this matter, however we expect a breakthrough in the New Year.

2015 Special Forces Commemoration Day, Canungra. Your EXCOM has decided that it would be more inclusive and relevant to change Commando Commemorative Day to reflect common experiences within our brotherhood. We regularly attract members from ASASAQ, AATTVO and last year the RMs. All organizations support this move as a positive gesture of goodwill. We are planning a significant formal Commemoration for our 70th occasion with special guests. The date set aside is **Sunday 29 March**, subject to LWC HQ approval.

2015 ANZAC Day 100th Commemorative March Brisbane City. Our WW2 veteran commandos will be leading the March supported by the association as carers and banner carriers. We are proposing to recover the QCA original large banner from the OR's Mess at LWC Canungra for this day. More details will follow in the New Year.

2015 ANZAC Day CDO Lunch. We continue the QCA custom and will re-assemble at the RV Restaurant in the Berkley On Anne Hotel 100m from ANZAC Square for lunch and comradeship. All welcome including families etc. Reservations will be called for by the secretary in due course.

2015 RIMAU Commemoration Maritime Museum Sunday 05 July. We well ahead in our planning of this significant 70th Anniversary of this tragic operation and we anticipate a full ceremony with catafalque party, honour guard and dignitaries etc. The date may change if it clashes with Reserve Forces Day.

2015 Remembrance Day. We will observe this Day at the maritime Museum together with the RMs on board the HMAS DIAMENTINA. This is normally held on the closest Sunday to the 11 November.

2015 Christmas Lunch. Details to be advised

Other

Memorial Cairn. A subcommittee is working toward building a Commando memorial Cairn at the Qld Maritime Museum to honor all commandos who have given their lives in conflict.

A 2-metre plinth design has been accepted and a bronze statuette to feature atop has now been secured thanks to our RM brothers who brought it home with

them. There are three figurines in WW2 Commando presentation including caps comforters which were worn by all on SCH courses post War. The Museum Board has approved a location near the water and we are now seeking funding for \$36,000 to construct it. A photo of the statuette is included in this advice.

Ladies Committee. This committee will form early 2015 and it is about time too ladies !!

Commando Museum. We are planning on extending the existing display on board HMAS DIAMENTINA to develop a small museum of member's artifacts and relevant items of interest. Please contact the secretary for details or to donate items.

Commando Welfare Trust. We support our own trust dedicated to the welfare and recovery of commando soldiers and families, past and present, who are doing it tough and need assistance including advocacy etc.

Wandering Warriors. We also support our ASASAQ brothers in their fund raising walks and activities. A share of proceeds is distributed to the CWT to assist activities. Simon Pettit has been particularly engaged in leading our charge. Well done Sir!

Help Required

I need to raise this matter again. We need your affiliation fees for 2015 to enable us to continue with the program of development and ongoing relevance to our brotherhood of which you are a vital part. Please support your association with prompt payment of membership fees. It is your association and it honours your service in a unique formation. It is over to you.

Keith Long
President

During my physical examination, my doctor asked me about my physical activity level.

I described a typical day: "Well, yesterday afternoon, I took a five-hour walk about 7 miles through some pretty rough terrain.

I waded along the edge of a lake.

I pushed my way through brambles.

I got sand in my shoes and my eyes.

I avoided standing on a snake.

I climbed several rocky hills.

I took a few 'leaks' behind some big trees.

The mental stress of it all left me shattered.

At the end of it all I drank eight beers."

Inspired by the story, the doctor said, "You must be one hell of an outdoors man - Commando?!"

"No," I replied, "I'm just a terrible golfer."





Membership is for the period Jan to Dec each year. Late payment may miss the March magazine mail out.

Membership Application / Renewal
Australian Commando Association Queensland Inc.

(IA40186)

Please Post with payment to

< OR >

Deposit direct to our Bank account

Tony Mills
The Secretary
Aust Cdo Assoc Qld
PO Box 185
SHERWOOD Qld 4075

Heritage Bank
Australian Commando
Association Queensland Inc.
BSB : 638070
Account Number : 12906174
Please indicate your name with deposit
Email: info@AustCdoAssocQld.com

Name

Postal Address

City

State **Queensland**

Postcode

Telephone Contact number

Email Address

Former/Current Occupation

ACA-Q Membership Fees for 2015

Full Member includes electronic "Commando" magazine **\$30.00**

Life Member - Automatic on-going **\$FREE**

WW2 Member for Life, Widow – Automatic on-going **\$FREE.**

Affiliate, Family Group - includes electronic "Commando" Magazine **\$25.00**

OTHER

ACAV "Commando" Magazine. Annual Subscription **\$25.00**

Bi Annual Newsletter including Double Diamond **\$15.00**

Payment may be by cheque, Money Order or Direct transfer, identified with Family Name followed by Initials, e.g. SmithLM

If you wish to receive the Newsletter and other information by Email.. Current Email

----- NEW MEMBERS ONLY ----- SERVICE DETAILS -----

Present/Former Army No Date of Birth

Served in WW2Cdo - 1stCdoRegt - 2ndCdoRegt - 1CdoCoy - 2CdoCoy 126SigSqdn - 301SigSqdn - Other Special Forces Unit

Unit Rank from to

I hereby apply for membership of the "Australian Commando Association Queensland Inc." and agree to abide by the Constitution of the Association and the by-laws as determined by the committee.

Signed

Date

----- Committee use only -----

Approved Date Received \$ Database updated

Unit check carried out if required Date



AUSTRALIAN COMMANDO ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA) INC NEWS

ACAVic vs ASASA Pistol Shoot

by Glenn MacDonald

Our annual pistol shoot was held on Sunday, 19th October 2014 in perfect Melbourne weather. The event was again extremely well hosted by the Yarra Pistol Club.

Following registration, a settling coffee and the obligatory safety briefing, a total of 41 "shooters" demonstrated their skills on the 25 metre range, each firing 5 sighting shots, 10 static shots and 5 duelling shots.

As the scores came in it was apparent that the SAS folk had, either all used the same weapon, or had been practising since our last gathering – their scores were consistently above 100 per person – a great effort.

Final results in the static element were:

ASASA – average 123.11

ACAVic – average 105.78

While the Static element was conducted the indoor air pistol range was very well patronised with a number of younger participants enjoying their first pistol firing experience.

The top 4 shooters from the Static element (in each Association) went onto a fire and movement detail using a Glock, 9mm pistol.

The ACAVic Team comprised our Vice President Peter Champion, stalwart Ian Storey, Don Berman's son Trevor and Geoff Lander. Again the ASASA team displayed great consistency to also take out this element.

Final results in the fire and movement element were:

ASASA – average time and accuracy penalty points scored 45.66.

ACAVic – average time and accuracy penalty points scored 47.32.

So the President's Shield will sit in the ASASA trophy cabinet until Sunday, 18th October 2015 – please put this date into your calendars now and come along to help your Association return the Shield to its rightful owners.

Thanks to the Yarra Pistol Club for their support and hospitality once again and also for the amusing inaugural presentation of an "Asset Destruction" award made to Don Bergman for shooting a bulldog clip completely off his target.

Please note that the registration fee will increase to \$20 per person from the 2015 meeting – unfortunately cost increases appear inevitable.

FINAL Results - PRESIDENT'S SHIELD

Combined Score:

SAS - 1271 – SAS regains the shield

ACAVic - 1141

INDIVIDUAL SHOOTING

ASASA top shooter was Dwayne Cananzi with 152

ACAVic top Shooter was Peter Champion with 130

Men's top shooter was Danny Shine with 126

The Women's top shooter was Lorraine MacDonald with 102

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The 11th Hour of the 11th Day of the 11th Month of the year Remembrance Day at the Shrine

Our Association Secretary (Glenn MacDonald) represented us at this year's Remembrance Day service (also the 80th anniversary of the dedication of the Shrine) and the opening of the new display galleries in the undercroft at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance.

The program for the day started with the Public Remembrance Day service conducted on the steps of the Shrine from 10:50am. There was a large crowd in attendance who were suitably impressed by two flyovers of the RAAF.

Roulette Team. The Governor of Victoria (the Honourable Alex Chernov, AC, QC) then delivered his Remembrance Day address followed by the laying of a number of wreaths by the Shrine Young Ambassador, the Victorian Spirit of ANZAC prize winner, members of the Military & other Services, and students from a number of Victorian schools.

Invited guests were then assembled in the Visitors Centre to witness the dedication of the new \$45M Galleries of Remembrance followed by a tour of the expanded exhibition space, where our Association has some of our Cdo memorabilia on display (Francis Papworth sketch and photos from New Guinea area of operations). He then attended a light lunch to round out a memorable morning.

The new Galleries are now open to the Public and are well worth a visit.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Heidelberg Remembrance Gardens

The packed out service at Heidelberg Remembrance Gardens was held in fine weather which allowed a flyover from the RAF roulettes - after their visit to the Melbourne Shrine.

The ACAVic was well represented including Maj "Doc" Livingston (OC 126 Sig Sqn 1968-1973), Paul Finnigan who made a special trip from Port Fairy and Maj Edward (Ted) Ruston MC.



The service featured the presentation of a plaque for "All Commando and Special Force" members by our VP (Peter Campion) and its dedication by the chaplain. The Plaque was produced in a co-operative arrangement between the Association and Austin Health and is to be positioned on a suitable rock in the Garden of Remembrance.

With refreshments being provided at the conclusion of the service it gives an opportunity for some social exchange between members.

This function is ideal for those who are unable to attend the annual Tidal River memorial service.

Tidal River Memorial Service

Having rained all night and with a forecast of rain and high winds on the day members again travelled to the Memorial at Tidal River for the annual service, however someone has "contacts" as the day improved markedly as the service progressed.

An outstanding attendance of 34 members marching under the steely glare of Parade Master Ted Walsh and the dulcet strains of our bagpipe impresario Iain Townsley. Several hundred spectators and guests ensured a fitting attendance for the 50th anniversary.

A fortuitous sequence of events saw Rick Cove again lower and raise the Australian Flag as he did 50 years ago for the original dedication.

The Chaplain from 1st Commando Regiment opened the service, our VP Peter Campion then spoke of his early upbringing being closely associated with the Tidal River surrounds and the memorial cairn. An address from CO 1st Cdo Regt reinforced the bond between past present and future commando and Special Force members.

A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and inquired of his father as to when they could discuss his use of the car.

His father said he'd make a deal with his son: 'You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little, and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car.'

The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer, and they agreed on it.

After about six weeks his father said, 'Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut.

The boy said, 'You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair...and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair.

To this his father replied,

'Did you also notice they walked everywhere they went?'

We were privileged to have a number of our WW2 members present along with the original architect, Max Chester.

Attendance by guests from both Commando Regiments and 2 Cdo Coy underlined the importance of the event with Felix & Yvonne Sher parents of Greg Sher, 1st Commando Regiment, KIA and Mrs. Katrina Patterson, mother of Cpl Scott Smith, SOER, KIA being in attendance.

Afternoon tea was enjoyed by all with many family members keen to follow up their relative's experiences during the War and their time at Tidal River. The arrival of a fast moving rain storm around 15:00 cleared the area within minutes to bring to an end another hugely successful day.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

How current is this?

Think about this.

Terrorism isn't just a crime against people or property.

It's a crime against our minds, using the death of innocents and destruction of property to make us fearful.

Terrorists use the media to magnify their actions and further spread fear (and the two faced media co-operates willingly while decrying the acts).

And when we react out of fear, when we change our policy to make our country less open, the terrorists succeed -- even if their attacks fail.

But when we refuse to be terrorized, when we're indomitable in the face of terror, the terrorists fail -- even if their attacks succeed.

Reproduced from the Victorian Branch newsletter

A large group of Taliban soldiers are moving down a road when they hear a voice call from behind a sand-dune: "One Aussie soldier is better than ten Taliban".

The Taliban commander quickly sends ten of his best soldiers over the dune, whereupon a gun-battle breaks out and continues for a few minutes, then silence. The voice then calls out: "One Aussie soldier is better than one hundred Taliban."

Furious, the Taliban commander sends his next best hundred troops over the dune and instantly a huge gunfight commences. After ten minutes of battle, again silence. The voice calls out again: "One Aussie soldier is better than one thousand Taliban."

The enraged Taliban Commander musters one thousand fighters and sends them across the dune. Cannon, rocket and machine gun fire ring out as a huge battle is fought. Then silence.

Eventually, one wounded Taliban fighter crawls back over the dune and, with his dying words, tells his commander, "Don't send any more men. It's a trap... there's actually two of them."



REVIEW OF THE hardcore LFT01 TOMAHAWK

I was recently sent an example of one of this Australian company's tomahawks to review for the newsletter.

This is a serious tomahawk, probably not every household needs one of these for chopping wood for the fireplace, however, in a military environment or indeed as a survival tool could be very useful.

It is currently in use by some SF units overseas, notably US Seals, Delta and Canadian units, mainly as a MOE tool (Method of Entry).

This is not a cheap axe you would buy at Bunnings. It is a serious tool for use by Sniper teams, SOF units, Fire fighters and serious outdoor types that have a need for a hard use hand tool.

Overall design: At approximately 320 mm long and weighing in at just under 900g, the LFT01 isn't light and it isn't light on purpose. Made of D2 steel, full tang with G10 handles; this tomahawk was designed with hard use in mind. The head has a nearly 75mm cutting edge, while the penetrator spike starts at 50mm and narrows quickly to a dull impact point. The grips narrow in two spots to allow different grips, which comes in handy depending on the task. The total size of the LFT01 is not so bulky that it takes up precious real estate on a plate carrier or becomes cumbersome if worn at the waist. Other reviews have commented that as a breaching tool it is highly effective, punching through cement blocks to provide an entry or firing point, doors, removing door handles with a couple of good blows, locks removed easily.

The spike can easily puncture a car tyre, or be used as a levering tool to open doors.

The Sheath: The LFT01 came with a Kydex sheath which covers the blade and spike with attachments that can securely attach to webbing. A snap button release securely holds the axe



to the sheath.

Some of the tasks we expect you'll use the LFT01 include the following: chopping, hammering, digging, cutting, as a climbing aid, defeating locks, smashing windows & windscreens and raking out their frames, puncturing steel radial tyres, smashing steel clad doors and breaking through walls including those made of brick.

(Another model the BFT01G is in use by ADF Engineers, and it has a longer handle.)

Verdict: Not for the average household but a serious tool for those who understand the need for a sturdy and very effective tool in the Military environment.

For a full list of Hardcore Hardware Australia products, visit their website:

hardcorehardware.com.au

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MIKE WELLS ON THE HISTORY OF THE AATTV

In essence, the AATTV was a special Unit created initially to provide Advisors in a training role in 1962, to support the South Vietnamese Army. This role changed in 1964, when members accompanied South Vietnamese Forces on operations, and in many cases – Led them as commanders. “The Team” consisted of WO2’s, CAPT’s & MAJ’s, with CPLs being added in the ‘70’s.

Generally ‘volunteers’ were requested from Units (with the occasional ‘tap on the shoulder’), with members put through advanced training at Inf Centre, JTC, and Intelligence centre before being accepted and taken on strength. SGT’s were often accepted and if successful were given temporary WO2 rank. This was found necessary to enable them to have ‘Officer’ status in US facilities/advisory teams, with whom all Team members were attached.

The Team was in the “Order of Battle” and was ‘non- Corps’, so on completion of a usual 12 month tour/deployment, members went back to a posting pool – waiting for say the Director of Infantry/ Armour/Artillery etc, or the Military Secretary, (as it was in those days) to advise their new posting – they did not necessarily return to unit of origin.

There were some Cpls from 1ATF who assisted in mobile training teams under the supervision of AATTV in Phuoc Tuy Province in ‘71/’72, but were

not “Posted” on the strength of AATTV. This caused some angst with a few who believed they should have had the status of being a member of AATTV – unfortunate or slack thinking at the time!

The Team was unique in that it was disbanded on return in 1972 and not to be re-created. It was the longest serving Unit and the highest decorated Unit in the Vietnam War, including Four Victoria Crosses – two Posthumous.

Later AATT’s in Timor-Leste; Cambodia; Samoa, Iraq and Afghanistan were limited to training roles only.

I believe Soldiers like LT Michael Fussell who was deployed with 1 Cdo Regt should in fact be recognised as a 1 Cdo Regt casualty (which I’m sure he has), 2 Cdo Regt I guess can also claim him in Memory – as 1 Coy 1st Cdo Regt claim Ray Simpson VC DCM. Similarly, Pte Greg Sher of 2 Coy 1 Cdo Regt, KIA Jan 2009 is memorialised along with Jon Durrington by 2 Coy 1st Cdo Regt.

I guess in summary that if one is posted to a serving unit in a theatre of war – say 1 Cdo Regt, within a Task Force or SOTG group, any recognition should be as a member in that case of 1 Cdo Regt – not the task Group!

Take care, Kind regards and Persevere,

Mike WELLS



AUSTRALIAN COMMANDO ASSOCIATION NATIONAL LOGO

ADOPTED 2010

The National Logo was adopted in 2010.

After robust discussion, it was decided to:

- Have a logo that depicted the modern makeup of the Commando Units and would cover other elements of Special Operation Command - Australia that are necessary for Commando units to operate.
- The Green half of the double diamond represents 1st Commando Regiment and the Red represents 2nd Commando Regiment.
- The Fairburn Sykes knife (sinister) was chosen due to it being used world wide by special units since World War 2 as insignia.
- The scroll "Australia" was approved in an

attempt to separate State Associations parochialism and to move into the future.

Historically, the Double Diamond represents the Australian Independent Companies (later re-designated as Commando Squadrons) and the World War 2 Association members.

Of particular note is that; The Green segment represents both the 1st Independent Company and the 1st Commando Regiment colour Green from the unit Flag.

The Red Segment represents the 2nd/2nd Independent Company (later 2nd/2nd Australian Commando Squadron), and the 2nd Commando Regiments colour of Red.



COMMANDO FOR LIFE
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Price list effective from June 2014

ITEM FOR SALE	POST	QTY	PRICE	\$\$\$
Association Green Jacket pocket (For new jackets)	\$ 3.00		\$ 80.00	
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Badge - Cloth - Commando Parachute	\$ 3.00		\$ 6.00	
Badge - Beret (New Design)	\$ 3.00		\$ 15.00	
Badge - car window decal - NEW	\$ 1.00		\$ 2.00	
Badge – Lapel – 1 st Commando Regiment	\$ 3.00		\$ 10.00	
Badge - Lapel - Australian Commando Association	\$ 3.00		\$ 10.00	
Badge – Lapel - Para Wings	\$ 3.00		\$ 10.00	
Badge - Name			\$ 20.00	
*Beret - Green Qualified members only (Size required - see below)	\$10.00		\$ 32.00	
Book 'Strike Swiftly' "The Australian Commando Story"	\$18.00		\$ 70.00	
Caps - Black – Australian Commando Association	\$10.00		\$ 20.00	
Coasters - set of 6 - Gold anodised aluminium	\$10.00		\$ 25.00	
Coasters - single	\$ 3.00		\$ 5.00	
Plaque - 1 st Commando Regiment	\$15.00		\$ 50.00	
Shirt – Grey with Australian Commando Assn logo	\$10.00		\$ 48.00	
Shirt – Polo (Grey with Australian Commando Assn logo)	\$10.00		\$ 40.00	
Tie - 1 st Commando Regiment	\$10.00		\$ 20.00	

Total \$

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

Internet banking details (Australia)

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

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*Nominate Size (beret measurement around head cm)





AUSTRALIAN COMMANDO ASSOCIATION - INC.

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

"COMMANDO FOR LIFE"



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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

SURNAME		RANK & GIVEN NAMES	
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NEW MEMBERS TO COMPLETE THIS SECTION

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

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

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

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





Australian Commando Association Inc.

State Incorporated Branches

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

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

Australian Commando Association New South Wales Inc. (Y0204417)

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

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

Banking:
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Police Bank BSB 815 000 Account No. 41117 *Please indicate name with Deposit.*

Australian Commando Association Victoria Inc. (A00114983Z)

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

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

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

Australian Commando Association Queensland Inc. (IA40186)

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

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

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