



COMMANDO

AUSTRALIAN COMMANDO ASSN INC.

News

Registered by Australia Post ~ Publication No PP100016240

Edition 5 ~ June 2015



VALE



BRIGADIER KEITH STRINGFELLOW, RFD, ED

8 JANUARY 1922 - 6 FEBRUARY 2015

Beloved husband of PHYLLIS (dec'd).

Patron of The Australian Commando Association Australian





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Barry Grant
Barbara Pittaway

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

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

Official Publishers:
Statewide Publishing P/L

ABN 65 116 985 187

PO BOX 682, SURFERS PARADISE QLD 4217

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EMAIL: statepub@bigpond.net.au

Printed by Galloping Press

Unit 29, 398 The Boulevard, Kirrawee NSW 2232

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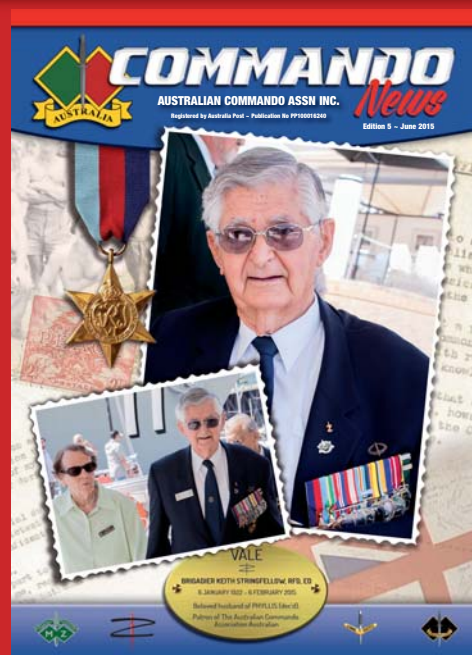
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Deadline for next edition:

WEDNESDAY, 30TH SEPTEMBER 2015

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

Barry G



Front Cover: Brig. Keith Stringfellow RFD ED
Patron, Australian Commando Association Inc (NSW)
and wife Phyllis





Australian Commando Association NSW Inc.

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Commando for life

1941 - 1946

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1955 -

Ivan Kelly, Treasurer
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NSW President & Editor's Report

This year we had two services at the Commando Memorial Seat at Martin Place in Sydney.

The first was to welcome the former Prime Minister of Timor Leste, Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao, and his delegation to Anzac Day. His Excellency is now the Minister for Strategic Planning and Strategic Investment as well as Veteran in Chief Timor Leste.

Due to the timings of the main march and as the delegation was marching at the head of the march with NSW RSL, we had to complete this service and have them on parade before 0900 hours.

His Excellency was invited to attend our ceremony when we found out he was going to be in Sydney for Anzac Day.

The delegation attended a number of services across Australia prior to Anzac Day including a service with the 2nd/2nd Independent Company Association in Perth.

Included in his group was the head of Timor Leste's Armed Forces, MAJGEN Lere Anan Timur, the Ambassador to Australia His Excellency Abel Guterres, Mrs. Armandina Gusmao-Santos, Consul General to New South Wales.

HE Xanana Gusmao laid a wreath on behalf of his country and in appreciation of the role the 2nd/2nd and 2nd/4th Independent Companies during the occupation of East Timor by the Japanese in WW2.

Our usual Commando Anzac Day Service and wreath laying ceremony took place following the departure of our Timor Leste guests.

Good weather prevailed in Sydney for both services, and despite a "hiccup" with the PA system.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

VALE BRIG. KEITH STRINGFELLOW RFD ED

Early this year we lost one of our Patrons, Keith Stringfellow, former 2nd/5th Independent Company, 2nd/7th Independent as well as Z Special Unit.

Keith led a very distinguished military career both in World War II and beyond.

A large contingent of Association members along with a Bearer Party made up from both the Commando Regiments, attended the funeral at Greenway Gardens on the Central Coast.

The bearer party was under the instruction of the RSM 1st Commando Regiment.

Sadly we also lost his wife Phyllis last December, Keith's passing was due to a medical emergency.

The eulogy from the service is in this journal.



Barry Grant

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EVENTS CALENDAR FOR 2015

- JULY 5th (Sun)** **RESERVE FORCES DAY**
Form up in Hyde Park from 0930 hours for coffee and fellowship and form up in anticipation of the Light Horse contingent. Parade kicks off 1030 hours with the Light Horse parade when all associations will be on parade and pay respects. Main parade steps off at 1130 hours.
- JULY 15th (Wed)** **60TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER**
South Steyne Waterfront Restaurant, Darling Harbour
1830 hours for 1900 hours.
Cost: \$80.00 (includes some wine on tables)
(Full information on page 5)
- SEPTEMBER 26th (Sat)** **JAYWICK DINNER**
South Steyne Ferry Darling Harbour
1830 hours for 1900 hours
(More information to follow)
- OCTOBER 17th (Sat)** **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ASSOCIATION**
To be held at "Simpson VC Club" Randwick.
1030 hours - Subject to security levels
- NOVEMBER 11th (Wed)** **REMEMBRANCE DAY AT DARLING HARBOUR**
Service held at the "Krait"
Service starts 1030 hours
- NOVEMBER 14th (Sat)** **ASSOCIATION XMAS DINNER**
Carnarvon Golf Club
Families always welcome
1830 hours for 1900 hours

Please direct your enquiries to our Secretary Kevin Mahony
Home (02) 9644 8794 or mobile 0425 279 111 or E-mail kevin.mahony1@bigpond.com

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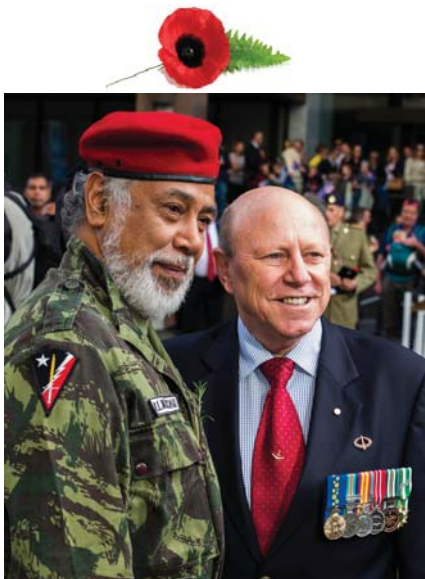
Event Calendar: eventor.orienteering.asn.au/Events
State Associations: www.orienteering.asn.au/state-organisations





ANZAC DAY

APRIL 2015



Siggys Jablonski and HE Xanana Gusmao at the Commando Seat Anzac Day.



The Minister for Strategic Planning and Strategic Investment and former Prime Minister of Timor Leste, HE Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao, lays a wreath on the Commando Memorial Seat in Martin Place.



Honorary Colonel of 1st & 2nd Commando Regiments, BRIG Philip McNamara, HE Xanana Gusmao, ACA NSW President Barry Grant and the Timor Leste Ambassador to Australia, HE Abel Guterres.



MAJGEN Lere Anan Timur, Head of the Timor Leste Defence Force, Barry Grant, HE Xanana Gusmao and Hon. COL of the Commando Regiments BRIG Philip McNamara (Ret'd).

ANZAC DAY IN SYDNEY



Kevin Mahony, Hugh Ralston and Mike Downey



David Lynch and Mike Downey



2/5 Independent Company
50th Anniversary Dinner
13th March 1992

LOYAL TOAST

Ladies and Gentlemen,

When I enlisted in the Army in 1940 I took the Oath of Allegiance, swearing to well and truly serve my God, my King, his heirs and successors, and my country. When I received my commission it was signed by Baron Gowrie, Governor General of Australia, the King's representative. As far as I am concerned that Oath of Allegiance still stands. I am not about to deny my English ancestry, nor am I about to deny my forbears who came out to this country and carved a niche for themselves, at the same time helping to develop this country. This does not make me a lesser loyal Australian.

I am not about to change my flag either at the whim of some jumped up politician. I am not about to change the flag that my father and his five brothers served under in WWI, and he was a POW in Germany for three years. I am not about to change the flag that I and you and thousands of other Australians served under in WW2 in Korea, in the Malayan Emergency, in Vietnam, in the Gulf War and now in Cambodia.

As far as I am concerned, as long as I live, the flag that flies from my flagpole will be the present Australian flag with the Union Jack in the corner. I guess I am a Royalist at heart.

Having said all that, I would ask you to charge your glasses and drink with me the Loyal Toast.

Ladies and Gentlemen... The Queen.



Keith Stringfellow

WARNING ORDER ~ MESS DINNER 60TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

- WHO:** 1 Commando Company, Australian Commando Association and invited guests Association members, sorry no partners for this one.
- WHEN:** Wednesday, 15th July 2015 (1830h canapés for 1900h sit down)
This was the date of the first parade in July 1955.
- WHERE:** South Steyne Waterfront Restaurant
1 Harbourside Jetty, Darling Harbour NSW 2000
- WHY:** Celebrate the formation of 1 Cdo Coy
- DRESS:** Suit & Tie, Miniatures
- COST:** \$80.00 / head (includes some wine on tables)

Welcome drink on arrival, 3-course meal (excluding alcohol ~ full bar available).

Please electronically deposit payment into the following ADCU account at least one week prior.

Account Name: 60th Anniversary Dinner
BSB: 642 170 Account: 750432

Please insert your **surname** in the payment description with **Assn** after your name, for ease of identifying who has made payment. eg Grant Assn

If you don't have access to the internet banking please contact Barry or send a cheque payable to:

The Treasurer
Australian Commando Association NSW
PO Box 432, Toongabbie NSW 2146
Stating your name and 60th Anniversary Dinner

RSVP by 8th July 2015

ENQUIRIES:

Contact: Barry Grant starlightcdo@gmail.com (0414 914 615)



EULOGY FOR KEITH STRINGFELLOW

NX27091 - 2149141 AND HIS SRD NUMBER AKV 3



In June 1940, with his parents' permission, he put his age up 2 years in order to enlist. To this day the records are still incorrect.

Initially posted to the 30th Battalion, then a Machine Gun Battalion, he must have been getting a little bored because he enquired about Commandos.

And so in 1942 he was selected for service with the 2nd/5th Australian Independent Commando Company. A year later, this was renamed 2nd/5th Cavalry (Commando) Regiment.

Later he transferred to the 2nd/7th Australia Cavalry Commando Regiment.

In 1943 he contracted malaria in New Guinea and was sent back to Australia to recuperate.

A number of important issues happened during this time.

He proposed to Phyllis and they married a week later.

However, also during this time, he completed an Army Intelligence Course, which he told me he topped the class.

He was then transferred to Atherton as the Intelligence Officer.

Not long after that Lt Stringfellow was summoned to attend a meeting in Brisbane with the Director of Military Intelligence.

He was told he was being transferred to a Special Unit, and when he enquired what that Unit might be, he was told:- "We can't tell you until you sign up". He asked if he had a choice, when told no, so he then volunteered.

Keith then became a member of the very secretive SRD, Services Reconnaissance Department. Sometimes erroneously called Z Special Unit or Z Force.

Incidentally there never was a Z Force.

The activities of this Unit was so secret that only the highest ranked members to the Military were aware of its very existence.

In fact SRD did not appear on the "Order of Battle". On paper it officially did not exist.

Actually part of Special Operations Australia, and to keep the nosey members of the Army at arms length they changed the name several times. Once called Allied Intelligence Bureau, Inter Allied Services Bureau, then Inter Allied Service, Inter Services Research Bureau then SRD. And to make the matter more confusing to the enquisitive, members of the Army soldiers seconded to SRD were paid by another secretive department named "Z Special Unit".

The secretive posting you may ask, well it was a posting to an even more secret location called Fraser Island.

This place was off limits to everyone.

Keith now promoted to Captain, was Officer in Charge of this selection and training facility.

So secret was this Island that when operatives were sent there for further selection and training, apart from picking up stores from the Base Camp on arrival, they then moved to another section of the Island and from that point the unsuitable were sent back to the Unit and the remainder went directly to their task.

At no stage did they return to the main camp. This of course was to maintain secret in the case of capture.

Training was conducted with live ammunition at all times. Despite this they only lost one member to an accidental discharge.

Keith once told me that he was advised that more troops would be coming to the Island for training. This necessitated a trip to an army base on the mainland.

On arrival he was asked who he was and where he was from. His reply:- "Fraser Island", to which they replied:- "Oh, the Island".

All Defence Bases were told to comply with any request from SRD without question.

In fact if the Unit wanted anyone or anything they got it.

All Keith asked for was "something to clear an area for more firing ranges and said a bulldozer would be nice, some explosives, ammunition and stores".

Sometime later a landing craft turned up with a small bulldozer and more than enough supplies.

Keith said at no time did anyone ask him to sign for anything.

During his time with SRD he also participated in several overseas operations, namely:- Crane 1, Raven, Finch 2, 3 and 4.

Post WW2 he also visited Vietnam in an Advisory Capacity. He also held some staff postings.

His final posting was at Headquarters Eastern Command.

Keith was a Past President of the NSW Commando Association, Patron of the Intelligence Corps Association and our Patron of the Australian Commando Association (NSW).

Members of the Intelligence Association and the Australian Commando Association mourn his passing.



PTSD

A PRACTICAL PERSPECTIVE

By Mark Tregellas

In 2013 after 28 years in the police force I realised I had a problem. I couldn't sleep at night. My dreams were nightmares that woke me up with heart racing and driving into work caused anxiety to the point where I felt sick.

I was diagnosed with PTSD and offered a place at Post Trauma Victoria <http://www.trauma.org.au/> on their 10-week PTSD course. This course is similar to the one offered to military personnel. As a result of that course I now sleep well and am back at work. I have read several articles on PTSD but none looked at it from a practical perspective of what works to help reduce it. I hope that my story will encourage others to seek help rather than ignore it and "crack on".

What led to my PTSD was a combination of over 28 years of attending critical incidents. I have forgotten the number of dead bodies, and road trauma victims I have seen. Other incidents included; being shot, having a 150 kg male pour petrol on himself and try to pull me into a campfire, rescuing a couple beached in a yacht in heavy seas that refused to be rescued, and having an 80-metre gumtree drop on top of the police car in a storm only to be saved by the semi trailer we were parked next to.

These last two incidents were three weeks apart. Psychologists often talk of cumulated stress as being like a glass of water. The more stress you have the quicker the glass fills. Eventually the glass overflows resulting in PTSD.

A few weeks after the last two incidents I started waking up in the middle of the night and couldn't get back to sleep. My dreams were nightmares. My kids started asking my wife why I was always angry, and my left hand shook occasionally. For a while I tried to cope but it didn't get better and after jumping through the workcover hoops I was accepted onto the course.

To say the course is good is an understatement. I learned more about stress and how to handle it in those 10 weeks than in the previous 28 years in the police. You are assigned a personal psychologist during the course and I was lucky enough to get the doctor who specialised in treating Special Forces personnel. The doctors on the course are experts in PTSD. Some are world authorities on it.

These are some of the things I learned on the course.

Your schema is your thought structure of pre-conceived ideas that allows you to perceive and organise new ideas. People organise new perceptions into schemata quickly as most situations do not require complex thought.

Police and soldiers tend to have a similar schema that has three main characteristics:

1. They tend to see things in black and white
2. They have unrelenting standards
3. They are self sacrificing.

This type of schema works well for soldiers and emergency services personnel but I was surprised to learn that most people don't see things in black and white. Secondly I learned that it is OK to be average, and thirdly that it's also OK to say no to working a second shift, or not agreeing to a roster change, and just taking some me time.

PTSD occurs when the brain becomes confused between real, critical, incidents and normal situations. A sniper's bullet shattering a bottle next to you in combat results in a major adrenalin dump into your system. But with PTSD the same sound coming from a dropped bottle at the supermarket while out shopping with the wife and kids results in the same physiological reaction. Your brain hears the sound thinks it's combat and dumps all that adrenalin into your system again because it's done it so often or the first time was so traumatising that it gets confused. A sound, smell, dream, or visual image can trigger the response.

I also learned that PTSD results in other symptoms such as short-term memory loss. I used to think that I was getting early Alzheimer's as my short-term memory was appalling.

It wasn't until I did the course that I learned that adrenalin is not the only chemical dumped into the body by your brain in critical incidents. Cortisol is also released. Cortisol is a hormone, which is released, to add blood sugar into your system to help you fight. Unfortunately, it also destroys the short-term memory cells in your hippocampus resulting in memory loss. The good news is that if you stop the stress you get your short-term memory back. *(Cont'd next page)*





2nd COMMANDO REGIMENT HISTORY

On 19 June 2009, the 2nd Commando Regiment was officially raised, following on from the long and prestigious history of the Independent Commando Companies, the 1st Commando Regiment and the 4th Battalion (Commando), Royal Australian Regiment. Since this time the 2nd Commando Regiment has been constantly deployed on global operations in support of Australia's national interests as well as being on standby for domestic counter terrorism. 2015 also marks the 50th anniversary of the formation of the 126 Commando Signal Squadron.

With the end of Australia's participation in offensive operations in Afghanistan in 2013, the 2nd Commando Regiment shifted from a combat role to an advisory role within the Special Operations Advisor Group.

In addition the Regiment has continued to provide protective support detachments.

Since the Regiment's inception in 2009, approximately 800 members have deployed on operations including – Operations HAWICK, HIGH ROAD, NORWICH, OKRA, PARAPET AND SLIPPER.

In addition, over 200 members having deployed on Operation OKRA in the last nine months. Regiment members have also deployed on numerous minor operations in support of humanitarian assistance, disaster recovery and United Nations missions.

Tragically, this operational excellence has come at a human cost, with the loss of twelve members in the Afghanistan theatre, one while training to deploy and over 100 members have been seriously wounded, injured or ill as a result of their operational service.

The 2nd Commando Regiment has also been actively engaged in training with Asia-Pacific neighbours, fostering worthwhile and strategic relationships for the benefit of regional security.

PTSD: A Practical Perspective... (Cont'd)

It only took two weeks on the course to solve my nightmares. When I first heard of dream rescripting I laughed because I couldn't believe anything so simple would work. It did, I no longer have nightmares.

But the one thing that helped my PTSD over everything else was lowering my anger. Anger and PTSD are intimately linked. Lower your anger and you immediately lower your PTSD. So how do you do that? We were taught 3 ways to do it. Firstly, ask yourself what is the evidence? Why are you getting angry? Secondly, try and look at it from the other person's perspective. And thirdly, ask yourself, does it really matter? It was the third one that did it for me.

Another revelation was that the fitter you are the better you will cope with PTSD. When you can't sleep and you feel so tired that you can't go for a run or hit the gym it becomes a cycle. So even if you are injured set your mind, put in the effort and keep fit.

Lastly, I learned to meditate. I'm not talking about the sitting cross-legged, candle burning, listening to weird music type of meditation. I'm talking about getting your mind to stop whizzing around like a washing machine, especially at night trying to get to sleep. To watch a really good explanation of this go to

Ted.com and search for 10 mindful minutes. 10 minutes a day is all it takes and I even do it at work.

The reason I did so well on the course was that I sought help early. The other members weren't doing the course to get back to work. They were doing it to get a life back. My point is, don't wait for help and don't think it won't happen to you. Every operational police officer in Australia with 20 years experience or more has PTSD to a greater or lesser extent. Every active service soldier that has seen or experienced significant trauma or critical incidents has also been affected.

I found that my sleep and my memory were the greatest indicators for stress. If I start to wake up early in the night and can't get back to sleep or start to forget things, then its time for a break.

The course gave me enough knowledge to cope with PTSD and live an active happy lifestyle. Don't wait until it's too late.

Mark Tregellas was a member of 2 Commando Company from 1983 to 1987. He is the current president of the Mallacoota RSL Sub-Branch. In his 28-year police career he has been awarded a Commendation for Brave Conduct and is the 2010 recipient of the Royal Humane Society of Australasia's Clarke Silver Medal.



REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CROSS OF GALLANTRY WITH PALM UNIT CITATION AWARDED TO THE 1ST BATTALION, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT

Australian Defence Force (ADF) members who served with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (1RAR) in Vietnam 50 years ago have been recognised with the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation (CGWP).

The Governor-General, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK, MC (Ret'd) has formally approved the awarding of the Citation in recognition of the military assistance provided to the former Republic of Vietnam while under the operational command of the United States 173rd Airborne Brigade.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence, Darren Chester welcomed the decision.

"I am delighted to confirm that the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation will be awarded to members of 1 RAR," Mr Chester said.

"This decision follows a three-year review by the Defence Honours and Awards Appeal Tribunal who determined that the awarding of the Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation was intended not only for the 173rd Airborne Brigade, but also the Australian forces who operated under their command."

"This award finally acknowledges those Australian soldiers and recognises the important contribution they made 50 years ago."

In May 1965, the Australian Government agreed to provide military assistance to the Republic of Vietnam.

Initially, 1 RAR was restricted to operating in the Bien Hoa tactical area of responsibility (TAOR). When the 173rd Airborne Brigade deployed to operate away from Bien Hoa, 1 RAR was left to conduct operations within the Bien Hoa TAOR and to provide defence for the air base. However, on 30 September 1965 the Australian Prime Minister agreed to lift the restrictions on the deployment of 1 RAR. For the remainder of their tour of duty in Vietnam, the members of 1 RAR served alongside the other units of 173rd Airborne Brigade on every operation and became the third battalion of the Brigade.

1 RAR participated in seven operations with 173rd Airborne Brigade between 5 May 1965 and 31 May 1966 that were referred to in the citation that awarded the Republic of Vietnam CGWP to 173rd Airborne Brigade.

About the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation

The Citation was awarded by the former Government of the Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam) to specific military units that distinguished themselves in battle.

To be eligible for the CGWP members must have served in Vietnam under the command of 173rd Airborne Brigade from 5 May 1965 to 31 May 1966 in one of the following units;

- 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment
- 1st Armoured Personnel Carrier Troop RAAC
- 105th Field Battery, RAA
- 3rd Field Troop, RAE
- 161st Reconnaissance Flight, AAAVN
- 1st Australian Logistic Support Company
- Battery Section, 4th Field Regiment Light Aid Detachment RAEME

(and redesignated in country to 105th Field Battery Section, 12th Field Regiment Light Aid Detachment RAEME.

Further details about the award and eligibility requirements are available at:

www.army.gov.au/Army-life/Honours-and-Awards

I am told it is not a medal but an emblem as shown.



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MERITORIOUS UNIT CITATION

TASK FORCE 66 (SPECIAL OPERATIONS TASK GROUPS IV – XX)

For sustained and outstanding warlike operational service in Afghanistan from 30 April 2007 to 31 December 2013, through the conduct of counter insurgency operations in support of the International Security Assistance Force.

Over a six year period, Task Force 66 rendered outstanding service on operations in Afghanistan where it conducted highly successful counter insurgency operations within Uruzgan and surrounding provinces in support of the International Security Assistance Force. The Task Force's outstanding performance against an unrelenting, cunning and ruthless enemy, in an unforgiving environment, was achieved through the collective efforts of every member of the contingent over the duration of the commitment. The superior combat operations results of Task Group 66 further emphasised the Group's exceptional courage and commitment.

Members of the 1st & 2nd Commando Regiments and Special Air Service Regiment deployed at this time are eligible for this award.

Meritorious Unit Citation



Left: insignia worn if a member of the unit when earned

Right: insignia worn if joined after

VALE

Brig Keith Stringfellow RFD ED
Ron Hamilton
Rodney "Yoey" Yeoman
George "Happy" Greenalgh
Douglas Herps OAM
Warren Smith
Ian Seale
MAJ Ted Ruston MC
CAPT Pat Dunshea MC and Bar
W. (Bill) Glasson
Alexander "Alex" Mackay
Tony Scudder
David Sandeman
Thomas Henry John Hollis



2nd/5th and SRD
2nd/6th Independent Company
126 Sig and 2 Coy 1st Commando Regiment
2nd/2nd Independent Company
SRD (Z Special Unit Association)
1 Company 1st Commando Regt
2nd/7th Independent Companies
No. 1 Commando (UK WW2)
2nd/7th Independent Company
2nd/3rd Commando Squadron
2nd/6th Commando Squadron
1 Commando Company
1 Commando Company
2nd/11th Commando Squadron



Keith Stringfellow



Warren Smith



Pat Dunshea



Happy Greenalgh

Alexander "Alex" Murdoch Mackay ~ NX93552

31-10-1921 to 25-2-2015

Alex Mackay was born 31 October, 1921 in Lismore, NSW and spent his early years on area dairy farms.

He enlisted 25 March, 1942 at Paddington, NSW. After his training in Cowra he volunteered for a unit that turned out to be 2nd/6th Commando Squadron. Alex became a Bren gunner in the company. He and his mates served in Papua New Guinea. As a result of the unit's fighting skills, especially after defeating Japanese soldiers at Kaiapit, they were called Purple Devils. Alex was very proud to be a Purple Devil.

After leaving New Guinea, Cpl Mackay became an instructor at the Jungle Warfare School at Canungra, Qld.

Following his discharge this man of many talents, with many interests, was employed as a farmer, milkman and coal miner. He enjoyed many of the 2/6 reunions. He donated his stiletto to the Commando History and Research Centre.

Alex died, aged 93 years, in Crookwell, NSW and is survived by 5 children, 11 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

From the Prolific Pen of Harry Bell



Here is my pre-Xmas contribution, which I am beginning in October.

We arrived back in Oz on 30/9/12 to find a litany of disasters. First came a series of messages from Maureen Williams, in Karuah, telling first of the sudden deterioration of Bill's health after a bad fall in August, followed eventually by news of his death.

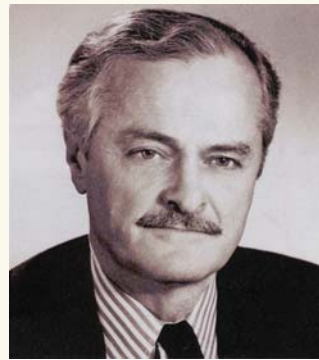
VALE NX164474, William Morris ("Snowy") Williams, 4.08.25. – 22.09.12. Snow had led an unusually full life, from under-age enlistment, and a gruelling couple of years in A Troop, 2/9 Commando Squadron to a career as dairy-farmer, pig-breeder, earth-mover, grazier, yachtsman, part-time fisherman and a nearly full-time, multiple-trophy-winning clay-pigeon shooter! He was still shooting successfully until a few weeks before his death. And at eighty, he had taken up gliding. The mind boggles.

Snow's funeral took place at Beresfield on 3rd October. The priest was a returned soldier; the RSL component of the service was conducted by the President of Karuah Sub-Branch; there must have been over a hundred Shooters present and the regiment was represented by Reg Davis and Harry Bell (both 2/9). Eulogies were spoken to the packed chapel by sons, nephews and friends, including your correspondent, and the rafters rang with laughter as a selection of his escapades was recounted. These included his hair-raising – and life threatening – endeavours with explosives and his reply to an officer who said to him: "You're the smallest man in the section; why do you constantly volunteer to carry the Bren?" Snow is said to have replied: "Because it makes me feel ten feet tall, Sir!" (He was never more than about 5'6" but Paget's Disease had shortened him much further in old age.)

I recounted his shaving story. His father, a distinguished Royal Flying Corps officer from the first dust-up, had counselled him against shaving with an upward stroke. Snow, who didn't really need to shave – he was fair-skinned and blonde, with a baby's-bottom complexion – was keen to emulate his more hirsute mates and when quizzed about his habit of shaving in one direction only, he replied: "My father told me to always shave down". He didn't know why they all burst out laughing until he realised that "down" was all he had to shave!

VALE NX202755, E.D.L (Darrel) Killen (2/7), 28.11.1925 – 31.12.2014; and NX203204, Ian Michael Seale (23/7) 20.1.1926 – 31.1.2014. Darrel died in the Fred Ward Nursing Home at Canberra, after a protracted and painful illness – or series of illnesses. Until the last few months he had been living at home, due to the self-sacrifice of his wife, Dinny, but eventually he came to need specialised full-time care. When I was with him at the nursing home in October, he rang Ian for a final few words.

Ian died in hospital in Melbourne after a long and painful illness. He too had, due to the loving care of his wife, Melanie, been able to live at home, with 24-hour care, until a few days before his death. They had arrived at 2/7 Squadron in New Guinea in 1945 on the same draft and died within 24 hours of one another. Both of them had enlisted straight from school, Darrel from Sydney Grammar School and Ian from The Armidale School. Both had volunteered for overseas service on enlistment and both volunteered for and were accepted for Commando training. I had the pleasure of training with Ian at Bathurst in the 16th I.T.B. at a time when all Commando volunteers were receiving their infantry training there at the hands of experienced officers and NCOs from the 16th Brigade, A.I.F. To their intense disappointment, both men were held back from the last of the 1944 drafts for Canungra and allotment to units, for both would otherwise have breached the rule then in force that provided that no-one should be sent into action before his 19th birthday. This rule had only recently begun to be enforced and the only men (or should I say "boys") who got away with its breach were those who, like Bill ("Snowy") Williams (W.I.A.; 2/9) Johnny Morris (2/9, 2/7) and Tony Hanley (K.I.A.; 2/9) had forged their birthdates and enlisted under-age. As a result, Darrel & Ian had to mark time in a Young Soldiers' Battalion until reinforcements were called for in 1945. They arrived on The Island in time to see active service – indeed, **John Jeffers, (2/10)** another



NX202755 ~ E.D.L. (Darrel) Killen (2/7)



NX203204 ~ Ian Michael Seale (23/7)



Young Soldier who had trained at Bathurst and joined his unit at the same time, was killed in action shortly after his arrival.

After the war, both Darrel and Ian continued to serve their communities with distinction. Ian, who had been a brilliant schoolboy scholar and athlete, began his tertiary education with an Exhibition that he had won in the Leaving Certificate examination, but realising quickly that his lecturers could teach him little that he had not already learnt, left Sydney University for Commerce, where he had a long and distinguished career, particularly in the field of importing: first steel and later dried fruit. Had he persisted with his academic training, he would, in my opinion, have stood a good chance of winning a Rhodes Scholarship for as well as having an exceptional intellect, he was an outstanding athlete, excelling in boxing, cricket, football, tennis, swimming and squash (he was the Queensland Squash Champion). Even after years of battling with the dreadful wasting disease, myositis, his wit and scholarship made him a wonderful companion. The Commando Association (Vic) was represented at his funeral by outgoing President, **Dick Pelling**, Editor, **Lindsay Lorraine**, several other post-1945 Commandos whose names I do not know but who formed a green-bereted bodyguard and by **Con Bell (2/7)**, **Keith Johnston (2/10)** and your correspondent (2/9).

Ian is survived by Melanie, children Susie, Peter and Stephen and 5 grandchildren. Grandson Pierre, a regular marcher with Ian on Anzac Day was overseas when his grandfather died.

Darrel too had been successful in both sport and study at school (he was one of Don Newport's contemporaries at Sydney Grammar). After his discharge, he too enrolled, courtesy of the C.R.T.S, at Sydney University where he was a prominent resident of Wesley College. He graduated as a Bachelor of Arts and, having completed the 3-year course in 2 years, moved on to Oxford where he took a further degree before winning a Doctorate of Philosophy at Chicago University. Back home, he was an innovator in the fledgling Motel industry as well as being an exhibitor of "good" films, both in Canberra and Sydney and in other regional centres. He was also, for a time, involved in the development of the NSW snowfields and to a less extent, in the grazing industry. A series of misfortunes attacked him in later years, both in business and in health but he had been a really significant contributor to both the Motel and Film industries. His illnesses were many – like the Captain of the Geebungs, "his wounds were mostly mortal" – and included cardiac disease, cancer and Parkinson's.

Darrel is survived by Dinny, by children Virginia, Edward and Grainger and by four grandchildren. Members of the Commando Association present at his funeral in Canberra were his brother **Bryce (2/8)** and your correspondent. **Jim Creer**, an original member of 1 Commando Company in the 1950s, and an old friend of Darrel's also made the trip from Sydney.

VALE Ted Ruston M.C., aged 99. Ted had been in the Royal Horse Artillery back in the 30s and later in a Mountain Battery, handling mules and "screw guns" – it recalls Kipling's poem: *"Smokin' me pipe in the mountings, Sniffin' the mornin' cool; I walks in me ol' brown gaiters along o' me ol' brown mule . . . For we all love the screw guns . . . They sends us along where the roads are But mostly we goes where they ain't. We'd climb up the side of a sign board An' trust to the stick o' the paint!"*

During the battle on the European front, after his unit had been mechanised, he was attached as a gunner to No 1 Commando and was "adopted as the Commando's gunner" taking part in a number of major battles. At Osnabruck, it was said that their key strategy was to "take the brewery to demoralise the enemy", which they did, "with the help of Ted's masterful air-burst artillery." Dick Pelling attended Ted's funeral on the day before Ian Seale's

Readers of Commando News or Cav. News may recall my account of his repaying Allan Bynoe's £5 loan, due since they were both in Lae A.G.H. in May 1945, recovering from serious wounds. Snowy visited Adelaide in about 1980 and greeted an incredulous Allan with: "Here's the five quid I owe you, Allan" as he handed over a dinky-di, long-out-of-circulation five pound note!

After his return to the Squadron (he had "deserted" from Sydney and hitched rides to New Guinea in RAAF planes). Snowy and his brother-in-law to be, Johnny ("Bluey") Green (2/9), used to court death - and court-martial – by intercepting parties of armed Nips as they came in to surrender at Boiken and rob them of swords, flags, watches, binoculars etc. Somehow they avoided both fates.

On his coffin were his black beret and medals and his beloved 12 gauge. We offer our sympathy to Maureen and to Bill's three sons and daughter.

Ted MacMillan (2/9) returned home to Burra in October after a bowel resection in the Calvary Hospital, Adelaide. Claims to be well again, despite a bit of low blood-pressure. Barbara is a highly qualified nursing sister, so (though a bit out of practice) she will no doubt keep her patient in order. (Remember the days when Sisters were ancient dragons – some of them over 40! – and not to be trifled with?)

Ted Punch (2/7) has also had a tussle with the quacks – first a kidney had to be removed in a hurry and then a pacemaker inserted. He too is under home supervision. Annie did her training at R.P.A. while Barbara (see above) was at "Kids" (Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children).

On a happier note; as I was crossing the Domain recently, I was passed by a group of young office workers, jogging off to some athletic function, when one of them detached himself and approached me, saying: "I remember you from Anzac Day. I'm Adam Gelbart, Ken MacKay's grandson."



I was tickled pink; not so much at being remembered – if he had seen the Hunchback of Notre Dame on Anzac Day, he would no doubt have remembered him, too – but because he had the courtesy to stop and make himself known. A fine looking youngster, too – he was going to a boxing class – and a credit to his grandfather (the late Ken MacKay, (2/10).

On 13th September 2012, I was in Italy, on my way to a place called San Sepolcro, in Tuscany. It seems that in 1943, the advance of the 8th Army was being held up by some obstinate Huns and a Brigadier ordered the destruction of the little village church there, fearing that its steeple may be used as an enemy O.P. The Battery Commander who was given the job, one Captain Clarke, was about to complete the job when he remembered that the writer and critic, Aldous Huxley, had written that a painting, The "Resurrection" by a medieval Italian called Piero della Francesca, 1412-92 was hanging in that church and was, according to Huxley, "the best picture in the world". The good Captain disobeyed orders and the Germans retreated anyway. Captain Clark is a village hero in San Sepolcro. I had to see the painting and a great work it is, though in my three weeks in Florence I had seen about a thousand "Resurrections". Incidentally, a German general is said to have acted similarly, to preserve the medieval city of Florence.

Why am I writing about this? Well, my trip to San Sepolcro was 67 years to the day after the Japanese 18th Army surrendered, at the Wom strip, near Wewak. As I said in my letter home dated 14.9.1945 (see "Wee Waa to Wewak", Vol 2) ". . . they placed us in position along three sides of a hollow square with the navy on our right flank and the arty on our left. Our squadron of 150 was completed by a contingent from 2/4 Armoured Regiment, dressed the same as us except that they had colour patches on their berets, whereas we wore no colour patches. We couldn't see much of the other units but across the parade ground from us was a small detachment of the Royal Papuan Constabulary, looking tremendously smart and efficient in their navy shorts and singlets with red trimmings and broad, polished leather belts. We didn't look so bad ourselves if it came to that – all with green shirts and slacks, Australian type gaiters, belts scrubbed white, rifle slings ditto, scabbards and boots polished. And set off by the old black beret and the big badge, which is worn only by us and the armour (i.e. 7 7 9 div cav don't have it.)"

There followed a bit more about the ceremony; a description of General Adach: "A disgusting little scrub, in a dirty old brown uniform . . . and, to cap it, he's wearing RIDING BOOTS AND SPURS!" Then: "The barge trip home was the worst part of the whole day. The sun blazed straight down into it, heating it like an oven as there wasn't any wind . . . the ride in the truck was a bit better; it rained and the road was worse than Stumpy Lane [*a bush track at home*] but at least it

was cool. So we were O.K. when we hit home, especially as old Karl Hayden was keeping me a bottle of beer!"

"Double Diamond", the Victorian Commando Association Journal's WW2 section has arrived. The whole publication is very professional, but if you think that Johnny Morris (2/9; 2/7) has changed, it is at least partly because the photo over his name is actually a very good likeness of the late Ted Baker (2/10).

February News

VALE NX 202915, Oscar Henry (Ossie) Pomroy (2/10) on 31.1.2015, aged 91. Os was one of the real characters of the regiment in the Aitape/Wewak campaign. A Canungra cannibal and a relatively late-comer to 2/10 (he joined the rear Party on the tableland in November 1944) he finished the war with a crown on his sleeve and a reputation as a fine soldier. "To the Green Fields Beyond" describes at pp318 and 320 his contribution, as a Bren Gunner (with two stripes) at Mandi; ". . . Corporal Pomroy with his Bren courageously covered the evacuation of the casualties". He rated another mention during the Machouin patrol (p340). Someone from 10 Sqn (probably Keith Johnston as usual) will talk of his time with 10 Sqn; my recollections are mainly from the Training Battalion (16 I.T.B.) at Bathurst, where again he was prominent as a member of the Terrible Trio: Troopers Pomroy, "Spud" Murphy and "Hank" Charlton, often backed up by Tpr Jack ("Wimpy") Rosewarne, all 2/10. Hank played a guitar or some such instrument and the trio was noted for its renditions of "Salome" (not the operatic version!) and "Who Threw the Overalls in Mrs Murphy's Chowder". They won fame, too, when the CSM, "Pop" Morgan M.M. (2/2 Bn) roused our company one frosty August morning. "Righto B Company; Outa them bloody huts!" rang Poppa's reveille. "Tell 'im Muck 'im" (or something that sounded similar) was the response.

Pop was not amused. He demanded production of the speaker and when nobody volunteered, cancelled weekend leave for the entire Platoon. Eventually, honour was preserved, after a fashion, when the terrible trio accepted responsibility jointly – though we all knew that they were innocent. We never learnt the true identity of the bold orator.

While at Bathurst, Os met his future wife, Myra, an AWAS. On discharge, he joined the Police Force, from which he eventually retired as an Inspector. He served at various country centres and was decorated for bravery during floods at Lismore: he had been a state champion diver as a youth and was a fine swimmer (though not quite as good as John Ellice-Flint, 2/10, who pipped him in the Karawop Swimming Carnival in 1945). He later served as Sergeant in charge at my old home town, Wee Waa, at the height of the cotton boom, when the district was inundated with itinerant stick-pickers, mostly aboriginal. Enforcing 10 o'clock closing was a military exercise: kick the swinging doors open at 2159 hours and come in swinging both fists!



He survived unscathed; he was a mighty bare-knuckle fighter as he proved at Yerongpilly Staging Camp in 1944.

After his retirement he lived at Urunga but spent his closing years in the Domaine Nursing Home at Coffs Harbour, hating his immobility and near blindness. Myra predeceased Os, who is survived by their son, Philip, a well-known artist.

VALE VX111889, Eric ("Robbie E") Robinson, 2/9
8.1.2015, aged 91. [See above in my Xmas news.] Robbie E (so called to distinguish him from Robbie R.K, a sig attached to 6 Section) was the rifle-bomber in 5 Section, B Troop. A promising footballer (Aussie Rules, that is), Eric was a popular chap, with his youthful face, pink complexion and powerful physique. More than a match, one would have thought, for any straying marsupial yet, as readers may remember, he was severely wounded in unarmed combat with an Old Man kangaroo at his property near Musk (Vic.)

One of my lasting memories of Robbie was at Numba Sickis, inland from Dagua, on 15.8.1945 when he and I fired a 21-grenade salute into the scrub to celebrate VJ Day. He is survived by Gwen and by their daughter Fay and grandchildren.

VALE Keith Stringfellow RFD, ED (2/5; Z Special.)
Keith, a retired Brigadier, had a most distinguished career both during and after the war. For some years, until forestalled by his own and his wife's ailments, he was President of the NSW Commando Association. Phyllis died in late December, 2014 and Keith survived her until 31.1.15. He celebrated his 95th birthday on 8.1.15.

VALE QX50698, Ted Head (2/9). I don't have details but Bill Justo (2/9) tells me that Ted is survived by his wife, Vera, who still lives in Shilliday Street, Warwick (Q). Ted was a regular attender at Cav reunions in Queensland and Northern NSW. Incidentally, Justo is still terrorising the inhabitants of Burpengary by driving round the town at 92 (years, not M.p.h.). This is his way of retaliating against those paramedics whom he insists on calling "physio-terrorists".

In the December issue of Commando News, I mentioned that the death of **NX 43883, Lt R. Irish, Z Special** had been noted in Reveille but that I had been unable to learn anything about him. I have had a phone call from Noelene Irish, daughter of Noel Irish (2/5) who tells me that the deceased was her father's cousin. She did not know him well, but thinks he was an accountant and recalls that he was indeed in Z Special though not named in "Silent Feet". It seems that only "operatives" are listed therein, though a number of other troops took part in their missions. This is an unfortunate gap in the records. Noelene has happy memories of the late Charlie Olliffe (2/5) who was a leading solicitor in Griffith (NSW). I had the pleasure of dining with Charlie when working in Griffith but Noelene's experiences were quite different: she recalled that she was heavily pregnant when staying

with Charles and that he, a confirmed bachelor, had filled his fridge with quarts and quarts of milk, thinking that she would need it – as it happened she detested milk!

Paula Hunting (widow of Harry, 6 Div Cav and 2/10; sister of Doug, "Sandy," Williams, K.I.A; 6 Div Cav & 2/9) wasn't mentioned above but I received a Xmas Card from her in February! This was accompanied by a covering letter and the original envelope proving that it had been posted in December, correctly addressed but for the P.O. Box number, which had been omitted. The local P.O. staff couldn't be bothered to look up their register and didn't even get around to returning to sender until 6 weeks had elapsed. So much for the efficiency of privatisation. She had got in early with the card, too: a hand painted one, as of yore. Paula is well, after a lens replacement (cataract) and a hip replacement and a badly gashed shin. She has recently been to Melbourne, courtesy of her neighbours, to see the exhibition of W.W.1 memorabilia at the Museum, which she praised highly.

If you read my recent references to the East Timor Hearts Fund, you may recall that I reported that one generous ex-commando had responded to the tune of ten grand. I am happy to be able to reveal his identity: Bob McDowell of 2 Commando. Bob served in the early sixties, before leaving in 1966 to work overseas. He is now a more or less retired Civil Engineer and Contractor. His interest in Timor does not flow from any family link with 2/2 or 2/4 Squadron but he had learnt about the campaign from Bernard Callinan. He shares the view – surely a near universal view – that Australia owes the Timorese a lot and has been painfully slow to repay its debt. Bob reports having bumped into Con Bell (2/7) and Keith Johnston (6 Div Cav & 2/10) at the annual ceremony by The Rip.

Incidentally, the East Timor Hearts Fund is currently expanding its efforts. In 2014 it sent six cured patients home from Melbourne and in 2015 is sending a volunteer medical team up there for screening clinics, preparatory to flying more patients to Australia for surgery. By way of a reminder, the Fund is to be contacted at P.O. Box761, Warrnambool, Vic, 3280

Ted MacMillan (2/9) and Barbara are very cockahoop about daughter's selection by the Orroroo-Carrieton District Council as Citizen of the Year (Me Too! She is my god-daughter!) The Goyder's Line Gazette lists an astonishing account of her achievements, including a lengthy term as Secretary/Coach of the Carrieton Tennis Club, President, Captain and Handicap Manager of the Carrieton Golf Club, Vice-President and President of the Carrieton Progress Association, teaching in both local Primary School and Area School, Driving the School Bus from Carrieton to Orroroo and a dozen other activities, quite apart from producing six children, with nine grand-children (so far) and, in the words of the local newspaper, being "famous around the region for her chocolate cakes"!

Cheers all,

Harry Bell



SNAKES IN THE JUNGLE

Special Operations in War & Business

Jim Truscott, Zeus Publications, Gold Coast, 2015

Review by Patrick Cullinan



Take this challenge if you're game. If you think that you've had a very full, professional and active life, try benchmarking it against Jim Truscott's life as covered in his new book; *Snakes in the Jungle, Special Operations in War and Business*. If you've achieved a quarter of what Jim has accomplished, then I'd say yes, you've had a very full and active life, one you can be proud of. For the young adult reader, *Snakes in the Jungle* will show you that there's a whole world of opportunity and challenge out there just for the taking. This world of opportunity is for those like Jim courageous enough to decide one's own path in life, give it a real go, while accepting the ups and downs of the journey, and pushing the boundaries in so doing. Start now, with this book. You won't regret it, but be warned, Jim moves at a frenetic pace. Even as a cadet at Duntroon, he mixed military training with mountain climbing in New Zealand, with civil engineering degree studies, while at the same time planning the next big thing as he puts it, and since then, he has never stopped.

Snakes in the Jungle is a full-on book for the thinking-brave readers, those prepared to be taken outside their own comfort zones as they follow, understand and appreciate a life's journey lived to the full, taken by a highly intelligent and energetic individual. Jim's philosophical approach to work both in the military and later in business is depicted in some of his earlier comments; 'to get people to go 50 metres, you have to put the goal posts at 100 metres... if you want to bring about change, you need a change leader and a change navigator that just invents stuff that is so provocative that it unsettles those that revel in the status quo... (and) people have to be dragged into the future by provocation', and so he lives up to these messages as a true leader in *Snakes in the Jungle*.

This book covers the full gambit of emotions, the joy of finding his soul-mate in life, his wife Colette who embraces his adventurous journeys right from the start, success on the Special Air Service Regiment's selection course, the numbness of tragedy after a climbing mate (in the same tent) is taken by an avalanche, the exhilaration of success on achieving varied goals, perilous climbing ascents and descents, getting up whenever he falls down and having another go, moving tributes and acknowledgement to courageous World War Two Commando Z Special Force operatives

after he retraces their steps in kayaks near Singapore, and on foot in Borneo and surrounds, private tears of joy on hearing of the birth of one of his children when climbing, confronting realities while serving in Rhodesia, Kuwait and East Timor and the realities and hidden traps for new players in the business jungle where as Jim puts it; 'snakes are seldom seen, always unexpected and even surprising'.

Jim further comments 'I could go on forever about receding glaciers, rubbish in national parks, displaced natives and so on, but fundamentally, we were here to climb the mountain...' This goal orientation focus – doing it rather than just talking about it captures the essence of the book. Jim thrived in the discomfort, danger and pain of going for that goal whether it be in the hot Australian deserts, the freezing cold Himalayas, the mosquito infested jungles, but one area seemed to be almost too painful for his soul – the Canberra bureaucracy. I'll leave that for the reader.

'To excel requires passion' according to Jim and two of his most passionate areas are special operations and mountain climbing, both of which he excelled at, but even they brought frustrations. Jim's bringing his Commando troops and later his Pilbara Regiment troops to an operational footing earned him both a censure and a commendation! Seeing the Commandos deploy to war in Afghanistan a decade or so later was a frustratingly 'I told you so' moment. Over the years, I was very fortunate to have Jim's thoughtful, blunt but very valuable input to SO Intelligence planning, expedition planning, doctrine and adventurous training evaluations to name just a few areas, and I could never understand why this remarkable officer who lived all the values we talk about was not a number of ranks higher than his worn rank. He certainly was intellectually, and his frustrations with a stalled career understandably comes out in the book. Jim's always been one of my heroes and I feel honoured to have been asked to write a review on his book. Just reading *Snakes in the Jungle*, and appreciating all that Jim has done and experienced, I have to think, wow, how can you measure that, and it's at least fortunate that his story has been told.

Finally, this book is not for the lazy or for those intimidated by going outside their own comfort zones or those that thrive in the status quo, rather *Snakes in the Jungle* is strongly recommended reading for:-

(Continued next page)



From the office of...

Senator The Hon. Michael Ronaldson

Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of Anzac

Special Minister of State

MINISTER LAUNCHES PHOENIX AUSTRALIA: CENTRE FOR POSTTRAUMATIC MENTAL HEALTH

Launching the *Phoenix Australia: Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health* at The University of Melbourne, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson, highlighted the Government's ongoing commitment to posttraumatic mental health.

Phoenix Australia is the new name of the former *Australian Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health*, now in its 20th year of operation.

Under its new name, *Phoenix Australia* will continue working to improve mental health services for veterans and currently serving members of the Australian Defence Force, as well as the broader community. In particular, ongoing work will focus on advancing knowledge about posttraumatic mental health.

"The work of the Centre advances the knowledge of posttraumatic mental health, establishes best practice

standards for management of trauma in a range of sectors, and guides clinicians in effective, evidence-based treatments for PTSD and related problems," Senator Ronaldson said.

"The Centre will continue to provide advice to, and assist, DVA in its work to ensure veterans of all conflicts receive the mental health support and services they need.

"The new name, which signifies evolution, renewal, regeneration and hope, captures the essence of recovery after trauma.

"I look forward to a further strengthening of the relationship between DVA and the now *Phoenix Australia* in their important work together for the benefit of veterans during this Anzac Centenary period and beyond," Senator Ronaldson said.

BOOK REVIEW: *Snakes in the Jungle*

(Continued from previous page)

- all Australian Defence Force Academy cadets to show a living example of what it means to be true to oneself and lead in a myriad of situations;
- Special Forces to appreciate a very experienced operative's views on where Special Operations should be now and into the future;
- military officers, particularly to analyse the culture that promotes or holds back officers of Jim's energy and talents, and at the same time, for a supposedly learning organisation misses out on so many potential lessons that could be learnt;
- adventurers – there's too much to do in a lifetime (Jim would have to live to 150 years to complete all his goals), but this book can help you plan your own goals (and as Jim would say – plan goals with deadlines); and
- those who are committed to succeed in the business world (noting that most businesses in Australia fail, but Jim has been highly successful and has provided 16 insights which he calls Revelations to focus those with a passion to succeed).

Above all, *Snakes in the Jungle* is testament to an extraordinary officer of great integrity, drive and intelligence who could easily have compromised his principles to climb the career ladder, but didn't. Well done Jim on yet another fine achievement. Just great.

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



Australian Commando Association New South Wales Inc.

"Q" Store order form

Name: _____ Date: / /

Address: _____

Contact Details: P _____ M _____ E _____

ITEM FOR SALE	POST	QTY	PRICE	\$\$\$
Association Green Jacket	NIL		\$330.00	
Association Green Jacket Pocket (For new jackets)	\$3.00		\$80.00	
Association Green Jacket Pocket (Replacement Pocket)	\$3.00		\$15.00	
Association Green Jacket complete with pocket	NIL		\$410.00	
Badge – Cloth – Commando Parachute	\$3.00		\$6.00	
Badge – Beret (New Design)	\$3.00		\$15.00	
Badge – Car Window Decal	\$1.00		\$2.00	
Badge – Lapel – 1st Commando Regiment	\$3.00		\$10.00	
Badge – Lapel – Australian Commando Association	\$3.00		\$10.00	
Badge – Lapel – Para Wings	\$3.00		\$10.00	
Badge – Name (Optional – Years of Service/Nickname)	NIL		\$20.00	
*Beret – Green Qualified Members Only	\$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 – Gold Anodised Aluminium	\$10.00		\$25.00	
Plaque – 1st Commando Regiment	\$15.00		\$50.00	
Shirt – Grey with Australian Commando Association logo	\$10.00		\$50.00	
Shirt – Grey Polo/Golf with Aust. CDO Assoc. logo	\$10.00		\$40.00	
Tie – 1st Commando Regiment	\$10.00		\$20.00	
Tie Clip – Australian Commando Association	\$3.00		\$10.00	

TOTAL \$ _____

Send cheque/money orders payable to Australian Commando Association (NSW) Inc.

Addressed to:

The Treasurer

Australian Commando Association (NSW) Inc.
PO Box 432, TOONGABBIE NSW 2146, 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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BSB: 012010 Account No. 777000675
Beneficiary customer – Police Bank
Details of payment – Account No. 41117, Australian Commando Association (NSW) Inc.
Quote name and Subs/Qstore etc.

Your order will be processed by Norm WOOD, Quartermaster, (02)9545-0484 or 0419-484-541 or newood@ozemail.com.au

*Nominate Size (beret measurement around head cm)



XACT *th65*

In-line Clip-on Thermal Weapon Sight

XACT ^{TH 65}



The XACT *th65* is a 60mm in line, clip on thermal weapon sight designed for the infantry marksman. When coupled with a X4 magnification day sight it enables a marksman to identify and engage targets out to the maximum range of the current and next generation infantry rifles by day and by night.

The XACT *th65* design advantages include:

Optimised Size Weight and Power (SWaP) for the Infantry Marksman – It provides the best performance at the lowest weight to allow effective 600m target recognition and engagements without the marksman and the weapon being encumbered with unnecessary weight.

Provides excellent image quality out to 600m and beyond. The *th65* image quality is based on Elbit's in house thermal image processing technology.



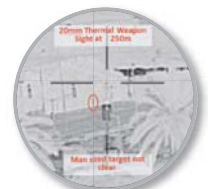
TWS supports the concept of the weapon as a system – with x4 Enhanced Day Sight (EDS) and flip-able TWS, the combatant can utilize both to enhance observation and engagement capabilities by night or day.

TWS can be used as a standalone reconnaissance scope for the marksman, commander or other combatant.

Elbit owns the technology and has the freedom to upgrade and modify its systems to meet customer needs as technology advances. As both technology and operational requirements change, Elbit's processes in Australia and the way in which the *th65* is designed will allow the CoA to quickly and easily upgrade the TWS to meet evolving and changing Australian requirements.

Main Advantages & Features

Performance	Human Recognition at 600m
Size	140mm length
Weight	<500 gr (with batteries)
Power	2 x CR123 batteries, Over 5 Hours operational use
Detector type	8-12 μ m, 640 x 480 pixel
Field of view	7.5°
Magnification	Adjusted for x4 day sight magnification
Communication	Digital communication port
Submersible	Up to 15m



XACT ^{TH 65}

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1941 - 1946

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0403 582 920

Australian Commando Association Queensland Inc.

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Commando for life

Tony Mills Secretary
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0419 136 772



1955 -

Dr. Chris Tucker Treasurer
treasurer@austcdoassocqld.com
0413 393 874

TOK TOK

CLAUDE JOSEPH PATRICK DUNSHEA MC (Bar) Military Tribute

On Thursday, 7th May and in bright sunshine, we said goodbye to our most highly decorated WWII Commando, CAPT Pat Dunshea MC (Bar), in a civil service at Mt Gravatt Crematorium.

Army Ceremonial section added bugler MUSN Alexander Long with our ACAQLD Piper, Ian Millard, to ensure a respectful and dignified departure worthy of this man. The service included a eulogy from the Celebrant and tributes from family, ACAQLD, RSL and Freemasons. He certainly led a busy life after the war!

The military tribute was presented by President Keith Long who summarised Pat's career from enlistment into AIF Special Forces in July 1940 through to discharge in October 1945. This included major postings, promotions, Honours and Awards and the health issues, mainly malarial, which plagued and frequently hospitalised him during his entire overseas service.

Pat's main operational service postings were with 2/7 Independent Company in New Guinea over the period October 1942-December 1943 and on Bougainville with 2/8 Commando Squadron from September 1944-June 1945.



In December 1941 he was a Lance Sgt and by July 1944 he concluded his service with the rank of Captain.

The two citations for his Military Cross and Bar were read out as per the record, the significance of which was impressed upon the congregation. His other Awards included: Returned From Active Service Badge, 1939-1945 Star, Pacific Star, War Medal 1939-1945, Service Medal 1939-1945.

CAPT. Pat Dunshea MC (Bar) was an officer who displayed outstanding leadership; courageous, highly skilled, mission oriented, he displayed initiative and devotion to duty of the highest order. Despite serious debilitating illness which plagued him throughout his

entire overseas deployment, he kept coming back to his duties. In our nation's hour of need he stood tall among men and exemplified the warrior spirit of ANZAC and the commando ethos. He will never be forgotten.

Claude Joseph Patrick Dunshea MC (Bar)... Rest in Peace.

(Continued next page)



70th SF COMMANDO COMMEMORATION DAY

CANUNGRA

Over 80 members and guests answered the call of the National Service Pipes & Drums and assembled in the memorial area abreast LHQ at Land Warfare Centre, CANUNGRA on a bright sunny morning of Sunday, 29th March.

The Executive Committee determined from its appreciation for the 70th Commemoration, that the

focus would embrace the wider Special Forces brotherhood who have always supported this Day over the years. This led to the largest turnout for many years and according to WW2 veteran, Keith Buck (2/6), the best ever he had attended.

Over 80 made the journey for this 70th Commemoration. Our unique gathering of brothers included State



QX 16381
LIEUT. CLAUDE JOSEPH PATRICK DUNSHEA
2/7 AUST IND. COY.

AWARD OF MILITARY CROSS

CITATION

On 29 January 1943, New Guinea area, this officer was 2IC of a force attacking up the Black Cat track. As the only officer of this force with thorough knowledge of the country, Lieut Dunshea moved throughout the advance as a forward scout.

First contact made with the enemy occurred when Lieut Dunshea shot four enemy in a forward post. The force then deployed and attacked, met very heavy opposition and was pinned down. Lieut Dunshea sighted an enemy party moving to out-flank his force. Realising the danger and unable to make contact with his Commander, or gain any help or support, this officer moved down alone to cut off this enemy party which consisted of 12 men and one Alsatian dog. Lieut Dunshea is known to have shot five of this party, and was himself wounded. He then charged the remaining enemy, firing this Thompson sub machine gun killing one more. The rest fled.

His courageous action prevented an encircling move which would have placed his force in a very precarious position and thus allowed the force to advance to a grenade assault which inflicted heavy casualties and forced the enemy to withdraw.

Lieut Dunshea is strongly recommended for an immediate award of the Military Cross.

QX 16381
LIEUT. CLAUDE JOSEPH PATRICK DUNSHEA
2/7 AUST CAV. COMMANDO. SQN.

AWARD OF BAR TO MILITARY CROSS

CITATION


Lieut Dunshea is an officer of outstanding ability. He received the MC for gallantry during the war operation, and since that date his work over that period to November 1943 has shown the highest degree of military skill, courage and strength of purpose.

This officer carried out the initial and successful recce of the Bojadjin-Poroa Road at a time when Japanese troops dominated the whole of the Ramu Valley. This recce was of extraordinary value and the penetration of ground, covered by hostile natives and intense enemy patrolling required peculiar courage.

Lieut Dunshea was normally accompanied by one soldier and one native constable, and a relay of these was kept on hand, as the endurance and speed of this officer was so great as to exhaust normal soldiers and natives after one task.

This officer made detailed reconnaissance of the country between the headwaters of the Ramu River and Sakyrak where 7 Aust Div advanced troops had reached. His information given to 7 Aust Div of enemy dispositions and movements was of great value. On several occasions where stealth meant sacrifice of time, Lieut Dunshea took extraordinary personal risk and shot his way out of trouble. Unable to make contact with his unit without losing time, Lieut Dunshea immediately proceeded in advance of 7 Aust Div forward troops and set off for a further recce into the Finisterre foothills towards the Bogabjin Road.

Lieut Dunshea has constantly set an example to all ranks of the greatest courage, initiative and devotion to duty.

*Ever notice that the people
 who are late are often 
 much jollier than the people
 who have to wait for them?*



Presidents from Keith Long (ACAQLD), Peter Schwarze (SASAQ); John Gibson (AATTVO), Cleve Whitworth (RMAQ), Bruce Parker (representing ACAVIC), Rudi Poldoja (RBIA); Audie Moldre (CEO SASA Wandering Warriors); Don Astill OAM representing WW2 Commando formations and John Butler (ACANSW).

Among the gathering were 1 & 2 Company former members; Commando Regiments, ASASAQ & AATTV representatives plus a significant presence from the Royal Marine Commandos Association.

At 1100hrs, MC, ACAQLD Secretary Tony Mills welcomed everyone and ARMY Senior LWC Chaplain, James Pearce officiated over the Service with the Opening Prayer, Closing Prayer and Blessing. President Keith gave the annual address and Don Astill OAM cited the Ode. Bugler Ron Southall of the Salvation Army played the Last Post and Rouse. The National Service Pipes & Drums performed the national anthem which would have been a first time experience for many visitors!!

President Keith Long delivered the main address which this year recounted the signal focus of this Day - the WWII Japanese landing at Kavieng, New Ireland. This was the first time contact with NO.1 Independent Company where our thinly dispersed and deployed sections covering vital assets were over run and forced to withdraw into the island interior where some became M special unit coast watchers whilst the bulk, following a series of misadventures, were captured and embarked on the MONTIVIDEO MARU for labour

camps in Japan only to be sunk by a USS submarine with no survivors.

The second part acknowledged those veterans of all conflicts who had passed through CANUNGRA on their way to active deployment, especially those who paid the ultimate sacrifice and those who are currently deployed overseas on active duty. But in particular the president expressed special recognition of the widows, wives, families and communities torn by grievous loss and who endured and continue to endure.

Following conclusion of the Service, all Service members, past and present, marched off to the Area Sgts Mess behind the Pipes & Drums to join partners for a sumptuous lunch. During this John Gibson, president AATTVO gave a memorable address re his experiences at CANUNGRA on his way to his second tour, this with the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam 1970-1971. His first tour was with 5RAR in 19667-1967. The EXCOM resolved that a guest speaker will be a feature of future Canungra Days.

Special thanks for making this a very successful occasion go to RSM LWC WO1 Wayne Hay, WO2 Jason Moriaty, Snt Chaplain James Pearce, bugler Ron Southall, Base Planning officer Alanna Phillips, Mess Manager Margaret Olsen, and of course our "own" Pipes & Drums who travelled all the way down from the Sunshine Coast to support us. All of this was not possible without the active support from the Commandant LWC COL David Hafner.

They liveth for evermore.



Former members of 2 Commando Company who attended the Commando Commemoration Day at Canungra in Queensland.

From left to right: Ned Jenkins, Nick Howlett, Tony Mills, Frank Read, Tom Nicholas, Chris Townley, Ross Goddard, Keith Long, Adrian Cookson, Bruce Parker.



CONGRATULATIONS!! ~ JOHN CARR MACKAY Recipient ~ Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)

2015 Australia Day Honours List For

Outstanding Long Service to Australia, War Veterans and Community

War Service.

1941 John enlisted at 17 years in the Royal Australian Navy. Volunteered for and served in tri-service special operations units behind enemy lines throughout War in the Pacific:

- Z Special Unit, Services Reconnaissance Department.
- M Special Unit (Coast Watchers), New Guinea area.

- John McKay's contribution to our nation in war; his selfless commitment to serving veterans and community has been dedicated, continuous and outstanding. This association believes he is a most worthy recipient of the Medal Of The Order Of Australia and we congratulate him on behalf of all members, veterans, families and the brotherhood.



Former long serving President for the Queensland Commando Association, Jack Mackay (Z & M Special Units), celebrates with a glass of champagne with his immediate family, son Graeme and daughters Janelle and Pamela, sharing the moment with His Excellency Paul de Jersey AC, the Governor of Queensland and Keith Long RFD, current President of the Australian Commando Association Queensland. Jack received his Medal of The Order Of Australia an hour before for military service and services to veterans and the community. On receiving his medal, Jack paid a special tribute to his wife Audrey who was unable to attend on the day.

AUSTRALIAN COMMANDO ASSOCIATION VICTORIA Inc.



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President's Report to AGM - 2015

Welcome

I would like to welcome you all to the 2015 AGM of the Australian Commando Association Victoria Branch and to provide a report on the year's achievements and activities as well as highlighting some of the forthcoming events for the benefit of members.

2014 was another solid year for the Association administratively, financially and operationally due to the efforts of a very hard working Committee. The Committee comprises:

Marc Preston (President), Peter Campion (Vice President), Glenn MacDonald (Secretary), Lindsay Lorrain (Treasurer & Editor), Philip Brabin (Activities), Peter Tierney (Property Officer), Richard Pelling (acting as Almoner), Peter Lynch, Bruce Parker, Peter Beasley & Ted Walsh. Marc Preston has also filled the 2 Coy Unit Representative.

Special mention should be made of the following people who are the engine room of the Committee and to thank them for their service. These are:

Secretary – Glenn MacDonald
Treasurer – Lindsay Lorrain (Magazine Editor/Membership/Web Master)
Property Officer – Peter Tierney

Membership

There was a slight gain in total members over the year with numbers (as at 31/12/2014) as follows:

Full	213
Affiliate	27
WWII	40
Honorary	1
Life Member	1
News Only	22
Other	8
Total	312

Although our numbers are encouraging we need to actively focus on recruiting current serving and recently departed unit members to introduce more "youth" into the Association.

Finances

The Association's strong financial position has continued to remain robust with over \$100,000.00 in cash and assets and will be the subject of a separate report by the Treasurer.

Activities

All of the Association flagship events were successfully conducted during the 2014 year with large turnouts experienced at the RIP Memorial Service and ANZAC Day commemorations. The President's Shield pistol shoot with our ASASA colleagues was also well attended but unfortunately our submission to Vicpol to waive current gun laws for our members to participate in the shoot was rejected. Accordingly, members who have attended 10 of these events and who have not joined a licensed club are not able to participate in any future events.

Future Activities

A dinner to recognise the 60th Anniversary of the reformation of Special Forces in Australia after WW2 will be held at Bayview on Eden at Queens Road, Melbourne on Saturday 15th August 2015. The CO of 1st Commando Regt has indicated that the Companies are very busy at the moment and he is happy for the Association to take the lead on the many birthday celebrations.

In 2015 we plan to conduct all of our flagship events together with a visit to the Werribee Liberator and the RAAF Point Cook Museums on XX. In addition we are exploring the following social activities for our members:



- a. A picnic at Hanging Rock
- b. Go Carts South Morang
- c. Family day at Funfields Amusement Park Whittlesea (Toboggans / Water Slides / Bumper Boats).

Further information on these forthcoming events will be promulgated to members in due course.

Magazine/Newsletter

Particular thanks must go to Lindsay Lorrain for his work in undertaking the Editorial role of our Magazine and Newsletter as well as sending out the digital issues, and organising and posting the printed copies with his "packing team".

Discussions have also been taking place with our interstate Associations and National Executive regarding a National Magazine and also the best approach/deliverable and the future publication approach for our Branch magazine.

The "National ACA" magazine will be published via Barry Grant who has an arrangement with a local Publisher. Barry will advise all potential contributors of the cut-off dates for content delivery and will also be following up the required process for advising the Publisher of address and/or email details of recipients.

There will be no change to our current Magazine/Newsletter process at this stage and no cost attributed to the "National ACA magazine".

Special thanks must also be made to WW2 veterans Keith Johnston and Harry Bell, and their WW2 colleagues, for their continued Double Diamond reports, recollections, and, sadly, many Obits, and to all Association members who have written reports, and provided news items (and some gossip) and photographs. Special thanks also to Con Bell for his valuable assistance in keeping the lines communication open with many of our WW2 members and the Committee.

As this year is our 60th anniversary, please send to our Secretary your memories and scurrilous stories – as long as they are true – as we are looking at producing an anniversary publication that tells the story of the people and events of 2 Coy from 1955 to 2015 – it is your story.

Tidal River Cairn

Members should also be aware that the Association's application to the Australian Government for the Tidal River Memorial to be declared a National Military Memorial of National significance was rejected by the Department of Veterans' Affairs. The Committee are currently examining the next steps which may involve an alternate application for the Cairn to be recognised and further reporting will be made to members in due course.

National Association

The last National Committee meeting for 2014 was held in Sydney on Sat 6/12/14 with Dick Pelling and the Secretary in attendance. The focus of the meeting was

on obtaining agreement and support from both Commando Regiments to facilitate automatic membership in our Association for all serving members for the purpose of forwarding information and the receipt of free Newsletters. The Regiments (RSM & XO's) will advise their process/directives in the New Year.

The National Committee meeting schedule for 2015 is:

- | | |
|-----------|------------------------|
| March | – telephone hook up |
| June/July | – meeting in Brisbane |
| Sept | – telephone hook up |
| Dec | – meeting in Melbourne |

Welfare

The Association continues to promote and support the Commando Welfare Trust (which supports current serving Members and their immediate families) as well as the Welfare Patriotic Trust Fund (W528) which the Association administers and which supports past Members of Special Forces Units/Groups. The latter Fund can be used for broader welfare matters and this year we wish to put more energy into utilising the Fund to support welfare issues of any members from WW2 to current who need support.

Conclusion

The principal activity of the Association for the year was to run a non-profit, self-sustaining organisation to maintain camaraderie amongst its members and to raise funds to support those current and past serving members of the various Regiments who may be in need.

The activities and events of the Association would not have been possible without the efforts of the people I have mentioned in this Report and particularly the Committee who I would again like to thank for devoting their time and effort in conducting the important matters involved in running a busy Association. The 100 plus years of collective experience of the Committee members is reflected in the high regard in which the Association is held.

As well as the people I have specifically mentioned in this Report there are always those who work in the background without due recognition, and nor do they ask for it, there are many members and friends of the association who fall into this category and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their help. In particular I would like to thank Bruce Parker for the continued hospitality shown to us over the year for our monthly meetings and for the wisdom and experience Bruce brings to our meetings.

I am very proud to have represented you all as the President of our Association and I would encourage you all to continue to Strike Swiftly

Marc Preston
President
February 2015





Anzac Day 2015 in Melbourne

The Anzac Day Dawn service was held outdoors at 2 Company HQ at Fort Gellibrand in light rain showers. The CO of 1st Commando Regiment, Lt Col M, gave an inspiring speech during the traditional service. Family and friends placed wreaths and poppies on the Rock of Remembrance in memory of those who fell in action, and also those who died in training, from WW1 to the present day.

The gunfire breakfast in the drill hall, and Two-up in the O'Connor Club, lightened the mood, as old friends chatted over a (brandy-laced) coffee.

Later in the morning, in the city, only two WW2 veterans marched with the current serving and former post-WW2 Commando units and sub-units, and family – Ron 'Dixie' Lee (M-Special) and Charles Black (2/4). Keith Johnston (2/10) took part from a vehicle.

After the march concluded at the Shrine a very long Anzac Day continued when a large contingent of WW2 members and extended family, together with post-

WW2 Association and current serving members, met at the Bayview Eden to enjoyed the traditional Anzac Day reunion and lunch, continuing the long tradition of our respected WW2 colleagues. During the formal service Lt Col M again spoke, and Association vice-president Sgt J gave a compelling piece of military history. Sgt J presented David Rice, Jack Ripa and Terry Beckwith with certificates in appreciation of their outstanding service to the Victorian Association.

For those who attended all three Anzac events it was a long, very moving, but satisfying day.



Photo by Sandy Pelling

The Remembrance Rock at Fort Gellibrand, with a photo of Sgt Brett Wood MG, 2 Cdo Regt, KIA on 23 May 2011.



Photo by Sandy Pelling

Remembrance poppies in Federation Square, Melbourne, near the start of the Anzac Day march.



Photo by Sandy Pelling

Victorian contingent marching, with WW2 veteran Charles Black (2/4 Commando Squadron) on the right.

AUSTRALIAN COMMANDO ASSOCIATION VICTORIA Inc.



NEW COMMITTEE FOR 2015

We conducted our AGM on Saturday, 28th February and the new Committee for 2015 is:

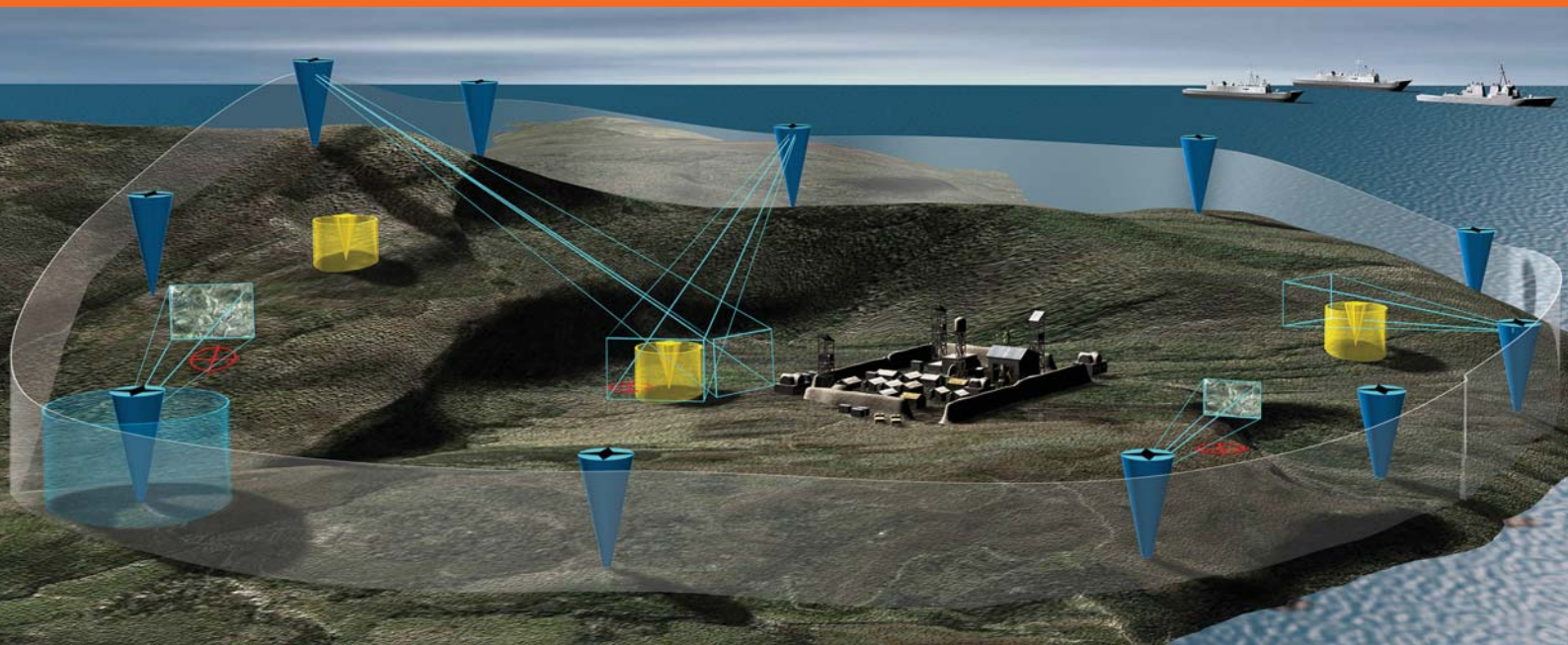
President	Marc Preston
Vice President	John Lewis
Treasurer	Chris James
Secretary	Glenn MacDonald
Magazine Editor	Barry Higgins
Property Officer	Peter Tierney
Unit Representative	Barry Sermon
Committee Members	Richard Pelling Peter Champion Robert Magee Phil Brabin

Retiring members from the 2014 Committee – Lindsay Lorrain, Bruce Parker, Peter Lynch, Peter Beasley & Ted Walsh – were thanked for their invaluable contribution to the Association over many years

While the first meeting for our new Committee is not until 19/3/15, the new members have already started to get their minds around their portfolio – however during this handover period could I request that any queries from your respective States be directed to myself in the first instance (copy to Marc Preston) – particularly items relating to Treasury, Magazine & website.



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DEVELOPMENT, DOCTRINE AND DEPLOYMENT OF AUSTRALIAN SPECIAL FORCES 1955-65

This article is based on the presentation given on 12 April 2014 at the one day conference 'Phantoms Australia's Secret War in Vietnam' conducted at the National Vietnam Veterans' Museum at Phillip Island. The presenter was Dr Jim Wood, Colonel Rtd., who enlisted in 1 CDO in February 1956, commissioned in 1961 and served as a lieutenant and captain until 1966 when he moved interstate.

INTRODUCTION

From time immemorial, political leaders and military commanders have sent individuals and groups to reach well beyond the normal boundaries of territory and expectation in order to silently gather knowledge and/or, when opportunities invite, to 'Cause Havoc'.

We are reminded, in light of the present run-down of operations in Afghanistan that, for much of the 19th Century, Afghanistan was the setting for 'The Great Game'. This expression, usually attributed to Rudyard Kipling, was an expression coined by a British East India Company officer, Captain Stoddard, who later, as a participant in 'The Great Game' was executed publicly in 1842 by order of the Emir of Bokara.

Today as Australians we celebrate and are guided by our renowned military heritage encapsulated in the acronym 'Anzac' and, within that heritage, another encapsulated, in the title 'Special Forces'. In both cases we are constantly reminded both of the evolutionary nature of existing knowledge and of the constant imperative to explore and innovate with regard to new ways of warfare.

Of particular emphasis is the significance of the concept of Special Operations as realised in the origins, doctrine and development of the various components of what are today known as Australian Special Forces. These forces were established during the 1950s and known as Commando, Special Signals and the Special Air Service. In each case these units were modelled on British and Australian exemplars established during WWII.

COMMANDO is usually associated with the War in South Africa of 1899-1902, where highly mobile riflemen, loosely formed as independent small units, caused severe havoc to the conventionally organised British troops who were seeking to impose British control over their South African homeland.

The word and the fact of such action can be traced back to 1715 where, among the 'free burghers of Cape Colony it was regarded as an axiom that all white men in the colony able to carry arms could be called upon to defend it.' One explanation is that the word 'Kommando' is Portuguese for 'command' or 'commander'.

The first British Commando raid undertaken in World WarII against the German Army was described by Churchill, Prime Minister, who had specifically directed its execution, as a 'silly fiasco'.

SPECIAL AIR SERVICE is usually linked to the actual establishment of 'L' detachment, under command Captain David Stirling, of the British Special Air Service Brigade, a brigade which did not exist in 1941. The reason for the latter explanation was, according to one source, the use of 'Air' was included in the title in an attempt to persuade the Germans that the British had a parachute brigade in the Middle East.

The first SAS raid against the Germans on 16 November 1941 was a disaster, when weather completely disrupted the air drop, in North Africa, of 60 men of whom only twenty two survived.

'L' detachment was officially named 1 SAS in October 1942.

'NEW WAYS OF WARFARE' - ORIGINS AND INFLUENCES

Churchill, following Dunkirk, sought 'new ways of warfare against the unbeaten German Army'. The means to execute these 'new ways' was foreshadowed in Churchill's direction to General Ismay, that, 'We should immediately set to work to organise self-contained, thoroughly equipped raiding units.' This prime ministerial direction was to be realised in offensive action with an emphasis on raiding and the immediate raising of ten Commando units each of 500 men. He also insisted on immediate action, with possible execution within a fortnight. Particular attention was to be paid to the recruitment of a special type of individual: quiet, modest, those having had a variety of experiences including previous military service.

For further reading, see Dunford-Slater's account, as the first Commanding Officer, of the raising, in mid-June 1940, of the first British Commando, designated No. 3 Commando, [CDO], [thirty five officers/500 men].

Early Commando operations. The first such task, was that undertaken by No.11 Independent Company on 23/24 June 1940 along the French coast between Le Touquet and Boulogne and described as a 'skirmish'. This was followed by a specific task for No.3 Commando, as ordered by Churchill - 'a small scale raid on Guernsey, now occupied by Germans'. This comprised 3CDO and 11 Indep Coy, two destroyers, plus six air-sea rescue vessels a month after 3 CDO was raised. The raid was later described by Churchill as 'a ridiculous, almost a comic failure'.

There followed an intense effort to improve seamanship, boat handling, landings, weaponry, fitness, forced marching and 'weeding out' by the use of RTU (Returned to Unit). Dunford Slater 'liked' the Australian officers recruited into the Commando and whom he described as 'free thinking, free talking.' The Royal Navy provided ongoing helpful support in the form of armoured assault craft that enabled the Commando to undertake cliff assault and rock and cliff climbing, whereas the new initiative was regarded with suspicion by 'military command'.

A more successful raid in February 1941 was carried out in the Lofoten Islands, Norway, by range of naval and air support by No 3 and No 4 CDO. This raid ended a period of six months in which there were no operations. Later, in mid-June 1941, a further raid on Vaagso, also in



Norway, resulted in the first serious casualties and required some 80 replacements.

Also in mid June 1941, the Green Beret was introduced with an associated heraldic link to hunting and as a consequence of Churchill's description of the men of the Commando as 'men of the Hunter class'. The next major operational commitment was to the Dieppe raid in August 1942.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS - ORIGINS of the concept that became known as 'Special Operations'

(Source: M.R.D. Foot. *SOE The Special Operations Executive 1940-46*, London, Mandarin Paperbacks, 1990.)

'THE GREAT GAME'

- March 1938, British Secret Intelligence Service (MI6), establishment of Section D, responsible for sabotage, Maj L.D. Grand – 'to look into the theory of secret offensives: how could enemies be attacked, otherwise than by the usual military means?'
- Autumn 1938, British War Office (W.O.) GS (R), Maj J.F.C. Holland, to conduct extensive research on 'Irregular Warfare'.
- Spring 1939, W.O. GS (R) renamed MI (R) (Military Intelligence Research) under W.O. Director of Intelligence, MI (R) to cover tasks that would be undertaken by troops in uniform; whereas SIS's Section D would look into 'undercover, unavowable work.'
- Churchill replaced Chamberlain who had resigned as PM on 10 May 1940 but remained as Lord President of the Council and a member of the War Cabinet. At that time, with 'France likely to collapse', there was perceived a need for an organisation to foster 'creation of widespread revolt in Germany's conquered territories'. A draft to this end was prepared initially by Lord Hankey but further developed and, on 19 July 1940, signed by Chamberlain.
- 22 July 1940, the British War Cabinet approved the new organisation, quite separate from SIS, to be known as the 'Special Operations Executive', 'to coordinate all action by way of subversion and sabotage, against the enemy overseas.'
- 'all subversive plans, whether SOE's or others were to be approved by the Chairman, Dalton, and then to secure the agreement of the Foreign Secretary.'

SPECIAL OPERATIONS – DOCTRINE

The long standing and extensive British experience in the 'Great Game' constituted a rich reservoir from which to draw the lessons learned from involvement in such operations. One invaluable and prescient consequence was the decision at SIS and, coincidentally at the War Office, to undertake assessment and definition of this experience as Doctrine to guide any future such operations.

- 1938 SIS, Section D, Maj. L.D. Grand was tasked to consider SIS doctrine to guide future 'Secret offensives' operations.
- 1938 War Office, GS (R), Maj. J.F.C. Holland was tasked to consider W.O. doctrine to guide future 'Irregular Warfare' operations.

- 23 March 1939 – War Office/Foreign Office, with Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's approval, authorised Grand, Section D, SIS, to 'move on from thought to action' and 'to embark on sabotage and leaflet work in the Czech borderlands and Austria and to prepare sabotage in any areas now obviously threatened by Germany in eastern and south eastern Europe.'
- Late Spring 1939, the Chief of the Imperial General Staff (CIGS) commissioned Maj. C. McV. Gubbins of GS (R) to 'produce a Guerrilla Field Service Regulations (FSR)' with the result, and before SOE existed, – 'The Art of Guerrilla Warfare', 'Partisan Leaders Handbook', and 'How to use High Explosives' had been prepared. Thousands of copies of these were distributed all over Europe and South-East Asia in appropriate translations.
- By summer 1944, some 10000 men and 3200 women, of whom some 5000, nearly all men, trained or training as agents, were either on operations or waiting to deploy.
- The diversity of the security and training requirements associated with SOE operations required an extraordinary number and type of command, control and training facilities across Great Britain.
- One ongoing and substantial hindrance to the air support to SOE operations was the negative attitude of senior RAF officers, Portal and Harris, in providing air support to such SOE operations.

DEVELOPMENT OF SPECIAL OPERATIONS AUSTRALIA (SOA)

Consider briefly the British SOE operations in the Singapore area, (Force 136) plagued by poor intelligence on the Japanese and belated insertion of 'Stay Behind' parties to disrupt Japanese Lines of Communication.

Much more influential however was the 'knock on' for Australia of the extraordinary range of Australian "unconventional warfare" activities conducted under the umbrella of what was later identified as Special Operations Australia (SOA).

Consider therefore the significance for Australia of:

- The British Mawhood Mission to Australia and the contributions of British officers such as Calvert and Spenser Chapman and Warrant Officers Misslebrook and Stafford in 1942 as a result of the Fall of Singapore.
- The ALLIED INTELLIGENCE BUREAU, Special Operations Australia, responsible to GHQ South West Pacific Area (SWPA), established as the Inter-Allied Services Department, known as ISD, and which became the SERVICES RECONNAISSANCE DEPARTMENT (SRD).
- 1941: 1, 2 and 3 Australian Independent Companies and two New Zealand Companies were established.
- In April 1943, seven Independent Companies (lost 1 Independent Company) and 2/7 Cav (Cdo) Regiment acted as Administrative HQ.
- October 1943 Independent Companies become Cav (Cdo) Squadrons.



- During the 1939-45 War twelve Cdo Coys/Sqns were deployed.
- SOA Training establishments were scattered throughout Australia and included HMAS *Assault* at Port Stephens and No 7 Infantry Training Centre established at Wilsons' Promontory, but later relocated to Canungra.

POST WAR BRITISH INFLUENCE ON AUSTRALIAN SPECIAL OPERATIONS

During the immediate Post-World II period, the SIS considered its response to the earlier British SOE experience and its significance by way of continuing commitments to Special Intelligence and or Special Operations. The decision was taken to:

- Maintain a Cadre (SO) Organisation
- Establish a 1949 SO Handbook; a capacity for clandestine air operations; maintain suitable stores ('Q') and equipment
- Recognise that SOE's greatest legacy lay in training
- Ensure that all post-war SIS officers received training in both 'Special Intelligence' and 'Special Operations'

Fundamentally for Australia, the British impact in terms of extensive influence upon Australian personnel, doctrine, training and liaison during the Post-World War 11 period were those realised in the British contribution to the development of the following:

- 1947 GCHQ's role in the establishment of Defence Signals Branch (DSB), later (DSD), later (ASD).
- 1949 MI5's role in the establishment of Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO)
- 1952 SIS's role in the establishment of Australian Secret Intelligence Service (ASIS)
- All three organisations were established in Melbourne also at the time the location of the Headquarters of the RAN, The Australian Army and the RAAF.

A DECADE ON – 1 COMMANDO COMPANY AND 2 COMMANDO COMPANY – THE CRUCIAL LINKS IN THE CHAIN OF SPECIAL OPERATIONS CONTINUITY

The first post-war use of Australia's accumulated Special Operations experience and assets was the raising on 24 February 1955, some 10 years after WWII, of

- 1 Commando Company, located in Sydney, was commanded by Maj. W.H. "Mac" Grant;
- 2 Commando Company, located in Melbourne, was commanded by Maj. John Anderson and; the associated
- 301 Signals Squadron, commanded by Maj. John Dixon, was established in January 1960 in order to provide long range communications for the Commando and later renamed 126 Signals Squadron in 1965, commanded by Maj. Bob Redgwell, initially located in Sydney, but later relocated to Melbourne. From 1964, female soldiers were serving in the supporting Signal Squadron.



*Decorated career soldier
Brigadier William "Mac" Grant*

Members of these units wore the Sherwood Green Beret, as introduced in 1941 by the OC of the first raised British No.3 Commando, and the distinctive Australian beret badge, shoulder flashes, black webbing and gaiters.

ROLE: The role of the Australian Commando of the operations similar to those mounted by the Independent and Commando Companies during the war.'

In each case the unit comprised a small but extremely talented ARA cadre and a company strength drawn from part-time reservists. All of these personnel were volunteers for overseas service and satisfied the initial and continuing mental, physical and training standards required of those who qualified to wear the coveted Green Beret. They were also required to complete the intense military and diverse specialist qualifications that were a feature of the role of the unit and to undertake training for raiding and other tasks using a variety of means such as parachuting or watercraft.

THE CATALYSTS FOR CONTINUITY IN AUSTRALIAN SPECIAL OPERATIONS - FROM HOT WAR TO COLD WAR – ASIA AND EUROPE

It is appropriate to recall the international strategic environment known as the 'Cold War' that existed during the 1950s-1970s, coincident with raising and development of the Commando/Special Signals Squadron. Many in the audience will recall the tension of that period, once summed up in General Hackett's masterpiece the *Third World War*. The period was one of fervent attention to matters of espionage, clandestine activity and preparations for war that seemed inevitable.



The link between this strategic environment and the raising of the Commando was personified in then Maj. 'Mac' Grant. Grant had WW II service with 2/5 and 2/12 Commando and later with the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan (BCOF) and with 3RAR in Korea. He was appointed founding OC 1 Commando Company in 1955.

Following a series of personal interviews with prospective recruits, including a valuable sprinkling of those with WW II or Korean service, and two stalwarts who had served with the German Army on the Eastern Front, the first enlistments were 'sworn in' on 25 June and the first parade was held on 14 July 1955. On the latter occasion Grant, following an outline of responsibilities and expectations to the new members of the unit, concluded:

This is a unique occasion in the history of the Australian Army. For the first time in peace, a commando unit has been formed. Actually this is a unique unit in the British Commonwealth Forces for, with the exception of our sister unit in Melbourne, there are no other units in the British Commonwealth designed to function in quite the same fashion as ourselves. We are designed to carry out, within one unit, the tasks performed during the war by the British and Australian commando units, the British SAS Regiment and Special Operations Australia, which operated in the Pacific Theatre. Our nearest counterparts in the British services today are the Royal Marine Commandos and the SAS Regiment operating in Malaya.

In October, 1955 Grant, with the incoming OC 2 CDO, Maj. John Anderson, was sent to the UK to undertake six months extensive specialist training with the Royal Marines. Anderson drowned during the final exercise of this training.

Upon his return to Australia, Grant found the unit strength of 470 with a small ARA cadre. There was great reliance placed upon the ARA Cadre as exemplars and trainers and the diverse skills and commitment of the Citizen Military Force officers and NCOs in the unit. A feature of the unit, in addition to basic military skills and weapons training, was the mixture of specialist commando training. This training included unarmed combat, roping and climbing, demolitions and sabotage, parachuting, promotion courses, small scales raids using canoes, diving, intelligence and signals courses.

The unit also conducted a cliff assault demonstration at the Army Tattoo, Green Beret parades reviewed by the Governor General and the Granting of the Freedom of the City of Sydney. These activities did much to publicly promote official support for the concept of Special Forces. Exceptionally, selected officers of the CDO attended the then highly sensitive Code of Conduct Courses conducted by the School of Military Intelligence at Middle Head, Sydney Harbour.

MAJOR W.H. 'Mac' GRANT - THE CATALYST FOR CLANDESTINE OPERATIONS

The sensitive information concerning Maj. Grant's role and activities on behalf of ASIS is drawn from

- the Eulogy by Major General Greg Melick AM, Official Mourner, at Brigadier Grant's funeral on 15 June 2013;
- from 'Memories of War', a record of conversation with Brigadier W H (Mac) Grant OAM, RFD, made by Jan Roberts Billett for the Naval and Military Club; and
- the Obituary in *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 23 August 2013.

'In May 1959, Grant was replaced as OC 1CDO by Maj. Jack Skipper. He departed, with his family, for the UK to undertake a series of attachments and training courses at British Secret Service establishments. Grant had been seconded to the Australian Secret Intelligence Service on completion of his tour with 1 CDO. At that time ASIS had dual responsibility as the collector of secret intelligence and for the conduct, in conjunction with the Army, of Special Operations. ASIS had invited Grant to accept the appointment as ASIS Head of Training to conduct training courses in these and associated responsibilities.

In November 1959 Grant left the UK for the USA where he visited a number of US Intelligence establishments. On his way back to Australia Grant visited the British Embassy in Saigon. Even then Vietnam was tipped to be the next trouble spot in Asia.'

With his extensive Commando background, Grant now became something of a specialist in guerrilla warfare and special operations. He conducted the training courses known as 'Special Operations Courses', the details of which were classified 'secret'. Although the fact and dates of these annual courses were advertised in Army Routine Orders, selection of those attending was decided by the respective Service Director of Intelligence who nominated one or more officers to attend these courses, including, in case of the RAN, a Clearance Diver.

Grant continued his earlier military career as a regular by transferring to the CMF and, following a succession of army appointments, was subsequently promoted to brigadier.

In August 1962, in his ASIS capacity, but using his military rank, he spent time with US Special Forces at three locations in Vietnam. In November 1963, in company with Brigadier Ted Serong, he again visited US Special Forces in six outposts.

During this period he also conducted training courses for selected ADF personnel posted to South Vietnam.'

Grant's tenure in this ASIS Head of Training appointment concluded in 1967.

SPECIAL AIR SERVICE [AUSTRALIA]

In June 1957, official approval was granted to raise 1 SAS Company, as a unit of the Regular Army at Swanbourne, Western Australia, with an establishment of eleven officers and 168 Other Ranks. Major W.W. Gook was appointed to Administer Command, with the unit raised officially on 25 July 1957, and Major Len Eyles, appointed as Officer Commanding, w.e.f. 1 February 1958.



At Gan Gan Camp, south of Nelsons Bay, in Port Stephens, NSW, in 1958, members of 1 CDO conducted specialist commando training for the early members of 1st SAS Company [1957-1962].

ROLE: The primary role of the Australian 1st SAS Company was reconnaissance, both medium and long range.

Subsequently, against the background of developing hostilities between Indonesia and the British/Malayan forces in Borneo, this SAS Company was committed in 1963 to its first overseas deployment to Papua New Guinea, on Exercise LONG HOP, against the Papuan Infantry Regiment.

Gradually 1 SAS became embroiled in the political and military deliberations of the time. On 20 August 1964, 1st SAS Company RAR was disbanded and the new (Australian) Special Air Service Regiment, comprising a headquarters and two squadrons each of three troops, was formally raised on 4 September 1964.

ROLE: The new regiment was tasked to undertake 'specialised tasks in the existing cold war conditions as well as maintaining a medium reconnaissance capacity for limited war.'

THE COMMITMENT OF 1 SAS TO SPECIAL OPERATIONS IN BORNEO DURING THE CONFRONTATION CAMPAIGN

Meanwhile Australian attention was focused on what became known as Confrontation with Indonesia in Borneo.

The British wartime SAS, disbanded in 1945, was reformed in 1947 as a Territorial and Volunteer regiment known as 21 SAS (The Artists). In 1952 a squadron from the Rhodesian SAS, and a squadron from the Malayan Scouts were combined to establish 22 SAS, as a regular army unit committed to operations in Malaya until 1956.

On 4 February 1965, Operation Trudge was initiated and 1st SAS plus elements on Base squadron were to move to Malaysia for an operational tour of six months.

Earlier, an Australian SAS officer had been detached from 42nd Commando to join A Squadron, 22nd SAS for six weeks during its operational tour in Borneo.

THE COMMITMENT OF THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY TRAINING TEAM VIETNAM (AATTV) TO SPECIAL OPERATIONS IN VIETNAM 1962-1971

In July 1962, an Australian Army Training Team (AATTV) of 30 Army Instructors was posted to South Vietnam to assist in the training of Vietnamese personnel in jungle warfare, village defence and related activities.

By August two members of the AATTV had been attached to the CIA program with the Montagnard.

In May 1964, further assistance was provided in the form of additional instructors and an initial detachment of three Caribou aircraft and crews, with a further three Caribou to follow.

By June 1965, the strength of AATTV had risen to 92 Officers and NCOs and further increased and diversified in its commitments. In October 1971, the AATTV as the first Australian unit to be committed to the war in Vietnam was the last Australian unit to be withdrawn, in October 1971, from Vietnam.

CONCLUSION

The post-war revival of Australia's military capacity to conduct clandestine Special Operations was realised in 1955 with the raising, as units of the Citizen Military Forces, of 1 Commando Company and 2 Commando Company, and in 1960, the supporting 301/126 Signals Squadron. There followed, in 1957, the raising of 1 SAS Squadron as a squadron of the Australian Regular Army.

The British Army was to re-establish its wartime Special Air Service with the raising in 1947 of 21 SAS (Artist Rifles) as a unit of the Territorial Forces and from which a squadron was drawn in 1952 to enable the raising of the British Regular 22 SAS in 1952 and committed to operations in Malaya until 1956.

Jim Wood

EXCURSIONS FOR MEMBERS IN SYDNEY

Members,

Ted Hartley has organised some low key events that members may wish to undertake with their families, please contact Ted if you are interested.

~ Editor

A requirement is that people get in touch with me at least one week (seven calendar days prior to the event).

The event will proceed if I have myself, and at least two other people who wish to attend, and it will be on, whatever the weather.

It will all be via public transport, members can bring their own lunch, or use facilities that are available locally.

They must contact me on telephone (02) 9622 2416 (home) or 0408647237 (mobile). No last minute bookings

Full details will only be given to those who commit to attend, they can also contact me via email as follows: ted.hartley1948@hotmail.com

If I only get a small number of interested people we can be flexible with dates, times, weather and venues.

Please see planned activities as follows:

Saturday, 18/07/2015: Museum of Crime and Justice at Circular Quay. There are other historical sites that may be visited close by.

Thursday, 06/08/2015: A tour of Victoria Barracks.

Wednesday, 16/09/2015: A public tour of train to Woy Woy, bus to Patonga Beach, ferry to Palm Beach, bus to city (we will check the interior architecture of local watering holes, and menu quality).

Ted Hartley



Gurka soldier awarded medal fighting Taliban

A Gurkha soldier who single-handedly defeated more than 30 Taliban fighters has been awarded the Conspicuous Gallantry Cross by the Queen.

Corporal Dipprasad Pun, 31, described how he was spurred on by the belief that he was going to die and so had nothing to lose in taking on the attackers who overran his checkpoint in Afghanistan.

His gallantry award is second only to the Victoria Cross - the highest honour for bravery in the face of the enemy.

Cpl Pun, from the 1st Battalion the Royal Gurkha Rifles, was presented with the CGC during an investiture ceremony at Buckingham Palace, during which a number of other soldiers were recognised for their bravery.

'That incident happened in the middle of my tour and after that I thought nobody can kill us now - when we met the enemy I wasn't scared.

'I thought the Taliban did not have the capacity to fight with us.'

He realised that he was completely surrounded and that the Taliban were about to launch a well-planned attempt to overrun the compound.

The enemy opened fire from all sides, destroying the sentry position where the soldier had been on duty minutes before.

Defending the base from the roof, the Gurkha remained under continuous attack from rocket-propelled grenades and AK47s for more than a quarter of an hour.

Most of the militants were about 50ft away from him, but at one point he turned around to see a 'huge' Taliban fighter looming over him.

The soldier picked up his machine gun and fired a long burst at the man until he fell off the roof.

Cpl Pun, an acting sergeant during his Afghan deployment, was on sentry duty at the time of the attack when he heard a clinking noise outside the small base.

At first he thought it might be a donkey or a cow, but when he went to investigate he found two insurgents digging a trench to lay an improvised explosive device (IED) at the checkpoint's front gate.

When another insurgent tried to climb up to his position, the Gurkha attempted to shoot him with his SA80 rifle. But it did not work, either because it had jammed or because the magazine was empty.

He first grabbed a sandbag but it had not been tied up and the contents fell to the floor.

Then he seized the metal tripod of his machine gun and threw it at the approaching Taliban militant, shouting in Nepali 'Marchu talai' ('I will kill you') and knocking him down.

Two insurgents were still attacking by the time the heroic Gurkha had used up all his ammunition, but he set off a Claymore mine to repel them.



At this point his company commander, Major Shaun Chandler, arrived at the checkpoint, slapped him on the back and asked if he was OK.

In total he fired off 250 general purpose machine gun rounds, 180 SA80 rounds, six phosphorous grenades, six normal grenades, five underslung grenade launcher rounds and one Claymore mine.

The only weapon he did not use was the traditional Kukri knife carried by Gurkhas because he did not have his with him at the time.

The married soldier, whose father and grandfather were also Gurkhas, is originally from the village of Bima in western Nepal but now lives in Ashford, Kent.

His medal citation said he saved the lives of three comrades at the checkpoint at that time and prevented the position being overrun.

It read: 'Pun could never know how many enemies were attempting to overcome his position, but he sought them out from all angles despite the danger, consistently moving towards them to reach the best position of attack.'

Major General Nicholas Carter, who was commander of combined forces, including British troops, in southern Afghanistan during Cpl Pun's deployment, praised the soldier and those from the Mercian Regiment receiving gallantry awards today.

'The Conspicuous Gallantry Cross does not get handed out lightly, it was a most remarkable achievement by that particular young Gurkha.'



JOKES

I got home and found the missus had left a note on the fridge saying...

"It's no good, it's not working. I'm staying at Mum's for a while."

I opened it, the light came on, the beer was cold.
I can't see what the problem was???

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

I took my wife to a restaurant. The waiter, for some reason, took my order first.

"I'll have the rump steak, rare please."

He said: "Aren't you worried about the mad cow?"

"Nah, she can order for herself."

And that's when the fight started.

What is Celibacy?


Celibacy can be a choice in life, or a condition imposed by circumstances.

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And thus began my life of celibacy.





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"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

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NEW MEMBERS TO COMPLETE THIS SECTION

UNIT DETAILS	ENLISTMENT DATE	DISCHARGED/CURRENT
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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.





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

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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.

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

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The Secretary
PO Box 185
Sherwood QLD 4075
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