



COMMANDO

AUSTRALIAN COMMANDO ASSN INC.

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News

Edition 9 ~ December 2016



This cross is situated near the front door of the Chapel at Holsworthy Army Base. It is made from some very significant items of WW2.

Inscription below reads...

**THE CROSS FORMED FROM SLEEPERS RECOVERED FROM THE BURMA-THAILAND RAILWAY AND THESE STONES GATHERED FROM CHANGI GAOL IN SINGAPORE SYMBOLISE THE SACRIFICE OF SOLDIERS OF 8TH DIVISION SIGNAL WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR THEIR COUNTRY.
LEST WE FORGET**

THIS CROSS FORMED FROM SLEEPERS RECOVERED FROM THE BURMA-THAILAND RAILWAY AND THESE STONES GATHERED FROM CHANGI GAOL IN SINGAPORE SYMBOLISE THE SACRIFICE OF SOLDIERS OF 8TH DIVISION SIGNAL WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR THEIR COUNTRY
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The Australian Commando Association's membership consists of Servicemen who have served with Independent Companies, Commando Squadrons, "M" and "Z" Special units and Special Forces during and since the Second World War.

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

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Deadline for next edition:

WEDNESDAY, 15th MARCH 2017

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

Barry G



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NSW President & Editor's Report

The year is coming to a close and sadly we are seeing too many of our WW2 Comrades leaving the parade ground.

A few weeks ago, I travelled to Tidal River for the annual pilgrimage and wreath laying.

I can imagine in the early days this would have been a formidable place to be, isolated, cold wind blowing off Bass Strait and those constant, compulsory "strolls" up Mount Oberon.

Sadly, only one of the originals was in attendance.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

On a brighter note, I was accompanied by Ken "Bluey" Curran to the beret parade at Holsworthy in Sydney where our latest recruits received their Green Berets.

Less than 30% of the initial recruits passed final selection, which is about par for the course over the past 51 years.

The training and selection process is a formidable one in these modern times, however, be assured the Commando of today, whilst better trained, has all the attributes of their forefathers.

We wish them well in their chosen adventure.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

At Foster we also had one of our annual National Committee meetings. These meetings are essential to discuss the future of the State Associations.

Among the issues discussed was the proposed National website, still in its infancy. Mark Tregellas is

steering the boat on this issue.

Probably won't be online for some months as there is still a number of issues to be resolved before it is up and running.

Welfare issues were also discussed and this will be the focus of our welfare officers in each State as well as National.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

On November 11 we gathered at the Australian Nation Maritime Museum for Remembrance Day and the usual large attendance from the NSW Association were in attendance.

The Amaroo School from Canberra attend every year, and the students give their speeches based on the history of the Krait and what Remembrance Day means to them.

At this time I was briefed by the management of the ANMM, who are preserving the MV Krait.

By the time you read this Krait will be out of the water and undergoing extensive repairs and restoration to the hull.

This is being undertaken to ensure the longevity of the priceless WW2 boat.

See funding article inside this edition.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Hope everyone has a safe Christmas.

Barry Grant




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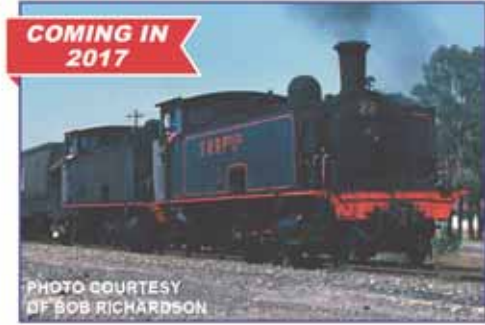


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Post-traumatic Stress: How Psychological Treatment Can Help with Key Challenges, Depression, and Improving Close Relationships

When we hear the term 'post-traumatic stress disorder' (PTSD) most of us think of the classic symptoms of flashbacks, nightmares, hyper-arousal, and avoidance of triggers. However, recent research has shown that the most common mental health concern following a traumatic experience is depression.

PTSD can be caused by exposure to actual or threatened death, serious injury or sexual violence. This includes experiencing the event yourself, witnessing the event, repeated exposure to details of trauma (e.g. police or ambulance drivers, armed services personnel), or hearing about the trauma experienced by someone close to you.

Surviving events like natural disasters and accidents seems to be less of a risk than surviving intentional acts of violence, or prolonged or repeated traumatic events. Higher rates of PTSD (up to 50%) are seen in survivors of intentional acts of violence or prolonged/repeated events than in survivors of non-intentional trauma such as natural disasters or accidents (around 10%).

There has been a big shift in our understanding of PTSD. We now know that almost anyone exposed to traumatic events which are severe and repeated enough, will develop PTSD symptoms. We also understand that for some people the effects of traumatic experiences can accumulate. For example, if you experienced childhood physical or sexual abuse you are more at risk of developing PTSD in response to a traumatic event in adulthood.

There are four key challenges in managing trauma. Firstly, the **re-experiencing** of the trauma. This is the brain's way of processing and trying to

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make sense of an event or series of events that are unspeakable and filled with horror. Secondly, there is the **avoidance** of triggers that may lead to the distressing re-experiencing of the trauma. Thirdly, the experience of **cognitive and emotional symptoms** which can include having negative and distorted beliefs about life, and difficult feelings such as anger, shame, and guilt. Finally, there is the **hyper-arousal** that people who have experienced a trauma often feel. This can include being hyper-vigilant to danger, startling easily (e.g. to unexpected noises), verbal and physical aggression, reckless and self-destructive behaviour (caring less about own safety when driving, drug and

alcohol use), difficulty concentrating. **Sleep** is also frequently impacted. Sometimes through nightmares and sometimes because the person is too alert to feel sleepy.

Over time, all of these challenges can lead to **depression**, distance in close relationships, difficulties communicating and experiencing positive shared emotions in relationships as well as feeling **disconnected** from others and like no one can really understand what it is like.

These are difficult symptoms to cope with but research tells us that complete recovery of PTSD symptoms occurs in approximately half of the people who have experienced trauma. There is research evidence that the kind of social support you have before and after a traumatic event has an impact on how severe PTSD symptoms are likely to be. Psychologists can help you to develop more effective strategies to manage the symptoms of trauma and reduce their severity, frequency and impact. Psychologists can also help with the treatment of depression and help the person who has experienced the traumatic event integrate the event into their experience of life overall, helping to address anxiety, negative and difficult beliefs and emotions. Most importantly, psychologists can help a person who has experienced trauma to reconnect with loved ones, improve communication and the quality of close relationships. If you or a person close to you is suffering with the symptoms of trauma, help is available.

Written by Rebecca Urie & Dr. Elke Kellis
from "The Red Couch Counselling & Psychology Clinic"



NSW Welfare Officer's Report

By Brian Dunbar

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS:

DVA is undergoing, a lot of changes, which should be completed by the end of 2016. See below for some of them.

GPO Box 9998, in capital city.

Ph: 133 254 or 1800 555 254.

Email: General Enquiries@dva.gov.au

www.dva or www.dva factsheet index (or list).

1. DEFINITION OF A VETERAN: (Just in case you missed it, last time.)

This has changed recently from, a member of Australia's Defence Force who has served overseas. The new definition of a veteran is; anyone who has been a member of ADF, including reservists, civilians and cadets, irrespective of whether they have served overseas or not.

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

Contact me if you require further information or wish to talk to me in confidence.

2. VETERANS' CLAIMS:

DVA has reduced the requirements for liability for 5 medical conditions. There are now 13 medical conditions streamlined for acceptance of liability under Veterans' Entitlement Act 1986 (VEA) & the Military & Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA). All you need is a doctor's certificate. Show this to your doctors anyway, as they may not be aware of the changes. VEA covers service in wartime and certain operational deployments, as well as certain peacetime service between 7 December 1972 – 30 June 2004. Google DVA VEA for more details.

MRCA provides rehabilitation and compensation coverage for members of the ADF who served on or after 1 July 2004. Google DVA MRCA for more details.

DIAGNOSED MEDICAL CONDITION	STREAMLINED LIABILITY FOR CLAIMS UNDER VEA	STREAMLINED LIABILITY OR CLAIMS UNDER MRCA
Chondromalacia patella (Deterioration of kneecap cartilage)	NO	YES
Internal derangement of the knee	NO	YES
Malignant melanoma. (Harmful skin cancer)	YES	YES
Pterygium. (A growth over the eye)	YES	YES
Tinea. (Fungal skin disease)	YES	YES
Achilles tendinopathy & bursitis.		
(Degenerative Achilles tendon & small fluid-filled sacs)	NO	YES
Acquired cataract. (Abnormality of the eye)	YES	YES
Non-melanotic malignant neoplasm of the skin. (Some forms of skin cancers)	YES	YES
Plantar fasciitis. (Pain in the heel and bottom of the foot)	NO	YES
Sensorineural hearing loss. (Deafness in inner ear)	YES	YES
Shin splints. (Pain along the shin)	NO	YES
Solar keratosis. (Damaged skin from the sun)	YES	YES
Tinnitus. (Ringing noise in the ears or head)	YES	YES

WELFARE OFFICER'S REGIONAL CO-ORDINATORS:

Guys, I'm trying to find Association members in different regions to assist me, by co-ordinating the welfare work for members in their region. Let me know if you are interested in doing this, in your region? It would also be appreciated, if you would let me know of members who are sick, in hospital etc, so that I can contact them, to support both

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

Brian Dunbar

NSW Welfare Officer

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From the Prolific Pen of Harry Bell



Dear Editors,

It is 16.11.16 and I am beginning this instalment of news.

It seems that the Grim Reaper is undeterred by the approach of Xmas – the November/December issue of Reveille lists the deaths of 7 old Commandos, including our recently departed 10 Squadron mate, Ken Buckler (see last edition of News) and NX172888, Dave Edgerton (2/10). Dave was a Police Sergeant who spent many of his later years as the Court Officer in the Wollongong District Court. After retirement, Dave went to Kiama to live. He marched there on Anzac Day, 2016 and made a brief television appearance. He had become very deaf and unable to converse on the telephone, or even to hear it ring, so it seems that he discontinued his landline service and neither Keith Johnston (2/10) nor I had been able to contact him.

Other names listed were: NX79 271, Sapper D.A. Davis, 5 Independent Coy an early enlistment – first 100,000. It may be that “Spr” was a misprint for Tpr, for he does not appear to have been in the Engineers Section. *Commando, Double Black* lists him as a Corporal in the original Roll of troops leaving Foster by train on 9th April, 1942. Due to the lack of an index, I cannot give any other details; there are not many 2/5 members left to provide them.

NX153539, Tpr N.A. Down, (2/12) *Black Berets* claims to have listed the name of every man who served with 2/9 Cav (Commando) Regiment, but his name does not appear there. Yet, neither does the name of at least one man whom I know to have served with it. So there is no suggestion that he is a ring-in.

NX113821, Lt G.T. Gladwin, (2/6). He commanded 6 Section at Balikpapan. He is in a photograph on p236 of *The Purple Devils*.

NX171763, Tpr C.F. Kline (2/6). *The Purple Devils* contains an amusing account of an operation which could have been anything but amusing. I quote the late Ron (“Lofty”) Hamilton: *Much movement was heard in the grass alongside the track (“Pope’s Track,” Balikpapan) so the scout moved cautiously for another 50 yards across a small creek and came across a series of manned weapon pits on either side. When the firing started, Geoff Rowlands appeared to be amusing himself by bouncing Owen gun rounds off the helmet of one of the occupants of a pit. This annoyed Bill Couper, who promptly disposed of the target. Ocker Kline tried to drag the rifle from the hands of another occupant but nobody thought this was very funny. Lori Vawdon was hit in the ankle by grenade fragments and had to make his way back to the Squadron. We blazed away into the scrub along the sides of the track and this seemed to stop the movement. We suspected that the enemy had withdrawn but did not look too closely. The skirmish resulted in five enemy*

casualties at the expense of one trooper wounded and was not serious enough to stop the patrol carrying out its object of contacting 2/31 Bn.

NX 95 884, Tpr E Lee (2/12). Apart from his listing in the nominal roll, Black Berets gives no information about Trooper Lee.

Now for the living: Sig. Reg (“R.T.R.”) Davis is still having daily treatment following the operation to clear and reunite his carotid artery. Cheerful as ever and trying to persuade the Nurse to cut down on her visits.

And who says these sigs aren’t tough? Graham (“Dolly”) Dolton did a coach “safari” round outback Queensland recently and on the last night, fell over in his Toowoomba Motel (I didn’t enquire whether it was before or after dinner). Amongst other injuries, he broke his pelvis and was rushed to hospital. But his plane was leaving Brisbane in two days time, so he discharged himself and flew home to Perth. Now he has plans for a sea trip, from Sydney, round the top and back to Fremantle. Says he is going with his “Cousin.” Hmm. Anyhow, be that as it may, he expects to be in Sydney for Anzac Day, 2017 - the last Hurrah for the NSW Branch of 2/6 Cav (Cdoi) Regt Assn. He may not be able to walk the distance but surely we can find a wheel-chair pusher. And, God willing and his children permitting, he plans to do another parachute jump on his 95th birthday, 1.3.17. Old sigs never die; they just go dotty . . . - - - .

I’ll have to cut this short; Barry Grant has just rung to say that the deadline has past and that Barbara Pittaway’s mother has just died. I’m sure we would all want to send our sympathy to Barbara and her son. She has been a tireless worker for the NSW Commando Association for years, with a special affection for her father’s 2/5 Sqn and her mother was always ready to support Barbara in her editorial tasks. I

I’ll try to catch up next time; I’ve been forgetful.

Harry Bell



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To help you in your search for the right person to build your home, you can ring for a FREE copy of my book, 'How To Choose A Home Builder You Can Trust'. In it, I highlight the things that commonly go wrong when you set out to build a home, and share the secrets of how to avoid any of that happening to you. You'll find case studies, horror stories and plenty of sound advice on how to achieve a stress-free build.

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SITREP on *MV Krait*

Fund raising

To date the following has been committed:

- \$50,000 - Herps Family
- \$100,000 - Australian National Maritime Museum (ANMM)
- \$100,000 - Australian War Memorial (AWM)
- Approx small 12 donations from ACA & ANMM list members - not a lot of money - but very much appreciated

Other Funds

- \$41,286 held in the AWM Krait Trust Fund from the Z Special Unit Association Krait Public Museum Fund which is held in trust "for the conservation of the Krait". I am awaiting notification from ACA as to whether ACA will release these funds.
- CDF has instructed Chief of Army to work with AWM to apply for a \$500,000 Defence Grant

Current Condition of MV Krait

- "Have to make a move now to begin preservation, because the condition of the ship is deteriorating severely, to the extent that without committed resourcing that needs to start immediately the ship will suffer irreparable damage due to rot". Damien Allan – Head of Fleet, Australian National Maritime Museum
- ANMM's Fleet division has commenced restorative work on Krait, without budget, to arrest damage as

any further delay of some tasks will escalate the size of the job substantially. At this time the awning has been removed and has been replaced. This will stop rainwater getting into the bilge.

Status last week

- ANMM shipwrights have 95% completed the new awning for Krait - they have done a fabulous job. Funds were provided by ANMM
- AWM have agreed to "guarantee" \$500,000 Defence Grant until received.
- AWM & ANMM have agreed to release their respective \$100,000 pledges
- Herps family has agreed to release our \$50,000 pledge
- AWM & ANMM have agreed to commence restorative work and Krait will be slipped circa 12 December for up to a year
- Work will continue until money runs out

Going forward

- There is still the need to raise an additional \$600,000 to guarantee MV Krait's preservation, her restoration to 1943 livery and to build a dockside historical interpretation to illustrate the feats of her crew, and special forces from Z Special to the current day
- Any assistance in any way from ACA would enormously appreciated.

The Australian SAS: the Untold History leather VIP box-set

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Bonus features include extra interviews and a photo gallery for each episode in seasons 1 and 2.



HITLER'S BOY SOLDIER

VALE George Sodbinow

Just recently we said our farewells to a much loved, and respected, ex member of 1 Commando Company.

His life is the stuff that legends are made of, and many years ago Michael Nibbs interviewed and wrote an extensive article for the newsletter of the day.

Here is an abbreviated version.

Born Mazam Zobinow in a Cossack village named Ilovskya on October 24 1930, the young boy was called George by his mother after a tenth century Mongolian warrior hero.

His birthplace was near the River Don, close to the Caspian Sea, his father, Uchur was a Cossack Officer, rich in horses, his mother Maria was Slovenian.

Uchur Zobinov took George to the Konstantinovic Kadetski Korpus, a military academy in early 1942 when George was only 12.

Graduates of the academy went to the Russian Army as junior officers.

Attrition rates were high; of 200 students accepted each January, only about 30 finally graduated from the final year with the rank of First Lieutenant when they were 18 years.

As the invading German army rapidly advanced in 1941, the senior classes and the military officers on the staff, including the commandant, disappeared.

However, it was thought that the invaders posed no serious threat to the younger boys, notwithstanding that they were cadets in the enemy's training structure.

Near the end of 1943, a German unit arrived. At this time, there were probably about 110 students remaining in the academy, the oldest were aged 15 years.

By this time George's only brother, two years younger than him, had joined him at the academy.

The Germans were faced with a manpower shortages, and as the cadets were young, fit and well trained, the German commander decided they were to be sent into Germany to provide much need labour.

Within a week they were all loaded onto railway trucks for the long journey, which finished at Matthausen concentration camp. There was just enough room in the wagons to enable the cadets to lie down to sleep in shifts.

The train was attacked by artillery and aircraft during the journey, and the cadets had to run from it to seek cover. Two or three were killed. This was their first close-up view of violent death.



At Matthausen, they were allowed to shower for the first time since leaving the academy in huge, tiled rooms for 100 to 150 people, they noticed that this camp had the entrance doors sealed by bulkheads. The students did not suspect at the time that this camp was to be used for a sinister purpose but they enjoyed the showers.

After 5 weeks in this camp, the students were given a choice - to fight for the Reich against the communists or remain in the camp.

Their eventual fate there had become all too obvious. It was a poor choice.

Heil Hitler!

After a few weeks training in German military procedures, the cadets were allocated to a .77 anti-aircraft battery guarding Lintz, placed under German command and kitted out with German uniforms and equipment.

The uniforms were identical to those worn by the elite Wehrmacht SS troops, and this was to cause concern for the cadets in the closing stages of the war.

Later, they were moved to an airfield at Eger, where the first ME 262 jet fighters were stationed. There they manned four barrelled machine guns designed to provide protection against low level air attacks.

None of the cadets were pro German, on the contrary, they hated the Germans, so much so that some of the students were sabotaging aircraft.

The unit was moved to Berlin and billeted in barracks near Alexander Platz, from there, detachments were sent to man anti-aircraft batteries aboard trains ferrying ammunition and other supplies south to the Italian front.

Despite being attacked on many occasions these resupply mission were successful.

When not manning the batteries, they were given the task of gathering bodies of those killed in the allied bombing missions.

German resistance was at last crumbling, unable to return to Berlin the cadets tried to make good their escape into the Austrian Alps. They had to dodge Wehrmacht officers who from time to time pressed them into service with one unit or another. Execution as a deserters was a constant possibility.

Finally, they discarded their uniforms and kit and tried to pass as civilians, which was not too difficult as they were still children.

Finally they were met by American scouts who



handed them over to a Polish Army unit, only 15 of the 30 cadets remained from the journey south. Eight of them decided to escape when they heard they were to be handed over to the "Red Army", of those who remained behind, no more was heard.

Looking for somewhere to hide amid the ruins of Salzburg in a bombed out building, he came upon his brother Gabriel who was also determined to avoid repatriation to Russia.

After being placed in a displaced persons camp they decided to go to either the USA or South American countries, however it was the image of a kangaroo and a lingering memory of Australia as the land of opportunity which decided them.

With 600 other young men they embarked on an overcrowded converted tanker with only 4 bunks for every 10 to 12 men.

Their passage was worth £45 each, which was required to be repaid to the Australian government..

These immigrants provided free labour to local contractors, cutting timber and loading it on trucks.

No wages were paid but they received lodging and food.

George worked at numerous jobs including the Snowy River Scheme.

But he was restless, and 1955 he heard about the proposed formation of a specialist army unit.

For 6 months he went to Georges Heights to enquire about his enlistment progress, he had already passed the medical, physical and education requirements.

However, his status as a former American POW, his nationality and the question of a security clearance appeared to hold him up. Remember, at this time, WW2 had only finished 10 years before.

He haunted the unit every Tuesday night until the exasperated CSM, WO2 Currell, finally asked him "are you a naturalised Australian?" As it happened he had been some 4 weeks prior.

Finally George was issued with the uniform and kit, it was now August 1956.

After passing the parachute course in 1957, George became one of Australia's pioneer freefallers.

Due to his age, SGT Sodbinow was finally discharged in 1987.

After leaving the Army, George joined the State Emergency Service and was presented a commendation by the Premier for his meritorious efforts during the Sutherland bush fires.

He also took to marathons and completed no less than 111 with 12 of these run overseas.

In 1985 he was late for parade and was paraded before the OC demanding to know why he was late.

He replied that his flight from Los Angeles was delayed, and when quizzed why he was there, he replied that he completed a marathon in Los Angeles in the morning, showered at the airport and boarded the flight home and was now presenting himself for parade.

No further action was taken!

In 1988 George and a team of 14 middle aged blokes pulled a "Sheffield" railway trolley 4,253 kilometres from Perth to Sydney in 37 days working in teams of two. No mean feat.

"Sodbuster" as he was affectionately called, was a remarkable man, a credit to our early immigrants who were not afraid of hard work, and happy to call Australia home.

My thanks to Michael Nibbs for the research and the original article in "Strike Swiftly" Editor

VALE

GEORGE MAZAN SODBINOW
(See obituary in this issue)

ALLAN ARCHER LEE

ANGUS WHYLLIE

JOHN R GARDNER

CONRAD BELL

J.B DORTER

ERIC LEE

LEE Mrs M

SHIPLEY Beresford Earl

CAPT ROYCE GARDINER

MARK MILLAR

1st Commando Company

2nd/8th Independent Company

Z Special Unit

1st Commando Company

2nd/7th Commando Squadron

1st Commando Company

2nd/6th Independent Company

(Widow of 2nd/5th)

2nd/3rd Independent Company

2nd/4th Independent Commando Company

2nd/7th Independent Company



Ken Curran has asked the Editor to say thank you to all members who attended his wife Norma's funeral.



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Letter from the National Website Creator and Administrator

Greetings everyone in the Commando Community,

I am the National Website creator and would like to introduce members to the current project and proposed direction with the National Association Website.

I was originally asked to start a website with a view of re-engaging young veterans who had left the military and were drifting. Research identified a range of reasons why this was happening. Chief among them was the fact that current associations, be they Regimental or traditional (such as the RSL) were seen by members as something you joined when you left the military and were old.

The British Regimental system operates differently. When you qualify in the regiment you automatically become a member for life. The association helps you not just when you leave but during your career as well. This is a fundamental change and one I was to learn, is the direction our National Executive is looking towards.

In order to effectively 'connect' veterans though requires that we use the technology that is currently in use. Most young people connect with each other through social media using "apps" such as Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat.

Funding and sponsorship will enable the Association to launch a professionally designed website that will enable each State if they choose to administer its own section (chapter) under the National umbrella but without the need for separate websites, domain names, SSL certificates, emails etc.

All three States can then make use of the functionality of the new website without having to pay for it. After extensive research, a Melbourne based company has been determined to provide the right mix of function, price, security, and ease of use.

"Membes" is a cloud based Association Software solution available as SaaS (Software as a Service) and designed to remove the hassle and costs of system and module integration with all the different facets of an association's needs built right in. To have a look at one of their website go to "goo.gl/pj5zlj". The capability and functionality of the software will enable the following:

1. Stakeholder management
Manage members, committees, supplies and other stakeholders. New members join online, with SMS, Email, and App reminder notices.
2. Event Management
Publish events to a public, member online or special interest group (SIG) only calendar, with online registration and payments.
3. Communication
Direct email, SMS, push notifications, and social media targeted through geographic location, membership type, status, SIG, etc.
4. Financial
Real time credit card payments with banking level security. Accounting integration, and invoice generation.
5. Group Portals
Each State will be responsible for the content of their

own chapter of the website. Each State can set up forums that are secure and private. Members can join them based on SIGs, regimental companies or deployments and chat, upload documents, events, and photos from any device with its own separate calendar.

6. Ecommerce
An online shop for members only and/or the public, with online payments, including membership and events.
7. Continuous Professional Development
A framework and structure to enable current serving members to pursue advanced learning, both during and after leaving the regiments. Integration and assistance with DASS and CTAS. Future functionality to include a job directory and association scholarships.
8. Members' directory
An opt in/opt out directory for members that is up to date and will enable you to locate members based on your postcode and what distance you are prepared to travel. The directory will then show you the nearest members.
9. Training & Support
The Membes software has online training videos, and support through tickets, packages, phone and email.
10. Security
Membes is secured behind an SSL certificate and the cloud is stored on Australian based servers at Rack Space. Over 40% of fortune 500 companies use Rack Space, the data sits behind 3 firewalls and has dedicated defences against hacking such as denial of service attacks, which we couldn't begin to match. Any photos, documents, chats we upload are secure, and when you add daily backups and 99.99% up time, the reasons to use them are convincing.
11. The Commando App
A Commando specific app will be developed that will offer the functionality of the website from any android, or iPhone device. This will enable push notifications of news, events, jobs, forum updates, and the latest regimental and DVA information.

At the moment I am in the process of garnering sponsorship for funding to get the website up and running, mainly through the RSL - hopefully permanent sponsorship which will enable free membership.

The current timeline is to have the website up and running by the end of the year under the domain name *Commando.org.au*. If anyone has any questions, ideas, or concerns, please drop me an email, as I want to get this project right first time.

Regards,

Mark "Trigger" Tregellas
Mark.tregellas@gmail.com

(Trigger was a member of 2 Company in the early 1980's under Greg Mawkes. He is retiring from a 31-year career with the Victoria Police at the end of this year.)





Day Sails onboard the *STS Leeuwin II*

During a 3-hour short sail onboard the Leeuwin 1850's style barquentine ship you can take part in sailing activities such as raising the sails, taking the helm and possibly even climbing the bowsprit. Or you can just sit back and enjoy the sail - the choice is up to you! Whichever way you choose, sailing on the STS Leeuwin II is a unique experience for the whole family. Tickets start at \$69 and are available online at sailleeuwin.com or call (08) 9430 4105.



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Leeuwin Open Adventurer Voyage

The Open Adventurer is a week-long leadership development voyage that is aimed at participants 18+. Spend a week onboard the *STS Leeuwin II* from Monkey Mia to Geraldton from 5 - 11 June 2017. Apply today, visit www.sailleeuwin.com or call (08) 9430 4105.



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Wednesday 28 December	10am - 1pm & 3 - 6pm
Friday 30 December	11am - 2pm & 4 - 7pm
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Tuesday 3 January	11am - 2pm & 4 - 7pm
Wednesday 4 January	11am - 2pm & 4 - 7pm

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#1 Thing ADF Candidates Do to Block Their Own Career Transition

By Next Job Now, ADF Career Transition Experts – 1300 112 114

...When it comes to job interviews, Navy, Army and Air Force candidates just don't see shades of grey. Ask any of the thousands of Defence members I've coached over the years and you'll almost always get the same response.

The answer to one simple question is a major reason why military professionals struggle to transition quickly and effectively.

So here's the 64,000 dollar question...

'Do you have **EXPOSURE** to....(DESIRED SKILL)?'

When we hear that little gem of a question our military training kicks into gear. In fact, the preferred answer to this common question is:

'Oh no... **I couldn't claim to be an EXPERT** in that...I'd be lying.'

After so long collecting the Queen's coin and working in an environment where integrity is paramount...**we self-impose a rule** that we need to be considered a Subject Matter Expert before we can stake a claim to even having 'exposure'.

Civilians aren't normally burdened by any such impediment: You can almost picture the worst offenders sitting across from the interviewer explaining, 'I've got a friend who knows someone that can spell that word...so I've had some exposure.' Sure, I'm exaggerating...but not by much if the latest research into resume fraud is to be believed.

So, we have two groups of candidates (military and civilian), each at different ends of the spectrum (black and white). The big question now is '**How do we get ADF folks to start seeing shades of gray and move them closer toward the other end of the spectrum whilst still holding true to their values.**'



Think about the reality of the situation. Even a soldier who graduated Kapooka yesterday has exposure to leading teams, since they can't graduate without being assessed as a supervisor even for a short period. So rather than say 'I'm not a supervisor' that sailor could say 'I've had some exposure to supervising teams in a training environment for specific work activities.'

Similarly, a Sergeant might be slow to claim expertise in human resources (perhaps due to an ADF understanding of what a civilian views as HR) but when prompted they typically agree that they have **exposure** to specific HR skillsets such as coaching, mentoring, training, counselling and leadership development.

At the end of the day saying that 'I've had some exposure to XYZ' could be validated by the fact that you've seen it done, maybe assisted once, and can read the policy if needed.

Opportunity helps those that help themselves

If you want to give your Defence transition the best possible chance of success, then you need to start seeing shades of grey. 'Exposure' is your new best friend.

Stop being your own worst enemy. Never claim what you don't have, but always claim what you do have...to the degree that you have it!

David Penman is a Certified Professional Resume Writer, ex-Commando and one of Australia's leading ADF career transition experts. Call 1300 112 114 to enquire about NJN's ADF resume services.

Nuance is the key

The answer lies in our willingness to accept that its okay to be 'less than an expert'...and that we do indeed have exposure to a great many skills that we can talk about in an honest fashion. Its simple. If you are an expert, then claim expertise. If you are not, then just claim whatever level of skill you possess. Here are a few suggestions for claiming different levels of capability:

- I do have an awareness of...
- I've had exposure to...
- I'm okay at...
- I'm good at...
- I'm very good at...
- I'm competent at...

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1 COMMANDO COMPANY SYDNEY ~ *My Reflections*

It is thirty-one years, 1985, since I left the Commandos. Things you tend to forget but other things you never forget and others are just like as though as it was only yesterday.

Things like earning your green beret twice; attending 2 basic para courses, one from the DC3 (Dakota), the other from the Hercs and Caribou; 2 diving courses, one in a dry suit, the other in a wet suit; Small Craft, Demolition, Roping and Climbing and Survival courses; but I found the hardest courses were my subject courses for rank as I was never a parade ground soldier.

My 20 years in the Army Reserves, 1 CDO COY, started in 1957. I attended two camps with Mac Grant and one with Skipper (this was 1957-1961). People I remember – men like Pup Currell, Blue Curren, Joe Eichler, Kittumurra (Kit), Cpl John Cope, Cpl Mike Wells, Brian Murphy (a climber and record holder of high altitude free fall parachuting at the time), Lcpl Ron Jarvis, Lcpl Garry Holmes (always dressed well and out in the front of any parades with the mascot Prince, the alsatian dog), Tiny Clissold (as a private), Ernie Tarr (Climbing instructor and a member of the Cadre Staff), Neil McArthur Onslow and "Itchy" Eastwood, to name a few people I remember in the early days.

I left the unit in 1961, got married and had 3 children, then joined the unit again in 1968 for the second time, just in time to do a camp with Harry Smith, just back from Vietnam and the battle of Long Tan. From then on our Cadre staff were men from SAS or the Battalions just returning from Vietnam. Men like Woofa Neil, Blacky Reid, Ray Brown, Danny Wright, Jack Jewel, Ocker Stevenson, Danny McClymans, Carl Guy, Gary Holmes – a few that I recall.

One man I will always remember is Ocker Stevenson. Ocker was a man of few words, but you listen when he had something to say on tactics or any general duties to do with the army, even cooking in the bush.

He attended a climbing course run by 2 CDO in Arapalies, Horsham, Vic. I was attending as assistant instructor. Also on the course was WO Barry Young, one of Ocker's mates from SAS and Vietnam, sadly Ocker had to pull out of the course with stones in the kidneys and was admitted to hospital. WO Barry Young ended up as senior climbing and mountaineering leader in the CDO's. Ocker also would have excelled if he had pursued this activity but he turned to parachuting and was top in that field, in fact he was awarded the OAM for his involvement with parachuting.

Sadly he passed away on ANZAC day 2016, his wish that there be no funeral, no wake and to spread his ashes in the ocean, just like Ocker.

Having spent a lot of time on climbing courses in Victoria at Mt. Arapalies, Horsham, I met a lot of people from 2 CDO COY and SAS. I was lucky to be included in a 6-week mountaineering course conducted by Paul Ritchards (Yogi), leading instructor from SAS who, I remember, was on my para course just after 2CDO COYs rip disaster, 14th Feb 1961. Attending this would mean

leaving my flower farm to the elements and no income for the family except army pay. Great experience but costly.

This course being the first mountaineering course run by the Australian Army, up till then Army personnel went to England, as did Kev Mahony, our Secretary. On this course there was one person from the SEALs (he was from Montana), the rest were from the SAS Regiment. This course qualified me to conduct continuous climbing/roping, cliff rescue and casualty evacuation, bipod and roller haulage training.

Training was carried out for 7 to 10 days once a year for the next 5 years. We went to the Warrumbungle National Park, Coonabarrabran twice, the Blue Mountains 3 times. This was a great experience for me and whoever attended. Areas that we climbed in the Blue Mountains covered the Three Sisters (in those days you could climb them), Narrow Neck, Mt. Piddington, Mt. Boyce and Mt. York.

We also spent time caving at Bungonia National Park. This was a great experience for us all and really tested us. We had two weekend trips starting Friday night to Sunday afternoon and was enough to give us a good feel for this activity.

Specialist training - like diving, small craft, demolition, unarmed combat, parachuting and roping - was trained regularly but I believe the 7 to 10 day periods something special

We also conducted survival training. I do not profess to be an expert in this field but had the venue my farm at Mangrove Mountain. I could obtain rations through the system, e.g. live fowls/ pigeons, pigs, sheep, fish for smoking and contacts with experts who could lecture or demonstrate on the subjects like camp hygiene, celestial navigation, building shelters, fire making, water procurement, snares, the killing of livestock, building mud and stone ovens and the identification of native eatable fruit and foliage, all these in a weekend was a big ask but we managed.

Officers, Senior NCOs, Junior NCOs and Privates when I returned in 1968 and onwards would be too much to cover, but I would like to name some people that I recall. (I left in 1985.)

Mike Wells, Barry Hopkins, Ray Bratton, Jim Reagan, Bob Geaghan, Ken Curren, Bob Williams, Peter McSweeney, Kev Palmer, Kev Hulton-Smith, Brian Gibson, Jim Pullen, Bob Butt, John Fraser just prior going to the SAS, Chris Hanssen, Neil Quaggin, Brian Blake, Norm Clements, Barry Ribbons, Phil Murray, Bob Mason, Bill Eagan Dave Wilkinson, John Kinsella, Bill Merchant just to mention a few.

This has been a real test on my typing, spelling and my memory skills and there is bound to be mistakes, but it may encourage other people to have a go from what they remember of our Unit.

COL SCOTT
May 2016





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Unit Presentation & Traralgon Visit

AATTV-A Victoria decided early 2014 to offer an annual Award to a member of 2Coy 1st CDO Regt for proficiency/achievement with the Unit. This would be exclusive to 2Coy – not the Regt. After consultation with the OC, MAJ Andrew H and CSM, WO2 Ross W, they were very interested and excited at the opportunity to have a connection with such a famous Unit as AATTV.

The first Award was to be made late 2014 and was called "THE MOST OUTSTANDING COMMANDO AWARD". The Award consisted of a framed Certificate for the recipient, a copy of the book "THE MEN WHO PERSEVERED" and a Plaque with AATTV and Strike Swiftly badges at the top with suitable inscription on a brass plate.

The winner for 2014 was – CPL Paul M. Prior to the Presentation Night, myself and Barry Rust AM had outlined the Award plan to the CO, LTCOL Matt S at the 2014 Tidal River Service, with the OC and CSM also present. The CO was quite chuffed with our plan, but I think a bit disappointed to learn it was only for 2 Coy – not the Regt. I suggested perhaps ACA NSW could do something similar for 1 Coy in Sydney.

During 2015 our committee agreed we should also provide an "Honour Board" for mounting on the wall of the drill hall at 2 Coy, to list the recipients of our Award. The OC and CSM agreed and we proceeded with planning for it.

I subsequently contacted Don Bergman and outlined our idea, with a rough set-up for the heading and lay-out. Don kindly agreed and processed the plan with a printer friend, as well as kindly sourcing and supplying the board. He was quickly able to forward a copy of the planned lay-out which we accepted and had the job completed.

It was basically the AATTV Badge at the top centre with a scroll underneath with "Australian Army Training Team Vietnam" on the gold scroll and "Association – Victoria Branch" underneath. Below that are three (3) column areas for recipient names to be entered.

When at a meeting with the CSM to finalise arrangements for the 2015 Award, he advised us that the CO decided to expand the Award throughout the Regt and it was to be called "Best Soldier Award". Good to see the CO liked our initiative!! Whilst we were disappointed with the name change, there was little choice than to accept the change.

ACA NSW were doing something for 1 Coy and not sure who was looking after 301 Sqn. We would still do 2 Coy as planned.

The recipient for 2015 was CPL Stephen M and we then had both names placed on the Honour Board. The Presentation was made on the last Parade evening of 2 Coy, with the Honour Board being



unveiled after the Presentation. Present from AATTV-A were myself, Bruce Davies MBE, our Secretary/Treasurer and Barry Rust AM, a Committee member. It was all well received. The Honour Board was to be mounted on the wall over the door leading to the bar of the all ranks mess. If you use the photo, you will have to scroll out the surnames of the recipients.

The "Honouring our Fallen" Service was an initiative of the President of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia – Victoria Branch, Bob Elworthy, whereby there would be a Vietnam Veteran, suited and bemedalled, attending every gravesite in Victoria (98) of those KIA in the Vietnam War, in the year of the 50th Anniversary of the "Battle of Long Tan", to conduct a small Service at 1200hrs on Sunday 21st February, 2016.

I attended the Traralgon Cemetery for the Service of WO2 Wayne "Snowy" Blanck, KIA 20th September 1966 whilst serving with AATTV, with Nung Force, 5th SFGA at Thuong Duc A109, 20 miles South West of Danang, Quang Nam Province.

Snowy's daughter – Jody Andrews and her husband Graeme (Ex 3RAR Vietnam), drove down from Cooktown in Far North Queensland. Myself and Ian McQuire both saw Snowy off at Mascot in April 1966, prior to our postings to AATTV. We knew him from Airborne PI and again on the Advisors' training course at JTC Canungra.

I had made contact with Jody in the early '90's when she arrived in Melbourne from Adelaide and made contact. I have maintained an email contact with them since they moved to FNQ. Grace and I were able to catch up with them over dinner on the Saturday and Sunday nights. All in all it was a very emotional time for us all.

In the meantime, take care, regards and Persevere,
Mike Wells ED
President AATTV-A Victoria



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The inaugural Wilson's Prom 100k Commando Run

June 2016

Jointly sponsored by Running Wild and the Australian Commando Assoc. Inc. (Vic)

Truly an ultra marathon.

The deep subtropical depression sitting off Australia's eastern seaboard wasn't doing anyone any favours (apart from recharging dams from Qld to Tas) as its storm surges and flooding wrought havoc up and down the coast. Wilson's Promontory, though not as directly exposed, nevertheless copped a beating from incessant rain downpours, loosed from the howling winds bursting around the corner of Australia and into an equally perturbed Bass Strait.

Let's face it, it was the perfect setting for the Australian Commando Association's inaugural 100k ultra marathon Run! ACA Vic teamed up with Running Wild to stage a most formidable challenge. As former Commandos we share a responsibility to encourage younger Australians to in turn do their best, inspired by the same sense of courage, valour and selflessness that has ever been the crucial foundation for all that our nation has achieved. We hope that consciously stepping into the footprints of those first Commandos, will inspire younger generations to a similar excellence with the capacity to serve and make a difference as did those who came before them.

Starting from the Commando Memorial Cairn, the 100 kilometre course (think Melbourne to Seymour, or to The Valley) loops north from Tidal to Darby River and return, before ranging southward to both sides of the Prom as well as the lighthouse, and the most southerly point of the Australian mainland, before returning to the Commando Memorial finish line in Tidal River.

Of the 35 that set out in the dark at 0600hrs from the Cairn, barely half completed the Run. One runner who chose to run less than fully equipped showed the first signs of hypothermia and was extracted.

The fastest male runner, David Overend, completed the gruelling 100k in 11 hours, 1 minute and 54 seconds. Two other males also completed the Run in less than 12 hours.

The first female to finish was Susan Keith in 14 hours, 49 minutes and 13 seconds, 2 hours ahead of Kathy Roberts in 16 hours, 49 minutes and 50 seconds.

At a minimum the girls ran their first hour before dawn, then at least a further 3 hours in darkness with only a small headlight to keep them on the track.

Next morning, our special guest trophy presenter, veteran "M Special Forces" coast watcher from World War 2, Mr Jim Burrowes OAM made the presentations, whilst rain graciously held off and the fury of the

wind abated. Trophies are being engraved with recipients' names and will soon be returned to winners

Finally, this whole run, could not have succeeded without the pivotal role played by two of our own Association members.

I refer to the two 70+ year old members of our Association, Barry Higgins and Peter Beasley, who at 0600hrs together hiked 2.5 hours in to man their checkpoint at Telegraph Junction. They were there on site, all day, with only what they could carry in and out on their backs for support (more adequate shelter, to stave off raging weather would have been a good idea). The last runner passed their checkpoint, heading back to the finish line at our Commando Memorial between 2200hrs and 2230hrs. It then took Barry and Pete another 2.5 hours to hike back to the finish line themselves. In all, Barry and Pete were out in the field, in appalling weather, for all of 19 continuous hours. In future the 14 hours required on site at this checkpoint, will be provided by a minimum of two, two-man shifts, each being on site for 7 hours. Other options are also being explored to deliver more adequate support (Parks have suggested a trolley). One desirable addition would be the capacity to top up dehydrating runners with more fresh water.

All in all, despite atrocious weather the event was clearly a success, through ACA Vic and Running Wild informally teaming up to inspire runners with a larger frame of reference. "*strike swiftly!*"

In addition to the Run, a Commando Cairn Visitors Book has now been installed in the Parks Office to receive comments and feedback. It is on display at the Office, but under supervision of staff, lest it be inappropriately appropriated.

"Lest We Forget."



Compiled by Phil Brabin, ACA (Vic.) Cairn subcommittee convenor.





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Honouring Jim Walker

Association member Jim Walker is the son of the late Major Edward McDonald 'Mac' Walker, Commanding Officer of the 2/4th Commando Squadron in Portuguese Timor (Timor Leste) in WW2.

The Military Attaché, Commander Warwick Potter, on behalf of the serving men and women based at Sparrow Force House at the Australian Embassy in East Timor, recently handed over to Marcus Brady a plaque to be presented to Jim Walker.

Commander Potter told Marcus, whose grandfather served under Mac Walker in the 2/4th, that the plaque was to recognise Jim's service to both the veterans of the conflict, the families of the fallen and those who served in the Timor campaign during WW2. (See Marcus' letter below.)

Marcus lives in Queensland, and it was planned for the Association to publicly present the plaque to Jim, on behalf of Marcus and the East Timor embassy staff, at the annual dinner in early August. With his brother Don, Jim is a regular attendee at Association events.

Jim was seriously ill in recent months, but fortunately is regaining his health, and it was decided to visit him at the Gippsland Base Hospital at Sale to present the award.

So in late July a small 'raiding party' of Commando Association members stormed Jim's ward at the Sale hospital to wish him well and to finally present to him his much-deserved award.

Jim was in great spirits, and delighted to have a chat with the boys, as the bright East Gippsland sunshine gleamed through the window of his ward.

Our secretary, Glenn MacDonald, formally presented Jim with the East Timor plaque, and also bestowed on him a certificate of appreciation from our own ACA Victoria, for all the support Jim has provided over many years – particularly for his invaluable help in assisting and generally advising on all matters relating to 2/4th personnel, operations and history.

All members of the Association wish Jim the best for his complete recovery, and congratulate him on his great contribution to both the WW2 and the post-WW2 Commando families – in fact, the one extended family!

Well done Jim!

From Marcus Brady

To the President and committee members of the Commando Association of Victoria,

I request your assistance in honouring one of your members, and presenting him with a gift, which I accepted on his behalf from the Military Attaché at Sparrow Force House, Australian Embassy, Dili - Timor Leste in July 2015.

Some background: my grandfather, Captain Philip Wynne (VX52974) was a member of 2/4th Commando Unit, a part of Sparrow Force that landed in Timor in 1942.

The entire force was made up of men who displayed incredible acts of bravery and sacrifice. My grandfather was no exception and distinguished himself by being one

of the 13 men who volunteered to stay behind when the main Australian force was ordered to evacuate from the southern coast on 9 January, 1943 (on RAN Destroyer, HMAS *Arunta*).

In July 2015 my family and I visited Timor Leste (70 years after the end of the war) to visit some of the important areas in which the 2/4th and Philip saw action. These areas included the point where he stayed behind with the other volunteers, his extraction-rescue point with Z Force on the USS *Gudgeon*, (near the mouth of the Dilor River) and his drop zone just east of Baucau on the north coast where he and Pte Laurence parachuted in as part of the Suncob Mission, July, 1945 - both were captured.

Of great assistance to myself in organising this special trip was your Association member, Jim Walker of Sale, Victoria whose father Mac Walker was the Commanding Officer of the 2/4th Commando Unit, under who my Grandfather served.

While in Timor, my family and I were made special guests of the Military Attaché, Warwick Potter, and his staff - thanks to Jim's efforts.

Both I and Manny, our guide from Eco-Discovery Tours, were presented with gifts - and both myself and Jim (I accepted on his behalf) were presented with a plaque honouring the Defence Cooperation Program - a program of development and service being provided to Timor by our serving men and women in that country.

I would very much like to have this plaque somehow presented to Jim... as a thank you to him on behalf of our Units currently serving in Dili who obviously recognise his services in supporting families of the fallen and those who served in this small theatre of the Second World War through his contacts within the country, and his research and knowledge of the history... My family and I are in debt to this man. Jim provided so much research and information previously unknown to my family about my grandfather, and the country in which he served. Our family trip to Timor to honour my grandfather and those who fought with him could simply not have been made possible without Jim Walker's assistance.

Kind regards, and thank you for your assistance,

Marcus Brady

From: Cheryl Hoban (2/4th family member)

Re: Honouring Jim Walker

To: Glenn MacDonald

Thanks for your message and your thoughtfulness.

We are home and I have spoken to Jim a couple of times, last time was last night, when he phoned us.

He seems to be considerably better and is cheerful. His mind is still on "getting things done".

Best Wishes to (all of the team) and yourself for a happy time with Jim. He will be thrilled with the presentation and to see you all.

We'd love to see photos if you have time.

Warm Regards,

Cheryl



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SIGNIFICANT COMMANDO DATES:

May/June 1941

1st Independent Commando Company was raised in Wilsons Promontory, Victoria

June 1942

Z Special Unit was raised

05 June 1945

2nd/10th Commando Squadron in action against Japanese bunker system South of the main Australian position in Mandi during the Aitape - Wewak Campaign

10 – 14 June 2010

Battle Of Eastern Shah Wali Kot, Afghanistan ACCG, 2nd Commando Regiment

19 June 2009

2nd Commando Regiment Birthday

25 June 1955

1st Commando Company (Sydney) Birthday

28/29 June 1942

Salamaua Raid conducted by 2nd/5th Commando Company

July 1942

2nd/8th Commando Company was raised in Wilsons Promontory, Victoria

01 July 1942

133 men of 1st Independent Commando Company drowned when the MV Montevideo Maru sank after being torpedoed by USS Sturgeon off the coast of the Philippines.

01 July 1945

2nd/3rd & 2nd/5th Commando Squadrons landed on Green Beach in Balikpapan

05 July 1945

10 Remaining Z Special Unit members of Operation Rimau Executed in Singapore

07 July 1955

2nd Commando Company (Melbourne) Birthday

22 July 1943

2nd/8th Commando Squadron sailed for Lea New Guinea via Milne Bay on board the SS Orimston

July – August 1945

2nd/6th Commando Regiment in action defending Bandi Plantation during the Aitape - Wewak Campaign

2 August 1942

2nd/6th Commando Company deploys to New Guinea on board MS Tasman

August 1943

2nd/4th Commando Squadron landed in Milne Bay, New Guinea



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SECRET GERMAN WW2 CODE MACHINE FOUND ON EBAY



The teleprinter for the Lorenz cipher machine, which Hitler used to message his top generals

A historic machine used to swap top secret messages between Hitler and his generals has been found languishing in a shed in Essex.

Volunteers from The National Museum of Computing at Bletchley Park used eBay to track down the keyboard of the Lorenz machine.

It was advertised as a telegram machine and was for sale for £9.50.

The museum, in Buckinghamshire, is now asking people to search for the motor, another key piece of the equipment.

"My colleague was scanning eBay and he saw a photograph of what seemed to be the teleprinter," said John Wetter, a volunteer at the museum.

He then went to Southend to investigate further where he found the keyboard being kept, in its original case, on the floor of a shed "with rubbish all over it".

"We said 'Thank you very much, how much was it again?' She said '£9.50', so we said 'Here's a £10 note - keep the change!'"

During the war, the Lorenz teleprinter was used to swap personal messages from Hitler to the generals.

The teleprinter, which resembles a typewriter, would have been used to enter plain messages in German. These were then encrypted by a linked cipher machine, using 12 individual wheels with multiple settings on each, to make up the code.

'Bigger than Enigma'

Andy Clark, chairman of the trustees at The National Museum of Computing, said the Lorenz was stationed in secure locations as "it was far bigger than the famous portable Enigma machine".

"Everybody knows about Enigma, but the Lorenz machine was used for strategic communications," said Clark.

"It is so much more complicated than the Enigma machine and, after the war, machines of the same style remained in use."

The museum has just received one on loan from Norway's Armed Forces Museum, and has a video of how top secret transmissions might have sounded.



Betty O'Connell (pictured left) and Irene Dixon were both Wrens who worked at Bletchley Park trying to crack the codes of the Lorenz machine

Volunteers are hoping to recreate the whole process on Friday 3 June, from typing a message in German to cracking the code using wartime equipment.

"This gives us the chance to show the breaking of the Lorenz cipher code from start to finish," said Andy Clark.

"We can show every single point in the process."

When volunteers took the teleprinter back from Essex to the museum, they found it was stamped with the official wartime number from the German army that matches the one on the machine from Norway.



The motor of the Lorenz machine, which has yet to be found.

But one key part is still missing and volunteers are still searching for it.

"It looks like an electric motor in black casing with two shafts on each side, which drive the gears of the Lorenz machine," explains volunteer John Wetter.

Volunteers hope the public will look out for it and if all else fails are hoping someone might want to build them a new one until they find it.



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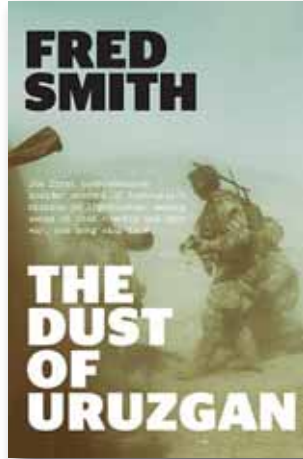
Fred Smith, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 2016

Reviewed by Jim Truscott

I thoroughly enjoyed this book which is living proof that it is writers and poets who write and sing history. Fred Smith is a modern day Charles Bean who was in Afghanistan to fill the gap in the Australian Government's visibility of the politics of the Uruzgan Province. Accordingly it is the tale of a political officer who describes his long cycle knowledge over 18 months and two postings, compared with his fellow soldiers and diplomats on six month rotations. It is a veritable social history of insurgency warfare, and as such it provides an understanding of the Afghanistan mission that 12 years of media coverage failed to provide. It is little wonder that Fred Smith was featured on Australian Story at the end of the mission and Australia's longest war.

As a former infantryman, sapper, civilian liaison officer and a special forces operator who has worked with the Americans, I could relate to all of his Power Point deep experiences, and his brass, biceps, brains and booze descriptions of fighting an insurgency in a country full of bullets, but with no silver ones available. It was interesting to learn that Alexander the Great had conquered Afghanistan in three years. It was fascinating to learn that Genghis Khan had killed millions of Afghans and to ponder that western powers were still trying to make a difference centuries later. Fred Smith spent quite some time living with front line soldiers and working from a forward operating base which he aptly describes as a blokey place; an oasis of preposterone,¹ porn and protein powder in a desert of bucolic poverty. The title of the book is all about going to bed with itchy shins.

The book is a mix of history, travelogue, folksy verse, cable dialogue, gigs and insurgent tactics where a small bomb in Kabul is worth two big ones in the country. In some places I found it hard to follow the detail of his many encounters with Afghan officials which was important in being able to fully understand the politics, the dynamics and all of the personalities involved. What struck me most of all was his ardent account of soldiers



being a family of blokes; each loyal to each other. Soldiering in Afghanistan was clearly different to past wars as their families in Australia shared their experiences over the welfare telephone. However even Fred Smith queried what is that you should tell your wife when you are on operations, and consequently there are only a few personal snippets from his own home front. The improvised explosive device story behind his Sappers Lullaby song is poignant as is the description of the commemoration ceremony at Tarin Kowt which was attended by 57 relatives of the 40 fallen soldiers, just before the last troops pulled out.

Fred Smith says that he came home from Afghanistan better, freer, clearer and more grateful, but his story still left me wondering if Australia had much of a difference? Either way his story is a military history of 25,000 modern day Australian soldiers. It is simply told in song and verse, and it should be read and his lyrics sung by every Australian.

¹Preposterous amounts of testosterone!





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The Positive Relationship between Physical Activity and PTSD

Exercise has a positive clinical effect on depressive symptoms and may be as effective as psychological or pharmaceutical therapies for some individuals with PTSD. Rosebaum et al, 2014 suggests Physical activity/exercise is a highly effective method in reducing symptoms of depression and for people experiencing other mental health disorders.

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

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

People with PTSD are four times as likely to have type 2 diabetes (Lukaschek et al, 2013) and rates of overweight and obesity are as high as 92%. To add to these statistics, suffers of PTSD are shown to be less physically active due to a number of factors including pain, dysfunctional and general lack of desire or both, according Boscarino et al, 2004.

Adding some form of regular physical activity can have a significant effect on a sufferer of PTSD. It's important to note, the type of activity doesn't matter, what matters is that the person is moving and also having fun doing it. If you would like to become physically active again and help to combat some of your PTSD related symptoms then please consult your GP and discuss your options for referral to another health care professional (exercise physiologist or physiotherapist) for help with your other associated or co-morbid conditions ie lower back pain, arthritis and or obesity.



“STRIKE SWIFTLY &



WITHOUT WARNING”

The Newsletter of the Australian Commando Association Queensland

ISSUE 002 ~ SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 2016

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PRESIDENT'S WORD

Welcome to the 2nd edition of our quarterly newsletter, “STRIKE SWIFTLY & WITHOUT WARNING”, the Newsletter of the Australian Commando Association Qld.

This quarter has been very busy for the Association, where we conducted the 71st Commemorative Service of Operation Rimau, on Sunday 10th of July which was conducted by Z Special Unit in 1944 and was the second raid on Japanese shipping in Singapore Harbour at the Queensland Maritime Museum in Southbank Brisbane. It was attended by His Excellency, The Honourable Paul de Jersey, AC, Governor of Queensland, the Vice President of the ACA, Colonel Brett Chaloner, representatives of the 1st and 2nd Commando Regiments the ACA National body and the NSW & VIC state branches. The day was also well attended by members of our Association, the Royal Marines, the ASASA, and family members of those killed during the operation. It was a proud day to have Mr Keith Buck, 2nd/6th Commando Squadron and Mr George Buckingham; Far Eastern Liaison Office (FELO) laid the wreath on behalf of all Z Special Unit and WW2 Commandos. The RMAQ put on a brilliant luncheon as well as a Tot of rum for all those that attended and is always appreciated.

We learnt of the sad passing of SGT Lloyd Campbell, MID. 2nd/17th Bn AIF & Z Special Unit, Life Member and one of the last of the Z Special members of the Association on 15 July. His funeral was held at Victoria Barracks in Brisbane on Friday 22 July. His two sons and daughter, his immediate family members, friends and our National VP Colonel Brett Chaloner, our Association, ASASA, RMAQ, attended his final farewell. Mr Ian Millard our Association Piper played when Lloyd departed the service. Lloyd wrote the book, Z Special – Desert – Jungle – Sabotage, which is an excellent insight of one of the most experienced Z Special operators during the war.

24th of July saw the 1st Commando Regiment celebrate its 60th Birthday and it also saw the 60th Anniversary of their first Beret Parade in 1956. The parade was conducted at Victoria Barracks in Sydney and the Governor General, General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK. MC. (Retd.) attended as the reviewing officer.

Z Special Unit finally had their Plaque laying service held at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra on Monday 1st of August which had a crowd of nearly 1000 attend and was a very significant day in the history of the unit. About 10 surviving Z Special including one of the women who were members and numerous family, who's fathers, brothers, uncles, husbands, were Z Special, attended as well as those who supported their operations from FELO, 200 Flight RAAF, SRD, and many other units during the war. The day was well attended by members of the Association with the Presidents of all three state ACA branches present as well as the National body, also Mrs Maaken Griffith-Marsh the wife of CPL Roland Griffith-Marsh MM and his daughter Amber attended the event.

Unfortunately this quarter sees the loss of six Commandos since the end of the Second World War, in addition to those killed in, either action, during training or whilst in the service of this great nation. Commandos For Life. Lest We Forget.

I hope that you enjoy this newsletter hope you are able to contribute with stories and photographs in coming editions.



Commando For Life
Nick Hill
President
August 2016



THE BATTLE OF KAIAPIT 19/20 SEPTEMBER 1943

2nd/6th Commando Squadron

The Battle of Kaiapit was an action fought in 1943 between Australian and Japanese forces in New Guinea during the Markham and Ramu Valley – Finisterre Range campaign of World War II. Following the landings at Nadzab and at Lae, the Allies attempted to exploit their success with an advance into the upper Markham Valley, starting with Kaiapit. The Japanese intended to use Kaiapit to threaten the Allied position at Nadzab, and to create a diversion to allow the Japanese garrison at Lae time to escape.

The 2nd/6th Commando Squadron flew in to the Markham Valley from Port Moresby in 13 USAAF C-47 Dakotas, making a difficult landing on a rough airstrip. Unaware that a much larger Japanese force was also headed for Kaiapit, the company attacked the village on 19 September to secure the area so that it could be developed into an airfield. The company then held it against a strong counterattack. During two days of fighting the Australians defeated a larger Japanese force while suffering relatively few losses.

The Australian victory at Kaiapit enabled the Australian 7th Division to be flown in to the upper Markham Valley. It accomplished the 7th Division's primary mission, for the Japanese could no longer threaten Lae or Nadzab, where a major airbase was being developed. The victory also led to the capture of the entire Ramu Valley, which provided new forward fighter airstrips for the air war against the Japanese.

Geography

The Markham Valley is part of a flat, elongated depression varying from 8 to 32 kilometers (5.0 to 19.9 mi) wide that cuts through the otherwise mountainous terrain of the interior of New Guinea, running from the mouth of the Markham River near the port of Lae, to that of the Ramu River 600 kilometers (370 mi) away. The two rivers flow in opposite directions, separated by an invisible divides about 130 kilometers (81 mi) from Lae. The area is flat and suitable for airstrips, although many tributaries of the two main rivers intercut it. Between the Ramu Valley and Madang lies the rugged and aptly named Finisterre Ranges.

Military Situation

Following the landing at Nadzab, General Sir Thomas Blamey, the Allied Land Forces commander, intended to exploit his success with an advance into the upper Markham Valley, which would protect Nadzab from Japanese ground attack, and serve as a jumping off point for an overland advance into the Ramu Valley to capture airfield sites there. On 16 September 1943—the same day that Lae fell—Lieutenant General Sir Edmund Herring, commander of I Corps, Major General George Alan Vasey, commander of the 7th Division, and Major General Ennis Whitehead, commander of the Advanced Echelon, Fifth Air Force, met at Whitehead's headquarters. Whitehead wanted fighter airstrips established in the Kaiapit area by 1 November 1943 in order to bring short-range fighters within range of the major Japanese base at Wewak. The 7th Division's mission was to prevent the Japanese at Madang from using the Markham and Ramu valleys to threaten Lae or Nadzab. Vasey and



The Ramu Valley Operation

Herring considered both an overland operation to capture Dumpu, and an airborne operation using paratroops of the US Army's 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment. Blamey did not agree with their idea of capturing Dumpu first, insisting that Kaiapit be taken beforehand. Until a road could be opened from Lae, the Kaiapit area could only be supplied by air and there were a limited number of transport aircraft. Even flying in an airborne engineer aviation battalion to improve the airstrip would have involved taking aircraft away from operations supporting the 7th Division at Nadzab. Moreover, Whitehead warned that he could not guarantee adequate air support for both Kaiapit and the upcoming Finschhafen operation at the same time. However, Herring calculated that the 7th Division had sufficient reserves at Nadzab to allow maintenance flights to be suspended for a week or so after the capture of Kaiapit. He planned to seize Kaiapit with an overland advance from Nadzab by independent companies, the Papuan Infantry Battalion, and the 7th Division's 21st Infantry Brigade.

Fifth Air Force commander Lieutenant General George Kenney later recalled that Colonel David W. "Photo" Hutchison, who had been the air task force commander at Marilinan and had moved over to Nadzab to take charge of air activities there, was told to work out the problem with Vasey: "I didn't care how it was done but I wanted a good forward airdrome about a hundred miles further up the Markham Valley. Photo Hutchison and Vasey were a natural team. They both knew what I wanted and Vasey not only believed that the air force could perform miracles but that the 7th Division and the Fifth Air Force working together could do anything."

The airstrip at Kaiapit was reconnoitered on 11 September 1943 by No. 4 Squadron RAAF, which reported that it was apparently in good condition, with the Kunai grass recently cut. Lieutenant Everette E. Frazier, USAAF, selected a level, burned-off area near the Leron River, not far from Kaiapit, and landed in an L-4 Piper Cub. He determined that it would be possible to land C-47 Dakota aircraft there. On 16 September, Hutchison approved the site for Dakotas to land.



Prelude

The 2/6th Independent Company arrived in Port Moresby from Australia on 2 August 1943. The unit had fought in Papua in 1942 in the Battle of Buna–Gona and had since conducted intensive training in Queensland. The company was under the command of Captain Gordon King, who had been its second in command at Buna. King received a warning order on 12 September alerting him to prepare for the capture of Kaiapit, and had access to detailed aerial photographs of the area.

A Commando Squadron at this time had a nominal strength of 20 officers and 275 other ranks. Larger than a conventional infantry company, it was organised into three platoons, each of three sections, each of which contained two subsections. It had considerable firepower. Each subsection had a Bren light machine gun. The gunner's two assistants carried rifles and extra 30-round Bren magazines. A sniper also carried a rifle, as did one man equipped with rifle grenades. The remaining four or five men carried Owen submachine guns. Each platoon also had a section of 2-inch mortars.

The company was self-supporting, with its own engineer, signals, transport, and quartermaster sections. The signals section had a powerful but cumbersome Wireless Set No. 11 for communicating with the 7th Division. Powered by lead-acid batteries, which were recharged with petrol generators, it required multiple signallers to carry and the noise was liable to attract the attention of the enemy. The platoons were equipped with the new Army No. 208 Wireless Sets. These were small, portable sets developed for the communication needs of units on the move in jungle warfare. However, the 2nd/6th had not had time to work with them operationally.

For three days in a row, the 2nd/6th prepared to fly out from Port Moresby, only to be told that its flight had been cancelled due to bad weather. On 17 September 1943, 13 Dakotas of the US 374th Troop Carrier Group finally took off for Leron. King flew in the lead plane, which was piloted by Captain Frank C. Church, whom Kenney described as "one of Hutchison's 'hottest' troop carrier pilots". As it came in to land, King spotted patrols from the Papuan Infantry Battalion in the area.

One of the Dakotas blew a tire touching down on the rough airstrip; another tried to land on one wheel. Its undercarriage collapsed and it made a belly landing. The former was subsequently salvaged, but the latter was a total loss. King sent out patrols that soon located Captain J. A. Chalk's B Company, Papuan Infantry Battalion, which was operating in the area. That evening Chalk and King received airdropped messages from Vasey instructing them to occupy Kaiapit as soon as possible, and prepare a landing strip for troop-carrying aircraft. Vasey informed them that only small Japanese parties that had escaped from Lae were in the area, and their morale was very low. Vasey flew in to Leron on 18 September to meet with King. Vasey's orders were simple: "Go to Kaiapit quickly, clean up the Japs and inform division."

As it happened, the Japanese commander, Major General Masutaro Nakai of the 20th Division, had ordered a sizeable force to move to Kaiapit under the command of Major Yonekura Tsuneo. Yonekura's force included the 9th and 10th Companies of the 78th Infantry Regiment, the 5th Company of the 80th Infantry Regiment, a heavy machine-gun section, a signals section and an engineer company—a total of about 500 troops. From Kaiapit it was to threaten the Allied position at Nadzab, creating a diversion to allow the Japanese

garrison at Lae time to escape. The main body left Yokopi in the Finisterre Range on 6 September but was delayed by heavy rains that forced the troops to move, soaking wet, through muddy water for much of the way. Only the advance party of this force had reached Kaiapit by 18 September, by which time Lae had already fallen. Yonekura's main body, moving by night to avoid being sighted by Allied aircraft, was by this time no further from Kaiapit than King, but had two rivers to cross. Since both were heading for the same objective, a clash was inevitable.

The Battle

King assembled his troops at Sangan, about 16 kilometres (9.9 mi) south of Kaiapit, except for one section under Lieutenant E. F. Maxwell that had been sent ahead to scout the village. On the morning of 19 September, King set out for Kaiapit, leaving behind his quartermaster, transport and engineering sections, which would move the stores left behind at the Leron River first to Sangan and then to Kaiapit on the 20th. He took one section of Papuans with him, leaving Chalk and the rest of his men to escort the native carriers bringing up the stores.

King's men walked for fifty minutes at a time and then rested for ten. The going was relatively easy insofar as the ground was fairly flat, but the 2-metre (6.6 ft.) high Kunai grass trapped the heat and humidity and the men were heavily loaded with ammunition. The company reached Ragitumkiap, a village within striking distance of Kaiapit, at 14:45. While his men had a brief rest, King attempted to contact the large Army No. 11 Wireless Set he had left behind at Sangan—and from there Vasey back at Nadzab—with the new Army No. 208 Wireless Sets he had brought with him. Unfortunately, King found that their range was insufficient. He also heard shots being fired in the distance and guessed that Maxwell's section had been discovered.

The 2nd/6th Commando Squadron formed up at 15:15 in Kunai grass about 1,200 meters (1,300 yd) from Kaiapit. As the company advanced it came under fire from foxholes on the edge of the village. A 2-inch mortar knocked out a light machine gun. The foxholes were outflanked and taken out with hand grenades and bayonets. The Japanese withdrew, leaving 30 dead behind. The Australians suffered two killed and seven wounded, including King, who was lightly wounded.

The company established a defensive position for the night. While they were doing so, Lieutenant D. B. Stuart, the commander of one of the Papuan platoons, arrived. They had become concerned when radio contact had been lost and he had been sent to find out what was going on. King ordered him to bring the Papuans up from Sangan with extra ammunition and the No. 11 set. At around 17:30, a native appeared with a message for the Japanese commander. The paper was taken from him and he was shot when he tried to escape. Later, a Japanese patrol returned to Kaiapit, unaware that it was now in Australian hands. They were killed when they stumbled across a Bren gun position. Four more Japanese soldiers returned after midnight. One of them escaped.

Yonekura and his men had reached Kaiapit after an exhausting night march. Yonekura was aware that the Australians had reached Kaiapit but his main concern was not to be caught in the open by Allied aircraft. Spotting Australian positions in the pre-dawn light, the Japanese column opened fire. A torrent of fire descended on the Australians, who replied sporadically, attempting to conserve



their ammunition. Although he was running low on ammunition, King launched an immediate counter-attack on the Japanese, which took them by surprise.

Lieutenant Derrick Watson's C Platoon set out at around 06:15 and advanced to the edge of Village 3, a distance of about 200 yards (180 m), before becoming pinned down by heavy Japanese fire. King then sent Captain Gordon Blainey's A Platoon around the right flank, towards the high ground on Mission Hill, which overlooked the battlefield. It was secured by 07:30. In the meantime, some of the Squadron signallers and headquarters personnel gathered together what ammunition they could, and delivered it to C Platoon at around 07:00. C Platoon then fixed bayonets and continued its advance.

A bullet, apparently fired by one of his own men, nicked the commander of No. 9 Section of C Platoon, Lieutenant Bob Balderstone. He led his section in an advance across 70 yards (64 m) of open ground, and attacked three Japanese machine gun posts with hand grenades. He was later awarded the Military Cross for his "high courage and leadership". Lieutenant Reg Hallion led his No. 3 Section of A Platoon against the Japanese positions at the base of Mission Hill. He was killed in an attack on a machine gun post, but his section captured the position and killed twelve Japanese. By 10:00, the action was over.

After the action, King's men counted 214 Japanese bodies, and estimated that another 50 or more lay dead in the tall grass. Yonekura was among the dead. The Australians suffered 14 killed and 23 wounded. Abandoned equipment included 19 machine guns, 150 rifles, 6 grenade throwers and 12 Japanese swords.

Results

The 2nd/6th Commando Squadron had defeated the vanguard of Nakai's force and stopped his advance down the Markham Valley dead in its tracks. The Battle of Kaiapit accomplished Vasey's primary mission, for the Japanese could no longer threaten Nadzab. It opened



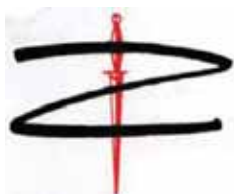
Members of the 2nd/6th Commando Squadron hold captured Japanese flags.

the gate to the Ramu Valley for the 21st Infantry Brigade, provided new forward fighter airstrips for the air war against the Japanese, and validated the Australian Army's new training methods and the organisational emphasis on firepower. Vasey later told King that "We were lucky, we were very lucky." King countered that "if you're inferring that what we did was luck, I don't agree with you sir because I think we weren't lucky, we were just bloody good." Vasey replied that what he meant was that he, Vasey, was lucky. He confided to Herring that he felt that he had made a potentially disastrous mistake: "it is quite wrong to send out a small unit like the 2/6th so far that they cannot be supported." The Japanese believed that "an Australian force in unexpected strength" had attacked them. One Japanese historian, Tanaka Kengoro, went so far as to argue that the mission of the Nakai Detachment—to threaten Nadzab so as to draw Allied attention away from the troops escaping from Lae—was achieved; this argument passed over the fact that Nakai fully intended to hold Kaiapit, just as the Allies planned to secure it as a base for future operations. The Australian historian, David Dexter, concluded that the "leisurely Nakai was outwitted by the quick-thinking and aggressive Vasey." In the end, Vasey had moved faster, catching the Japanese off balance. The credit for getting to Kaiapit went first to the USAAF aircrews that managed to make a difficult landing on the rough airstrip at Leron. The 2nd/6th was to be the ideal unit for the mission, as it combined determined leadership with thorough training and effective firepower.

For his part in the battle, King was awarded the Distinguished Service Order on 20 January 1944. He considered it a form of unit award, and later regretted not asking Whitehead for an American Distinguished Unit Citation, such as was awarded to D Company of the 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, for a similar action in the Battle of Long Tan in 1966.



..... COMMANDO FOR LIFE



OPERATION RIMAU 11 SEPTEMBER 1944 – 07 JULY 1945

(Second Raid On Singapore Harbour)
Z SPECIAL UNIT

The Operation RIMAU Mission Objective was to attack shipping in Singapore Harbour, following on from the Operation JAYWICK success, which sank 39,000 tons of shipping and escaped on the MV Krait without casualties. This suggested to Special Operations Europe in London that a similar raid to JAYWICK could be mounted in support of Lord Louis Mountbatten's South East Asia Command strategies for para military support operations within British and Dutch colonial possessions in South East Asia,

away from the northern USA interests and thrust by Gen. MacArthur towards the Philippines and Japan.

Special Operations Australia via its cover, Special Reconnaissance Department, expressed skepticism about repeating JAYWICK, as Japanese precautions would be in place for a repeat raid. It is alleged that political pressure was applied to Higher Command to rule in favour of the second raid on Singapore shipping. The reasons determining this decision apparently were to demonstrate to the Asians and



the Americans for that matter that the Anglo-Australians were on their way back and had to be taken seriously.

The Operation had the full support of General Thomas Blamey and LTCOL Lyon DSO of the Gordon Highlanders and commander of Operation JAYWICK mission, was to command Operation RIMAU with mainly new operators. LYONS arrived from England along with a secret weapon for the raid-Mechanical Submersible Canoes called "sleeping beauties". A 66ft trawler under construction in a Melbourne shipyard was requisitioned for the role of MOTHERCRAFT from which the sleeping beauties could be launched in the AO, and preparations were made to alter its' appearance to craft similar to that in Singapore waters. Powered by 225HP marine diesel engine it was to be armed with a concealed 20MM Oerlikon gun.

A serious limiting factor was the operation had to be completed before the breaking of the monsoon on or before 15 October. Many factors came into play including serious setbacks in shipping construction including wharf strikes which denied the Mothercraft to the operation in time necessitating a change in plans, from which point, things began to go wrong. The mission proceeded with the objective of capturing a native craft from which to close the target area and launch the operatives in their Sleeping Beauties and attack shipping and explosive anchorages, docks and wharves. They left Fremantle on 11 Sept 1944 aboard HM Submarine PORPOISE and proceeded to the operational area dropping supplies on an uninhabited MERAPAS ISLAND for the extraction phase before proceeding to the junk sea route near Dutch Borneo to seize such a junk.

On 26 September, members boarded and captured the MUSTIKA, a sailing vessel with no auxiliary engine to use as a close-in mother craft. In the opinion of the submarine commander it was not the right type of vessel for the area into which they would sail. His words were to prove prophetic. However they parted company and pressed on alone for PULAU LABAN. 10th of October and just south of Singapore the unusual type of craft drew attention from a police launch manned by Malay policemen, which closed to investigate. Mistaking the patrol vessel for a Japanese one, the party opened fire killing all aboard. Following the fire-fight, Lyon abandoned the operation as now compromised and the MUSTIKA and secret submersible canoes were scuttled in deep water. The party then split up into four groups in rubber boats and executed an Escape & Evade plan with MARAPAS ISLAND as the Rendezvous. Three days later the Japanese learned of the action and alerted all island garrisons to be on the lookout. By coincidence all four parties ended up on SOLE (ASORE) ISLAND where they clashed with the Japanese and in the pursuit by Japanese troops, 12 were killed, including Lyon, or died in prison or whilst attempting to escape thru the islands. The last 11 survivors were captured and taken to Singapore where one allegedly died of malaria and the remainder executed by beheading on 7th July 1945.

The sequence of events and what actually transpired is uncertain but the remains of the Party married up on MARAPAS Island where they came into heavy contact with their pursuers and had to leave the island several days before the RV with the replacement submarine HMS TANTALUS. The fighting went on from island to island until 12 had been killed or taken prisoner. Of this one Able Seaman died shortly after, allegedly from malaria. The other nine were taken to SINGKEP Police Station and then the notorious Kempei Tai interrogation centre in SINGAPORE. Of those other parties



Escape & Evasion route conducted by Z Special during OP RIMAU.

escaping thru the islands, one group of three got as far as TIMOR when their rubber boat was stranded on fishing stakes. Two companions in this remarkable voyage were lost-one to shark attack and the other killed by Chinese. The survivor, an officer, was brought to Singapore and lodged with the other survivors until they were all transferred to OUTRAM Road Goal. Another party of 3 managed to capture a junk near the Borneo coast but were thrown overboard by the Chinese crew. 2 drowned and the survivor floated ashore on a log only to be handed over to the Japanese by local fishermen. He also ended up in Singapore with the other survivors. Another 3 sailed on down the BORNEO coast and thru the JAVA Sea reaching ROMANG Island off the NE coast of Timor, where one had to be left on an island, as he was too sick to travel. Here they were betrayed to the Japanese HQ in DILI where they eventually died of wounds and neglect. Their companion was also picked up and died in hospital. Such an epic and near completed voyage deserved a better fate.

When PORPOISE was rendered non-operational the submarine HMS TANTALUS was hastily diverted to make the first RV but could not make it due to operational and unusual enemy activity. When it turned up at last during the next RV schedule, 30 days later, there was nobody waiting and the SRD conducting officer went ashore and found the island deserted with evidence of a hasty departure. It was not until 9 January 1945 when a radio intercept revealed that the men had been killed or captured that the fate of Operation RIMAU became evident.

On the 5th July 1945 the surviving 10 members were sentenced to death by a military court and beheaded in the execution ground off Reformatory Road on 7th July where



their mass grave was discovered by chance just 2 months later following the Japanese surrender.

We don't know and may never know all the details of what befell Operation RIMAU and how all the 23 Z men individually met their fate as all records concerning the capture, interrogation, trial and execution of the RIMAU prisoners were destroyed and even their existence concealed. The mass grave discovery aside, the only evidence eventually obtained from the Japanese officers involved in the Military Court was concocted by themselves, then in prison awaiting trial for war crimes. It was long believed that RIMAU had no success but eventual release of secret American "Y" material and intercepts revealed they sank or damaged 3 ships including a cruiser by attaching delayed action mines to ships in the harbor before they dispersed and executed their E&E plan.

Operation RIMAU was the single most expensive operation in terms of human loss for the Special Reconnaissance Department but their courage, tenacity and sacrifice shines in the histories of our Commando and Special Forces and the same quality of men then exists today in our Armed Forces-especially in Commando Regiments.

OPERATION RIMAU ROLL OF HONOUR

- Lieutenant-Colonel Ivan Lyon, DSO, MBE (Gordon Highlanders)
- Lieutenant-Commander Donald Davidson, DSO (RNVR)
- Major Reginald M. Ingleton (Royal Marines)
- Captain Robert C. Page, DSO (AIF)
- Lieutenant Walter G. Carey (AIF)
- Lieutenant Bruno P. Reymond (RANR)
- Lieutenant H. Robert Ross (British Army)
- Lieutenant Albert L. Sargent (AIF)
- Sub-Lieutenant J. Gregor Riggs (RNVR)

- Warrant Officer Alfred Warren (AIF)
- Warrant Officer Jeffery Willersdorf (AIF)
- Sergeant Colin B. Cameron (AIF)
- Sergeant David P. Gooley (AIF)
- Corporal Archibald Craft (AIF)
- Corporal Roland B. Fletcher (AIF)
- Corporal Clair M Stewart (AIF)
- Able Seaman Walter G. Falls, DSM (RANR)
- G. Campbell (AIF)
- Corporal Colin M.
- Able Seaman Andrew W.E. Huston, DSM (RANR)
- Able Seaman Frederick W. Marsh (RANR)
- Lance Corporal John T. Hardy (AIF)
- Lance Corporal Hugo J. Pace (AIF)
- Private Douglas R. Warne (AIF)

LEST WE FORGET COMMANDOS FOR LIFE



The Z Special Unit Memorial image of LCPL JT Hardy (L),
LCPL JT Hardy's grave at Kranji War Cemetery in Singapore (C)
& Z Special Unit JAYWICK & RIMAU VALOUR MEDAL (R).
Images courtesy of Mr Darcy Hardy brother of LCPL John Hardy

..... COMMANDO FOR LIFE

OPERATION "POTSHOT" MEMORIAL EXMOUTH GULF, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Mr. Mick Slattery, ACA Qld 2nd Commando Regiment

Situated 32 kilometres South of the township of Exmouth, Western Australia sits the visually stunning and emotionally stirring memorial to Operation "Potshot".

Established in 1942 by the United States Navy as a submarine base and a refuelling facility, adjacent to where the current Learmonth Airforce Base is now located. The location continued to operate as a refuelling facility for some time, Australian

Army, Navy and Airforce personnel operated early warning radar, radio stations, anti-aircraft guns and provided fighter cover for submarines. The US Navy established a PBY Flying Boat at the Bay of Rest. Although far from Darwin and Broome the Japanese bombed the location in 1943 and troops were finally withdrawn in 1945 following extensive cyclone damage.

Of special interest is that the men of Operation Jaywick used this small base as a final staging area on 02nd September 1943 prior to pushing onwards on their now famous raid. I recall reading how once they had arrived from the push up from Perth they arrived in Exmouth Gulf and tied

up alongside an American warship. It was discovered that there was a large crack in the propeller shaft on the Krait and they asked for assistance from the Americans in the form of some welding gear. The American crew was gob-smacked at the Australians audacity and resolve, although they had no knowledge of the mission ahead nor how far the Krait had come or had to go. Repairs were carried out and the mission continued.




Op Jaywick
Plaque,
Exmouth WA



Three weeks after leaving they arrived at Subor Island, the team launched three two-man canoes and paddled into Singapore harbor led by Lyon. Arriving in the dark of night they split and slipped from ship to ship, attaching limpets as they went – before dawn they slipped away undetected. As these mines exploded seven ships were sunk totaling 35,000 tons of enemy shipping. Having paddled some 80 kilometres in six days the exhausted men finally rendezvoused with the *Krait*. The team maintaining their disguises, established well before arriving in enemy waters, they motored back to Exmouth arriving triumphantly on 19th October 1943.

The deeds of these brave Commando forbears are inscribed upon the rock and steel of this memorial as are the deeds of the brave souls of Operation Rimau of the following year, once again led by Lt Col Ivan Lyons.

In this beautiful and peaceful setting it is easy to forget the urgency and daring of the brave souls who stood upon this spectacular part of the country. I would ask that if you have the chance and time – stop – rest for a while and remember those who came before you upon this place.



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..... COMMANDO FOR LIFE

CAPTAIN DON ASTILL, OAM (Retd.) 2nd/8th Commando Squadron

Captain Don Astill was born on 11th February 1921 – parents Joe and Amy. His father served in France during WW1 and suffered ill-health post-war as a result. Brother Keith served in the navy on the S.S. “*Stuart*” and his younger Roy, too young, helped to keep the home fires burning. All attended Yeronga State School and Brisbane Boys College. Don enlisted in the Citizens Military Forces in September 1939, serving with the 105 Howitzer Battery and the 2/4 Anti-tank Regt. as a Lieutenant. He was on pre-embankment leave destined for Singapore, but was very fortunate to have missed the suffering, indignity and brutality of imprisonment.

Together with a few friends, he was given the opportunity of volunteering for Special Forces and, after a short course at Duntroon and a very intense Commando Officers School; he was posted to Wilsons Promontory, Victoria to assist with the formation and training of the 2nd/8th Commando Squadron. The unit was destined to be attached to the U.K. Commando formations in Europe and had even been issued with the “Pommy” Battle dress, when these plans were aborted because of the worsening situation in the Pacific. The unit was then moved to Mudgeeraba, Queensland and spent three months of intense training in the Lamington and Springbrook Park areas. The Squadron was destined to assist the guerrilla forces in Timor but serious flooding in Queensland prevented a relief of the 2nd/2nd and 2nd/4th Commando Squadrons operating on the island. This resulted in 17 months of active patrolling in the Northern Territory, as far as the Kimberley’s and Arnhem Land. Some of this activity was directed in the rescue of pilots who crash-landed after mechanical failure or enemy action. Don and the Section 7 officer attended a special officer’s school and were placed second and first. This was a feather in the cap for the Squadron and was really achieved by their training back in Australia.

The Squadron then served in New Guinea, including a mission to Rabaul, assisting senior staff to plan a landing by 5 Division at Jacquinot Bay some two months later. This exercise was successfully undertaken with strict security on

the S.S. “*Kiama*”. The Squadron was then destined for continual service on Bougainville for 13 months, engaged with ambushing, raids and reconnaissance in a role that was typical of a Commando Squadron. It was a highly successful period for the loss, sadly enough, of only two officers and six other ranks whereas the unit was credited with 1,200 enemy casualties and 11 prisoners. During this period they worked behind enemy lines, supported by parachute and free drop. A full account has been documented in Don’s book “*Commando White Diamond*”, published in 1990. On many occasions in New Guinea the Squadron helped with the training of Infantry Battalions in beach landings and river crossing. In Bougainville the unit was capably led by Major Norm Winning MBE, an officer of boundless energy and confidence, with an overriding concern for the welfare of his men. The Major fought a battle with higher command that endeavoured to use the Squadron in a role not consistent with their special training.



Since retirement Patricia has supported his involvement with various activities and both travelled extensively. Don has been an active member of Gold Coast Legacy, including eight years as Treasurer. He was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in 2011, mainly in recognition for his service in the development of cricket, co-founder of a kindergarten, his role in the formation and ongoing work with the Australian Commando Assn. (Old) in 1946, and in 2014 he was involved with the successful amalgamation of the post-WW2 Commando veterans. Don is still an active member of the ACA Qld Assn. and is a current committee member.





VALE

SERGEANT LLOYD MORGAN CAMPBELL, MID. Z Special Unit

Lloyd Morgan Campbell MID, was born in Sydney 18 January 1924 - died 15 July 2016 aged 92. He started work with the Sydney Daily Telegraph newspaper as a copy boy. He progressed to a cadet in the police rounds before enlisting in the AIF shortly after the out break of WW 2 at the age of 16 years and 4 months. Lloyd first tried to enlist in the Navy to join his uncle on the HMAS Sydney but was rejected due to not being 19. Consequently a German raider sank the HMAS Sydney with all hands lost. He also tried to enlist in the RAAF but again was rejected due to age. He finally persuaded his mother to sign a waiver for the army, which they accepted. He was a member of the 2nd/17th Battalion AIF and left for the Middle East in October 1940.

Over the next 2 years the 2nd/17th Battalion took part in many memorable battles including the siege of Tobruk, El Alamein, Tel El Eisa. Lloyds 16 Platoon served with distinction during the first assault to recapture Tobruk by Rommel's Africa Korps, where Corporal John Hurst Edmondson won Australia's first Victoria Cross of WW2. Lloyd and his Battalion returned to Australia in late 1942 and then in February 1943 Lloyd took part in the first amphibious landings since Gallipoli, when the Ninth Division captured Japanese strongholds of Lae and Finschhafen in New Guinea. After fighting at Jivevaneng and Sattelberg, Lloyd then volunteered for special duties and transferred to Z Special Unit (the real name was the Service Reconnaissance Department- counterpart of the British Special Operations Executive) where he trained as a frogman (a very rare skill in WW2), He conducted several submarine Operations including missions into Indo China and was involved in Operations Semut IV, Optician and Politician. He then became a guerrilla team leader in Borneo till the end of the war. Lloyd and Lieutenant W. A. Chaffy were awarded the MID for destroying a Japanese troop train at Tourane (now Danang) French Indo China (now Vietnam).

With the war over Lloyd returned to Civvy Street before general demobilisation began. He never returned to the Daily Telegraph, instead following a more active pursuit in the New South Wales Fire Brigade. This is where he met



Margaret in 1951 and were married in 1953. A couple of years later they became the proud parents of Deborah (1955) and a few years later, Ian (1960) and Leigh (1961). Lloyd climbed the ranks to Station Officer with 20 years service in the Fire Brigade. He was offered a transfer to the Hong Kong Fire Service then under colonial rule and was able to take the family. There were many harrowing experiences during his time in the fire service; one in particular was when Lloyd narrowly escaped certain death when in the engine room of a cargo ship on fire, healing on a 20-degree list in Hong Kong Harbour. He spent all night waist deep in water with seven very scared Chinese fire-fighters ready to drop the hose and run trying to keep the boilers cool so they would not explode. The fire was extinguished and the ship ran aground to be salvaged.

After the family return to Australia he took up a position with the Attorney General's Department of the Australian Government. Over the next 18 years the family travelled extensively throughout Australia and overseas, including a three-year posting with the Australian High Commission in London. All of Lloyd and Margaret's children became keen members of the Australian army. Deborah was a corporal in the Army reserve Intelligence Unit Melbourne and now is an accomplished property developer with her husband Ken. Ian now an Inspector with Victorian Police and joined the Australian Army Reserve and joined 2 Commando Company, 1st Commando Regiment in Melbourne and also served with the United Nations garrisons in East Timor. Ian has led numerous task forces with the Victorian Police, notably Ian led the recent Biekie task force in Victoria. Leigh joined the Australian Regular Army serving with 2nd/4th Battalion the Royal Australian Regiment in Malaya, and then accepted into Australia's Special Air Service Regiment in Western Australia. He followed in Lloyd's footsteps integrating into 2 Squadron water operations section, covering many miles paddling canoes around Western Australia, parachuting and diving. Leigh is now an Inspector with the Queensland Fire and Emergency Service with 30 years of service.

Lloyd's passing is the end of an era for men of his kind who made so many sacrifices for this Nation.

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Training Development



Army soldier to academic star? Yes you can, at Flinders University.

Two former Australian Army soldiers have described how Army training has helped them become model students at Flinders University in South Australia.

Cameron Grant and Kane Hall, who want to use their degrees to help other former and serving members of the armed forces, have both just finished first year with top scores in their exams.

That's in spite of neither finishing high school.

Their success was made possible through personal initiative and, in Cameron's case, a free program that offers entry for students with no previous qualifications.

Cameron, who is studying Disability & Developmental Education, spent six years in the Army; three in 5th Royal Australian Regiment, then three years in 1st Combat Service Support Battalion, before being medically discharged in February this year.

Kane, who is studying Psychological Science, spent five years in B Squadron 3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment, including a tour of duty in Afghanistan as part of Mentoring Taskforce 3, before discharging of his own free will. During his time in Afghanistan, he narrowly escaped serious injury when the Bushmaster he was travelling in was blown up by an IED.

Following a difficult transition back to civilian life in 2012, and a diagnosis of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Kane got back on track, thanks to personal initiative and the support of the Veterans and Veteran Families Counselling Service.

Last year the former Trooper recorded a top score in the Special Tertiary Admissions Test (STAT), opening up the door to a life changing opportunity at Flinders.

With Army support, Cameron joined Flinders' innovative Foundation Studies program, which prepares students without previous qualifications for university.

Located in South Australia – the Defence State – Flinders is a significant contributor to the defence industry, with courses



in Naval Architecture and many research projects directly supporting defence.

Both Cameron and Kane said Army training had given them an edge, with discipline, hard work and personal initiative helping them exceed even their own expectations.

"The values the Army ingrains in us as soldiers, like discipline, hard work, initiative and teamwork all kicked in and gave us an advantage," says Kane. "Both of us learned how to make friends and how to work as a team in the Army, and that really helped," says Cameron.

Kane's dream is to help other former members of the armed forces who are finding the transition back to civilian life difficult. "I want to work with veterans and help in some way those guys who are facing the same issues I did," he says.

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- Creative Arts (Fashion)* | SATAC Code: 224901
- Creative Arts (Visual Arts)* | SATAC Code: 224911

- Disability and Developmental Education | SATAC Code: 224531
- Engineering Science | SATAC Code: 214811
- Information Technology | SATAC Code: 214201
- International Relations | SATAC Code: 224991
- Law and Society | SATAC Code: 234641
- Media Arts | SATAC Code: 224731
- Public Administration | SATAC Code: 234601
- Science | SATAC Code: 214331
- Theology | SATAC Code: 214361 (Internal) 214365 (External)

Disaster health care program at Flinders University's Torrens Resilience Institute

The disaster health care program at Flinders is the first in the region to provide health care professionals with an operational focus to disaster response at a tertiary level. It is open to students from allied health backgrounds including nursing, medicine and paramedics.

Career enhancing programs at Flinders' School of Nursing and Midwifery

Developed by clinical experts in partnership with academics in each specialised area, some of these courses may be used as credit toward postgraduate nursing programs.

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Chris James – Treasurer
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President's Report

ACA Victoria has recently appointed Paul Copeland OAM JP, as its Veteran Welfare and Compensation Advocacy Coordinator. Paul is also the ACA National Veteran Advocacy Consultant and was appointed in July. Since his appointment Paul has been working on establishing a network of Advocates within the ACA. So far Victoria has identified two people who will be undergoing training under the new Advocacy Training & Development Program (ATDP). Stephen Carter is preparing to undergo the Level 1 Compensation Advocate Course and Dick Pelling is preparing to undergo the Level 1 Welfare Advocate Course, and the Level 1 Compensation Advocate Course.

The ATDP is experiencing teething problems in Victoria and it is thought that the ACA Victoria nominees (Steve and Dick) are the first ones utilising the new training system. Paul will be the Advocacy Mentor and Assessor, once he has completed the Recognition of Prior Learning [RPL] process up to Level 2 Compensation Advocate and Level 1 Welfare

Advocate courses. The Level 3 Compensation Advocate Course (Veteran Review Board (VRB)); and the Level 4 Compensation Advocate Course (Tribunal Advocacy Course), that qualifies selected Advocates to undergo an 8 day in-campus Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) course at the University of Canberra.

The RPL process for Level 3 and Level 4 Advocacy is currently awaiting refinement in course structure, of which it is expected that Paul will be one of the first accredited Mentors and Workplace Assessors in Australia, when this RPL process is ready for delivery.

In the meantime, should any member within the ACA feel that they have a medical condition that relates to their service, it is highly recommended to contact Paul via email on chook126@bigpond.net.au

Should any member wish to undergo training to be either or both a Level 1 Compensation and/or Welfare Advocate, please do not hesitate in contacting Paul, who will guide you through the nomination process. The training is an online course with a 2-3 day consolidation and assessment on dates to be determined by the Regional Management Group [RMG] in Victoria for 2017.

Marc Preston
President

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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Victorian Activities Report

Sun. 3 Jul. 2016 ~ Reserve Forces Day Parade Melbourne Shrine

A good roll call 12 members of ACA Vic on parade. A well turned out group.

Sat. 6 Aug. 2016 ~ Annual Reunion Dinner. Box Hill RSL

Special Guest Terry Nolan (ex CDO and SASR) gave an informative talk on what it took to raise and sustain 1st CDO Regt. Attendance, 63 members and partners of both ACA Vic and ASASA Vic. Good food good wine and good company.



Sat. 24 Sep. 2016 ~ Commando Memorial Service Melbourne Shrine

Approximately 60 members of ACA Vic plus family and friends of post WW2 CDO's who lost their lives in combat or

training. The march up the forecourt and laying of wreaths at the Eternal Flame worked well. Then on to the unit plaques on the west lawn for a brief ceremony followed by morning tea. All up a good day.

Sun. 23 Oct. ~ President's Pistol Shoot Cancelled due to Admin issues.

Fri. 11 Nov. 2016 ~ Remembrance Day Ceremony Report to follow.

Warning Orders

Sat/Sun. 21/22 Jan. 2017 ~ Wilsons Promontory Walk
1100hrs. Cost: Parks Vic rates . Need to book camping permit early through Parks Vic. Contact Peter Beasley for details 0413 382 533.

**Sun. 19 Feb. 2017 1130 Hrs ~ RIP Memorial Service
Shortland's Bluff Queenscliff**
Adjourning for lunch to Queenscliff Bowling Club. Booking required, contact Keith Hughes 03-8363 0557 or 0466 960 334 before 14/02 2017.

Sat. 4 Mar. 2017 1030 Hrs. ~ AGM Box Hill RSL
Advise Secretary if attending or Apology/Proxy 03-9886 9825 or 0414 311093.

Keith Hughes
ACA Vic. Activities Co ordinator

..... COMMANDO FOR LIFE

2 Commando Company – Unit Report

2016 has once again been a very busy time for the Unit with a significant number of concurrent activities being undertaken throughout the year. These have included the usual training weekends concentrating on core Commando skills such as combat shooting, roping and parachuting as well the deployment of 2 Coy members on both exercises and operations.

A large part of the year was also devoted to regenerating the unit with recruits and involved marketing service within 2 Coy to serving soldiers from the 4th (Victorian) Brigade as well as the wider ADF. An initial candidate weekend was conducted in February and resulted in a platoon size cohort undertaking several months of build up training which culminated in a select group soldiers being sent to the Special Forces Training Centre at Holsworthy to undertake the Commando Selection Course. Given the success of this recruiting model, planning is now under way for a further recruiting drive next year which will also target civilians as well as current serving ADF members.

In April this year, 2 Coy deployed Mentoring and Training Team Two (MTT2) to Papua New Guinea to conduct a variety of training for the PNGDF. The focus of the training was on capacity building through mentoring PNGDF NCOs to conduct combat shooting and sniper training as well as general skills such as the Tactical Combat Casualty Care. This training culminated in a capability demonstration conducted for the PNG Government and their Defence Force and received widespread media attention. Whilst in PNG members of the Unit were fortunate to attend the Anzac Day

ceremony at the Bomana War Cemetery and Australian High Commission as well as trekking part of the Kokoda Trail.

June and July saw the unit provide opposition force elements as part of the Army's Exercise Hamel conducted around Port Augusta, Port Pirie, Whyalla and the Cultana training area of South Australia. Ex Hamel is the annual Army exercise used to evaluate Brigade level war fighting skills. This year Darwin's 1st Brigade was tested to ensure they are ready for potential future deployments from humanitarian assistance missions through to high tempo war fighting operations.

Also during July, both Companies came together to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the presentation of the unit's first commando Sherwood-green berets with a parade at Victoria Barracks Sydney – site of that first beret ceremony 60 years earlier.

As the year approaches its end with a final dining-in night being planned, the end of the year will also see the current OC Major A handing over the reins to a new OC after a busy three years at the helm.

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Tidal River Pilgrimage, 2016

This years' service was held in perfect weather with blue skies and no wind.

Parks Victoria had the grounds looking immaculate including our new park bench seat erected in memory of the late Edward (Ted) Ruston.

The bus from Melbourne with 13 on board arrived on time at 12:00 allowing all present to mingle, catch up and have some lunch prior to the service.

45 Association members formed up behind our Banner under the steely glare of Parade Master Keith (Ugs) Hughes and we marched on to the dulcet strains of our bagpipe impresario Iain Townsley. The parade was joined by over 100 guests including members of the ACA National Executive who had conducted a Committee Meeting in Foster the day prior to this service.

The Chaplin from 2 Company, 1 Commando Regiment opened the service.

Our President, Marc Preston, welcomed the Association's invited guests, WWII veterans, all families and many friends.

He then introduced our Guest Speaker, Lt Col S. (1 Commando Regiment CO), who delivered an excellent address with particular emphasis on the legacy created and left by our WWII veterans that underpins our Association's values and objectives

A number of wreaths were laid followed by Association members placing poppies around the wreaths

The Last Post, Reveille and the National Anthem (led acapella style by President Marc in the absence of a working PA system) were performed followed by the Chaplain giving the Benediction.

Afternoon tea was enjoyed by all particularly the "light refreshment" provided by one of the Association's key sponsors – Broo Ltd (thanks Steve P. for arranging).

It was good to meet up with Don Walker and Jim Walker, sons of Major 'Mac' Walker, OC of the WW2 2/4th Cdo Sqn.

Jim, and we, also spent time with Cheryl and Tony Hoban – Cheryl is also 2/4th family, the daughter of Frank "Snakes" Turner.

Con Bell's family also attended to pay a tribute to a great man – Con Bell - who passed away recently.

Invited Guests

1 & 2 Commando Regiment representatives
Mrs Allison Woods (Mother of Brett Woods KIA)
Mr Max Chester – Architect for the Memorial Cairn in 1964

WWII Vets

Jim Burrowes & Family

Glenn MacDonald,
Secretary, ACAV

..... COMMANDO FOR LIFE

Roll call Reserve Forces Day (Victoria) Parade 6 July 2016



Dick Pelling, Mick Ersking, Barry Higgins, Leigh Power, Geoff Woodman, Don Bergman, Peter Lynch, Peter Beasley, Graham Rank, David Waterston, Paul Chignell, Keith Hughes

All the best

Ughs

Remembrance Day Service at Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital

It was a beautiful day at Austin/Repat in Heidelberg Remembrance Garden.

There was a good attendance from many Associations, with a small number from us, including a couple from the NSW border, plus Anne and Kelly Osborne.

Ughs





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Sat-Sun 21-22 Jan 2017	Wilson's Promontory Walk	11:00	Contact Peter Beasley directly for details 03 5127 4229 or 0413 382 533
Sun 19 Feb 2017	RIP Memorial Service Shortlands Bluff Queenscliff	11:30	Meal booking to be made at Bowling Club Contact: Keith Hughes 03 8364 0557 or 0466 960 334
Sat 4 Mar 2017	Annual General Meeting Box Hill RSL	10:30	Advise Secretary if attending or if an apology/proxy 03 9886 9825 or 0414 311 093
Sun 26 Mar 2017	Family Social Day - Picnic Venue	From 11:00	Numbers required for interested persons Contact: Keith Hughes 03 8364 0557 or 0466 960 334
Tues 25 April 2017	Anzac Day - Dawn Service Fort Gellibrand	05:30	
Tues 25 April 2017	Anzac Day - March Form up Flinders Street West (North side - next to Young & Jackson's hotel)	09:30	Contact : Glenn MacDonald 03 9886 9825 or 0414 311 093
Tues 25 April 2017	Anzac Day - Lunch at Bayview Eden	12:00	Contact : Glenn MacDonald 03 9886 9825 or 0414 311 093



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ON THE RUN

Roman Stuczynski lived through the horror of seeing Poland invaded by Germans and Russians, saw his family torn apart and was forced to live through things that defy the 21st century imagination. Yet his escape from war-torn Europe to Australia in the late 1940s would prove his saviour.

In the peaceful surrounds of BUPA Echuca an old man sits alone, but with a remarkable story of survival, of being on the run in the middle of history's most violent conflict before finally fleeing halfway around the world to find safety and a new life.

Roman Stuczynski's life, and all its pain, is carved into his face. Even today, in his eyes, it is easy to see a whole world that might have been, but never was. Born in 1931 in Wilno, part of the Polish Commonwealth (now Vilnius, capital of Lithuania), Roman was pitched into a world about to undergo the greatest, and bloodiest, upheaval in human history. Pitched right into the middle of it. Incredibly, most of his efforts to go on the run during—and even after—World War II were to get away from the Russians, not the Germans. At times he and what was left of his family would actually turn to the Nazis for help rather than be swept up by the rapidly advancing Red Army. Now 85; and an aged care resident in Bupa at Echuca, Roman still counts his blessings for the day he and his fractured family landed in Australia 68 years ago.

On September 1 in 1939 the German army launched itself without warning into the west of Poland, whose unprepared military was putting up a brave fight for more than two weeks. Until the Soviet army, also without warning, rolled over Poland's eastern borders and the country was doomed.

Roman's father was trapped in Wilno but with the help of an army driver and their knowledge of the back streets and surrounding country they managed to evade the Russians and flee into the Baltic states where they were promptly interned. And where the Russians duly arrived and rounded up vast numbers of Polish troops and shipped them east and northeast to the Gulags as virtual slave labour.

"It might have ended there until the Germans invaded Russia in 1941," Roman said. "Within the first hour the Russians suddenly saw the Poles in their prisons as allies and let them all go, with an idea to turn them into new brigades and divisions to serve in the Russian army," he said. "My father was near Archangel when he was released but he eventually made his way south to where a Polish army was being formed. But the Russians at that time had nothing spare to help train our men. "So thousands and thousands of them were herded into Iran where the British would train

them." But Roman said once they were out of the Soviet Union there was no way any of them were ever going back. Those soldiers would form the nucleus of two Polish brigades that would serve with distinction in Italy and then Western Europe under the legendary general Sikorsky.

Years after the war Roman would witness someone resist an armed robber, refusing to hand over their money and staring down their attacker. "I told my father about it, about the bravery, how it was the bravest thing I had ever seen," Roman said. "My father told me to sit down and listen to a story, a story he said was about real bravery."

In July 1940 a train of ten cattle wagons was stopped somewhere in western Russia, its load was Polish soldiers. There were 45 men in each wagon, sweltering in the summer heat with no provisions and a hole in the floor as a toilet. When the wagon stopped the men had been two days without food or water. Paul, one of the 45, had a view of the outside through a crack in one of the boards of the carriage wall. "I can see a girl coming down the road," he whispered, and as the person came nearer he said it was a girl, maybe 20 at the most, and she was carrying a basket. "She is coming directly towards us; she is going to be challenged by the guard." As expected the guard moved to block her way and shouted at her to go away. However, the girl stood her ground and said in a jovial voice: "Why are you so angry Vania?"

"I am not Vania to you, go away. Why did you come here?" The girl answered in a soft but determined voice: "People say that in these wagons are Polish soldiers, so I brought bread for them". That made the guard angrier and he ordered her home immediately.

Meanwhile one of the imprisoned soldiers grabbed a small white towel, lay down next to the toilet hole and lowered his arm through, waving the towel, hoping the girl would see it.

It worked. Disregarding the guard and walking around him she headed towards the signal. Who now shouted even louder: "Stop, not one step further; come back or I will shoot". The girl did return, Paul could see her as she walked slowly towards the soldier, but without her basket. With the gun pointed at her chest she said in a loud, clear voice:



Roman Stuczynski has worked barefoot in paddocks littered with barbed wire, almost frozen to death while on the run and been forced to abandon a life and escape to Australia.

Photo: Lana Murphy



Roman's book of memories, of family and friends, a home and a life in pre-war Poland and of a world he has not seen for more than 70 years.

Photo: Lana Murphy



"Shoot, you son of a bitch". Then she turned again, walked back to her basket and crawled under the wagon to the signal. There, kneeling below the filthy hole, tears in her eyes, she passed up three freshly baked loaves. By now the guard was shouting threats and obscenities but held his fire. "My father, Paul, told me this unbelievable account of bravery, it still made him cry, and he said no medal in the world could reward the bravery of that Russian girl," Roman said. "After she left the men could not bring themselves to touch the bread, they just stared at it, as if it were sacred," he said. "It took a long while before they divided it amongst themselves and ate it."

Retelling the story, reliving the horror of his father's journey in a cattle truck, also unleashed powerful emotions in Roman, as he struggled to get out his words, sinking back in his chair. While Roman's father was eventually on his way to the UK, his family remained trapped in Lithuania, with Roman's mother working as a nurse for the Nazis.

Roman said they were being helped by a man called George, who was something of a protector. "Eventually the Russians started fighting their way back into Poland and the Germans started to pack up and head west and we were able to go with them—although I nearly missed out as I ran back to our house to rescue some photos and papers. "And have one last look at my home."

But with the next retreat the Germans abandoned any but their own and once again Roman and his family were left to flee the Russians. Mostly on horse and cart, which George procured, but just as often walking, even staggering. Wending their way across Poland, dodging both great armies along with endless columns of refugees, they arrived to the north west of Warsaw in mid January. "At one stage we got work on a farm near the old German-Russian border and there was barbed wire everywhere—I had to work all day and I had no shoes so my feet got cut to bits. "Then the Russians came again and we got horses and carts after George fixed the farmer's car so he could get away faster.

"One day my mother and George left me to protect everything while they went to farmhouses to see if they could get food or warm soup or drink," Roman said. "But I had little protection and the next thing I remember was waking beside a fire in one of the farmhouses, a German soldier had found me all but frozen to death and carried me there," he said.

The trek, the risks and the extraordinary demands on their weakened, often starving, bodies continued until they reached Schleswig-Holstein in northern Germany, near the Danish border. Where German soldiers took their horses and carts and left them stranded.

"We finished up working on a German property until the British arrived on May 8 - the war in Europe was over. "We were alive, we had nothing and we had nowhere to go." Roman said there was enormous fear in the displaced persons camp, where hundreds of thousands of refugees were corralled, that they would be handed back to the Russians. "At that time the British were still very pro-Russian but we had cut a hole in the barbed wire fence in case we heard about the Russians - we were going to go through the hole and keep running west."

Roman's father and his missing sister Teresa had, by incredible fortune, been reunited in England. But the war years had been too long, too terrible and his mother wanted to stay with George and the family was now officially ended.

"After the war Australia was looking for a new labour force and when we realised it was as far as we could get from Russia and Germany we signed up," Roman said. "It was like

coming to a place of joy, nobody cared about your nationality, accepted you for who you were and when I wrote to friends in Europe I told them I was in paradise."

Roman worked for the State Water and Rivers Department for two years as part of his contract to come here—based around Numurkah. Two years with him and another worker sharing a hut barely big enough for two small beds. But he never complained, just happy to be free.

Exhausted from telling his story Roman is clearly worn out, and simply runs out of the strength to go on. He had more to tell, stories he had dismissed for another time, of a lifestyle lost, a family broken up, bodies prematurely ruined by constant hunger and hardship, a home now lived in by another family, of travelling around the world to find a new life. Of faded and curling photos, the only tangible link with a world that now seems so far away it might only have ever been a dream. And of the young lady who risked death to help keep his father alive.

Roman's story is reproduced with the kind permission of the Riverine Herald; Andrew Mole, Author & Lana Murphy, Photographer

oOo

Roman Stuczynski was one of the first seven men to enlist in the newly formed 2 Commando Company in mid-1955.

Allocated the Unit's sixth Regimental number, 3/165 606, he was on the first 2 Commando Company course conducted - a small boat handling course at Nelson Bay in October 1955.

Roman qualified on the 2/57 Cliff Leaders Course in February 1956, and in a period of hectic activity completed his basic parachute course the same month.

In August 1956 he was officially awarded his Green Beret, alongside other pioneer members of 2 Company - the first Australians to receive them.

Promoted to Sergeant, he qualified on the Unit Small Scale Amphibious Raids Course at the 1960 annual camp that sadly finished with the Rip tragedy.

Appointed to commissioned rank in January 1961 he then qualified on the demanding 2/61 SAS Recondo Course.

With a young family and career commitments, after 12 years of dedicated service to 2 Commando Company Roman transferred to the Reserve of Officers list in March 1967.

Roman was the guiding light in establishing the 2 Commando Company Association in 1983, and was awarded a life membership of the now Australian Commando Association Victoria at the 60th anniversary celebrations last year.



*Roman on VP Day
Photo: Lana Murphy*



VALE

VX107898 LCpl Conrad Bruce Bell 2/7 Commando Squadron

27th November 1922 – 3 September 2016

Lance Corporal Conrad Bruce Bell, VX107898 (V210402), 2/7th Australian Commando Squadron was born in Hampton on the 22nd November 1922. Con's Father, Conrad, a 1st World War Digger who, like many others, had been gassed and wounded and never fully recovered yet again had signed up for WW2. (He was discharged before the end of the war and tragically passed away in his 40s.) He would not allow Con to sign up, as Con was too young.

Con's father being a returned digger qualified for a First World War service home in Lagniacourt Street, Hampton where Con lived until the outbreak of WW2.

Con, then aged 19 was inducted into the army in Brighton, and went for a couple of nights to Royal Park, from there to Bonegilla and from there went into the old bull ring for just 3 weeks of basic training.

Con Junior was posted to the 22nd Battalion and went in with a V number to the Australian Military Forces as they called them then, or the AMF.

Con said in his interview for the AWM archives. "I was there for a couple of months; I was then put on a train and went up to Warwick, of all places, in Queensland. We trained around Queensland in various places. We then took part in the Coral Sea defence of Australia near a little dunny [toilet] in the cliffs of Caloundra. Thank God (the Japs) never decided to land."

"I finished with the 22nd Battalion around Queensland and I eventually applied to join the AIF [Australian Imperial Force] and was accepted as a VX number in August 1942. I was transferred, I then got another transfer to join the Independent Companies which were later called the Commando Squadrons and ended up down at Wilsons Promontory, and was there until just before Christmas 1942."

"From there I went to Canungra and spent about six-plus weeks training people who had been in the army for a while but hadn't had much training because things were so bad then. They rounded them all up and decided they'd better get them doing something. So we were up there as instructors until we were needed as reinforcements of the Commando Squadron. From there I went and joined as the reinforcement of the 2/7th Commando Squadron at Wau."

Con landed at Port Moresby in October the same year and moved out to Wau, learning all the tracks and terrain to Mubo.

He then moved to Skindiawai in December, and up to the Saddle at Mubo, back to Moresby in May 1943, then on to Bena Bena, Goroka and the Ramu Valley until December 1943.

While Con, Cpl Ted Wilson and Bruce Rolfe were patrolling the Ramu River, Con and Bruce were both shot and wounded.

Bruce Rolfe described the incident in his book, 'Bayah before and beyond': "After a few weeks of patrolling along the Ramu River we were at our camp site when, at about midday on 8-7-43, we experienced the misfortune of a surprise attack by a Japanese raiding party. The Japs started shooting from just a few feet away; I went down momentarily with three bullet wounds, one through my biceps, another through my left knee and another through my left buttock.

Con was wounded through the arm, but managed with Ted Wilson to clear the area after the attack. Con's injury was not serious enough to prevent him from later continuing to serve with his unit, and he returned for a second visit to PNG in 44-45".

However, Bruce did not fare so well in the attack; it took him three days to get back to the three man Garrison which was booby trapped, and to get past the traps Bruce sang the pre-arranged password "South of the Border" and his men welcomed him back, fed him and radioed for assistance.

Con meanwhile had a period of convalescence and returned to Australia for Christmas leave.

In 1944 at Wondecla on the Atherton Tablelands Con's unit, the 2/7th, became part of the senior Regiment of the AIF (the 2/6 Cavalry Commando Regiment), as 2/7th Commando Squadron along with the well trained, but less experienced in Jungle Warfare, 2/9 and 2/10 Squadrons.

After imparting invaluable knowledge and skills gained from their earlier expedition against the Japanese, Con, attached with the newly reinforced 2/7, 2/9, 2/10 squadrons, moved to Townsville and boarded the HMAS "Katoomba". In October 1944 the Regiment sailed to Aitape and proceeded with the liberation of PNG at the forefront of the Aitape Wewak Campaign by 6th Australian Division, culminating in the unconditional surrender of the Japanese in August 1945.

Con had been in the Army four years, while his father had been discharged just before the war ended and set up his building business again, and put in a claim for Con to get an early discharge to help him in the building business.

Con got home to Melbourne in October and lived with his wife Fran in the same house with Con's Mother and Father for 12 months in which time the new house was built for them to move into. Con was officially discharged on the 7th December 1945.

The building business was employing fellows who came out of the Army and who were going to be trained under the rehabilitation scheme. Unfortunately Con's father, who suffered from having been gassed and wounded in the First World War, died in 1947

Post-WW2, an association was established of members of the eight original Independent Companies and the four Companies formed later, as well as M and Z Special Units [Special Forces], most of whom had trained at Wilsons Promontory. It was a strong and active Association, and later amalgamated with the contemporary Commando Association, the "Australian Commando Association" in 2010.

Con's life was very busy over many years with the Commando Association's administration and the welfare of his fellow Diggers.

Con's health hadn't been good post-WW2, and it was recommended that he could perhaps do something different from building. He was fortunate enough get a job in the Commonwealth Bank in the home lending department as a clerk of works, inspecting securities and property valuations, and was there until he retired in about 1982

Con is survived by his daughter Pam and son Con and their families, 4 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren.



At the conclusion of Con's interview for the AWM Archives, he was asked "What do you want to say to the Australian public of tomorrow or today?"

Con replied, "I don't believe I've got that much expertise that I can preach to my coming generation. I just hope that they make these interviews available to a wider section of the public to enable the families of the 2000 fellows who have been privileged to tell their story, because Australia is a great country and for God's sake become an Australian Citizen, whether you are new, old, indifferent or otherwise. We don't want a fragmented country and we don't want to become a Republic until you have finished all your differences, because there is no point in changing to anything unless you are consolidated beforehand."

"Don't get blasé and say we can become a Republic without bloodshed. There are many other things that keep people apart, apart from fighting one another. The thing that keeps a nation together and keeps it safe is to have a basic belief in one another and I don't think we have that at the moment."

Like many WW2 Diggers Con suffered the terrible effects of malaria and hookworm and the debilitating health problems they cause, and on his return from PNG was admitted to the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital where he spent months in rehabilitation.

Con Bell was the embodiment of a way of life that shows us all, to quote Stephen Dowrick, "That we can give kindness, respect, attention, forgiveness and support to each other for no other reason on earth except that we have the capacity to do so".

*To have known Con Bell was indeed a privilege.
Lest we Forget.*

oOo

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2/7th Independent Company RAMU VALLEY October 1943
PTE Conrad Bell (Front Row 9th from the left)

Requiem

VX107898 PTE CONRAD BELL
2/7TH INDEPENDENT COY
(LATER 2/7TH COMMANDO SQN)

Commando War Service:

Commando Selection TIDAL RIVER 1942
Original member of 2/7th Independent Coy
Deployed Papua and New Guinea October 1942
Combat Operations WAU January- February 1943
Combat Operations RAMU VALLEY September-
November 1943

Return To Australia and build up training December
1943 to September 1944

Combat Operations AITAPE-WEWAK October 1944-
August 1945

RTA and discharge Australia January 1946.

ODE to Con Bell

Con was an Australian soldier who was an expert in close combat.

He was physically and mentally tough, compassionate and courageous.

Con lead by example, strove to take the initiative and was committed to the team.

He believed in trust, loyalty and respect for his country and his mates.

The double diamond and the Rising Sun badge on his uniform was his badge of honour.

VX107898 Private Conrad Bruce Bell

"I give you one last order, Ground your arms, report to God, your duty is done... Rest In Peace."

Lest We Forget.

**MAJ ANDREW HAMILTON I OC 2 Coy
1st Commando Regiment**



VALE – CONRAD BRUCE BELL (2/7 ACG). 3rd SEPTEMBER 2016 AGED 93 YEARS

When Con Bell received the prognosis that his deteriorating health was inoperable and terminal, and knowing time was now limited, he took the course of action family and friends expected.

He continued living every day as though mesothelioma was just a minor health condition that was not going to interfere with his travelling plans. He then proceeded to tour the Northern Territory, and soon after returning from this enjoyable trip, was eagerly looking forward to visiting his grandson Rennie and family in the UK.

This was certainly a highlight in Con's later life, particularly being able to attend an ANZAC Day Service about 1½ hour drive from Rennie's home at Nantwich, where Con was staying. Located at Alrewas, Straffordshire, is The National Memorial Aboretum that includes a Commando Memorial within the 150 acres of parkland, several thousand trees and 300 memorials. At 11.00 a.m. daily, a short service is held, including the sounding of The Last Post and Reveille.

Being ANZAC Day, Con was most delighted to be a witness of a major annual commemoration that involved not only U.K. military, but also representatives from Australia, New Zealand and Canada, all placing wreaths. Later, Con and family members went to the Commando Memorial where he placed a wreath on behalf of the Australian Commando Association.

On return home, Con was once again able to re-join a small group of Australian Commando Association (Vic) members for our monthly dinner at the Oakleigh-Carnegie R.S.L. for a few more evenings. These were continued at Con's home until our final meal together at Cabrini Palliative Care Hospital, Sandringham, prior to his passing.

Con Bell will be long remembered as an outstanding Association member who devoted many hours for our benefit. For example, the erection of the Tidal River Cairn Project, not only the early planning stages, but personally supervising during construction. Also, together with Harry Emery obtaining the necessary authority to erect the Commando Memorial to include the broad expanse of area in the Shrine of Remembrance gardens to include the location of specific trees dedicated to the eight Independent Companies.

Con spent countless hours as Welfare Trustee Secretary visiting widows to ensure they received due

entitlements from D.V.A. Con also acted for local R.S.L. sub-branches in this same capacity when required, conducted ANZAC and Remembrance Day Services at aged care homes and also conducting R.S.L. Services at Member Funerals.

An active Freemason for over 50 years, he held Grand Lodge Honours and was a prime mover for the formation of Commando Memorial Lodge in 1970. Con Bell was a valuable mentor to many recipients throughout his busy life, strongly supported by Fran, his devoted wife of 70 years, a proud son, Conrad (Jnr) and daughter Pam. He will be missed by numerous family members and a multiple of close friends.

The celebration of Con's life was held at W.D.Rose Chapel, Brighton, on 9th September. The Australian Commando Association (Vic) was well represented by twenty-five members who formed a Guard of Honour at the conclusion of the service. A eulogy was given by Maj. A in the form of an address particularly directed to Con's many young descendants, closely gathered near Maj A to hear some interesting facts of their great grandfather's life as a soldier in World War 2. Iain Townsley piped a lament.

As poppies were placed, and later, as the hearse departed for private cremation, a bugler sounded The Last Post and Reveille during the R.S.L. service that preceded a Masonic Service. Many Freemasons representing the lodges where he had held office, presented to hear Gary Edwards, a long-time friend, conduct a full masonic Service.

It was a fitting farewell to a true, proud Australian, who achieved so much, working for the benefit of others.

VALE – CONRAD BRUCE BELL

From the Australian Commando Association, the following were noted as being among a vast number of attendants that included Betty and Annie MacGregor.

The members forming the Honour Guard:

Maj. A, Capt. M, Sgt L, Maj. Steve Pilmore (rtd), Keith Hughes, Glenn MacDonald, Dick Pelling, Robert Osborne, Tony Jones, Barry Higgins, Jim Blythe, Jack Ripa, Bruce Parker, Robert McDowell, Don Bergman, Trevor Bergman, Peter Beasley, Keith Reynolds, Leigh Power, Reg Poole, Ric Cove, Caroline Argent, Piper Iain Townsley, Jim Burrowes (M-Special Unit) and Keith Johnston (2/10 ACS).

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VALE

Thomas Asher Royce (Roy) Walden 23rd July 1933 – 31st July 2016

Victorian Scottish Regiment, 2 Commando Company

The one-hundred-and-sixty-year old St James Anglican Church in Dandenong was packed when Father Jeff Parker conducted the funeral service of thanksgiving for Roy Walden on August 15th, attended by about twenty members of the Commando Association, and a number of their partners who had also known Roy.

A formal but simple traditional funeral rite was conducted by Roy's Masonic colleagues, who commented on his remarkable 60 years of Masonic membership and dedicated service.



His adult children and grandchildren spoke movingly of Roy's interesting and full life, and of the love and values he had given them throughout his life.

At the beginning and end of the service Roy's casket

was escorted to the skirl of the bagpipes played by the Scottish Regiment piper. Commando Association and Victorian Scottish Regiment association members formed a guard of honour as Roy left, for the last time, the church he had worshipped at for many years.

Roy's father was a WW One veteran, and as a youngster Roy served "a couple of years" in the school cadets. Called up for National Service training in 1951 he was then posted to 2nd LAA Regt before joining 5 Bn Victorian Scottish Regiment.

Roy transferred to 2 Commando Coy when it was first raised. He recalled he was on the first run from Frankston to Langwarrin with Don Bergman, Taffy Drakopoulos and Dick Leffler, a fine athlete (hammer thrower) who represented Australia in that sport for some years. Roy said, "It was a hard run for first up, but because in those days I was

Umpiring League second-eighteen Football and I was fairly fit."

Changing jobs, Roy had to transfer back to the VSR, where he became a sergeant and was then commissioned in 1958.

He transferred back to 2 Commando Company in September 1960, recalling that the OC Major Phillip Bennett told him he had only three months to qualify for his green beret or he would be RTU (returned to his unit).

Roy quickly gained his green beret, albeit with some short-term pain until his fitness improved, and completed a number of courses, including his parachute course, and the arduous SAS Recondo course in Western Australia, before transferring back to the VSR in 1963. Roy then served with 22 Btn and the Scottish Regiment again before finally discharging.

In a very busy life, even in his later years, Roy was active in the Commando Association for many years, serving as the treasurer in 2009 and 2010.

Roy leaves behind his children Catherine, Jeanette, Mary-Royce and George, and their partners, sixteen grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

Our Association offers its sincere sympathy to Roy's family.

VALE

Col James David Stewart MC, RAInf, AATTV, 3 RAR

Jim died on 25 Sep 2016. He was living in Tasmania.

Jim was OC 2 Cdo Coy from June 1961 to May 1963, following Maj Phil Bennett.

He commanded the AATTV in 1971 – 72.

NAME	STEWART, JAMES DAVID		
Award	M.C.	Reg.No. 2/35018	Rank Lieut. Service R. Aust. Inf.
Recommended by Governor-General on	8/10/1952.		
Promulgated in London Gazette on	25/11/52		
Promulgated in Commonwealth of Australia Gazette on	27/11/52		
Citation (G. H. File)	A.M.F. K/96. Bravery and devotion to duty Point 317, Korea		
Insignia received from London	1/4/53	G. H. File	
Insignia presented by	Her Majesty The Queen		
At	Govt. House, Sydney	On	6/2/54 G. H. File A.M.F. K96
Address of recipient on presentation date	Airborne Platoon, Royal Australian Regiment WILLIAMTOWN. N.S.W.		

RIP

Col James David Stewart MC, RAInf, AATTV, 3RAR passed away on the 25 Sep 2016.

Jim was awarded the MC in Korean on 25 Nov 1952.

He was OC 2 Cdo Coy RAInf 1961 to 1963.

Jim is special to me as he was on my selection board along with Sgt Jock Giblin, Lt Donald Bergman, Capt ? Seaspray man.

In 1962 I came onto FTD as the private typist clerk and typed all is letters etc, gee hard to read his handwriting.

Jim came back from training in the USA and brought back a larger flight trainer for parachute training, a big round thing that had 8 harnesses on it. I think it was Doug Scott who backing into it, parking the unit trucks in the hanger.

Blue Skies to a great soldier.

David Waterston

oOo

VALE

VX203710 Tasman (Curren-) Smith

To whom it may concern,

I am saddened to inform you that my father, Tasman (Curren-) Smith, VX203710, passed away on Sunday, 2nd October.

He was very proud of being in the 2/6 Commando Squadron.

He had been in Princeton View Aged Care for the past 5 years. Dad had a happy life for over 94 years.

The funeral was held on 11 October at 11:30am at St Joseph's Catholic Church, 212 Boronia Road, Boronia

Yours Sincerely



David Smith





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

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

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

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



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





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The Secretary
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Ashburton, Vic 3147
Telephone (03) 9886 9825 Mobile 0414 311 093
email: secretary@austcdoassocvic.com

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Mobile 0419 136 772
email info@austcdoassocqld.com

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

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





Fly CASA Approved with AUSA

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