

Back from Timor

REG GRIFFITHS WRITES
HOME

ADVENTURES OF COMMANDOS

In a letter to his wife, Reg Griffiths, formerly in business as a baker at Leeton, says: "At last we have got our feet on Australian soil, and I did not think Darwin could have looked so good. We have been here a little while, and it is very hot—and dusty.

There is no chance of being home for about a month as we all need a fair bit of medical attention."

Referring to Timor, he says: "Things have been a bit hot over there the last three months, and everyone was in need of a rest and medical attention. I have been with this commando unit for a long time, along with others from Dutch Timor and, of course, it has been very different from baking bread. The last day we were getting out I got a bit of a bump on the knee, but it is O.K. now. I must consider myself lucky. Thirty of us were caught unawares by the Japanese on our way to the beach. They fired enough lead at us to finish an army, but yours truly was too fast. One of our cobbers got killed, so sad after getting through so much and getting so close to being home. The few of us who were over there could not do much, but we would like to have seen the end of the show. It is quite a change to be able to sit in a Y.M.C.A. room and write letters. It is so long since I had a pen to write with.

"We had mostly native huts to live in on Timor, and even they were getting unhealthy. My faithful native came with me right to the beach. He had been with me

... native came with me right to the beach. He had been with me for seven months but I rewarded him well, as he deserved it. I thought we had lost him the morning we were attacked, but he turned up as he had always done, with my pack and all.

"Timor would not be such a bad place in peace time. It is supposed to be neutral now, but the Japanese have no mercy on anyone if they are in the way. Some of the treatment they use on innocent people is terrible. But the sun is setting for them and their evil intentions and their judgment day is not far off."
