

PRIVATE MAX LYNDON LOVELESS (TX4745) – 1914-1971

SIGNALLER, SIGNALS SECTION

<https://doublereds.org.au/history/men-of-the-22/tx/max-lyndon-loveless-r419/>

BIOGRAPHICAL SOURCES

MAX LOVELESS AND 'WINNIE THE WAR WINNER'

After resistance by the main part of Sparrow Force had ceased in Dutch Timor on the 23rd February 1942, the forces commander began to reorganise and redeploy his troops in the southern half of Portuguese Timor about the middle of March.

Fighting as guerrillas against overwhelming odds, deficient in supplies and out of touch with Australia, it was imperative for the small force to re-establish communications with the mainland. It was for this purpose that men of the 2nd Independent Company, the fortress signals section on the island, and members of Signals, 8th Division, pooled their resources to build a set capable of raising Darwin. The most expert and tireless of these was Signaller 'Joe' Loveless. His technical ingenuity and skill was assisted by the professional electrical engineering expertise of Captain G.E. Parker from Dutch Timor.

After many trials and much revision, Australia was contacted on the APRIL 20 1942, and Darwin was made aware that the Australians in Timor were alive and well.

The set was affectionately named "Winnie the War Winner".



Constructing "Winnie the War Winner". Source: Signals – the story of the Australian Corps of Signals, 1949

The story of 'Winnie the war winner' has been told many times. The most recent and authoritative recounting is by Paul Cleary in his book 'The men who came out of the ground' which is included in the following extract:

'[It was] the most important single happening in the life of this fighting force on Timor, as continued resistance would have been impossible for any length of time without it.'

Filmmaker Damien Parer on the remarkable 'Joe' Loveless and his building a radio out of 'odds and ends' to contact Australia

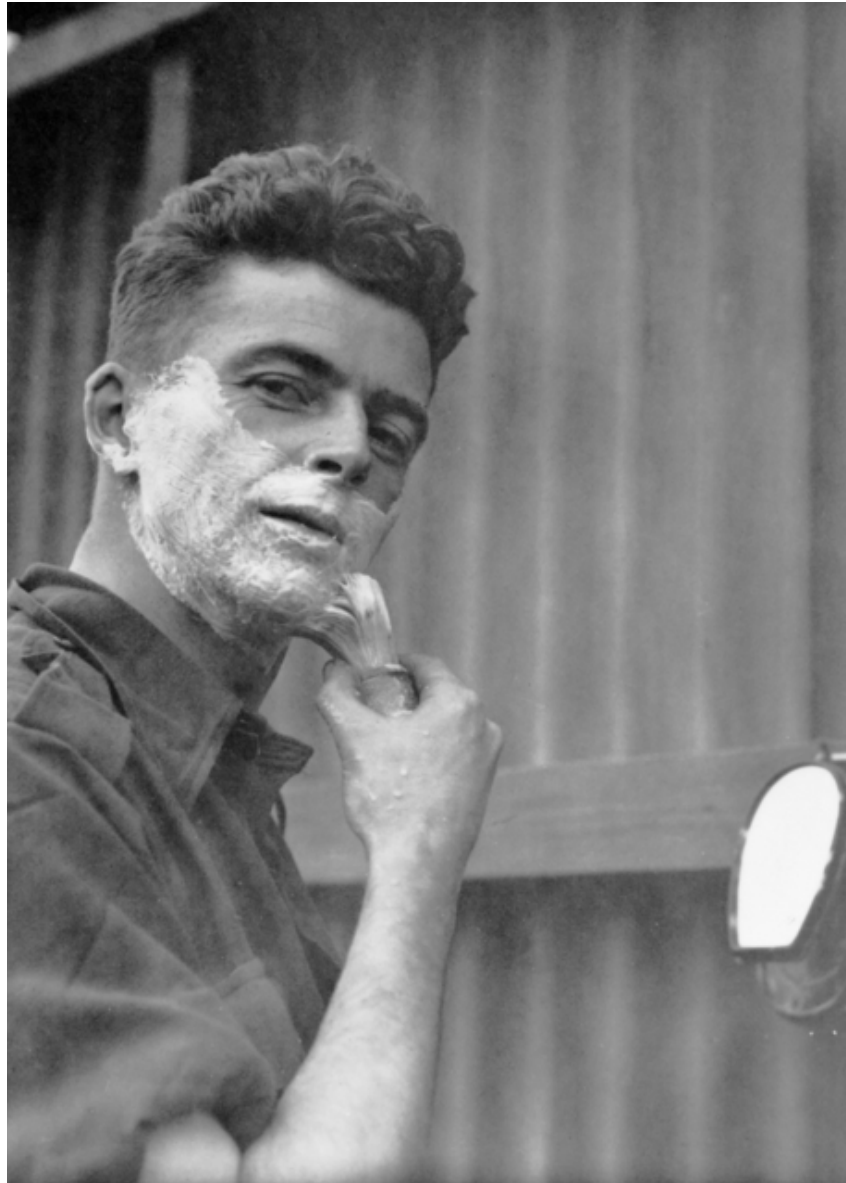
THE 2/2 COMPANY'S enormous logistical reorganisation in March and April had given it a fighting chance. Vital supplies were safely stashed in mountain hideouts, the Timorese were supplying food on credit and some semblance of order prevailed for a company stretched out along mountain tops over a front of more than 100 km. Yet the company's life expectancy was clearly limited without resupply from Australia, and this would not be forthcoming without radio contact.

The company had never had its own radio link with Australia and Sparrow Force's last radio had been smashed to pieces under orders from Brigadier Veale. Back in Australia, no-one thought to send a search plane to discover the fate of the 270 men who had been left behind in Portuguese Timor. In the chaotic months that followed the fall of Singapore and the Dutch East Indies, most likely no-one gave the 2/2 Company a second thought, let alone bothered to send supplies.

'The boot position is fast becoming critical ...'

While ammunition reserves were significant, they would run out with prolonged fighting, and medical stores were in even shorter supply; 'supplies are being depleted rapidly despite rigid economy,' reported the senior officers in the war diary on 28 March. But what inhibited the company's offensive action more than anything else was not the limited supply of ammunition or the short rations of food or even medical supplies. It was boots. The craggy surface of Portuguese Timor was quickly taking its toll on the leather-soled boots issued by the Australian Army. The company reported in its diary on 27 March: 'The boot position is fast becoming critical.' But by the end of April, the situation was extreme. A pair of leather-soled boots had a life of about one month when soldiers were patrolling in the forward positions, while those in the rear could expect a little more wear, about two months. Without supplies of new boots the company would lack mobility and would soon be rendered an ineffective fighting force. The company introduced a routine of taking off boots at times when an attack was unlikely so that the men's feet would harden, preparing them for a time when they had no boots whatsoever. Senior officers considered the local manufacture of clogs, but this was not found to be feasible.

Money was also going to be very important if the 2/2 was to be able to continue to buy supplies of food and to pay for services like the pony trains. The value given by the Timorese to their surats was certain to wane over time if they could not be paid with currency that had an intrinsic value. They could not live on credit forever.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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TX4745, Signaller M. L. Loveless of Tasmania

‘... the senior command turned their attention to re-establishing radio contact with Australia’

As the company reorganised in March, the senior command turned their attention to re-establishing radio contact with Australia. On 7 March, Major Spence gave responsibility for directing this task to a **senior signals officer from Sparrow Force, Captain George Parker, 37**, an electrical engineer from the Sydney suburb of Earlwood who had survived the Japanese landing in Dutch Timor before arriving at the Sparrow Force HQ in early March. While Parker had overall responsibility, one of the lowly ranked privates, Signaller Max Loveless, already had the task in hand.

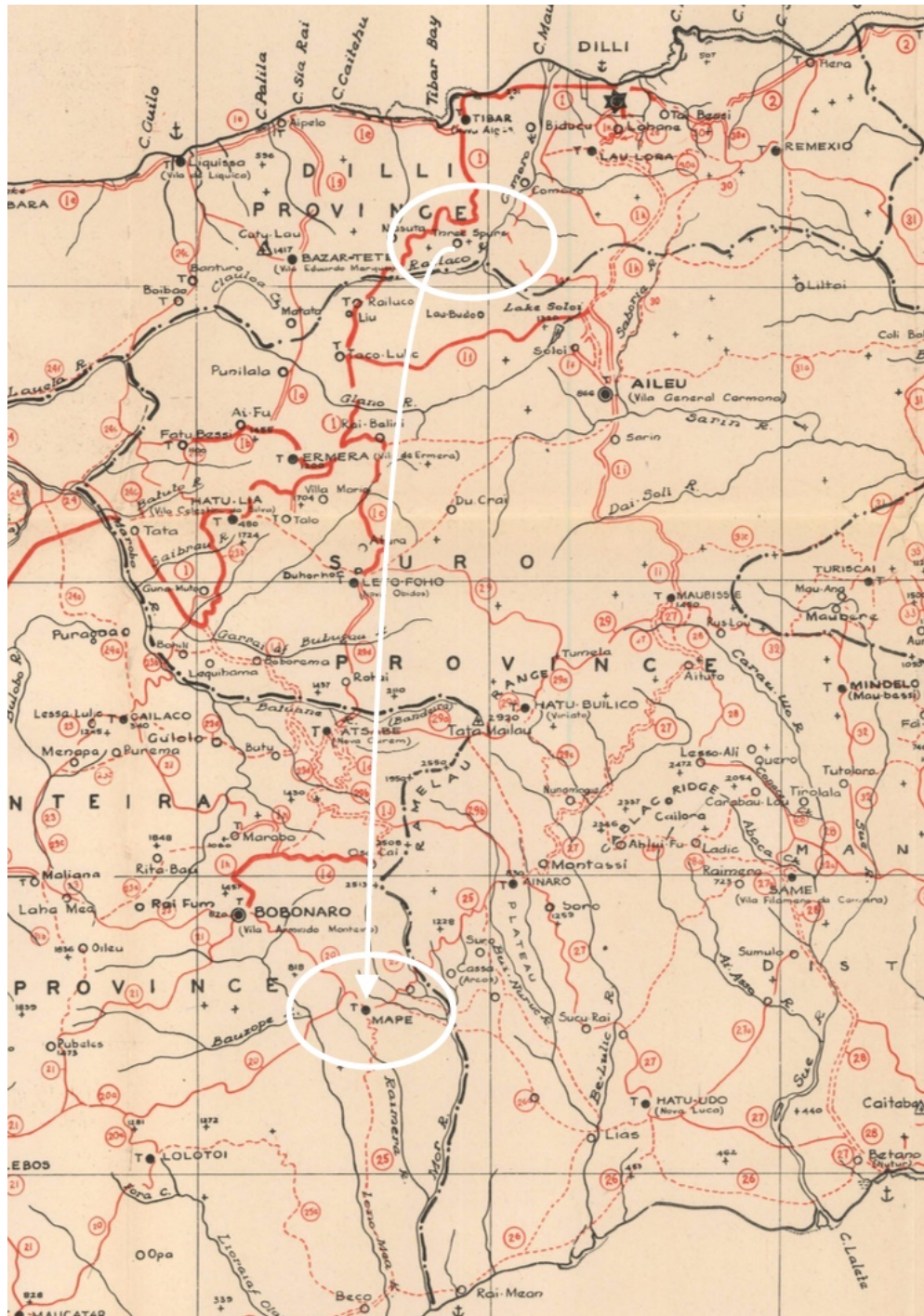
Max Lyndon Loveless, 37, a radio technician from the Australian Broadcasting Corporation’s Hobart radio station, was an edgy man who suffered from anxiety and lacked the physical

prowess of the bushmen in the 2/2 Company. Had selection been based on his physique alone, Loveless would never have got a guernsey, but he was selected because the skills of a radio technician were in high demand at the time. In Timor, Loveless would face a challenge that he could never have imagined, and he would be called on to contribute more than anyone else to the survival of the company. Loveless, who was known to most people as 'Joe', was starting from way behind because the 2/2 Company was badly equipped when it came to radio communication. They had been sent to Timor with unwieldy '109' sets which were used by the platoons to contact Company HQ. When platoons got, their radios working again, each was assigned a time on the quarter hour to contact Company HQ, but the '109' sets used by the platoons weren't effective beyond a range of about 30 km. The radio set in Dili that had been previously used to contact Kupang was now in enemy hands.

'... acquiring as much radio equipment as he could lay his hands on'

Immediately after Captain Parker gained his new assignment, he set about acquiring as much radio equipment as he could lay his hands on. One of the first targets was a Japanese-owned SAPT plantation at Fatu-Bessi, in the mountains south-west of Dili, which was believed to have a powerful radio. A party from C Platoon crossed swollen streams to reach the plantation where they seized the radio and interrogated the owner, Jaime Carvalho, for suspected 'pro-Japanese activities'. They piled the radio into the owner's car, a late 1920s Chevrolet Tourer with running boards and a canvas top, and then drove it to Hato-Lia, before the set was eventually sent to Mapé. The set was only a receiver, not a transmitter, but even so Parker's team kept it for spare parts. The plantation owner was later released. [1]

On 20 March, Parker dispatched Corporal Alan Donovan to lead a three-man patrol to Atambua to recover parts from the set that had been destroyed by Brigadier Veale, but all that he could find were some crystals from the smashed set. Donovan, who had also joined the 2/2 from Dutch Timor and worked on the radio project, was sent on a second mission into Dutch Timor where he obtained a power pack from a Dutch transmitter, two aerial tuning condensers and 20 metres of heavy aerial wire. Parker also recovered a '109' radio set that had been buried by Signaller Don Murray after leaving the Three Spurs camp shortly after the invasion. Murray went back to retrieve the set and while struggling to move it he came upon two Timorese boys who offered to help. The boys, one named Roberto, helped Murray carry the set all the way to Mapé, on the other side of the island, and then they stayed by Murray's side for the rest of his time on Timor. Loveless used the set for spare parts.



The probable route taken by Sig Don Murray and the Timorese boys between Three Spurs and Mapé through Taco Lulic, Lete-Foho, Atsabe and Bobonaro can be traced on this road and tracks map. Source: Area study of Portuguese Timor (1943)

‘Loveless and his team were given premises in which to work ...’ - Mapé

On 1 April, Loveless and his team were given premises in which to work—a **small windowless shed that had been used to store rice at the local school in Mapé**, a sparsely populated and very marginal town in the south-west corner of Portuguese Timor. The signallers worked day and

night, burning pig fat to provide illumination. Loveless was supported by a fellow signaller Keith Richards, who proved adept at recycling solder from the spare parts. With the crystals from the Atambua transmitter Loveless constructed an oscillator, which produced a frequency, and he extracted two valves from the Portuguese receiver. Parts from the Portuguese receiver were also used to construct a power supply for the unit. By early April, Loveless had started work on the amplifier using valves from Murray's '109' set. Ten days later he completed work on the amplifier, and then he turned his attention to the power supply, which was produced with spare parts. All the bits and pieces were housed in the two halves of a kerosene tin. Loveless was almost ready to go, except that he had to devise a system for charging batteries.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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The hut at Mapé, Portuguese Timor, used by the Signals Section, Force Headquarters, 2/2 Independent Company. It was here that the famous transmitter Winnie the war-winner, a masterpiece of improvisation, the wireless set was constructed by TX4745 Signalman Max Lyndon Loveless.

'... charge the batteries ...'

Using a 6-volt generator donated by plantation owner and former army officer Tenente Lopes, they constructed what Parker called a 'boong charger'. Occupying a room of about 3 square metres, the generator was driven by a rope that went around a wheel of 45 cm in diameter, and then attached to this was the much larger wheel which had handles on it so that it could be turned by manpower. Four Timorese were enlisted to turn this wheel as fast as they could to charge the batteries. After going to these great lengths, the 'boong charger' was a dismal failure. Parker then dispatched a patrol led by Lieutenant Harold Garnett, which brought back a 6-volt, and 100-watt battery charger salvaged from a car near Dili. But there was no petrol to

run it; this also had to be obtained by another 2/2 patrol. Petrol was in short supply in the colony, so patrols brought back kerosene and diesel, which was mixed together to produce a substitute fuel for the petrol engine.

By 15 April, Loveless had charged his batteries and could listen into the radio traffic in Darwin. This feat alone bore great significance; Sparrow Force learned for the first time that

‘What is the Christian name of Jack Sergeant’s wife?’

Australia had not been invaded, contrary to the propaganda leaflets distributed by the Japanese. By 17 April, Loveless had the radio set ready for signalling to Australia. The signallers identified themselves as YCF, the calling sign for Sparrow Force, without knowing that it had been made redundant by the Japanese invasion of Timor, and without knowing that the faint signal could be barely heard in Darwin. Again, on the night of 18 April, they signalled ‘LOA—LOF—LOW from YCF’. In Darwin, a senior signals officer, Captain Joseph Honeysett, was on duty that night when the weak and outdated signal came through. The next evening Honeysett ordered that all radio communication in the region be shut down so that the signal could be heard clearly. Honeysett thought that the signal could have come from the enemy, given that YCF was no longer in use. One of the signallers in Darwin knew that Signaller Jack Sergeant was with Sparrow Force in Timor, and he asked if he was with them. Indeed, he was. Jack Sergeant was one of the men crouched beside the radio praying like hell that it would reach Australia. The Darwin signaller asked: ‘What is the Christian name of Jack Sergeant’s wife?’ Sergeant answered that it was Kath. Then the Darwin signaller asked a second question—what was Sergeant’s street address. Sergeant gave the details, followed by a stunning message that said: ‘Force intact and still fighting. Stop. Badly need boots, quinine, money, and Tommy gun ammunition.’ [2]

‘... Sparrow Force was still a fighting unit’

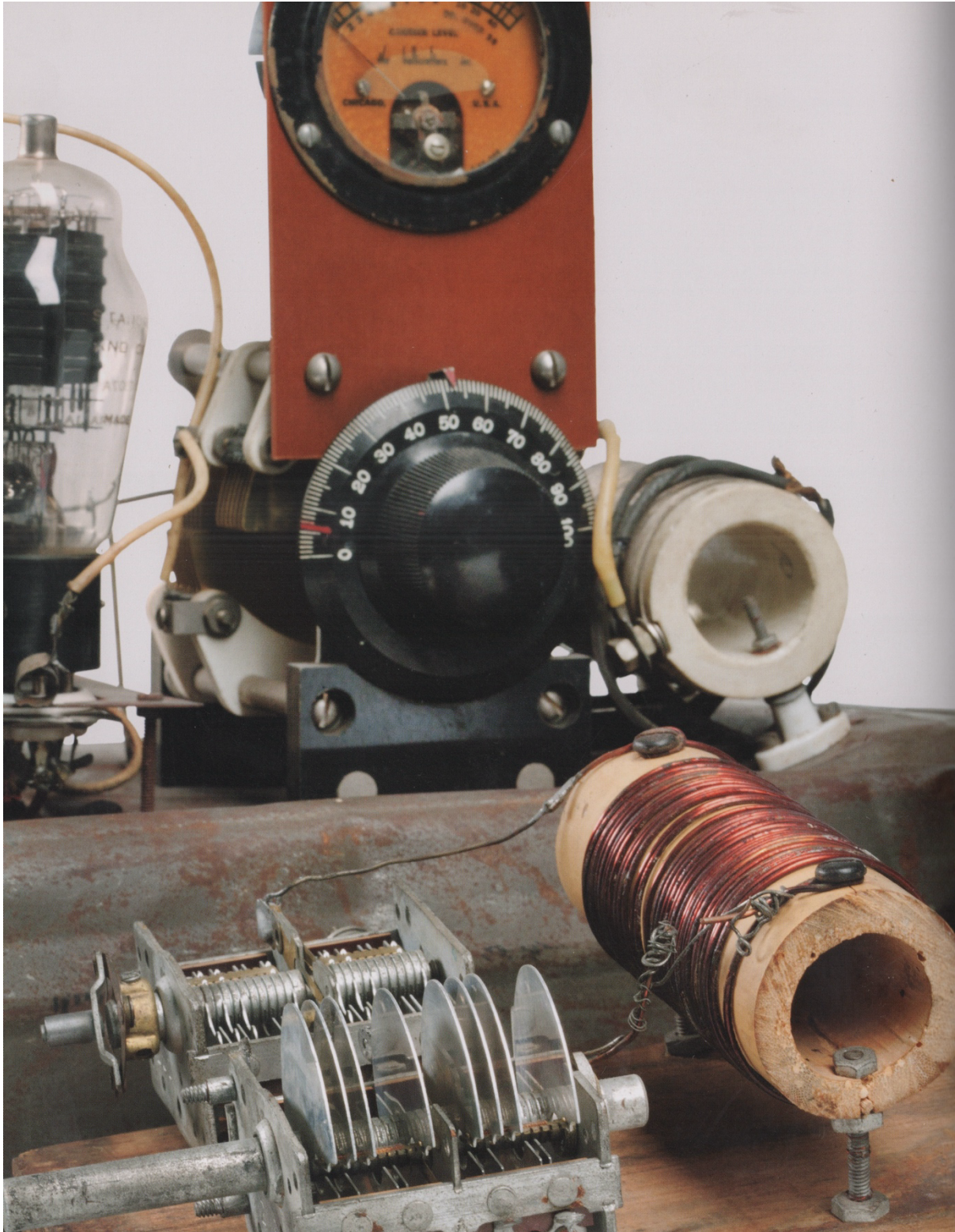
The message proved conclusively that Sparrow Force was still a fighting unit. The news that the 2/2 was still waging guerrilla warfare against the Japanese was simply stunning for Australia, as it arrived at the country’s darkest hour. With the capture of more than 22,000 men in Asia from Japanese victories in the Malayan Peninsula, the Philippines, Rabaul, and in the Dutch East Indies, the news that one band of men was still fighting proved to be tremendously valuable both in strategic terms and in terms of morale. After this successful transmission, Loveless’s men named the set after Winston Churchill. They called it ‘Winnie the War Winner’.

The chief of the Australian Army, General Sir Thomas Blamey, failed to grasp the significance of this news and he proposed withdrawing the company or using it as part of a much bigger operation to recapture the island. Blamey outlined these options in a letter to General Douglas MacArthur. But MacArthur could see the value of keeping things just as they were, and in his reply to Blamey on 11 June 1942 he stated firmly that ‘these forces should not be withdrawn’. The company should simply continue its campaign of ‘harassment and sabotage’ against the Japanese, as MacArthur put it. While knowing very little about what the company was doing, MacArthur seemed to perfectly grasp their role.

While Captain Parker had overall responsibility for re-establishing radio contact, he gave full credit to Loveless for showing the ‘greatest initiative’ which ‘undoubtedly led to our success’.

Other men in the unit thought that Loveless's radio was the work of a genius, or, as his fellow signaller Don Murray put it, 'pure arse'. The stress and strain of working day and night on the assignment took its toll on Loveless, who appeared to have suffered a nervous breakdown and was sent back to Australia a few months later after completing the assignment of a lifetime. His illness continued after returning to Australia and he was discharged from the army in November 1943.





'Winnie the war winner' on display at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, in the Second World War Galleries

NOTES

[1] 'Report on activities of Special W/T section 2 March–19 April 1942', Captain George Parker, AWM PR00249. Parker's account is by far the most authoritative of what took place in rebuilding the radio, though other details have been taken from the accounts by Callinan and Doig. One major factual error in other accounts is the claim that a Qantas radio was used by Parker and Loveless to build the radio. This was not brought to Mapé until 29 April, after radio contact had been established. The company's war diary for that day says, 'Several Portuguese cooperated in bringing from Dili an AS Transmitter, property of Qantas airways. This they handed to Lieutenant Garnett, who has been operating in the Remexio area. He arranged for it to be delivered to Force signals. It proved suitable for their work.'

[2] Some accounts say it was Parker whose details were checked, but this could not have been the case. Parker was not married at the time. The reconstruction of the events in November that year by Damien Parer put Sargeant as the person whose family details and address were checked. There are several versions of the 'force intact' message. This one is taken from D. Parer, 'Dope Sheet', AWM FO1814.

NAME	LOVELESS, Max Lyndon						
Award	M.I.D.	Reg.No.	TX 4745	Rank	PTE.	Service	A.M.F.
Recommended by Governor-General on					27/1/43.	} G. H. File	A.M.F. O/A 5
Promulgated in <i>London Gazette</i> on					29/5/43.		
Promulgated in <i>Commonwealth of Australia Gazette</i> on							
Citation (G. H. File	AMF O/A 5	) Exceptional services in field in S.W.P. Area.					
Insignia received from London						G. H. File	
Insignia presented by							
At				On		G. H. File	
Address of recipient on presentation date							
Remarks							

Other Awards
AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

2876.
RCDIG1068971

Joe Loveless was rewarded for his work on 'Winnie the war winner' with a 'Mention in Despatches'

ADDITIONAL READING

Cyril Ayris. - All the Bull's men: no. 2 Australian Independent Company (2/2nd Commando Squadron). - Perth: 2/2nd Commando Association, c2006: 223-230. [Available for purchase from <https://doublereds.org.au/store/product/9-cyril-ayris-all-the-bulls-men-pdf/>]

Bernard Callinan. - Independent Company: the Australian Army in Portuguese Timor 1941-43. - Melbourne: Heinemann, 1953 (repr. 1994): 121.

Paul Cleary. - The men who came out of the ground: a gripping account of Australia's first commando campaign: Timor 1942. – Sydney: Hachette Australia, 2010: 105-110.

J. D. Honeysett 'Chance takes a hand' Signalman vol. 1, no. 2 1978: 7-8. [Informative article by then Brigadier J.D. Honeysett who relates the fortunate set of circumstances in which he was directly involved that allowed the first signals from 'Winnie' to be intercepted, responded to and verified]

<http://www.signaller.com.au/past-editions/Signalman%20Vol%201%20No2%201978/Signalman%20Vol%201%20No2%201978.pdf>

Karl James 'Winnie the war winner' in Australian War Memorial: treasures from a century of collecting / [edited by] Nola Anderson. – Millers Point, N.S.W.: Murdoch Books Australia for the Australian War Memorial, 2012: 394-397.

Peter R. Jensen. – Wireless at war: developments in military and clandestine radio 1895-2012. – Kenthurst, N.S.W.: Rosenberg Publishing, 2013. [See 'Sparrow Force and Winnie the war winner': 189-193 for a technical assessment of the radio and its construction]

Signals – the story of the Australian Corps of Signals / written and prepared by members of the Australian Corps of Signals. – Sydney: Halstead Press, 1949: 128-132.

Susan Turner 'An interview with the inventor of "Winnie the War Winner"' Signalman vol. 29 1995: 36-37. [Interview with Captain – later Lieutenant Colonel - George Parker]

<http://www.signaller.com.au/past-editions/Signalman%20Vol%2029%201995/Signalman%20Vol%2029%201995.pdf>

'[Vale Max Lyndon (Joe) Loveless]' 2/2nd Commando Courier vol. 25, no. 231 June 1971: 4-5.

<https://doublereds.org.au/couriers/1971/Courier%20June%201971.pdf>

'Winnie's role in war effort remembered' Commando Courier vol. 60 April 1986: 3.

[Opening of the Max Loveless Pioneer Memorial Collection attended by Sir Bernard Callinan]

<https://doublereds.org.au/couriers/1986/Courier%20April%201986.pdf>

Christopher C.H. Wray. - Timor 1942: Australian commandos at war with the Japanese. – Hawthorn, Vic.: Hutchison Australia, 1987: 96-99.

the hotel where booking in cannot be effected before 10 a.m.

A detailed programme with timings is as follows:

Thursday, Sept. 2:

One bus to meet arrivals at 7 a.m. and transport them to the Government Office Buildings, opposite Kings Park gates for breakfast. Bus will take the visitors to Hotel Imperial at 9.45 a.m. Welcome to visitors at 7.30 p.m. in dining room of Imperial Hotel.

Friday, Sept. 3:

Possible Civic Reception at Council House, 12 noon to 1 p.m. Annual Dinner at Imperial from 6 p.m. Dinner at 7.30 p.m. Ladies to attend Town House Cinema, dine at 6 p.m., theatre afterwards.

Saturday, Sept. 4:

Afternoon, races or football. Evening Trots. Complimentary passes provided.

Sunday, Sept. 5:

Afternoon Commemoration Service Kings Park. One bus leaves Imperial at 2.45 p.m. Service to be at 3.30 p.m. Afterwards at Imperial dining room 5 p.m. for eats and refreshments.

Monday, Sept. 6:

Bus tour of dams. Two buses leave Imperial 9 a.m. sharp. Barbecue lunch at Murray Arms Hotel. Elsie Watson to provide music.

Tuesday, Sept. 7:

Evening at the Fremantle Club. One bus from Imperial at 7.15 p.m. Bus to leave Fremantle Club at 12.30 a.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 8:

Bus trip to Wanneroo Wildflower Nursery, then on to Yanchep Inn for lunch. Two buses leave Imperial at 9 a.m., then they will leave at 12 noon from nursery for Yanchep Inn arriving there at 1 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 9:

River trip. The ferry "Duchess" leaves from Barrack-st. jetty at 10 a.m. and returns at 4.30 p.m. Barbecue or smorgasborg lunch. Elsie Watson to supply music.

Friday, Sept. 10:

Evening at Perry Lakes Stadium Hall, grand finale. Bus leaves Imperial at 7 p.m. and returns from Perry Lakes at 1 a.m.

Saturday, Sept. 11:

Visitors depart by rail 9.30 p.m. Private transport. Entertain individually.

For West Australian members a package deal to cover all functions is available at \$20 per couple and represents fantastic value. A price list of individual events will be published at a later date and the cost will be commensurate with each event and the overall cost will be easily double and possibly treble the package deal of \$20 per couple.

Ron Trengrove has supplied a list of starters from N.S.W. and we have already been advised of some starters from Victoria and S.A.

Letters have been forwarded to certain members who at an earlier date evinced an interest in taking part in the Jubilee Safari to find out if they are still to be starters.

Currently it appears that with wives and children something like 80 people will be involved in the travelling parties.

WANTED

ONE HOUSE FOR 10 DAY
to accommodate a family of husband and wife, plus four children. As this is school holiday period an exchange with a lovely beach house at Mandurah is available

Vale
Personalities

It is with the deepest regret we have to advise of the passing of Max Lyndon (Joe) Loveless in Tasmania. The story of Joe's involvement in building the famous wireless set, "Winnie the War Winner", has been told so often that it is unnecessary to reiterate it here, except to say that as far as our Unit was concerned it was a matter of life or death to us. Possibly contact with Australia may have been made by some other means but this is in the limbo of the doubtful. Thanks to Joe Loveless's genius in matters of radio we created a set and we made that vital contact which saved our lives and lent purpose to our future activities in Timor. It allowed us to become a real force in the war against Japan and the true value will never be able to be fully assessed. Not many people are aware of the fact that we as a Unit were lucky

to retain Joe's services as he applied to join the Armoured Division which was being formed while we were domiciled in Adelaide and our then C.O., Major Spence, blocked his transfer. There must have been something psychic about this decision. Joe's health was never very good while in Timor and it took considerable effort for him to concentrate on the building of the set. He was awarded an M.I.D. for his efforts in constructing the set. Joe served with the P.M.G's. Dept. for over 30 years as a technical officer. We in W.A. were lucky to be able to renew acquaintances with him some few years ago and on that occasion he looked very well. We offer our sincere sympathy to his family and say a fond farewell to one of the greats of our Unit. Vale Max (Joe) Loveless, competent signalman and what more can you say in anyone's favour when Sigs. are the life blood of any serving Unit.

Good to see Bob Palmer down from Busselton for Anzac Day. His usual laughing self and thoroughly enjoying life. Still can't march but we will forgive him that if only he will make a repeat performance next year.

Vince Swann and Pam were also down for Anzac Day and was able to take in a footy match as well with them and a jaunt to the Fremantle Club where we linked up with Mick and Jean Morgan. Swan-ny wasn't grumbling too much and said the season looked pretty good.

Haven't heard from Tom Crouch since his trip East and am still awaiting his report on the Cullen area of N.S.W.

Had the pleasure of Robbie Rowan-Robinson's company recently. He had despatched his spouse on a trip to Japan and places near and was a grass widower. "Robbie" also refrained from grizzling and said the apple season had proved to be quite good.

Pleased to report that Glad Napier is now home from hospital and is improving gradually.

Another of our members who has been on the sick list recently is Harry Holder. Harry has suffered with heart trouble for some time and is now to retire from his position as Executive Officer at the Royal Mint. Currently he and Maisie are sorting out their difficulties with providing a new house.

Geo Boyland is also to retire from Dept. Social Services due to invalidity and looks like having to use a walking stick from here on.

Since last we went to press Bill and Jess Epps, Arthur and Beryl Smith, Arthur's sister-in-law, and Bill and Elvie Howell and Mrs. Waddington have been tripping to Timor. We hope at a not too much later date to be able to print something of their new impressions of "our" island.

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WANTED:

The services of as many reasonably able-bodied persons as possible on the Afternoon of

SATURDAY, JULY 3rd

at the

DRILL HALL, BAZAAR TERRACE, PERTH

to prepare same for the drawing of the Mammoth Raffle that evening. Also required are as many ticket holding members as possible to act as guides, ushers, etc., on the same evening. This will be essential to make this evening the success we wish to achieve.

I can be contacted on 401 7584 after hours if needs be.
Hoping you can be of assistance.

Best regards,
Peter Epps.

JOHN FOWLER — LIFE MEMBER

Our Association President, John Fowler was made a Life Member at the Anzac Day Reunion. The committee resolved that this should happen at a well attended function. Likewise it was a bonus that it could be presented by none other than our 'Unit Father'; Colin Doig.

Colin eulogised Jack's service to the Association extending over a long period of years during which time he served faithfully and well. The honour bestowed on him by your committee on your behalf, was thoroughly deserved and he was delighted to be able to make the presentation to mark the affection in which Jack was held by all members.

He was heartily congratulated by Colin and given a rousing cheer by all present. Jack suitably responded.

The following will give a pen picture of Jack's Service to the Association:—

He was a Country Vice President for the years — 1959, 1962, 1966, 1968, 1969. A vice President 1979-80-81, and has been our President for the past three years 1982-83-84, which included the 1983 Safari.

That in itself is a really sterling performance but the unsung areas are where Jack Fowler has shone. He has gone out of his way to entertain our many visitors from the East, and his home in Perth, particularly in recent years.

John Fowler will be the recipient of congratulations from right across Australia and has earned them all. One would be remiss if the grand contribution by Jean Fowler in support of Jack over all the years was not highly, "mention-in-despatches". Thank you Jean from us all.
God bless you both.

2/2 COMMANDO ASSOCIATION. "T" SHIRT AND WINDCHEATER"

These have really taken right across Australia and I am sure many in all states who would love to have either one of these. The "Windcheater" did not get a full coverage in the last Courier but it is, for our age group, a fine piece of clothing.

You can have the bold motif as for the "T" shirt, or, the more conservative, 'double red diamond' with dagger, on the left breast. They have the added advantage of being able to wear them with a shirt and they come in a fine range of colours, grey, fawn, light blue, white, cream, light yellow. The price including postage is:— \$18.00

Get your orders in and send them direct to Bob Smith at his home address, 6 King Street, Shortland, N.S.W. 2307. You will not regret the expenditure and it will help Bob's son-in-law- who, as previously mentioned, is in the ranks of the unemployed and sends his heartfelt thanks for the way our Association members have seen fit to help him. Bob and Joyce likewise send their sincere thanks.

Keep the "Helping Hand" situation mobile. You may have friends who need a "T" Shirt or a Windcheater, the young man will oblige with a class article. Thanks members for your strong support to a most worthy cause.

THE EDITOR.

MAX LOVELESS PIONEER MEMORIAL COLLECTION

Tasmania has seen fit to honour one of our original Unit members, Max (Joe) Loveless, a signaller, (Whose expertise helped construct "Winnie the War Winner" a lifesave on Timor) for his contribution to the communications of that State.

Hereunder are extracts from the brochure put out in search of equipment to help form a permanent Museum environment. If anyone can help in any way the undermentioned information will direct it to the right channels. It is intended that a collection of valve-era equipment will be gradually assembled, restored to working order and made available for public display.

Max Loveless (VK7ML), a former state councillor of the Tasmanian Division WIA, died in April 1971. Max, as well as being an active amateur, spent a lifetime in 'real' wireless communications. He played with the new-fangled gadgetry of the early '30s, worked for the ABC in Hobart prior to World War Two and spent time in the AIF on Timor during the early dark days of that conflict. It was there that he built 'Winnie the War Winner', the radio transmitter constructed on kerosene tins and built up of recovered domestic radio equipment, captured Japanese apparatus and the remains of a low-power Australian wireless set. Until the successful contact with Darwin on this apparatus, using a morse

key made from bamboo, the 200-odd Australian Army personnel who were left on Timor were thought to be either killed or POW. They had lived off the land for a number of months and kept 15,000 Japanese troops occupied who could otherwise have been moving into north West Australia. 'Winnie the War Winner' is now preserved in the Australian War Museum in Canberra.

Max epitomized the craft of technician. His work with the old Pmg's Department earned him the respect of all those who knew him. He had the ability to create equipment items which were both first-class from a functional, practical point of view as well as being faithfully constructed works of art. He set high technical and craftsmanship standards for both himself and those who worked with him.

Obviously, if the collection is to successfully get underway, apparatus is required. In particular, the following items are eagerly sought:

—old ex-service gear, in particular we would like to get hold of an R101 or an R109 set (these were actually in use on Timor and would be fundamental to the collection), no. 22, no. 19, HRO, AR8, AT5, AR88, B28, B40 and similar apparatus.

—Some limited funds are available for the purchase of such equipment.

—Home brew apparatus of all types which may have been discarded in intervening years.

MOST IMPORTANT PLEASE- Before you toss out your old junk, valves, components, books, magazines, etc. give the Max Loveless Pioneer Memorial people an opportunity to cart it off for you. Your assistance will help ensure that at least part of our communications heritage is preserved for posterity.

Should you feel able to assist us in this most worthwhile venture please contact me by telephone in Hobart 002 28 6351 or perhaps write to GPO Box 251c Hobart.

Barry Risely,
Branch Secretary,
A.T.E.A.

PERSONAL PARS

JEAN FOWLER— Has had quite a big operation but is out of hospital and holding very well indeed. Everyone sends their love Jean, best wishes, with tons of good luck and good health in the months ahead. God bless.

RON DOOK— Underwent a knee cap removal and that which goes with it, including a replacement part. It was quite a big operation and even though Ron is out of Hospital he must go daily to the Shenton Park Annexe to undergo physiotherapy treatment etc. He looks tip top. Good luck from us all ROn for a first class recovery.

CLARRIE VARIAN— Had a period of intensive care with a heart problem but is out and home again. Well done Clarrie. Best wishes from all for a quick and complete recovery.

NEIL SCOTT— Another who required intensive care at Royal Perth Hospital with a heart condition. Keep plugging Neil you will come out on top. Best of luck from all members.

CLARRIE TURNER— Been hospitalised but is out and about and back to his normal cheerful self. Regards from all Clarrie.

ARTHUR SMITH— Poor old "Smithy" is back in Hollywood Repat. Hospital still in trouble with the "old pins". You sure have had more than your fair share Arthur! Trust the six weeks you spend in Ward 1 will see a much more successful result. Good luck from us all.

FRED NAPIER— Could not make our Anzac Day Reunion but even though having to use two sticks for mobility is full of beans. You are a tough old blighter Fred. Kindest Regards from everyone.

MERV RYAN— Has been in hospital with pneumonia and a few other ailments. At first the dreaded scourge was the worry but everything in that direction turned out O.K. Even though he is home he is still only 75%. Here's hoping the other 25% appears in the very near future. Dulcie is a first class nurse we are told Merv so all will be well. Good luck and God bless.

COLIN DOIG— This will have to be classed SPECIAL BULLETIN So many are asking after his health he must get the Royal treatment. To quote the inimitable C.D. when I asked about his health, "fair to muddling!!" Col is a survivor and good for a long innings yet. We all want to see you in Canberra Doigie. With Joy's ministrations that will be a soda. God Bless and good luck from us all.

WINNIE'S ROLE IN WAR EFFORT REMEMBERED

The Royal Australian Signals Association celebrated the 40th anniversary of its foundation with a commemoration service at Angelesea Barracks and Beaumaris Signal Drill Hall in Hobart yesterday.

A highlight of the day was the opening of the Max Loveless Pioneer Memorial Collection, which contains past and present communication equipment.

The guest speaker and former second-in-command and later commanding officer of the 2/2 Independent Company in Timor during World War Two, Sir Bernard Callinan, of Melbourne, presented awards and spoke on his experiences in Timor, which included the construction of "Winnie the War Winner".

"Winnie" was a radio transmitter made from kerosene tins, recovered domestic radio equipment, captured Japanese apparatus and the remains of a low-power Australian wireless set.

The transmitter is in the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, but photographs of it are included in the display. Sir Bernard said the 2/2nd Independent Company of 300 men had spent 13 months in Timor and for 59 days they had no contact with Darwin. He said Signalman Max "Joe" Loveless had built the transmitter, helped by several other soldiers. When the set was finished, the Australians could hear radio "chatter" in the Northern Territory, but could not transmit.

"Eventually we broke in one night, but in the middle of the message the batteries gave out," Sir Bernard said. The next night their message was received and vital supplies, including boots and quinine, were later dropped.

Sir Bernard said "Winnie the War Winner" made a lot of difference to life in Timor and proved valuable in pinpointing enemy positions.

He said the soldiers had relied on the Timorese and Portuguese, who would give them whatever food they could spare. Apart



The former commanding officer of the 2/2nd Independent Company, Sir Bernard Callinan, with World War two radio equipment and the book he wrote about his war experiences in Timor, Independent Company.

from this, the soldiers lived off the land. Sir Bernard has written a book of his experiences, which began as scribbled notes on pieces of paper when he was serving in New Guinea.

December 1985

VALE W.C. (BUNNY) ANDERSON

There was a great sadness right across Australia when it was learnt that our old mate "Bunny" Anderson had passed away. It came with such suddenness that it cast a shadow over the start of the Canberra Safari at which Bunny was to be a starter.

Words cannot express the type of man he was, quiet, powerful, loyal, a true friend, he loved his fellowman, but never wore his heart on his sleeve. He had all the gifts of a true leader of men, always one was ready to follow him, he in return gave you his full and un-

qualified support. He was a rare breed of man. A tremendous soldier, a fine athlete who, excelled in the sport of boxing, he was a fine exponent of the art when living on the South Coast of N.S.W.

Bunny joined 2/2nd on Timor as a reinforcement prior to the Japs landing. He was allotted to 7 Section "C" Platoon after that fine band of men were tragically torn apart. His service in Timor was one of excellence, of courage, of determination. Who will ever forget him piggy-backing "Hector" Bagnall out of trouble for a mile or more, when only walking from memory. His performance in the Dare raid, was one of class, his first thoughts were for those around him.

Prepared by Ed Willis
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