



Commemoration ceremony - 18 November 2012

Our 63rd annual commemoration ceremony will be held at 3pm on 18 November 2012, in Lovekin Drive, Kings Park.



Photo: Greg Tyerman

This year, our guest speaker will be James Dexter, son of the late Lt David Dexter. James is now the Director of Exhibitions Design and Public Programs at the Museum of WA. Earlier this year, the Museum of WA hosted the exhibition Debt of Honour - Australia's First Commandos and East Timor.

Please join us to pay tribute to the men of the 2/2. Our commemoration ceremony is kindly supported by the SAS Regiment.

After the ceremony, you are invited to join us for refreshments at "The House" at Campbell Barracks.

Tom Dower and Dave Dexter return, sweating and muddled, from a patrol in New Guinea



70th anniversary – Veterans return to Timor Leste

In August, a group of eight former soldiers returned to Dili to attend a ceremony at the Dare-Fatunaba memorial to mark the 70th anniversary of the Japanese invasion, in February 1942. Among them were Ralph Conley, Keith Hayes and Fred Otway of the 2/2.



Photo from Warren Snowdon MP's Flickr page – doublereds.org.au/wsnowdon

The veterans visited the Fatunaba memorial school and met with the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Warren Snowdon MP and with Timor Leste Prime Minister Xanana Gusmão.



For more information, go to doublereds.org.au/vetsreturn (or Google Timor veterans return).

Farewell Ron Archer

On the night of 21 July 2012, soon after Ron Archer celebrated his 93rd birthday, we lost a good friend. Ron had long been our Queensland correspondent, providing reports to Jack Carey for many editions of Courier.

Two tributes were read at his funeral. One was from the Consul-General of Timor-Leste in Sydney. The other was jointly from the Queensland Commando Association and the Australian Commando Association (Queensland Branch), read by Ralph Conley, who also gave his own glowing tribute.

Thanks to Greg Tyerman



Return to Timor Leste

In September 2012, a group of West Australians with connections to the 2/2 spent two weeks in Timor Leste, renewing contacts with old friends, criado families and helping with the Tour de Timor.

Murray Thornton and his sister Colleen Ward (children of the late Norm Thornton), Murray's wife Jill Sheed, their daughter Hannah Thornton, along with the Convener of the Denmark Fuloro East Timor Association, Libby Corson, travelled to the eastern end of Timor to visit Dom Bosco Fuloro, an agricultural college with which the town of Denmark has had a support relationship with for the past ten years.



Colleen Ward and Murray Thornton at the border between West Timor and Timor Leste



This is a continuation of an earlier relationship started by the 2/2 commandos.

To read more, go to doublereds.org.au/timorvisit

Tour de Timor riders prepare for the start of the 2012 race on 10 September 2012.

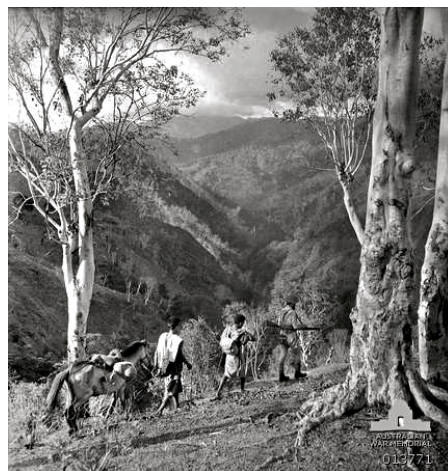
Education resource



One of the most important objectives of the trustees of the 2/2 Commando Association is to raise the profile of the story of the 2/2, to give the unit's story its proper place in history and in the hearts and minds of Australians. Shiona Herbert, an Education Resource Officer at the WA Museum, created the education resources for the Debt of Honour exhibition. We trustees were delighted when Shiona approached us with a proposal to create an education resource about the 2/2.

Shiona made a presentation about the 2/2 and East Timor to the National History Teachers' Conference at Perth College, early this October. Her presentation was very well received.

Shiona is currently developing education resources about the 2/2 Commando Squadron and Timor Leste for high school teachers and students to complement the Australian History Curriculum. The resources will include historical enquiry tasks, a glossary of terms, and links to relevant external websites. Teachers will be able to access the resources from the Double Reds website.



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