



## Commemoration ceremony on 16 November 2014



The association's 65<sup>th</sup> annual commemoration ceremony will be held on Sunday 16 November 2014 at the unit's memorial, in Lovekin Drive in Kings Park, commencing at 3pm.

This year's address will be delivered by Mr Pip Dunkley, son of the unit's MO, Capt. C R ("Roger") Dunkley. Please join us to pay tribute to the men of the 2/2 Commando Squadron.

Our commemoration ceremonies are kindly supported by the SAS Regiment. After the ceremony, you are invited to join us for refreshments at "The House" at Campbell Barracks.

## Anzac Day 2014

The unit and the association were well represented at the 2014 Anzac Day march in Perth. Veterans Keith Hayes and Bob Smyth marched, along with members of the association and the families of veterans. Also marching behind the unit's banner, as our guests, were six East Timorese military veterans, all of whom fought in Timor Leste's struggle for independence and are now members of the Timor Leste Australia Friendship Veterans' Alliance.



Left: Mario Nicolau Dos Reis presenting a gift to Alannah Mactiernan at the UWA Club



The Timorese veterans also joined us at our at the Anzac day lunch at the Goodearth Hotel, along with Timorese students from UWA. Several members of the SAS attended, led by Lt Col Greg Daly. Speeches were made by Lt Col Daly and Timorese veteran Mario Nicolau Dos Reis. Jamie Ximenes kindly acted as interpreter, for the benefit of both the Tetum and English speakers in the audience. It was a moving occasion for us all, with 2/2 veterans Keith Hayes and Bob Smyth meeting with the Timorese veterans.

During their stay in Perth, the Timorese veterans also enjoyed a lunch with representatives of the RSL at Anzac House and a dinner hosted by the Hon. Alannah Mactiernan, MHR for Perth, at the UWA Club.

The veterans also presented a letter from Timor Leste's Prime Minister, Xanana Gusmão, pledging a donation of \$10,000 from Timor Leste to the SAS Resources Fund.

Right: (L-R) Mario Nicolau Dos Reis, Antonio Lema Bere, Armando da Costa do Rosario, Frederico Soares Alves, Keith Hayes, Candido de Carvalho Soares, and Gil da Costa Monteiro





## Vale Harry Sproxton



Dave Richy, Eric Herd and Harry Sproxton enjoy a meal of water buffalo and rice after the burning of Mindelo

Henry Young ("Harry") Sproxton passed away on 6 July 2014, aged 91.

Harry was an original member of the unit, embarking aboard "S.S. Zealandia" on 8 Dec 1941 for Timor as a Private in No 9 sect, "C" Platoon. After the campaign on Timor, he embarked with the unit for Australia aboard the Royal Dutch destroyer "Tjerk Hiddes" on either 11 or 16 Dec 1942 (as the embarkation rolls do not differentiate).

After leave and reorganisation he embarked with the unit as a Corporal in No 9 sect, "C" Troop for New Guinea aboard "S.S. Duntroon" on 17 Jun 1943 and returned to Australia with them aboard

"Taroona" on 3 Sept 1944. After further leave and reorganisation, he embarked for New Britain aboard "Taroona" on 9 Apr 1945 with the unit as a Trooper in "I" Section, Headquarters Group.

Harry was transferred out of the unit (into other military service) when the order to disband was made on 18 Dec 1945.

While on service in New Guinea he was nearly killed, not due to the fighting, but simply because of a dental abscess. In an effort to remove the tooth and abscess, Harry's tooth snapped at the gum. The pain was intense and more anaesthetic was administered, when his heart stopped. "The bastard's gone and died on us!" the doctor yelled. A medical orderly, Alan Luby, jumped in and turned Harry on his side and pummelled him until his heart started again. Harry sat up and for days had bruising all over him. From that day, Harry had an uneven bite due to the badly mutilated jaw – something that would have annoyed him given his determination as a builder to have everything lined up perfectly!

Harry was the loving husband of Thelma (dec.) and father of Bishop Don and Kerry. Much loved Grandad to Stephen, Catherine, Timothy and Mikaela. Great Grandad to Chloe, River, Hannah and Jax.

## Vale Tom Foster

Tom (Thomas Albert) Foster passed away peacefully on 19 June 2014, aged 93 years.

Tom was an original member of the unit, embarking aboard "S.S. Zealandia" on 8 Dec 1941 for Timor as a private in No 1 sect, "A" Platoon. Although Tom had been employed as a farm manager, he was also a talented draftsman, a skill that was much appreciated, as the unit had no accurate maps. After the campaign on Timor, he embarked with the unit for Australia aboard the Royal Dutch destroyer "Tjerk Hiddes" on either 11 or 16 Dec 1942 (as the embarkation rolls do not differentiate). After leave and reorganisation he embarked with the unit as a Corporal in No 3 sect, "A" Troop for New Guinea aboard S.S. "Duntroon" on 17 Jun 1943 and returned to Australia with them aboard "Taroona" on 3 Sept 1944.



Tom Foster and his daughter, Kate Walding, at the launch of the Debt of Honour exhibition in Geraldton

## Paddy Knight

William Patrick Cotter left Britain for Australia before the outbreak of war, changing his name to Paddy Knight and settling in Kalgoorlie as a railway ganger. He joined the unit on 11 December 1940 and it might be said that he was one of the unit's more colourful characters. As William/Paddy had left Britain, for reasons unknown, and changed his name, his family was unaware of his life in Australia and his military service, for many years. The internet has changed that, giving his family a lot of information about his life and death, but leaving some questions unanswered. More about the intriguing story of Paddy Knight can be seen at [DoubleReds.org.au/paddyknight](http://DoubleReds.org.au/paddyknight).

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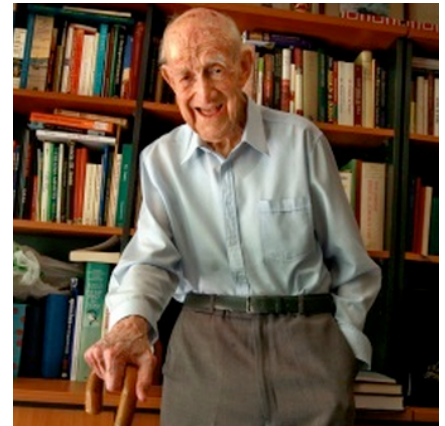


Photo: Nic Ellis – The West Australian



Tom was Mentioned in Despatches, London Gazette, 8 Mar 1945 and in the Commonwealth of Australia Gazette, No 54-15 Mar 1945. After further leave and reorganisation, he embarked for New Britain aboard "Taroona" on 9 Apr 1945 with the unit as a Lance Sergeant. He was commissioned and as a Lieutenant, he transferred to Headquarters, South Australia, 9 Oct 1945 and then to Australia Staging Camp, 7 Jan 1946. He was discharged on 19 Jul 1946.

Tom was the loved husband of Mary (dec.), loved father and father-in-law of Margaret and Denis, Richard (dec.), Kate and Barry, Chris and Jill, and Peter and Christine, Pa of 14, great grandad of 8.

Right: John Burrigge (L) and Paddy Knight (R)

