



## COURIER

### 2/2 COMMANDO ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

<https://doublereds.org.au/>

President Peter Epps, Secretary Colleen Thornton-Ward, Editor Ed Willis

APRIL 2017

75 YEARS ON



2017 marks the 75th anniversary of the momentous events of 1942 where Australia was under most immediate threat of attack by Japan. For much of the year the 2nd Independent Company on Portuguese Timor was the only allied unit conducting successful offensive operations against the Japanese.

Vice-President John Denman wrote to the Governor-General Sir John Cosgrove expressing the Association's regret that the unit's contribution at this dire time had not been acknowledged in his speech announcing the 75th anniversary commemoration events that will take place this year.

The Association has posted several stories on its Facebook page and Doublereds website covering significant events during the unit's Timor campaign on the anniversary of the day they occurred; e.g., the ration truck massacre on 20 February, and will continue to do so over the course of the year.

#### 67TH ANNUAL COMMEMORATION SERVICE

**Lovekin Drive, Kings Park, 3pm, Sunday 20 November 2016**

Thank you to those that joined us on the day either in person or online. Numbers were up which was great to see! The ceremony is available for playback here: <https://courier.doublereds.org.au/ceremony2016>



Member of the catafalque party, a cadet of 53 Army Cadet Unit, Wanneroo

#### ANZAC DAY 2017



Association President Peter Epps will lay a wreath at the Dawn Service.

Members of the Association, family and friends can participate in the Anzac Day Parade. Noel Strickland and John Denman will carry the unit flag on the day.

For full details of Anzac Day events in Perth including larger maps of the march route and form up area see:

<https://www.rslwa.org.au>

## PROGRESS REPORT ASSOCIATION GRANT TO MELVILLE FRIENDS OF HATOLIA (MFoH)

MFoH will support Teacher Professional Development (TPD) at Samara and Casbouk Schools using the funds donated by the 2/2 – the total cost of US\$5355.75 is more than the 2/2 grant and the balance of the funds will be provided by MFoH.

The villages lie close together in a remote area to the southwest of Hatolia and have 600-700 students. 12 teachers will be trained.



Map showing the location of Samara-Casbouk Schools – bottom left hand corner

For a larger map image, see:  
<https://courier.doublereds.org.au/samara>

The organiser of the TPD has asked school community members if anyone has memories of Australian soldiers in the area during WWII; and already two people have come forward. The organiser will record interviews with these people and provide videos and photos of them and the training.

A full report on the training will also be provided when completed. The training will proceed during April-May.

## PROGRESS REPORT ASSOCIATION GRANT TO CONTAINERS FOR TIMOR-LESTE

Marg Scott provided the following report:

The \$4,000 grant money from the 2/2 will be used to freight the project's 34th sea container (C34) to Dili - quite soon we hope. It's currently being packed and should be filled next Saturday [25 March].



It will probably weigh in at around 23 tonnes when full, and contains quite a range of items including 2 hospital beds, 1 ambulance stretcher, 50 walkers and also walking frames, bundles of crutches, 10 work stations, lots of school desks and chairs, filing cabinets and storage cupboards, several pallets of new school uniforms and sports shirts, many bags of linen and sewing fabrics, cricket gear, 15 bicycles, basketball goal posts and 2 electronic smart board systems complete with monitors, projectors, cabling etc. Much of what is donated is new but there are also quite a few ex-display home items such as range hoods, stove tops and decorating items that will go to orphanages, disability centres and clinics.

## FUND-RAISING PROGRESS REPORT

The Association has been fund-raising by encouraging donations and selling products through the Doublereds website with a target of \$5,000 for 2017.

\$3,750 has been raised so far in this way including a generous bequest from the estates of the late Jack (WX12123) and Joy Denman which is gratefully acknowledged. See: <https://doublereds.org.au/donations/>

## PROPOSALS FOR FUNDING GRANTS

Donations received and income from sales will be utilised to financially support worthy projects in the theatres where the 2/2 campaigned – Timor-Leste, New Guinea and New Britain.

The Committee is again seeking members' suggestions about further projects that the Association should support.

If you wish to make a proposal that the Association support a project, or spend money in a particular way, please start a new Forum topic in the Funding Proposals webpage of the Doublereds website (<https://courier.doublereds.org.au/funding>), including how much you propose be spent, who would benefit and why you think we should support that project and post it before 30 June 2017.

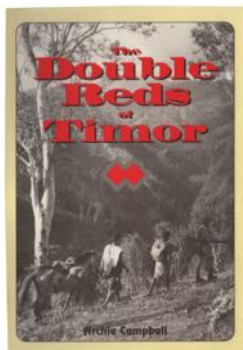
The committee is more likely to support proposals that will achieve a clear or measurable benefit than proposals that are more general or open-ended.

### NEW PRODUCTS FOR SALE

Two new products are available for purchase from the Doublereds Store:  
<https://doublereds.org.au/store/>

#### **Archie Campbell 'The Double Reds of Timor' – PDF download - \$19.99**

A heartfelt personal account of the 2nd Independent Company's campaign on Portuguese Timor by Archie Campbell (WX6446) one of the stalwarts of the unit and the original 2/2 Commando Association. He also relates his return to Timor in 1973 and reunion with his creado.



#### *From the Frontispiece – About the Author*

Archie Campbell was born in Perth in 1916. A keen sportsman, he played for both the East Perth Cricket and East Perth Football Clubs from 1935 until he joined the AIF in 1940.

He graduated from Officer Training School, and having completed special forces training in 1941, became a section commander in the newly-formed 2nd Independent Company - the "Double Reds".



After Timor, Lieutenant Campbell returned to Australia, and married May Pearce (an outstanding sportswoman) in 1943. He developed and implemented selection and instruction courses for the Commando Training Squadron at

Canungra (Qld), before returning to his old unit (renamed the 2/2nd Commando Squadron) in 1944, to serve as a captain in New Britain.

Discharged in November 1945, he moved to Australia's eastern states where he pioneered one of Melbourne's first courier services. In 1954, he returned to Perth and pursued a career in public relations and management. After 25 years' service with Ampol Petroleum Limited, he retired as a works supervisor in 1981.

Post-war Mr Campbell maintained his keen interest in sport: as a radio commentator; Chief Announcer for the British Empire and Commonwealth Games (Perth, 1962); President of the W.A. Gymnastics Association; and - as late as 1985 - a member of the Board of Directors of the East Perth Football Club.

Despite his busy life, his dedication to Legacy, an organisation which supports the families of deceased service personnel, spans five decades. As an author, and editor of the *2/2 Commando Courier* (the Commando Association's bulletin), Mr Campbell enjoys an extremely active retirement on the coast at Sorrento in Western Australia.

#### **Doublereds insignia badge – vitreous enamel – \$20 + \$5 postage**



Show your affiliation to the Association with this attractive badge featuring the famous Doublereds insignia copied from the original colour patch. Made from quality vitreous enamel it can be worn on the breast pocket, lapel or as a tie pin.