



COURIER

2/2 COMMANDO ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

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

President Peter Epps, Secretary Rob Crossing, Editor Ed Willis

JUNE 2018

ANZAC DAY 2018 IN PERTH AND DILI



Anzac Day in Perth

In Perth, Association President Peter Epps laid a wreath at the Dawn Service in Kings Park.

About 25 members of the Association, family and friends participated in the Anzac Day Parade in Perth. Noel Strickland and John Denman carried the unit flag on the day.

In Dili, the Timor 1942 Commando Campaign Tour group rose early and drove to the Jardim de Cristo Rei to participate in the Anzac Day Dawn Service. Tour group members were gratified by the references made to the commando campaign and the presence of the tour group by both the President of Timor-Leste Dr Francisco Guterres and the Australian Ambassador Peter Rogers in their addresses.

Genevieve Isbell and Trish Parr, daughters of the original Commanding Officer of the 2/2 Major (later Lt Colonel) Alexander Spence laid a wreath on behalf of the 2/2 Commando Association of Australia. Peter Servante also

laid a wreath in honour of his father Sig John Servante. It was a very moving experience for all to be collectively present at the service.



Genevieve Isbell, Trish Parr and Peter Servante at the Dili Anzac Day Dawn Service

Timor 1942 Commando Campaign Tour

SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED



The tour of sites connected with the No.2 Independent Company's (2/2) campaign against the Japanese on Portuguese Timor during 1942 began on Sunday 22 April and was successfully concluded on Wednesday 2 May. The tour was led by 2/2 Commando Association Committee member Ed Willis and guided by Julio dos Santos of Timor Adventures. 12 people participated in the tour including 11 family members of 2/2 soldiers. Mick Stone, Program Director of

Timor Awakening, was also a valuable tour member.

Ed has prepared a report on the tour that can be accessed on the Doublereds website:

<https://doublereds.org.au/news/timor-1942-commando-campaign-tour-successfully-completed-r37/>

Given the strong interest in the tour, Timor Adventures, the tour operator is calling for expressions of interest from others who may like to tour around Anzac Day in 2019.

If you are interested in a future tour, please contact:

Shirley Carlos
Timor Adventures
Mob: 0448514333 (Australia)
www.timoradventures.com.au

ELECTIONS IN TIMOR-LESTE – COLLEEN AND MURRAY ACT AS ELECTION OBSERVERS



Murray Thornton testing the ink used to confirm an elector has voted

Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop has welcomed the election of Xanana Gusmão's Change for Progress Alliance (AMP) after the opposition coalition won a majority of the seats in Timor-Leste's parliament in parliamentary elections held on Saturday 12 May.

Colleen Thornton-Ward and Murray Thornton volunteered to act as election observers in the southern town of Same.

A story that appeared in the local press and gave the background to Colleen and Murray's involvement as observers:

<https://www.communitynews.com.au/easter-n-reporter/news/morley-great-grandmother-journeys-to-east-timor-to-volunteer-on-election-day/>

GEORGE JAMES BEEDHAM MILSOM (1918 – 1965) -TX4141

George Milsom was one of the 2/40 Battalion men who made their way from Dutch Timor to Portuguese Timor following the surrender of the rest of the Battalion contingent to the Japanese on 23 February 1942 after a heroic defensive battle against the invaders.



Sgt G. Milsom and war artist Lt Charles Bush, 1945

About 200 Sparrow Force men escaped to Portuguese Timor. Most of these men were trades and specialist staff such as cooks and clerks and unsuited for a combat role and were later evacuated to Australia; a number of 2/40 men including George Milsom, however, were taken on as No. 2 Independent Company members, retrained and formed into a new platoon (D Platoon) under the command of Lt Don Turton, and served with distinction throughout the remainder of the Timor campaign before being evacuated back to Australia in December 1942.

A major part of the art and photographs in the Australian War Memorial collection

related to the 2nd Independent Company campaign in Portuguese Timor were created by two men who were members of the Australian Military History Section mission that went there in late 1945 and early 1946, namely war artist Charles Bush and photographer Keith Davis.

The mission's success was achievable by its being guided by Sergeant George Milsom, who through his war service in Portuguese Timor was very familiar with the sites visited and depicted by Bush and Davis.



Example of George Milsom's art work

One of George Milsom's daughters Elizabeth (Liz) Milsom is an artist who lives in Melbourne. Back in May 2010 Liz exhibited some of her father's Timorese related art work and other items that are now in her possession. Liz has very kindly made available images of items shown in the exhibition including a brief biography of her father, photographs from his participation in the Military History Section's Timor Mission, woven pouches, illustrated letters that he wrote home and watercolour paintings of scenes of Timorese life inspired by his service there during WWII.

The images provided by Liz are supplemented by others featuring George Milsom taken by Kenneth Davis during the Military History Section's Timor Mission that are in the Australian War Memorial's collection.

To see George Milsom's full story including images of his art work go to:

<https://doublereds.org.au/history/men-of-the-22/tx/george-james-beedham-milsom-r364/>

CALL FOR PROJECT FUNDING PROPOSALS

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

The committee has a broad discretion, but will, in considering these proposals, take into account any benefit to the people who live in the areas in which the unit saw action.

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 page of the Doublereds website:

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

If you wish to make a proposal that the association support a particular project, or spend money in a particular way, please start a new topic in this section of the forums, including how much you propose be spent, who would benefit and why you think we should support that project and post it as soon as you can.

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.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS AND PRODUCTS FOR SALE

Remember, new Association memberships and renewals, digital books and memorabilia are available for purchase from the Doublereds Store:

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



Doublereds pin available from the Store (\$20 + \$5 postage)