



COURIER

2/2 COMMANDO ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

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

President & Editor Ed Willis, Secretary Chantelle Cummins

NOVEMBER 2020

UPCOMING EVENT

71st Annual Commemoration Service



*Lovekin Drive, Kings Park, 3pm, Sunday 15
November 2020*

We are mindful of health considerations concerning COVID-19. We will follow updated health directives and be in touch with you if our plans for the ceremony change.

Association members, their families, friends and other supporters are reminded and encouraged to attend this year's commemoration ceremony.

The ceremony will again be live streamed online for those that cannot attend and for later viewing. Save the link and make sure you subscribe to our YouTube channel while you're there: <https://live.doublereds.org.au/>

Chantelle Cummins, granddaughter of 2/2 original member Bill Epps, will deliver the address at the service.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

The Association AGM was held at 35/18 Stirling Highway, Nedlands commencing at 5:30 p.m. on 23 September 2020.

As a result of the election of officers and committee members, Ed Willis takes over as President from John Denman with Noel

Strickland as Vice-President Ed will also continue as editor. Other office bearers are Chantelle Cummins (Secretary) and Colleen Thornton-Ward (Treasurer).

Committee members are: Louis Crossing, Rob Crossing, Peter Epps, Sue Epps, John Denman, Sharon Paul, Noel Strickland, Geoff Payne, Murray Thornton and John Cramb.

VALE JOHN TRELEASE ('JACK') HANSON - WX12804 – 1920-2020

Association members and supporters were saddened to learn of the passing of former 2/2 Commando Squadron soldier John Trelease ('Jack') Hanson - WX12804.

Jack passed away aged 98 at Hervey Bay, Qld on Tuesday 26 May 2020.

Jack was an original member of the unit and served throughout the Timor campaign.



He then fulfilled an instructor role with different training units before being transferred to the 2/12 Cavalry Commando Squadron in May 1944 and then served with that unit during their Borneo campaign between June – August 1945.

Though born in Fremantle, WA, Jack lived and worked in Queensland after leaving the Army, finally settling in Hervey Bay. He re-established contact with his family and the old

2/2 Commando Association in the late 1970s and over the years was a frequent contributor of personal updates and reminiscences to the 'Courier'.

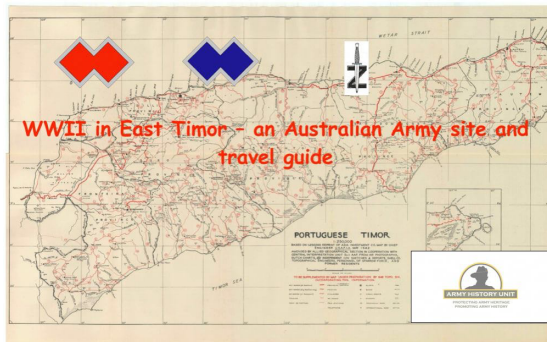
Jack wrote a full account of his early life in Fremantle and wartime service with the 2/2 and 2/12 in his own inimitable style that can be accessed on the Doublereds website:

<https://doublereds.org.au/files/JackHanson-TheWhiteGhost.pdf>

As far as can be ascertained Jack was the last surviving member of the 2/2.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION FOR ARMY HISTORY UNIT RESEARCH GRANT

Ed Willis, President of the 2/2 Commando Association of Australia, in partnership with ex-SAS officer, Jim Truscott, OAM, has been awarded an Army History Unit Research Grant of \$10,556 for the 2020/2021 financial year.



The grant has been awarded for the preparation of a 'WWII in East Timor – an Australian Army site and travel guide'.

The grant money will be used to cover costs associated with additional site survey work in East Timor, particularly in the central and eastern areas of the country, and further library and archival research in Darwin, Brisbane, Canberra and Melbourne.

Thankfully, the conditions of the grant allow for an extension of time to complete the travel associated with the project because of current COVID-19 travel restrictions.

The award grant along with donations made to the Association will allow the completion of the 'Commando Campaign Site Survey Project' that the Association has been working on since 2018 (see

<https://doublereds.org.au/.../231-commando-campaign-site.../>).

DOUBLE REDS RESILIENCE AWARD

Association President, Ed Willis met with Andrew Hastie, MHR for Canning, on August 20, 2020.

During the course of the meeting Mr Hastie said would like to use the 2/2 Timor story as the basis of a new award he wished to introduce for schools in the Canning electorate (those that are presented at assemblies and the like).

Ed suggested that the word 'resilience' summed up the 2/2's Timor campaign and it was agreed that the award would go ahead as the 'Double Reds Resilience Award'.

In a Parliamentary speech made on 21 October, Mr Hastie announced:

"This week the first awards will be presented to students in Canning.

First, congratulations to Micaela Paterson, a grade 12 student from Byford Secondary College who received the award last night. Micaela has displayed a high degree of support and care for her family whilst working hard at her academic studies. She hasn't allowed hardship or adversity to define her, even under the most difficult circumstances.

Second, congratulations to Dylan Harris, a grade 12 student from Mandurah Baptist College. Dylan will receive the award tonight for his perseverance and tenacity over the past two years, despite dealing with significant health challenges. His efforts have enabled him to attain an early offer of entry into university in his chosen field.

Finally, I'm very proud to say that the award has received the endorsement of the 2/2 Commando Association of Australia. I'm confident that the next generation of Australians can continue their legacy of toughness resilience in the face of adversity".

Each award recipient will be presented with a Double Reds pin.



Vince Connelly, MHR for Stirling, has subsequently announced that he will also introduce the resilience award for schools in his electorate.



2020 AFTER CEREMONY DRINKS

The committee of the 2/2 Commando Association invites you for a drink and a chat.

After the commemorative ceremony in Kings Park on 15 November 2020, please join us for a drink and a bite to eat at the Captain Stirling Hotel (in the alcove section of the bar).

80 STIRLING HIGHWAY, NEDLANDS

We expect the ceremony to finish at around 4pm. Drinks will be from 4.15pm.

Hope you can join us.

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