



COURIER

2/2 COMMANDO ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

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

President & Editor Ed Willis, Secretary Chantelle Cummins

NOVEMBER 2021

UPCOMING EVENT

72nd Annual Commemoration Ceremony



*Lovekin Drive, Kings Park, 3pm, Sunday 21
November 2021*

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/>

Sheree Hart, granddaughter of 2/2 original member Mervyn 'Doc' Wheatley (WX13365), will deliver the address at the service.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

The Association AGM was held at 35/18 Stirling Highway, Nedlands commencing at 5:30 p.m. on 20 October 2021.

As a result of the election of officers and committee members, Ed Willis continues as

President along 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 John Burrridge, Louis Crossing, Rob Crossing, Peter Epps, Sue Epps, John Denman, Sharon Paul, Geoff Payne, Murray Thornton, and John Cramb.

80th ANNIVERSARY OF THE TIMOR CAMPAIGN

Dates from late 2021 through 2022 will mark the 80th anniversaries of significant events that occurred during the No. 2 Independent Company's (2/2) campaign on Portuguese Timor during WWII. Some of these significant dates were:

Event	Date
Sparrow Force embarkation at Darwin for Koepang	10 December 1941
No. 2IC, Dutch contingent landing and occupation of Dili and the airfield	17 December 1941
Japanese landing and occupation of the airfield and Dili – Ration truck massacre	19-20 February 1942
No. 2IC rejection of Japanese surrender demand - Hatolia	13 March 1942
No. 2 IC re-establishes radio contact with Darwin	20 April 1942
'August Push' begins	12 August 1942
No. 2IC evacuation from Portuguese Timor and return to Darwin	15 December 1942

The support of the Timorese people from the earliest days was critical to the success of the commando campaign and their contribution and consequent suffering during the four harsh years of Japanese occupation of their country especially warrants recognition and acknowledgement – our ‘debt of honour’.

THE JIM ELLWOOD STORY (VX67548) – COURAGE AND RESILIENCE ON TIMOR

In these ‘dark and hurrying days’ members and supporters of the Doublereds will be heartened by the knowledge that an Australian veteran of the Timor campaign is still amongst us.



99-year-old ALFRED JAMES (Jim) ELLWOOD (VX67548) resides in Melbourne and enjoys reasonably good health for his advanced years.

2/2 Commando Association President Ed Willis had the pleasure and honour to meet Jim while in Melbourne on 17 May 2021 in company with his son Damian and Doug Knight, President of the Australian Commando Association – Victoria.

Corporal Jim Ellwood was a Cipher Specialist with NT Force Signals when he arrived on Timor with the advance party of the No. 4 Independent Company on 15 September 1942. He was attached to Sparrow Force HQ in his specialist capacity and continued in that role when Lancer Force succeeded Sparrow Force on 7 December 1942. He then volunteered as a member of the 14-man S Force (Stay Behind Party) that was established on 9 January 1943 to continue to observe and

report on Japanese activities after the departure of the No. 4 Independent Company from Timor. S Force was evacuated from Timor to Fremantle by the submarine USS Gudgeon on 10 February 1943. Ellwood returned to Timor in September 1943 as a member of the ill-fated SRD (Z Special) Operation Lagarto, was captured and spent the remainder of the war as a POW (mostly in Dili) and subject to terrible deprivation and torture.

The late Jim Truscott prepared an informative article relating aspects of Jim’s life and wartime experiences after meeting with him early last year. See <https://www.yumpu.com/.../commando-magazine-edition-3-2020> - see p. 63-66.

Jim Ellwood is a brave and honourable man who would have been known to many of the No. 2 Independent Company men who served on Timor; Bernard Callinan makes several complimentary mentions of him in his book ‘Independent Company’. He will celebrate his **100th birthday** on 16 December 2021.

SUPPORTING THE 2/2 COMMANDO ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

The Committee of the Association reviewed its current status at the AGM and feels that the future looks bright in terms of supporting our objectives. For example, there were about 200 attendees at last year’s Commemoration Service and we’re optimistic about getting the same or better roll-up this year.

However, to ensure that bright future we would appreciate our supporters purchasing or renewing memberships, buying products from the store (pins and e-books) or making a donation. Younger members of our ‘great fraternity’ are especially encouraged to follow up this way to better ensure that the Association has a longer-term future even after the current generation of immediate descendants of the soldiers moves on.



<https://doublereds.org>



2021 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 21 November 2021, 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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