



COURIER

2/2 COMMANDO ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

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

Editor Ed Willis, Secretary Chantelle Cummins

APRIL 2023

ANZAC DAY 2023 MARCH ARRANGEMENTS

Committee Secretary Chantelle Cummins (granddaughter of Bill Epps) and her son Nick will lay a wreath on behalf of the Association at the Dawn Service in Kings Park.



Members of the Association, family and friends can participate in the Anzac Day Parade. The Parade starts at 9 am from the corner of Barrack Street and St Georges Terrace. Moving east along St Georges Terrace, the parade passes the Saluting Dais before turning right onto Victoria Avenue and dispersing on to Langley Park. A sausage sizzle will be provided by The Salvation Army.

Information about the Order of March, route map and parking, or other frequently asked questions are available on this RSL web page: <https://www.rslwa.org.au/commemoration/anzac-day/services>.

Younger members of our 'great fraternity' are especially encouraged to participate. If anyone would like to have the honour of carrying the unit banner, please contact our President Noel Strickland when forming up before the March.

AFTER MARCH LUNCH

Family and friends of the 2/2 are invited to join marchers associated with the 2/8

Commando Squadron for lunch (12:30 pm) at the Goodearth Hotel Restaurant, 195 Adelaide Terrace, Perth. The cost is \$25 for a two-course meal including coffee (drinks are extra).

To attend, please contact Graham Brooks <digger2148@outlook.com> by Monday 24 April.

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE MEETING ON 13 MARCH 2023

President Noel Strickland prepared the following notes of agenda items discussed at the meeting:

Payment of membership fees – it was agreed that annual fees could only be paid through the [Doublereds website](#). As most members pay by having the annual fee automatically taken from their account or paying manually through the website, it was decided that accepting payments by other methods was too time consuming for the committee members who dealt with it.

Grants – it was decided that we offer a grant (up to \$5000) again this year. Applications have been called for on our [Facebook page](#).

Meeting with Andrew Hastie our new Patron
Immediate Past President Ed Willis and Noel had an appointment with our newly appointed patron. At this meeting Andrew was advised of the history of the Association and also past and current projects. Andrew expressed interest in supporting the committee's application for the 2/2 Commandos to receive a unit citation for their efforts on East Timor during the war. Already Andrew has approached the Minister for Defence Personnel and Veterans' Affairs, Matt

Keogh, to schedule a meeting with him to discuss our application.

Committee positions – Sue Epps accepted nomination for the position of Vice-President.

Another Committee meeting will be held later in the year.

ALAN HOLLOW'S 'TIMOR SOUVENIR'



Serial Number WX13013

Writing in 2005, Alan Luby (NX55531), former Specialist Medical Orderly during the Timor campaign, recalled how he tried to assist Alan Hollow after he was badly wounded:

“About mid-March [1942] we had our first real taste of battle when the Japs attacked 4 Section at Bazar Tete and we suffered two killed and three wounded, in spite of the grand fight put up by the Section against overwhelming odds.

Then came the daddy of them all, one Allan Hollow, an 18 year old soldier from Kalgoorlie staggering along the track into our camp H.Q. supported by two Timorese, his clothes streaked with blood and the lower half of his face shot away.

These days he would have been rushed into an Intensive Care Unit and received massive transfusions of blood and serum, but there were no such luxuries at Nasuta, just my very humble RAP.

After ascertaining he had no other wounds, it was a matter of cleaning him up as well as possible and then tying off those facial and lingual arteries that were still pumping out blood, and keeping his upper, exposed throat clear.

From my experience with seriously injured accident victims it was obvious that Hollow was ‘in extremis’ and required greater skill and care than I could give, but that was a long way off.

Realising that Nasuta would be the next likely target for attack and the need for more skilful care for these two badly wounded men a discussion was held between Captain Laidlaw, Lieutenant McIntosh and the NCOs and myself, as to movement, it being obvious that they would need to be carried on the two Army stretchers I had at that time.

Also at the sounds of gunfire most of the Timorese had gone bush, and only a few had attached themselves to us as ‘criados’.

I submitted my estimation that Hollow could not survive more than a couple of hours, and suggested that the main party move off, leaving a couple of troops with me, so that when he expired we could bury him, and then catch up.

The reply from ‘the Bull’ was quite explicit, ‘Either we all stay, or we all go, and, if necessary we carry them out!’ With that, we completed preparations, coaxed a few Timorese to join us and moved out.

Thank God my judgement was wrong, for by dint of courage and sheer determination, the skill of Dr Dunkley and Professor Bernie Rank (plastic surgeon supreme) who performed about 30 operations, good nursing and a loving wife, 54 years on Hollow is still alive and we communicate regularly”.

After he was evacuated to Australia, Alan Hollow wrote a story for the Australian Army publication *Khaki and green* (1943) deprecatingly making light of his injuries titled “My Timor souvenir”. For more information, see Alan Hollows entry in [‘Men of the 2/2’ on Doublereds](#).