



COURIER

2/2 COMMANDO ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

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

Editor Ed Willis, Secretary Sharon Paul

April 2025

UPCOMING EVENT

ANZAC DAY 2025 MARCH ARRANGEMENTS



Members of the Association, family and friends can participate in the Anzac Day Parade (25 April). 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.

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/events-calendar/anzac-day-the-march>

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.

THE W.A. PREMIER'S ANZAC STUDENT TOUR



Recently a young student from Kalbarri, with family connections to the 2/2nd, secured a place on the annual Premier's Anzac Student Tour. Dylan McKenzie's highly regarded response to the question "using a Western Australian example, examine the significance of monuments and/or other modes of commemoration established to honour those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in war" drew on his connections to the 2/2nd through both his paternal grandparents.

His written submission discussed the 2/2nd contribution in WWII, emphasized the importance of Anzac Day and his own passion for Australian history. To understand and highlight the significance and importance of memorials, Dylan traveled to Perth to visit both the 2/2nd and Anzac memorials in Kings Park. He read several topical books including "The Men Who Came Out of the Ground" by Paul Cleary.

Dylan's great, great uncle was Lieutenant Charles Francis Gerald McKenzie (Gerry), his grandfather's uncle, was an original member of the unit. He was awarded a Military Cross following his participation in the defence of the Dili Airstrip.

Robert Kenneth Palmer (Bob), his grandmother's father, was also an original member of the unit. He progressed to the rank of Lieutenant during the conflict.

The tour will travel to Japan from 17 to 27 April 2025 to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the end of WWII and includes visiting Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

He expects to achieve a greater understanding of the impact of war on both sides and how we must strive to avoid future conflict. The younger generation will not forget.

Congratulations Dylan!!

ORDER OF TIMOR-LESTE AWARDED TO 2/2 COMMANDO ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA



The 2/2 Commando Association of Australia is thrilled and proud to announce that it has been awarded the Order of Timor-Leste by the East Timor government.

This award is the highest honour currently awarded by East Timor. Established in 2009, the order recognizes the contribution of East Timorese and foreign nationals who have made a significant contribution to East Timor, the Timorese or mankind in general.

The President of the 2/2 Commando Association of Australia, Noel Strickland said that:

“... the award is not only recognition of the outstanding work done by the 2/2 Commandos during WWII, but also the ongoing support the association has given to the Timorese people since the war, support which is continuing today. This recognition has come after many years of making submissions to various Australian governments, all of which were not able to give recognition through an official award to the 2/2 Commandos due to the guidelines currently in place.

The 2/2 Commandos were deployed to Portuguese East Timor on Dec 19, soon after the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. On Feb 19 approximately 6000 Japanese Imperial forces landed in Dili. For the next 10 months the 2/2 Commandos engaged the Japanese in a guerilla campaign where they inflicted heavy casualties on the Japanese whilst operating in small groups with no contact from the mainland or the Australian command.

The 2/2 Commandos had unwavering support from the Timorese people during this time, without which, the Commandos more than likely would not have survived. When the Australians left East Timor in late 1942, the Japanese killed between 40,000 and 60,000 Timorese, a situation which all the 2/2 Commandos regretted for the rest of their lives.

After the war, the ex-soldiers set up an association which became a self-help group for themselves and a group which continually raised funds and collected goods for the people of Timor. Currently, there are no 2/2 Commandos left alive but their families keep the association going with goals the of keeping the memory of 2/2 Commandos alive and continuing to support the people of Timor, which is continuing to this day”.

Committee members Ed Willis and Murray Thornton represented the Association at the Award ceremony held at the Lahane Palace in the hills above Dili in the late afternoon of 26 November. Ed accepted the award from President Ramos Horta on the Association's behalf.