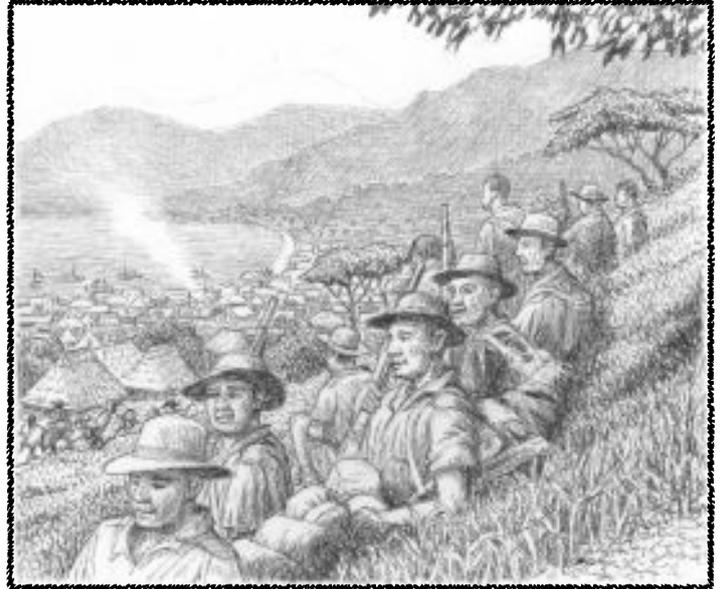
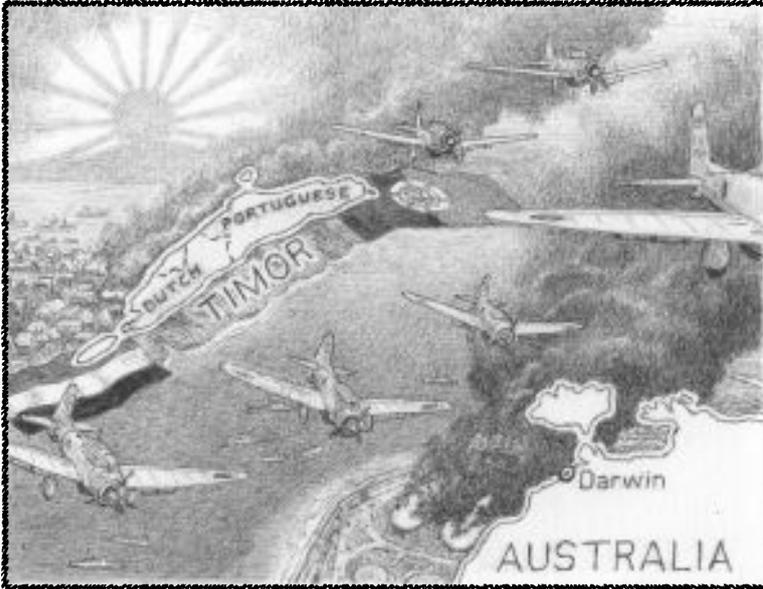


# Remember TIMOR 1942

*"Your friends do not forget you"*

Statement dropped over Timor by the Australian Government 1943



The Japanese pushed south in the early 1940's to expand their empire but were careful not to invade any of Portugal's territories. They feared that any violations of Portuguese neutrality could interfere in the war in Europe. So they avoided the eastern half of Timor which the Portuguese had controlled for nearly 500 years.

The Allies assured Portugal of help should the Japanese threaten Timor. Using that excuse, 155 men of the 2/2<sup>nd</sup> Independent Company (part of Sparrow Force) were inserted on 17 December 1941, even though there was no imminent threat. The Portuguese Governor angrily opposed the landing as a breach of Portuguese neutrality.



As a result, the Japanese also invaded with a whole battalion -- about 1,100 men--on the night of February 19/20, 1942.

That same day, the Japanese bombed Darwin, the first of many attacks. The aim was to destroy the infrastructure so that the Allies couldn't use it against them.

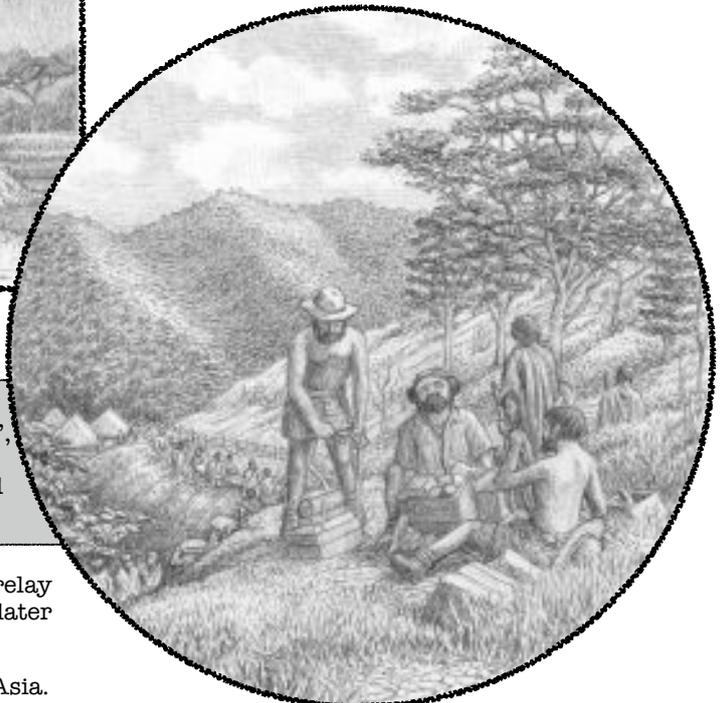
The Japanese did not invade Australia, and had no intention of doing so. But they did invade Timor.

The Australian troops had no way of contacting military authorities until they built a radio, "Winnie the War Winner", in April 1942.

They contacted Darwin to the great surprise of all, as it had been assumed that they were dead or captured.

After that, supplies were dropped to them, and they were able to relay messages about Japanese movements. The Australians were later reinforced by the 2/4th, but never numbered more than 700 men.

They remained the only viable Allied fighting force in South East Asia.



**The Australians could not have been so successful without the friendship, assistance, and loyalty of the Timorese people.**



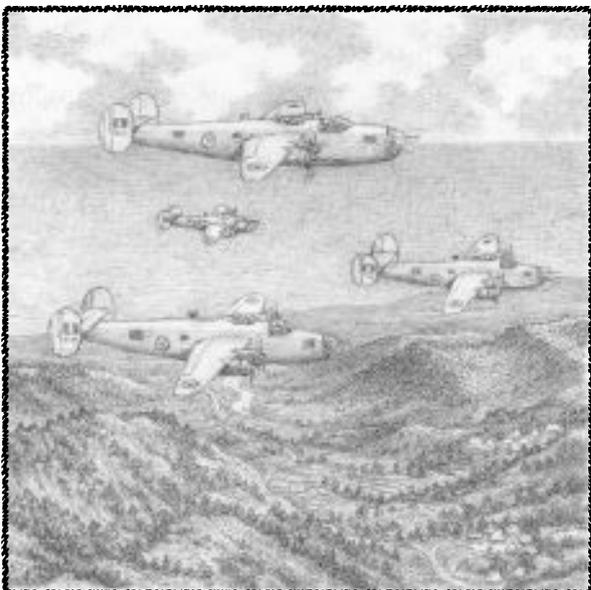
Young Timorese men and their families housed and fed them, guided them, nursed them when sick, spied on Japanese troop movements, showed the best ambush positions, and carried their equipment.



**The Australian commandos were taken off Timor in early 1943, the final withdrawal via the "Arunta".**

The Timorese who were so loyal were left with mementos given by the soldiers: hats, belts, coins, and notes of thanks.

The Japanese took revenge on the Timorese because they had helped the Australians, and many were killed.



The Australian and US Air Forces attacked Japanese positions in Timor as the war progressed. Many more Timorese lives were lost, and villages and crops were decimated. At least 40,000 Timorese people died in World War II as a direct result of their assistance to the Australian commandos.

What are your thoughts about the **Timorese support** of our men in WWII? Could you share the story with family, friends, on social media?

- What do you think about the **Australian government spying** on the Timorese in 2004 for financial gain?
- What do you think of **Witness K and Bernard Collaery** who exposed the spying and are now being **prosecuted**?

Would you **sign and share the petition**? Click [here](#), or go to "Be a Supporter" on [www.bernardcollaerysupporters.org](http://www.bernardcollaerysupporters.org)

*Some References:*

Paul Cleary, *The Men Who Came Out of the Ground*  
Peter Stanley, *Invading Australia: Japan and the battle for Australia 1942.*  
Clinton Fernandes, see: *Zombie Myths of Australian Military History.*