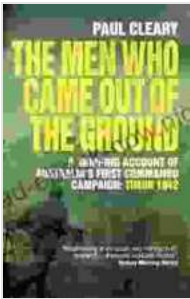


# Gripping Account of Australia's First Commando Campaign: A Tale of Courage and Sacrifice



The Australian Army's first commando campaign was a daring and dangerous undertaking that played a pivotal role in the Pacific Theater of World War II. The 2/1st Independent Company, a unit of highly trained and motivated soldiers, was tasked with conducting raids and sabotage missions against Japanese forces in the jungles of Timor. This gripping account tells the story of their courage, sacrifice, and the enduring legacy of their campaign.



## The Men Who Came Out of the Ground: A gripping account of Australia's first commando campaign

by Paul Cleary

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 5200 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 318 pages



### The Formation of the 2/1st Independent Company

In early 1942, as the Japanese advanced through Southeast Asia, the Australian government recognized the need for a specialized force capable of conducting unconventional warfare. The 2/1st Independent Company was formed from volunteers who met rigorous physical and mental standards. Led by the enigmatic and determined Major Ian Stewart, the company's ranks included experienced soldiers, farmers, and even a former circus performer.

### Training and Preparation

The commandos underwent intensive training at a remote camp in the Australian outback. They were instructed in silent killing techniques, explosives, navigation, and survival skills. They also practiced amphibious landings and infiltration tactics. Their grueling training regimen instilled an unwavering determination and a deep sense of camaraderie within the unit.

### Arrival in Timor

In September 1942, the 2/1st Independent Company arrived in Timor, a small island located north of Australia. The island was already occupied by Japanese forces, and the commandos faced the daunting task of establishing a base and gathering intelligence. Operating under the cover of darkness, the commandos infiltrated enemy-held territory and made contact with local Timorese resistance fighters.

## **Raids and Sabotage**

The commandos carried out a series of daring raids on Japanese outposts, using stealth, deception, and sheer audacity. They blew up bridges, disrupted supply lines, and gathered valuable information on enemy positions. One of their most successful missions was the raid on the Japanese headquarters in Dili, the island's capital. The commandos captured vital documents and eliminated several key enemy officers.

## **The Battle of Portuguese Timor**

In February 1943, the Japanese launched a major offensive to drive the commandos and resistance fighters out of Timor. The commandos fought a desperate rearguard action, holding out for weeks against overwhelming odds. During the battle, Major Stewart was killed, along with many of his men. However, the commandos had inflicted heavy losses on the enemy and demonstrated their indomitable spirit.

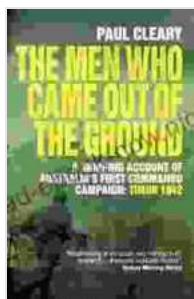
## **Legacy and Impact**

The 2/1st Independent Company's campaign in Timor was a significant milestone in the history of Australian military operations. It showed that Australian soldiers were capable of conducting unconventional warfare with

skill and courage. The campaign also strengthened the relationship between Australia and Timor, a relationship that continues to this day.

The Australian government established a memorial at the site of the Battle of Portuguese Timor, where visitors can learn about the sacrifices made by the commandos and their Timorese allies. The memorial serves as a reminder of the enduring legacy of the campaign and the courage of the men who fought there.

The story of the 2/1st Independent Company's campaign in Timor is a captivating tale of courage, sacrifice, and the indomitable spirit of soldiers. Their daring raids and sabotage missions played a vital role in the Pacific Theater of World War II. The legacy of the commandos lives on, inspiring generations of Australian soldiers and reminding us of the lengths to which people will go to defend their country and their freedom.



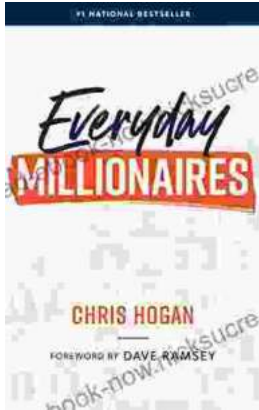
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