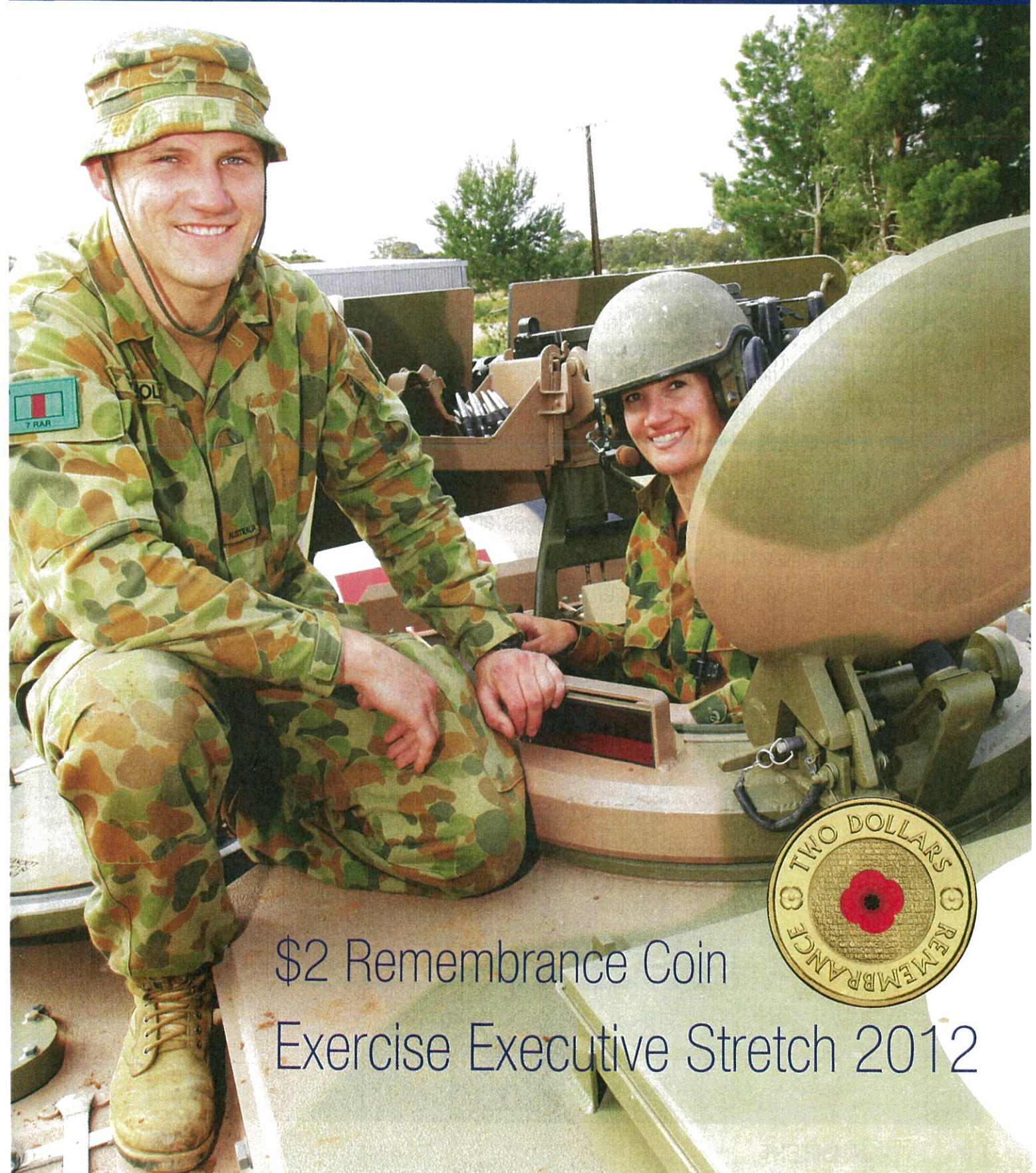




THE SIGNAL

RSL South Australia, Northern Territory and Broken Hill



\$2 Remembrance Coin
Exercise Executive Stretch 2012

DVA Online Service

A new website offering veterans a more immediate way of dealing with the Department of Veterans' Affairs has been launched. MyAccount offers online forms, transport booking, payment and card information, lodging travel claims, changing contact details, viewing status of claims. The service is optional and veterans wanting to set up an online account should phone 1800 173 858.

Campbells Wholesale Offer

Campbells is a wholesale supplier of grocery, dairy, confectionery and general products to business and hospitality. Several RSL Sub-Branches already obtain supplies at Campbells and the company has now extended the opportunity to RSL members to shop with them.

When buying members are required to show a valid RSL membership card and pay by cash or credit card. Campbells warehouses are at 65 Deeds Road, Plympton and 58 Diagonal Road, Pooraka. Regular catalogues and further information can be viewed at www.campbells.com.au



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One Man Painted to Keep Sane as a POW Under the Japanese

Introducing a new website www.changipowart.com of over 300 images dedicated to Des Bettany who served during WWII as a Lance Bombardier on 25 pounds.

Evacuated from Dunkirk and posted to North Malaya he was imprisoned by the Japanese at various POW camps on the Changi Peninsula.

You may well ask, how did he make it through all of this? Well, he painted to keep his sanity.

This artwork of his service life before and after the Capitulation of Singapore is a range of fascinating illustrations, done often with humour.

However, while painting to keep his head, he nearly lost it, as he was also painting political cartoons of the Japanese and hiding these. They were found and after some quick talking and who knows what else occurred, Des was warned by Col Saito, if he ever painted like this again, he would get a 'short haircut' (be beheaded).

This new website has been put together by us, Des' family as a tribute, and to help raise awareness of what the POWs went through, as seen through the eyes of one man, Des Bettany.

It also gives a rare insight on how others kept 'sane' by looking forward to such things as: The Changi University; The Theatre and Musical Programs; working to help others ie. making rubber soles for boots or limbs for amputees; getting up to mischief; partaking in things of Faith; etc.

After 60 years in a cupboard, at last, this artwork is available to all who have access to the internet. Who knows, one day there may be a book.

A small copied sample of the artwork is on display at the Army Museum of South Australia.

All the artwork can be viewed at www.changipowart.com. Please share this site with your contacts, members and family so the message gets out to many of what these men went through and some of the strategies they used to keep sane.

Should you have any added information, or if you would like me to give an illustrated address to your group, please contact me at keithbettany@internode.on.net

Keith Bettany (Des' son)

