

Citation

Territory Treasures

The Newsletter of the
Northern Territory Police
Museum and Historical
Society Inc.



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PRICELESS MANNION COLLECTION

The Northern Territory Police Museum and Historical Society has been given a treasure trove of pictorial material and personal documents which belonged to the late Chief Inspector, Jim Mannion, founding editor of Citation, and a keen photographer. The invaluable collection was brought to Darwin from Adelaide by his daughter, Nancy Litchfield, when in town for the bombing of Darwin 70th anniversary, along with her brother, Robert Mannion, and her husband, Jim Litchfield.



By Peter Simon

Wide ranging in its content, the collection consists of albums of still photographs and 8mm movie footage, typed recollections of his involvement in WW11, life in Tennant Creek, a concise history of the NT Police Force and an article about Aboriginal trackers. In a marathon effort, NTPMHS member Sergeant John Pini of Water Police

scanned the albums so that they could be returned to Nancy to take home. In the case of the 8mm films, on spools, some in metal canisters, it is a difficult task. Preliminary examination indicated that some film is brittle, stuck together in some instances. Bill Fletcher of [Darwin ProVideo](#) is working on the film, some of which emits the smell of vinegar, a sign that it is badly degraded.

Chief Inspector Mannion was a keen photographer who, early in life in South Australia, aspired to be a reporter. Keen on boxing, during the Depression he was the Australian correspondent for the American international boxing magazine edited by Nat Fleischer. In 1936, armed with a movie and a still camera, he sailed to Darwin aboard the Merkur to join the NT Police Force. There are photographs taken during that trip and places along the way: Sydney, with views of the city, Taronga Zoo, Fort Denison, Brisbane, Townsville and Thursday Island.

After a short time in Darwin he was posted to the rough mining town of Tennant Creek, and had to ride all the way with two horses and a swag. There he found a wild outpost where Nathan beer was popular.



Tennant Creek Church being opened by Bishop Raible in 1937.

There are photographs taken at his wedding to Adelaide girl, Nancy Gwennyth Collins, on February 26, 1938 in the Tennant Creek Catholic church. Mannion had helped relocate the church from Pine Creek and erect it.

Mrs Mannion, one of only three women in Tennant Creek, recorded her account of life in Tennant where many people lived in tents with antbed floors and no refrigeration. A big event in the town was when a truck arrived with fresh fruit and vegetables.



Nancy Mannion



Mannion Wedding

The Mannions were stationed at Lake Nash when war broke out, and Jim joined up. Mrs Mannion and daughter, Nancy, moved to Adelaide. Jim served with the 2/27 Battalion in the Middle East and New Guinea. One of the documents in the collection headed INTRODUCTION TO WAR and covering 30 days of fighting highlights his journalist skills. There are photographs of Jim in uniform in Syria in 1941 and a postcard GREETINGS FROM SYRIA, below, may have been included with photos of Mrs Mannion and daughter Nancy which he carried in his wallet.



Greetings from Syria postcard.

At the start of his wartime journal, Jim remarked how incongruous it was that the company to which he was attached had mustered in an olive grove - the olive branch being the symbol of peace - before it was transported into Syria, a mandated territory, as was Lebanon, held by the Vichy French, transited by German and Italian planes attacking the British stronghold of Egypt. The enemy included members of the French Foreign Legion, Senegalese, Algerians and Italians.

The Allies, consisting of Australians, Free French, British and Indian units invaded Syria and Lebanon from Palestine on June 8, 1941. Mannion's force soon came to the front

line to hear "machine guns barking" and see the flash of tracer bullets..."Ambulances were coming and going, fully loaded, continuously, and despatch riders might have been plucked out of a magician's hat, like rabbits - they were so numerous. On the road was a shellhole; and just off the road were two shell victims, decently covered and resting - and finished with war."

One of the prisoners taken was thought to be a Field Marshall, a "proud looking gent", who had so much "geegaws and braid" to give the impression that he was of high rank. Later, they crossed the Litani River on a pontoon bridge built during the night by engineers, and joined troops who had been in action the previous 48 hours. The account goes on to describe how he killed his first man; took a prisoner; came under mortar fire, sniper and aerial attack.

His account of the battles is an invaluable document as the campaign received little media coverage at the time because Allied censors, senior commanders and politicians believed that knowledge of the fierce fighting against the French forces could have a negative effect on public opinion in Allied countries. To prevent French naval vessels from falling into the hands of the Germans, Winston Churchill in 1940 had ordered the British navy to bombard French naval vessels at the port of Mers-el-Kebir, Algeria. In the process 1237 sailors were killed, 350 wounded, a battleship and five other vessels were sunk. General Charles de Gaulle was enraged. In addition, the French scuttled another large part of their fleet at Toulon in November 1941 as the Germans moved in to take possession.

Mannion's document almost gives the impression that it could have been written in the field, or soon after, which would have been against regulations and most certainly

would have upset the censors as it contained colourful comments about some officers. One derisive section involved an episode when officers thought the enemy had had enough so they ventured out in a Bren gun carrier, white flag at the ready, with the view of "kidding" or frightening the enemy to parlay for peace. Mannion said the officers looked like a couple of old Roman gladiators in a chariot as they stood there on the carrier. "The rude enemy", Mannion said, had shot at the olive branch and the carrier had returned post haste, causing much laughter in the ranks.

There is a passage in the war diary which contains a surprising historical and literary reference in telling how they were attacking hills held by the Vichy French. A comrade, Alan Ashton, said, "Climbing up the hills like this to attack the French reminds me of Wolfe at Quebec." Mannion agreed, and added that he would rather be home writing Gray's Elegy, a poem first written in 1751, or even reading it.

Queensland prickly pear, evident in many places, was eaten by locals. Eggs and tomatoes were bought as a welcome change to bully beef; it was noticed that officers ate steak from time to time. On patrol on the 17th day he met "an old Territorian," George Hayman, but as they were at a water well, they could not do "justice" to the reunion.

During an attack from enemy planes in a fierce battle, an aircraft came down in flames nearby. The pilot, his clothes on fire, called for help. Some soldiers urged others to let him die. However, one said he sounded as if he was "one of ours", and rushed in and saved him. On another occasion, receiving a report that a large number of enemy tanks and armoured cars were coming down the road, Mannion and

others discussed how they should engage them. It was suggested that they "jump out" and confront the force "like dingoes". Mannion said this kind of strategy would result in them being forced back to Cape Town in South Africa. As it turned out, the mechanised column had been stopped by a combined artillery and naval barrage. A French tank had been "skittled" by artillery.

The way the barren land had been made fruitful with wells and irrigation, impressed Mr Mannion. In a Vichy French newspaper found on the battlefield it said the Allies were being held on all fronts. "Just like our own papers!" observed Mannion. In another battle, they took up a position on a hill overlooking a village where the enemy were well established around an American college and a mosque. Enemy planes dropped incendiaries.

On the 22nd day of fighting, a combined air force and navy operation "belted hell" out of enemy positions along the coast from about midnight to 2am, using flares in great numbers and lighting up the countryside like daylight. The heaviest artillery duel took place two days later, guns on both sides going like "the hammers of hell" for about an hour and half. During quiet moments, Mannion said they discussed war, politics and everything under the sun... "There's no system in it - conversation is liable to flash from theology to prostitution without warning. But it passes the time away".

There were all kinds of rumours about their particular war and the "Russo-German turnout"; impossible to believe half of them. On the 25th day, an enemy ammunition dump was hit near the centre of Damour and exploded for 50 minutes. "I didn't know enemy ammunition could sound so great", Mannion commented. He was informed that

day that he had been promoted to lance corporal.

Armed with a tommy gun, he went on a night patrol as a "bodyguard" for an

engineer officer and two sappers to look for a suitable crossing place on the Damour River, the bridge having been blown up.



Jim Mannion in Syria

They came under heavy machine gun and mortar fire. Fully armed and equipped, the force was prepared to cross the river immediately after the artillery performed a mighty barrage. The crossing was made via a rock causeway, and the village was taken without much opposition. A machine gun post and prisoners - French, German, Polish, Spaniards - possible members of the Foreign Legion, were taken after a bitter battle. His account contains the surprising paragraph: "Rumour has it that even Australians have

been captured in this advance on Damour." Could these persons have been members of the Foreign Legion?

Mannion and others came under artillery attack while burying enemy dead.

At breakfast on the 35th day they were informed that hostilities had ceased at a minute past midnight: "Thus ended my first campaign and I don't care if it's the last. It was interesting and priceless as an

experience and I got through it with no damage and a slight promotion - both facts being much to my surprise. And now for some leave - I'm dying to see Beymouth (Beirut)".

One of the photo albums is identified as mainly covering Brock's Creek, Oenpelli, Maranboy, Mataranka, Birdum and Lake Nash in the period 1938-1939.

Brock's Creek pix include a panoramic view of the tiny community's backyards with the pub in the centre, the post office and railway station.



The police station and the post office were in the same building at Brock's Creek. Mrs Mannion the postmistress is shown at work.



Another photo appears to be the Chinese temple. There is an internal shot of Potter's Fountain Head mining battery and there are many captions in Mannion's own hand.



Of note are views of the remains of the *We of the Never Station* – Elsey - and graves.



ROPER RIVER ADVENTURES

There is extensive pictorial and written coverage of the time the Mannion family was at Roper River, described by daughter Nancy as a beautiful place and an ideal spot for kids growing up. Her brother, Robert, born December 1944, is seen in a highchair. Nancy figures in many photos - with her dolls; hanging out their clothes on a line; in a goat cart made from a wooden box pulled by a speedy looking animal which could give Black Caviar a run for the money; playing with Aboriginal children; in a canoe; riding; milking a goat and doing

correspondence course homework. There is even a photo of a 9ft long snake which was shot on the front step. Christmas 1946 is captured with shots of a decorated tree in the residence, and people wearing party hats.

Of interest is the interior view of the Roper River Police Station with its radio set, large battery, typewriter, and Mannion's hat. Police horses, with which Jim made long patrols, are shown in a snap. Mrs Mannion ran the station in his absence. While he was away on patrol Robert became dangerously ill with diphtheria and had to be flown out to Darwin Hospital by the Flying Doctor.



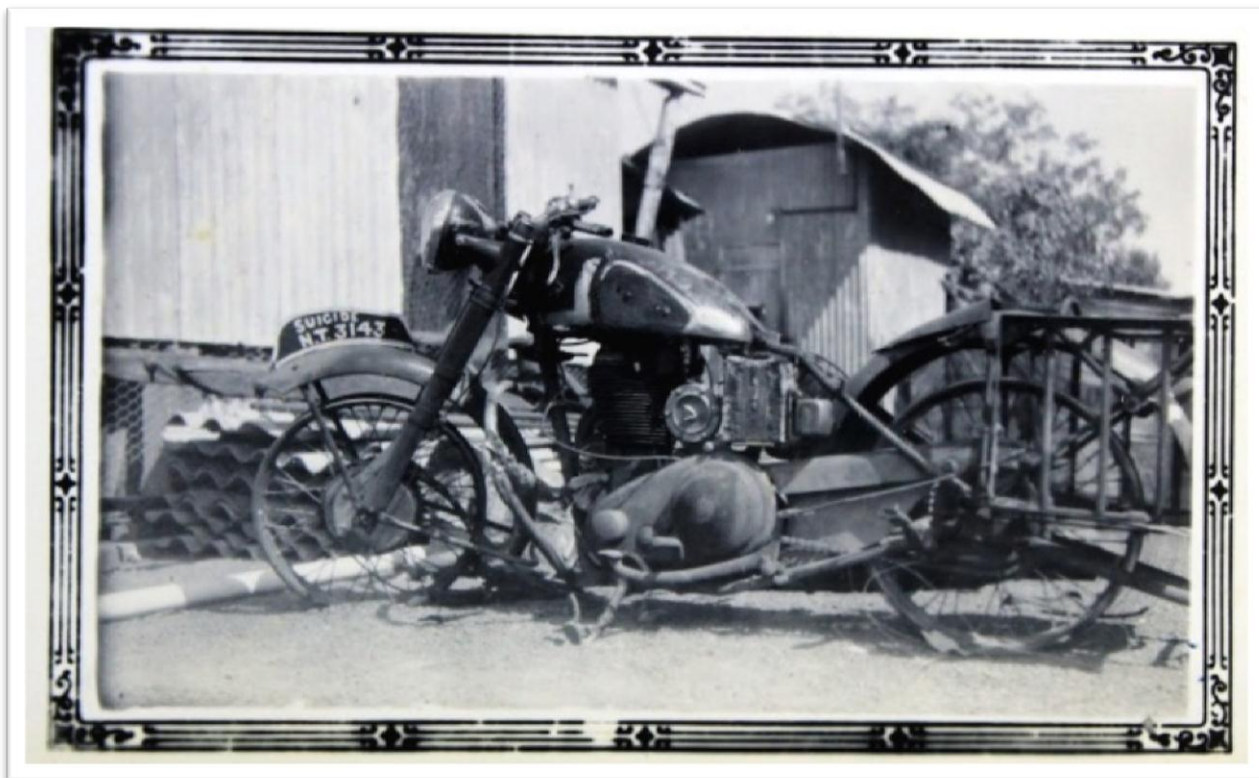
Nancy Mannion (junior) at Roper River 1945

Other subjects include the Roper Valley Homestead; a 1945 corroboree party at Urapunga; 21 Aboriginal prisoners from Groote Eylandt; fire making by rubbing sticks; mail day at Roper River with pilot Cec Parsons and another well-known pilot,

Jack Slade, and a series on the making of a young man and a burial ceremony. There are two photographs relating to the 1948 suicide of a man at Maranboy. In the first instance, the person placed a large handwritten note, displayed on top of a billycan and held in

place by sticks, asking that the police be sent to find his “old carcass” in a truck. It continued: “Sorry for the trouble. Cheerio”. The other note with the body at the Maranboy railway siding and addressed to the coroner, said that there were 13 pounds

(\$26) to cover burial expenses in Katherine. “Nobody was to be blamed ... Yours in life. PS: Cheerio to all. Goodbye”. Suicide emerges on the number plate of a burnt out motorbike found near Katherine (below).



KATHERINE SHOOT OUT

After Roper River, the family moved to Katherine and spent three years there before being transferred to Alice Springs for a year.



Mannion was stationed in Katherine for a second time in 1952, where he was involved in a shooting affray during the annual races which saw Constable Bill Condon shot dead by a drunken stockman, Terence Stapleton, armed with a sawn-off .303, in the main street.

Sergeant Mannion heard the shots and drove up to investigate. He fired at the crazed gunman and advanced on him. A bullet fired by Stapleton went through the leg of his trousers. Stapleton ran away and was later arrested by **Constable Tom Hollow**. Found guilty of murder but insane, Stapleton was sentenced to life imprisonment, sent to a

mental institution in WA. He was later released as sane and died.



The story of the murder of Bill Condon was the subject of a cartoon style story in 'Eagle' magazine in 1962



Mannion stands beside the Chevrolet vehicle showing the bullet hole in the door.

TENNANT CREEK MEMORIES

Despite being regarded as “Siberia” in the force, Tennant Creek loomed large in Mannion’s life. A colourful document he wrote is in the collection, headed **WELL, THAT WAS TENNANT**. It is an evocative account of the mining town from 1937 covering police activities, mining, patrols on donkeys, gambling and grog, knuckle men, an article that has been featured in **Citation** in the past. The photographs include views of the town, the main street flooded, residents, the Catholic Church and his wedding.



Flooded Main Street of Tennant Creek.

There are shots of the December 3, 1956 huge explosion and fire in **Campbell's Garage** in which one person was killed and

40 injured. Sgt. Mannion rushed inside the building to make sure nobody was trapped.



The telegram he subsequently received from **Prime Minister Robert Menzies**, informing him that **the Queen** had approved him being the recipient of the **George Medal**, the **then second highest civilian decoration for gallantry**, is included in the album.

Surprisingly, Sergeant Mannion's brave exploits became the subject of an illustrated

story in the British boys' adventure magazine, *The Eagle*, on April 14, 1962. It dramatised in comic form both the **Katherine shoot out and the Tennant Creek explosion and fire** to bring its readers the exciting story of **Sergeant Joe Mannion**, policing the backblocks of Australia. Joe is shown in one frame being approached by concerned Katherine

residents, one wearing a British type cloth



cap.



Above: J.C. Archer pins the medal onto Jim Mannion at the investiture ceremony.

Left: Intro to "Eagle" magazine story

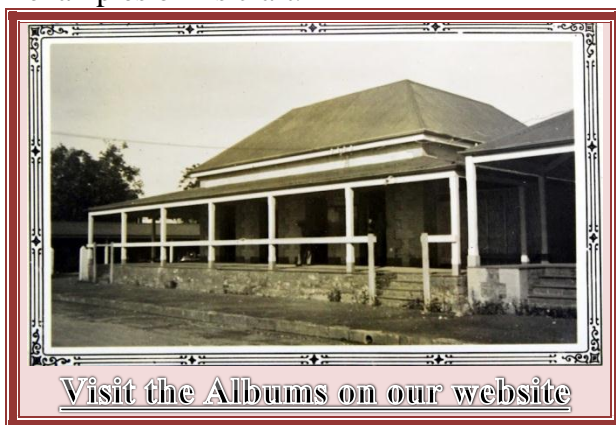
DARWIN OVER THE YEARS

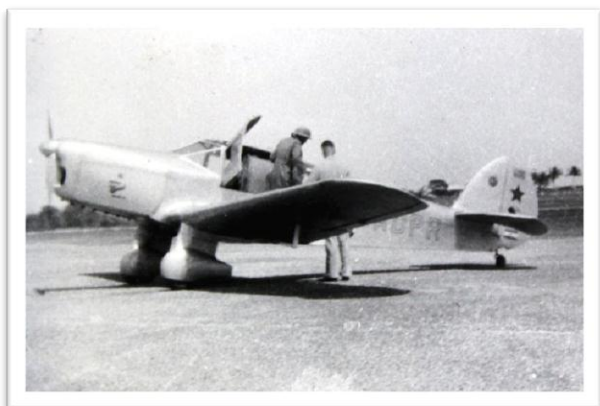
The Territory capital is well covered in the collection. A British warship, HMS Dorsetshire, aglow with lights at the wharf, was photographed at Christmas 1938. The first RAF flying boats to land in Darwin were subjects for his camera as was the arrival of the New Zealand aviatrix, Jean Batten, who flew from England to Australia in the record time of five days 21 hours three minutes, arriving October 11, 1936. Also included and headed: **1938 History – A Record Flight**, there is a page of photographs covering the arrival of the Comet aircraft flown by G.W.Scott in the London-Melbourne Centenary Race.

In a series about the Japanese salvage operations which resulted in the removal of wartime wrecks, Mannion appears to be sitting on the wharf in shorts watching the activity. Piles of scrap are seen on the wreck of the *Neptuna* with the refloated tanker, *British Motorist*, in the background. A more

social occasion features **Dame Pattie Menzies** snapped at the 1960 opening of the Uniting Church in Darwin with **Territories Minister Paul Hasluck** on the dais.

When Mannion died suddenly from a heart attack in September 1968, his funeral was one of the most attended in Territory history. A Sydney newspaper, *The Sun*, ran a report headed **OUR OWN MOUNTIE** in which it said he was one of the NT's legendary policemen and cited his life-long hobby of photography. The following pages show examples of his craft.





This page puts together some of Jim Mannion's aircraft images. The QEA hanger in Darwin is on the top left while a flying boat is at the bottom. Aviator Jean Batten in 1937 is the subject of the two centre images. Doctor Fenton and the pilot who found him is at the top on the right. Below is an aircraft crash near Katherine and at the bottom Clouston and Ricketts in a 'Comet' during a England to NZ record trip. Darwin still has many interesting aircraft transiting.



Left (from top) - H.M.A.S. "Moresby" out from Darwin; Native canoes on the Roper River (with Nancy Mannion jnr); Koolinda (right ship in image) at Point Samson; Pearling lugger being restocked by the mother ship.

Right (from top) - Patrol vessel "Larrakeyah" 1936; Lugger "Iorana" on the Roper River and Japanese ship salvage work with the refloated "British Motorist" in the background.

A FORENSIC COLLECTOR

An avid collector and active member of the Northern Territory Police Museum and Historical Society is **Senior Constable Kym Chilton**, Senior Crime Scene Examiner, former Team Leader at the Forensic Services Section, Darwin. Apart from contributing to the Museum's collection, Chilton has an impressive personal collection of items relating to the history of the Northern Territory - an actual 1872 cypress pine pole from the **Overland Telegraph Line**; Chinese mining items; World War 1 and World War 11 memorabilia; books, maps, early railway items and the fascinating list goes on and on.



Chilton would like to see the impressive collection installed in a proper NT police museum open to the public. Over the years he has done much to save the history of, and spread knowledge about, the NT Police Force. Currently he is preparing items for a video about mounted police patrols at Timber Creek, a project organized by Sergeant Pini. At the Peter McAulay Police Headquarters, Berrimah, Kym kitted out an early trooper in a display case. At the nearby **Forensic Services Section** he played a large part in setting up display cases with photographs and exhibits from major court cases and investigations.

At the recent **Bombing of Darwin** anniversary in the Adelaide River Railway Heritage Centre attended by many old

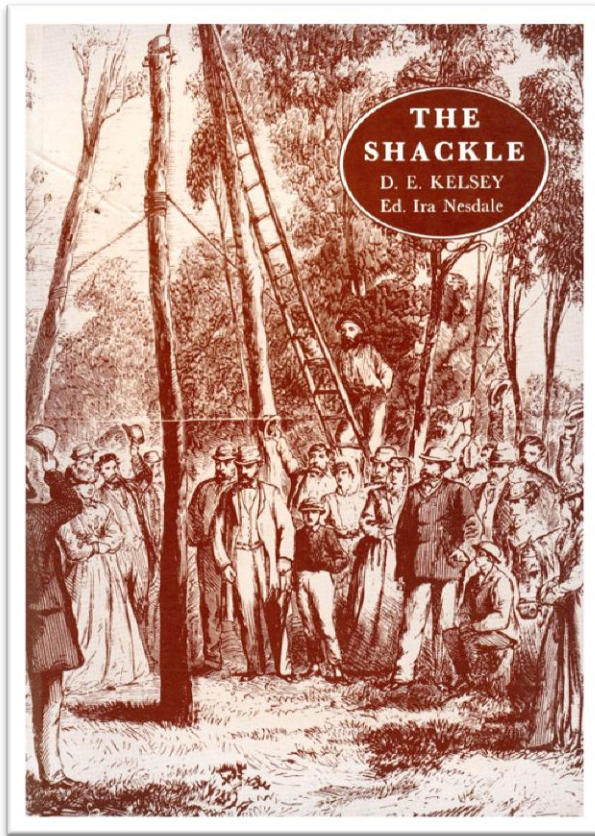
Diggers from south, Chilton displayed a collection of military items from WW11 that he had found while fossicking in the NT. Other items have been bought at interstate auctions and include a hat badge from the so called **Rum Corp** which ran the early Sydney convict settlement and which were the centre of the "**Rum Rebellion**". He also has gold prospecting licences which figured in the **Eureka Stockade uprising**.

Whenever he gets a chance to get out of town, Kym can be seen head down looking for new finds. He says his experience looking for items of interest in the Territory sharpened his forensic skills, enabling him to "read" the ground to turn up anything from relics from the past to **minute evidence at crime scenes**. Walking around the Darwin foreshore, ever alert for anything unusual, he recently found a piece of very **old Chinese porcelain at Doctor's Gully**.

Kym has been with the NT Police Force for 31 years - 23 in forensics - and was the Northern **Territory Police Crime Scene representative on the National Specialist Advisory Group**.

His career with the Northern Territory Police Force began in Darwin with four years in general duties. After a short spell in Katherine, in January 1986 he was posted to **Mataranka** as Officer in Charge. It was there that his collecting obsession started.

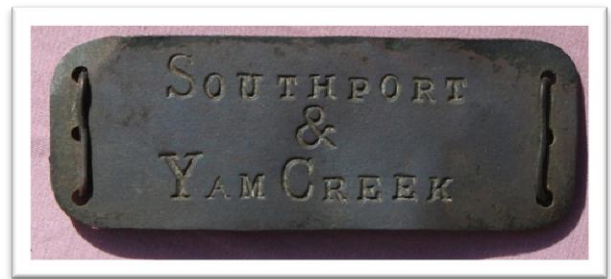
During WW11 there were large military camps in the area and he later found helmets and other items in the bush.



He devoured books and reports on the early days of the NT; one book in particular, *The Shackle, A story of the Far North Australian Bush*, by D. E. Kelsey, edited by Ira Nesdale, published in 1975, enabled him to retrace the footsteps of Kelsey who arrived in **Port Darwin** in 1869 and who spent 28 years in the **Top End**. The Shackle township and mine took its name from the shackle made from two porcelain insulators, held apart by two short metal straps, bolted to a telegraph pole. Kelsey, a **telegraphist**, was stationed at The Shackle in 1883 and wrote a detailed account of those days. Kelsey often went **on patrol with police officers** and indulged his **hobby of taxidermy, collecting and preserving birds**.

Chilton found the book a fountain of information and followed in the author's footsteps. The detailed descriptions enabled him to locate former settlements; building sites such as pubs and police stations, and associated mining and other business activities. In the process he discovered an amazing number of valuable historical items.

There were numerous Chinese and British coins; porcelain black and white gambling money; assay crucibles; Chinese jars and a wide range of bottles; police badges; buttons, stirrups, spurs, dog registration discs going back to the 1890s, manacles, locks, keys, mailbag tags for Yam Creek, Brock's Creek and Southport, percussion caps and bullets.



Right here in Darwin an excavation at the intersection of Wood and Bennett Streets turned up a large number of bottles, including some bearing Darwin names such as **Man Fong Lau** and (William) **Felix Holmes**, an early entrepreneur who had many business interests – pearls, cold stores, shops, pastoral properties, an aerated soft drink factory, many race horses, and even Darwin's power plant. It is also said he employed **Mick Paspalis** when he came across from Broome, eventually diversifying into many businesses like Holmes and becoming the **richest man in Darwin**.

A very early medical syringe surfaced at Doctor's Gully.



Yet another interesting find in Darwin Harbour is an old green bottle which at first glance appears to have an **embossed swan with raised wings**. Look closer at the swan, says Chilton, and you discover that the swan actually looks like a dragon on a plinth. This leads Kym to hypothesize that it could be connected with the Third of Foot, the first British regiment garrisoned in the Top End at Fort Dundas on Melville Island from 1824-1828. This regiment had previously fought with honour under Wellington in the Peninsular Wars in Portugal.

Belt buckles which Kym has unearthed in the Territory include two unusual ones connected with cricket. A lion is rampant with a cricket bat and ball and a set of three stumps; another shows a cricketer, wearing a cap, sitting with bat and ball.



A cigarette stand he has is made from the camshaft of a Kitty Hawk shot down over

Darwin (bullet holes visible), and there are examples of trench art made in Darwin from bullets and other war items. Wonderment continues as Kym shows you the four stages of a two shilling piece gradually turned into a souvenir ring, probably for an American soldier during WW11. Still in his possession are the first Chinese rice wine jars he found at Yam Creek.

Kym tells of an experience at Mataranka where his Aboriginal Tracker, Wilson James, tracked a vehicle used in the robbery of a safe from the medical centre. The car left unusually wide tyre tracks and the information passed on to Katherine by Chilton lead to the arrest of some southern miscreants who were travelling in a large American car, and doing break and enters along the way. The safe was located dumped in the river at the Katherine low level bridge.

Chilton was back in Darwin in June 1986 and served in the Task Force, a specialist group in the Crime and Services Command. He undertook a number of courses in a wide range of subjects from armed offenders, marine operations and explosives. Then it was into the Fingerprint Section, Technical Services, Operational Support Command. By 1988 he was in Forensic Services and during his time in the Crime Scene Examination Section he has probed hundreds of cases.

In the field of stolen vehicle identification, Chilton has played a big part in the Territory and he is a founding member of the **International Association of Automobile Theft Investigators**.

In 1989, working with **Queensland Police on Operation Henry**, he was responsible for the identification of 21 Ford Falcon vehicles stolen and brought to the Territory. In 1997 he delivered an address at an

International Conference in Brisbane on the recovery of engine and serial numbers, using heat and chemical methods.

In October of that year he was involved in another stolen car racket investigation, **Operation Garmit**, involving vehicles with changed identifying numbers which were **trucked in from NSW**, and sold in the Territory.



There were 17 cars - Toyota, Mitsubishi, Nissan 4WDs, Honda sports cars, various other sedans and a late model Mercedes Benz. Two men were arrested from NSW and Chilton received a **Commissioner's Commendation for his work.**



Commissioner Brian Bates presents the commendation.

EAST TIMOR

In early 2000 Chilton went to **East Timor for the United Nations**, and carried out examinations in and around the house in which the **Balibo 5 newsmen were slain in 1975**. He had been asked to search for any skeletal remains including teeth for DNA analysis. Witnesses to the killing of the newsmen who had been interviewed said the bodies had been **burnt several times inside a house**. Nobody had been able to say what had happened to the charred remains. It was known that the Indonesian military had taken a small box containing remains to **Jakarta** in 1975 for a ceremonial funeral attended by **Australian government**

officials, Richard Woolcott, Alan Taylor and Malcolm Dan.

When Chilton arrived at the house in Balibo it was found to contain **six skeletal remains in miniature coffins**, victims of militia killings when the Indonesians left in late 1999. The building was being used for religious purposes.

The room in which the five were said to have been murdered did not have a roof. Some witnesses said the **newsmen were shot on the road outside**, their clothes removed and changed into military looking clothing and their bodies faced sitting at a table in the room. In a written account which appeared in the *NT Police News* March 2002, Chilton described the situation in the room:

“It was very quiet. I could sense the fear that would have taken place some 25 years earlier in this room. The house has walls of rough rendered brick and three main rooms and a small washroom, where one journalist who was hiding from the Indonesians was allegedly coaxed out and stabbed...”



“The Australian House” in Balibo (above).

The Balibo House where the journalists were allegedly killed (below).



While the team sieved and dug, they were joined by an elderly, local Timorese woman, known as **Mad Mary**, whose whole family was said to have been killed by the militia. No teeth were found at the Balibo house,

and bones examined back in Darwin could not be positively identified as human.

Much later, there was a claim that the remains from the Balibo house had been removed from the fire, **placed on corrugated iron, and disposed of down a track some 80 metres away.**

Chilton was informed of a nearby dwelling known as the kissing house where it was alleged that members of the militia had killed many male and female Timorese by first putting lipstick on their lips and then smashing their faces into the internal walls while sexually assaulting them.



The Kissing Wall

During the examination of the house he found a room in which he could see what looked like lipstick marks and blood splatter on the walls, above, in many places. This house had witnessed a lot of fear and inhumane treatment, he said.

In 2001 Chilton was seconded to the **Australian Police 6th Contingent** for six months and served in East Timor once more with the United Nations. This involved crime scene examination and training local police.

Chilton's work was highly commended by the **United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET)**. Describing him as **a credit to Australia**, an UNTAET report said he had been an invaluable asset to the United Nations. He had on many occasions during his deployment as a civilian police officer, investigated human rights abuses and mass killings of Timorese, specialising in crime scene analysis, determination of gravesites, exhumations and physical examinations. In 2009 he was a member of the **Black Saturday Victorian bushfires disaster victim identification team**.



Cadaver dog searching for bodies

DIVERSE CASES

Looking back at his career, Kym has many tales to tell. There is mention of **a cold case**, a human skull found at **Lake Bennett**, which surfaces from time to time, urging him to crack the mystery.

Of the many fatal motor vehicle accidents Kym attended over the years, the one which haunts him most is the "eerie scene" at **Kakadu** where a doctor, his wife and two children were killed in a head on crash. When he arrived at the scene, the mother and father were sitting deceased in the front, their two children, also deceased, in the back. The apparent cause of the accident was that the driver swerved to miss a bird on the road. On retirement another police officer who attended the same accident, said how much that tragic accident had affected him.

Chilton has investigated a wide range of cases – fires, assaults, deaths, suicides and homicides. Seconded to the NSW Police Force, he found himself investigating a stabbing in Sydney's Chinatown.



Chilton again became involved when a person found a submerged half cabin launch buried in mangroves at Channel Island, exercised salvor's rights, raised the vessel and took it home, where he began to hose out the accumulated mud inside the vessel. As the mud washed away, a body was uncovered and the police were called. After carrying out the forensic examination of the body, a male, Chilton removed more mud and another skeleton, a female, was found in what proved to be a murder/suicide. The woman had been shot and then the man had turned the gun on himself.

A crime scene Kym investigated at Borroloola was described as being like the shoot-out at the OK Corral. He was involved in police work associated with the discovery of what is believed to be the first clandestine drug lab in Darwin where large quantities of Sudafed packets were found (a precursor in the manufacture of illegal drugs).

He was one of a large number of police involved in the manhunt for the **German tourist Joseph Schwab**, 26, who went on a shooting rampage in the NT and WA. In June 1987 Schwab shot dead a father and son, Marcus and Lance Bullen, who were fishing on the Victoria River in the Northern Territory. Three days later, he murdered a newly engaged couple Phillip Walkemeyer and Julie Anne Warren and their friend

Terry Bolt, at the Pentecost River Crossing, near Wyndham.

A seven strong team from the WA Tactical Response Group and a forensic officer flew from Perth to Kununurra to assist the Kimberley police in the manhunt. Information was received that a helicopter pilot from Napier Downs Station had spotted a camouflaged vehicle in bushland near Fitzroy Crossing and had alerted police.

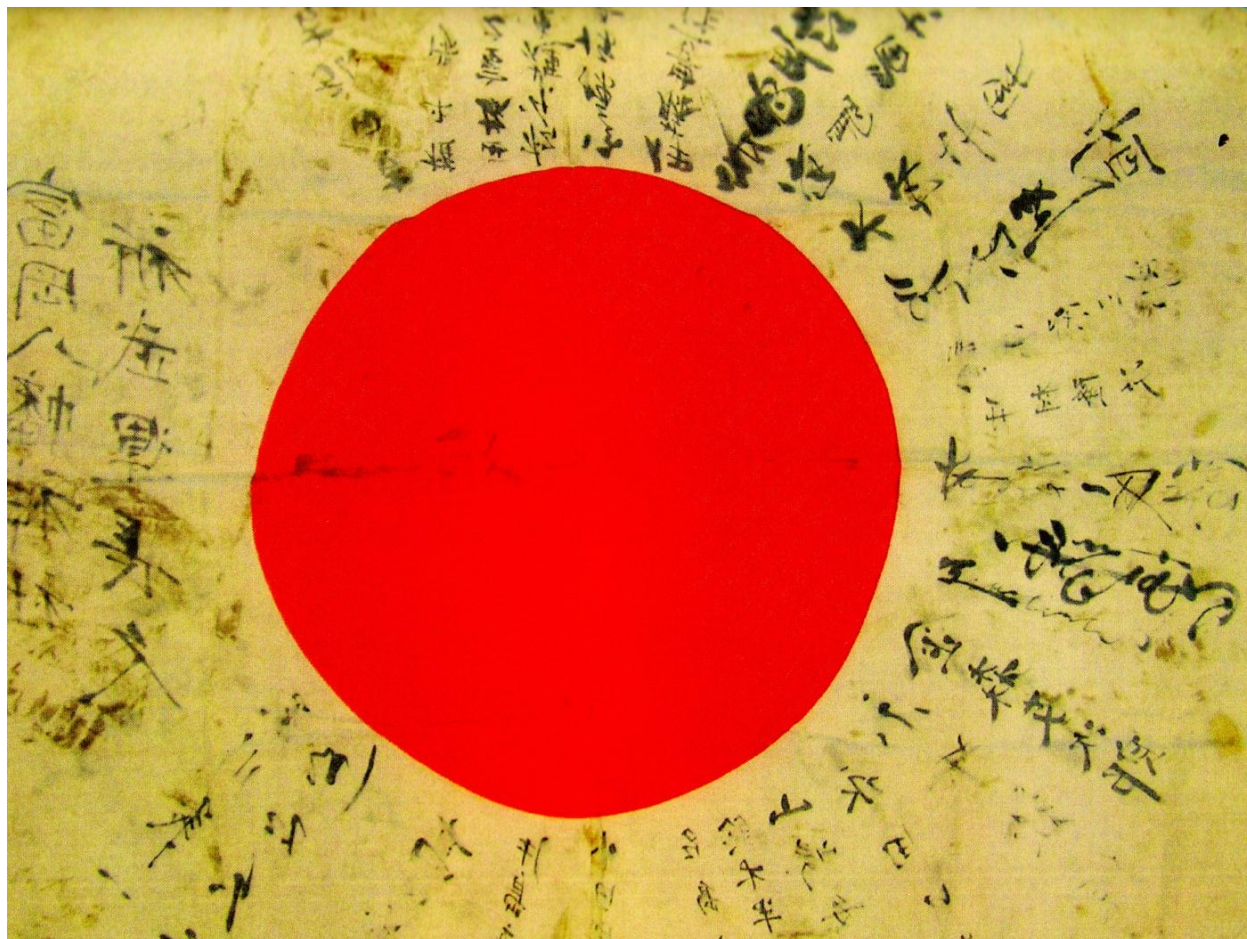
Uncertain if the vehicle belonged to the gunman, police moved in and a plane flew over the spot. A man emerged from the bush armed with a semi-automatic rifle and began firing at the aircraft and police. He was shot dead. No reason was ever discovered for the horrific actions of Schwab, whose bizarre story was covered in the TV show, *Crime Investigation Australia*, entitled, **The Kimberley Killer**.

Chilton carried out line searches around the murder site at Victoria River with the Police Task Force. The victims' vehicle had been burnt out and the bodies were buried in sand nearby, a hand visible. At first it was assumed the two had been stabbed to death. However the line search found .223 cartridges.

Coming back from the Victoria River murder investigation, Chilton's party paused along the way for a "call of nature stop". Kym slipped into his fossicking mode, perusing the ground for anything of interest. An elongated stone-like object caught his attention and he felt it was something unusual so it became part of his collection. In recent years it has been positively identified as a fossilized "turd", not human, from an unidentified animal. A dinosaur? **It is doubtful if there is a police officer anywhere in Australia who is the proud owner of such an oddity.**

Another unusual exhibit is a **cheap alarm clock** which figured in a bomb scare outside the Indonesian consulate residence in Nightcliff. The **Bomb Squad** attended, finally declared it a hoax and gave the clock to Chilton. He removed the inner workings and made it into a picture frame for a photo

of his two young daughters. The bodies of three air-crash victims arrived in Darwin from Indonesia for identification. The boxes were filled with ground up coffee, apparently acting as both a balming material and a deodorizer.



JAPANESE FLAG

As an indication of just how diverse is the field of forensic investigations, Kym was asked to make out the faint names of Australian soldiers, members of the 2/5th Battalion, on a **Japanese flag souvenired in New Guinea**. One of the signatories was the late Senator Bernie Kilgariff of Alice Springs, a member of the **NT Police Museum and Historical Society**. Using

special lighting techniques, Kym was able to draw up a complete list. The flag had been found during fighting on the Kokoda Track and Kilgariff had it framed; it is now believed to be at the Alice Springs RSL.

In recent years Kym took part in an exhumation at the old Darwin Cemetery in a bid to identify a **Cyclone Tracy victim**, the forensic orthodontic tests enabling the person to be named.

VISION SPLENDID FOR THE NT

Chilton has an extensive reference library and unusual volumes dealing with the NT. One is a rare, limited edition book, *Essays and Miscellaneous Pieces By the late Edward R. Stephenson*, published in Adelaide in 1865, with a foreword by “ his friend”, **Charles Todd**, the **Overland Telegraph Line chief**. It contains an essay about the likely difficulties of **colonization in the Northern Territory**. Stephenson, who had written about the **evils of slavery**, nevertheless envisaged **African Negroes**, saved from slavery, **happily toiling in Territory fields**, producing **rice and cotton for their white**, kind masters in the Top End. The essay had won a prize at Adelaide’s **St. Peter’s College** and the slim volume contains the bookmarks of two previous prominent South Australian owners, both keen collectors.

One was **Charles Richard John Glover** (1870-1936), Lord Mayor of Adelaide 1917-1919, owner of the Richmond Hotel, benefactor and book collector, who amassed many volumes about Australia, New Guinea and the South Seas. The other was medical practitioner, **Edward Angas Johnson** (1873-1951) said to have built up a remarkable collection of curios and historical relics, especially relating to South Australian history. Yet another photograph of interest in the Chilton collection shows two 19th century police officers posing near a showcase displaying Northern Territory gold at an Adelaide exhibition.



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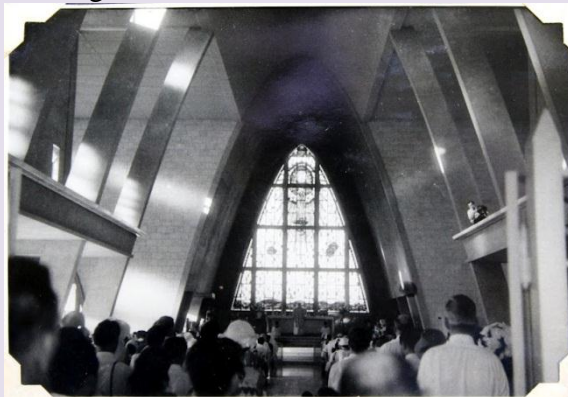
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Jim Mannion’s collection includes many images of churches in the Territory – there are nearly 1000 images from his collection on the website.



St Mary’s in Darwin circa 1962.



Uniting Church opening by Dame Menzies in 1960 in Darwin.

VALE – Phil CARR

Memories of a bizarre crime in which a disgruntled pilot flew a plane into the Connellan hangar at Alice Springs were recalled with the death of former NT police officer, Phil Carr. A sergeant at the time of what was described as the “kamikaze attack”, Phil was in the Alice Springs CIB. His funeral at Bairnsdale, Victoria, was attended by ex-police members Charlie Robinson, who flew down from Thailand with his son, Mark; Colin Haymon, from Bribie Island; Alex Carolan, who drove from Sydney; Trevor Bell from Alice Springs and Barry Armistead and Barry Symons from Melbourne. Phil is survived by his wife, Kathie, of 46 years, and his sons, Stephen (who came from Wales) and Christopher, their wives and children. He had previously served in the Nottingham City Police and the Commonwealth Police before joining the NT force.

FRONT LINE (previously ‘Chit Chat’)

CAMEL MAN SEEKING POLICE

A request from well-known cameleer Noel Fullerton for the names of the police officers who used to live behind him in Alice Springs in earlier days as he would like to renew contact.

THUNDER STORMS HOME

The Ilett family can take enormous credit for the evolution of the Territory’s Thunder team into a genuine premiership threat in a short period of time. Last year Thunder took out the prized double of the Northern Conference Premiership and inaugural NEAFL Cross Conference Premiership. Club captain, Cameron Ilett, who won the Andrew Ireland Medal, expressed pride at his side’s twin achievements. Brother Jared, editor of a Territory wide sports magazine and the face of the Channel 7 *The Boot*, was subsequently appointed Thunder’s chief executive. Between them they have a bag full of coveted trophies. Much of their inspiration comes from their grandfather, John (Jack) William Ilett, highly respected and esteemed member of the Northern Territory Police Force from 1961 until retirement in 1995 and father Roger who is still serving.

Patron: Vince Kelly

**Northern Territory
Police Force**



**Northern Territory
Police Association**



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