



### ***VISITING WEST TIMOR TODAY...***

Unlike visiting so many other Great War and WW2 battlefields today, those of Sparrow Force on the former Dutch West Timor are readily accessible, they have witnessed very little tourist impact and are much less expensive to visit than other overseas battlefields. Timor is also not so far from the north west of mainland Australia. The whole area of conflict on West Timor is less than 50 miles long, so it can be traversed in a matter of days, it is readily accessible by car and visiting the sites can be done daily from a comfortable hotel in Kupang.

West Timor is now part of Indonesia and the wartime Penfui airstrip is visible on Google Earth at the edge of the modern-day Penfui runway. The airport is only a short distance from the capital city Kupang although international flights do not fly direct, so visitors need to take another flight from Jakarta, Bali or other international airport in Indonesia. In *'Footsteps of Sparrow Force'*, the computer resources CD has a 'Tour' section and another folder contains GPS references of the Sparrow Force journey and actions, to trace their journey on Google Earth.

During our visits for research and filming to West Timor, our interpreter Mr. Stanis Wanti accompanied us when we located the overgrown Palm Grove and camp at Penfui, the disabled guns at Klupalima, destroyed bridges over the Mannikin, Obelo and other streams, bomb craters at Irekum and the prisoner of war camp site at Usapa Besar. Stanis would be the most knowledgeable guide for Sparrow Force family members intending to retrace the steps of their forebears. Children of other members of my father's 2/11th Field Coy. of Sparrow Force have used Stanis Wanti as a guide during their visit, reporting very well on the success of their tour; they plan to go again in future.

### ***VISIT AUSTRALIAN SITES & MEMORIALS TOO...***

There are other options for those wishing to retrace the footsteps of Sparrow Force units in Tasmania, Victoria, South Australia and the Northern Territory. Again, GPS locations are listed in our *'Footsteps of Sparrow Force'* DVD & CD set, for Google Earth. A particularly interesting trail is the extended road journey from Alice Springs north to Darwin, with books and tour guides available and well-marked points along the way where the camps, re-supply and servicing occurred during those wartime years.