

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

I do not know what is in store in 2018 but I look forward to 365 sunrises, 12 full moons and a big trip around the sun.... have a good year.

Our Museum is becoming a focus for our Association. Since it's opening in 2006, it has been air-conditioned, an access ramp attached, the building extended, the collection increased and presentations improved. Our founding Curator John Holland is presently on sick leave and is responding well to treatment. In the meantime our Colin Gould and Paul Brown have stepped in and are keeping the chair warm for John's return to duties.

Prior to Christmas there was a break in to the Wacol historical precinct. The Nasho's experienced a serious loss with yard maintenance equipment being stolen. We were luckier, either our security was better or the thieves ran out of time – whilst some external damage was received no break into the Museum was affected. Since then, Paul and Colin have upgraded security by adding iron gates to our doors, monitored external security cameras and improved window security.

The Museum grows by receiving donations of new memorabilia. Items which have a story add so much more to the display. For example we have had, for some time, a couple of 0.5 inch calibre machine guns on display. These items were donated by member Ken McGowan (deceased) but their history could not be told until their provenance was confirmed. They are the rear turret guns from a Flying Fortress B-17E, Number 41 2446 from Unit 14 RS USAAG known as the **Swamp Ghost**, which most were aware was situated in a swamp near Popengetta. Ken recovered these guns



The 0.5 MG in the Museum

in the 1970s when he was a Camp Manager for a mining prospecting group located nearby - he used spare helicopter hours to be lifted in and taken out with the guns one weekend. There is a video of this recovery in the Museum.

The first Flying Fortresses bomber squadron of 12 were flown to Australia from the USA via New Caledonia arriving Townsville 18 -20 February 1942 and were dispersed inland to Charters Towers and Cloncurry to avoid Japanese intervention. The crews were inexperienced airmen and in the conditions of the un-forgiving tropical environment in which they were to operate.

Ordered to bomb Rabaul on 23 February 1942 (just 1 month after the Japanese invasion of Rabaul), the bombing group comprised 2 Australian Catalina aircraft from Port Moresby and 12 Fortresses from Townsville. The 1,100 mile leg would take 7 hours flying and it would be necessary for the bombers to refuel in Port Moresby on their return trip to Townsville. This was the first US bombing of Rabaul. Due to a number of technical issues and mishaps only five B-17s would participate in the raid.

The poor weather en route split the 5 bombers into 2 groups. B-17E, #41 2446, flown by Flight Lieutenant Fred Eaton, and accompanied by one other B-17, arrived over Rabaul one hour late at 6,000m and circled for 25 minutes before finding a cloud gap. Eaton's bombs would not release so he made a second pass with uncertain results. Eaton's Fortress was attacked by two Claudes, Mitsubishi navy carrier based fighters, predecessor to the famous Mitsubishi A6M series Zero fighter. Four bombers arrived in Port Moresby, Eaton was missing.

Eaton's B-17 was damaged. His Fortress had used extra fuel during the delayed arrival on target, the second bombing pass, and running at maximum speed to evade the Japanese fighters. He did not have sufficient fuel to cross the Owen Stanley Range nor to divert around the toe of Papua to reach Port Moresby, he had to land.

Eton landed in the Agaiambo Swamp near Popengetta. With full flaps displayed, the aircraft landed in the long grass and reeds barely damaged and with the crew uninjured. The crew dumped the secret Norden bomb sight and headed for the coast. Eventually they met up with a native who took them to his village. Unexpectedly the Buna Resident Magistrate, Alan Champion, who was out looking for Eaton's aircraft arrived in the village in his launch and took them to Buna. After a 2 week wait, they were transported by the MV Matoma to Port Moresby, arriving 1 April 1942, 36 days after leaving Townsville.

The **Swamp Ghost** was salvaged in 2006 and exported to the USA. It is presently displayed in the Pacific Aviation Museum, Pearl Harbour, Hawaii.

A complimentary story about the Swamp Ghost was in our HTT vol 99, August 2016, Pages 9 to 11.

What a difference a story makes!

Phil Ainsworth, February 2018

***Note:** The above story was extracted from Michael Claringbould's and Peter Ingman's recently published book **South Pacific Air War, Volume 1, the Fall of Rabaul, December 1941 - March 1942.** My review of this book is appended to this newsletter.*

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Curator John Holland in our Museum

RICHARD BARRY WRIGHT 2/58410 (Continued)

Army Tattoos

The transfer of 45 Battalion may have come about as a result of one Army Tattoo. The first Tattoo I attended at the Sydney Showground, the 30th Battalion marched on to the arena and performed a drill movement called the "Scottish Square". This consisted of forming a square with the front rank laying down, the second rank kneeling and the third rank standing. Volleys of fire produced from this "Scottish Square" had proven over many past years very effective with volleys of fire produced on order by each rank in turn. The original idea of the square was for one rank to fire on command. While the other two ranks were firing in turn on command, the first rank had time to reload their muzzle loading weapons.

The 45th Battalion, St George Regiment, were to carry out an attack on us to simulate a Zulu attack. Of course they were all dressed as Zulus with feathers, body paint, shields and spears and so forth. We engaged them with .303 blank fire in volleys as they charged towards the square. The aim was for all of them to be shot, fall down and then the lights would concentrate on our Battalion standing fast in the centre of the showground. We would then reform and march off with our drums and pipes flying the Regimental Colours. While the spotlights were fixed on us the Zulus were to rise and leave the showground in the dark.

That was what was supposed to happen, but one bright spark in the St George Regt decided that he would come through the marching ranks and pull down the Regimental Flag. He charged up, dropped his shield and made a dive over the front ranks of the marching soldiers towards the flag. I was on the other side but heard a call of "Let him in!"

Needless to say that, when the spotlights followed us off and the showground lights came on again here was a lone Zulu lying unconscious on the ground - someone had butt-stroked him as he came in. St Johns Ambulance came on with a stretcher and carried him off to the delight of the crowd who obviously thought it was all part of the entertainment.

At the Tattoo next year the roles were reversed. The St George Regt were depicted as defending a fort in the middle of a desert and the 30th Battalion had to attack them. We were equipped with Aldershot grenades (a grenade simulator which had to be struck on a match box, ignited and was then thrown), blank rounds etc. The fort was mounted on 4 old Blitz trucks which backed into a square to form a fort. They had lengths of 3 inch down pipe sticking out from the sandbags to simulate cannon and had bags of magnesium flash powder which would throw a flash to simulate a cannon firing. The idea was to put a magnesium bag down the barrel, touch it with two wires connected to a battery and this would cause a spectacular flash simulating a cannon firing as fire and balls of smoke poured out of the down pipe.

We had been instructed to throw our Aldershot grenades so that they would hit the outside of the fort, explode with no damage but a spectacular explosion.

We also had to stop at various intervals, go down and fire. Of course a number of us were nominated to be shot and killed in the attack.

As with the best plans something was bound to go wrong. I don't recall one grenade hitting the outside of the fort - they all went inside. The exercise was almost complete when there was a tremendous explosion from inside the fort - apparently an Aldershot thrown into the fort had ignited a box of magnesium flash powder. The crowd, of course, loved it and let out a tremendous roar, thinking it all part of the plot.

We were promptly ordered to tactically withdraw from the en-

agement. The spotlights stayed on us and we withdrew, and the plan was for the trucks to move out in the dark.

As this exercise ended there were several soldiers again carried off by St George Ambulance stretcher-bearers and again the crowd thought it was part of the show.

Needless to say that, after two Tattoos with soldiers injured, the two Battalions were in different Brigades for the next Annual Camp.

Social Functions

Quite often in uniform we used to go to dances and it was normal for a number of us to go to the Army Balls at the Trocadéro. The Army Ball was held at the Trocadéro, to my knowledge, from the early 1950's to at least the early 1970's.

We really looked smart at the Army Ball - full Scottish mess dress, green cutaway jacket, red sash (for Sgts only). Normal working dress when wearing a kilt was to have a brown apron over the kilt and a leather sporran.

For walking out dress, a horse hair sporran with black tassels was worn with a Glengarry (cap) with a red tourry on top, with black tassels which hung down the rear of the Glengarry. Of course we affected a Scottish accent when wearing walking out dress and this attracted a lot of attention.



A group of 30th Bn at the Army Ball, circa 1952
L/Cpl Barry Wright on Left

From 30th Battalion Royal NSW Scottish Regiment to Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles

In October, 1959, I left Australia for Papua New Guinea. I had been informed prior to leaving that there was a CMF unit in PNG but that it would be easier for me to resign from the 30th Bn, hand in all my gear, and rejoin when I got to PNG.

My new position in PNG was with the Public Health Dept, Dept of Territories, as a European Medical Assistant (EMA).

I first of all had to complete training at the Australian School of Pacific Administration (ASOPA) at Mosman in Sydney. This was an introductory course to PNG that all Administration staff had to attend prior to being posted to PNG. The course consisted of history, geography, languages (pidgin and motu), local customs, health problems likely to be encountered and generally the do's and don'ts which were expected of us.

It was the end of winter when I left Australia and Port Moresby and was nothing like what I was expecting. There were no swaying palm trees etc, and I had the feeling we had ended up in the middle of a desert somewhere.

It was also dry season in Port Moresby. 19 persons from ASOPA turned up in Port Moresby and, after a few days, we were given our temporary postings. I say temporary as the medical people had to

return to Port Moresby in the New Year for further medical training. I was posted to Malahang Hospital in Lae. This was situated on the banks of the Busu River, about 10 miles north of Lae. As it happens this hospital is no longer there as it was washed into the ocean some years later.

One of my first duties was to carry out a goitre survey patrol towards the headwaters of the Busu River. This was a follow up patrol from a survey conducted by Dr McCullough some years before. Our aim was to assess the results of the treatment previously given to the women in the area with goitre as 50% had been given iodised injections and 50% natural saline injections.

The results were interesting as goitre is caused by an iodine deficiency. Even the local pigs had goitres as a result of an iodine deficiency in the soil. However between the two surveys Mission Trade stores had commenced selling iodised salt to the locals. This came about as a result of Cr McCullough telling the Missionaries of the iodine deficiencies. The introduction of iodised salt to the locals had completely distorted the survey results as it was now impossible to differentiate between the results of the iodised injection and the saline injection.

One positive result of this patrol was that I learned to speak Pidgin very quickly.

It was at this stage, after the patrol, when I was back at Malahang Hospital that I contacted A Coy PNGVR at Lae by borrowing a jeep from the hospital and turned up at the drill hall one parade night. I applied to join PNGVR that evening, but, within two days, had been posted to Wau, and, after two weeks in Wau, received a telegram to report to Port Moresby General Hospital straight away.

Consequently PNGVR never saw me again until some time later when 2 PI A Coy PNGVR was formed at Kainantu.

2 PI A Coy, PNGVR, Kainantu

After my first leave 18 months later I was posted to Kainantu in the Eastern Highlands. Spasmodically I went into Goroka to parade with PNGVR there. My trips to Goroka depended upon getting the use of a vehicle and this was not always possible.

It was while I was in Goroka one night that I was informed that 2 PI A Coy was about to be formed in Kainantu.

The initial formation was carried out by Bob Harvey-Hall, OC A Coy, Lae, accompanied by the Warrant Officer Cadre Staff and a couple of Officers and NCOs coming to a meeting of the Europeans in Kainantu which was organised by myself and held at the teaching classrooms of the Kainantu Hospital. From this meeting it was found that there were enough volunteers in Kainantu to form a unit.

For a while after the formation of 2 PI a number of Officers and NCOs would drive or fly up from Lae for the parades in order to ensure that the training was relevant.

However, as we had 2 experienced NCOs in Kainantu we were soon carrying out our own training.

Graham Gilmore was the initial Platoon Commander, Kevin Cheatham, ex regular Army was a Cpl in RAEME and I was enlisted with the rank of Cpl. However very few people in the PI had previous military experience.

There were some interesting people in the Platoon.

Henry Van Leeuwen was being questioned as to his previous military experience and replies "Yes! I was a tank Commander with the German Panzer Corps and went right through the Russian campaign in the advance and later on the retreat back across Russia".

He was captured by the Canadians at the battle of Eden and put to work clearing mines in Holland. His uncle, a Dutch Army Officer, suggested to Henry that it would be a good idea if he left Holland and returned after things had settled down. So off he went to Dutch East Indies and finished up a Platoon Commander with the Dutch East

Indies Army. After emigrating to Australia he eventually turned up in Kainantu as Malaria Control Officer.

Our first drill hall came via courtesy of Jan Booij, Shell service station owner. It was his garage and our parade ground was near his petrol bowlers. The armoury was a non-operational cool room of the butcher shop which had ceased trading (part of the service station).

The building of the drill hall was an interesting exercise. The first Hercules flew in cement for the floor and the next flew in the iron for the roof. The frame was timber from Jan Booij's sawmill. The armoury consisted of welded Marsden matting set into concrete.

We were originally issued with .303 rifles which we would have used for about 4 weeks at the most. Then Bob Harvey-Hall and the WO Cadre Staff from Lae brought up in the Army Land Rover one weekend SLR (Self Loading Rifles) to replace the .303s.

I distinctly remember their first lesson on safety procedures on the SLR. It was at the school oval.

The troops were lined up and off to the side was the Cadre WO who, we believed, was to give the next lesson. Owen Guns, Bren Guns and SLRs were lined up on a groundsheet. Bob Harvey-Hall pointed out that never do you pull the trigger of a weapon without first checking to see if rounds were in the barrel. Making it appear accidental - "On no account do you do this" he picked up an SLR and pulled the trigger.

Well! The rifle went off, the WO clutched his chest and fell to his knees with blood welling up between his fingers.

At this stage Henry Van Leeuwen grabbed the soldier beside him and commenced rushing him to the edge of the oval. At this stage the order came "Stop! Exercise over!" Then Harvey-Hall asked Henry what he was doing. The reply was "Well Sir, I have seen people shot and realised that we couldn't do anything for him. I don't have a car and this soldier has. I was getting both of us to his car so we could go to the Hospital and bring the Doctor back with us".

Harvey-Hall turned to the next soldier in line and asked "Why didn't you move?" The reply was "Well Sir! I was too scared you would shoot me too".

I used to do the daily schedule on the radio between the various Companies and HQ PNGVR. The radio was at home which was on a hill above the airstrip and I could receive all stations at Kainantu but some of the outstations could not talk to one another so I often had to relay messages.

The radio used on the 'sked' was very powerful, and, one day while tuning it in I received Radio Peking.

Our training was varied and we conducted a number of fan searches, carrying out radio drills. One of the things with the PI we quickly found that we could transmit in about 6 different languages, which made for excellent radio security—English, Pidgin, German, Indonesian, Dutch, French, plus a number of local dialects provided by our National members. The accents would also have been confusing to anyone listening in.

Patrolling exercises with some of the P.I. (Pacific Island) members, who had no previous military training was interesting at times. They had an aversion to moving around at night, which was an important part of patrolling in Australia.

Closure of 2 PI and my transfer to 7 PI, C Coy, Goroka

When Kainantu PI was closed, I transferred to PNGVR Goroka. I did not attend night parades, given the distances involved, however did attend weekend bivouacs.

As was the norm in Australia, I tended to be placed in charge of the enemy force for weekend bivouacs. This made a lot of sense as I did not train on a weekly basis with the Goroka PI and was not an integral part of their PI makeup.

Naturally enough I was also the medical specialist on these bivouacs, but, unless there was a medical problem, I was part of the enemy force. Fortunately medical problems were scarce.

At the time Australia was heavily involved in the Vietnam War and a lot of our PNGVR training was in how to counter guerilla – style fighting. 7 PI conducted 'Cordon and Search' exercises which, with the excellent cooperation of the local Cadet, Police, and Calaboose Officers, were quite sophisticated. As would be expected with such an exercise in reality, the Cadets were used as the cordon force, the PNGVR carried out the searches. Suspects were then handed to the Police for further questioning and, if suspects were to be held, then the Calaboose NCO's were used to construct and man compounds.

We were fortunate in having such excellent local support, and this assisted in the training. We could, as an enemy prepare a village any way we wanted it. If any damage was done, either in the preparation, or in the actual exercise itself, the local Calaboose Officer would send out a group of NCOs and calaboose labour for as long as necessary to ensure restoration was to the satisfaction of the villagers themselves. This endeared us to the villagers as, quite often, they ended up in a better situation after an exercise than prior to it.

Other exercises such as protecting bridges and other key points were carried out, and, invariably I was in charge of the enemy, but, as mentioned above, given a free hand which assisted greatly with realism.

There would be no doubt in my mind that our training with PNGVR was more realistic for the style of training we were carrying out, than would be training with a CMF unit in Australia.

Annual Camps

My first Annual Camp was at Mt Ambra, near Mt Hagen. I was there the first time the RSM set fire to a hill with a very pistol. I was out with the enemy (in those days C Coy always seemed to be the enemy). I spent the first night sitting with the Coy Commander, Peter Harbeck.

We kept warm with the rum that Peter always seemed to have with him.

Another night we decided to enter the main camp. We boldly walked up to the sentry, a local, and asked "Well sentry! Anything going on here?" He replied "No Sir, everything seems to be okay". Our next question was "Well do you know the password?" Reply "Yes Sir!". Question "Well what is it?" and he told us. We then asked him if he knew the response and he gave that to us also. This was carried out on a number of occasions by various people and it gave us a good insight into the fact that the local soldiers could be bluffed by the Europeans all the time.

All coastal people were somewhat at a disadvantage at Mt Ambra as they found the rarer air at 5,500 ft difficult to handle. It was a good lesson and showed that troops needed to be acclimatised gradually before being taken on strenuous exercises in the Highlands.

I was surprised to see that the locals from the coast even got sunburned in the Highlands. Nobody had foreseen such a happening and sunburn cream was handed out to all locals after the first couple of instances.

While Kainantu Platoon was still in existence I was posted with PNGVR as Medical Sgt to 7 PI C Coy, Goroka.

Live Firing Exercises

Having spent almost all my time in the CMF on the medical side

of things I was often required to attend when live firing exercises were being conducted as, if there was to be any accidents, this was the obvious place for them to happen.

While I was still in Australia I was medical orderly when a group of recruits was lined up firing the Owen Gun. Two other Sgts were attending to different recruits and I had responsibility for the two on one end. The young Officer in charge gave the order to load and fire at the target in short bursts. As often happened with the Owen a stoppage occurred on one gun. Fortunately the recruit was on one end as he started to turn towards the Officer saying "It's stopped Sir!". As the muzzle of the gun passed the Officer the stoppage cleared and the gun commenced firing again. He started to swing the weapon back towards the Officer again, and everyone commenced to duck. I leaned forward and pushed the barrel of the gun towards the ground.

The language was not exactly Military style at this stage. I ended up with a burned hand from the hot barrel, the Officer was a very light shade of white and the recruit firing the weapon was a very bright shade of red.

On another occasion a group was firing 3 inch mortars at Singleton. At the conclusion of the range firing, weapons and ammunition were being returned. The seals had been broken so the Ammunition Store refused to accept the mortar rounds back. The group then had to return to the firing point to expend all the ammunition. They were in the firing points with 3 mortars and a heap of live ammunition. The mortars were only positioned about 2 metres apart, which is not a strictly tactical setting. Rounds were positioned just behind each mortar, and firing was in progress when a misfire occurred. The round just cleared the barrel of the mortar and landed on the ground. Fortunately it had not travelled far enough for the shell to arm itself. However the bags of cordite commenced burning and this caused a bushfire in front of the mortars which was being blown back towards the mortars by the wind. Without doubt it was the quickest I have ever seen a fire extinguished.

Again on one occasion in Singleton camp I had to go with the Orderly Officer early one morning to inspect the guard at the ammunition dump. We could not see the guard anywhere but, as we got closer to the dump, we could see a small glow coming from the centre of the dump. We walked quietly towards the centre of the dump and, sure enough, the sentry was lying on a tarpaulin which was covering slabs of TNT, smoking away.

Obviously smoking near live ammunition was a big no-no so the sentry received a giant dressing down.

On another grenade range back in Australia we were using white phosphorus grenades. They are a bit lighter than a high explosive grenade and, while I was throwing, the grenade slipped from my hand and went up higher than was intended, hit the branch of a tree, and fell much closer than was intended. White phosphorus is quite dangerous as it tends to stick and burn, and there were a few anxious moments until the grenade exploded and nobody was hurt.

On another occasion a soldier had to be dragged down after he had thrown. After the explosion, when questioned as to why he had kept standing up, he replied "I just wanted to see what would happen when it went off". That could have been deadly so we took him around and showed him the holes in the galvanised iron in front of the cement throwing bays which were there for just that purpose.

In PNG at the grenade range a nasty incident occurred.

Two bays were throwing simultaneously and two sandbagged bays had been built side by side so that the throwers each had protection, but could throw together if required. Those preparing to throw were some distance to the rear in a well dug trench cleaning and priming their own grenades. On this particular day the RSM was in charge of the range and he was situated back from the throwing bays, in a galvanised iron shed protected by sand bags, a little higher so he could look over the bays.

I was located near one bay with one thrower and another Sgt standing in the other bay with the second thrower. The order came "Take up grenades!" so the soldier picked up his grenade and put his finger through the safety pin. The next order was "Prepare to throw!" then "Throw!" The soldier in the next bay threw his grenade correctly with a nice arching action, however the soldier in my bay froze. He was so completely paralysed that he could not move. The first thing I did was to check that he still had his fingers over the grenade lever and, fortunately, he did. The next order was "Down!" so I put both my hands over this soldier's hand which held the grenade and pulled him down into the bay. There was a great explosion as the first grenade went off – then silence.

Then the RSM's voice came across "Everything OK down there Staff?" and heads started to appear from various places. I replied "Everything under control!" and stood up carefully pulling up the soldier with me and not letting go of his hand. I then walked him to the front of the bay and actually had to bang his hand on the side of the bay to make him let go. We then quickly got back into the shelter of the bay and again came another great explosion, much closer this time, as the grenade was just in front of the bay.

The RSM then called for the second bay to rest and my soldier had to go through the process again – fortunately this time no problem.

I guess you could call that incident a close call.

The CMF in PNG

I worked for the admin and used to get three months leave every 21 months. I would come down to Australia and apply to attend camps with 4 Battalion, Royal New South Wales Regiment (the old St George Regiment.)

Going to camp with them gave me an opportunity for more training in Australia which was different to that in PNG, as in PNG we were training in tropical warfare, counter insurgency warfare etc. Training in Australia was still more in the open warfare mould.

One opportunity came up when the Regimental Medical Officer of 4RNSWR, who was the Hon Orthopaedic Surgeon at Mona Vale Hospital, asked me out to his operating theatre.

Annual Camps Lae

The location for the 1966 camp was interesting. The camp could have been called the "wet camp" or the "mud camp" as it did not stop raining for the whole of the camp. We used to draw our water from the Butibum River, but those responsible for the supply of water (the Transport Platoon) did not know much about the process of filtering it and continually reversed the polarity of the filtration equipment used. The system was that, as sodium built up, salt was put into the water and electrolysis used to liberate the chlorine and sterilise the water.

Reversing the polarity means that the sterilisation does not occur, and while the water looks clean as it goes through the filter, it is not sterile.

I took a sample of water into Lae Hospital to be tested and the staff there found that the water was almost pure sewage. This water was to be supplied both to PNGVR on the camp and to cadets which were coming into the same area when PNGVR left. The results would have been disastrous for the soldiers' health.

During this camp we had a soldier whose temperature reached 105 degrees. In an endeavour to bring his temperature down we were using ice packs and kept up our supply of ice by using that from the Officers' and Sgts' Messes. By the time we had cooled him down the Officers had no ice left & there was very little in the Sgts Mess, however the soldier survived.

Another camp was held in the hills behind Lae. The camp was

held on a knoll which had a magnificent view. The location may not have been tactical but the view caused some comment from the troops.

This camp culminated in a tactical move down the Markham Valley. When it rained, and it always rained in Lae for our Camps as they were held in the wet season, it was like walking through a sheet of water.

The heat & humidity was a bit much for the Highlander National members. I propped myself on the front of the Land Rover Ambulance with some large water containers and moved backwards & forwards along the line. We collected a number of soldiers and took them to the nearest creek where we cooled them down by sitting them in the creek, which they seemed to appreciate.

The Showground Camp was interesting in that one of the young kitchen hands arrived in Lae from Australia in his greatcoat, which was a bit suspicious for a start. The fact that he never seemed to take it off was also strange. A breakout of diarrhea among the troops caused us to look at him firstly and his bad hygiene habits were noted. He rarely washed his hands so he was shipped back to Australia forthwith and things quietened down after he left.

Finschhafen was a terrible camp, as this was our last PNGVR camp. All the regular staff must have known that the unit was to be disbanded, but nothing was said to us during the camp. We were only told that PNGVR was to be disbanded as we were preparing to board aircraft to go back to our respective locations. While walking through the bush on exercise during that camp we came across an abandoned aerodrome with hangars still intact. In one of the hangars, laid out on the bench, was a complete carburetor and engine parts from a DC3. According to Major Bob Harvey-Hall, who was an aircraft engineer, this was exactly the way you would strip down and lay out the parts for a major service. These items had obviously been there since the end of WW2, but remained untouched.

There was some fishing carried out on that Camp also. I am not sure you could call the rocky shore a beach but Skipjack Tuna were able to be caught off the shore just off the end of the camp area. One evening Norm Mundy, who was also in the RAP with me, and I injected some red wine into a large piece of Tuna with a syringe and it cooked up nicely.

A few weeks after this all equipment had to be handed in and we did not have time to make any plans for the future. This was in 1973.



Presentation of Battle Streamer, Los Negros Island, to Bob Collins, Barry Wright, Joe Fisk, Norm Mundy by the C.O. and RSM of 1/5 Cav. Regt, 1st Cav Division, at Fort Hood, Texas, USA, 2001.

I Leave New Guinea

I had left the Dept of Health and had taken on the job of managing a Coffee Plantation when Independence came around. Pam & I decided not to stay on so came to Australia.

We moved to Maleny, in S.E. Qld., and I caught up with Joe Fisk and Norm Mundy. They were collecting names for the possible formation of a PNGVR Association at the time.

The Association was eventually formed in 1983 and has been a most successful one. Today, 2012, we still have a number of Association functions and a group of friends, mainly from the Assn, get together a couple of times a year to go camping.

The photo on the below was taken at one of our field dining nights, which, until recently, were held in the backyard of our home at Jimboomba, Qld. Over the 12 years that dining nights have been held there a small group of Assn members has built a spectacular camping ground and we used to spend 3 days or so putting up canvass and readying for the event. In 2011 we held the last field dining night, however, thanks to our neighbours, Ted & Heather McAllan, the evenings are now held at their place.

Visit to 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood Texas

In 2001 four members of the Association, Bob Collins, Norm Mundy, Joe Fisk and myself, at our own expense, made a visit to the reunion of the 1st Cavalry Division, at Fort Hood, Texas.



During WW2 some members of the NGVR (New Guinea Volunteer Rifles) went ashore at Los Negros Island, part of the Manus Islands Group in PNG, with the 5th Cav Regiment, part of the 1st Cav Div.

S/Sgt Barry Wright Mayor of Field Dining Nights at Jimboomba 2010 The Mayoral Chain was presented by the Patron of the NGVR/ PNGVR Association Maj. Gen. John Pearn



Association Plaque being presented to Barry & Pam Wright by the NGVR/PNGVR Association President, Phil Ainsworth for their efforts in supporting the Association Museum, 2012

We had a great time there and our visit was appreciated by the 1st Cav Div, both serving Officers and past veterans. While we were there we were presented with two items of great importance to our Association"-

i) A copy of the US Presidential Citation which was presented to B Coy PNGVR in 1952 for the NGVR's part in the invasion of Los Negros Island.

ii) A battle streamer with Los Negros Island emblazoned on it.

The hospitality of the Americans was amazing and we had a great time. After the reunion we drove from Killeen, Texas to Los Angeles, taking some weeks to see the sights on the way.

Association Museum

The Assn, thanks to some forward thinking by Joe Fisk, has a museum on the site of the old Army barracks at Wacol, a suburb of

Brisbane. It has been donated an enormous amount of WW2 material which is on display when visitors arrive.

I have been a part of the museum since the building, an old army long hut, was given to us and we had to restore it so it could be used as a museum. I regularly go there to assist when there are visitors.

In conclusion I have had a very active Military life, learned a great deal during that time, and, since PNGVR was disbanded, have had a great time with ex-members of the Unit at our Dining Nights, Museum visits, Camping trips and other functions.

This story was told by Barry to Bob Collins in 2012.

A woman said to her friend, "I don't know what to do. My husband is such a mess maker that you can't imagine. He doesn't put anything in its place, I am always going around the house organizing things."

The friend says, "Take a tip from me. The first week after we were married I told my husband firmly,

'Every glass and plate that you take, wash when you are done and put back in its place.'"

The first woman asked, "Did it help?"

Her friend said, "I don't know. I haven't seen him since."

Standards and Guidons

Standards and guidons are the RAAC equivalent of colours. Standards were only carried by heavy-horse units and today they are carried by heavy-armour units, in Australia the only unit to carry a standard is 1 Arm'd Regt. Guidons are, in the main, carried by light armoured organisations.

However, for a unit to receive a standard it must first have had a guidon for 25 years and have been on operational service.

The guidon was considered an easy item to carry, being small in size, and it easily flew free due to its swallow-tail shaped to fly. The heavy units removed the tail making the standard more square shaped and thereby easily identified them from the light regiments.

Within armoured corps, units with standards take the right of the line on parade over units with guidons.

In 1913, approval was granted for the Light Horse regiments of the Australian Army to possess and carry guidons. However, it was not until 1926 that the Military Board published instructions (Instruction A 120) which laid down the design details; with the first presentations being made to units in 1927.

The instructions were later amended to authorise armoured units that had converted from Light Horse regiments to also carry a guidon.

Both standards and guidons, like colours, carry battle honours.

WO1 C.J. Jobson, formerly RSM Ceremonial, ADHQ.

Hon. Assn. Member Maurie Pears, MC, receives prestigious South Korean Medal for services to Veterans

Early in December Steven Ciobo, MP, announced in Parliament the award of the prestigious Medal of Civil Merit from the Republic of Korea to Maurie Pears, MC., for his tireless efforts in support of the Veterans' community.

The award was made by His Excellency Ambassador Woo, the Republic of Korea, at a formal ceremony at the magnificent Cas-



Top MP Steven Ciobo, Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate, Maurie Pears MC, Scott Buchholz MP.

Lower. Ambassador Woo, Maurie, Maurie's daughter Rowena.

cade Gardens Korean Memorial, Gold Coast, a memorial behind which Maurie was the moving force.

Ambassador Woo travelled from Canberra especially for the ceremony, attended by some 75 people.

Only 4 awards of the Medal of Civil Merit were made outside Korea and Maurie was the only Australian recipient.

Maurie was awarded his MC for his actions as a PI Comd at the Battle of Maryang San in Korea in 1951. He served as a Coy Comd with PIR as well as CO 1PIR. He is author of a number of books on PNG and PIR.

A number of rare items of historical PNG interest have been donated to our museum at Wacol by Maurie.

He has also been a strong supporter of our Association over the years for which he was awarded our Patron's Medal at the 2017 Assn General Meeting.

Congratulations Maurie on a well deserved award.

US Marine Corps Honour for Aussie pilot

An Australian pilot involved in a firefight in Helmand province, Afghanistan, in 2010 has been awarded the Air Medal with Combat Valour. During a ceremony at Robertson Barracks, Darwin, on May 26, Lt-Col Brian Middleton, of Marine Rotational Force-Darwin, and Commander 16 Avn Bde Comd Brig Stephen Jobson presented the medal to Maj Joel Domigan for his heroic achievement.

On exchange from 1 Avn Regt, then-Capt Domigan was assigned as an AH-1W pilot to Marine Light Attack Helicopter Sqn 169, 3

Marine Aircraft Wg, 1 Marine Expeditionary Force, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

During the deployment, Maj Domigan launched in the lead aircraft of two AH-1W Cobra attack helicopters on a joint tactical airstrike request for close-air support for a squad of marines pinned down by enemy fire in Garmsir, Helmand province. During the firefight, communication was lost with the forward air controller and coordination was conducted directly with the marines' squad leader on the ground, which is uncommon in the USMC.



Maj Joel Domigan, who received a US Marine Corps Air Medal with Combat Valour, stands in front of an AH-1W Tiger at Robertson Barracks, Darwin.
Photo: AB Kayla Hayes

The marines, part of 2 Squad, 1 Marines, were being pinned down in the open, receiving sustained and accurate machine gun and small arms fire from an adjacent field, while low on ammunition. It was at this time Maj Domigan conducted a low and slow gun run, exposing his aircraft to enemy fire. Firing 20mm heavy machine gun strafing fire on the initial gun run effectively suppressed the enemy position and allowed the marines on the ground to gain the advantage.

Along with the other AH-1W Cobra, Maj Domigan conducted two more low attacks under heavy surface-to-air fire, resulting in two confirmed enemy killed and many more wounded. Maj Domigan remained overhead while the marines cleared the enemy's location and secured a landing zone for an MV-22 Osprey carrying a quick reaction force and resupply. Maj Domigan said it was an honour to be recognised. "I was just grateful to have an opportunity to be able to make a difference for those guys on the ground that day," he said. "The flight lead was a friend of mine and a capable officer and he did a fantastic job. I don't think we did anything particularly extraordinary. "Any of the men and women I served with in the marines would have done the same, as would any of the people I work with here at 1 Avn Regt."

Maj Domigan said he was "just in the right place at the right time" to be able to make an impact for the marines on the ground. "I met some of those guys later – it was really good actually," he said. "The patrol commander sent an email basically saying, 'thanks guys, you kind of saved our lives that day', which to this day is probably still the greatest reward I've received in the military."

A couple of weeks later they were able to come to the FOB we were operating from in southern Helmand, and we were able to sit back and have a cigar with each of those guys on their way out of country. "So seeing those guys was really rewarding, but unfortunately one was killed by an IED just before leaving country, I believe, but the remainder of the patrol was there."

Lt-Col Middleton relayed a message from Commander Marine Light Attack Helicopter Sqn 169 Lt-Col Joseph Lagoski, who could not attend the ceremony, but served as section leader on Maj Domigan's mission on that day almost seven years ago. "Joel did not hesitate to put himself in harm's way for his adopted service and the marines on the deck," he said. "His accurate and lethal 20mm rounds destroyed the enemy personnel and relieved that pinned-down squad, which was running low on ammunition due to being in a firefight for several hours.

"This award represents the tight bond of marine aviation with our ground brothers and it signifies the inseparable bonds of our two nations, whose service members have fought alongside one another from Darwin Harbour to Afghanistan and Iraq. Joel is a true credit to the Australian Army. "I'm truly proud of his service and

continued efforts to training and preparing ARH Tiger pilots to deploy on operations when called on."

Maj Domigan said he was still in touch with the JTAC from E Coy, 2 Marines, and another friend from the USMC was still in touch with the patrol commander. "A lot of my mates at 1 Avn Regt have congratulated me and been quite supportive, and it's nice to have it received that way," he said. "They've asked me a few questions about what happened, but it's not a particular incident I've spoken lots about to all the guys – it's generally been tied in with other lessons during my deployment with the marines."

Army News Issue 1398

The controversial battle of Porton plantation

After PNG Attitude published my 'PNG Adventurous Training Guide' recently, I received an invitation from James Warar, headman of Porton Plantation in Bougainville, to let interested people know about the commemoration of a controversial World War II battle at the plantation.



The 31/51st Battalion of the Australian Military Force attacked Imperial Japanese soldiers defending the plantation from 8-11 June 1945. The commemoration will be held on Saturday 10 June 2017 at Porton.



Pte Frank Partridge, VC.

But the Australian assault made several mistakes and the attack did not go according to plan.

The errors included not carrying out reconnaissance to determine the enemy's strength and not consulting with 26th Battalion AMF which had successfully attacked Soraken Peninsula earlier and built up valuable experience.

Furthermore, the military planners did not heed the words of the Officer Commanding 42nd Landing Craft Company about the possibility of landing craft getting stuck on the fringing coral reef.



Here was suspicion that the attack was rushed to impress Australian General Blamey, who was visiting the area.

The result was that the attack failed, with 27 Australians killed-in-action and 69 wounded. The Porton Plantation battle was the only Australian defeat on Bougainville in 1944-45.

Wikipedia notes:

"The battle was a victory for the Japanese and it proved instrumental in helping them to regain the initiative in the northern sector of Bougainville."

"As a result, shortly afterwards the Australian forces on Bougainville changed the focus of their operations to the southern sector of the island where they were able to advance along the coastal plain towards the main Japanese position at Buin."

"Since the end of the war, there has been considerable criticism of the planning undertaken by the Australians prior to the operation, and it has been argued that the operation failed due to poor intelligence and lack of resources and was ultimately unnecessary."

Further down the west coast, a little further south between Buoi Plantation and Ratsua, Imperial Japanese troops defended their Base 5 which was attacked by 8th Battalion AMF on 24 July 1945 after a bombardment of 900 artillery shells and mortar bombs.

Private Frank Partridge, although wounded, rushed forward and retrieved a Bren gun with which he attacked a Japanese bunker allowing his platoon to capture the position.

Partridge was awarded the Victoria Cross for this action, the only militia soldier to receive the VC during World War II. With sly humour, the position was renamed Part Ridge in his honour.

Reg Yates

from Keith Jackson & Friends: PNG Attitude

*I came home the other night and found the wife had left a post-it note on the fridge saying
"It's no good, it's not working, I'm staying at mums for a while"
I opened the fridge, the light came on, the beer was cold"
I still don't know what she was on about.*

75 years on, shocking Tol Massacre forgotten in Australia & PNG

Max Uechtritz

5 Feb 2017

It was one of the most callous atrocities of the Pacific war.

Seventy-five years yesterday, 160 Australian prisoners were bayoneted, beheaded, shot or burned alive by Japanese troops – on what was then Australian territory.

So horrific was the Tol Massacre on the island of New Britain that the Australian government suppressed details for 47 years.

That this tragedy is barely remembered and rarely commemorated blights Australia's national conscience and to this day rankles the distressed families of the victims.

Few Australians know of the carnage at neighbouring Tol and Waitavalo plantations - nor that it came soon after one of the most shameful episodes of our war when 1,400 diggers and civilians were abandoned as 'hostages to fortune' ahead of the Japanese invasion of Rabaul on 23 January 1942.

Rabaul was the capital of Australian-mandated New Guinea and was protected by a tiny garrison consisting mainly of the 2/22nd Battalion Lark Force.

The town was quickly routed by a massive Japanese fleet of carriers, destroyers, submarines and fighter and bomber aircraft.



When the order “every man for himself” was given, soldiers and civilians fanned out over New Britain looking for escape routes through the most rugged terrain imaginable.

Some endured an epic trek through dense jungle – battling malaria, dysentery, tropical ulcers, leeches, exhaustion, malnutrition and crocodile-infested rivers – to eventually reach points where they were able to escape on small boats.

But this was not the majority, including those who reached Tol Plantation hoping to be rescued.

To their horror, five barge-loads of Japanese troops were on the beach to meet them.

There was no option for the starving, exhausted, virtually unarmed Australians but to surrender. At first it seemed they would be treated as normal prisoners of war. Then an order to execute the prisoners was given.

Red Cross brassards were ripped off medics. Men were trussed together in small groups with fishing line or ropes and taken into the jungle and slaughtered.

They stood or sat listening to their mates’ death cries – awaiting their own fate by blade or bullet.

The few survivors told of grinning Japanese soldiers emerging from the bush wiping blood from their bayonets and beckoning their next targets.

Some victims - asked if they wanted to be shot or bayoneted - chose the gun only to be stabbed. Two wounded men found alive in Waitavalo Plantation homestead had been smeared in pig grease to be burned alive in the house.

Requests for final cigarettes were refused. Some men prayed, some begged for their lives, others said cheerio to their mates.

They were covered in palm leaves and left to die. Incredibly, several men feigned death and survived to tell the story.

Private Billy Cook of the 2/12 Field Ambulance survived 11 bayonet wounds. He wrote:

“The first stab knocked us down. The Japs stood over us stabbing madly. I received six wounds in the back, two just missing the spine, two more breaking ribs...

As the Japanese were moving off, the man next to me groaned. One of the Japanese soldiers came running back and stabbed him once more. By this time I could hold my breath no longer. When I drew a deep breath the soldier heard me and inflicted four more bayonet wounds.

The last thrust went through my ear into my mouth, severing an artery on the way. Seeing the blood gushing out of my mouth, he assumed that I was at last dead, he covered the three of us with coconut fronds and vine leaves and left.”

Cook somehow crawled off into the jungle – as did five other survivors – and eventually was evacuated from New Britain to Port

Moresby with 156 soldiers, sailors and civilians aboard the overcrowded government yacht, the *Laurabada*.

An estimated 1,053 of the troops and Rabaul residents who remained in the town or who were captured would eventually perish as prisoners when their prison ship, the *Montevideo Maru*, taking them to Hainan then occupied by Japan, was sunk by mistake by an American submarine off the Philippines.

The details of that episode and the miserable way victims’ families were treated for decades - plus the disgraceful abandonment of Rabaul itself - are stories for elsewhere.

So, too, is the shameful way in which the Chinese population under Australia’s protection was left behind along with indigenous workers employed by the colonial administration.

But this weekend we remember the 160 poor souls who died such unspeakable deaths at Tol and Waitavalo 75 years ago.

Many were just boys – the average age of Lark Force soldiers was 18 and a half – while some of the civilian volunteer rifle men were granddads in their fifties and sixties.

Some remains were retrieved post-war and buried at Rabaul’s beautiful Bitu Paka war cemetery - but the bones of others rot still in the jungle soil of a place whose name most Australians have never heard.

They deserve better.

Lest We Forget.

From Keith Jackson & Friends: PNG Attitude

Griffiths Robert E (Bob) WO2 NG2130 NGX428

Robert Ernest (Bob) Griffiths was born in 1907 went to New Guinea in the late twenties or early thirties either with the Methodist Church or managing plantations for WR Carpenter. He married at the HALIS Methodist Mission at NAMATANAI, New Ireland on 8 November 1933, he was 26 and his wife 22 years of age. At the time he was managing Kurunuit Plantation.

Just before the WW2 he was working in Bulolo (for BDG on the dredges?). His wife and daughter Gillian aged 2 were evacuated from Bulolo late 1941.

Bob joined NGVR in Bulolo and served in B Company in the Markham area. Bob’s Camp located near the Markham River was named after Bob Griffiths (not after Bob Emery as it is popularly believed) who originally established the camp. Other than an entry in the nominal roll Griffiths Robert E (Bob) WO2 NG 2130 and that Bob’s Camp, commonly known as Bobs, was named after him, there is no other reference about Bob in Ian Down’s *History of NGVR*. In the *Keepers of the Gate*, Bob was asked to help McCauley build a camp at Banis Donkey near Kudgera east of Wau. The *Commando, Double Black* book about the 2/5 Independent Company also mentions Bobs and how it was named. He is not mentioned in Sinclair’s book *The Golden Gateway* which is the history of the Morobe District.

Bob Griffiths also served in ANGAU and was discharged (in Rabaul?) on 9 August 1946 as a WO2 and with an AIF number, NGX428. There is no mention of Bob in Powell’s Book, *The Third Force*, about ANGAU and his family knows little or nothing during this period of his life.

Bob would have had a good command of pidgin so after the disbandment of NGVR he would have probably been repatriated to Australia for a few months to recuperate, enlisted in ANGAU and

served as a labour line master carrying supplies to Australian front line troops in either Bougainville, Wewak or New Britain. His military service and medals would be contained in his service record held by Army Records which may be easily obtained by a family member for a price and a six week wait.

Upon discharge Bob returned to New Guinea without his wife to manage plantations for WR Carpenter. It is understood he was on Manum Island when an incident occurred (there was a mention by a Richards from Woollongong that Bob had killed a native?) and shortly after on 27 July 1947, Bob died aged 40 years. He is buried in the old German Cemetery in Madang. His tombstone mentions he died of a gunshot wound to the head.

The above was extracted by Phil Ainsworth, Association President, in response to a query from Bob's daughter Gillian. Many such requests are received by the Association which does its best to respond appropriately.

'FOUND' - Australian Navy Submarine HMAS AE1 located after 103 years

Australia's first submarine HMAS AE1 has been found, ending a 103 year maritime mystery.

The fate of 800 ton AE1 and her 35 crew members has remained one of the persistent mysteries of Australia's military history.

It was the first loss for the Royal Australian Navy and the first Allied submarine loss in World War I; a significant tragedy felt by our nation and our allies.

The Royal Australian Navy submarine was lost off Rabaul on 14 September 1914 with all personnel aboard.

An expedition to locate the submarine took place in waters off the coast of the Duke of York Island group in Papua New Guinea this week. The search vessel 'Fugro Equator' located an object of interest in over 300 metres of water. Upon further inspection, confirmed the object to be AE1.

The first images captured by the expedition show the vessel is remarkably well preserved and apparently in one piece.

The Royal Australian Navy teamed up with a range of search groups in this latest expedition, funded by the Commonwealth Government and the Silentworld Foundation, with assistance from the Submarine Institute of Australia, the Australian National Maritime Museum, Fugro Survey and the Papua New Guinea Government. The expedition was embarked on the survey ship Fugro Equator which is equipped with advanced search technology.

Following the discovery of the submarine, a small commemorative service was held by those on-board the survey vessel to remember those officers and sailors who lost their lives 103 years ago. Efforts are being made to contact the descendants of the crew.

The Australian Government will work closely with the Papua New Guinean Government to consider a lasting commemoration and recognition of the crew of AE1 and to preserve the site.



The information gained from this expedition and from the research to date will greatly assist in unravelling the mystery of the loss of HMAS

AE1, and will be held by the Australian National Maritime Museum for future generations to remember.



Source Navy Daily 21.12.2017

Whilst at the Maritime Museum in Sydney for the Commando Remembrance Day Memorial Service in Nov 2017, I spoke to Kevin Sumption, Museum Director, regarding the search. It was to use the latest technology and Kevin was confident of a result after all these years. It didn't take all that long Editor

The Naval Ode

Ode traditionally used for Australian and New Zealand military burials at sea:

**"They have no grave but the cruel sea,
No flowers lay at their head,
A rusting hulk is their tombstone,
Afast on the ocean bed.
Lest we forget."**

Appropriate for the 35 crew members lost on HMAS AE 1

US Embassy official robbed at police roadblock in Port Moresby

Several sources have told the ABC the male official was driving home on Friday night after having dinner at the popular Harbour side restaurant precinct when he was stopped at a police roadblock a short distance away.

A man in civilian clothes, who was with the police, got into the car, produced a pistol and took the American's phone and watch.

The official was then forced to drive to an ATM and withdraw cash from his bank account.

He was able to get away when the armed robber got out of the car while it was parked near a nightclub in the CBD.

The victim was left traumatised by the ordeal but is not believed to have sustained any significant physical injuries.

The ABC has been told the US Embassy has put a nightly curfew in place for its staff following the robbery.

One source said the official's car did not have a duress alarm, which is a common security feature in diplomatic vehicles in Port Moresby.

A spokeswoman for the US Embassy confirmed there was "an incident involving a member of the embassy community".

She declined to comment further, citing ongoing investigations.

Police officers 'rounded up'

Police say they are investigating the robbery and have identified a suspect.

A spokesman says they have requested CCTV footage from the



A police roadblock in PNG

ATM where the victim was forced to withdraw money.

He says investigators have also "rounded up" officers who were on duty in the area at the time of the robbery for questioning.

The incident occurred as the PNG Government prepares to host the APEC Leaders Summit in Port Moresby next year.

The Australian Government is providing more than \$100 million to support the preparations.

That support includes training for the local police by the Australian Federal Police, and the provision of new equipment including cars, motorcycles and jet-skis.

Liam Fox ABC Port Moresby 10 Oct 2017

*Two blokes are playing Golf – One of them is about to chip onto the green when he sees a funeral procession pass the course. He stops in mid-swing, takes off his cap, closes his eyes and bows in prayer.
His friend says, "That is the most touching thing I have ever seen. You truly are a kind man."
The man replies, "Yeah, well we were married for 35 years"*

McNicoll, Sir Walter Ramsay (1877–1947) by Ronald McNicoll

Sir Walter Ramsay McNicoll (1877-1947), schoolmaster, soldier and administrator, was born on 27 May 1877 at Emerald Hill, Melbourne, son of William Walter Alexander McNicoll, photographer, and his wife Ellen, née Ramsay. He was educated at state schools.



In 1893 he joined the Victorian Education Department as a monitor, becoming a pupil-teacher in 1895. He studied at the Teachers' Training College under the direction of Frank Tate in 1900-01 and obtained the Trained Teacher's Certificate. In 1905 he joined the staff of the newly opened Melbourne Continuation (High) School where he taught drawing and commanded the cadets. On 10 June at St John's Church, Heathcote, he married another teacher, Hildur, Victorian-born daughter of

Oscar Wedel Jarlsberg, a Norwegian migrant. Appointed founding headmaster of the future Geelong High School in 1911, he gained his diploma of education in 1912. He divided his spare time between the military forces, in which he was a major, and yachting on Port Phillip Bay.

On the raising of the Australian Imperial Force in August 1914 McNicoll was appointed second-in-command of the 7th Battalion. He sailed with his unit in October, trained with it in Egypt, and in April 1915 was given command of the 6th Battalion. He led the 6th in the landing at Anzac Cove on 25 April, and for his work then and during the following night he received one of the first awards of the Distinguished Service Order in the A.I.F. His battalion, with others, was moved to Cape Helles to attempt the capture of the Achi Baba heights: there, on 8 May, it took part in the costly and unsuccessful second battle of Krithia. In the attack McNicoll was severely wounded in the abdomen, and he might not have survived had not the war correspondent Charles Bean made a note of where he lay, and brought stretcher-bearers after nightfall. In hospital at Alexandria efforts failed to extract the bullet, and it was not until McNicoll reached London that an operation was successful. He was invalided to Australia late in 1915.

By February 1916 he was fit enough to be appointed to command the newly raised 10th Infantry Brigade, a component of the 3rd Division commanded by Major General (Sir) John Monash. The brigade reached England in July. During the winter of 1916-17 it was in a quiet sector of the line in Flanders. In June 1917 it took part in the battle of Messines. In October it was engaged in the third battle of Ypres where it achieved great success at Broodseinde but failed (as did others) in the fight for Passchendaele. The brigade was in reserve in March 1918 when the Germans broke through the front farther south: it was rushed to the Amiens sector and took a major part in stabilizing the line.

Monash's appointment to command the Australian Corps in May left the command of the 3rd Division vacant. He favoured McNicoll. However, the appointment went to Brigadier General (Sir) John Gellibrand.

The 10th Brigade was heavily engaged in the battle of Amiens, and for the last six days of August it was almost continuously in action. Its final battle took place at the end of September, on the Hindenburg line. For his work on the Western Front McNicoll was appointed C.M.G. and then C.B., and he was four times mentioned in dispatches. As a brigade commander he had been intensely loyal to Monash, whose plans, sometimes faulty, he never questioned in public. He had shown himself to be over sanguine on occasions, but courageous, determined, and an able leader of men.

After the Armistice McNicoll was appointed inspector-general (from April 1919 director) of education, controlling the civil education and training of the soldiers waiting for ships to take them home. He returned to Australia late in 1919. Although his university studies had been interrupted by the war he was granted in 1920, while headmaster of Coburg High School, a B.A. 'in view of his distinguished military services'. But without further qualifications his prospects in the Victorian Education Department were limited, and he resigned to become principal of the new Presbyterian Ladies' College at Goulburn, New South Wales.

In that small provincial city he was prominent as a returned soldier, a Freemason, and musical director of the very active choral society, and during the founding years of the school he was content. Thereafter growth slowed and the job became tedious. From 1929 the school was hard hit by the Depression.

During 1931 McNicoll began to take an active interest in politics. After the Scullin government was defeated in November, McNicoll was chosen as the Country Party candidate for the Federal seat of Werriwa, and the United Australia Party decided to support him. At the election in December McNicoll won on preferences against the sitting Lang Labor member, Bert Lazzarini. In parlia-

ment McNicoll concerned himself largely with defence, war pensions, and the interests of servicemen. During the winter recess of 1933 he visited Papua and the Mandated Territory of New Guinea. He had already sought an appointment to an administratorship, having found parliamentary temporizing distasteful, and conscious that his seat was not safe. Appointed administrator of the Mandated Territory of New Guinea in August, he assumed office on 13 September 1934 in succession to Brigadier General Thomas Griffiths. He was described at the time as 'a slightly built man, rather above middle height' with the 'pale face of the ascetic', a 'keen and sharp' expression and 'a charming though reserved manner'.

McNicoll established a pattern of regular visits to all the outlying districts, paying particular attention to the economically important Morobe goldfield. As administrator he held a balance between the many conflicting interests of planters, missionaries, miners and prospectors. Funds were always short, and desirable initiatives such as native education were restricted. McNicoll was given a fairly free hand by most of the nine ministers under whom he served: these ranged from the sagacious Sir George Pearce to the vain and capricious Billy Hughes.

When the volcanoes at Rabaul erupted on 29 May 1937 the administrator was on the mainland. He flew back—the first aircraft to land at Rabaul—and took over from Judge Sir Frederick Phillips who had organized the evacuation. He decided upon the early reoccupation of the town. His appointment to K.B.E. headed the special honours list for the Rabaul emergency.

As the threat of war grew in 1939 McNicoll became increasingly concerned about the Territory's vulnerability, now viewing its mandate status as a liability rather than a strength. When war broke out in September he interned many of the German missionaries, and more in May 1940. It was not until January 1941 that he was relieved of responsibility for defence.

Rabaul's larger volcano erupted again in June 1941, making the town almost uninhabitable. McNicoll decided to transfer the seat of government to Lae and, in order to speed construction, moved there himself with several departments, leaving Harold Page at Rabaul as deputy administrator. The entry of Japan into the war increased McNicoll's concern over the vulnerability of the territory and of Rabaul in particular, and he pressed for reinforcements, but without success. On 20 January 1942 Lae was destroyed in an air raid. Two days later Rabaul fell to the Japanese, and McNicoll, suffering from malaria, was flown from Lae to Wau. He made his way south, still a sick man, hoping to see his minister; but it was evident that the Mandated Territory was substantially lost.

He retired from office at the end of 1942, having served as administrator for more than eight years. He died in Sydney on 24 December 1947 and was cremated. He was survived by his wife and four sons of whom Ronald became a major general, Alan a vice admiral and David a prominent journalist.

His record is that of a conscientious, energetic and somewhat conventional man, disinclined to compromise, not tactful, but considerate; a firm believer in the virtues of discipline and loyalty; and, in New Guinea, more liberal than was usual at the time.

This article was published in Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 10, (MUP), 1986

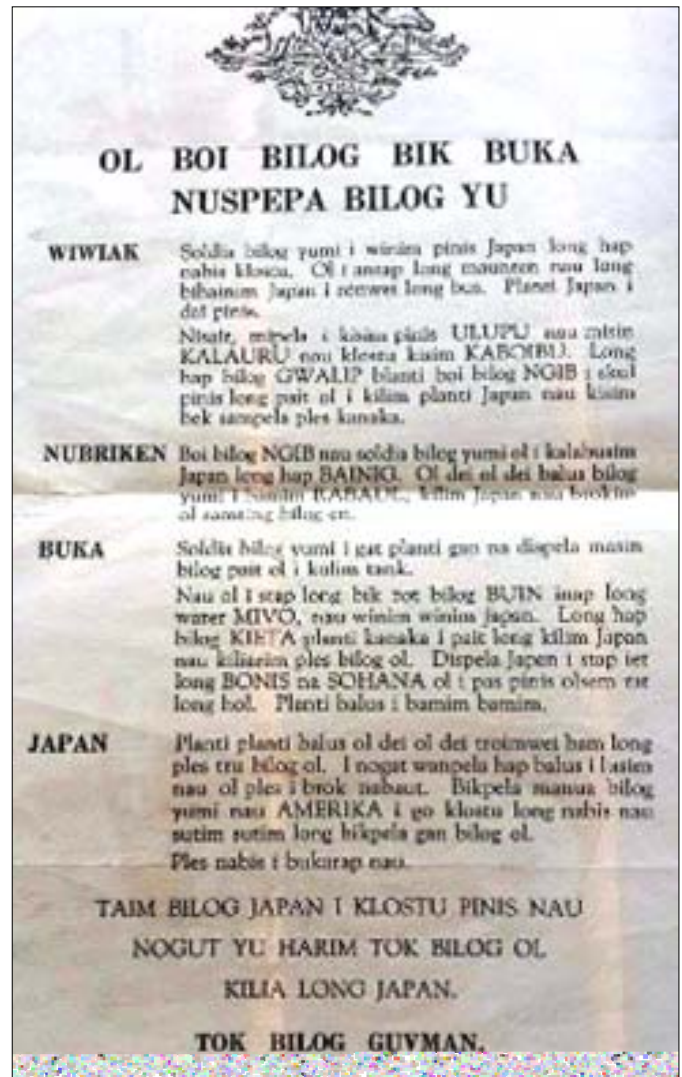
The above is the first in a series of articles on persons who played a substantial role in Papua and New Guinea development over the years.

Pidgin Notice

This is another pidgin notice issued by the Australians prior to the end of WW2 in PNG.

All Men of Bougainville This is Your Newspaper
Wewak: Our soldiers have already driven the Japanese from our

local beaches. They are now in the mountains in pursuit of the Japanese who have retreated to the bush. Many Japanese are now dead. We have already captured ULUPU and KALAURU Mission and we are close to capturing KABOIBU. Around GWALIP many members of New Guinea Infantry Battalion have learnt how to fight and have killed many Japanese and regained some of their own land.



New Britain: Members of New Guinea Infantry Battalion and our soldiers are holding Japanese prisoners at BAINIG. Every day our aircraft are bombing RABAUL, killing Japanese and destroying their equipment.

Buka: Our soldiers have many guns and battle tanks. They are now on the main road to BUIN at MIVO River and are winning all their battles with the Japanese. Around KIETA many New Guinea men are fighting and killing Japanese and clearing the area of them. The Japanese are still at BONIS and SOHANO but are trapped like rats in a hole. They are being heavily bombed by our aircraft.

Japan: Every day their homeland is being heavily bombed. They no longer have an air force and their areas are being damaged. Our warships and those of America are close to their shores and are firing their big guns at them. The beaches are totally destroyed.

JAPAN'S TIME IS VERY CLOSE NOW SO IT IS IMPORTANT
YOU HEAR THE TRUTH ABOUT JAPAN.
GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT



Census at Kwima



A labour line building the Jimi – Banz Road

Kiaps

Up until independence in 1975, thousands of young Australian men served as patrol officers, or Kiaps, in the Territory of Papua and New Guinea. A career as a patrol officer in what was then Australian territory required the men to juggle the multiple roles of ambassador, policeman, explorer, farmer, engineer and anthropologist.

Away for weeks at a time, Kiaps patrolled vast areas on foot with the help of an indigenous police force. Surviving

farm and coffee plantation near Wau in the province of Morobe. He entered national politics in Papua New Guinea, and served for many years as President of the PNG Coffee Marketing Board. In 1969 Hurrell was awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for his services to the Board.

You can find Hurrell's story in Memory of a Nation, the National Archives' permanent exhibition in Canberra. This exhibition highlights the Archives' vast collection and encourages visitors to explore Australian history through official records. It also showcases the personal stories of many Australians who have contributed to our history.

Lloyd Hurrell, CMG OBE MC died peacefully at home in May 2012. He was the last of the pre-World War II Kiaps- and one with an exemplary record.

The photos do not relate to Lloyd Hurrell's service but come from Kiap Tom Webster's series of photos on Flickr as does the article.

Many of our Association Members were Kiaps and have many an interesting and, at times, dangerous stories to tell. Perhaps Harim Tok Tok could receive some of them!

Little Larry attended a horse auction with his father. He watched as his father moved from horse to horse, running his hands up and down the horse's legs and rump, and chest. After a few minutes, Larry asked, 'Dad, why are you doing that?' His father replied, 'Because when I'm buying horses, I have to make sure that they are healthy and in good shape before I buy. Larry, looking worried, said, 'Dad, I think the milkman wants to buy Mum...'

patrol reports detail attempts to introduce Australian law and governance, observations of customs and languages, mapping and census reports.

Official Kiap records

Kiaps' lives, and those of the communities they worked with, were captured for posterity by Australian Government photographers and film-makers. This material is now held by the National Archives of Australia. The Archives also holds a range of records about Kiaps and their work, including patrol reports, personnel and correspondence files, area reports and maps. Together these records help tell the shared history of Australia and Papua New Guinea. To recognise and pay tribute to the extensive history of Kiap involvement in Papua New Guinea, the Archives has highlighted records in its collection relating to this aspect of Australian history. This includes a Find of the Month story, featuring photographs and a copy of an advertisement urging Australians with 'initiative, imagination and courage' to answer the call to become Kiaps. A set of Archives photographs is also available on the photo-sharing website, Flickr.

Lloyd Hurrell: a Kiap in the Archives

In 1939, (Albert) Lloyd Hurrell applied for the position of cadet patrol officer advertised in Sydney newspapers. After serving briefly as a Kiap in New Guinea, Hurrell joined the Australian Military Forces in 1940. He was awarded the Military Cross for his actions on 11 November 1942 during fierce fighting after the recapture of Kokoda.



A photograph of Lloyd Hurrell from his World War II army record, 1939. NGX18

After World War II, Hurrell returned to Kiap duties in New Guinea. In 1950 he was appointed Acting District Officer of the Menyama district, and was instructed to establish a new settlement at this remote post in the 'uncontrolled' Western Highlands. The following year, Hurrell was ordered to investigate a raid on the village of Kiat-song during which several people were killed. While investigating the raid, Hurrell's party was attacked. He fired a warning shot, which unfortunately killed one of the attacking men.

Hurrell resigned from his Kiap duties in 1954, and established a

From Jes Hansford

I wrote this response to the article by Gary Johnson which appeared in 'Reveille' (NSW RSL Magazine) Sep-Oct 2017 issue vol. 90 no. 5 beginning page 23.

You may care to view the whole article which carefully omits the **60,000** or so British Infantry and Artillery and attached troops, mainly on foot trudging through the sand, towing guns, wagons, water and food, ammunition, medical supplies, some sick and wounded, who distracted the Turkish forces by fire and movement and artillery concentrations to allow the 600 or so Light-horsemen to arrive at the backdoor so to speak, and cause the surrender and eventual capture of the enemy position.

In case some members don't have access to 'Reveille' you may care to enlighten them by including the relevant paragraph on page 25 which is included here from Gary Johnson's missive. The relevant paragraph states;

'The saddest part of the cessation of hostilities was the **Death Sentence** passed on our old comrades the horses, who got no Victoria Crosses. On the advance to Damascus our Walers had averaged 40 miles a day carrying up to 20 stone, and in the deserts of Sinai often had to carry this load through heavy sand up to their fetlocks, sometimes going 60 hours without a drink.

How often had we pictured ourselves riding triumphant through the streets of Australian cities with crowds cheering all the way and people touching our stirrups and garlanding our horses.

Then the order came through that each man could shoot his old charger, and the horses were led out to their last Grand Parade.

In squadron formation our trusty mounts fell to rise no more.'

The following pages are addressed;

The Editor, Reveille.

I write in response to an article on page 23 vol 90 no. 5 Sep-Oct 2017 issue – Beersheba.

Six uncles of my family served 1914-1918 in the Great War, mainly 33 Battalion, the New England Battalion, mainly farm workers and they also helped foster the myth of the Light Horse although they saw nothing of these feats, serving in France and Belgium – hearsay. They may have seen the horses of the Artillery Regiments only. And the singular British Cavalry Charge at the relief of Villers Brettoneux. They won their decorations and served their horrendous war penalties of memories in silence. And so I write to right wrongs.

BEERSHEBA 1917 AND BEYOND THE MEN THE HORSES THE LEGEND THE LIES

And again the old myth [lie] raises it's head about
'they shot their horses didn't they?'
The answer is NO.

According to the mandates laid down in the British and Australian Army care of military horses Veterinary Orders, all Units using horses had a complete Veterinary Unit attached for their care and Australian Veterinary Officers and their staffs took great care of these magnificent animals and any horse that needed attention was nursed most carefully.

Horses accidentally damaged OR wounded in action which required more than two months care and rehabilitation were destroyed.

Complete figures of horses killed or wounded in action or accidents were not available from France or the Middle East.

Veterinary records kept by Units are meticulous in detail [kept in AWM records] which show that Australia supplied around 136,000 Walers [the term applied to Australian horses mainly because, although they came from all parts of Australia, they were originally sold in New South Wales] to the Australian Imperial Forces and the British and Indian Governments.

Although slightly different figures are offered, some 82,000 went to India, another 10,000 to France and 29,348 were shipped to the Middle East to horse the AIF or other parts of Britain's Imperial Armies between 1914 and late 1916 and to remount depots.

At the end of the War the AIF in Egypt, Palestine and Syria had 9,751 horses of all types. These included riding, draught and light draught and mules and their fate quickly became an important consideration for the AIF demobilization in 1919. Returning them to Australia was ruled out due to possible disease and the cost of returning them was more than the horses were worth at sale. Sad to say but true, typical Government bean counters.

Even the guns were left in desert gun parks to be recovered for reuse in 1940.

In France, Belgium and Britain sales were arranged for the animals during **1919** but only after assurances had been obtained from French and Belgium butchers that the horses would not be taken for the meat.

There was strong objection by Lt. Gen. Harry Chauvel to AIF Headquarters of the sale to any Eastern nationality because Middle Eastern standards of animal treatment affronted Australian sensibilities, and still do.

To this I can attest having witnessed the treatment of Egyptian gharry drivers to their small thin ponies in Aswan and Cairo and Alexandria.

Therefore in early 1919 the Australian Government decided that it's remaining animals in the Middle East would be classified according to age and fitness, the better animals being either passed to Imperial Units, pooled in Remount depots for reissue or sold. The older or unfit horses would be destroyed.

All Units had to keep Quartermaster Records – one for one etc, so the Veterinary Records were meticulous in detail also as all horses had identification engraved on both front hooves.

In 1919, Veterinary officers began examining horses, all riding horses over 12 years old, all draught horses over 15 years old, all unsound horses and those requiring more than two months treatment were marked for destruction.

Their manes and tails were shorn [horse hair was valuable] their shoes removed then they were taken to selected areas near the camps where working parties under the command of a Veterinary officer shot them with pistols, **NOT** as Banjo Patterson claimed, with machine guns.

The horses were gutted and skins salted [these were also valuable]. In all 3059 of the AIF older and unfit horses were humanely destroyed in this way.

The fit and younger horses of the Australian Mounted Division were passed directly to the Indian 4th and 5th Cavalry divisions which were busy with postwar occupation duties in Syria. The surviving horses of the Australian and New Zealand Mounted Division were pooled at The Imperial Remount Depot at Moascar in Egypt which after a brief reissue of riding horses to the AIF during the Egyptian Rebellion which broke out during March and April 1919 were ultimately provided to Imperial Units.

France and Belgium took the medium and heavy draught where they were purchased, the mules obviously were better used in the Middle East.

The Military authorities were worried that the men might be inclined to have their horses destroyed but attentive and vigilant Veterinary officers and staff made sure that this did NOT occur as the financial adjustments between British and Australian Governments were at stake. The meticulousness with which this programme was managed meant that the chances of something illegal happening were slim. The very complete surviving horse inventories from 1919 makes it clear that Units kept a very close eye on their horses, the Unit CO being held directly responsible.

The stories that 200 to 250 horses were illegally shot by their riders is hotly disputed. Myths have abounded by writers such as Ian L. Idriess and Banjo Patterson of such cruelties and often perpetuated by families who had soldier relatives in the 1914-18 War. The records prove that this did **NOT** happen. **Idriess and Patterson were back in Australia in 1918 before the 1919 culling programme**

The most complete veterinary records of horse management with units is held by the AWM from which these notes were derived. Other articles abound in libraries some of which tend to mythologise the stories of the Light Horse.

The paragraph in Reveille Sep-Oct issue – Beersheba 1917 beginning.

'The saddest part of the cessation of hostilities' is all tear jerking, 'the order coming through to shoot his charger' is lies.

Imagine the desert around the camp with 9,000 or so dead horses littering the scene. And the CO having to explain why all the men are walking and pulling wagons, and where are the horses and what to do with all the tons of fodder piling up and what is that pile of saddles and bridles doing out in the weather and what to do with the new shoes and nails.

All lies and the AWM has the records to disprove it.

The penalties for illegally destroying Government property are severe.

The Light Horse Units of Australia are proud of their Heritage as Australia is proud of our Light Horse Units and their heroism.

The myth and lies of 'they shot their horses didn't they?' must NOT be perpetuated.

*Jes Hansford Kempsey 0438988120
Thank you Jes. Always great to have a myth corrected.*

Letter received from Assn Member Gerry McGrade

I have just returned to Qld from PNG with a message from Michael Turpik (see photo) who resides at Bitapaka, near Rabaul East New Britain PNG.

Michael has requested assistance. He seeks band instruments for use by hopeful youths in the village who are very keen to progress as fledgling musicians.

He has acquired a wee assortment of instruments procured around the district, but he needs more to meet the demand.

Michael is a retired Pacific Island Army Piper and wants to train the kids in his village.



Michael Turpik, ex PIR Piper in white shirt leading some of his musicians in the Frangipani Festival, Rabaul.

If our organization could canvas readers through "HTT" to salvage for re-use musical instruments in reasonable condition it would help the village boys and girls achieve their goal. If you were to contact me by phone or email I would facilitate collection and delivery to PNG safe hands for direct delivery to Michael Turpik in his coastal village.

Thank you for your attention.

Gerry McGrade, Southport Qld, 4215.
Email. geemac4@me.com
Mob. 0437 389 129

Vale Lt John J. Frewen 3775721 / 859174

John carried out his National Service in Victoria and served with a CMF unit, being Commissioned as a Lt (Prob) with 8 Ordnance Field Park, RAAOC in that state. He came to PNG about 1960 as



John Frewen at a PNGVR BBQ at the Madang Hotel Pool

he marched with Admin Coy in Port Moresby on Anzac Day that year. He completed his obligatory 5 years National Service on 30 June 1960 but elected to continue on in the CMF. In Aug 1961 he was appointed Supervising Officer of the Port Moresby PNGVR Sgts Mess.

Shortly after he was transferred to Madang and served with 7 Pl C Coy PNGVR there.

LEST WE FORGET



7 Pl C Coy PNGVR Madang 1961

L-R Back Sgt Ron Strand, Pte Joe Berger, ? Sgt Lionel Fox, Pte Bob Collins, Cpl Brian Andrew, Lt (Prob) Mac Farland. Seated Pte Eugene Lewin, **Lt John Frewen**, Lt L.G. (Chick) Hutson, Pte Ron Brown. Inserts Cpl Percy Neville, Pte Bob Loh



Last Fuzzy Wuzzy Angel Dies

Havala Laua, aged 91, has died in his remote village of Kagi which is located approx. half way along the Kokoda Track. His death comes 75 years after he helped evacuate wounded Australian soldiers in WW11. He was a teenager when the Japanese troops landed in PNG and tried to take Port Moresby via the Kokoda Track.



Throughout the Kokoda Campaign an estimated 50,000 Papuan civilians helped provide supplies to Australian troops and evacuate the injured.

The nickname "Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels" was a term of endearment given to the villagers by Australian soldiers.

The above was a report in "The Australian" and other news sources. However since then a local chief from the Kebara Village in Kokoda PNG's Northern Province, Benjamin Ijumi, the son of a WW2 carrier, has opposed these newspaper reports, stating "There are many fuzzy wuzzy angels still alive and living around the country"

Benjamin Ijumi's comments will be given in detail in the next issue of "Harim Tok Tok".

However Havala Laua deserves recognition for his efforts during WW2.

LEST WE FORGET.

FUNCTION DATES

Sat 10th Feb	Committee Meeting Museum 10am followed by BYO lunch.
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MUSEUM EVENTS

Sat 20 Jan.	Working Bee 8.30am. BYO Luncheon. Bring along any tools, paint brushes etc. Lots to be done.
Sat 3rd Feb.	BBQ Bunnings Oxley Assistance definitely required Morning shift 7am - 12noon Afternoon shift 12noon - 4pm Contact Colin Gould - see opposite
Tues 6th Mar.	11am 25 from Gold Coast PNG Club visiting. Assistance appreciated. Contact Colin Gould.
Thurs 19th Apr.	10:30am 25 persons from Caboolture Machinery Club visiting. Assistance appreciated. Contact Colin Gould.

John & Vanessa Roxburgh
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Includes former members of the PIR, PIB and NGIB.

For correspondence contact Secretary, Colin Gould, email pngvr@optusnet.com.au, phone 0424 562 030 (The Secretary, P O Box 885, Park Ridge, Qld, 4125)

For Military Museum enquires contact Colin Gould email pngvr@optusnet.com.au, phone 0424 562 030 or

Paul Brown email paulbrown475@gmail.com, Phone 0402 644 181

(NGVR/PNGVR Military Museum, Corner Boundary Road & Fulcrum Street, Wacol, Qld, 4076)

Membership fee payments to Treasurer, Doug Ng, email douglasng@iinet.net.au, phone 0413 014 422

(NGVR & PNGVR Ex-members Association : BSB: 064006 - A/C: 10001126)

Website Master: Trevor Connell email trevor.connell@internode.on.net, phone 0409 690 590

www.pngvr.weebly.com (all back copies of HTT may be obtained from our website)

Facebook Master: Kieran Nelson, email kieran.nelson@bigpond.com, phone 0412 236 013

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ngvrandonpngvrarmymuseum/>

Harim Tok Tok Editor: Bob Collins, email bob-collins@bigpond.com, phone 0413 831 397

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South Pacific Air War, Volume 1, The Fall of Rabaul, December 1941-March 1942 by Michael Claringbould and Peter Ingram; published 2017 through Avonmore Books, Kent Town, South Australia; ISBN:978-0-9945889-4-4; softback; 250 pages, full colour with numerous fully captioned photographs and appendices; available **\$39.95**.

This book which covers the critical early months of the Pacific War is the first of three chronicling aerial warfare in the South Pacific. It focuses on land based aviation of the Japanese and Allies which greatly influenced the strategies of opposing sides leading into the May 1942 Battle of the Coral Sea.

Air operations by both sides became a daily occurrence. As Imperial Japanese Navy flying boats and land-based bombers penetrated over vast distances, a few under-strength squadrons of the Royal Australian Air Force put up a spirited fight. However it was the supreme power of aircraft carriers that had the biggest impact. Four Japanese fleet carriers facilitated the capture of Rabaul over a devastating four-day period in January 1942. The following month, the USS Lexington's fighter squadron VF-3 scored one of the most one-sided victories of the entire Pacific War. By March 1942 the Japanese had landed on mainland New Guinea, and the scene was set for a race to control Port Moresby. This is the full story of both sides of an air war that could have been won by either incumbent, but for timing, crucial decisions and luck. The book is logically structured and easy to read assisted by its maps, photographs and appendices. It provides fascinating insights into this early period of the war when Australians felt a sense of hopeless inferiority in numbers and equipment. The author's smooth blending of material from Japanese and Allied records gives its story balance and completeness. The surprise was the detail, particularly of land operations, which the reviewer had not previously read, although the lack of referencing was an issue to the reviewer.

Much new material is presented, for example in the chapter covering the feint of the US carrier, Lexington towards Rabaul from the east on 20 February 1942. Although the result went badly for the Japanese it could have just have easily gone the other way, which would have disastrously removed the Lexington from the May Coral Sea Battle.

This is a wonderful read for those interested in aerial warfare and a must read for anyone interested in this period and sector of the Pacific War. The volume covers much more than the air war. The appendices showing aircraft losses and aircraft profiles and characteristics assist the reader to understand the conclusions reached by the authors. The authors are congratulated on the readability and clarity of this publication and the reviewer is eagerly waiting for the publication of the following volumes of this trilogy.

Michael Claringbould, author and illustrator, was raised in Port Moresby in the 1960s, and became fascinated by the many Pacific War aircraft wrecks in PNG. He has helped with finding and recovery of aircraft in PNG and has assisted both US and Japanese Governments in identifying missing aircraft and crew. Michael has served widely overseas, including South Pacific countries, as an Australian diplomat. He is contributing editor to *Flightpath* magazine and has written books, more recently a widely acclaimed history of the Tainan Naval Air Group in PNG, *Eagles of the Southern Sky*. He is a member of Pacific Air War History Associates, holds Australian pilot's and PG4 paraglider licences and is a skilled digital 3D aviation artist.

Peter Ingram is an aviation historian and author specialising in the early stages of the Pacific War. Two of his books *Zero Hour in Broome* and *Carrier Attack Darwin 1942* have been favourably accepted. A former business man Peter has travelled widely throughout northern Australia and the South Pacific. He is Chairman of the South Australian Aviation Museum History Group.

Phil Ainsworth, President, NGVR & PNGVR Association, December 2017

NGVR / PNGVR FUNCTION & MEETING DATES 2018 (as at 15 January 2018)

MONTH	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	GENERAL ASSOCIATION & MUSEUM FUNCTIONS	GENERAL
JANUARY		<u>Museum working bee Saturday 20th. From 0800 hours to make ready for 2018 visitors & tours.</u> (cleaning, painting of the new steel security gates (2), re-painting the ramp, etc BYO lunch.) ALL WELCOME	Australia Day 26 January
FEBRUARY	Saturday 10 th. 10.00am	Saturday 3rd Feb. Bunnings Oxley Sausage Sizzle (Wednesday 14th The NASHO's are holding their Remembrance Day service at the Wacol Chapel from 10.30 am.) Note only	15th Feb. Fall of Singapore 19th Feb Bombing of Darwin
MARCH	Saturday 24th. 10.00am		Good Friday 30th March
APRIL		Thursday 19th Museum visit & Bar-B-Q lunch (\$10 pp)—Caboolture machinery club. +25 guests from 10.30 am WEDNESDAY 25th - ANZAC DAY BRISBANE MARCH & MEMBERS REUNION—STOCK EXCHANGE HOTEL Possible Serbian ANZAC Day function on Saturday 28 April—to be confirmed.	ANZAC DAY
MAY	Saturday 26th 10.00am		May 5th Battle of the Coral Sea Commemoration.
JUNE			
JULY	Saturday 28th 10.00am	Sunday 1 July 2018.—Montevideo Maru Memorial Service ANZAC Square 10.30 am followed by morning tea Monday 23 July— PNG Remembrance Day.	Sat 2 July Reserve Forces Day
AUGUST		Sunday 12 August—Kokoda Memorial Service—Shenwood-Ind RSL contact Mike Griffin for details.	Sat 18th August Vietnam Vets (Long Tan)
SEPTEMBER	Saturday 29 th 10.00 am		PNG Independence Day Sunday 16th.
OCTOBER	AGM 27th October	<u>NGVR/PNGVR AGM Saturday 27 October. 10.30 am at the Museum. Bar-B-Q lunch provided.</u>	
NOVEMBER	Saturday 24th (Final for 2018)		Sunday 11th Nov. Remembrance Day
DECEMBER			