

## PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

The Association's main activity for the period was the 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Montevideo Mau Memorial Service held at Brisbane Cenotaph on 1<sup>st</sup> July. The Service and following morning tea, which about 50 attended, was well arranged by Secretary Colin Gould and Museum Curator Paul Brown with our Patron Major General John Pearn giving a well received and pertinent talk about the tragic events during the Japanese occupation of Rabaul and NG Islands and its aftermath. This year we were fortunate to get a full page in the Courier Mail the preceding day, 30 June 2018, about the Montevideo Maru and a minute segment on Sunday evening's Channel 7 news about Montevideo Maru and our service. With thanks to Kieran Nelson for posting these on our NGVR & PNGVR Military Museum Facebook page. See the Channel 7 news item at:

<https://www.facebook.com/kierannelson/videos/10214452315515849/>



The 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rabaul and Montevideo Maru tragedy was celebrated nationally at the AWM's Last Post Ceremony on Saturday 30th June when Vice Admiral Grieg read the service record of Chief Yeoman of Signals Stephen Lamont who perished on the Montevideo Maru. Our member Ian Sayers laid a wreath on behalf of our Association. Other members present were Don Hook who laid wreath on behalf of the PNGAA/Rabaul and Montevideo Group and Charlie Nelson. This service may be viewed on the AWM'S blog, the link is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VAXFqUJ5vro>

Several association members and their wives enjoyed a very pleasant evening on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July at the Australians of Chinese Heritage Dinner following the rededication of their Memorial for those

servicemen of Australian Chinese Heritage who gave their lives in the service of Australia at the Sunnybank Sub branch of the RSL. Those present were Ralph and Lilly Seeto, Doug and Francine Ng, Man T (Jessie) and Mary - Ellen Chee and Kieran and Francis Nelson.



Members and friends are invited to attend a free talk by Peter Phelps, award winning actor and writer, at Garden City Library, Upper Mt Gravatt, Qld on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2018 at 6 pm. Peter will talk about his father who was working in the goldfields when the Pacific War started and escaped down the Bulldog track to Pt Moresby and Australia. Peter was written a book from his father's diary written inside his helmet titled the Bulldog Track, the other Kokoda track. Although free please book early, see our NGVR & PNGVR Military Museum face book page for further details.

Museum Curator Paul Brown and his assistant Colin Gould are doing an excellent job maintaining the Museum. The Museum is open every Saturday from 10am to 1pm so bring your families and friends along and show them a part of your life in Papua New Guinea. Unless attendance improves the curators may curtail this activity.

The break in at the Wacol Military Precinct enforced a high expenditure on security measures to protect it's valuable exhibits. An all day sausage sizzle at Bunnings Oxley has been arranged for Sunday 5 August to raise funds for our Museum. Assistance is sought urgently from members and friends so that we may fulfil our obligation to Bunnings and ourselves. Please contact Colin Gould if you can assist for part of or all day.

Our Museum averages 2 major visits a month from groups, usually Wednesdays, some of which require morning tea or luncheon, see page 16 for details. Together with weekly Wednesday general maintenance and Saturday open days the museum curator and his assistant are hard pressed and need help urgently on these occasions, particularly when Paul will be overseas on leave during August and September. Do not be shy, just ring Colin Gould on 0424 562 030.

The rear page has a summary of future events with a contact name should you require further information. Don't forget the Boonah Light Horse Rifle Shoot on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July, a fun day in the delightful bush setting one hour south of Brisbane, and diary in our AGM which will be held in our Wacol Museum at 10am Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October.

**Phil Ainsworth, July 2018**

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## JOHN HOLLAND

Cpl 859739 8.3.1939—10.4.2018

## My family

My father, Frank Holland, was born in England, one of six sons, and migrated to Australia in 1924 under the Empire Settlement Scheme. Eventually, he became a timber getter based at Pondo Plantation on the North Coast of New Britain, and he married my mother, Mabel Thelma Holland (nee Clarke-Kennedy) (18.11.1919 – 7.2.2010). They were married on 23.6.1938 in Malanda, North Queensland.



Hotel Pacific, Rabaul, 1939.



A pregnant Mabel leaving Rabaul, 1939



Radiogram re John's birth



Buildings on Pondo Plantation, 1941.

Shortly after they married, they went on their honeymoon to New Guinea, then dad got work there, first of all at Wide Bay and then at Pondo Plantation. There was no married accommodation there so my mother boarded with Mrs.

Brodie, the local baker in Rabaul.

Mum and dad decided that as she was pregnant with me, she should return to Australia to be near her mother owing to the lack of hospital facilities at the time.

I was born in Atherton, Queensland, Australia on 8.3.1939, but because of trouble with the Mokolkol tribe, my mother and I could not return to New Guinea for twelve months. When we did return, both of us spent her 21st birthday huddled under a bed as the Mokolkol conducted a raid. Fortunately our two Bull Terrier dogs kept them at bay until dad returned.

My sister Ann was born in 1941 in Rabaul at the Namanula Hospital.

**Move to Pondo Plantation** In August 1941 the family moved to Pondo Plantation run by W.R. Carpenter & Co. Pondo was a very big plantation had a large dessicated coconut factory, and also had its own timber mill, workshops, ship-building facilities

Top. Frank with John and Ann, Pondo Above.  
Bath time at Pondo, 1941

that could construct large wooden vessels and electric generators and a freezer. Ice was delivered every day to the houses and life was very comfortable for my parents.

## Evacuation from New Guinea

In December 1941 all expatriate women and children were evacuated from New Guinea due to the threatened Japanese invasion. The first part of our journey was by boat from Pondo Plantation to Rabaul on 24 December, on the "MV Ambon", which had been chartered by the Administration to evacuate 75 expatriate women and children from the north coast of New Britain. "MV Ambon" was a wooden vessel of 83 tons with a large top cabin for the Captain and on the deck both a Port and Starboard cabin, as well as a

galley and toilet. A large tarpaulin covering the hold which was normally used for carrying copra but on this occasion was used for the passengers baggage. On arrival in Rabaul we were taken to the Collector of Customs to apply for permits to leave the Territory of New Guinea. Permission to return to New Guinea was deleted from the form.

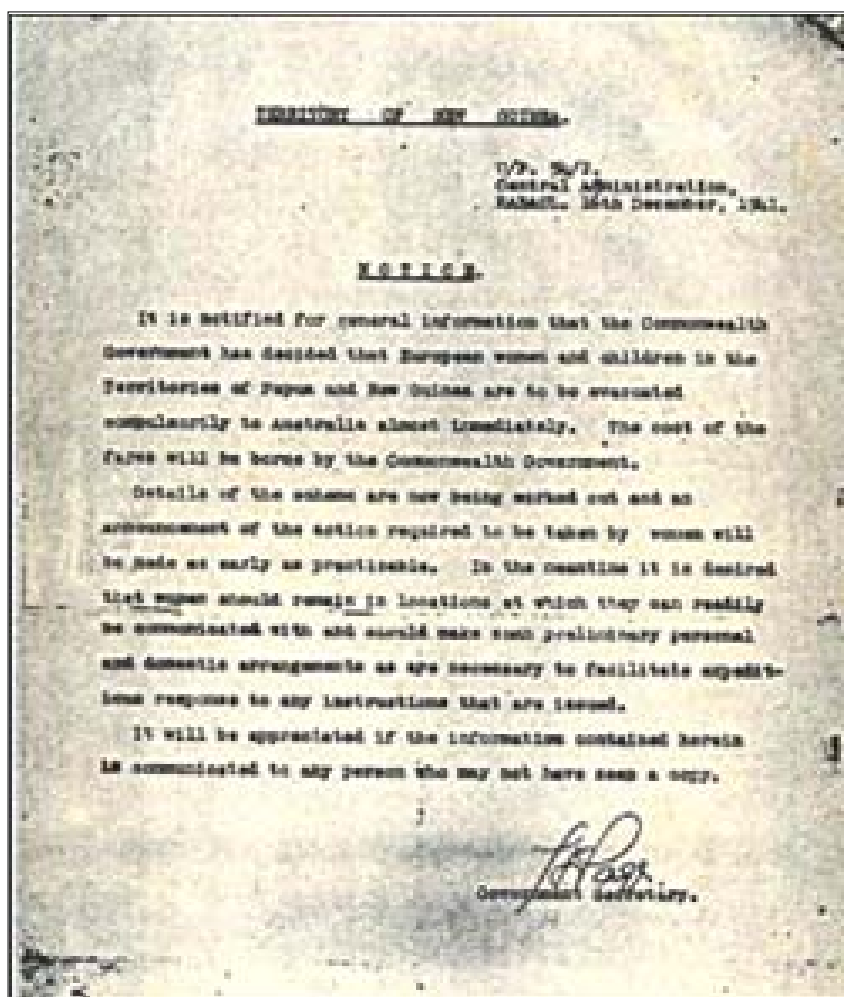
We were supposed to travel to Australia on the "MV Machdui" but owing to delays in the "Ambon" getting to Rabaul the Government chartered two DC3s from Australian National Airways (ANA).

Then we traveled by air from Rabaul to Port Moresby and on to Cairns. Most passengers were only allowed one piece of luggage but as mum has two small children she was allowed two suitcases and one hatbox.

Top. MV Ambon  
Above DC3 VH- UZJ

We travelled from Rabaul to Port Moresby where refueling was carried out and then on to Cairns. The Red Cross arranged overnight accommodation for us in Cairns and the next morning we all boarded a steam train for the southern cities. We departed the train at Innisfail and made our way up to Mt Garnet, a tin mining town where we lived in very basic accommodation with Grandmother.





turned to Australia.

### Dad's remarkable 3 months

Dad had had a remarkable three months. He, together with others, had been making their way down the North Coast of New Britain after the Japanese landing in Rabaul in January, 1942. The Assistant District Officer at Talasea, J.K. (Keith) McCarthy, called at Pondo Plantation on 19th February, told dad of his plan to evacuate soldiers fleeing from Rabaul and then asked him to volunteer to go to the South Coast of New Britain, through hostile Mokolkol country, obtain any information concerning the movement of troops and civilians, and bring as many as possible back with him. He would be accompanied by six reliable Police Bois and carriers. This he did, on the way having a clash with the Mokolkols, and bringing with him 22 Army personnel and civilians. They then made their way down the North Coast with others and eventually left Witu Island in the "M.V. Lakatoi" carrying 214 soldiers and civilians fleeing New Britain and arrived in Cairns on 28 March 1942. For his efforts during this time he was awarded an MBE (Member of the British Empire) civilian list.

He then joined Z Special Force and served on Timor and Borneo behind Japanese lines. During this time he accepted the surrender of a 600 year old Japanese sword from Lt. Ushida of the Japanese Imperial Forces.

### Life in Australia during the War

Life in Australia was a complete change of lifestyle for the Holland family. Whereas in New Guinea we had native servants and abundant supplies of fruit

and vegetables from native gardens; in Australia because of the war, we were issued with ration books and had coupons for bread, butter, milk, cheese, petrol and meat. We did not own a car. We lived in Mt Garnet (a mining town) in a tin shed with dirt floors, no running water, internal walls made from corn sacks, and had an outback toilet. We had a wood stove and my job early every morning was to light the stove and make a cup of tea for granny. We grew vegetables like pumpkin and potatoes to help supplement our food.

On two occasions, I remember the goods train arriving at Mt Garnet Railway Station with one white car on the back of it. This was left there for a week and all the children from



John and Ann in Rabaul 1947

the State School had to attend. This was the dental carriage where the children had their teeth checked.

My first day at school was at the Mt Garnet State School in 1945. It was a one classroom building, with dividing doors to allow for two classes. Mr. Biggs was the Headmaster and his assistant was Mr. Rich.

### We Return to New Guinea

We returned to Rabaul New Guinea on Christmas Day 1946 on a DC3 (Qantas Empire Airways) where we attended school

### My Dream

Early March 1942 I had a dream describing my father's return to Australia. I ran into mum's room saying "Daddy is coming home, Daddy is coming home—Daddy was in a canoe and fell into the water, he was all wet and my daddy has lost his hat, and bumped his head and he is with other soldiers coming home".

**DREAM REVEALED  
FATHER'S ESCAPE**

VX102639—a Queensland lieutenant in the A.I.F.—has a double reason for remembering the night he escaped from Rabaul. He wins this week's £2 for the story, of which he says: "I'll Always Remember This."

This is how he tells the story—

I had been living in New Britain for several years before 1942. When the Japs entered into the war, my wife with our son, John aged 3, and daughter, Ann aged 2, were evacuated to Australia. I stayed on with the rest of the staff on the plantation.

When the Japs defeated our forces in Rabaul, I, with several others, withdrew into the jungle and made my way down the coast. From there, I managed to escape. On reaching the mainland, I telephoned my wife who was living in an inland town in North Queensland.

I was amazed when she said: "Hullo Frank, I was expecting you home soon!" I was amazed because I had been unable to communicate with her for months past; she didn't even know I was still alive.

When I eventually arrived home, she told me how she "KNEW" I would be arriving soon.

She asked me if I could recall events which had occurred on some particular dates. I told her that I had kept a diary.

"Well," she said, "before you look at it, I must tell you something. On the morning of . . . John awoke very excitedly and called to me: 'Mummy, I saw my Daddy! I saw my Daddy. He is on a big ship, on the . . . My Daddy is coming home. Daddy was in a canoe, and he fell into the water. Now he is all wet and my poor Daddy lost his hat and bumped his head. He is with other soldiers, coming home.'"

My wife added: "John told the matron of the hospital the very same story. She said that this was an omen and that you would soon be home."

And here is why I'll always remember it—

In New Britain, we got word that a ship would pick us up at . . . On the very night my son John had his dream, four of us took a canoe to go out to the ship.

It overturned in the breakers and we had to swim to the ship and I did lose my hat.

There were a number of soldiers on the ship.

The only slight error was the name of the ship, which differed by one letter from the name John told his mother.

Before having this dream, if John was asked by anyone where his Daddy was, he would say: "My Daddy is at . . ."

But after that night, if asked, he would reply: "My Daddy is on a big ship and my Daddy is coming home."

Soldiers, sailors, airmen—you all must have grand stories of stirring service incidents which you will always remember. Let The Sunday Mail record them. Write them, in not more than 250 words, to the Editor, The Sunday Mail, endorsing the envelope, "I'll Always Remember this." For each story published The Sunday Mail will pay £2.

Daddy is coming home—Daddy was in a canoe and fell into the water, he was all wet and my daddy has lost his hat, and bumped his head and he is with other soldiers coming home".

We did not know what had happened to dad until three months later when mother received a phone call to say he was well and had re-

for a couple of months. The teacher was a lady called Miss Byron. There was still war devastation everywhere, trucks, jeeps, and piles of Japanese rifles, and the wharves and harbour were a mess with 200 sunken ships everywhere. There were still about 10,000 Japanese troops in Rabaul and they were being used to clear up the mess and were supervised by the native police boys with Owen guns.

### Schooling in Australia

From 1947 my sister, Ann and I attended boarding school in Charters Towers. We flew to and from school in flying boats from Rabaul to Townsville and then went by train to Charters Towers.

I left Charters Towers boarding school in 1953 and continued my education at the Southport School on the Gold Coast – this was a much more enjoyable experience than the one I had had at Charters Towers.

### Working in New Guinea

After leaving school I returned to PNG and worked for J.L. Chipper and Co. where my father was a director. Mr. Jack Chipper was in Z Special Unit with my father during the war years and had worked for him in the timber industry pre war. My job was as a bulldozer driver hauling timber and constructing roads and bridges in the Warangoi Valley area where a tall timber called Kamarere (*Eucalyptus deglupta*) grew. This is one of few places in the world where it grew. We had completed one bridge and it was washed away. A new one was constructed and it also was washed away by the largest flood ever seen - and large trees complete with 4 foot diameter trunks with all their roots intact washed against the bridge and made a hell of a mess of it.

I was a patrol grader operator on the Gazelle Peninsula for the Commonwealth Dept. of Works. One of my achievements was the reconstruction of Mango Avenue, the main street of Rabaul, as at that time I was a final trim grader operator.

On many occasions I was very fortunate not to be blown sky high. The Japanese had buried aerial bombs in some of the main roads. Because of heavy rainfall, some of the bombs had been covered over with pumice soil. I uncovered several of these bombs and was fortunate they didn't blow up. Corporal Brown, the Army bomb disposal expert had to be called to destroy the bombs.

### I Join the PNGVR (Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles)

In 1959 I enlisted for three years in the Papua and New Guinea Volunteer Rifles in Rabaul. I was issued with Regimental Number 8/ 59739. I attained the rank of Corporal.



John with a Bren Gun

Gerry McGrade and I were the first two soldiers to stand on the cenotaph at Rabaul, a very proud moment in my life, especially as Gerry had built the cenotaph and I had completed the road works around it.

I was also fortunate enough to attend a two week training camp on the Goldie River outside of Port Moresby in 1959. My pay for the two weeks was 23 pounds, 7 shillings and 10 pence. I

enjoyed these camps and week-end bivouacs and on a couple of these my father, who had joined PNGVR when it was raised in 1951, conducted courses about "living off the land" which were enjoyed by all who attended.

The PNGVR was an Australian regiment formed overseas, disbanded overseas and never set foot as a regiment in Australia. It was disbanded prior to Independence in 1973.

On Anzac Day 1974 we were the first Australian militia regiment to have our colours laid up in the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. After that the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles & Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles Ex-Members Association was formed.

(to be continued)

This is John's story as told to Jessica Harrington.

### THE BLACK BERET

Members of the Royal Australian Armoured Corps proudly wear a black beret, as opposed to the standard Army issue blue beret. The origin of the "black hat" goes back to the latter days of WW1.

During a British Army Tank Corps dinner, held at Bernicourt in 1917, a discussion was held by some officers with regard to what type of uniform the new corps would wear with the eventual coming of peace.

It was decided to adopt the 'beret Basque' which was, at the time, being worn by the Chars d'Assaut (the French tank regiment). The opinion was that the beret which was black, hid oil stains and was considerably more practical for use with tanks than the khaki peaked cap or the leather helmet.

After some debate, a suggestion was put forward to, and approved by HM King George V in March 1924. However, the black beret is only worn in the British Army by the Royal Tank Regiment. The Royal Australian Armoured Corps was granted approval to wear the beret in August 1944.

The Australian Army and a number of corps within the Army have since adopted other colours than the blue beret for their headdress (i.e. SASR, the Commandos, the Military Police etc.) but it was the armoured corps which made the initial change to the beret headdress.

*WOI C.J. Jobson, former RSM Ceremonial and Protocol, ADF.*

### XE-class Submarines

Six XE-class midget submarines (HMS XE1 to XE6) were built for the Royal Navy during 1944. They were an improved version of the X Class midgets used in the attack on the German battleship Tirpitz.

They carried a crew of four, typically a lieutenant in command, with a sub-lieutenant as deputy, an engine room artificer in charge of the mechanical side and a seaman or leading-seaman. At least one of them was qualified as a diver.

In addition to the two side charges (each of which contained two tons of amatol explosive), they carried around six 20-pound limpet mines which were attached to the target by the diver.

They and their depot ship HMS *Bonaventure* arrived at Labuan in July 1945. Four of them managed to see action before the war ended.

### Operation Struggle

This was the British destruction of the Japanese heavy cruiser *Takao* in Singapore harbour by midget submarine attack





(30/31 July 1945).

During February 1945 the depot ship *Bonaventure* departed England for the Pacific with six improved 'XE' class midget submarines, and in July reached Brunei Bay. The British naval command in the Far East could initially see no use for such craft in the Pacific, and the decision was therefore made to scrap them and turn the depot ship over to the Pacific Fleet's fleet train. Then there emerged the concept of cutting the cable providing a communications link between the Japanese headquarters in Singapore, Saigon and Hong Kong, and when *Bonaventure*'s captain pointed out that his 'XE' craft were well suited to any such enterprise, the midget submarines were at once reprieved for 'Foil' and 'Sabre'.

In addition to the cable-cutting operation the boats were given the task of destroying the heavy cruisers *Takao* and *Myoko*, which were in Singapore and, although damaged, might be repaired sufficiently to molest the forces which Admiral the Lord Louis Mountbatten's South-East Asia Command was assembling for the 'Zipper' invasion of Malaya.

On 26 July the submarines *Spark* and *Stygian* accordingly departed Brunei for Singapore with XE-1 (Lieutenant J. E. Smart) and XE-3 (Lieutenant I. E. Fraser) in tow. Four days later the parent submarines slipped the midget boats at the eastern entrance to the Singapore Strait after dark and withdrew to a rendezvous farther out to sea.



XE-3 then safely negotiated the 40-mile (65-km) passage to the naval base in Johore Strait, but found *Takao* lying in water so shallow that there was barely room to manoeuvre below her. It was with the greatest difficulty that the diver in the

crew, Leading Seaman J. J. Magennis, placed the limpet mines carried on one side of the midget submarine, but finally managed the task. Fraser then released the explosive charge carried on the midget submarine's port side. When he tried to withdraw, however, he found that his craft was jammed between the cruiser's hull and the bottom. After a hectic struggle he extricated his vessel, but broke surface in doing so and was fortunate not to be sighted. XE-3 then submerged once more, and finally made the rendezvous with *Stygian*.

Meanwhile XE-1, which should have been ahead of Fraser's craft, had been delayed by the activities of Japanese patrol vessels, and Smart realised that he could not reach *Myoko*, which was lying 2 miles (3.25 km) farther up the strait, and complete his attack before the XE-3's charges were due to



explode. Smart therefore decided to switch to *Takao*, successfully placed his charges as close to her as he could get, and then withdrew to his rendezvous with *Spark*.

The double attack by the two 'XE'

craft damaged the Japanese cruiser severely, and she sank onto the sea bed. The two midget submarines and their parent submarines all reached Brunei Bay safely on 4 August.

#### Operation Sabre

Operation Sabre was directed at the Hong Kong to Saigon telephone cable, and carried out by XE4, which was towed to within 40 miles (64 km) of the Mekong Delta by the submarine HMS *Spearhead*, where she looked for the two telephone cables by using a towed grapnel. She eventually snagged the first cable, and managed to haul it about 10 feet (3.0 m) off the seabed. XE4's diver, Sub-Lieutenant K.M. Briggs, used the net/cable cutter to sever it. The second cable was soon found as well, and was severed by the second diver, Sub-Lieutenant A. Bergius. Two divers were carried due to the operating rule that a diver should not spend more than 20 minutes in depths over 33 feet (10 m) and no more than 10 minutes over 40 feet (12 m). XE4 and *Spearhead* returned to Labuan on 3 August 1945.

#### Operation Foil

Operation Foil was directed at the Hong Kong to Singapore telephone cable and carried out by XE5 against the Hong Kong end of the cable, after being towed into position by the submarine HMS *Selene*. Operating close inshore near to Lamma Island, working conditions were poor, XE5's divers having to work in thick mud under the constant threat of oxygen poison-

ing. Despite repeated attempts it was not completely certain that the cable had in fact been severed, and it was not until after the Japanese surrender that it was confirmed that XE5 had succeeded in doing so. XE5 and *Selene* returned to Subic Bay on 6 August 1945.

Source Wikipedia and Internet "Codenames Operations of WW2"



### A wonderful WW2 true story

*This story is confirmed in Elmer Bendiner's book, The Fall of Fortresses.*

Elmer Bendiner was a navigator in a B-17 during WW II. He tells this story of a World War II bombing run over Kassel, Germany, and the unexpected result of a direct hit on their gas tanks. "Our B-17, the Tondelayo, was barraged by flak from Nazi anti-aircraft guns. That was not unusual, but on this particular occasion our gas tanks were hit."

Later, as I reflected on the miracle of a 20 millimeter shell piercing the fuel tank without touching off an explosion, our pilot, Bohn Fawkes, told me it was not quite that simple. On the morning following the raid, Bohn had gone down to ask our crew chief for that shell as a souvenir of unbelievable luck. The crew chief told Bohn that not just one shell but 11 had been found in the gas tanks. 11 unexploded shells where only one was sufficient to blast us out of the sky. It was as if the sea had been parted for us. A near-miracle, I thought. Even after 35 years, so awesome an event leaves me shaken, especially after I heard the rest of the story from Bohn.

"He was told that the shells had been sent to the armorers to be defused. The armorers told him that Intelligence had picked them up. They could not say why at the time, but Bohn eventually sought out the answer." Apparently when the armorers opened each of those shells, they found no explosive charge. They were as clean as a whistle and just as harmless. Empty? Not all of them! One contained a carefully rolled piece of paper. On it was a scrawl in Czech. The Intelligence people scoured our base for a man who could read Czech. Eventually they found one to decipher the note. It set us marveling. Translated, the note read:

"This is all we can do for you now... using Jewish slave labor is never a good idea."

### Josef Anton Hofstetter

Josef Anton Hofstetter has been, in all accounts, a controversial figure. Perhaps the definitive story about Hofstetter is contained in Peter Williams' book *The Kokoda Campaign 1942, Myth and Reality*, from which the following is extracted. Peter's Williams' book is also considered controversial as it has used

extensive research from Japanese sources. I consider it is a must read for anyone interested in the Kokoda Campaign.

The appearance of Josef Anton Hofstetter's name, as sole source, on half a dozen Nankai Shitai maps of Wau- Buna-Kokoda -Port Moresby areas attests to the usefulness of Hofstetter's experience and knowledge. As he was a Swiss national, he escaped the round up of Germans in New Guinea (NG) for internment in Australia. His family was originally from Bavaria but Josef Hofstadter was born in St Gallen, Switzerland on 10 April 1895. Hofstetter came to Australia in 1914 after a year in Fiji. He worked his way north from Sydney to the Torres Strait Islands changing jobs frequently. He volunteered to join the AIF but was rejected on medical grounds.

In the early 1920s, Hofstetter went to Papua and NG where at various times he worked in Pt Moresby, and the Yodda, Waria, Wau and Bulolo Valleys. He was employed by Bulolo Gold Dredging Company when Japan invaded Rabaul in January 1942. When the call up came for able bodied men to either join the NGVR or be shipped to Australia, Hofstetter disappeared. In March, when the Japanese landed in Lae, he joined them. Carlo Cavalieri ( NGVR), another Swiss national, who knew and worked with Hofstetter in Bulolo believed he had some connection with Hans Schmidt Burgk, the NSDAP (Nazi Party) leader in the Wau- Bulolo Area.

ANGAU became interested in Hofstetter in early 1943 as he was known to be helping the Japanese. He was thought to be the white man seen guiding the Japanese advance on Wau in February 1943. Those who knew him said Hofstetter's knowledge of the mining areas of the eastern coast of Papua and NG was second to none. John Murphy said Hofstetter knows the Waria River ( the next watershed east of Wau) backwards. There is no doubt he was the white man who aided the Japanese attacks on Mubo and Wau. What was not known was his connection with the Kokoda Campaign.

On Nankai Shitai maps Hofstetter is sometimes named or referred to as a Swiss Informant or Swiss Miner. If is unclear how Hofstetter got his information about the Kokoda Track but probably during his time on the Yodda Goldfield in the 1930s. A Japanese map note of 2 July 1942 describes the route to Pr Moresby and attributes the note to a Swiss. Two maps studied after the Kokoda Campaign noted the Wau-Nadzab map has descriptions of rivers such as width, depth, rate of flow and composition of the river bed, information on roads and tracks and details of airfields. From the description it appeared all information was supplied by Hofstetter- there was no indication that it had been obtained by reconnaissance. A second map had similar markings.

After the war ANGAU and the CIB tried to find Hofstetter and thought he may have fled to Japan. Although ANGAU did not come across it, there was an Australian translated document dated 1944 which was written by Hofstetter's Japanese superior. It said Hofstetter had officer status in the Japanese Army, that he made excellent maps and was a good guide. It also said the Hofstetter was killed in action on 6 February 1943 by enemy automatic rifle fire one kilometre northwest of Wau stock farm.

*Thank you Phil Ainsworth.*

### Museum Acquisition

On 6th March the Gold Coast PNG Club visited the museum and took the opportunity of donating the above banner of the PNGVR University Platoon to the museum.

When PNGVR disbanded the banner ended up with Lt Col R.V. (Bob) Bowmer ED who passed away in late February



with the wish that the banner be passed on to the museum.. He had served on HQ PNG Comd staff as a CMF Officer and later commanded the University Platoon. It had always been his dream that the University Platoon would develop into a University Regiment.

The flag is on display in your museum.



Museum curators Colin Gould and Paul Brown with the flag.

#### **SIR DONALD MACKINNON CLELAND, (DON) (1901–1975)**

Sir Donald Mackinnon Cleland (1901-1975), soldier and administrator, was born on 28 June 1901 at Coolgardie, Western Australia, eldest son of Adelaide-born Elphinstone Davenport Cleland, mine-manager, and his second wife Anne Emily, née Mackinnon, from Scotland. After a childhood on the goldfields of Kalgoorlie, from 1912 Don attended the Church of England Grammar School, Guildford, where he was captain (1919). Excluded on medical grounds from the Royal Military College, Duntroon, Federal Capital Territory, he enlisted in the Militia in July 1919 and rose to captain in the 3rd Field Artillery Brigade before resigning in 1928. On 18 December that year he married Rachel Evans at St George's Anglican Cathedral, Perth.

Appointed to the Australian Imperial Force on 13 October 1939 as staff captain, 6th Divisional Artillery, Cleland arrived in the Middle East in February 1940. He was promoted temporary major in November. For his work as deputy assistant quartermaster general, I Corps, during the campaigns in Libya, Greece and Syria in 1941, he was appointed M.B.E. (1942) and mentioned in dispatches.

After a brief period in Australia early in 1942, Cleland was appointed temporary colonel and posted as D.A.Q.M.G., Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit, Port Moresby. In October he was promoted temporary brigadier and from March 1943 held the additional position of chairman of the Australian New Guinea Production Control Board. Effectively chief of staff, Cleland was responsible for the day-by-day civil administration of Papua and New Guinea, for the running of the pre-war plantations and for A.N.G.A.U.'s operational commitments. The military administration raised standards of health care and labour supervision, and began a new education scheme. Again mentioned in dispatches, Cleland was elevated to C.B.E. in 1945 and transferred to the Reserve of Officers on 12 May. He was to be made honorary colonel of the Pacific Islands Regiment in 1958.

Before World War II Cleland had worked as an articled clerk, qualified as a solicitor and barrister in 1925, and practised as a partner with Villeneuve, Smith & Keall. Active in conservative politics, he was president (1936-38) of the National Party of

Western Australia and thrice stood unsuccessfully for the Legislative Assembly (1933, 1936 and 1939). On his return to Perth in mid-1945, he was elected vice-president of the State branch of the Liberal Party. When John Curtin died, Cleland—showing 'an itch for public service and a gaucherie of platform manner'—was defeated in the by-election for the seat of Fremantle in the House of Representatives. In October he was appointed director of the federal secretariat of the Liberal Party, and in that position organized the effective 1949 campaign.

An applicant to be administrator of Papua and New Guinea in 1945, he believed that he was rejected for (Sir Jack) Murray on political grounds, yet Cleland's appointment as assistant-administrator in 1951 was denounced as being 'political', and the 'howl' increased when Murray was asked to resign and Cleland became acting-administrator, then administrator in 1953. (Sir) Paul Hasluck, minister for territories, pointed to Cleland's record in A.N.G.A.U. where Murray had been junior to Cleland. In their twelve-year partnership Hasluck was the public figure, but he was dependent on Cleland's assiduous administration and both men crossed roles, with Cleland setting policy and Hasluck forcing action from the bureaucracy. According to Hasluck, Cleland was 'cool-headed, firm and decisive', with a 'clear view of his loyalties', though he did not always get prompt action from his officers. Under Hasluck's less influential successor Charles Barnes, Cleland resisted direction from Canberra.

Cleland was pragmatic, balancing commercial, mission and government interests against what he thought was primary: the orderly development of the indigenous people. Publicly, he measured success in terms of building roads, bridges and airstrips, the increase in government revenue and the expansion of the public service. He chaired the Legislative Council, his 'pride and joy', until 1964 and directed the introduction of the first House of Assembly elected by full adult franchise; he restructured the public service so that it would be dominated by Papua New Guineans, paid at a rate the country could afford; and he continued the elimination of discriminatory legislation, most obviously ending the liquor ban in 1962. While his reports were methodical, in his diary he made quick, shrewd judgements of people and events. He was knighted in 1961. When he retired in 1967 he regarded talk of Papua New Guinea becoming a seventh State of Australia as 'completely impractical' and cautioned against premature independence. Energetic, with broad interests and deft social skills, Rachel complemented his dour, sometimes gruff, manner, and eased contact with diverse people. She was to be appointed D.B.E. in 1981.

In retirement Cleland lived in Port Moresby, the only administrator of either territory to choose to stay there. He was pro-chancellor and chancellor (from 1971) of the University of Papua New Guinea, and chancellor (from 1967) of the Anglican diocese of Papua New Guinea. Survived by his wife and two sons, Sir Donald died on 27 August 1975 in Port Moresby; accorded a state funeral, he was buried in the cemetery at Bomana. Cleland won the trust of ambitious lieutenants, he was stoic in the face of criticism, and his integrity and judgement were un-



doubted. He did not court popularity, but was widely respected, and remembered with affection.

**This is the third article of persons who played a substantial part in the development of Papua and New Guinea over the years. The article is by H.N. Nelson and is published in the Australian Dictionary of Biography**

*I changed my car horn to gunshot sounds. People get out of the way much faster now.*

*Gone are the days when girls used to cook like their mothers. Now they drink like their fathers.*

*You know that tingly little feeling you get when you really like someone? That's common sense leaving your body.*

*I didn't make it to the gym today. That makes five years in a row.*

*I decided to change calling the bathroom the John and re-named it the Jim. I feel so much better saying I went to the Jim this morning.*

*Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met yet.*

*Old age is coming at a really bad time. When I was a child I thought "Nap Time" was a punishment. Now, as a grownup, it feels like a small holiday.*

*The biggest lie I tell myself is, "I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it."*

*I don't have grey hair; I have "wisdom highlights." I'm just very wise.*

*Teach your daughter how to shoot, because a restraining order is just a piece of paper.*

*If God wanted me to touch my toes, he would've put them on my knees.*

*Why do I have to press one for English when you're just gonna transfer me to someone I can't understand anyway. Of course I talk to myself; sometimes I need expert advice.*

*At my age "Getting lucky" means walking into a room and remembering what I came in there for.*

## 1st RPIR get advanced shooting training from 1RAR

Members of Papua New Guinea's 1st Royal Pacific Islands Regiment benefited from a course of Enhanced Shooting Techniques with soldiers from 1RAR recently.

Enhanced Shooting Techniques is a component of 1RAR's training continuum and the Aussie soldiers were more than happy to pass on some knowledge to their PNG counterparts.

Commanding Officer 1RAR Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin McLennan said the enthusiasm shown by the soldiers from 1st RPIR was commendable.

"What soldier doesn't enjoy a good range practice – let alone several days on end," Lieutenant Colonel McLennan said.

"These soldiers and officers have embraced the opportunity to undertake combat shooting techniques and they have enjoyed the opportunity.

"This training is focused on professional soldiers improving their expertise with their primary weapon system.

"The week starts with a test of skills to provide a baseline score and assessment.

"After the week's training, the mentoring team runs the same tests again – and the improvements we have seen have been excellent."

Lieutenant Colonel McLennan said that, importantly, the mentoring team were also teaching the 1st RPIR Training

Team.

"They will be well postured to undertake continuation training and pass on their new-found skills in the future.

"It is a great honour to train alongside our regional partners, to not only impart our knowledge, but to continue our collective learning.

"The 1RAR mentoring-team soldiers are actually getting a run for their money, with competitive spirit showing through in challenges – soldiers side by side.

"Privates Wardle and Cobb have met some stiff competition."

Contact Newsletter 64



**French military using winged warriors to hunt down rogue drones.**

A golden eagle grabs a flying drone during a military training exercise at Mont-de-Marsan French Air Force base, Southwestern France.

Following incidents of drones flying over the presidential palace and restricted military sites – along with the deadly 2015 Paris terror attacks – the French Air Force has trained four golden eagles to intercept and destroy the rogue aircraft. Aptly named d'Artagnan, Athos, Porthos and Aramis – an homage to Alexandre Dumas' "The Three Musketeers" – the four birds of prey have been honing their attack skills at the Mont-de-Marsan in southwestern France since mid-2016.

"A drone means food for these birds," Gerald Machoukow, the military base's falconer, told FRANCE 24. "Now they automatically go after them."

The use of hunting birds – normally falcons and northern goshawks – by militaries around the globe is common practice in the fight to scare other critters away from runways and so cut the risk of accidents during takeoff or landing. But it wasn't until 2015 when the Dutch started using bald eagles to intercept drones that other militaries started to see the benefit of these winged warriors.



The French bred the four golden eagles – three males and one female – using artificial insemination since eagles are a protected species and harvesting wild eggs is strictly forbidden. They choose





the golden eagle because of the birds hooked beak and sharp eyesight.

Also weighing in around 11 pounds, the birds are in a similar weight class as the drones

they're sent to destroy and clocking in at a top air speed of 50 miles per hour, with the capability of spotting its target from over a mile away, the eagles are deft hunters.

To protect the eagles from drone blades and any explosive device that might be attached to them, the French military designed mittens of leather and Kevlar (an anti-blast material), to protect the bird's talons.

"I love these birds," Machoukow told Agence Franc Presse. "I



don't want to send them to their death." The birds are first taught to attack in a straight line before graduating to diving from heights. Soon they'll be patrolling the skies over the Pyrenees Mountains in southern

France and could possibly be deployed at airports and special events, such as political summits and soccer tournaments. The French air force already expects four more eagles to join the "fleet."

*Fox News 22 Feb 2017.*

### 75th Anniversary of Admiral Yamamoto's Death.

Yamamoto Isoroku, original name Takano Isoroku, (born April 4, 1884, Nagaoka, Japan—died April 18, 1943, Solomon Islands), Japanese naval officer who conceived of the surprise attack on the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

Yamamoto graduated from the Japanese Naval Academy in 1904, and a year later he was wounded in action at the Battle of Tsushima during the Russo-Japanese War. In 1913 he enrolled in the Japanese Naval Staff College, and after graduating in 1916 he was adopted into the Yamamoto family and changed his name. As a lieutenant commander, Yamamoto studied English at Harvard University (1919–21). He then taught at the Japanese Naval Staff College (1921–23) before being sent to Kasumigaura (in Ibaraki prefecture) for flight training in 1924. Promoted to captain, Yamamoto was assigned to another tour in the United States, first as an aide to an admiral and then as a naval attaché in Washington (1926–28). From his time in the United States, Yamamoto took habits and patterns of thought that influenced his later war service. In addition to becoming a relentless pokerplayer, Yamamoto developed a low opinion of American naval officers, considering the U.S. navy a club for golfers and bridge players. On the other hand, he developed a healthy respect for American industrial capacity.

Returning to Japan, Yamamoto embarked on a 10-year period that made him one of Japan's foremost aviation officers. He commanded the aircraft carrier Akagi in 1928. Promoted to rear admiral in 1929, Yamamoto served as chief of the Technological Division of the Naval Air Corps, where he

championed the development of fast carrier-borne fighter planes, a program that produced the famous Zero fighters. In 1934 Yamamoto commanded the First Carrier Division, and in 1935 he headed the Japanese delegation to the London Naval Conference, where Japan abandoned 15 years of uneasy naval détente among the world powers. In 1936, as a vice admiral, he became the vice minister of the navy. Yamamoto commanded the First Fleet in 1938, and he became commander in chief of the Combined Fleet in 1939. In these later capacities, Yamamoto used his growing seniority to turn the navy away from battleships, which he viewed as obsolete, in favour of tactics based on aircraft carriers—carrier tactics that he later incorporated into the plan to attack Pearl Harbor.

As the senior seagoing admiral in the Japanese fleet, Yamamoto prepared for war against the United States. Contrary to popular belief, Yamamoto argued for a war with the United States once Japan made the fateful decision to invade the rich lands of Southeast Asia; others in the naval ministry hoped to avoid war with America even while making war with Dutch and British possessions in Asia. When the Japanese emperor Hirohito adopted Yamamoto's view, the admiral focused his energy on the coming fight with the U.S. Pacific Fleet. Well aware of the immense industrial capacity of the United States, but misunderstanding the potential resolve of the American public, Yamamoto asserted Japan's only chance for victory lay



in a surprise attack that would cripple the American naval forces in the Pacific and force the United States into a negotiated peace, thereby allowing Japan a free reign in greater East Asia. Any long war with the United States, Yamamoto believed, would spell disaster for Japan. Although he was not the author of the detailed plan to attack Pearl Harbor, he certainly championed it within government circles. On Dec. 7, 1941, his carriers, under the immediate command of Vice Adm. Nagumo



Yamamoto with Japanese pilots shortly before his death.

Chūichi, scored a stunning tactical victory over the U.S. Pacific Fleet at anchorage in Pearl Harbor. An unbroken string of naval victories followed this attack for six months, and Yama-



moto's prestige reached new heights by the late spring of 1942.

Yet the great tactical success of the Pearl Harbor strike obscured a strategic calamity. Far from encouraging the United States to sue for peace, the attack enflamed the American public; the surprise bombing, designed to avert a long conflict with the United States, instead helped ensure a prolonged and total war. Yamamoto stumbled further at the Battle of Midway (June 4–6, 1942), where he hoped to destroy U.S. ships not caught at Pearl Harbor, notably the U.S. Navy's aircraft carriers. But the strike at Midway failed, partly because the United States had excellent intelligence information regarding Japanese forces but also because Yamamoto's plans were too complex and his objectives confused. The Japanese battle plan included the movement of eight separate task forces, a diversionary attack in the Aleutian Islands, and the occupation of the Midway Islands, all while attempting the destruction of the American carriers. Yamamoto's ensuing campaign for Guadalcanal and the Solomon Islands in the South Pacific was not much better, as he refused to commit his forces in anything other than piecemeal fashion as Allied forces there conducted the kind of attrition war Japan could ill afford.

Still, American assessment of Yamamoto was great enough that, when intelligence information revealed the Japanese admiral's flight plan in April 1943, U.S. commanders in the Pacific undertook to ambush and shoot down his plane. On April 18, 1943, during an inspection tour of Japanese bases in the South Pacific, Yamamoto's plane was shot down near Bougainville Island, and the admiral perished.

Yamamoto was Japan's most prominent naval officer during World War II. Despite his relative inexperience at sea in the years before Pearl Harbor, his contribution to naval strategy lies in his early recognition of the effectiveness of carrier-based aircraft in long-range naval attacks. Although he was a better tactician than strategist, he was an unusually gifted and able officer as well as a complex man of sometimes contradictory character.

*Source Brittanica.com.*

To boost morale following the defeat at Guadalcanal, Yamamoto decided to make an inspection tour throughout the South Pacific. On April 14, 1943, the US naval intelligence effort, code-named "Magic", intercepted and decrypted a message containing specifics of Yamamoto's tour, including arrival and departure times and locations, as well as the number and types of aircraft that would transport and accompany him on the journey. Yamamoto, the itinerary revealed, would be flying from Rabaul to Balalae Airfield, on an island near Bougainville in the Solomon Islands, on the morning of April 18, 1943.

Sixteen P-38 Lightnings intercepted the flight over Bougainville and a dogfight ensued between them and the six escorting Mitsubishi A6M Zeroes. First Lieutenant Rex T. Barber engaged the first of the two Japanese transports which turned out to be T1-323(Yamamoto's aircraft). He fired on the aircraft until it began to spew smoke from its left engine.



Barber turned away to attack the other transport as Yamamoto's plane crashed into the jungle.

His death was a major blow to Japanese military morale.



*In 1964 I was on Bougainville and spent a number of days walking from Buin to Kieta in order to see the remains of his aircraft. The photos shown are not mine but have been taken from Google.— Admiral Yamamoto's Wreck. The crash site has been closed for many years since due to tribal land*

*disputes but in 2012 was reopened in an endeavor to attract tourists to the area.*

*Bob Collins Editor.*



Tapini airstrip, Central Province, PNG. One way in—one way out. Elevation 3078—3223 Ft.

### From Toogoolawah to England and Back.

It started with a folder being thrust into Norm Mundy's hands with the instruction "Well, you know what to do with this".

The folder contained letters, photographs and other personal items of Flight Lieutenant Colin Williams of Toogoolawah, and Mr. Mundy knew he had to get the items back to Flt Alt Williams home.

"It's part of our responsibility, our heritage and our legacy—that's the way I see it" he said.

"And if we can marry people up with previous family members who have done their job on the battlefield I think we owe it to them—it's like a personal Anzac Day."

Then, after a chance meeting with a Toogoolawah History Museum volunteer, Mr. Mundy donated the documents to the museum for a cenotaph themed pop-up display.

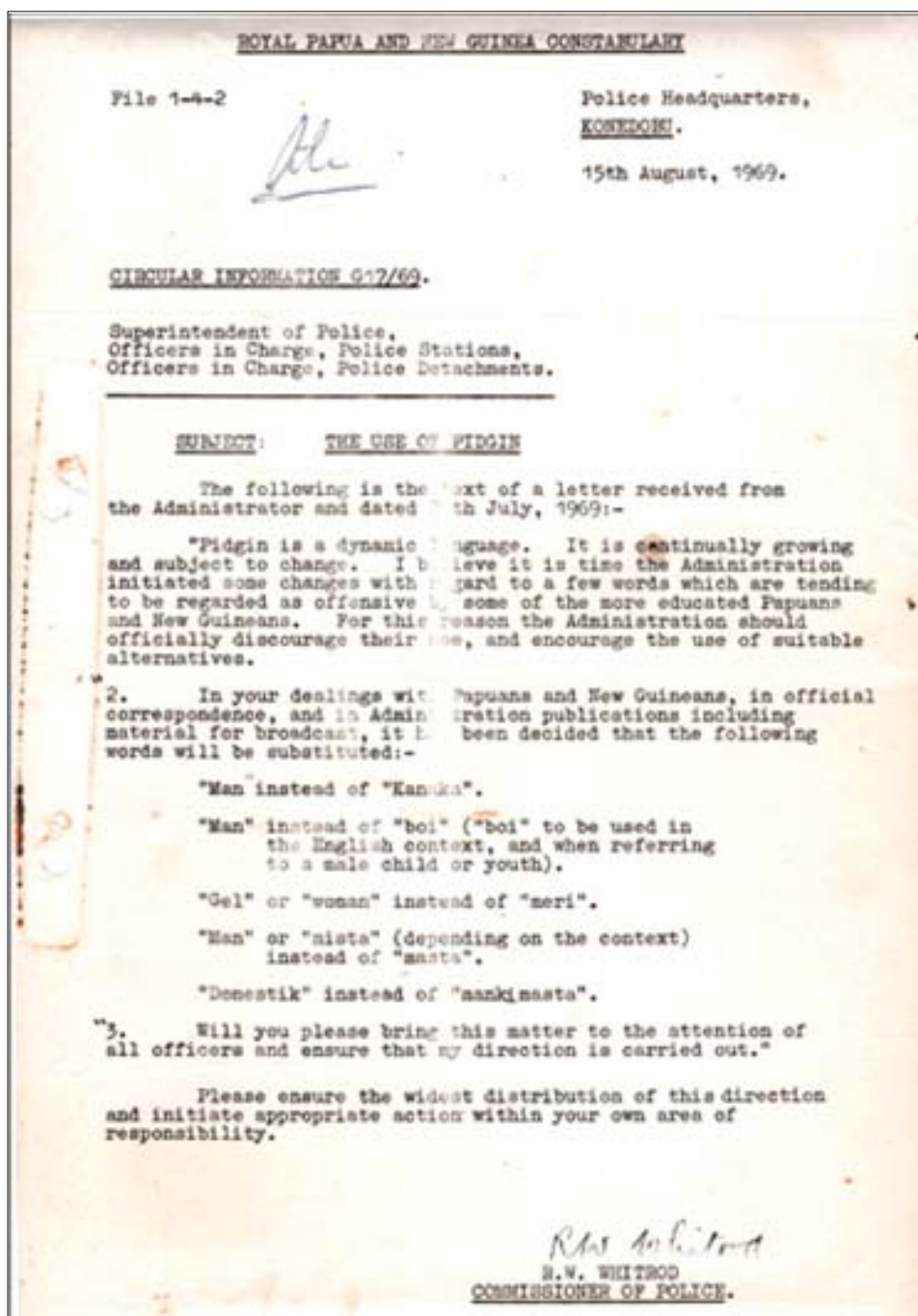


Norm and Julie Kinder with documents donated to the History Museum.

On Sat 14 April Mr. Mundy came face to face with Colin Williams' daughter, Julie Kimber at the Toogoolawah Railway Markets, where they met and discussed the documents.

"I was over the moon. It just made the search quite worthwhile," he said. "I", an ex-





### ESCAPE ON THE 'GATO' FROM BOUGAINVILLE, NEW GUINEA - MARCH 1943

*This is the introduction to a story from Ken Cheung, a 5 year old Chinese child on Bougainville when the Japanese invaded in 1942 of his evacuation on a US Submarine. The full story of the evacuation will be told in the next issue of HTT.*

The following gives a bit of background to my story. Hatred of the Japanese by the Chinese and even Australians, particularly those who served in Asia after the second war was very intense, the last ten years or so it has mellowed a bit. It has to change because the world has changed, countries attitudes have changed. Enemies have become friends & vice versa. In my case, my father and three of his brothers were blindfolded hands tied & bayoneted while standing on a jetty at Rano Plantation a few miles from the small township of Gasmata on the south coast of New Britain. An unknown number of women & children were shot on the plantation itself. They included my relatives and a number of people living at Gasmata.

This was documented by the Patrol Officers report which I briefly mentioned in my story. The Patrol Officer in pre war and even after the war acted

as Police, medical, explorer and magistrate away from the towns. So this was documented and confirmed by the PO who interviewed the Lululai (chief).

I always knew that our family was rescued by an American submarine. However the time, place and circumstances were a mystery. In 2012 an academic from University of Queensland (Peter Cahill) wrote a book titled Chinese in Rabaul, Needed but Not Wanted. Peter's father was a Police Inspector and then in charge of the Prisons. During his school holidays he would visit Rabaul often so got to know the story of the Chinese. Prior to World War 1 New Guinea was ruled by Germany, it was only after that war that the League of Nations gave Australia the Mandate to administer the Territories of New Guinea. Due to Australia's White Australia Policy, Chinese were not allowed to settle permanently in NG. However because of the lack of technical skills by the local people they grudgingly retained the Chinese who were mostly carpenters, builders or mechanics. The pre WW2 destruction of Rabaul by volcanic eruption and WW2 meant the Chinese

serviceman myself.. So I know what these things mean to these particular groups of people"

Flt Lt Colin Williams was 18 yrs old when WW11 was declared and volunteered for the Royal Aust Air Force. He left his family home in Toogoolawah and travelled to England where he was recruited into Bomber Command as part of the Pathfinders unit, flying missions in Lancaster Bombers as a mid-gunner. He survived the war, and returned to Toogoolawah where he and his wife Vera had two children, Julie and Peter.

He died in 2006 at the age of 81.

*Article from the Gatton Star, 25 Apr 2018.*

I was taught to respect my elders— It's just getting harder to find them.

The problem with doing nothing is not knowing when you are finished.



Anzac Day Rabaul. Gerry and Joyce McGrade at the Rabaul War Memorial.

skills were much in demand.

Anyway I wrote the forward for Peter's book where I briefly mentioned that I was evacuated by an American submarine. A lady contacted me from the local Australian Submarine Assoc. and introduced me to a book written by a New Guinea Planter (that is a person who specializes in clearing the jungle and planting coconuts and now coffee & cocoa). This man named Robert Stuart spent most of his life on Bougainville, during the war he was seconded to the American Navy because of his knowledge of the country. In one of the chapters he mentions how the 'Gato' rescued 29 Chinese children. There was only one lot of people rescued by submarine so I immediately thought this must have been us. Prior to this I did not know there was an Australian Submarine Assoc. in Brisbane. She also told me about the River Walk and the submarine story boards at Newstead. In 2015 I met a young Chinese Doctor, Adam Liu, his parents left New Guinea during the war but never returned. His pastime is delving into the history of the Rabaul Chinese. I told him my story and he was able to search the Australian Archives.. Because of the atrocities committed by the Japanese military and the subsequent war trials, there are a lot of records of the events and history of the war itself. He managed to find the submarine captain's report, how we arrived in Melbourne, then Sydney, including our names. Everything fitted in, so that was when I decided to write to you to thank the US Navy.

You know after the war we lived in Rabaul right up to 1976 but we never made the annual visit to the cemetery as is the usual custom. My mother never told us to go & clean the headstone as we do now in Brisbane where she is buried. During a trip back there in 2015 I visited the cemetery and went to look for a 2.5m moon shaped monument which I always presumed contained the remains of the Cheung families. To my surprise there were no Cheung names present.. Dr Adam Liu visited the cemetery last November & documented everyone of the grave sites, he found over 500. Included was one monument with all Cheung names, some 16 persons so this must be the monument for all three of my uncles and their families including my father who were all executed at Rano Plantation. He was on the Kuo Min Tang executive. The President & Secretary were shot by the Japanese a day after the Japanese landed. So fearing he would be next he & the rest of his brothers decided to follow the retreating Australian soldiers to the south coast. All the names are written in Chinese which I can no longer read. So my next job is to find someone to decipher them all.

**To be continued.**



### THE INDESTRUCTABLE DC3

Recovery of DC3 VH-EAQ after overshooting the runway at Wau on 18 Oct 1948.

The aircraft was dismantled and trucked to Lae, where it was repaired. It

continued operating until 1979.

*Thank you Geoff Holmes.*



Tony Boulter (L) and Gil Harvey-Hall at the Billy Sing Service.

### Commemorative Service for Trooper William Edward (Billy) Sing 19th May 2018

Well attended service with representatives from the Military, RSL, descendants of Billy Sing and the general public. Gil Harvey-Hall & I attended representing our Association.

Approximately 20 former members of the 31st Battalion AIF in ANZAC Day dress with medals paraded in front of the memorial.

The Queensland Mounted Infantry Historical Troop in full WW1 dress provided the Catafalque Party.

The keynote address was given by Major General Darryl Low Choy, AM, MBE, RFD (ret'd) PhD. The general is a fine speaker and presented a history of Billy Sing's life before, during and post WW1.

The Wavell State High School provided the choir which sang the National anthem and other songs. The Last Post was performed by bugler Declan Heffernan also from WSHS. This performance was very professional.

After the service the Kedron -Wavell RSL Club provided a morning tea.

*Tony Boulter, Assn Committee Member.*

**If your wife says "Do what you want!"  
Do not do what you want.  
Stand still. Do not blink. Do not even breathe. Just play dead.**





### Warramunga stops another major drug shipment

HMAS *Warramunga* has seized two more hauls of illicit narcotics valued at approximately AUD\$315.4 million\* following boarding operations in international waters of the Arabian Sea this week.

*Warramunga* is currently deployed to the Middle East under Operation Manitou and over the course of two days while assigned to Combined Task Force 150 (CTF 150) of the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), the ship detected two separate suspect vessels via their MH-60R Seahawk Romeo helicopter on 21 and 22 May.

The ship's boarding party was subsequently deployed and upon conducting searches uncovered approximately 6.2 tonnes of hashish on the two vessels.

Commander CTF 150 Commodore Mal Wise said the seizures reinforced the CTF's ability to target and disrupt activities that generate funding for terrorist and criminal organisations.

"The interdiction and disposal of these illicit narcotics directly impacts these organisations and shows that CTF 150 and the CMF remain focused on countering terrorism, preventing piracy, encouraging regional cooperation and promoting a safe maritime environment," Commander Wise said.

These are the twelfth and thirteenth vessels trafficking narcotics that *Warramunga* has intercepted since starting operations in the Middle East in November 2017.

This takes *Warramunga*'s total seizures to approximately 26 tonnes of hashish and two tonnes of heroin, valued in excess of AUD\$1.8 billion.\*

The narcotics were transferred to *Warramunga* and disposed of at sea.

Operation Manitou is the Australian Government's contribution to support international efforts to promote maritime security, stability and prosperity in the Middle East Region.

CTF 150 is one of three task forces operating under CMF. The combined Australian-Canadian CTF 150 command team handed over to a combined United Kingdom, New Zealand, and French team yesterday.

*Source Contact Newsletter 68.*

*As at 6th June Warramunga's haul had topped \$2 billion.*

*If Warramunga alone has intercepted more than 26 tonnes of Hashish and 2 tonnes of heroin, how much is getting through? Ed.*



Bomana War Cemetery the day prior to Anzac Day 2018



Richard Cherake and his family. Medals awarded were the AASM, Vietnam Logistic and Support Medal, ASM and Defence Medal.

### PNG Vietnam Vet awarded Australian Medals

Australian High Commissioner Bruce Davis today presented Papua New Guinean Vietnam War Veteran Richard Cherake with a total of four Australian Service medals.

In 1968 Mr Cherake enlisted as a midshipman in the Royal Australian Navy Strategic Reserve – PNG. He undertook officer training at HMAS Cerberus, navigation training at HMAS Watson and sea training on HMAS ANZAC. In 1971 Mr Cherake served on HMAS Sydney, the Royal Australian Navy's fast troop transport, providing logistical support to the 1st Australian Task Force in Vietnam.

In recognition of Mr Cherake's service, a small award ceremony was held today at the Australian High Commission, witnessed by Head of Australian Defence Staff PNG, Colonel David Buller, family and members of the Australian Defence Force.



### China supports PNG Defence Force with K17.5 million gift

Sixty-two vehicles costing a total of K17.5 million were donated to the PNG Defence Force (PNGDF) by the Chinese government. They were 44 troop carriers, 10 armoured vehicles, four 45-seater busses and four mobile kitchen vans and spare parts. The donation was made by China's Ministry of National Defence.

Chinese Ambassador Xue Bing said the donation was part of an ongoing relationship between China and PNG, which has also seen 83 officers from the defence force train in China. He said such exchanges and cooperation have deepened the mutual understanding of the two armed forces and brought real benefits for the people. "It fully demonstrates our sincere support to the PNG Defence Force for its capacity building," he said. "It is also another illustration of the practical results and benefits brought to us in the 41 years of friendly relations between China and PNG.

"I hope that this batch of equipment will be helpful for the PNGDF to enhance the ability to safeguard the national interest and to maintain peace and safety of your country and people."

There are two statues in a park; one of a nude man and one of a nude woman. They had been facing each other across a pathway for a hundred years, when one day an angel comes down from the sky and, with a single, gesture brings the two to life.

The angel tells them "As a reward for being so patient through a hundred blazing summers and dismal winters, you have been given life for thirty minutes to do what you've wished to do the most".

He looks at her, she looks at him, and they go running behind the shrubbery. The angel waits patiently as the bushes rustle and giggling ensues. After 15 minutes, the two return, out of breath and laughing. The angel tells them, "Um! You have 15 minutes left, would you care to do it again?" He asks her "Shall we?" She eagerly replies, "Oh yes, let's! But let's change positions.

This time, I'll hold the pigeon down and you poop on its head".

Said Defence Minister Solan Mirisim: "It's the second gift by the People's Republic of China in the short time since the relationship started in 2007, compared to that relationship with other countries.

"That growth in our relationship is featured and illustrated by the many exchange visits by the senior military officers of the PNGDF, and China is ranked second to those of other countries. "We are ready to use these equipment... for the APEC programme in 2018."

PNGDF Commander Brigadier-General Gilbert Toropo said the Chinese government was also helping with medical and gymnasium equipment. He said China donated 44 vehicles last year. "This donation will assist our troops to be mobile and conduct operations during APEC 2018," he said.

Source. The National. 7th Nov 2017.

### Museum Curators

With the tragic loss of our comrade, friend and Museum Curator John Holland, the Executive Committee has made the following appointments :-

**Museum Curator** - Paul Brown

**Assistant Curator** - Colin Gould MBE.

A recent email from Association Secretary and now also Asst Curator, Colin, states that Paul now has the following titles:-

- Museum Curator
- Weapons (Licensed) Controller - Welfare Officer
- Funeral Organiser and support officer
- Repairs and maintenance ( Museum) Foreman
- General & all rounder dogs body
- Museum Pest Controller ( termites, bugs, mice, silverfish, ants, wasps and other creepy crawlies ...)
- Museum Security Coordinator
- Museum tour Organiser & Chief Tour guide

Colin also believes that the Assistant Museum Curator duties only involve keeping up the tea and biscuits to the Curator.

Congratulations Paul and Colin. They will no doubt successfully carry on the work and achievements of John Holland. In

order to achieve this Paul has been attending various courses on Museum and Exhibit management.



### Protesters in PNG's Highlands torch plane, shut Mendi airport

Protesters in the Papua New Guinea Southern Highlands town of Mendi have torched a plane and closed the airport.

Earlier, the local police station commander Gideon Kauke had said police were guarding the aircraft to ensure there was no further damage after its tyres had been flattened.

But he said his team of about 10 police could not contain a mob of "uncountable number", particularly after missiles were thrown, forcing them to retreat.

Kauke said some of the protesters, who continued to behave "menacingly" in Mendi as their numbers build up, were carrying guns.

He said the protest was in response to a court ruling in Waigani confirming the election of the Southern Highlands Governor Wil-



liam Powi. Governor Powi's success in last year's PNG general election had been challenged by Joseph Kobol and Bernard Peter Kaku. Kauke said the protesters alleged there was foul play in the court decision.

Source Asia Pacific Report. 14 June, 2018

A summary of the damage is:-

- Link PNG DHC-8 aircraft burnt. (Photo).
- PX office demolished. - Southwest hanger burnt down.
- Southwest office demolished.
- National Court house burnt down.
- District Court house burnt down. - DPI office burnt down.
- Commerce building burnt down.
- William Powi (incumbent Governor) house burnt down. (photo)

I saw on various videos vehicles carrying Light Machine Guns as well as other automatic rifles. Editor.

### State of Emergency Declared

Yesterday (15/6/18) Prime Minister Peter O'Neill released a press statement announcing his Government had issued State of Emergency in Southern Highlands Province (SHP).

The decision included among others:-





1) Suspension of SHP Government with immediate effect.  
2) Thomas Eluh former Director of Crimes and Acting Administrator of SHP be appointed as the Controller of State of Emergency.

3) Deployment of Police Personnel made up

of mobile squad and CID (Criminal Investigation Division) with immediate effect.

4) Police Commissioner and Commander of PNG Defence Force in consultation with Controller (Eluh) to develop operational orders for the deployment of troops (police & military) to SHP.

5) Approval of K6 million funding to enable SOE mobilization. This decision was in response to civil unrest on Thursday in Mendi town, capital of Southern Highlands Province that resulted in the burning of an Air Niugini Dash 8 plane, National Court House and residence of the Governor of SHP William Powi.

PNG Electoral Commission declared Powi the winner of the Southern Highlands Regional Seat in last year's 2017 General Elections. The decision was unprecedented, in that the Electoral Commission made a declaration before the counting process was completed

*Bryan Kramer 16/6/2018.*

16th June. PNG Defence Force (PNGDF) chief of staff Captain Philip Polewara confirmed that 110-plus soldiers were deployed to Mendi on Saturday and a 6pm-6am curfew was in effect in the town.

With the State of Emergency, which is to remain for nine months, there is also a call-out of the Defence Force in the province, Prime Minister Peter O'Neill said.

Polewara said they were specifically there to provide security for the State of Emergency.

The soldiers are from 1RPIR (First Royal Pacific Island Regiment) Taurama Barracks in Port Moresby

### Annual Montevideo Maru Service in Brisbane

A fine and sunny 1st July saw over 50 people attend the annual *Montevideo Maru* service at the Cenotaph in Brisbane.

Guests included the PNG Consul General in Brisbane, Mr Jimmy Ere Avia, the State President of the War Widows



Maj Gen J. Pearn AO RFD giving his address.

Queensland, Mrs Jenny Gregory, Colonel Ashley Gunder representative for the Commander of Australian 1<sup>st</sup> Division, Enoggera, the immediate past President of the PNGAA, Ms Andrea Williams, the President of NSSAQ, Mr Alex Garland, Ms Pam Mc Creadie representative for Councillor Charles Strunk, Forest Lake Ward, BCC, Mr John Reese, Bugler and member Mr Rudy Buckley who, as an 11 year old, watched as the POWs and civilian internees embarked on the *Montevideo Maru* at Rabaul wharf on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1942.

We are indebted again to the Jimboomba Army Cadets who

formed the Catafalque party Guard during the Commemorative Service.

Our Patron Major-General John Pearn gave a very well received address which described the invasion of Rabaul and the conditions in the Civilian & POW camp prior to departure, the events leading up to and after the sinking.

The closing prayer was given by Chaplain Ron MacDonald from the Brisbane Salvation Army City Mission. The history of the *Montevideo Maru* is well known to the Salvation Army as the 2/22 Bn Band comprised mostly Salvation Army bandmen.

After the service guests were served light refreshments at the Adani Apartments Hotel opposite the Central Railway Station. The scones were up to their usual standard.

Paul Brown, Assn Welfare Officer and Museum Curator and Colin Gould MBE, Assn Secretary are to be congratulated on their organization of the event and Paul's excellent role as Master of Ceremonies.

*Tony Boulter, Association Committee Member.*

### VALE. Kenneth John NOBBS

**Pte 160046 / 860046 10.4.1938—20.10.2017.**

Ken was born on April 10, 1938 on Norfolk Island. He obtained a Diploma in accountancy, Longburn College, New Zealand, 1955.

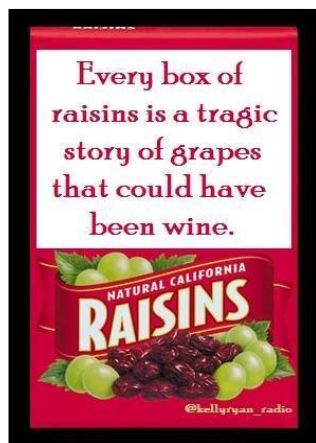
He commenced work as a clerk with Alex Harvey & Sons Proprietary Ltd., Auckland, New Zealand, 1956-1958;



In 1958 he went to Madang, PNG, with Posts and Telegraphs, and in the early 1960's moved to Mt Hagen as Postmaster. He left PNG in 1964 and returned to Norfolk Island where he worked as a salesman for K.A. Prentice & Company until 1967. He then opened his own business, Cameralines Ltd. He has



I'm so glad we didn't go for one of those cheap and nasty water beds



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Includes former members of the PIR, PIB and NGIB.

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NGVR/PNGVR service recollections are copyright.

also been an Executive director South Pacific Shipping Company (N.I.) Ltd.

He joined PNGVR in Madang in 1960 but discharged after a short period of service.

He married Pamela Vicary, a daughter of the 'Didiman' in Madang in 1960 and they had two Children: Debbie Norma, and Roy Anthony. He and Pam divorced and he later married Barbara Elliott.

His Cameralines shop serviced the photographic needs of Norfolk Island for 60 years. He also had a huge mail order business to Australia, as Norfolk Island was tax free and duty free.

Cameralines last day of trading was 30 June, 2016, allowing Ken only a relatively brief enjoyment of retirement. He was adamant he would not trade in the Australian tax environment which became law in Norfolk Island on 1 July, 2016.

Ken died suddenly as a result of a massive heart attack.

#### LEST WE FORGET

##### FUNCTION DATES

**Sat 28 Jul.** Committee Meeting at Museum followed by BYO lunch

**Sun 29 Jul.** Light Horse Shoot at Boonah Contact Ian Thompson [ianoil@hotmail.com](mailto:ianoil@hotmail.com)

**Wed 8 Aug.** Kokoda Day, Cascade Gardens, Gold Coast. Contact Bob Collins

**Sun 12 Aug.** Kokoda Memorial Service Sherwood RSL. Contact Mike Griffin

**Wed 15 Aug.** Battle for Australia Day

**Sat 25 Aug.** Milne Bay Day (Details last two to follow when available.)

**Sat 27 Oct.** AGM Museum followed by BYO BBQ.

##### MUSEUM EVENTS

**Sat 4 Aug** Museum Open 10am - 1pm

**Sun 5 Aug** Sausage sizzle at Bunnings, Oxley—Help Wanted!

**Sat 1 Sep** Museum Open 10am - 1pm

**Tues 4 Sep** Museum Tour group of 12 BYO Morning Tea.



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