



Harim Tok Tok

PAPUA NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES EX-MEMBERS ASSOCIATION Inc.

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PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

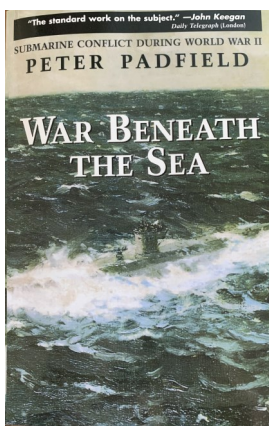
Welcome to the New Year and the first 2024 issue of Harim Tok Tok, volume 144. Please remember copies of past issues of Harim Tok Tok may be easily obtained from our website www.pngvr.weebly.com.

The main activities for this year include 6 committee meetings to which all members are invited, the first being 10am Saturday 10th February; monthly public openings for the Museum on the first Saturday of each month, the first Saturday 3rd February between 10am and 1 pm; our Anzac Day March and reunion; the Montevideo Maru Memorial Service at Brisbane Cenotaph 10am Monday 1st July; the Battle for Australia Day at Chermerside in September and our AGM 10am Saturday 19th October in our Museum. It is planned to hold at least one informal luncheon during the year, the details to be advised. There will also be various services and functions held by kindred organisations Australia-wide to which we ask our members who live closest to attend and provide reports for the Harim Tok Tok, the details of which will be advised as they come to hand.

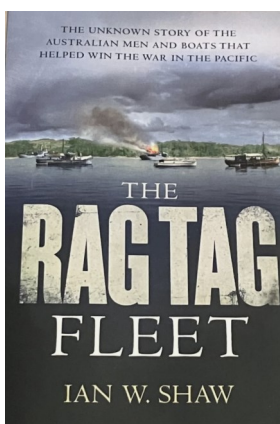
Following the decision of the last AGM, a priority in 2024 is to manage a suitable succession plan for the Museum. An Initial approach to a likely party has been made, which hopefully will develop so a transfer may occur sometime this year. The Association does not intend to exit the Museum, the premises will be needed for its activities until it ceases to exist. Those members and friends interested in maintaining their interest in the Museum may do so. However, much preparatory work is necessary to implement a successful succession e.g all items need to be fully described with their provenance and incoming staff will need to be trained.

There will be an Anzac Day Service and a Montevideo Maru Service held in Rabaul this year. Already a number from the Melbourne based 2/22 Battalion/Lark Force Association have arranged 5 to 7 days (around Anzac Day) travel to Rabaul and Tol, where it is planned a significant plaque will be dedicated. Several members of the PNGAA are making arrangement to also attend these ceremonies. Details are not yet to hand but will be disseminated when available, to those who may be interested. Keep an eye on social media or you may email me at p.ainsworth@kingco.com.au if you are interested in attending Rabaul this Anzac Day.

Over the holidays I read Peter Padfield's book *War Beneath the Sea – Submarine conflict during WW2*, first published by John Wiley & Sons Inc, 1998. Peter Hadfield is a leading naval and military historian whose critically acclaimed works include *Donitz: The Last Fuhrer*, *Guns at Sea*, *The Battleship Era*, *Armada*, and a multivolume history of decisive naval battles, *Tides of Empire*. About the book, *Lloyd's List*, London comments "Peter Hadfield has produced by far the best and most complete critical history of the submarine operations of all the combatants in WW2, at the same time providing narrative accounts of particular actions and events". The *Economist* says, "it creates the tribulations and horrors of that especially brutal form of warfare within a sturdily analytical and often critical framework". I found the book comprehensive in its coverage, fascinating, superbly written and easily understood; a must read. The Pacific War is well covered.



Another book which I am eagerly awaiting delivery is the *Rag Tag Fleet* by Ian W Shaw, the unknown story of how a fleet of Australian fishing boats, trawlers and schooners supplied US and Australian forces -and helped turn the tide of the Pacific War. Sailing under the US flag and crewed by over 3000 Australians either too young or too old to enlist in regular armed forces, hundreds of Australian small ships were assembled to take supplies and equipment to the Allied force in the final months of 1942. The book is presently difficult to obtain unless you are lucky to get a second-hand copy.



Sadly, I confirm the death of Aileen Marie Ketty (nee Foley) on 4th December 2023. Aileen was the wife of Major William (Bill) Kelly MBE ED 159269/859269 (15 June 1927 - 13 February 2005), PNGVR. Bill's story was briefly told in HTT 39, see our website. Aileen was born in Port Moresby. She is survived by her son William and daughters Marilyn and Debby.

Your long serving management team seek help from members and friends to arrange and manage Association and Museum activities. If you are able to help or know a friend, not necessarily connected with the Association, who may be interested, please speak to Curator, Paul Brown or one of the committee, contact details are on the rear page of this issue.

While you are on holidays and have time for reflections, I encourage you to write your anecdotes and stories of your experience in PNG, and send them to our editor, Bob Collins at bob.collins@bigpond.com.

Phil Ainsworth, February 2024

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The search for the Montevideo Maru

By Paul Seton, Director - Hydrography and Coastal Resilience at Fugro (Asia Pacific) | ESG | Sustainability | Innovation | International Business Development

Fugro has utilized its cutting edge hydrographic technology in Australia to locate the final resting place of the 'Montevideo Maru', which sank in 1942 with more than 1,200 people on board.

The sinking of the *Montevideo Maru* in 1942 is the worst maritime disaster in Australia's history. The vessel was carrying nearly 1,060 prisoners from 16 countries, including 850 Australian prisoners of war, and over 200 civilians aged 16 to over 60, when it was sunk off the Philippines by the *USS Sturgeon*. The ship was not marked as carrying prisoners and, while the fate of those onboard was not known until the end of the Second World War, the ship's location remained a mystery. Fugro and the Silentworld Foundation took on a humanitarian expedition to find the *Montevideo Maru's* final resting place and its passengers, to help bring closure to those affected by the tragedy.

Fugro's company purpose is to contribute to a safe and livable world. Hydrography plays a key role in this mission, supporting a range of scientific research for a better understanding of our oceans and helping to create a sustainable and resilient future. The *Montevideo Maru* project was important to Fugro, as their skilled employees were able to use their cutting-edge hydrographic technology to make a difference and unravel a mystery that had devastated the lives of many of the families involved; the hope being that the project would bring closure and peace at long last.

Before the search

Fugro and the Silentworld Foundation had previously worked together in 2017 on an expedition to locate Australia's first lost submarine, *the HMAS AE1*. The submarine's fate had been a mystery for over a century, after it failed to return from patrol in 1914. After this successful collaboration, discussion began almost immediately on the prospect of a future search, and the *Montevideo Maru* became that next expedition. And so Fugro began five years of careful planning with the Silentworld Foundation and the Rabaul and the Montevideo Maru Memorial, with support from Australia's Department of Defence. On 6 April 2023, 110km north-west of Luzon in the Philippines, the team started the highly anticipated search.

Vessels and technology

Fugro provided hydrographic support for the search in the form of its state-of-the-art equipment, together with a highly qualified and experienced team that planned and delivered the project. The *Fugro Equator*, a cutting-edge survey vessel equipped with a deepwater multibeam echosounder (MBES), led the search. The *Fugro Equator* can carry out a full range of offshore survey services, from simultaneous analogue and digital site surveys to full route surveys. The vessel is also permanently equipped with the latest hydro-

graphic and positioning equipment.

The underwater work was performed by the *Echo Surveyor VIII(ES8)*, a Hugin autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV). AUVs are the ultimate tool for high-

resolution imaging and accurate positioning of seabed and sub-seabed features and infrastructure. The ES8 is highly manoeuvrable and fitted with high-resolution MBES, synthetic aperture sonar and a high-resolution laser and camera that can reach a depth of 4,500m. This meant the AUV could cope with the search area's deep water, collecting information without disturbing the seabed or the possible wreck site, all while the fast turnaround of deliverables transferred critical information into the right hands in real time.

The search and data processing

The project started with a reconnaissance of the search area west of the Philippines in water deeper than 4,000m. This initial survey used the deepwater MBES mounted to the hull of the *Fugro Equator* to establish a general understanding of the seabed geomorphology. These results and the acquired geodata were then used to plan the deployment of the AUV. The ES8 was used for the following high-resolution hydrographic search. ES8 collects geodata, including MBES and high-resolution interferometric synthetic aperture sonar (HISAS), and uses a Cathx camera to acquire high-resolution imagery of the seabed. The AUV was flown at altitudes of 100m above the seabed to identify the wreck site, with each mission lasting for 40 hours, followed by 10 hours of data processing onboard the vessel for each deployment. Once the site had been located via this hydrographic search, the ES8 was sent back into the ocean for lower altitude missions of between 45m and 6m to gather higher-resolution geodata. With each mission, the desired result came closer.



Echo Surveyor VIII(ES8), Kongsberg Hugin AUV, equipped with payload of:
 .Multibeam echosounder Kongsberg EM2040
 Synthetic aperture sonar Kongsberg HISAS 1032
 Sub-bottom profiler EdgeTech 2205 (2–16kHz)
 Camera Cathx colour stills camera with LED light panel, Cathx laser camera and laser system
 Magnetometer OFG self-compensating magnetometer
 CTD SAIV, SD208

A key requirement for the search team was to ensure that the right wreck had been located; the search area covered multiple wreck sites and identification needed to be conclusive. Members of the research team onboard the vessel worked together with a team from the Australian Department

of Defence led by Unrecovered War Casualties – Army, with onshore support from the Australian Hydrographic Office. Together, they played a key role in the search planning and identifying features from the wreck used for positive identification. The search team needed to be able to clearly demonstrate those features before the final survey of the wreck and acquisition of the high-resolution geodata.

Hundreds of hours of data processing commenced. Once the project team of maritime archaeologists, conservators and research specialists worked through the geodata, it was clear that the *Montevideo Maru* had been found. The wreck site was located at a depth of over 4,000m, with the vessel having broken in two and lying in a debris field of cargo, including trucks, on the seafloor. The team worked hard to capture as much detailed information as possible without disturbing the site, to preserve it for further study by researchers and marine archaeologists. The *Echo Surveyor VIII(ES8)* is deployed into the ocean.



The *Fugro Equator*, a specialist survey vessel.

Crew impact

The search started on 6 April 2023. After 12 days, the team had a first positive sighting with the AUV, but the geodata still had to be processed and the team had to wait for the results to be able to identify the wreck. The moment when the confirmation came through was incredibly emotional and exciting for the crew. The team was very proud of what they had achieved, but at the same time they were humbled. Many families have been touched by the *Montevideo Maru* tragedy, something that the team was mindful of throughout, and they will never forget the positive, grateful and relieved reactions from the families after the news was confirmed. Remembering those whose lives were lost that day will also continue around the world as numerous memorials are planned.

As John Mullen, chair of the Silentworld Foundation, commented: "Working with Fugro to successfully locate the *Montevideo Maru* was a fascinating and rewarding technical achievement, but it is the human dimension that has left the greatest impression. We have been overwhelmed by the extraordinary number of messages from descendant families who had never given up hope that one day the resting place of their family members would be found. It has been humbling to have been able, in a way, to bring a measure of closure to those families after so many years."

Challenges of deepwater surveying

Fugro's team of highly trained and dedicated survey professionals is experienced in deepwater operations and has the right vessels and equipment for a search like this, where the biggest challenge was identifying the most likely search area. Historians and archaeologists from the Silentworld Foundation were responsible for delineating the search area, while Fugro complemented this research with its understanding of the expected metocean conditions. After the search area was identified, the right team needed to be put in place for efficient logistical support on the project. A detailed reconnaissance plan of the area was also needed to make sure the ES8 could complete the search in the time available. This careful planning ensured that the ships and AUVs followed optimal search lines and avoided any hazards.



Sonar image of the stern section of the *Montevideo Maru*.

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Future

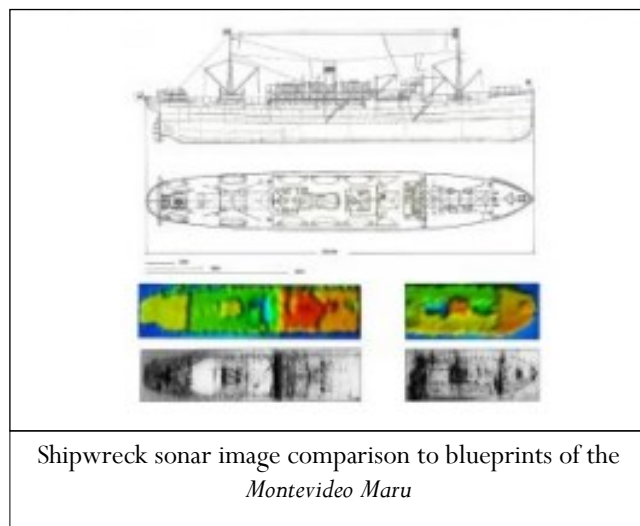
The huge amount of geodata acquired during the search will be further analysed by marine archaeologists and researchers. This not only brings closure to those directly linked to the tragedy, but also contributes to our collective history and culture. The work underway from Fugro, the Silentworld Foundation and other partners will result in further releases of the detailed imagery, and so we can expect to see powerful visualizations based on these large quantities of acquired geodata.

Through maritime archaeology projects such as the *Montevideo Maru*, the community gains a greater awareness of the role of hydrography and our collective understanding of ocean science. They provide an important opportunity for outreach, demonstrate the advances in technology needed for a successful search, and showcase the benefits of underwater mapping. These all contribute to the conservation of marine ecosystems and align with Fugro's sustainable development goals.

The *Fugro Equator* and its team have many more hydrographic and geophysical projects planned. The need for ocean data is greater than ever before and Fugro is involved in a range of global

marine projects, from energy transition and the development of offshore wind farms to important sustainable infrastructure. Understanding the ocean, including its fascinating and sometimes tragic history, will play a key role in all our futures. Mark Heine, CEO of Fugro, concluded: "This maritime tragedy involved many countries and families, and all paid a terrible price. I am proud that our skills and technology can help find resolutions to historical projects such as this and, in this way, make a real difference to people's lives. At Fugro, we're using our hydrographic and oceanographic solutions to contribute to relief efforts and live up to our purpose of creating a safe and liveable world."

newsletter@hydro-international.com



Shipwreck sonar image comparison to blueprints of the *Montevideo Maru*

RAN History—Angled Flight Deck

The angled deck was one of the three improvements to aircraft carrier design conceived by the Royal Navy that made fast-jet operations both possible and safe. The idea of canting or skewing the landing area to port of the ship's centreline had evolved from experiments with a rubber deck and Sea Vampire fighters without undercarriages in *HMS Warrior* in 1948. Although the rubber deck itself proved impractical, the 'skewed deck' as it was called at first was seen as a very effective way of making arrested landings safer on existing, relatively small, flight decks.

The generation of jets planned for the 1950s were much heavier than their predecessors, had higher landing speeds and would have needed most of the deck available to complete an arrested landing. The standard technique of centreline landings with a barrier to protect the deck park forward from aircraft that missed the wires was no longer tenable and, with little or no room for the deck park, the number of aircraft that could be operated was small.

Worse still, if the whole deck had to be clear for every landing the number of aircraft operated at any one time would be low and the speed with which they could be recovered would be slow. The angled deck solved this dilemma by providing a landing runway that was longer than the portion of deck aft of the existing barriers. The sum of the lengths of the landing and launch/parking areas was greater than the length of the ship. Trials were carried out on an angled deck painted on *HMS Triumph*, on *USS Antietam* the first carrier actually fitted with a full angled deck in 1953 and in *HMS Centaur* the first British angled deck carrier in 1954.

The trials were successful, so successful that every carrier navy moved to copy the idea quickly, led by the USN. Not only did the angled deck provide a longer runway in which the arrester wires could be moved nearer the centre of pitch to make landing easier in bad weather but other ad-



HMAS Melbourne (11)
5.5% angled flight deck.

vantages soon became apparent. There was no longer a need for a barrier since, with clear deck space ahead of the wires, an aircraft that missed the wires, known as a 'bolter', could open the throttle to go round for another circuit.

The area to starboard of the runway gave clear parking space for a number of aircraft, allowing rapid multiple aircraft recoveries and a deck park for refuelling and re-arming.

Although simple in concept, the conversion of existing carriers to have angled decks involved structural alterations, loss of the armament and aials mounted on the port beam. The arrester wire machinery had to be re-aligned to lie athwart the angled deck. Once the new structure was installed, it provided useful volume for mess decks and machinery.

Three new aircraft carriers joined their respective fleets in 1955 with all three British improvements to carrier flying. They were *HMS Ark Royal* in February, *USS Forrestal* in October and *HMAS Melbourne (II)* in November. The Australian ship was, therefore, one of the most advanced ships of her day despite her small size.

Greenbank NAA Newsletter Oct 2021.

A real man is a women's best friend. He will reassure her and comfort her. He will inspire her to do new things and to live without fear, make her feel she is the most beautiful woman in the room and enable her to be confident, sexy and invincible.

No—wait—sorry! I'm thinking of wine. Its wine that does all that - Never mind.

New surveillance weapon used on ops for first time

A new type of unmanned surveillance technology was used on Operation Resolute for the first time.

The seventh rotation of Army's Regional Force Surveillance Group (RFSG) used Bluebottles, developed by Ocius Technologies, which can provide a 24/7 on-water surveillance capability, with the flexibility to be readily manoeuvred to respond to emerging surveillance requirements or tasks.

During the two-week deployment in October, the contingent conducted surveillance and reconnaissance on and around remote islands off north Western Australia for foreign fishing vessels and evidence of illegal activities.

The contingent of 18 personnel was drawn primarily from Northwest Mobile Force (NORFORCE) and 10th Force Support Battalion, with attachments from the 3rd Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment and 1st Combat Signal Regiment.

Major Alexander Brent, the Maritime Border Command (MBC) Liaison Officer to Rotation 7, said the use of the Bluebottles, and the embedding of an Ocius employee within the task unit headquarters, added significant capability to the operation.

"In addition to persistent surveillance, we were able to use

the Bluebottles to conduct more specific reconnaissance tasks, such as beach landing site reconnaissance and avenues of approach to specific islands in advance of the ground force," Major Brent said.

"By controlling the Bluebottles remotely, the ground force was free to be able to move independently of the USVs (uncrewed surveillance vessels) and focus on other tasks, such as onshore reconnaissance and patrolling, while still benefiting from what the Bluebottles collected.

The trial by NORFORCE will likely inform future teaming with unmanned maritime assets to support amphibious and littoral combat manoeuvres.

As one of three Regional Force Surveillance Units which form the 2nd Division's RFSG, NORFORCE provides a persistent screen in northern Australia, living by the motto 'Ever Vigilant'.

Several times a year the RFSG screen is supported by enabling assets, including medical teams, remote command-and-control nodes and Australian Border Force (ABF) assets to enhance the effectiveness of the screen as part of Operation Resolute.

NORFORCE Patrol Master, Captain Stephen Sewell, said the efforts increased situational awareness of illegal activities in the region.

"The soldiers conducted surveillance from observation posts, dismounted patrols across the islands and patrols in the littoral environment by watercraft," CAPT Sewell said.

"Working alongside the Bluebottle uncrewed surveillance vessels, as well as ABF Dash-8 aircraft, the information our contingent gathered will enable potential responses from other government agencies."

The contingent conducted surveillance and reconnaissance of about 5500 square kilometres.

Major Brent said inter-agency cooperation was vital for the continued success of operations like Resolute.

"There is a very close relationship between the ADF and ABF, facilitated through MBC, which enables shared effort and the sharing of information to achieve better operational outcomes and security for Australia," Major Brent said.

"At the local level, the Regional Force Surveillance Units have an intimate relationship with the Indigenous communities and leaders in their respective areas of operation, which is vital to the enhanced understanding of country, patterns of life and access across the north of Australia, all of which directly contributes to the land component outcomes for Op Resolute.

"When you add contractors, local councils, local land councils and private industry, who all have vested interests in northern Australia, the level of inter-agency cooperation required to ensure successful Op Resolute outcomes is immense."

Army Newspaper 1528



A Blue Bottle maritime unmanned surveillance vessel patrolling in remote WA waters, near Winy Alkan Island.

Lt Col Henry William (Harry) Murray VC CMG DSO & Bar DCM

Harry Murray was born at Launceston, Tasmania, on 1 December 1880. As a youth he helped run the family farm. He was also interested in the military and joined a militia unit, the Australian Field Artillery, in Launceston.

Murray moved to Western Australia at the age of 19 or 20 where he worked as a mail courier on the goldfields. When he enlisted in the AIF as a private on 30 September 1914, he was employing timber-cutters for the railways in the south west of Western Australia. He landed at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915 as a member of one of the 16th Battalion's two machine-gun crews. Murray was wounded several times, spent June in hospital, was promoted to lance corporal on 13 May and won the Distinguished Conduct Medal for his bravery between 9-31 May. He was wounded again on 8 July and a month later

experienced a remarkable series of promotions. On 13 August he was made a sergeant, commissioned second-lieutenant and transferred to the 13th Battalion.

By 1 March 1916 Murray had reached the rank of captain and soon after sailed for France with the 13th Battalion. On the Western Front Murray defied the statistics, participating in each of his unit's major actions and surviving. He received the Distinguished Service Order for his role in the fighting at Mouquet Farm, where he was twice wounded. His wounds kept Murray from the front until



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL P02939.051

October.

Four months later, on the night of 4-5 February, Murray led his company's attack on Stormy Trench, near Gueudecourt. Over almost 24 hours they repelled counter-attacks, fought in merciless close quarter battles and suffered under intense shell-fire. Some 230 members of the Battalion were killed in the fight and Murray won the Victoria Cross.

In March 1918 he was promoted to lieutenant colonel and given command of the 4th machine gun battalion. He remained in this position until the end of the war. In April during the attack on Bullecourt Murray won a bar to his Distinguished Service Order. In October 1918 Murray was awarded the French Croix de Guerre and in May 1919 was promoted to CMG.

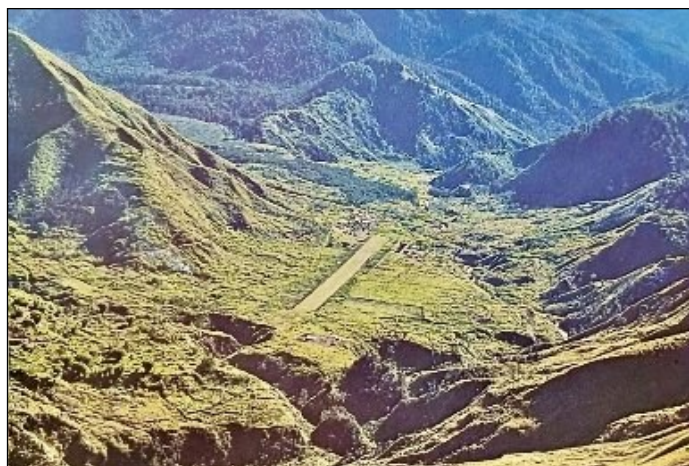
Murray had begun the war as a machine-gun private, and rose to command a battalion, and was the most highly decorated soldier in the Australian Imperial Force.

With the fighting over, Murray toured England studying agri-

cultural methods. His service in the AIF ended on 9 March 1920 and he settled on a grazing property at Muckadilla in Queensland. The following year he married Constance Cameron, but the marriage lasted just a few years and in 1925 he moved to New Zealand where he married Ellen Cameron. The couple returned to Queensland in 1928 and purchased another grazing property at Richmond.

Murray enlisted for service during the Second World War and commanded the 26th Battalion in north Queensland until August 1942. He retired from the army in early 1944. Regarded as a shy and modest man, he was described as the most distinguished fighting officer of the AIF. Murray died of a heart attack following a car accident on 7 January 1966.

AWM Website



Marawaka Airstrip, Eastern Highlands District, PNG. 6050 Ft. (1,844m)

Middleburg Airstrip

Middleburg Airfield (also known as Klenso Airfield or Toem Airfield) is a World War II airfield located on Middleburg Island, to the north of Sansapor in Southwest Papua, Indonesia. The airfield was abandoned after the war and today is almost totally returned to its natural state.

The airfield was built by the Americans, and began as a 5,400 foot-long fighter airstrip, becoming operational on 17 August 1944. A second runway, completed on 3 September, began at 6,000 feet but was soon lengthened to 7,500. It was used by a number of units, including the 419th Night Fighter Squadron flying P-61 Black Widows (21 August to 6 March 1945) and the 67th Fighter Squadron of the 347th Fighter Group flying P-38 Lightnings (15 August to 12 February 1945).

The capture of this island had a significant impact on the Allied war effort in the Southwest Pacific, as the long-range P-38 Lightnings were now in range of several important Japanese



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL 0L00666.012



installations blocking the route to the Philippines. B-25 Mitchells based on Biak also used Middleburg as a staging base to extend the range of their bombing operations into northern Celebes.

Wikipedia

Ed. Note that the Island has been extended and the use of PSP (Marsden Matting) for the airstrip. A tribute to American Engineers (Seabees).



attack when the submarine's battle report radio signal was intercepted and decoded a week later. I-165 returned to Surabaya on 16 February without having sunk any Allied ships during her patrol.

Australian naval historian David Stevens has noted that "clearly as a diversion operation the bombardment had been an abject failure. Nevertheless, for the Allied navies it provided another graphic example of the poor planning and inadequate doctrine so common in the Japanese submarine force".

The attack on Port Gregory was one of three submarine shellings on Australian towns and cities, the other two being the attacks on Newcastle and Sydney in June 1942.

Wikipedia



Magnificent Bird of Paradise

WW II Marrinup prisoner of war camp

A dedicated amateur historian has devoted years to finding and recording the stories of German and Italian prisoners of war held in a forest camp south of Perth during World War II.

Ernie Polis had always had a keen interest in military history, but it wasn't until recovering from a bout of double pneumonia in 1992 that he turned his attention to an element of Western Australia's World War II history.

"I had three weeks off work and got a book out from the library called Stalag Australia, and in there were one or two lines about Marrinup [prisoner of war camp] and its commandant, Major Hector Stuart Foley," Mr Polis told Christine Layton on ABC Radio Perth.

"I looked up H.S. Foley in the phone book and gave him a call. I thought it'd be a three-minute call but we were still talking three hours later."

This set him on a course to find out more about the guards and prisoners who lived at Marrinup No. 16 POW camp in the bush near Dwellingup, between 1941 and 1946.

Altogether there were 300 German soldiers and 3,500 Italians

<p>EVERY BOX OF RAISINS IS A TRAGIC TALE OF GRAPES THAT COULD HAVE BEEN WINE.</p>	<p>I changed my password to "incorrect" so whenever I forget what it is, the computer will say "your password is incorrect."</p>
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Japanese submarine shells Port Gregory, WA

During the Pacific War Japanese submarines occasionally operated off Western Australia. In early 1943, the major Japanese headquarters directed their forces to make small attacks on Allied positions, in an attempt to divert attention away from the planned evacuation of Guadalcanal. In mid-January, the commander of the Japanese Southwest Area Fleet ordered I-165 to attack Allied shipping off north-western Australia. As part of the fleet's contribution to diversionary operations, I-165 was also directed to bombard a coastal Australian town. It is likely that the busy port of Geraldton was the original target for the bombardment .

On the evening of 27 January I-165 arrived just north of Geraldton. While preparing for the attack, the crew of I-165 observed three aircraft and what the Captain Tosu, believed was a destroyer in the area. Tosu decided to postpone his bombardment mission, and sailed north. While sailing on the surface the submarine passed within 3.2 kilometres (2 miles) of what was identified as a destroyer without being noticed.

The following evening I-165 surfaced 6,400 metres (4 miles) off the village of Port Gregory just after midnight. From a range of 7,000 metres (7,700 yd; 4.3 mi), she fired about ten 100-mm (3.9-inch) shells from her Type 88 deck gun at a derelict crayfish cannery, which the submarine's crew had mistakenly identified as an ammunition factory. None of the shells caused any damage. Tosu did not attempt to observe the results of his submarine's bombardment, and resumed patrolling off the coast of Western Australia.

Two Australian coastwatchers stationed near Port Gregory noticed gunfire at night on 28 January, but neither observed any shells landing. Allied naval authorities only learned of the



held at Marrinup and the reason they were in WA was to both help the British government and address a labour shortage. The men held at Marrinup had all been captured in North Africa. The British government had to find somewhere to put them and appealed to Australia for help.

"At that time in WA there was a big shortage of firewood," Mr Polis said. "All the workers had enlisted in the army and we needed 50,000 to 60,000 tonnes of firewood a year, so the Germans were employed as firewood cutters and gatherers of firewood in the forest."

The Italians, who were more trusted than the Germans, were put to work on farms around the state, while the Germans were confined to the Marrinup camp.

"Hector Foley had stayed in contact with a lot of ex-officers and NCOs [non-commissioned officers] and he just was chucking names at me — I just grew the contact list from there and visited them all, and they had wonderful stories to tell," Mr Polis said.

"I also stumbled across an ex-German POW who was living in WA named Gunther Kuhlmann. He told me what went on inside the camp, the illegal booze-making."

The camp, built among the trees near the timber milling town of Dwellingup, was a series of huts surrounded by tight security.

"If you've seen The Great Escape film, it was exactly the same — wire fences, watch towers, searchlights at night, perimeter guards, contraband searches," he said.

"There was a detention centre they called a cooler. Discipline was very strict inside the camp. The Germans were always kept there, all 300 of them."

Most of the guards were former soldiers from World War I and many of them were just grateful to have a job after the difficult years of the Great Depression. "They got paid six shillings and nine pence a day — about 69 cents a day, which probably equated to around about \$40 or \$50 today. It was quite a good



Italians recruited to pick apples in Mount Barker. (Supplied: Pickles family)

wage, and they had no expenses. "It was a job. It was a contribution to the war effort and they felt like they were doing something worthwhile."

Mr Polis got a further insight into life at the camp when he received a trove of pictures taken secretly by one of the prisoners.

Fritz Reimer was an Austrian flack gunner captured on Crete.

"He had a little 35-millimetre camera and he had kept that secret when he was captured, managed to bring it to Marrinup, and took more than 50 photos. "When he went back to Europe he had them developed."

"Frederick Emmert, who was a German senior NCO at the camp, wrote to me and said, 'Fritz's died, I've got these photos do you want them?' "And they arrived in the mail about a month later."

"The German POWs in Australia asked the Australian government to ask the German government to supply them with new uniforms," he said. "The German government said, 'Nope, but we will certainly send bolts of cloth, badges, buttons, decorations, and other embellishments'."



A German army parade at Marrinup in November 1944. (Supplied: Ernie Polis/Tatura Museum)

"In the Murchison POW camp in Victoria, they had about 12 German ex-tailors and had German army uniforms made for the POWs in Australia and there is the photo of Friedrich wearing his parade uniform, with the Iron Cross second class and everything

When the war in Europe ended in May 1945, the Germans and Italians faced a long wait to get home. "Shipping was a problem. The Germans returned to Victoria in August 1946, but they didn't arrive back in Germany until February 1947."

Some of the Italians enjoyed the experience so much that they decided to migrate to Australia after the war, and Mr Polis has counted 134 men who were at Marrinup who returned to WA.

"Most of the Italian POWs were exceptionally hard workers on farms," he said.

"They enjoyed the freedom, the experience, the new adventure for them. The farmers looked after them as if they were members of the family."

In 1961 a bushfire swept through the Dwellingup region and destroyed much of what remained of Marrinup camp, although there are still vestiges in what is now the Marrinup State Forest.

"Pretty much all the concrete foundations are still there, bits of barbed wire, broken glass, buttons," Mr Polis said.

"A couple of guard towers are still there. The keen eye will

find things if you look hard enough."

After 30 years of research and interviews, Mr Polis has published a book, *A Cage in the Bush*, telling the story of the POWs and mark they left on the state. The title comes from the German POWs name for Marrinup, Kaefig im Wald — a cage in the forest.

ABC News 5 Feb 2023

It takes 7 seconds for food to pass from mouth to stomach.
 A human hair can hold 3kg.
 The length of a penis is three times the length of the thumb.
 The femur is as hard as concrete.
 A woman's heart beats faster than a man's.
 Women blink 2 times as much as men.
 We use 300 muscles just to keep our balance when we stand.
 A woman has read this entire text. A man is still looking at his thumb.



HTT Vol 139 had an article about the tunnels of Rabaul. Many tunnels sheltered barges and other small watercraft during air raids. They were lifted into the tunnels by floating cranes such as this damaged one in Simpson Harbour, Rabaul, 1945.

Morobe Men at Bulolo NGVR Reunion 19/1/1957

Visitors from Lae, Wau and Bulolo attended the dedication service of the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles' Honour Roll and 10th annual reunion dinner at Bulolo on Jan 19th, 1957.

The service was held at the Honour Roll which is in the school grounds and was conducted by the Rev. Mr. Abrams, Anglican Minister Wau-Bulolo and the Rev. Father Gregory of the Roman Catholic Church Lae.

Both spoke briefly but sincerely on the history of the unit, wreaths were then laid, and the Last Post sounded by a bugler of the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary.

After the service, dinner was held at Pine Lodge Hotel. Members attending were Messer's Ted Spence, L E Ashton, Bill Lindsay, Bill Grant, Alex Moore, Bert Lee, Fred Les-

mond, Fred Hockey, Jim O'Brien, Bob Franklin, Les McClelland, Jack Sheringham, Les Lane, Jack Ingold, Ossie Bell, Eric Gibb, Bill Armstrong, Ted Latchford, Jim Cavanaugh, Neville Swanson, Tom Lega, Frank Vickery, Alex McLean, Gus Smart, Bob O'Neill and the Rev Mr Abrams and Father Gregory

The next reunion dinner will be on January 15th, 1958.

Taken from the below PNG Forestry Booklet. Thank you Phil Ainsworth.



Two hunters are out in the woods when one of them collapses. He's not breathing, and his eyes are glazed. The other guy whips out his cell phone and calls 000. "I think my friend is dead!" he yells. "What can I do?" The operator says, "Calm down. First, let's make sure he's dead." There's a silence, then a shot. Back on the phone, the guy says, "Okay, now what?"

Jimmy's Story

Pte James Saad NX68862 2/1st Inf Bn. 6 Div. 2nd AIF.
 Enlisted 5 Mar 1941 Discharged 21 Dec 1945.

Served. Middle East, Palestine, Syria, Egypt, Sri Lanka,
 New Guinea. 1753 days

I tried to enlist at the Lismore recruiting office, but was knocked back for being too young at 19. A week later I went back and was again knocked back, this time for not being a British subject (I was born in Lebanon and come out to Australia when I was two and a half). Two weeks later I tried again in Casino. This time I said I was 21 and born in Bathurst. The recruiting officer looked up and finally accepted me. On 5th March at the Sydney Showground we had the medical checkup and I passed A1. The night before the checkup in Sydney we all slept in the sheep pens in the showground. After being accepted into the Army, they paid me five shillings a day because I was the main breadwinner for the family. They asked me if I wanted to make an allotment out of the 5 shillings. I agreed, so Mum and Dad got 2 shillings and 6 pence a day (17/6 a week) which paid their rent which was 15 shillings a week, leaving them 2/6 to spend.

After Sydney I was sent to Tamworth for military training and it was freezing cold. We were given our Army issue. They couldn't fit you, you just had to keep trying on the uniforms until one fitted. After three months training, I had final leave for three days, which I spent in Lismore with Mum and Dad.

On 27 June 1941 I came to Sydney by train and got off at Pyrmont. We then boarded different craft to take us to the *Queen Elizabeth* which was moored just inside the heads at Manly. The *Queen Mary* was waiting outside the heads to come in as we left. That night we stayed at Jervis Bay. The *Queen Mary* loaded up in Sydney the next morning and we were both on our way. The *Aquitania* loaded up in New Zealand and soon the world's three largest ships were on their way. After Fremantle we were escorted by the cruiser *Sydney*.

Egypt.



Cairo 1941

As we got closer to the war zone and travelled through the Red Sea, submarines escorted us to Port Tawiik, (Taufiq) which is on the southern side of the Suez Canal. They quickly put us into rafts and we went ashore. It was that hot on the rafts that when you drank water -you perspired immediately. It made no difference how much you drank, you were still thirsty. Later that night they put us into cattle trucks and gave us Air Force issue jumpers! We got to Gaza at about midnight and we slept in the open on the sand - it was very cold.

Because we were replacements for the Battalion, we stayed at a camp called *Julius*, until we were needed. This was because there were a lot of casualties in the battles of Greece and Crete. Being able to speak both languages was a big advantage.

Our guys couldn't work me out, as I was an Arabic-speaking Aussie soldier.

It was at this stage that I became a member of the Bren Gun Carrier Platoon.

Palestine

In Sept/Oct we went to Palestine and while there we used to go to Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Around my 20th birthday I was in camp in the Jordan Valley with 6 mates. We all enlisted from Lismore. While in Jerusalem, we toured the Temple, Mosques, Mt Calvary, The Wailing Wall and King Herod's Tomb. We also went to the pictures and saw movies with subtitles, which were a rarity in those days. The days were very hot, 100 -120 degrees Fahrenheit and the nights were quite cool.

While in Palestine, we held a type of sports carnival between the 6th Division, 7th Division, an English Division, an Indian Division and a South African Division. It took place on the beach on the Mediterranean and went for about 2 days. We played shooting, running, swimming -all the games you would compete in if you were holding the Olympic Games. All points you earned along the way went towards your division. The 6th Division was the winner!

Syria and Lebanon

In October we went to Syria and Lebanon which were French mandates. The French were divided between the Free French and the Vichy French. The fighting was to get rid of the Vichy, which only took 6 weeks to do. Most of this action was over before we arrived. The funny part was after we took over, things settled down and we played them in Rugby Union, beating them 25 -13. I never played, I was a ball boy! Two of the players, Colin and Keith Windon, played for Australia after the war was over. Colin went on to captain Australia for a few internationals.

We were camped about 15 miles from Damascus, which is the oldest city in the world. It is known as the Golden City of the desert. Everything in the city is made locally and everything is traded in gold, which makes it a very rich city. A lot of the city was out of bounds, the reason being Fifth Column activity. The Fifth Column were Vichy French remaining in the city as an underground resistance and attacked our soldiers. We always had to travel in twos.

Damien Parer (the well known Australian war photographer) was with the battalion in October. He knew that it was my birthday and called out "Happy birthday Jimmy Saad" one day when we were on parade. Before big battles, our chaplain, Padre Glover would say a mass for us. Damien and I would serve as Altar boys at those masses.

Israel

Our camp was at the foot of Mt Hermon, which is 10,000 feet high. Mt Hermon has snow on it all year round. Every night there was a rum issue, the officers would come around and give it out, but I never drank it and always gave someone my lot. Winter was fast coming. As the snows came, some of us were in tents and some in huts. I was in a tent. Most nights we played cards till the early hours of the morning. We had kerosene heaters in each tent. The trouble was the fumes and smoke from the heaters got into our lungs. After a while, every time you spat or coughed, it was black, like blood.

Everything was going along alright until there was a cholera scare with some men. So they sent mine and another vehicle out to get the army doctors from all the neighboring units. We went in twos, so if one of us broke down the other could keep going. I was driving a "carrier" which is like a tank. It was referred to as a "track vehicle" because it had tracks like a bulldozer to get through the snow. The doctors gave everyone a cholera vaccine, because if it broke out, it would have wiped out the whole army within a couple of nights. After the needles, a lot of the men got sick; not from the cholera, but from the needles.

Our next move was on the outskirts of Lebanon half an hour's drive from Beirut. Here some of us stayed in hotels, which we paid for ourselves. From here we went to the large temple at Baalbek and to the Cedars, which all of us loved. We had always heard about the Cedars of Lebanon. We called on different villages and towns.

We were able to write letters to send back home, but you were not allowed to put where you were. All our mail was censored for fear of giving away our location. When I was in Australia on leave, I gave my family a small piece of Perspex. I also gave them a map of the Middle East as I had an idea of where we were going. When I wrote a letter home, I make a mark on the paper (an X) to give them an idea of where I was. They would use this mark to match it up on the Perspex.

Our address was: *Name Number*,

AIF Abroad.

No unit, no division, nothing at all

As December came, we were digging-in in Syria and Lebanon, waiting for an attack from the German forces. They were expected to attack from the north.

Japan had attacked Pearl Harbour in December and we were moved out of the Middle East.



Ceylon 1942

In the meantime, they were wondering what to do with us. Churchill said let the Japanese take Australia, we want the Australians here. Our Prime Minister was John Curtin and he argued we should come back here to defend Australia. Churchill said -No, we'll take Australia back even if they do take it. Finally Curtin won, but by that time the Japanese had moved very quickly.

We went back to our camp the next day and were getting ready to leave the Middle East within two weeks. So what ever

blankets, tinned food, clothing and any other items we had, we loaded up into five truckloads and distributed amongst the Lebanese and other people around. Many people who came out to Australia after the war can still remember what the Australians did for them.

March -April 1942 - Ceylon

We finally got under way—we were leaving the Middle East and on our way to Java. Java fell to the Japanese so they put us in Ceylon (Sri Lanka) as an invasion was imminent. The radar had picked up that there was an armada of ships coming to Ceylon. There were a few Pommies and an Indian Battalion. As Ceylon had no big wharves, everything had to be off loaded onto pontoons and then taken ashore. The infantry got off their ship. We were on a cargo boat with the vehicles. There were only ten of us on the boat, so we could drive the vehicles to and from the cranes.

About 9.00pm one night there were three bells sounded. A big air raid was expected. The important thing was to get out of the harbour quickly. We left! Ships went everywhere. They sent our boat to Cochin in South Western India—it was Easter Saturday and we stayed overnight on the boat. The next day we came back to Ceylon. We unloaded our boats because the sea and air battle was under control. The Japanese infantry made 2 attempts on Easter Monday to land in Ceylon. By then we were in position to repel their attack.

The Japanese next attack was on land. This was the big one. Half of Colombo was under fire. Ships were sunk in the air and sea battle. We lost a battleship and an aircraft carrier. Because of this dangerous situation we were held up in Ceylon, but when the firing settled down and things seemed safer, we were sent back home. By this stage, the Japanese were moving very quickly and Australia was under threat.

Australia -August 1942

Although I had enlisted from Lismore, my family had moved to Kempsey in the time that I was away. While I was visiting Mum and Dad in Kempsey, Peter Samyia and I went to Inverell and Armidale to get apples.

As we arrived, we saw Martha Abood who was in Inverell visiting. She came out of the house and said "Jim, they just rang from Kempsey and you have to get back quickly". The Japanese had broken through Kokoda and were on their way to Port Moresby. We only stayed in Inverell for a few hours. If the telegram had come while I was still in Kempsey I never would have driven with Peter Samyia to Inverell, and would not have met Sheila. Her family lived next door to where I was visiting. She only saw me for about two hours, but that is how we met. She was not happy that I had to leave, but I gave her my army address, and that's how it all started, writing to one another.



Jimmy (centre) Wondecla, NQ. 1943. Note Carrier behind the trio.

When we got back to Kempsey they took people off trains to put us on! We had to get back to Sydney quickly. We were then put on a troop train, and we arrived in Brisbane the next night. Some of the unit went to New Guinea earlier in the day, but we had the Bren Gun Carriers. (They were like tanks, with no roof and had a crew of 3 men.) These were very important to the whole unit. We were on a cargo boat, 48 of us. The wharfies that were loading the ship went at midnight, they were going on strike. So we had to load our own boats (Chinese River boats), which didn't please them. The wharfies called us scabs and hoped that we'd be killed.

New Guinea

After 3 days travel, we finally got to Port Moresby and managed to get our equipment off the boat when suddenly we got a warning of an air raid. The boat that had the infantry on tried to get out to sea, it got hit and still to this day is lying on a reef near the entrance to the Port Moresby Harbour.

That night we engaged the Japanese at a place called Owers Corner. At least we stopped them for the time being—it was important to stop the advance. Then we began to push them back to a place called Nauro. That's as far as the carriers could go because it was the foot of The Golden Stairs, which is the foot of the Owen Stanley Ranges.

December 1942 marked the end of 2/1st infantry in the Owen Stanley campaign of 1942,

December 1942 and April 1943 - Merigeda Mission, Wau

We went back to a place called Merigeda Mission, a Seventh Day Adventist Mission School at Bootless Bay, South East of Port Moresby, where we celebrated Christmas. Here we were patrolling the coastline. Word came through that the Japanese had Lae and Salamaua and were on their way to Wau, which was right in the heart of New Guinea.

Wau had to be held at all costs, as it had an airstrip. We were flown in without our carriers and located up in the hills around the Aerodrome and we could see the Japanese putting their flag at the bottom end of the aerodrome. The DC3's took us up to Wau, the infantry needed to guard the Aerodrome. The DC3's needed a fighter escort because they were easy targets. Generally it was the Lockheed Lightnings. The DC3's would unload us then take off again. In the meantime the fighters escorted the DC3's back to Moresby and flew around overhead in case anyone came near them.

About an hour later over came our planes, they were Beaufighter fighter/bombers. They began bombing and strafing the big coffee plantation, they got rid of most of them. The rest, we got! It was a very close battle indeed, more important than Kokoda, because of the aerodrome. By this time the Battalions finished the Kokoda Track at Sanananda and were on their way back to Australia, less about two hundred. Our battalion didn't return to Australia until about 2 months later, as it was important to keep the drome.

When everything was secure, we would try our luck at gold mining in the creeks around Wau. That's where I got the gold that I have at home, I got it in the Bulolo Valley.

May 1943 -Australia

We left Wau and rejoined the Battalion at the Atherton Tablelands in Queensland. Then we went on leave for ten days, in camp for a few months for a well-earned rest. After about 8 months in December 1943 we had our final leave. Sheila and I got married on the 20 December in Inverell and I went back to camp two days later.

The Americans took over the Aitape-Wewak, so we didn't have to go back so soon, as we were understrength. We never got back to full strength. The best we got to was about 600, which was about 400 men under strength.

In September 1944 they gave us one week's leave and that was the last time I saw Sheila till December 1945 when the war was



Jimmy and Sheila. Sydney 1943.

over. Gore (Gloria) was seven months old when I first saw her in December 1945 -she was born on Mothers' Day 1945.

December 1944 -Aitape -Wewak Campaign

Late in December 1944, as the Americans were getting ready to continue their drive towards the Philippines, we took over and did the Aitape-Wewak campaign in northern New Guinea. It was very hard, malaria, dengue fever tropical ear. The only thing I got was a touch of malaria. One time we were down to 500 men.

As we had no carriers, we had to carry our machine guns. The Bren guns were alright, but the Vickers guns were very

heavy. Our main objective was to give covering fire to the other infantries. You had to be on target or you would hit your own. There was no room for error. We held on although a lot of us were sick. As we finally took over, everything had to be taken ashore by landing craft on the beach. Sometimes you would hit a sandbar; sometimes we had to swim ashore which was very hard, especially when they had snipers in the bushes.

Along the coast, we were going along reasonably well. One night we dug in for the night but the natives said "Don't stay here as it is going to rain in the hills and you'll get flooded". We decided to go to higher ground, but a few others decided to stay put. It rained heavy in the hills, about 4 inches an hour. Down came the flood and washed some men under trees and huge rocks. We managed to find four out of the nine men, the others got washed out to sea and were never found.

We had a picture show unit at times -out in the open. Some of the shows we saw were *Gone with the Wind*, *The Great Waltz*, *Gaslight*, *Waterloo Bridge* and *Robin Hood*. We would watch the shows sitting on logs and some of us would have to act as guards while the others watched the picture. Everyone had to take a guard on one of the nights. We often thought that this was a stupid thing to do, as we thought the Japanese were not interested in fighting and like us were happy to sit and watch the movies. We also had others come to entertain the troops. Gracie Fields was on the stage for two hours. Also Glen Miller and his band were due to come but his plane disappeared over the English Channel on his way to France.

As I was the longest serving ex-Middle Eastern in the battalion, I was appointed to lead this section till the end of the war. We were walking up a track and I mentioned to one of the patrol that I could smell something funny (like the smell of human flesh). One of the natives went around and underneath the trail to investigate. They signalled to us that there was a Japanese sniper near the road. The Corporal sent one of the men around (John Woods from Newcastle). He could hit a sixpence at about 50 yards -no trouble at all; a very quiet bloke. We stayed low and John kept his eye on us. He picked off the Japanese sniper. I used to give him a hard time, I could get away with it. We would have had no hope if we had kept going along the track, the sniper would have killed us.

Also about this time telegrams were arriving telling us that children were being born back home.

Our last battle was at Wewak Point. This was an island with a

high point about 200 yards off the mainland -you could walk out to it at low tide. This was a worry to us as the Japanese had dug tunnels under it and it was hard to get to. We tried skip-bombing by aircraft flying low, dropping the bombs, hoping it would skip along the water and into the cave where they dug in from the sea. (Like you see in the movie *The Dam-busters*.) But that didn't work, so the other way was for our engineers to drill on top of the hill and fill them with explosives. Our explosives group did this and when it blew up, the top of the hill dropped about 8 feet. We didn't know how many were there, but we estimated about 500 men. This was their last stand.

August 1945 - End of the War

The Atom bomb was dropped on Hiroshima on 6 August 1945. Three days later on 9 August, another one was dropped on Nagasaki. Six days after this, on 15 August, Japan announced its surrender and on 2 September they signed the Instrument of Surrender, which officially ended the Pacific War and therefore World War 11.

Our biggest trouble was to convince the Japanese that the war had ended; as they had no communication with Japan. Leaflets were dropped to them in their own language. Finally they started coming out of hiding. We only let 150 a day into the Red Cross Centre at Wewak Point. We knew we could not trust them. Then they would be taken to an island about two miles offshore for their own ships to take them back to Japan. While we were waiting for the Japanese to be picked up, we gave them picks to dig holes. I told one of the guards to be careful, don't turn your back on them. He laughed. Next thing we heard machine gun fire, the guard turned his back and the Jap put the pick through his shoulder. He died four days later. The machine gun fire was for the other 6 digging with him. They shot the lot.

Patrols would go out every day to keep an eye on them. The Red Cross took over later.

November 1945



We were stationed at Wewak, and were waiting to come back home. They brought in professors to counsel us and give us lectures on different things. We used to play cards, go surfing and go fishing with hand grenades. We got back to Australia, Redbank in Brisbane, on 18 December and I was discharged from the Army on 20 December 1945.

Thank you Joyce McGrade for this story. Jimmy Saad and his wife Kerry are friends of Gerry and Joyce McGrade.

A woman rushed into the supermarket to pick up a few items. She headed for the express line where the clerk was talking on the phone with his back turned to her. "Excuse me," she said, "I'm in a hurry. Could you check me out?" The clerk turned, stared at her for a second, looked her up and down, smiled and said, "Not bad."

Grenade Safety



Caption with the above photo on the AWM website
 Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam. September 1970. Warrant Officer Class 2 (WO2) Dave Powell, 40, of Holland Park, Qld (right), makes a radio check just before his unit made a combat assault into enemy territory in northernmost South Vietnam.
 WO2 Powell, of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV), was serving as an advisor with an Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) battalion in Quang Tri Province. He was later wounded when they ran into a Northern Vietnamese battalion which charged down a hill right into the South Vietnamese

Ed. Dave was awarded a DCM for his actions whilst serving with AATTV. He was the RSM at 4 RNSWR when I was Second in Command of the Unit in 1975-78.

Note the grenade near his shoulder on his webbing being held in place by the lever.

An accident at Bien Hoa Air Base in 1965 when soldiers of 1RAR were dismounting from their vehicles led the practice of Australians carrying grenades only in basic pouches to be adopted after that.

From the Sydney Morning Herald.

Three Australian soldiers and an American were killed in a grenade explosion today.

Ten other Australian troops and two Americans were wounded in the blast at Bien Hoa air base. The grenade went off in a crowded truckload of Australian troops as they were returning to camp. It was being carried on the belt of one of the men who died.

The explosion took place as the soldiers were dismounting from the truck beside their bivouac area inside the base



The Memorial Service in Saigon after the accident.

Flogging a dead horse

The tribal wisdom of the Dakota Indians passed on from generation to generation, says that "When you discover that you are riding a dead horse, the best strategy is to dismount. However the Australian government, in these times of inclusiveness and equal opportunity ensure that more advanced strategies are often employed, such as:

1. Buying a stronger whip.
 2. Changing riders.
 3. Appoint a committee to study the horse.
 4. Arrange to visit other countries to see how other cultures ride dead horses.
 5. Lowering the standards so that dead horses can be included.
 6. Reclassifying the dead horse as living-impaired.
 7. Hiring outside contractors to ride the dead horse.
 8. Harnessing several dead horses together to increase speed.
 9. Providing additional funding and/or training to increase the dead horse's performance.
 10. Doing a productivity study to see if a lighter rider would improve the dead horse's performance.
 11. Declaring that as the dead horse does not have to be fed, it is less costly, carries lower overhead and therefore contributes substantially more to the bottom line of the economy than do some other horses.
 12. Rewriting the expected performance requirements for all horses.
- And of course...
13. Promoting the dead horse to a supervisory position.

Australian Army Reserve

The Australian Army Reserve is a collective name given to the reserve units of the Australian Army. Since the Federation of Australia in 1901, the reserve military force has been known by many names, including the Citizens Forces, the Citizen Military Forces, the Militia and, unofficially, the Australian Military Forces. In 1980, however, the current name—Australian Army Reserve—was officially adopted, and it now consists of a number of components based around the level of commitment and training obligation that its members are required to meet.



Overview

For the first half of the 20th century, due to a widespread distrust of permanent military forces in Australia, the reserve military forces were the primary focus of Australian military planning. Following the end of World War II, however, this focus gradually shifted due to the changing strategic environment, and the requirement for a higher readiness force available to support collective security goals. Since then, Australian defence policy has been focused more upon the Regular Army, and there has been considerable debate about the role of the Army Reserve within defence planning circles. As the strategic situation has evolved in the post Cold War era, the organisation, structure, training and role of the Army Reserve has undergone considerable changes, and members of the Army Reserve are increasingly being used on overseas deployments, not only within Regular Army units, but also in units drawn almost entirely from Reserve units.

Despite being the main focus upon which Australian defence planning was based, since Federation Reserve units have primarily been used in the role of home defence and to pro-

vide a mobilisation platform during times of war. During World War I Australia's contribution to the fighting came from forces raised outside the citizen forces that were in existence at the time, and although many citizen soldiers enlisted in these forces, the Citizen Forces units remained in Australia. With the outbreak of World War II a similar situation evolved, with the establishment of an all volunteer expeditionary force, however, with the entry of Japan into the war the threat to Australia became more direct and a number of Militia units were called upon to fight in New Guinea and other areas of the South West Pacific.

Following the end of World War II, however, the decision was made to establish a permanent standing defence force and the role of Reserve forces was reduced to the point where for a while their relevance was called into question. Recently, however, there has been a move to develop a more capable Reserve force, as Australia's overseas military commitments in the Pacific and Middle East have highlighted the importance of the Reserves once more. As such, since the year 2000 units of the Australian Army Reserve have been deployed to East Timor and the Solomon Islands on peacekeeping duties and many more individual Reservists have been used to provide specialist capabilities and to fill in Regular Army formations being sent overseas.

Federation to World War I

Following the Federation of Australia in 1901, the amalgamation of the military forces controlled by the six separate, self-governing British colonies to form a unified force controlled by the Commonwealth was an inevitable, albeit slowly realised, consequence, given that the new Constitution of Australia assigned primary responsibility for defence to the Commonwealth. The official transfer of forces from the states to the Commonwealth occurred on 1 March 1901, and this date is today celebrated as the birthday of the modern Australian Army. At the outset, the bulk of the Commonwealth military force was to be made up of part-time volunteers. This was arguably due to two factors. Firstly, there was a widespread desire amongst Australian policymakers to keep defence expenditure low, while secondly there was a widespread mistrust or suspicion surrounding the idea of a large standing army.

Amidst a background of political manoeuvring and personal agendas, the military forces were eventually reorganised into a more or less unified command structure. As a part of this, state-based mounted units were reformed into light horse regiments, supplemented by the transfer of men from a number of superfluous infantry units,



Members of the militia in Tasmania,
Circa 1913

while the remaining infantry were organised into battalions of the Australian Infantry Regiment and engineers and artillery were organised into field companies and garrison artillery batteries.

The lack of importance placed on military matters in Australian political circles continued for some time, and the size of the Australian military in this time continued to fall.

A review of defence needs was made in 1909 by Field Marshal Lord Kitchener. The result of this review was the realisation of the need to build a credible defence force that could not only defend the nation, but also possibly contribute to the Imperial defence system. The review also validated the compulsory military training scheme that was to be introduced in 1910, which was directly responsible for expanding the Citizen Forces by up to 50 percent in the three years prior to the outbreak of World War I.



A six-inch gun at Fort Nepean in August 1914. This gun fired Australia's first shot of the war when the German merchant ship *SS Pfalz* attempted to escape from Port Philip Bay on 5 August 1914.

During the precautionary stage on 2 August 1914, Citizen Forces units were called up to guard essential points and man coastal forts and harbour defences. The first Australian shots (many sources report the first Allied shots) of both World War I and World War II were fired by the garrison at Fort Nepean.

By June 1918, 9,215 home service troops were on active duty in Australia, alongside 2,476 regular soldiers. From 1915, only skeleton garrisons were maintained at coastal forts, but the personnel manning them were forbidden to enlist in the AIF. This ban was lifted in April 1915 but the presence of a German commerce raider in Australian waters caused a mobilisation from February to April 1916, while another mobilisation occurred in April 1918 for the same reason.[Just before the end of World War I, Australia's home forces were reorganised to perpetuate the numerical identities of the AIF units. This was done renumbering the infantry regiments that had been formed in 1912, and giving them the numbers of the AIF units that had been formed in their regimental areas. A total of 60 AIF infantry battalions had seen active service during the war, but there were more than 60 infantry regiments; as a result, a number of the Citizen Forces regiments were reorganised with multiple battalions, while other units were converted to pioneer regiments.

Post World War 1

Following the end of World War I the units that had been raised as part of the AIF were disbanded, and the focus of Australian defence planning returned once more to the maintenance of the Citizen Forces. To this end, a review of defence requirements in 1920 established the need for Australia to be able to field a force of approximately 270,000 men in the event of a war, of which half of this would be maintained in peacetime through compulsory enlistment, i.e. in essence a form of national service. It was also decided that the CMF would be re-organised along the lines of the AIF, adopting the divisional structure of the AIF units and maintaining their battle honours. The AIF officially ceased to exist on 1 April 1921 and the new organisation of the Citizen



Soldiers of the CMF 56th Battalion in
1937

The scheme proved to have numerous benefits, as many of these youths went on to serve in the First AIF during World War I. It has been estimated that up to 50,000 militiamen subsequently enlisted in the First AIF during the war.

During the precautionary stage on 2 August 1914, Citizen Forces units were called up to

guard essential points and man coastal forts and harbour defences. The first Australian shots (many sources report the first Allied shots) of both World War I and World War II were fired by the garrison at Fort Nepean.

By June 1918, 9,215 home service troops were on active duty in Australia, alongside 2,476 regular soldiers. From 1915, only skeleton garrisons were maintained at coastal forts, but the personnel manning them were forbidden to enlist in the AIF. This ban was lifted in April 1915 but the presence of a German commerce raider in Australian waters caused a mobilisation from February to April 1916, while another mobilisation occurred in April 1918 for the same reason.[Just before the end of World War I, Australia's home forces were reorganised to perpetuate the numerical identities of the AIF units. This was done renumbering the infantry regiments that had been formed in 1912, and giving them the numbers of the AIF units that had been formed in their regimental areas. A total of 60 AIF infantry battalions had seen active service during the war, but there were more than 60 infantry regiments; as a result, a number of the Citizen Forces regiments were reorganised with multiple battalions, while other units were converted to pioneer regiments.

Forces was adopted a month later; this saw the reorganisation of the 88 infantry battalions and five pioneer regiments that had been established under the 1918 scheme, the abolition of infantry regiments

and the re-establishment of the 60 infantry battalions that had existed within the AIF, as well as various other units, such as light horse regiments, as well.

There was little support for compulsory military service amongst the public, however, and combined with the financial pressure that the government felt at that time to reduce defence spending, the 1920 recommendations were not fully implemented. Although the compulsory training scheme was retained, it was decided that it would only be focused on the more populated areas, essentially ending the scheme in rural areas. The result of this was that the course of only a year the strength of the Citizen Forces fell from 127,000 to only 37,000 in 1922. Throughout the 1920s, numbers decreased even further and although the divisional structure was maintained, it was little more than a skeleton force as units found their numbers dropping drastically.

In 1929, following the election of the Scullin Labor government, the compulsory training scheme was abolished and in its place a new system was introduced whereby the CMF would be maintained on a part-time, voluntary basis only. At this time it was also decided to change the name of the force to the Militia, as it was felt that the latter name implied voluntary service (rather than compulsory national service). The force would be based upon the five divisions of the old AIF, although it was decided to limit the overall number of units. This force would also be armed with modern weapons and equipment. That, at least, was the promise, however, in reality this never came to fruition and to a large extent they continued to be trained and equipped with 1914–18 equipment right up to and during World War II. The result of this change in recruitment policy was a huge drop in the size of the Army, as numbers fell by almost 20,000 in one year as there was little prospect for training and as the financial difficulties of the Great Depression began to be felt. As a result, in 1930 the decision was made to disband or amalgamate a number of units and five infantry battalions and two light horse regiments were removed from the order of battle. The following year, nine more infantry battalions were disbanded.

Between 1929 and 1937, the number of soldiers within the Militia who could provide effective service was well below the force's actual on paper strength as many soldiers were unable to attend even a six-day annual camp out of fear of losing their civilian employment. Also it has been estimated that up to 50 per cent of the Militia's other ranks were medically unfit. The numbers situation had become so tenuous that it was rare for a battalion to be able to field even 100 men during an exercise, so units accepted men that would not normally meet the medical requirements, indeed it has been stated that men who were "lame and practically blind" were allowed to join in an effort to improve numbers. To illustrate this, in 1936, the largest battalion—the 30th/51st Battalion—had just 412 personnel of all ranks, while the 11th/16th Battalion, which was the smallest, had only 156 men.

Financially the Militia was neglected also. Despite the upturn in the economic situation in the early 1930s there was little financial respite for the Militia in this time. As the situation continued to improve, however, the defence vote was increased steadily after 1935. Indeed, in 1938 the government decided to double the strength of the Militia as war clouds began to loom on the horizon, and late in the year a recruiting campaign was launched that saw the size of the Militia increase from 35,000 to 43,000 men over the space of three months. This trend continued into 1939 and by midway through the year there were over 80,000 men serving on a part-time voluntary basis. Nevertheless, there was a serious shortage of equipment and as a result, when World War II broke out in September 1939 the Militia was by no means an effective fighting force and the nation as a whole was not as well prepared for war as it had been in 1914.

World War II

Following the outbreak of the war, the Government's immediate response was to announce on 5 September 1939 that it would begin calling up 10,000 militiamen at a time to provide sixteen days continuous service manning guard posts at selected points around the country. This was later expanded on 15 September to include all of the Militia, in two drafts of 40,000 men, for one month's continuous training, however, the suspension on compulsory training introduced in 1929 was not amended until January 1940. On 5 September 1939 it was also announced that a division would be raised for overseas service, but there was still large-scale opposition to the concept of conscription and the provisions of the Defence Act still precluded conscripts from serving outside Australian territory, so it was announced that this force would be raised from volunteers only and would not be raised directly from the Militia. Conscripts, however, were required to serve in the Militia, with the result being that the Militia's ranks were filled with both volunteers and conscripts during this time.

As was the case during World War I, many members of the Militia would go on to serve in the Second AIF. Nevertheless, for a period of time the government attempted to limit the number of militiamen transferring across to the AIF to build defences at home against concerns that Britain might not be able to fulfil its pledge to defend Singapore in the event of an attack there by the Japanese. As such, once again Australia maintained a policy of two armies. For the first two years Australia's involvement in the war was focused in overseas theatres in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, and during this time it was the AIF that was involved in the fighting overseas, while units of the Militia were used in garrison duties in Australia and New Guinea, then an Australian territory. During this time, the Militia units came to be derided by the men of the AIF units, with militiamen sometimes being labelled as "chocolate soldiers" or "koalas".

This changed dramatically, however, following the entry of Japan into the war on 8 December 1941, with the attack on Pearl Harbor and on the British forces in Malaya. Suddenly the war was brought to Australia's doorstep and there was a risk that the Japanese could attempt to invade the Australian mainland. In April 1942, the threat of invasion of Australia seemed very real following the loss of Malaya and Singapore and the subsequent Japanese landings in New Guinea. The bulk of the forces immediately available for the defence of Australia came from the militia, which was at that stage an organisation of some 265,000 men organised into five infantry and two cavalry divisions.

Despite earlier derision, a number of Militia units went on to perform with distinction during the Pacific War, especially in 1942, when they fought Japanese forces in New Guinea. As the situation in the Pacific worsened in July 1942 and the Japanese drove towards Port Moresby, members of the Militia found themselves on the front lines. As reinforcements were brought up from Australia, the Militia units that had been sent to New Guinea as garrison troops earlier in the war were called upon to fight

a stubborn rear-guard action on the Kokoda Trail to delay the Japanese advance long enough for these reinforcements to arrive. At the same time, the Militia battalions of the 7th Brigade played a key role in the Battle of Milne Bay, when Australian and United States



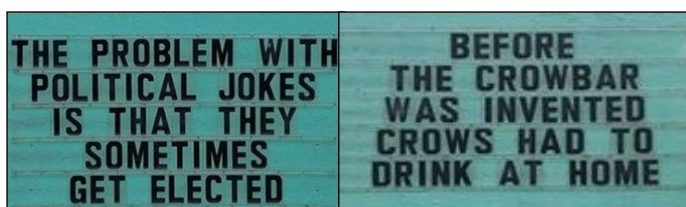
Militia soldiers of the 39th Battalion following their relief at Kokoda in September 1942

forces defeated the Japanese in a large-scale battle for the first time during the war.

After 1940, use of the term "Militia" to describe the part-time military forces waned and by 1942 the term "Citizen Military Forces" (CMF) had become more common. Later in the war, the Defence (Citizen Military Forces) Act 1943, officially referring to the organisation as the CMF, was passed to change the law to allow the transfer of Militia or CMF units to the AIF, if 65 percent or more of their personnel had volunteered for overseas service. Additionally, changes to the Act meant that Militia units were able to serve anywhere south of the Equator in the South West Pacific Area (SWPA), excluding western Java and northern Borneo, and as a result of this, Militia units saw action against Japanese forces in the Dutch East Indies, at Merauke, later in the war. Despite these changes, the AIF remained the Australian Army's main combat force during the war and indeed more than 200,000 members of the Militia transferred to the AIF throughout the course of the conflict. Nevertheless, 32 Militia infantry battalions, later organised into three Militia divisions (3rd, 5th and 11th), saw service over much of the South West Pacific and participated in the following campaigns: Salamaua-Lae, Huon Peninsula, Finisterre Range, New Britain and Bougainville.

Continued next issue.

Wikipedia



HMAS Basilisk

HMAS Basilisk was a Royal Australian Navy (RAN) depot base in Port Moresby, first Commissioned on 1 January 1943.

The initial basis for all Allied forces and strategy in the war with Japan was the American-British-Dutch-Australian Command (ABDACOM), established at the Arcadia Conference in Washington (22 December 1941-14 January 1942). The main objective of ABDACOM and Allied strategy in Southeast Asia was to maintain control of a defensive line that ran down the Malaya Peninsular and the southernmost islands of the Netherlands East Indies (NEI) in order to retain Allied control of the Indian Ocean. In the wake of Japan's rapid victories, the Allies were forced to retreat.

In March 1942, the Pacific theatre became a US strategic responsibility and ABDACOM was replaced by the South-West Pacific Area (SWTA), which encompassed Australia, New Guinea, Papua, the Philippines, the western part of the Solomon Islands and most of the NEL. With Singapore, Malaya, the NEI and the Philippines lost to Japan, the Allies soon sought to establish new strategic bases in the SWTA. Consequently, Port Moresby was chosen as the site for a new RAN establishment that was commissioned as HMAS Basilisk in the wake of the Battle of Milne Bay and Japan's failed amphibious assault on Port-Moresby. Moresby would prove central as a supply and staging area for equipment, stores and personnel essential to supporting the Allied campaign against the Japanese in New Guinea. The name Basilisk was chosen to commemorate HMS Basilisk, the paddle-steamer commanded by Captain John Moresby, RN, when he surveyed and named the harbour Port Moresby in 1873. Commander RBA Hunt, OBE, RAN, was appointed the first Commanding Officer of the new establishment. Having previously completed a hydrographic survey of the northern approaches to Australia and Port Moresby, Hunt had a sound knowledge of the area.

Because of its strategic significance, preparations for harbour defence measures at Port Moresby began before the formal



commissioning of Basilisk. In September 1940, the War Cabinet approved a naval mining policy to provide for defensive minefields in preparation for the possibility of Japan entering the war.

The following month, the coastal cargo ship Bungaree (Commissioned HMAS Bunaree. 9 June 1941) was requisitioned as the RAN's sole mine-layer. In August 1941,

Bungaree began minelaying off Pyramid Point and Bootless Inlet just south of Port Moresby, and off Lolorua Island to the Southwest. The following month, equipment was requested for the laying of submarine indicator loops at Port Moresby.

The loops were not laid until May 1943 - delayed by a lack of available material and questions concerning the practicality of the loops in defending Port Moresby. Eventually the work was undertaken and loops were laid in the entrance to Port Moresby Harbour, known as Basilisk Passage.

Basilisk's first significant undertaking involved providing support to Operation LILLIPUT. Following victory at Milne Bay, the Allies went on the offensive, making preparations for the US and Australian armies to capture the Buna-Gona area. This involved the transportation of troops, weapons and supplies between Milne Bay and Oro Bay. In a series of convoys over December 1942-June 1943, ships were loaded in Australia, before sailing north to Port Moresby, Milne Bay and finally across to Oro Bay. The LILLIPUT ships, as they were known, were almost exclusively made up of merchant vessels from the Dutch shipping company Koninklijke Paketvaart- Maatschappij (KPM). LILLIPUT came with considerable danger and RAN ships - mostly corvettes - shouldered much of the responsibility for convoy escort duties. Even so, the operation was not without losses. In March and April 1943, the KPM ships SS s' Jacob and Van Heemskirk were attacked by Japanese bombers and sunk in Oro Bay. Several other naval and merchant ships were also seriously damaged over the course of Operation LILLIPUT. When the operation concluded, 60,000 tons of supplies and more than 3800 troops had been delivered.

With Basilisk operating as an important staging point in the New Guinea campaign, the establishment saw a flurry of activity providing victualing and refuelling services to the LILLIPUT ships, as well as to the RAN ships providing escort and search and rescue coverage. An indication of the operational tempo of Basilisk during the first three months following its



Commander RBA Hunt, OBE, RAN (centre), pictured with his staff.

commissioning is evidenced by the 150 merchant vessels and 76 Allied warships that made use of its facilities and services. The heavy demand for fuel for troop, cargo and escort vessels was met by the instillation of additional fuel storage facilities, with a capacity of up to 12,000 tons furnace oil, 5000 tons diesel oil and 5000 tons distillate. Two existing slipways were extended, and a naval repair workshop constructed nearby.

As the New Guinea campaign scaled down, so too did the RAN presence in the region. Basilisk was reduced to an undefended base on 24 April 1945 and on 17 December, the base was decommissioned. Basilisk was commissioned for a second time on 14 November 1974. At the time, Port Moresby was among the more idyllic postings available to RAN personnel. Indeed, Jill James - who spent two years in Port Moresby when her husband was posted there - remarked "in what other country could you go swimming 12 months of the year? Yes, the weather is divine...Papua New Guinea has been our best posting and a valued experience for the whole family."

The second commissioning of Basilisk was part of Papua New Guinea's transition to self-governance and eventual independence.

The Papua New Guinea Defence Force (PNGDF) came into being in January 1973 in the lead up to independence in September 1975. As the former colonial administrator, Australia remained directly responsible for matters relating to Papua New Guinea's defence until the latter's independence. After independence, the two nations agreed that Australia would continue to assist, but not bear the entire responsibility for Papua New Guinea's security. The Australian Defence Cooperation Group (ADGF) assisted in this process, with Australian personnel from all three-armed services on loan to the PNGDF. The ADGF provided training and technical support, as well as financial assistance and assets. Basilisk served as the administrative support base for the RAN personnel serving in the ADGF. On 31 January 1983, Basilisk paid off for the final time.

NAVY website

<p>The Good News is I've made it to my Golden Years. The Bad News is... there ain't no gold.</p>	<p>THE ANSWER MAY NOT LIE AT THE BOTTOM OF A BOTTLE OF WINE. BUT YOU SHOULD AT LEAST CHECK.</p>
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A man goes to a female dentist to have a tooth extracted. She pulls out a large syringe to give him an anaesthesia shot.

"No way, no needles! I hate needles!" the man exclaims So she starts to hook up the nitrous oxide tank, and the man says, "I can't do the gas thing either. Just the thought of having a mask on my face suffocates me!"

The dentist then asks the patient if he had any objections to taking a pill.

"No," he says, "I'm fine with pills."

So the lady dentist gives him two little blue pills and he swallows them.

"What are those?" he asks.

"Viagra," she calmly replies.

"I'll be damned," said the man, "I didn't know Viagra works as a pain killer."

"It doesn't," says the wise lady, "But it'll give you something to hold on to when I pull your tooth."



Japanese formal surrender of Bougainville at Torokina, 8th Sep 1945. Lt Gen Kanda, left and Vice Admiral Samejima. Allied names. L-R: Seated; Brigadier AR Garrett (Aust General Staff), Lieutenant General SG Savage (G O C), Brigadier S Legge (Aust General Staff). Standing; Lt J Jenkins (Aust Interpreter), Air Commodore GN Roberts (RNZAF), Group Capt DR Chapman (RAAF), Lt Commander AE Fowler (RAN), Col JP Coursey (United States Marine Corps). RNZAF photo via Air Force Museum of New Zealand

27 December 2023

The Honourable Adrian Schrinner
Lord Mayor of Brisbane
Office of the Lord Mayor
GPO Box 2287
Brisbane Qld 2001

Dear Sir

RENAMING OF BUKULLA STREET NORTH PARK, WACOL

This letter is written in support of an application to rename Bukulla Street North Park to Serbia-Anzac-Allies Remembrance Park.

Members of our organisation support the renaming of the park for a number of reasons including the fact that the Park is located in Wacol, an area which used to house a substantial Military base.

Furthermore, our Organisation has over the years developed a close relationship with the Serbian community and there is a strong acknowledgement by that community of the links to Australia, and particularly the ANZACs in the First World War.

Altering the name of the Park not only changes it from a benign non-descript name to a name which has meaning and is linked to the history of our Nation and that of Serbia, but also it will trigger potential enquiries and discussion by the public in relation to these important historical links.

We would therefore be honoured to support the Application in relation to the change of name.

Yours faithfully

Phillip Ainsworth
President
NGVR & PNGVR Ex-members Association



M: 0418 730 348
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Renaming of Bukulla Street North Park, Wacol

At the last Committee Meeting the Committee responded favourably to a request from the Serbian Church to support the renaming of a nearby park to Serbian-Allies-Remembrance Park.

Over the years the Association has received solid support for the Museum from the nearby Serbian Church, particularly in its formative years. Serbian Church members have attended Association functions and the Association has been active in Church functions.

Serbia fought on the side of the Allies in WW1, a matter which is not well known.

Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia on 28 July 1914, and the victory of the Serbian army at the battle of Cer is considered the first Allied victory in World War I, and the Austro-Hungarian Army's defeat by Serbia has been called one of the great upsets of modern military history.

The letter on the previous page was forwarded to the Lord Mayor of Brisbane on behalf of the Association. The Association was previously successful in its approach to Council for the naming of the nearby bridge to the Frank Holland MBE Memorial Bridge after Frank Holland MBE who was a member of the PNGVR, and the father of John Holland, who served in B Coy, PNGVR, Rabaul, and was the first curator of the NGVR/PNGVR Museum. It is due to his enthusiasm and efforts that the museum is what it is today.

Bill the Bastard

Bill the Bastard was a big, fiery, cranky chestnut gelding famous for his buck... but he was one of Australia's greatest war horses and became a legend, famed for his incredible stamina and for saving many soldiers' lives. An Australian-bred Waler, Bill earned his not-so-illustrious nickname thanks to his incredible bucks, unseating rider after rider.

Used to test new recruits at Liverpool Army Camp in Sydney, Bill had never been fully broken-in because no one could stay on him long enough! He seemed to delight in throwing off his would-be riders and as such, was delegated as a pack horse. Along with 136,000 other Australian horses, Bill left Australia in 1914 to fight in World War I. On the journey to the Middle East, Bill was cared for by none other than Banjo Patterson, one of Australia's best-known poets. Patterson was also a war correspondent and an avid equestrian, and later commanded the Australian Remount Squadron. A line in Patterson's diary from the voyage sums up Bill's character perfectly: 'you can't lead Bill the Bastard to anything and you certainly can't make him drink!'

It was Bill's relationship with Major Michael Shanahan that

gave the fierce chestnut the chance to become the hero he was meant to be. Shanahan was years ahead of his time and a brilliant horseman, forming a strong bond with Bill based on trust, respect and liquorice treats. Despite his far from salubrious reputation, Bill became known for being fearless, standing his ground in an ambush and using his instincts and keen sense of smell to warn his rider if danger lay ahead.

Shanahan and Bill were among the 100,000 horses who fought in the pivotal Battle of Romani, in the 50 degree heat of the desert. With the Turks and Australians just 35 metres apart, the battle was fierce, with the right flank under assault. Amidst the fray, Shanahan spotted four Tasmanian troopers surrounded by Turks, unable to escape after their horses had either fled or been shot. Bill stood his ground and even resisted his natural urge to buck as the soldiers scrambled aboard – three men on his back and one balanced on each stirrup. He galloped through the soft sand and gunfire for over a kilometre to bring them to safety, thus earning Shanahan the Distinguished Service Order.

But it wasn't over – Shanahan and Bill rode back into battle and fought for a total of six hours, until Shanahan passed out after being shot in the leg. Sensing this, Bill carried him three kilometres back to the army base. Any other horse would most likely have collapsed hours earlier – one general went through 17 horses in that same battle!

After his instrumental efforts in the Battle of Romani, Bill's reward was retirement from life as a saddle horse, serving as an officer's packhorse for the remainder of the War. He was seen as a symbol of strength to the troops and carried machine guns in the famous Battle of Beersheba.

Of the 136,000 Australian horses who served in the war, only one returned home, but it wasn't Bill. Reliable packhorse that he was, Bill was taken back to Gallipoli to help bury the dead and retrieve artefacts from the battlefield. Afterwards, Bill and his best friend, a grey mare called Penny, were left with a local family who cared for the graves. Bill died peacefully in 1924 and has his own grave in the Anzac Gardener's Cottages.

There is a Light Horse Memorial in Murrumbarrarah, NSW which commemorates the birthplace of the First Australian Light Horse in 1897 and also features a bronze sculpture of Bill the Bastard carrying five men during the 'Retreat at Romani'. And Bill has forever been immortalised in a book by Roland Perry, aptly entitled 'Bill the Bastard'.

Globetrotting.com.au



'Bill the Bastard' and Major Michael Shanahan – AWM





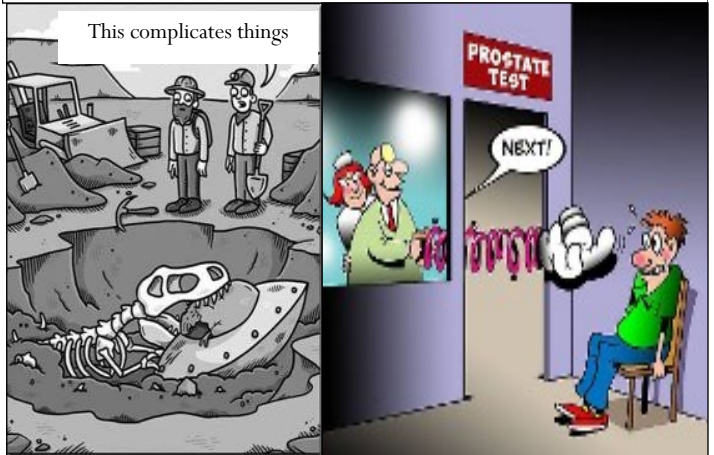
Rabaul 19th September, 1994, when both Tavurvur and Vulcan volcanos erupted. Photo taken from across Simpson Harbour. Source You-tube Rabaul volcano.



BEAUTIFUL weather greeted veterans and members of the public who turned out to mark the 78th Victory in the Pacific (VP) Day at the Rocky Creek Memorial Park on Sunday. VP Day marks Japan's acceptance of the Allied demand for unconditional surrender and, for Australians, the end of World War II. Sunday's ceremony included the unveiling of 15 individual plaques, added to the more than 110 unit and nearly 300 personal plaques in place at the site. Among those who attended VP Day was veteran Stan Carswell MBE. **• MORE PHOTOS PAGE 13**



Previous column. Bulolo-Watut road, 1968. A Bulolo Dept of Forests culvert crew installing a welded 44 gallon drum culvert in a new CNGT road. A narrow ditch was dug to accommodate just the width of the drums which allowed minimal pressure from trucks so they didn't flatten them. Worked well. CNGT had hundreds of 44 gallon drums of glue for the plymill arriving every month and a whole mini industry evolved, cutting the ends out and welding them together for road culverts.



Staying vigilant in the Top End

SOLDIERS attached to JTF639 have been patrolling some of Australia's most inaccessible shorelines for illegal activity as part of Operation Resolute.

As part of the Australian Border Force led mission, Rotation 5, primarily made up of soldiers from Army's North-West Mobile Force (NORFORCE) and Regional Force Surveillance Group, deployed to the Northern Territory's remote Garig Gunak Barlu National Park.

While the area of operations covers about 10 per cent of the world's surface, Rotation 5 focused on areas of the Northern Territory coastline where there has recently been an increase in illegal activity.

Throughout its two-week deployment, the force conducted reconnaissance and surveillance patrols by water, air and land using numerous ADF platforms including F470 Zodiacs and surveillance and reconnaissance vehicles.

Soldiers from 9 Regt also supported the operation by flying reconnaissance missions, employing the Wasp AE small UAS and PD-100 Black Hornet Nano UAV.

OC Rotation 5 Maj Karl Vatzlavik said he felt privileged in his position. "To be able to command these young men and women who put on the uniform, take their rifles and their vehicles out into their backyard to protect country; it's quite special," Maj Vatzlavik said.

"Our area of operation for this rotation is such a crucial area for the security of Australia."

NORFORCE patrolman Pte Bronson Mungatopi said he was proud to be a part of the operation. "It's good to explore country," Pte Mungatopi said.

"To get the opportunity from another Indigenous person, to welcome us, to look out for their country, it makes me proud to be a part of NORFORCE."

Bdr Liam Brew, of 23 Bty, Canberra, enjoyed flying the UAS.

"We've been getting some really good flights, really detailed footage, and have received positive feedback from headquarters," he said. "It's a real-life experience, something completely different that I haven't had a chance to be exposed to throughout my

military career.”

The ADF is committed to providing surveillance and response forces to support whole-of-government efforts to protect Australia’s borders and offshore maritime interests.

Army Newspaper 1548



Surveillance and reconnaissance vehicles patrol the area of operation

The Centenary Medal of the Royal Historical Society of Qld awarded to two of our Museum stalwarts

Jessica Harrington and Paul Brown were recently awarded the above Medal by the President of the Royal Historical Society of Qld, Mr Matthew Rowe.

Jessica has played an active part in the work and promotion of the MacArthur Museum in central Brisbane. She was originally the Education Officer for the MacArthur Museum for 8 years and then a further two years as a Museum Guide.



She has also been a guide at St Stephen’s Cathedral for 12 years and also a Training Manager for the many volunteer guides who take visitors to that Cathedral.

Jessica has also worked at our Association Museum since the time the Museum opened. Her role has been indexing the Museum’s Library and maintaining the Acquisition Register .



Paul has given a lifetime of volunteer service to the promotion and preservation in two separate domains—formerly that of Marine Archaeology at the Queensland Museum and also as the Curator of our own NGVR/PNGVR Museum, which is the only Papua New

Guinea Museum in Australia. As curator Paul hosts many formal visits by schools, Scout groups, Rotary and other groups.

Paul was also a volunteer diver on the *Pandora* site in Torres Strait and assisted in the retrieval of many of its precious artifacts dating from 1792. He also served as the Dive Master for the Maritime Archaeology Assn of Australia’s dive on *HMS Sirius* site off Norfolk Island.

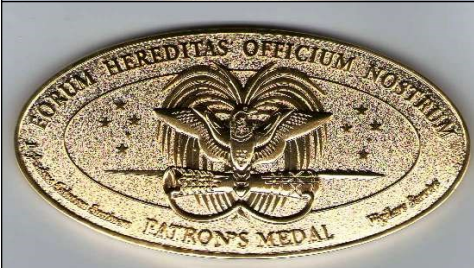
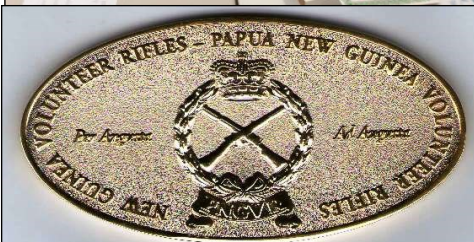
Congratulations to Jessica and Paul on such a prestigious award and the heartfelt thanks of the Association for their efforts on behalf of our Museum.

Patron’s Medal presentation to Craig Ray, Association Honorary Solicitor

At the Association Committee Meeting on 9th Dec 2023, the Association Patron, Maj Gen Professor John Pearn, AO, RFD. Presented the Patron’s Medal to Craig Ray for his service to the Association.



The Patron’s medal was introduced in 2012 on the 70th anniversary of the first operational service (1942) to honour the gallant service of the soldiers of the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles, in New Guinea, in the Second World War, as a tribute to those who have rendered exceptional service to the Association, or promoted its aims in an exceptional way.



In his presentation address Maj Gen Pearn stated that Craig had given exceptional support and advice to the Association on many legal matters in the past years, but particularly recently when he had overseen the matter of the Museum lease from the National Servicemen’s As-

sociation.

Congratulations to Craig who also receives the thanks of Association members for his past efforts and his willingness to assist at all times.

Given the precious artifacts in our Museum it is a comforting thought to know that Craig is there for legal advice.



THERE ARE THREE SIGNS OF OLD AGE. THE FIRST IS MEMORY LOSS. I FORGET THE OTHER TWO.

Special-ops students immerse in language lessons

Two Papua New Guinea Defence Force (PNGDF) soldiers flew in to Sydney to bolster the depth of ADF School of Special Operations (ADFSSO) instructors.

"They will be expected to engage extensively with the locals as part of the training scenario buying food and supplies, accessing services, learning about the area, navigating," Private 'R' said. "The in-country phase is meant to challenge them, but we've been really surprised how quickly the students picked up the basics. Within four or five weeks they were talking to us and holding conversations."



ADFSSO is continuing a trial it started with the PNGDF last year.

Course manager Sgt 'C' said Special Operations Command had been training alongside the LRRU for years, so it was great to have two experienced instructors helping with Tok Pisin and passing on their extensive knowledge of the country and culture. "The two LRRU instructors have such a great depth of military knowledge that they've also been able to help tailor the Defence Force School of Languages syllabus to our needs," Sgt 'C' said. "I think everybody can see the benefits already, so we expect this trial to continue."

The LRRU is also keen for it to become a long-term partnership.

"We're keen to continue to provide instructors on a rotational basis for eight to 16 weeks each year," said Captain 'D', Officer Commanding of the LRRU. "We have a strong and enduring relationship with SOCOMD [Special Operations Command], so we can see the mutual benefits of continuing to enhance that understanding and interoperability."

While Warrant Officer 'R' has travelled to Australia several times in his 24-year PNGDF career, this is the first time for Private 'R'. "I've worked with 1st and 2nd Commando Regiments and SASR in PNG and I've deployed to the Solomon Islands and New Caledonia during my near-14 year career, but this is my first time in Australia," he said. "It's a great experience to see Sydney and all the special operations facilities at Holsworthy Barracks."

The ADF School of Special Operations is part of SOCOMD's 'schoolhouse' training system. *Contact Newsletter 207.*

During a visit to the Museum a generous donation of \$400 plus an offer to assist with future Association gatherings was made by Geoffrey Thwaites in memory of his father. L/Cpl Lindsay Ernest (Guy) Thwaites NG2184 was on duty on the beach at Salamaua on the morning the Japanese landed at Salamaua and withdrew to the NGVR at Wau. Lindsay was nicknamed "Guy" as he was born on Guy Fawkes Day, later became ill and had to be evacuated from Wau to Port Moresby by means of walking out over the Bulldog Track. Thank you Geoffrey.

The Association would like to thank KING & Co Property Consultants for its continuing support, including the printing of this edition, together with the past 85 issues of Harim Tok Tok. Its contribution is much appreciated.

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Chaplain. Rev Ron MacDonald. Phone 0407 008 624 email Cheryl.ron@gmail.com

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FUNCTION DATES

Sat 3 Feb. Sat 2 March.

Museum open. 10am—1pm

Thanks to the enthusiastic group of Museum volunteers there are always new exhibits on display. Even if you have been there before it is always great to visit and see how the exhibits change over time.

Museum volunteers always welcome.

Sat 10 Feb. Sat 13 April.

10am. Executive Committee meeting. Members always welcome. BYO lunch. Come along and enjoy the camaraderie during lunch.