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### 2003 DATE CLAIMER

- FRIDAY 25th APRIL 2003** ANZAC Day march & reception—Brisbane
- SATURDAY 26th APRIL 2003** Regimental Dinner Reunion—Brisbane
- SUNDAY 27th APRIL 2003** R & R (Recovery)

**WHY NOT MAKE IT A SPECIAL LONG WEEKEND IN BRISBANE IN 2003**

New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and Papua New Guinea  
Volunteer Rifles Ex Members Association Inc.  
PO Box 287 Email: pngvr@optusnet.com.au  
EVERTON PARK  
Brisbane Q 4053 Ph/Fax: 07 3311 7480

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### PAPUA NEW GUINEA CONSULATE GENERAL AND VISA SECTION Brisbane

( Consul General—Mr Henry P Koiaie )  
Level 11 320 Adelaide Street Brisbane  
GPO Box 220 Brisbane 4001  
Ph: 3221 7915



# HARIM TOK TOK



NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES  
EX MEMBERS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED.

VOLUME 25

SEPTEMBER 2002

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING—17th August 2002 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTED FOR 2002/3

<b>PRESIDENT:-</b>	Lt Colonel Harry N Green, MBE.ED. (Retd)
<b>SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT:</b>	Tom Lega, MM ( NGVR )
<b>JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT:</b>	John Mudge, MBE
<b>SECRETARY:</b>	Colin Gould, JP (Qual). AFAIM
<b>REASURER:</b>	Bob Collins
<b>HONOURARY SOLICITOR:</b>	Bruce Crawford, OAM
<b>MEMBERS REPRESENTATIVE:</b>	Joe Fisk .... Phone:- 07 3208 5298
<b>MEMBERS REPRESENTATIVE:</b>	Norm Mundy .... Phone:- 07 5424 1492
<b>HISTORIC OFFICER:</b>	John Holland
<b>ASSIST HISTORIC OFFICER/</b>	
<b>PHOTOGRAPHER:</b>	Tom Dowling
<b>PROJECTS OFFICER:</b>	Barry Wright
<b>WELFARE OFFICER:</b>	Vacant

### NEW LIFE MEMBER APPOINTED AT THE 2002 AGM Lt. Colonel Harry N Green, MBE.ED (Retd)

Association mailing address:-	Post Office Box 287, EVERTON PARK QLD 4053
Phone / Fax: (after hours):-	Colin Gould Ph/Fax: 07 3311 7480
	Mobile: 042 111 7092
Association Email:-	pngvr@optusnet.com.au

### THE ASSOCIATION'S CONSTITUTION

For the information of new Members, the **Constitutional** aims of your Association are:-

- To bring together the returned and Ex-Servicemen members of the Association ( NGVR / PNGVR ) as a Returned and Ex-Servicemen's Group or Organisation;
- To promote and encourage through the Association a close relationship with the people of Papua New Guinea;
- To offer scholarships, awards, annual prizes and bursaries to members of the Australian Army and the Papua New Guinea Defence Force;
- To preserve the memory, records and artifacts of those who served in the Second World War theatre of Papua New Guinea and to arrange exhibitions of the same from time to time in Australia and Papua New Guinea;
- To provide plaques and memorials to honour members of the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles who served and died in action or as prisoners of war in Papua New Guinea;
- To affiliate with any other organisation possessing similar aims and objectives upon such terms and conditions as may be formally agreed upon.

## CONSTITUTIONAL CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP

Following amendments to the Constitution passed at the 2002 AGM, there are now five classifications of Membership:-

1. **Full Ordinary Members:-** Former serving members of the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles or Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles.
2. **Associate Members:-** Being the direct family members of former serving members of the NGVR or PNGVR ( Wives, widows and children ).
3. **Life Members:-** All former members of the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and those Ordinary Members of the Association appointed to 'Life Member' status at the AGM.
4. **Honorary Members:-** For external persons who by their "Office" or exceptional service and support of the Association are offered Honorary membership.
5. **Friends of the Association:-** For external people interested in the activities of the Association or relatives and friends of existing members.

Fees:- (Due July each year) Nomination Fees (once only) \$ 25-00

- \* Ordinary Members:- \$20 pa
- \* Associate Members:- \$ 10 pa
- Life Members:- No fees
- Honorary Members:- No fees
- \* Friends of the Association:- \$ 10 pa

( \* Once only Nomination fee of \$25 applies when joining )



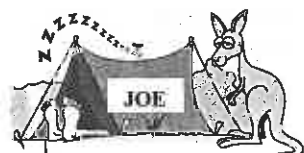
# ANNOUNCEMENT

**SATURDAY 5TH OCTOBER:-** FREE Social 'Sausage Sizzle' for Members & their families

Barry & Pam Wright invite you to a relaxing social day out on their property at 176 Kurrajong Road, Jimboomba. BYO drinks and picnic chairs and gear and Barry will cook up a great sausage sizzle for one and all around high noon. You are welcome to arrive from 10.00am and overnight campers are welcome. BUT, Barry and Pam would appreciate your RSVP on phone (07) 5546 9865 by Monday 30th September, please.

**SATURDAY 23RD NOVEMBER:-** Christmas in the Field Dinner Party for Members & Guests

If you haven't experienced and enjoyed one of our bush dining nights then don't miss this final opportunity for 2002. RSVP to Barry by the 8 November—phone (07) 5546 9865— and come out to 176 Kurrajong Road, Jimboomba and be ready to have a great pre-Christmas weekend. Overnight campers welcome. Ring Barry now for details and bookings. \$30 per person includes dinner.



## SNIPPETS FROM THE PNG 'POST-COURIER'

September 2002

It would cost the National Gov about K500 million to repair the Highlands Highway. This is due to the fact that the highway would need to be redone. The highway needed to be dug up and worked on again to upgrade its entire 600 km length from Lae to Mendi and Wabag. The Highway has gone beyond 'maintenance' we're now talking about major upgrading.

China yesterday affirmed further its friendship with PNG by committing K4 million in cash grants to support the 2003 Budget. It will follow this up with another agreement in December to give K 9.6 million in much needed and mutually agreed projects. Mr Philemon said that this was the second time the People's Republic of China had come to the assistance of the PNG Government by being the first International Friend to support the budget process following assistance of K10 million in 1999.

Up to 600 discharged soldiers will be forcefully evicted from Murray Barracks homes starting on Thursday 26 September. Those with valid reasons will be spared Murray Barracks CO Lt. Colonel Roger Kipo said yesterday. Between 500 to 600 discharged soldiers were still living in institutional houses whilst more than 1000 soldiers were living outside in settlements or crowding into single barracks. The major clean out will include a barracks curfew from 10.00pm until dawn. Lt Colonel Kipo said soldiers who were discharged and retrenched have continued to live in barracks despite notice to vacate some three months ago. "Those who have been paid their entitlements must go" he said. He wanted the Barracks to look like a military institution and the Head Quarters of a disciplined force and not "another run down organisation."

Priority will be given to improving housing for policemen and women around the country. New Police Commissioner Sam Inguba and Internal Security Minister Yawa Silupa made the commitment at the hand over ceremony for the new Police Commissioner on Friday. A parade was held at Bomama Police College which saw Mr Inguba takeover from Joseph Kupo as Police Commissioner.

A new security tax of an unspecified amount is to be imposed by Civil Aviation next year at all PNG domestic and international airports. OCA Director Miria Ume that the user paid tax will be for off-setting the cost of providing security at our airports. The security tax will be in addition to the K30 terminal facility charge paid at present by departing international passengers at Jacksons International Airport. The additional security tax can be paid to the current authorised departure tax collector, Moresby based business house, Chin Hoi Ming & Sons, or as an additional cost of an airline ticket.

The Government needs to find K 470 million to extinguish past foreign debts and the remainder of this year's budget deficit. Treasury Secretary Koiari Tarata said the Government will seek assistance from overseas development partners, including the World Bank to help with debt servicing. He said for the Government to seek assistance from donor agencies "the effectiveness of the public service in delivering goods and services would have to be lifted." He blamed the budget deficit of K362 million for 2002 on a drop of K142 million in revenue and grants as well as excessive spending. A deficit of K112.8 million would be carried over to 2003 budget.

The Finance Department will place Financial Controllers in all major Departments and Government Agencies. These controllers will monitor all financial transactions and report monthly to the Secretaries for Finance and Treasury. Part of their duties will include ensuring that proper financial records are kept and ensuring that appropriate Supply and Tender Board approvals are obtained and that no cheques are raised manually and that payments are paid to the rightful payees. They will also recommend disciplinary action against any officer responsible for irregular or fraudulent transactions and misappropriation of funds.

**Continuation of Reflections**  
**Ford Hood, Texas Visit**  
 By Joe Fisk

Following the arrival of the Queensland Blue Heeler and the Cavalry charge and various cavalry drills which have been carried out down through history since the 5th Cavalry Regiment was formed in 1855, we now moved onto other activities during our visit.

As previously stated we visited the 5th Cav. Division Museum, but I forgot to mention about the 1st Cav. Division display on the Admiralty Islands, including the 5th Cav. involvement with NGVR and ANGAU at Los Negros where the US Distinguished Unit Citation—later classified in 1966 as the Presidential Unit Citation, was awarded to the 5 Cav. and associated Units for conspicuous and outstanding service during that campaign.

In the Museum there is a graphic description and layout of the Los Negros campaign which we videoed during our visit. Outside the Museum there are various of armour and guns dating from WW 2 to the Gulf War used by both sides.

We were then invited by the CO of the 5th Cav. for breakfast where the layout was set out in a field kitchen fashion with mess marquees which seemed to be stocked with everything imaginable for breakfast. This type of breakfast is arranged whenever a reunion is held at Fort Hood, hoping that this will bring back many memories for the older veterans of days when they were young. It reminded us four of similar memories.

During breakfast we met many of the 5th Cav. members. The CO and RSMs of the 1st and 2nd Battalions sat with us and chatted about their Regiments, as we did about our Association. We also had the pleasure of meeting a *Medal of Honour* winner, Charles Hagemester, who served with the 2/5th Cav. Regiment in Vietnam as a Medic.

There was also a display of various Infantry weapons currently in use. The US soldiers were eager to assist with hands on explanations of their characteristics. We then moved into the barracks and talked to soldiers who showed us their room layout and amenities before proceeding to the good stuff—the big Hardware.

We saw the latest M2, A2, Bradley Mk 2 armoured fighting vehicles which were then state of the art. We were told that these would be replaced in a few weeks with a later version. As a matter of interest the Australian Army is still trailing the Bradley Mk 1.

The 2nd Cav. Museum was our next stop where we viewed a film on the history of the 5th Cav. This was followed by a talk by the CO on the future of the

Regiment. Their Museum was quite impressive with memorabilia dating back before the Civil War. We also visited the 1st/5th Cav. Museum where we found the Distinguished Unit Citation for the Los Negros Campaign. The CO gave us a copy and we also arranged for a framed copy and a disk copy same, which was presented to our Association during the 5th Cav Reunion Dinner during our visit.

We were then taken to the 1st Cav. Division display 10 miles down the road, in an escorted convoy with each of us occupying a different vehicle. At this display there was heavy armour, various artillery pieces including various helicopters. Once again this equipment was second to none. I feel that most items would certainly be on the Aussie soldier's Christmas 'Wish List'.

We lunched with WW 2 veterans, a lot of whom served on Los Negros alongside ANGAU. They were all pleased to see our Aussie slouch hats and th made us most welcome.

After lunch we went to view the Retreat Ceremony at Cooper's Field at Fort Hood, by the 1st Cav. Division. It was a typical hot Texas afternoon, so much so that ice water was distributed by soldiers throughout the crowd. Many felt the full heat of the sun as they had not bought any head gear. We stood out like sore thumbs with our slouch hats, and favourable remarks were heard about our head dress.

The Retreat started with various Regiments with Colours marching in from both sides. In the centre was the 1st Cav. Division Colour Detachment with the historic Horse Detachment at the rear. Their Colour Party consisted of the US Flag & Regimental Flag with Battle Streamers which indicate which Battle Honours they have received. The Streamer hang from a spike from the top of the Regimental Flag. ( NB: On ANZAC Day in Brisbane, our Regimental Flag has the Battle Streamer 'Los Negros' hanging from the top of the flag.)

As previously mentioned, it was a very hot afternoon and even though the Ceremony lasted almost 2 hours I did not see one soldier fall down which is a credit to the discipline of this Division. Their Retreat Ceremony is very similar to ours in context.

Just before the completion of the Parade, the Divisional General, Major-General McKinnon, presented a special Medal to all those surviving 1st Cav. Members who served in Korea. It was the 50th Anniversary since the end of that conflict.

The hospitality shown to us was excellent and we learnt a lot about the 5th Cav Regiment which was involved in the Los Negros campaign in PNG.  
 Joe Fisk

**PRESIDENTS UPDATE.....**

Congratulations to Sir Michael Somare on his election as Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea.

Sir Michael was Chief Minister 1973 to 1975; Prime Minister 1975 to 1977; Prime Minister 1977 to 1980 and Prime Minister 1982 to 1985. He is the Leader of the National Alliance Party.

The new Cabinet consists of:-

Prime Minister:	Sir Michael Somare
Deputy PM:-	Dr Allan Marat
Ministers	
Welfare & Social Development:	Lady Carol Kidu
Finance & Treasury:	Bart Philemon
Public Service:	Puka Temu
National Planning & Monitoring	Sinai Brown
Forestry:	Patrick Pruaitch
Inter-Government Relations:	Sir Peter Barter
Foreign Affairs & Immigration:	Sir Rabbie Namaliu
Education:	Michael Laimo
Transport & Civil Aviation:	Don Polye
Environment & Conservation:	Sasa Zibe
Internal Security:	Yawa Silupa
Science & Technology:	Alphonse Willie
Justice:	Mark Maipakai
Lands & Physical Planning:	Robert Kopaol
Fisheries:	Andrew Baing
Culture & Tourism:	Alois King
Labour & Industrial Relations:	Peter O'Neill
Correctional Services:	Peter Oresi
Agriculture & Livestock:	Moses Maladina
Works:	Gabriel Kapris
Communications & Information:	Ben Semri
Defence:	Yarka Kappa
Health:	Melchior Pep
Petroleum & Energy:	Sir Moi Avei
Mining:	Sam Akoitai
Housing:	Yuntuvi Bao.

We wish Sir Michael and his team every success for the tasks that lay ahead in developing Papua New Guinea into a strong and prosperous Nation.

At our recent Annual General Meeting, long term resident and businessman of PNG, John Mudge, MBE was elected to the position of Junior Vice-President. Congratulations and welcome to the Committee John.

I would like to sincerely thank Tony Milan, our past Junior Vice-President for his service to the Committee. Tony has now taken up residence in Victoria.

I continue to be amazed by two aspects of our Association. Firstly, that we continually seem to be



growing in numbers with new NGVR and PNGVR members coming on board almost every month. Some of our newer members include Sir Peter Barter, Kt. OBE., John Hobbins, Lt.Colonel Alf Scales, Ray Dalton, John McGrath, Lloyd Hassell Robert Davies, Sophia Leong, and Roger Halliday.

Secondly I must commend our membership for their dedication to our Association. Our reputation, organisation and presentation on

ANZAC Day and other formal Association functions has been widely acknowledged. Thank you one and all for your support.

2001/2002 has been a busy year for the Association's Executive as we keep working through some long outstanding issues such as having our members PNG Awards included on their Australian Army service records and the sourcing of Bird of Paradise feathers for our NGVR members to wear in their slouch hats on ANZAC Day. We are also looking into the awarding of the ASM 1945-1975 with PNG Clasp to former PNG Nationals who served in the PNGVR, and thus the Australian Army under the Australian flag in pre-Independence PNG.

This latter project seems to have become bogged down in red tape 'down south', even though we offered to do most of the work. Beginning some 3 years ago, Canberra often keeps referring to 'PIR' instead of PNGVR.

It is apparent that each time this Association raises issues with the Department concerned, the same stereo type answers are forth coming.

It was suggested some time ago that the Association looks into the possibility of having its Regimental Colours moved out of storage in the Australian War Memorial and relocated to Queensland for display and use on ANZAC Day.

Our initial request was refused by the AWM however, when we pointed out that Regimental Colours are the property of the former members of the (disbanded) Regiment, the AWM advised that our Colours can be relocated to Brisbane.

This topic was debated at the 2002 AGM and there are several vital issues involved such as security in a Brisbane venue, deterioration if not stored correctly. Some members would like to see our Colours on display and used in Brisbane, whilst others feel they should remain in protective and safe storage in Canberra. Whilst there are "for" and "against" issues, the final decision rests with former members of the Regiment.



Once the Committee has looked into Military and legal protocols that may relate to a disbanded Regiment's Colours, details will be forwarded onto members.

As reported in our last newsletter, our Honourary Solicitor Bruce Crawford, Secretary Col Gould and myself traveled to PNG to follow up on a number of Association issues. I mentioned earlier the issue of the ASM with PNG Clasp for PNG Nationals who served in PNGVR. We had been under the impression from Canberra that our initial submission ( a few years ago) was "being actioned" by the Federal authorities with Port Moresby.

Whilst in Port Moresby, we established that neither the Australian High Commissioner or the Commander of the PNG Defence Force had any knowledge or correspondence relating to this issue or any other issue re NGVR / PNGVR as stated by Canberra.

Somewhere down south, our submission appears to be in the 'too hard basket'. I can assure members that we will keep pursuing the obvious lack of action on the part of Canberra.

In order to have our PNG awards ( 1975 Independence Medal; 1985 10th Independence Medal and the 2000 Silver Jubilee Independence Medal ) recognised by the Australian Government, it is necessary for the PNG Prime Minister to formally write to the Australian Prime Minister with the appropriate request. We are confident that this aspect of our trip will be followed up.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of Bruce Crawford, who has been like a dog with a bone, we are in the final stages of securing Bird of Paradise feathers for our NGVR members on ANZAC Day. Being on the ground in Port Moresby, 2 years of effort paid off in only two days. Good on you Bruce.

After extensive discussions with Officers from Honours and Awards and Prime Ministers Dept the situation with PNG Awards was clarified.

We must remember that PNGVR was disbanded almost 30 years ago. Awards now bestowed by the Independent State of Papua New Guinea are in recognition of exceptional voluntary and community service to Papua New Guinea, its Government and Citizens, and such awards are made with an emphasis on continuity of such service.

I would like to thank Neal Lega, Air Niugini, John Mudge, MBE., Police Commissioner Sam Inguba, QPM, Assistant Police Commissioner Geoffrey Vaki, MBE, Inspector Andy Anderson and Sir Peter Barter,

Kt. OBE,MP. who made our trip and its outcomes possible. I would also like to thank PNG Defence Force Commander Commodore Peter Ilau, MBE., Australian High Commissioner Nick Warner, Ms Joan Vanariu and staff of the Prime Ministers Department and Colonel Arni, MBE., Director of National Events (who also hosted our official attendance at PNG's Remembrance Day in Port Moresby ) for the opportunity to meet with them whilst we were in Port Moresby.

During August and September I attended two Kokoda Track Remembrance functions in SE Queensland on behalf of the Association. I was also invited to attend the RSL Congress which was an exceptional occasion partially due to the attendance of Prime Minister John Howard, Federal Ministers, the Leader of the Opposition and the State & Federal RSL Presidents at Brisbane City Hall.

Our Junior Vice-President, John Mudge, MBE., as President of the Port Moresby RSL, was also personally invited by the RSL National President, Major-General Peters to attend the official opening of the Memorial at Isurava on the Kokoda Track ( see photo this newsletter). John was also a guest speaker at the RSL Congress Dinner in Brisbane.

Subsequently, John Mudge and I were able to have a discussion with the Hon. Danna Vale, MP, Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister assisting the Minister for Defence. John Mudge said I was too explicit in my discussions but after three years of little progress with the former Ministry, I could not forgo such an opportunity.

Minister Vale, in our presence, instructed her Advisor, Peter Hulsing to quickly deal with our Association's issues. Mr Hulsing spoke with me at length from Canberra the very next business day. I could not fully brief Peter without any file references or their availability to him from the former Ministry. He must await proof of our claim(s). The Committee has agreed for a delegation of two to meet with our Life Member, Peter Grimshaw, OBE., OAM. in Canberra to resolve all issues with the Government.

On Thursday 12th September, Members of the Committee were invited to attend the PNG Consul General's Independence function in Brisbane. During the course of the evening, Consul General, Mr Henry P Koiaie presented the Silver Jubilee medal to Association Committee members.

This is a limited edition Medal, and its award to the Committee was sponsored by the Consul General. We were honoured and proud to be considered for such recognition.

- 81 mm mortar...effective against troops in the open around 4000 m.
- 75mm gun Howitzers...short recoil model 29, range to 13,200 m. Barrels grooved to improve indirect fire ballistics. The firing opening protected by 2 ton concrete visors.

As you can see, the Maginot Line was an artillery / infantry complex. Each fortress was staffed by a fortress artillery Regiment and a fortress infantry Regiment, in total about 600 men per fortress.

The soldiers daily routine consisted of day and night patrols into no man's land. Tasks within the fortress consisted of kitchen duties, latrine duties and maintenance. The desire not to waste money usually meant that the turrets were hand operated and the latrine fans kept off, and the gravity toilet refuse which collected outside the anti personnel pits was only pumped away occasionally—hence the troops opting for going into the woods.

Food was acceptable, beef and beans, pasta, rice etc. Soup trays delivered the meals to the fort areas and soldiers ate in the tunnels where fold down tables were attached to the walls.

Each morning a strong Caribbean rum diluted with 50% sugar water was served with breakfast and an army red wine served with other meals. Sometimes draught beer was served. Sunday Mass was celebrated.

Jes Hansford.



# Air Niugini

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THE NGVR / PNGVR EX MEMBERS ASSOCIATION PROUDLY SUPPORTS  
 THE NATIONAL AIRLINE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

French border, and there were no serious obstacles to stop a modern mechanised army, so the Maginot Line was to be used as a serious obstacle in that advance should it occur.

Visits commence at 1430 hours until 1630 hours. From that time groups of 50—in language groups—are permitted at 10 minute intervals, each person paying FF30, and having a 5 minute brief on the fort and the Maginot Line.

The Forts were constructed of reinforced concrete in the main entries, gun and observation positions. Most of the maintenance areas were constructed of brick or block, the roof being arched over. All the work being carried out in open excavation and backfilled on completion or by tunneling. A meter a day completed was the average. Cabling and piping is surface mounted, particular care being given to air purification, but it seems the sanitation was less than adequate, in some cases soldiers had to go outside into the bushes for latrines.

As the plant is not operating and electricity is fed in from the national grid, the underground temperature is 10– 12 degrees C, but as for being damp and dimly lit, that is a thing of the past. Well painted and lit but still using 1930's cabling in most cases, the spectacle is inspiring.

Walking in one notices machine gun posts each side covering the anti-personnel pits. Inside the steel shutters which weight 4 tons, the brief is given and the tour begins.

A 100 meter walk and then we move into a 5 ton ammunition lift to descend 30 meters to the main station. Waiting for us is the tram on a 600mm gauge track. These trams carried the ammunition and personnel to the various underground areas.—munitions, storage, guns, mortars, control rooms, hospital, kitchen and barracks where 600 soldiers were quartered to maintain the systems.

Powered by electricity, three trams were used—two on duty and one on standby/maintenance. Trolley wires were suspended from the arched ceiling. Re-supply of artillery ammunition was estimated as 240 tons per day but these trams could only handle 80 tons a night. The magazines held approximately 34,500 rounds of artillery ammunition and over 200,000 rounds per MG turret.

Water and diesel fuel were stored in huge underground tanks, as was the generator motors cooling water.

Once onboard the tram we set off at a cracking pace, noisily rattling along the 3 km to the gun positions where we disembarked. The tram then returns to pick up the next group.

The guide then takes us to a twin 135mm mortar mounting still neatly painted. The circular mounting is strange but as the guide begins his talk, it all becomes clear. As the observer calls for fire, the transmitting station or plotting room sends the relevant data by phone/tannoy to the guns. Around the perimeter of the 4-5 m diameter turret is a bronze ring with degrees and minutes etched. An electric motor turns the turret as required and the layer hand cranks it for final accuracy. Similarly he lays the elevation.

Two soldiers on the footboards at the breeches take the rounds from the hoist after they have been automatically fuse set and load the guns. On the command 'FIRE' the turret is raised 900mm so the barrels clear the outside perimeter—they fire—and the turret retracts. Without a clang or jolt another load was up—load—fire and down, all laid for line and elevation under the ground. We all just stood and stared—our guide showed us 5 or 6 times—amazing.

Next we climbed the stairs to the outside and I saw the tricolour I had walked around that morning. All the other defensive positions became clear and they could support each other and could lay fire down over each other. Below us the next group had arrived and the turret suddenly pops up and down 6 or 7 times turning around and retracting without a sound. The turrets weigh 280 tons and are counter balanced and all operated by electricity.

Other turrets contained twin machine guns, or twin 81mm mortars or twin 75mm guns. Then there are the casements containing 11 MG's , light and heavy, and two 55mm grenade launchers and a 37mm anti-tank gun. The artillery casements were positioned to fire at the general direction the enemy were expected to take. The rotating mortar turrets giving overall covering fire in case the enemy cheated.

The casements had a 60mm mortar cupola on top as well, but were generally armed with three 75mm howitzers& four light MG's for local defence.

Weapon characteristics were:-

- 135mm mortar....indirect fire to 4400 m with 17 or 19 kg projectiles—manufactured in 1924/5



John Mudge, MBE was earlier presented with his award in Port Moresby and Denis Samin, OBE was also a recipient in PNG.

To all members and their families, I wish you all

good health and prosperity, and thank you for your support our Association.

Harry N Green  
PRESIDENT.

### PNG NATIONAL ANTHEM

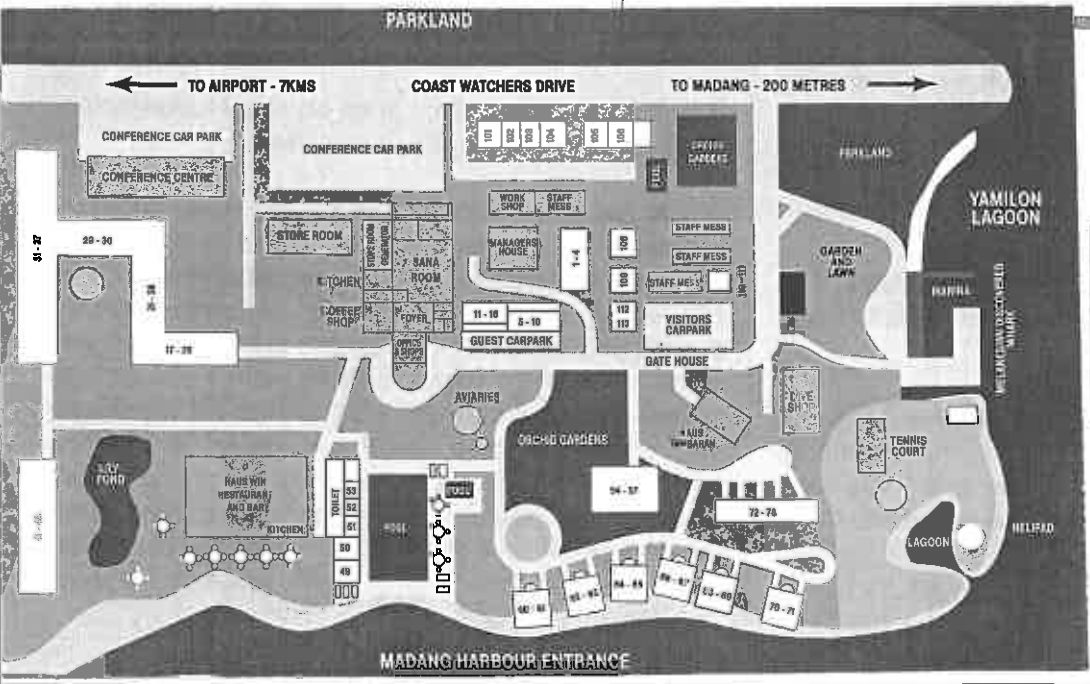
1. O ARISE ALL YOU SONS OF THIS LAND  
LET US SING OF OUR JOY TO BE FREE  
PRAISING GOD AND REJOICING TO BE  
PAPUA NEW GUINEA
- Chorus:-  
SHOUT OUR NAME FROM THE MOUNTAIN TO SEA  
PAPUA NEW GUINEA  
LET US RAISE OUR VOICES AND PROCLAIM  
PAPUA NEW GUINEA
2. NOW GIVE THANKS TO THE GOOD LORD ABOVE  
FOR HIS KINDNESS, HIS WISDOM AND LOVE,  
FOR THIS LAND OF OUR FATHERS SO FREE  
PAPUA NEW GUINEA
- Chorus:-  
SHOUT OUR NAME FROM THE MOUNTAIN TO SEA  
PAPUA NEW GUINEA  
LET US RAISE OUR VOICES AND PROCLAIM  
PAPUA NEW GUINEA



The **MADANG RESORT** offers more than 100 suites in three categories of accommodation ranging from standard rooms, deluxe, executive, villas and presidential suites. All have private balconies and bathrooms, split air conditioning, ISD telephones, satellite TV, radio, refrigerator and mini bars to ensure a pleasant and comfortable stay. There are also one, two, and three bedroom apartments available. Dine in the **HAUS WIN** restaurant, the *Janek Aben* restaurant or the *Rakuen Japanese* restaurant.

MADANG RESORT also offers first class Convention facilities as well as local tours, sporting and diving expeditions.

**MADANG—TOTALLY UNEXPECTED**



#### **Madang**

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Papua New Guinea



# NGVR HISTORY

**NEVILLE SWANSON - Sgt—NGVR continues his service history.** Continued from Newsletter volume 23. © Copyright.

After the Marines left Cape Gloucester I spent a week or so on Manus Island in transit onto my posting to Bougainville. My first task was not such a pleasant one on Torakina.

My task on Torakina was to supervise the exhumation of approximately 2,000 US bodies on the island for reburial elsewhere. This was a very distressing job for, as you would expect, the bodies were in a dreadful state. Some had been blown apart, other were only parts of bodies etc, and some were only recently killed in action.

I supervised about 20 natives in this task. We had to dig up the bodies and put them into white mattress cases like shrouds. The natives tied herbs under their noses because of the smell. This whole operation was closely supervised by US Military Police.

After Torikina I went to the Solomons to supervise the exhumation of 25 New Zealand troops. These were also taken away for burial in the Lae War Cemetery. There was a bit of trouble over this, as, after the task was completed, I was carpentered by the then Head of New Zealand Forces who told me I had no right to be involved in exhuming New Zealand bodies. However those had been my orders and it was too late by now to do anything about it.

After the two above unpleasant tasks had been carried out I was then posted to assist the Australian Forces on Bougainville. We had to take supplies out to the Australian outposts and bring back any wounded by use of native stretcher bearers. We usually had an armed escort of about 8 or so Australian troops for protection as we went forward right to the front line.

There were no souvenirs to be obtained here. The Aussies would pick everything clean before I had a chance to get anything.

At one stage just as the war finished I came across an Australian outpost late in the afternoon. I had 20 natives with me and was told "We can't have you stay here tonight—you will disrupt our defence perimeter". When I replied "Where can we go?" I was told "You will just have to go up onto one of the ridges and dig in for the night."

As we had no option, up I went, put up a double trip wire with grenade booby traps on the wire and dug in. Further down the track I also put in another double grenade booby trap. I couldn't convince the natives to "dig in" though. They spent the night sleeping on top of the ground.

This was the camp in which a young soldier, only about 18 years old, leant his Owen gun against a tree while reading a comic. The Owen gun slipped and fired, almost ripping him apart and killing him instantly.

It was here that I sometimes cooked spaghetti for the Australian troops. At first they refused to eat what they called that "dago food", but I said "Well I'm cooking it for us anyway".

We had tinned meat, bacon, butter etc and dehydrated onions and carrots. As I only had flour I had to roll out the mixture into rolls and cut it into spaghetti strips. We had no tomato paste so I used tomato sauce.

It was a good brew and the troops said "Well that's not too bad Swanno" so I knew at that stage they had been won over. After that every so often they would ask me to make up some spaghetti.

This led to one tragedy. One day I was due to go out on patrol to take some supplies and ammo when Blue Doran (original NGVR but then with ANGAU) asked me to stay in camp and make spaghetti for dinner that evening, offering, in return, to do the patrol for me. Unfortunately Blue didn't return. He had dived into a creek and broke his neck. He wasn't under fire, just going for a swim.

When the war ended I was on the Numa-Numa Trail with a Company of Australians.

About this time I was involved in the repatriation of natives to their home villages. There were literally thousands of natives awaiting repatriation. On one trip with a barge that had been converted by the simple addition of a bow welded onto the front, we were travelling across the water when a submarine surfaced close by. It had no markings we could decipher and we were extremely concerned it may have been Japanese and not obeying the terms of surrender. Anyway after looking us over it submerged and we continued on our way. To this day I don't know if it was Japanese or American.

*'The Owen gun slipped, fired, killing him Instantly'*

Now back to the VIP enclosure.

Prior to the ceremony there was an announcement made that any ex-servicemen present were invited to come forward and sit in the VIP enclosure. Well you have never heard such applause as, one by one, veterans walked up to sit in the enclosure. The crowd clapped, cheered and whistled—quite an experience.

As with the Dawn Ceremony at ANZAC Cove the ceremony was not spectacular—more than anything it was the atmosphere, and the crowd was just out to enjoy themselves.

After the ceremony the number of young people that came up to our group (There were three Veterans in our group) and talked, asked questions about medals etc and also requested that they have photos taken with us.

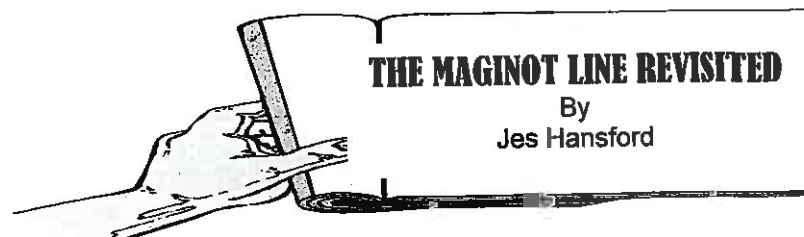
**REFLECTIONS:-** More and more younger Australians and New Zealanders are spending ANZAC Day there and this is great to see. As I said before there were some 15,000 people there this year, and each year the number grows.

It really is an experience to be part of this crowd.. I do not believe that the speakers themselves are what makes the day, and yet, without doubt, there are good speakers—last year Australia's Prime Minister and this year our Governor General.

Rather it is the atmosphere—to be on the beach at ANZAC Cove at dawn where our young soldiers landed and died and when the bugler plays the "Last Post" it is a real moving experience.

Also to be part of a 10,000 plus crowd at Lone Pine, which was really the most forward part of the Peninsula our soldiers occupied in force, with the day so perfect and the crowd out to enjoy themselves was also something I will never forget. I would say without hesitation that the atmosphere at Lone Pine was so heavy with emotion and pride that it made you very proud to be an Australian.

(Thanks to Bob Collins for sharing his thoughts and experiences at Gallipoli in 2002.)



Seeing photographs of movies of soldiers living and operating in the dark dank depths and riding on narrow gauge trains in dimly lit tunnels in France before the 2nd World War when I was a boy and listening to the tales of how this magnificent line of fortifications, all linked together under the ground from Belgium to Switzerland, a distance of 800 km intrigued me with a desire to see this. Researching for some two years, I set off on a six week tour of the European battlefields in April 2001. More of that tour later.

Driving south from Malmedy on the 31 May to Bastogne and Luxemburg I crossed the French border on the N18 and arrived at Longwy, observing along this, national road signs depicting 'OUVRAGE DE FERMONT—LIGNE MAGINOT' (Fort Fermont—Maginot Line) Further to Longuyon and the road narrows and begins winding with small hamlets until a French flag is seen fluttering in the chill morning breeze, atop a steel observation turret that I had become accustomed to seeing all over France. These turrets weight some 60 tons each.

Having walked up to the turret I noticed that surrounding the hilltop were more turrets/cupolas and large mushroom shaped steel domes flush in the ground in concrete and steel frames, covering a kilometer square and surrounded by bomb and shell craters. Most of these turrets and round tops had direct hit damage.

Over the side of the hill, which had been recently mown, were concrete walkways, steel doors (locked) machine gun ports and obvious sign of occupancy but no way in.

Two or three kilometers down the road, a car park and signs at last. These forts and now operated by Associations formed to keep these interesting fortifications open to the public.

They have continued the rebuilding process after the French Government stopped doing this in 1970 when France withdrew from NATO. The Allies had requested France to rebuild the line after the war and the US provided the money, as the Warsaw Pact armies were less than 350 km from the

There has been a lot of preparation for the ceremony. The Turkish Government has given the Australian and New Zealand Governments a special area for the Service, If you can imagine the beach, only small, perhaps 10 meters at most. Then a concrete area with a wall at the back and flagpoles. From the road a concrete path for VIPs to enter and leave the ceremony area.

There was a contingent of NZ SAS there in case of problems ( and I can tell you they were led by a Maori WO1 who just exuded ' I know what I am doing and don't mess with me' look)

The Australian Reps were the Governor General and the Dep. Prime Minister and the NZ Rep was a Cabinet Minister ( A Maori also). There were some 25/30 VIPs from a variety of nations most of whom had soldiers fight at Gallipoli. There was an RAAF band present and they played popular music prior to and after the ceremony.

Overall the ceremony was not spectacular, although any of you who have seen the Dawn Service know what a moving experience it is.

However just being on Gallipoli for the Dawn Ceremony was something else again and I must admit that when the 'Last Post' was played it bought a tear to my eye. On looking around after 'Reveille' I can also tell you that I was not the only one with a tear in the eye.

There was something special at being on Gallipoli, dawn breaking, knowing that you were on the exact spot where those brave men landed at that exact time in 1915.

I have heard that there has been some criticism of drunkenness at the Service but I must say that I never saw any of it. You must remember that thousands had slept there the night before and, naturally, that had taken a fair bit of beer, rum, wine etc, with them to ward off the cold. The temperature there was in the very low single figures and a chilling wind drifted in from the sea. I must confess that Emma and I had with us two 3/4 bottles of coke liberally laced with rum to keep out the cold. But I say again even though people during the day had a few beers ( and I did also) there was absolutely no evidence of drunkenness.

LONE PINE:- For me the outstanding service of the day was at Lone Pine. This is probably the largest War Cemetery on Gallipoli but is not great—probably in total area smaller than the 'Gabbas', although shaped like a rectangle, with the wall and sword at one end, and the lone pine itself in the centre, and headstones all around.

For this ceremony stands had to be built around three sides, probably 5 high, and this had two purposes.

1. To keep people off the cemetery area itself and not damage the fragile flowers;
2. Allow people to see the ceremony.

An area had been roped off towards the front with about 100 or so chairs and these, we thought were for the official party.

The ceremony was due to commence at noon, and all morning people made their way up from the Beach Service . Overall there were about 10,000 plus people present and they were in a mood to enjoy themselves after a freezing morning. As it happened the weather was magnificent—a cloudless sky and no wind.

A very touching addition prior to the ceremony was the award by the Governor General of the United Nations Medal to 9 Australian Officers who had been serving in the Sinai. I can assure you that these officers will always remember their presentations with 10,000 people present.



It was here at about 1130 hours that Emma got the surprise of her life. In our group of about 30 people were two young chaps, one a serving soldier in 5 Aviation Regt at Oakey, and the other an ex soldier now in the Victorian Police. Anyway we were all sitting in the stand towards the rear of Lone Pine when Adam ( one of the two)

got out in the middle of the rear area at Lone Pine and shouted for silence.

When the crowd quietened he said " I suppose you all know why you are here today?" The crowd responded "YES— of course". Adam then replied, "No you don't. You are really here to help Emma celebrate her birthday. Now I want you all to help me sing *Happy Birthday* to her."

Well about 5/6000 people sang *Happy Birthday* while Emma was trying to hide under a rock, and all afternoon people were coming up to me saying "You must be Emma's father—I sang *Happy Birthday* to her". What a birthday to remember.

Prior to the ceremony the band had been playing WW1 songs and the whole crowd were singing. They played numbers such as:-

'It's a Long Way to Tipperary' 'The Road to Gundagai' 'We're Gonna Hang out the Washing on the Sigfried Line' and ' Lili Marlene' etc. The crowd just loved it and we all sang along.

After this, I was sent to New Ireland to supervise Japanese working parties repairing roads and other construction. After a spell in Kavieng I ended up at Namatanai supervising about 60 Japs repairing roads.

I also spent some time on Tabar Island where the Japs were on one side of the Island and we were on the other. They had not officially surrendered yet so my stay did not last long as there were no prisoners to supervise.

It was while swimming on Tabar Island that I lost part of my foot. I accidentally stood on a large clam shell and when it closed it took part of my foot with it. There was blood everywhere and, as the water was full of sharks, the girls I was swimming with got me out of the water quick smart.

After this I was then given a launch with a Japanese sailor and two natives as crew to repatriate some 20 natives to Lehir Island. The launch was about 29 feet long, locally made with a Chevrolet engine in it. Being a petrol engine nobody was allowed to smoke down below and any smoking had to be done on the deck.

Anyway we sailed that night. The boys were sailing by the stars, but when time came to turn into Lehir Island, the sea was huge and we were afraid to turn lest the boat capsized. Eventually I made the decision to risk turning as I had no idea where we would end up the way we were headed. Fortunately we made it in safety.

It was a funny thing about Lehir. The water was so salty that you couldn't drown—you just floated. The currents were strong and could easily take you out to sea but there was no way you could go 'down'. After several days on Lehir the weather abated and we returned to Tabar.

When I left Tabar I was rowed out to a trawler by two native girls. The trawler was a pretty big one and full of Australian troops. When they saw the girls they all whistled and coo-ee'd something fierce. When I got to the side of the trawler they lowered a cargo net. When I told them I was prepared to climb up the ladder to board, they replied " No!. After having these young girls looking after you, you wouldn't be strong enough to climb up a ladder. Use the net and we will winch you up".

On leaving Tabar I became a medical mystery. At this stage I had a discharge which the hospital staff in Rabaul couldn't identify and they suspected it was a disease from fraternising with the local girls. As it happened it was from

constantly drinking bamboo water. The water was lovely and fresh but too much of it caused a discharge.

A penicillin shot soon cleared it up, but by that time I had spent some time in Rabaul and it seemed like an obvious place to leave me.

This was the time of the Japanese War Crime Trials in Rabaul. In addition many Japanese soldiers were being repatriated by any type of vessel available, both merchant and naval. When I was en route to one of my tasks one of the Japanese Generals gave me a snappy salute. He didn't realise that even though I had epilautes on, I was only a Sergeant. I believe that this General was later hung for war crimes.

Together with Jack McGrath, we were sent to an outpost to look after some natives. We lived in a Japanese Officers house complete with power and were drawing rations and cigarettes for a Platoon. Actually we both believed that we had somehow been 'forgotten' as we both had enough points up to be repatriated long before we were.

All of a sudden someone woke up that we were still there and we were told we should have been home some 6 months earlier. It didn't bother either of us as we had nobody to come back to in Australia.

As time progressed and things became more stable, we used to be given 30 days leave in Australia every 12 months.

In addition to selling souvenirs I used to make a great 'Jungle Juice' and sell it. This was a time consuming task as it took 24 hours to make just 3 bottles, and I often used to sit up all night brewing.

Whilst at Cape Gloucester, a Marine came up to me and advised that he had a big still up in the hills and would sell me a jerry can of jungle juice for 100 pounds. I used to add 8 bottles of water to his brew and sell it for 8 pounds a bottle. As a point of interest the US Marines were paid in Australian currency.

The sale of souvenirs was very profitable. I used to get 10 pounds for a long barrel Jap rifle and 20 pounds for their jungle carbine. A Jap flag was worth 50 pounds. Most of what I had souvenired was sold simply because I could not carry it all with me around New Guinea and home to Australia.

With the sale of souvenirs, jungle juice and my deferred pay, I left the Army with about two



thousand pounds, a tidy sum in those days. It didn't take me long to return to PNG where all my mates were. Having lived most my life up there I had no real mates in Australia.

I had a number of jobs before going back into the mining business which had been my occupation pre-war. I was an underground miner with New Guinea Goldfields for 20 years. On one occasion after I went back we were taking a load of timber into Jackinou Bay. A mate of mine was working on rebuilding the wharves so we had a good old chat.

A couple of years later we were bringing a load of cargo and native passengers being repatriated to Jackinou on the 3000 ton ship "Salaumaua", when

we accidentally ran into the wharf and destroyed it. So I was there when it was being rebuilt and there when it was demolished.

I left PNG in 1957 and on my departure from Lae both Horrie Niall and Ma Stewart told me "you'll be back" but I never did.

( Neville Swanson enlisted in the CMF January 1942 to 6th August 1944 then the AIF 7th January 1944 and was discharged 12th August 1946. He served a total off 1630 days— 478 days in Australia and 1152 days overseas..

The Association thanks Neville for sharing his war time service with us. )

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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir

I had the good fortune of being selected with our President, Lt. Colonel Harry Green, MBE,ED and Secretary Col Gould to travel to Port Moresby to deal with various long outstanding matters of concern between the Association and the Australian Government. As members are aware, the trip was only made possible through the generosity of Neal Lega and with the support of Air Niugini.

Once the trip became a certainty Harry left into action. He used up his "grace & favour" points with friends all over Papua New Guinea, not only to obtain a further air ticket for our Secretary, but also for internal flights for John Mudge, MBE, the forth member of our team and now our Junior Vice-President—Papua New Guinea.

The amount of preparation was extensive even before departure, with meetings with the Committee members and with the Papua New Guinea Consul General and others in Brisbane.

Harry and John Mudge spent an immense amount of time putting in place appointments in Port Moresby, and completing background briefing material with various members, notably Peter Grimshaw, OBE.,OAM., in Canberra.

Just prior to departure Harry was advised, medically, he should not go. Clearly he was unwell and tired from pre-trip arrangements. However he was not deterred.

Port Moresby was a full itinerary with morning, afternoon and evening meetings and engagements. There is no doubt that Harry and John had facilitated them well. He was given considerable courtesy by very senior PNG Military, Police and Public Servants and Politicians, which facilitated the Committee's achievements in PNG.

I know that appreciation has been expressed to Harry at the AGM , but I would like the wider membership to know of the enormous contribution, both physical and financial, that their President gave to the PNG trip for the benefit of members.

Sincerely  
Bruce Crawford.

the original landing took place), the beach cemetery, Brighton's Beach, Shrapnel Valley, the Nek Cemetery, Chunuk Bair, Lone Pine, Quinn's Post, Courteny's Post, Sniper's Gully, Monash Gully etc.

One most poignant thing I felt about these cemeteries is the age of some of the young soldiers buried there. Many of them were only 16 or 17 when they were killed. Your mind cannot help thinking that they would have been big strapping country boys just looking for an adventure— well in some ways I guess they found it.

The area is prone to earthquakes so the headstones are the ground type as in Rabaul and Lae War Cemeteries, and no crosses have been used.

At the entrance to the battlefield area there is a small war museum, Kabatepe Museum. In this there is a lot of memorabilia as you would expect—lots of old rifles, pistols, machine guns and shrapnel etc. There is also a huge number of letters which were written home, and they gave a great insight into the life and habits of the soldiers and also into the relationship they had with their enemy, the Turks.

Obviously the Turks were an honourable enemy—if an enemy can be called that. One letter written by an English Captain Casey ( you all remember one of our former Governor Generals, Lord Casey) states:-

*"An English Captain has been lying in no man's land for some hours. He had a badly smashed leg and was crying out in pain. Everyone was wondering just what could be done about him, when a dirty white handkerchief was waved from the Turkish trenches. There then emerged from the Turkish trenches a huge unarmed soldier. He walked up to the Captain, gently picked him up and carried him towards the allied lines. He then left him with his own comrades, and then turned back and walked to the Turkish trenches. I have never seen a more courageous act in my life."*

Can you imagine the courage it took to do something like that—wondering all the time whether someone would have a shot at you.

Another letter written by an Australian describes the routine that all had settled into at one stage. The trenches were only 15-20 meters apart but both sides had an understanding that only in the early morning and late afternoon would they throw grenades and bombs—the rest of the day was an unofficial truce and there grew up a custom of throwing fruit and rations to one another— the

Australians threw rations and the Turks threw back fruit, which was unobtainable through the Australian supply system.

One day this particular Australian soldier threw over some bully beef and biscuits. About an hour later an orange was thrown back with a note attached, *"thank you for the rations but next time send bully beef only but keep the biscuits."*

I suspect that the Army biscuits the Turks refused to eat were supplied to us later in PNGVR.

One of the more curious things in the museum are two bullets that had been fired and one had actually gone through the other in flight forming a type of cross—incredible.

ANZAC COVE CEREMONY:- Anyway onto ANZAC Day itself. We had been warned to get there by 0230—0300 hours in order to get a reasonable view of the ceremony, so it was an 0100 hours start.

It was not known just how many would be there on the day, but some 12,000 or so were expected. As it happened I believe that about 15,000 were there.

The logistics were enormous. There were 320 buses expected and 440 turned up. When you think that the road in, is only a one way bitumen strip with very few passing spots you can imagine the possible confusion. As it happened I think the logistics were handled extremely well as there was no confusion at all.

When we actually got to where the ceremony would be held, imagine my shock when the whole area was crowded "head to toe" by people sleeping in sleeping bags who had arrived the night before.

I am now talking about two separate areas each bigger than an ordinary football field, and when I say "head to toe" I mean just that. You could not have walked between the sleeping bodies without treading on someone. I actually had visions of one person wanting to roll over and they flow on effect causing everyone in the field to roll over.

Anyway, Emma and I moved down the side of the sleeping group, and as they began to wake up they looked at us. I was dressed in ANZAC Day dress, with the exception that I had a slouch hat on. At that, without exception they said " please move in Sir" Then they would speak to their friends " there is a soldier here who wants to get through— make way", and so Emma and I ended up right in the front row and had the most magnificent view of the ceremony.





ABOVE CENTRE:- Bob Collins with Daughter Emma at LONE PINE, Gallipoli—ANZAC Day 2002

#### ANZAC Day—2002 Gallipoli by Bob Collins

As many of you would know, this year I spent ANZAC Day at Gallipoli. It was a very moving experience and I would like to share some of the memories with you.

I guess it all started on ANZAC Day 29 years ago in West Wyalong, NSW. This was the first time since returning home from Vietnam that I had marched on ANZAC Day. As is usual in the West it was a pretty hot day and I was looking forward to a cold beer after the march.

I had just gone up to the bar at the RSL Club, ordered a schooner, and was about to pick it up when a hand came across mine, stopped me and said "You are wanted up at the hospital". I replied, "OK. I will just have this and go". The hand then took the beer out of my hand, had a big sip of it and said "I think they mean NOW!".

When I got to the hospital, my daughter Emma had been born.

Over the years I said to her "You have two great

things going for you on your birthday. You will always have a public holiday for it and it is a truly great day in Australia's history and not just for your birthday."

Well, this year was the year. Emma is over in London, and engaged, and I said to her earlier in the year—"Emma, this is probably your last chance to go to Gallipoli", and so we both went.

We spent about a fortnight touring Turkey before ANZAC Day, and on the 24th April, 2002 spent the day touring the Gallipoli Peninsula.

It is a very sobering experience to tour Gallipoli (or Gellibolu, as the Turks call it). The battlefield area where the ANZACS actually fought is a very small area, very hilly and a pretty desolate windswept area. If you stand in the old Turkish trenches at Chunuk Bair, it is almost impossible to imagine the number of soldiers that were confined in such a small area. Frankly it would have been almost impossible to fire a mortar or shell into the air and not have it cause injury when it landed.

During the day we visited ANZAC Cove (where



PNGVR DRILL HALL RABAU 1962  
BERNIE ARNOLD TRYING OUT A JAPANESE TANK FOR SIZE  
( Photo courtesy of Bernie Arnold )



2002 AGM  
(L) Colonel Dr John Teh; Mike Griffin; Doug Ng; Neal Rooney







**2002 INDEPENDENCE FUNCTION—PNG CONSULATE-GENERAL BRISBANE**  
(L) Bruce Crawford; Lt Colonel Harry Green, Henry Koiaie (Consul-General); Col Gould.



**RSL CONGRESS—BRISBANE 2002**  
(L) Lt Colonel Harry Green, MBE, ED., John Mudge, MBE and the Hon. Danna Vale, MP Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister assisting the Minister for Defence.



**ISURAVA—PNG—August 2002**  
PNG Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare With NGVR/PNGVR Association Junior Vice-President John Mudge, MBE at the dedication of the Memorial



**VIV HUMPHRYS**



**NEAL LEGA**



**BILL BICKERTON**  
Bill is now in Afghanistan on a Re-building program. Take care Bill and we look forward to your first report on your humanitarian project.



**PNG CONSULATE BRISBANE—SEPTEMBER 2002**  
Senior Vice President, Tom Lega, MM., receives his PNG Silver Jubilee Medal from Consul General Henry P Koiaie