



# Harim Tok Tok

PAPUA NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES EX-MEMBERS ASSOCIATION Inc.

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## PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

The annual Light Horse Rifle Shoot was held at the Fassifern Valley Rifle Range, near Boonah, on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July. Member Ian Thompson from Moreton Island was our sole representative. The shoot was with .303 rifles with open sights over 100 metres. He came second in controversial circumstances - I am sure Ian will entertain you at future Association functions talking about these "controversial circumstances." Well done Ian, you have done it again and upheld the honour of the Regiment. A fuller description of the shoot is on page 6.

August / September is when a number of important annual commemorations occur. Our Association is invited to attend most which we do, but this year with our depleted number, I regret that we were unable to attend all.

Sgt Arthur Gullidge the 2/22<sup>nd</sup> Bandmaster was the selected soldier whose story was read at 2<sup>nd</sup> August Last Post ceremony at the AWM. Gullidge is regarded as one of Australia's best composers of band music and hymns which are played to this day. This date also coincided with the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the Australian Army Band. Our Canberra member, Ian Sayers represented our Association and placed a wreath. All Last Post ceremonies are video recorded and can be seen on the AWM website.

On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> August Vice President Bob Collins, Bill McGrath and Gil Harvey-Hall represented the Association and laid a wreath at the well attended 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Kokoda Commemoration Service, Cascades, Gold Coast. Please see page 14 of this issue for the full story.

Unfortunately, to my knowledge, we were not represented at either the Indooroopilly / Sherwood RSL and 39 Battalion Association 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Kokoda Memorial on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August, the Milne Bay or the Battle for Australia Day commemorative services held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August and Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September respectively at the Light Horse Research Centre Chermside, Brisbane. These are usually well attended services and our non attendance is regretted. Our apologies were passed onto the Presidents of the Associations concerned.

Vice President Bob Collins, committee member Peter Rogers (Snr) and members Jesse Chee and Gerry McGrade attended the annual 9 RQR Exercise Steele Tuff presentation at Enoggera Barracks. This is the 23<sup>rd</sup> year that we have provided Medallions of Excellence to the best section in the battalion, with each section member receiving one of our engraved Medallions of Excellence. Usually each of our members attending is given the opportunity of presenting a medallion. There will be a full report of this presentation in our next HTT. One photo shows



Gerry McGrade presenting a medallion to a section member of A Company. The second signifies Gerry's high standing in the Rabaul community and shows him being initiated into the Rabaul Dukduk/Tubuan Society at a recent ceremony.

Sadly long standing member Rudy Buckley passed away, aged 88 years, on 3<sup>rd</sup> August and his funeral was held 10<sup>th</sup> August at St Pauls Catholic Church, Woodridge, Queensland. Rudy, until his passing was the only living person who had witnessed the captured soldiers and civilians boarding the Montevideo Maru on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1942 in Rabaul. Over 150 family and friends attended Rudy's funeral along with an Australian/PNG group of some 20 singers and musicians. We were represented by Bob Collins, Col Gould, Doug Ng and Ralph Seeto. Our Association proudly conducted the Poppy Parade, which was much appreciated by the Buckley family. A vale for Rudy is on page 15 of this issue.



Please diarise and attend the events listed on page 16. Since Paul Brown has been overseas, several committee members, hampered by illness, have had their participation in activities restricted. Colin Gould needs assistance from members, if the Museum is to maintain its high standard of presentation and looking after its guests. Colin would appreciate your advanced notice of attendance and assistance, thank you.



ate your advanced notice of attendance and assistance, thank you.

On 5<sup>th</sup> August Colin Gould co-ordinated a very successful sausage sizzle at Bunnings, Oxley raising over \$1600. These Bunnings' sausage sizzles, which are one of our main money raising events, are much sought after by community associations and have to be won. We are appreciative of the support Bunnings has given our Association and our community. Colin was ably assisted by six other member cooks, see the full story

on page 14.

Our AGM will be held on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October commencing at 10am. This will be followed by a free BBQ luncheon. You are invited to come along and support your Association and catch up with your former comrades.

The Museum is open to the public on the first Saturday of the month from 10am to 1pm.

Phil Ainsworth, September 2018

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## JOHN HOLLAND

T/Cpl 859739 8.3.1939— 10.4.2018 (Continued)

## I Return to Australia

As I had worked for two years as a final trim and patrol grader operator (Commonwealth Works Dept) on the GAZELLE Peninsula, I was due for leave. I decided to have a holiday in Australia so I started off in Sydney, then went on to Melbourne and Wonthaggi. It was the first time I had been in an underground coal mine and the shaft was 1,000 feet straight down! On my return to Sydney, I received a telegram from my father saying there was an orchard for sale in Howard, Queensland just north of Maryborough and was I interested. I said 'yes' I was. I had no idea where these towns were.

This is the document John's mother Mabel was issued with when her, John and Anne were evacuated from New Guinea in 1941

I checked with the travel agent and made a booking on an Ansett Fokker Friendship plane. As it turned out, I knew the postmaster, Les Grant — his son, Trevor and I were good friends from PNG days. I caught the train to Howard and the Post Office was across the road from the railway station. Les Grant was kind enough to allow me to stop with them at the Post Office.

After inspecting the Orchard, I liked what I saw and decided to purchase it for 16,000 pounds of my

father's money. And I worked on the farm to see if I was suited to farm life. It had the largest crop of Emperor mandarins, Valencia and Joppa oranges ever. One thousand cases were railed to the Roma Street Markets in Brisbane each Tuesday and Thursday morning. At that time a bushel case (56 lbs) of citrus was fetching two pounds to two and a half pounds a case, very good money! All these cases had to be made by hand from timber purchased from sawmills in the area, Wilson, Hart & Co. and Hyne & Co. which I collected every week from Maryborough in my 1942 Dodge truck. We bought a case of case nails every week from Saxon & Co. in Brisbane. These were used to nail the case together and with my lack of experience in case making, I had more black thumbs than one has ever seen!! I moved onto the Orchard in July 1959 after all legal documents had been finalised.

Life was very different for a young grader operator from New Guinea who had no experience of farm life at all. Fortunately I had some very good workers on the farm who helped through the tough times, they were Greville Moon, Roy Hamilton, and Rodney Battersby. The farm house consisted of eight bedrooms, one kitchen, one bathroom, one lounge room and a veranda around the whole house. It was a very comfortable old Queenslander. A complete new experience for me coming from living in New Guinea. Life went on as normal until one night I went to a dance where I met a young lady called Avril Ross who I was deeply attracted to, fell in love with and eventually married her in

1965. Things were not going too good on the farm so I decided to move to Brisbane to find work. I was fortunately enough to get a job with Queensland Underground, who employed me as a grader operator and backhoe operator filling in the sewerage trenches as they had the contract to sewer Brisbane at that time. They eventually went broke mainly because they had quoted based on soil tests done in one area of Brisbane, Wynnum which was sandy loam. However, when we got to Ashgrove it was all basalt rock and we had to blast every inch of the way so this was so costly and the company went bust.

After losing my job with that company I got a job with Holdway Construction as a final trim grader operator. I worked with them until I got married in 1965. On the day of my wedding, Alan Gunn, who owned a company called Sear & Gunn P.L. (plumbers brassware manufacturers) offered me a job as a sales representative to commence when I returned from my honeymoon. I was very excited about this as I had never done sales work before so this would be a new chapter in my life with a new bride and a new career. As it turned out it was the best job I had in my whole life and I stayed there for 38 years. On the eve of my retirement party, Alan Gunn stood up and made a speech that he had offered me the job 38 years ago on a 3 month trial basis and he said that I passed the trial and had succeeded with flying colours!

During those years I was fortunate enough to have had two daughters born, both in the 70's, and have four grandchildren. We lived in Wynnum, Manly, Parkridge, Greenbank, Boronia Heights and after my retirement (my wife, Avril had already passed away) I shifted into my present address at Richlands.

## New Chapter in my Life

I was a member of the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles & Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles Ex-Members Association and along with others from the Association I attended a meeting held at the old army camp at Wacol. The meeting was chaired by the

National Servicemen's Association and was held in the Everyman's Hut on site. Our Association was offered the opportunity to apply for a building at the army camp to set up a Museum. Those present were aware that I had organised military displays in the city for Anzac Days. Also I was in possession of a number of artifacts and memorabilia to do with World War two and Papua New Guinea so it seemed a logical choice to appoint me as curator when the decision was made for our Association to set up a museum.



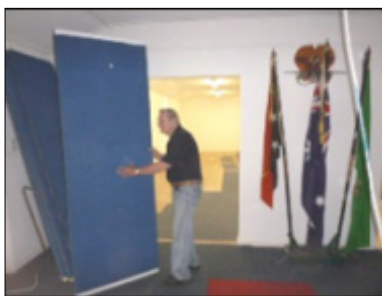
Demolishing some of the internal walls. They were built in 1939 and were hardwood skew nailed.

However, we had a challenge in front of us, when in late 2005 we were told that our bid was successful and we were only given three months to es-



John with the Qld Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk on Bita Paka Day at the Museum





John commencing the setup of displays in the addition to the museum



John and Assn President Phil Ainsworth with Councillor Matthew Bourke at the opening of the Museum extension on 3rd Sep 2016

tablish a museum. And I am indebted to a small band of 13 Association members who worked tirelessly with me to meet the deadline. On 12 February, 2006, the then Minister of Veteran Affairs, Bruce Bilson, MP and the PNG Consul General for Brisbane, Paul Nerau LLB officially opened the Museum which has operated for the past eleven years with volunteers from the Assn.

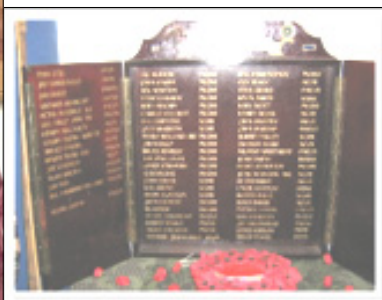
Many functions have been held there over the years. One of the commemorations held was "Bita Paka Day" to observe the landing of the AN&MEF at Rabaul in 1914 to capture the German radio station at Bita Paka. This was the first action that Australians were involved in during WW1 and the first Australian soldier to be killed was in this action.

In 2016 the Museum was extended and the opening of the extension was held on 3rd September, 2016.

**This is John's story as told to Jessica Harrington. Jessica has been a tower of strength at the Museum, assisting John to document all exhibits and books held.**



*John worked tirelessly at the Museum over the past 11+ years, often spending 4 to 5 days a week there. A truly magnificent effort. He organised visits by schools and community groups as well as fundraisers such as Bunnings BBQs.*



Above. The old and new Honour Boards.



### THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S BATON

The silver baton carried by the Music Director of the Band of the Royal Military College, Duntroon, was presented to the band in 1979 by the then Governor-General Sir Zelman Cowen.

It was presented in recognition of "fine musicianship and to mark the Silver Jubilee of the Band".

The Baton is used only on occasions when the Governor-General is present.

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

### Japanese forces after WW2.

Japanese armed forces in the South-West Pacific Area adopted a fundamentally defensive strategy after the "vital national line of defence" policy was implemented by Imperial Headquarters in September 1943. The Japanese were isolated behind Allied perimeters in some areas, such as New Britain, but in other areas, such as Bougainville, eastern New Guinea and Borneo, they were later subjected to costly Allied offensives. By the end of the war, 9,470 Aus-

tralian soldiers had died in action against Japanese troops; a further 8,031 died while prisoners of war. In this same area, over 330,000 Japanese troops had died as a result of wounds or disease or had been killed in actions against Australian or American forces since hostilities began in January 1943.

Nevertheless, there remained over 350,000 Japanese troops, including civilian workers, stationed in an arc across the north of Australia at the end of the war; from Java and Borneo in the west, through Dutch New Guinea, British New Guinea and the Bismarck Archipelago, to Bougainville in the east. The main formations and strengths of these forces were approximately as follows:

The emperor of Japan addressed the empire at noon (Japanese time) on 15 August 1945 to announce that the war was over, uttering the famous line that Japan would have to "endure the unendurable and suffer what is insufferable". In a scene repeated throughout Japan and its territories, General IMAMURA Hitoshi, commander of the 8th Area Army, gathered with his senior advisors at army headquarters in Rabaul to listen to the broadcast. Though static and interference masked the intent of the emperor's message, it soon became clear that the war was over and that measures would be implemented to cease hostilities and demobilise. Orders to that effect were sent to Rabaul by Imperial Headquarters in Tokyo on 17 August.

The first task for the Australian forces was to accept the surrender in the South-West Pacific Area, in regions corresponding to the table below. The 1st Australian Army was responsible for Japanese formations in British New Guinea, New Britain, New Ireland and the Solomon Islands, as well as troops from Ocean Island and Nauru, while 1 Australian Corps was to oversee arrangements in Dutch New Guinea and the Netherlands East Indies as far west as the Lesser Sunda Islands and Borneo. Japanese units in various areas were contacted, and arrangements began throughout the region for surrender ceremonies, disarmament, removal of defensive placements, housing and provision of troops, and finally repatriation.

The largest concentration of Japanese troops in the region at the end of the war was on the Gazelle Peninsula in New Britain, centred on Rabaul. The Australians had grossly underestimated strengths in the area, and were faced with a dilemma how to support over 100,000 Japanese troops prior to their repatriation. The solution was contained in orders issued on 10 September by the commander of the Australian garrison force, Lieutenant General Vernon Sturdee, for the Japanese to construct around ten camps in the Rabaul area and to continue their wartime self-sufficiency efforts.

Area	Formation	Strength at end of war		
		Army	Navy	Total
Java, Lesser Sundas	16th Army 21st Special Base Force	57,900	12,700	70,600
British and Dutch Borneo	37th Army 22nd Special Base Force	18,600	10,900	29,500
Dutch New Guinea, Celebes	2nd Army 23rd and 25th Special Base Force	87,700	30,600	118,300
British New Guinea	18th Army 27th Special Base Force	12,100	1,200	13,300
New Britain, New Ireland	8th Area Army South-East Area Fleet	57,500	38,900	96,400
Solomon Islands	17th Army 8th Fleet	12,300	12,800	25,100

Sturdee had appointed General IMAMURA as senior commander of all Japanese forces, and he relied on existing chains of command to oversee camp life and repatriation preparations.

Despite initial difficulties which arose after relocation from existing cultivated land, the Japanese troops at Rabaul managed to maintain relatively high levels of self-sufficiency, despite labour shortages for farming caused by high levels of malaria and requirements for other labour duties. General IMAMURA, in order to maintain discipline and prepare his troops to contribute to the redevelopment of post-war Japan, also instituted a comprehensive re-education system at Rabaul. Officers in the camp prepared textbooks and delivered lessons to troops on a range of compulsory and elective subjects, which included practical lessons on farming and self-sufficiency, technical instruction in mathematics and science, vocational training, and general education in history and religion.

As a result of Allied investigations, both during and immediately after the war, 924 Japanese were identified as being suspected of committing war crimes. Courts under Australian jurisdiction were convened at eight locations in the region. Most suspected war criminals were tried in Rabaul. Of the 644 found guilty, 148 were sentenced to death by hanging or firing squad, while others served sentences which ranged from one month to life in prison.

Repatriation of Japanese troops from the South-West Pacific Area was initially delayed by a lack of shipping. In August 1945, around 157,000 Australian troops were also stationed in forward areas. By December that year, only 76,000 had been repatriated on Australian ships and aircraft, and by three British aircraft carriers in the region. While Japanese soldiers were repatriated relatively early from some areas – all 18th Army soldiers had been repatriated from Muschu Island between November 1945 and March 1946 – it was not until 28 February that the first soldiers from Rabaul boarded the aircraft carrier Katsuragi bound for Japan. By mid-1946, another 37 vessels had departed, leaving only around 500 suspected war criminals and a reduced Australian garrison at Rabaul.

The former soldiers who returned to Japan from the South-West Pacific Area were among over 5,000,000 Japanese civilians and former service personnel who were repatriated by the end of 1946. The demobilisation of many veterans went unnoticed amid the devastation of post-war Japan, but many played important roles in rebuilding the country. It has been more difficult, however, for subsequent public recognition and commemoration of the sacrifice of Japan's soldiers during the war. Such actions are inexorably bound up with debates about the war of aggression, atrocities, and the victims of Japan's war.

I think senility is going to be a fairly smooth transition for me.

### McAdam, James Bannister (Jim) (1910–1959)

by L. T. Carron

James Bannister McAdam (1910-1959), forester and soldier, was born on 6 February 1910 at Preesall with Hackinsall, Lancashire, England, son of John George McAdam, railway cashier, and his wife Elizabeth Ann, née Bannister. The family emigrated to Queensland. James was sent to state schools and to Toowoomba Grammar School. In 1929 he joined the Queensland Forest Service as a cadet. He proceeded to the University of Queensland, Brisbane, and the Australian Forestry School, Canberra (Dip.For., 1934), where he was awarded the Schlich medal as the outstanding student in his final year. Athletic and of robust build, he excelled at sport, particularly Rugby Union football. From 1934 he undertook field-work in Queensland. At St Paul's Anglican Church, Maryborough, on 19 January 1938 he married Eileen Alexandra Ewing, a schoolteacher. That month he was appointed a forest officer in the public service of the



*As we Silver Surfers know, sometimes we have trouble with our computers. Yesterday, I had a problem, so I called Georgie, the 11 year old next door, whose bedroom looks like Mission Control, and asked him to come over. Georgie clicked a couple of buttons and solved the problem. As he was walking away, I called after him, 'So, what was wrong?' He replied, 'It was an 'ID ten T error.' I didn't want to appear stupid, but nonetheless inquired, 'An ID ten T' error? What's that? In case I need to fix it again.' Georgie grinned. 'Haven't you ever heard of an ID ten T error before?' 'No,' I replied. 'Write it down,' he said, 'and I think you'll figure it out. So I wrote down ID10T I used to like Georgie, the little shithead.*

### Mandated Territory of New Guinea.

With the threat of war in the Pacific, McAdam enlisted in the Australian Military Forces on 19 September 1940 at Wau. He began full-time duty with the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles on 22 January 1942 and was promoted sergeant within a fortnight. After the Japanese invaded Salamaua in March, he led a party of scouts which established an observation post within a mile (1.6 km) of enemy positions. The intelligence which the team gathered was crucial to the success of the Australian raid on the town in June. McAdam acted as a guide in the foray. Transferred to the Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit in September, he was awarded the Military Medal for his outstanding service at Salamaua. In April 1943 he was commissioned lieutenant.



NGVR Scouts L-R Jim Cavanaugh, Geoff Archer, Jim McAdam

Promoted temporary major, McAdam was appointed commander, Royal Australian Engineers (New Guinea Forests), in February 1944. His unit's task was to assess and map the forest resources of Papua, New Guinea, Bou-

gainville and Manus Island for war needs and for future management in peacetime. He relinquished the appointment in September 1945. Following a brief attachment to Army Headquarters, Melbourne, he transferred to the Reserve of Officers on 8 February 1946 and settled in Port Moresby as acting-secretary (later director) of the Department of Forests, Territory of Papua-New Guinea. Keen and industrious, he had a 'passion for protecting the trees'. In 1949 he visited Australia to give evidence to the royal commission into timber rights. He was a member (1949-59) of the Territory's Executive Council and an official member (1951-59) of its Legislative Council.

McAdam was active in the affairs of the Papua and New Guinea Scientific Society (president 1951). His main hobby was woodcraft. While on leave, he died of hypertensive coronary vascular disease on 27 February 1959 at Margate, Queensland, and was cremated. His wife, son and two daughters survived him. In 1963 a magnificent park of some 5000 acres (2024 ha) near Wau in the Bulolo Gorge was named after him; it includes outstanding forests of hoop and klinkii pines in which he had shown particular interest.

*This article was published in Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 15, (MUP), 2000.*

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

### Survival Tips from the Best

Troops learn how to survive in the Australian wilderness.

Soldiers and Marines participating in Exercise Kowari in Far North Qld were given a culinary crash course for survival in the jungle by the man who literally wrote the Australian Army's military survival manual 1987—the original "Bush Tucker Man", Maj Les Hiddens (retd.).

Maj Hiddens served in the Army in Vietnam and was later tasked by the ADF to catalogue all of the edible plants in Far North Qld, which he did, working with Aboriginal people from the area—who gave him the nickname "The Bush Tucker Man".

In 1988 the ABC turned Maj Hiddens's research into a TV show featuring him as the host and aptly named *The Bush Tucker Man*. Three seasons of the show were beamed into Australian homes.

Maj Hiddens retired from the Army in 1989 and continued serving in the army Reserve until 2001.

OC A Coy, 51 FNQR, Maj Josh Mickle, said bringing Maj Hiddens into Exercise Kowari was a no-brainer. "We have Marines and soldiers from the US, China and all over Australia here in Cairns to participate in Kowari—which has come to Far North Qld for the first time—and most of them don't have any knowledge of the natural environment here, let alone what they could eat for survival if they needed to, and what could potentially kill them".

"Les is a Cairns local, and given his history in the Army—including deployments in the jungles of Vietnam, as well as his extensive knowledge of bush tucker in Far North Qld we thought he'd be the perfect person to give these troops a better understanding of the environment they are exercising in, and some tips on how you could survive up here if you had to find your own food".



"It's not every day you get to learn how to survive in the Australian bush from the man who wrote the book on it".

In his Exercise Kowari classroom at the bottom of the Josephine Falls, Maj Hiddens taught the soldiers and marines where to find wild ginger, candle nut and yabbies' in the rainforest, and told them how to catch jungle perch from freshwater streams using marsh flies as bait. He also taught them about the hazards, including "wait a while" vines and stinging plants.



After the bush tucker lesson, the troops set off on an overnight trek to the peak of Qld's tallest mountain—Mount Bartle frere.

Trek guide Lt Tarrant Green, of 51 FNQR, said adventurous training was excellent for building trust between soldiers from different nations.

"Hiking up the tallest mountain in Qld to an elevation of 1,622m is challenging—even if you are a generally fit person, so it takes people out of their comfort zones and makes them work together as a team to accomplish the task, which in turn promotes unity and builds trust and resilience" Lt Green said.

Source Army News.



### 2018 Light Horse Marksmanship Competition

This historic event was once again hosted by the Boonah Gun Club at their Fassifern Shooting Complex on Sunday 29 Jul 20. It is an event for unmodified .303 SMLE rifles, fired over 100 metres at standard Olympic 50 metre targets.

As we have come to expect it was a beautiful day with clear skies and light winds, marred only by a fog that was clearing as registration commenced at 0900. There was some discussion around postponement of the event until the fog had completely dispersed, but the club secretary decided the event must go on, as coping with weather conditions are an integral part of the challenge for sporting shooters.

11 shooters and a bevy of supporters and spotters attended, 7 from the Lockyer Valley Light Horse, 2 Boonah Club members, one lady shooter in the .22 class, and just one representing NGVR/PNGVR Ex Members' Association.

Shooting commenced on time at 1000 hrs, with 3 details firing 20 rounds per shooter.

Consternation erupted when a recount of Ian Thompson's target found only 19 holes! As 17 of the 19 shots were in the black it would have been a long bow to draw to assume one shot had missed the target altogether. General opinion was that 2 bullets had passed through the same hole, but with no way to score such an assumed event, the shield denied to the NGVR/PNGVR.

The outcome was: 1<sup>st</sup> Guy Burton from the Boonah Gun Club, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ian Thompson PNGVR, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Barry Rogers, Light Horse detachment. The encouragement prize went to Greg Jones, Light Horse.

Bernadette Hall of course won the ladies' event, with another envious score of 171. That's very good shooting over 100 metres with a .22.

Post event, there were the usual discussions around the .303 rifle and its many variations, and a Martini Henry .5 calibre rifle was made available for those brave enough to fire it. I upheld

NAME	SCORE
JOHN CONNOR	92
GLENN TILLEY	45
GREG JONES	57
BARRY ROGERS	151
BARRY HALL	113
JAMES Mc KENZIE	72
IAN THOMPSON	158
MIKE BEATIE	107
GUY BURTON	124
GUY BURTON	164
KEN SAUTER	131
LADIES 22 RIFLE	
BERNADETTE HALL	171

If a pig loses its voice - is it disgruntled?

### Bulldog Track Railway

HTT Vol 100 contained an article on the Bulldog Road. What is little known is that in the detail of the planning for the road a railway track was also built. This was to overcome a length of water in the upper Lakekamu River which became very shallow during any dry time.

The following article contains extracts from the AWM web sites "Bulldog Road / Bulldog Railway/ Bulldog Tramway". Much of it by Ross A. Mallett's Thesis submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, School of Humanities and Social Science, University of New South Wales at the Australian Defence Force Academy 2007

The sub headings have been inserted to make the story easier to follow.

#### Why the Bulldog Road?

How long Lae would take to capture was difficult to predict. Allied intelligence reported that "the defences of Lae are by far the most complex and intricate of the areas under consideration and in this respect are perhaps nowhere surpassed in the SWPA", and Blamey was prepared for another knock-down-drag-out fight like Buna. He submitted an outline of his POSTERN plan to GHQ and New Guinea Force on 17 May, subdividing it into two phases:

- (1) the capture of Lae and the Markham River Valley and
- (2) subsequent operations to complete the seizure of the north coast as far as Madang, as in 1942,

Blamey intended to use the AIF as a spearhead while the militia provided the garrison forces. The first phase would be carried out by the 7th and 9th Divisions; the second by the 6th Division. The 7th Division would move to Moresby in troop transports, take coastal craft across the Gulf of Papua to the mouth of the Lakekamu River, travel up the river in small craft to Bulldog, and then take the Bulldog Road to Wau, where it would assemble.

From there it would advance overland to the Markham River, cross it, and establish an airbase. The area contained a number of old landing strips which could be developed and one at Nadzab was chosen as the most promising.

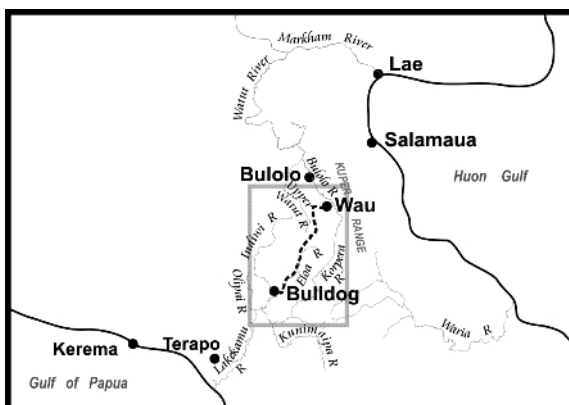
Overland supply required the Bulldog Road to be completed and capable of carrying motor traffic. By June, it was estimated to be ready by 15 August. Once open, it would still take time to set up the transport and depots required to make it a fully functional line of communications. Given the resources to ship the required vehicles from Port Moresby,

it was estimated that it would be in business by October. The alternative was to run a road through to Wau from Nassau Bay, but this could not be completed before the end of October—some considered November.



## Bulldog.

Bulldog, which is on the Tiveri River, an important branch of the Lakekamu River, was first established as a gold mining camp in pre-war days. It was named after a launch called the 'Bulldog', which was stranded, on the bank of Tiveri following a period of heavy rain. There was a small airstrip at Bulldog. During the war this strip was used for Air/Sea Rescue Squadron or to bring in Army VIP's. Once a DC3 had landed there after being hit on taking off from Wau. It was repaired and flown after being stripped of everything not essential. Bulldog's main purpose was as a supply base for troops at Wau, five days trek across the Kuper Range



Though it rained often in the Bulldog area the Tiveri River becomes quite shallow in the dry season. This created some kind of

measure of difficulty in the middle of 1943 when the river fell so low that barges could not reach Bulldog and all cargo had to be loaded at the junction of the Tiveri and the Lakekamu. From 3 to 11 July no barges reached Bulldog at all as the river level fell too low. Instead they were unloaded at Cox Point. Reinhold had an innovative solution to the problem: a 2-foot gauge tramline, similar to the sugar trains in Queensland, from Grimm Point to Base Camp, running in a broad arc from the Kunimaipa River to a point about 4 km north of Bulldog Landing

## The Survey for the Tramline

An investigation of the Kunimaipa tramline was conducted by an RAAF Tiger Moth while surveyors moved in concert along the ground, guided by the aircraft and communicating with it by smoke signal. This method was necessary because there were no high features that the surveyors could climb to get a view of the area. The same factor made it possible for the aircraft to fly low enough to guide them. In late May a preliminary survey was carried out. No high ground could be located, so the line had to run across ground that could become swampy if the river flooded. This was accepted, for the line was only needed when the river level was low. The lie of the land was such that the building of trestle bridges was impractical, so the tramline route took advantage of natural gaps that could be spanned by temporary span bridges.

Clearing work began in early July about 6 km south of the



base, near the point where the route changed direction from south to southwest. Only hand tools were available, but 118 Papuans were employed from



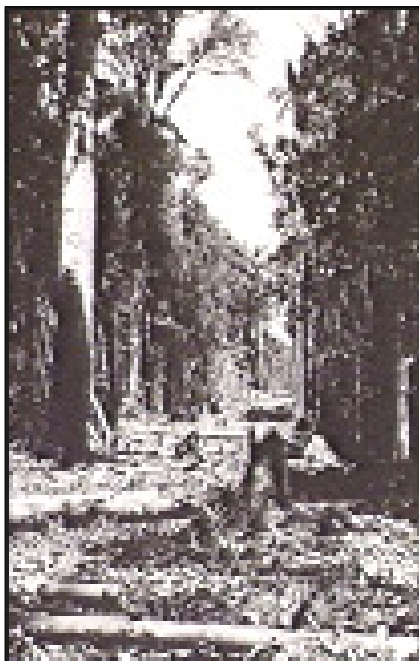
Barges at Bulldog 1942



7 July, and they were able to clear a 6 metres wide path the whole length of 12 km in 11 days. A method known as "pigstyng" or "cribbing" was utilised in construction of the line itself. Logs were laid transverse to the line and then longer logs laid on top of them. The pressure of traffic on the line kept the logs pressed down. After about after 3.6 km of track had been laid, the supply of rails ran out. Because there was difficulty procuring additional rails, doubts about whether sufficient rolling stock would be available, and the work contracts of the Papuan labourers were due to expire on 31 August, work on the tramline was discontinued on 15 August. A road was constructed from Cox Point to Bulldog, a distance of about 2½ km, to avoid the worst part of the river. It followed the route of an existing track and presented no problems with construction, although the swampy nature of the ground required it to be corduroyed

## Native Labour

The Kovu sago making camp was used to provide food for the native labourers. One problem about wild sago was that its yield was small compared with that of cultivated sago. By June 1943 Kovu had outlived its importance. The sago palms were getting very scarce and labourers had to travel a considerable distance before starting work. Lieut. C. H. Rich, the ANGAU ADO who closed down Kovu as a sago making camp in June 1943 wrote: 'the ration portion in general, both at base and the forward area is now well in hand'. He decided to close the camp rather than move it to a new site as he firmly believed the male labour at least could be employed on more useful and urgent jobs. He paid out £147 in wages to male and female casual labour and arrangements were made to send the woman folk and their children back to their villages. The seventy old male workers were sent upstream to the Bull-



dog Base Area. They were to be employed for two months on a special task, the construction of the Kuni- maipa- Base Area Tramline. When the camp was cleared a caretaker and his wife were left in charge. Kovu served from then on as a staging camp.

Some of the labourers at Bulldog did general work around the base camp but at the start the majority of them carried stores and supplies along the trek to Wau. Later on most labourers were used on road construction.

Barges came from Terapo daily with stores of food and military equipment. One authority states that labour force along the Bulldog Track was about 1825 construction workers and 524 at the peak of it's activity in July 1943. The labourers slept in long huts made of bush material with twenty to twenty-five workers sharing a hut. There was no electricity for labourers at Bulldog and they used an improvised lamp called a 'Tiniharo'. This was a 16-ounce fruit tin which was filled with kerosene; a piece of rami material or blanket served as a wick.

Local recruitment was by conscription. Contracts were for one or two years, although draftees were informed that they may be asked to sign on for longer if the Japanese were not driven from New Guinea in this time. In certain circumstances, such as on the Kunimaipa tramline, workers were contracted for short terms. Workers signed their contracts with an X in the case of those from New Guinea or by touching the pencil with which an ANGAU officer signed their contract in the case of Papuans. Pay was set at 10/- a month, with all food, clothing and tobacco provided but Papuans were paid at the termination of their contract whereas the New Guineans were allowed to draw monthly payments. Punishments ranged from stoppage of the tobacco ration for trivial offences to being posted to work high mountain sections for desertion.

*The above information re native worker conditions is included for information only. The Japanese forces in New Guinea rarely paid their impressed native workers, treated them harshly, and consequently suffered a very high rate of desertion.*

Thank you Kerry Glover for the maps.

*A group of Americans were travelling by tour bus through Holland. As they stopped at a cheese farm. A young guide led them through the process of cheese making, explaining that goat's milk was used.*

*She showed the group a lovely hillside where many goats were grazing. "These" she explained "Are the older goats put out to pasture when they no longer produce."*

*She then asked "What do you do in America with your old goats?"*

*A spry old gentleman answered.  
"They send us on bus tours"*

### 1RAR parades Bushmasters – with more to come

The 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, marked a significant milestone in its history last week when it held a parade to officially incorporate its own organic Bushmaster protected mobility vehicles.

The battalion officially took control of 40 Bushmasters on the parade, with more to come – as well as Hawkei protected mobility vehicles-light, commencing later this year.

Commanding Officer 1RAR Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin McLennan said Friday 23 March marked a very significant day in the 73-year history of the 1st Battalion as it commenced its transition to a fully enabled protected mobility vehicle infantry battalion.

"The integration of protected mobility will significantly enhance our ability to expertly perform our enduring infantry role as part of a broader combined-arms team," Lieutenant Colonel McLennan said.

"Elements of our Support Company have used Bushmasters for several years already, but now the battalion is being provided Bushmasters for every platoon, company and headquarters.

"Furthermore, when we receive Hawkei later this year, the sum of both vehicles will enable a more protected and mobile 1RAR. "The transition will involve us receiving around 100 vehicles all up over the next six months."

Lieutenant Colonel McLennan said both new vehicles would not only afford 1RAR substantial enhancements in its ability to infantry role better, but also offered significantly improved mobility – to outperform the enemy; significant improvements in protection against enemy attacks; significant improvements in situational awareness – giving them greater ability to out-think an enemy; and, significant improvements to its sustainability – its ability to outlast the enemy.

Contact Newsletter 64



### ESCAPE ON THE GATO FROM BOUGAINVILLE, NEW GUINEA -MARCH 1943 (Cont)

Part of this story is my journey as a five year old -scurrying through the Bougainville jungle trying to evade the Japanese forces searching for me and my family and eventually evacuated by the Captain and crew of a submarine called *Gato*.

I had always known that we had been rescued by an American submarine and had snippets of memories (and those of my siblings) that were never pieced together. However in 2013, Ann Woods, from the Brisbane Submarine Association introduced me to Robert Stuart's autobiography of his time as a Plantation Manager on Bougainville. He mentions that the *Gato* evacuated 27 Chinese children. Then I told my story to Dr Adam Liu, an avid amateur historian and genealogist, who managed to trace the paper trail documenting all our stops in Canberra's National Archives in Australia. At the same time Peter Cahill and Peter Dunn, both authors, had forwarded chapters of information to



help me build up a comprehensive picture of what happened after the fall of Rabaul.

The year is 1941. We hear the news and watch in trepidation as the might of the Japanese army sweep south through the island chains of the Philippines, Indonesia and towards New Guinea.

For overseas Chinese with patriotic ties to the Kuo Min Tang (the Chinese Nationalist Party) their concerns had begun a few years earlier as the Japanese began encroaching on northern China. In the south, the ongoing drought and the threat of war forced many farmers to leave their villages and seek greener pastures in the new "Gold Mountains". Two of my uncles had signed up with the Imperial German Government as carpenters. Like many others, their work as builders were to be an integral part of Germany's plans to further develop their colonies in the South Pacific. For my uncles it would take them to what was then known as Neu Guinea. The German Government had begun clearing the jungle along the coastline of East New Britain to establish plantations of coconuts. Coconut oil was in huge demand for both industrial and cosmetic use at that time. By the early 1930s the brothers had ventured out on their own establishing a Trading Store in Rabaul which sold items such as clothing and tinned food to the local natives. The store even stocked hardware like axes, knives and the popular sarif for cutting the long kunai grass.

My father being the youngest was told by his brothers that he should master his English language skills, before migrating to New Guinea, in an effort to further bolster their business. This he did by attending the prestigious Ling Nam University in Canton which had been established by the American Methodist Missionaries. In 1936 my mum and number one sister Olga finally received their travel documents and were able to set sail for Rabaul, New Guinea. They arrived just in time to witness the rumbling of Matupit Volcano on the town's edge, less than one mile away. Shortly before I was born, in Rabaul, Matupit would have a ferocious eruption which resulted in the entire town being evacuated. Its furore would leave a heavy fall of pumice dust that settled thickly on everything. After the distraction of clearing up, their attention turned again to what was happening back in the motherland of China.

Just as the Japanese armies were marching deeper, and relentlessly, into the Pacific the whole family had moved to Bougainville Island some 250 miles to the south east of Rabaul. I am unclear whether this was to escape the volcanic fall out of Matupit which would still occasionally emit dust, ash and pumice; or whether it was an attempt to distance ourselves from the fast approaching Japanese army. On the 7th Dec 1941 the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbour. Just 10 hours later they would launch their attack on Manila. We were alarmed and confused at the same time... what did this mean for us? Today, knowing how close in proximity Rabaul is to Bougainville, I cannot see how we thought we could be safe there.

On the 23rd January 1942 the Japanese attacked Rabaul. By the next morning the Australian Forces were overwhelmed and began retreating to the south coast. Some two weeks before, my father thinking the Japanese would not invade New Guinea, returned to Rabaul. Thus he was trapped. The bamboo curtain had closed over Rabaul. We would not learn of his fate or those of others in Rabaul until after the war. The majority of the Chinese residents were moved to a camp named Ratongor on the other side of the bay. Most of the European residents were imprisoned. They were to be shipped back to Japan along with captured soldiers onboard the ill-fated Montevideo Maru. The group was believed to number around 1054 people and all would perish after the ship was torpedoed by an Allied submarine which was unaware it was carrying both civilians and POWs.

For the remaining civilians on Bougainville we could never be sure when the Japanese would come ashore.

On the occasions they did we had adequate warning as they always came by motor boats which meant we could hear them approaching. As soon as we were told to get ready to move my job was to fill the aluminium water bottle and hang it over my shoulder. My older sister Olga watched over younger sisters Betty and Helen and also carried a bag with our spare clothing and some medication.

Eventually it became unsafe to remain in town as the Japanese had started to stay for a few days or longer. Our only option was to take to the mountains well away from the coast. We took as much tinned food and clothing as we could, and we were fortunate to be able to add to our small stockpile some items that the Japanese had left behind. At the beginning, in the abandoned gardens we passed, there was still plenty food in the form of sweet potatoes, taro, corn, fruits like paw-paws, sugar cane and of course coconuts. We were moving freely with the local villagers as many had been working in the towns or plantations that dotted the coast. They were familiar with us and still supported the Australian Government through the Coastwatchers.

Some nights we were able to shelter in a kunai grass hut. As we moved higher into the mountains we would be cold and hungry. All we could do was to huddle closer to keep warm and hope a few mouthfuls of starchy root vegetables from friendly villagers would stop the hunger pains. Being constantly on the move meant our light canvas sandals had long worn out, so not being used to walking practically bare foot slowed us down considerably.

As we moved further away from town and into areas of denser mountainous growth, without a distinct pathway, it was easy to get lost. My mother had a bad sense of direction and often lost her way in the thick jungle growth. She would call out to Olga "Ah Woon...?, Ah Woon where are you?" To which Olga would repeatedly shout back "over here, over here mum!, I'm over here..." so she could find her way back to our camp site. The youngest, my brother Peter, was only 5 months old. Mum had to practically carry him all the time on her back, using a home-made sling, so that she had her hands free for support or foraging if need be.

Being only a slight woman this would have been a real burden of love. At one point she was so exhausted that she wanted to leave Helen, aged almost two, behind with some Catholic nuns. However big sister Olga refused to accept this and promised to take sole responsibility in looking after her.

Our journey through the jungle would last about 12-14 months. Towards the end of our nomadic existence we were contacted by the Australian Coastwatchers and told to stay within a certain area,

nearby to Teop, so that we could be evacuated. To be ready to move out at a moment's notice. In March 1943, we headed back down towards the coast. By this time we were five family groups that at times moved in



Elizabeth Chan, Maria Seeto, Ken Cheung, Helen Yun, some of the children that were evacuated on the "Gato".

close proximity. We had known each other before the start of the war. I am sure all our parents were very relieved that their ordeal was finally coming to an end.

Of that night I only recall darkness and very long boat. I believe the Coastwatchers lit a small fire to signal to the *Gato* that it was safe to surface and approach closer to the beach.

The following transcripts are taken from Captain Robert Foley's 5th War Patrol Report 7, dated 1943:

++29th March++ 0540 Submerged off Teop

1905 Signal fire appeared on beach

2022 Stopped close to shore abreast signal fire which was being doused.

Lt. Jack Read—RANK (Coastwatchers) came aboard. He had assembled 51 souls. This included 27 children, 9 mothers, 3 nuns, 12 AIF commandos. Commenced embarking & disembarking at the same time. With the help of native canoes this was quickly completed

2122 Ready to depart

2147 Clear of channel. Ships company helped our passengers to settle in. All were "troopers" and quickly adopted by the ships crew. The adoption was reciprocal. Typical example, one 10 month old child would sleep nowhere but in the arms of a bearded Torpedoman who manned the telephone at the forward tubes. They made a weird looking picture. Brief impressions of *Gato*'s incongruous family. The children - through a cycle of awe, apprehension, mischief, ravenous & unwilling to sleep. The mothers - distraught, then trustful. The nuns - benign and patient. The soldiers - "haven't you some dirty jobs we can help you with" and "is there any beer in Brisbane". The *Gato* crew clumsy but enthusiastic volunteer nursemaids.

\*\* 30th March \*\* Proceeding to rendezvous with sub chaser near Florida Island

Children discover that the rotating sound gear makes excellent merry go round. "I wonder who was the naughty boy who tried it first?"

\*\* 31st March \*\* 2030 Effected rendezvous and commenced transfer of passengers and gear.

Once we were all safely on board, the *Gato* headed out to Florida Island on the northern tip of the Solomon Islands (Guadalcanal). Here we transferred to a sub-chaser which took us to Noumea, the capital of New Caledonia, where we were housed in an army building situated near a beach. I don't recall swimming in the surf but I do remember there were these funny looking balloons in the air tied to a long chain. Years later realised they were to deter fighter planes from flying too low to strafe us. The other thing I distinctly remember were the mattresses that we slept on. They were certainly much better than sleeping on branches spread out over the jungle floor. However they were very itchy and everyone ended up sleeping on the hard floor instead. We stayed here for three weeks.

We then embarked on the SS Lurline bound for Melbourne, Australia. It was raining as we began climbing the gang way so Mum was waving her hands seeking some cover for her head. A sailor understood what she was trying to do and immediately found her a towel. Many years later I would still have this white towel with the words United States Marines embossed on it. In Melbourne we stayed at an Orphanage run by the Brothers of St Lawrence in Brunswick. We stayed there for three months before we moved to Sydney where we had relatives. In Sydney we stayed in the inner city sub-

urb of Surry Hills and attended Crown St Public School which was the second oldest Public School in New South Wales. My main recollection from this period was a recurring nightmare... I would be playing on the steps of the Orphanage, then suddenly I would be falling from a very tall building but never hitting the ground!... and I would finally wake up covered in sweat. Recently asked Nancy, who still lives in Melbourne and who was evacuated on the *Gato* with us, to see if the Orphanage was still there. She sent me a photo of the building. It turned out to be only three stories high! Imagine through a six year old's eyes the building must have seemed over ten stories tall hence the nightmare of falling down stairs and over balconies.

With the Japanese surrender on board the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1945 people everywhere were rejoicing. For us there was a further reason to celebrate with the surrender in Rabaul Harbour on board the HMS Glory on 6th September 1945. However this would be bittersweet as our thoughts then turned to the souls who paid the final sacrifice and would never return. It was well after the war, via a Patrol Officer's interview with the local Luluai (village chief), before we would learn of my father's fate.

At the end of 1947 we packed our bags and returned to Rabaul which we had still thought of as home.

In 1954 I would leave again to attend Wolaroi College in Orange, country New South Wales, Australia. This is where I completed my secondary schooling later working, back in Rabaul, for AA Hopper who was an exporter of copra and cocoa. After marrying and spending another short spell in Rabaul we moved to Mount Hagen, up in the Highlands. In the eighties we were temporarily back in Sydney before finally firmly planting ourselves in Brisbane for good. My three girls grew up here and attended the local school. I became involved with the community through Cathay Community Association. Initially starting with social gatherings, we branched out to helping refugees, mostly Vietnamese, settle in Brisbane. Now we look after the Seniors through the Home and Age Care Program. In 2014 the Cathay Community moved from rented offices in Chinatown to Coopers Plains where we purchased an old warehouse and renovated it to suit our own requirements. We are now heading towards our fourth decade. I was honoured, in 2015, to be awarded the OAM (Medal of the Order of Australia). This is one of the highest awards that the Government can bestow upon its citizens for voluntary contributions to various parts of the community.

In conclusion I would like to thank all those people, mostly strangers that we did not know, for assisting us along this epic journey of survival. My heartfelt thanks to the United States Navy, in particular the Captain and crew of the *Gato*. I hope that Captain Foley can be pleased about what became of those bedraggled survivors that he picked up so long ago. Those so fortunate to be evacuated by submarines were the seeds of our future — now a new generation ranging from dedicated scholars

to experienced tradesmen. Life would lead another evacuee, Eugene Seeto, also to an OAM which he was awarded in 2016 for his tireless work with the Chinese community in Sydney; for my nephew, Vernon, he would be the head coach for the Australian tennis team for the Rio Paralympics; and another nephew,



The sign that used to be at New Farm Wharf, Brisbane, but was not replaced when it fell into disrepair.



Neville, now an ordained priest having completed his seminary studies in 2013.

Through the jubilation of having survived the war, it was tinged with sadness that our father had been executed so early in the conflict and here Mum would be hoping that somehow there would be a happy reunion. As a parent, with that understanding of how one worries about their children, I can only imagine the thoughts and sadness that Mum had to struggle with on her own during all that time and with no one to confide in. No doubt for her it would have been an unhappy and distressing time. A desperate journey that, sadly, still today many have to endure.

*Thank you Ken Cheung for the wonderful story and Assn Treasurer Douglas Ng for obtaining it for HTT.*

*A woman ran a red traffic light and crashed into a man's car.*

*Both of their cars are demolished but amazingly neither of them were hurt.*

*After they crawled out of their cars, the woman said; "Wow, just look at our cars! There's nothing left, but fortunately we are unhurt. This must be a sign from God that we should meet and be friends and live together in peace for the rest of our days."*

*The man replied, "I agree with you completely. This must be a sign from God!"*

*The woman continued, "And look at this, here's another miracle. My car is completely demolished, but my bottle of 75 year old scotch didn't break. Surely God meant for us to drink this vintage delicacy and celebrate our good fortune." Then she handed the bottle to the man.*

*The man nods his head in agreement, opened it, drank half the bottle and then handed it back to the woman. The woman took the bottle, immediately put the cap back on, and handed it back to the man.*

*The man asks, "Aren't you having any?"*

*She replies, "Nah. I think I'll just wait for the police."*

### SAS facility upgrade officially opened

The Australian Army's Special Air Service Regiment has received a long overdue major infrastructure investment with the opening of their new headquarters and operations centre at Campbell Barracks in Perth

Minister for Defence, Senator the Hon Marise Payne, said the new facilities marked the completion of the first phase of a \$223.5 million four-year upgrade to the SASR's home base at Swanbourne.

Minister Payne joined SASR personnel past and present at the new facilities, which includes the new Colonel Leonard Arthur Eyles Operations Precinct, Pilgrims Mess all-ranks dining facility and upgrades to the Trooper Jonathan Church Gymnasium.

"The Campbell Barracks redevelopment is essential to ensuring Australia's special operations forces are ready to respond to support Australia's national interests," Minister Payne said.

"The Special Air Service Regiment has a long and distinguished history and the redevelopment currently underway is essential to ensuring the Regiment can continue to meet its

vital security mission in the national interest.

"Australia is facing an increasingly challenging international security environment and the Special Air Service Regiment is an important part of our response to any terrorist or security incident.

"The upgrades are part of the Turnbull Government's \$200 billion investment in Australia's defence capabilities over the next decade.

When all works are complete in 2019, SASR personnel will have the modern, flexible, purpose-built facilities and infrastructure needed to support the unit's vital national mission for the next 20 years.

"The Government is focused on providing our special operations personnel with the equipment and facilities they need in order to undertake their vital work," Minister Payne said.

Campbell Barracks has been the home of the Army's Special Air Service since its inception in 1957, and the upgrades are the first major redevelopment of the base since it opened six decades ago.

Phase two of the redevelopment is underway and includes new and refurbished facilities for Operational Support Squadron, 152 Signal Squadron, the quartermaster store, and a new security entry point for the base.

These works involve more than 530 tradespeople, 90 per cent of whom are drawn from the local WA community.

Source Contact Newsletter 67.



Assn Ctee member Tony Boulter and Assn Secretary and Assistant Museum Curator Colin Gould inside the entrance to your museum.

### Rare PNG Artifacts in Museum

The photo shows artifacts from Bougainville and the Solomon Islands at the entrance to your museum.

They were donated by Lt Col Maurie Pears MC and are rare and valuable.

Chieftain Arch. From the Solomon Islands and is a traditional presentation to Chiefs and 'Big Men'. It was presented to Maurie in Honiara for his exploration work.

Tupakis Man in UDI hat. The larger figure on the right is a carving from North Bougainville and is made only on special occasions. This was presented to Maurie on his departure from Bougainville.

Tupakis Boy in UDI hat. The smaller figure on left. Boys wear these hats for a number of years before they are initiated into



Defence Minister Marise Payne and CO SAS Regt unveil a plaque marking the opening of the new SASR facilities.

the tribe as men. Their hair grows into the shape of the hat.

UDI is the Unilateral Declaration of Independence which was put to the PNF Government in 1990 in a letter from Francis Ona and attached a "Declaration of Independence for the Republic of Bougainville.

This was rejected and resulted in armed militance from the BRA (Bougainville Revolutionary Army) led by Joseph Kabul.

These rare artifacts have been on display in your museum for a number of years and we thank Lt Col Maurie Pears MC for his most generous donation.



Armed Forces, it is taken from you."

"I'm delighted this initiative, which sits in the Armed Forces Covenant, will help us all better recognise our veterans and their service to our Country."

*Militarynewsuk 13 Dec 2017.*

*The best argument against democracy is a five minute conversation with the average voter. Winston Churchill.*

### A quick look at the Hawkei PMV-L

A couple of Australian Army Hawkei Protected Mobility Vehicle – Light were on display during Exercise Chong Ju at Puckapunyal training area, Victoria, on 16 May.

Major Brendon Sweeney gave Army reporters a quick overview of the new vehicle currently rolling out across the ADF.

About 1100 vehicles and 1000 trailers have been ordered under the \$1.3billion Project LAND 121 Phase 4 contract.

Hawkei is designed and built by Thales in Bendigo, Victoria – the same factory that spawned the much-loved Bushmaster.

Exercise Chong Ju is an annual live-fire training exercise conducted at the Australian Army's Combined Arms Training Centre at Puckapunyal in northern Victoria to showcase capabilities to Army's next generation of combat leaders.

Exercise Chong Ju 2018 included demonstrations from the M1A1 Abrams tank, ASLAV (Australian Light Armoured Vehicle), M113 armoured personnel carriers, 81mm mortars and M777 155mm howitzers.

two other Project Land 400 vehicles were also on display – CRV Boxer and Bushmaster Protected Mobility Vehicle.

Other capabilities on display included Tiger Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter, unmanned aerial systems, soldier combat ensemble, battle management system.

Exercise Chong Ju is named after a battle in North Korea in 1950, when the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, supported by tanks and artillery, attacked and captured a large North Korean defensive line during their northward advance to the Yalu River.

*Contact Newsletter 70.*



### FRED (Field Ration Eating Device)

The Field Ration Eating Device (commonly abbreviated to "FRED") is a small device which is a combination of a can opener, a bottle opener and a spoon. It is issued to



### Qantas commences PNG route.

On 2 April 1945 Qantas Empire Airways DC3 VH-AFA operated its inaugural Australia—New Guinea passenger service from Sydney (Kingsford Smith Airport) to Port Moresby and Lae.

### Britain's 2.5million veterans are to be formally recognised with their own ID card for the first time

Theresa May reveals Britain's 2.5 million military veterans are to be formally recognised with their own ID for the first time.

The MoD is working with the Department for Transport and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency on the design for the special driving licenses which will be rolled out from next year

For many, the ID card will come in the form of a special new driving license which will be stamped with a large 'V'. Those who don't drive will be issued with their own separate card.

In a twofold purpose, the special IDs will give vets immediate and easy access to specialist services, which already stretch from priority health care and housing to hundreds of retail discount offers.

Secondly, they are intended to be a badge of honour for all ex-Royal Navy, Army and RAF personnel who have served their country.

The move – which mirrors US's Veterans Affairs ID card – answers a long standing call by vets, who often struggle to prove they have served without producing a pile of paperwork.

It is the first time the state has ever issued official proof of identity for veterans despite generations making the sacrifice of service over the centuries.

The ID was the brain child of Veterans Minister Tobias Ellwood.

Tory MP Mr Ellwood explained: "As a former soldier, I am aware of the personal attachment with the service ID."

"Carried at all times, it becomes symbolic of the responsibility and there is a strange sense of loss when upon departing the



the Australian Defence Force in its CR1M ration packs. It is also known widely as the "F.....g Ridiculous Eating Device".

The can opener is very similar in design to the US military P-38 can opener

Introduced around 1943, the F.R.E.D., a combination can opener, bottle opener and spoon, was included in military ration packs. Officially a Field Rations Eating Device. It may have been based on similar U.S. device called the P38, which lacked the refinements of spoon and bottle opener and was invented in 1942. Soldiers in both forces formed a fierce attachment to these devices, which were just as useful for cleaning your fingernails as opening a can, and protested at their removal from active service when new packaging was introduced.

In 2005, a Captain Brian Tuohy wrote to The Soldiers' Newspaper lamenting the loss of an old friend. "A nasty rumour is spreading far and wide throughout the ranks as to the demise of an old and faithful friend that has been both a saviour and an ally over the years," he wrote. The "friend" was the F.R.E.D.

"As far back as World War II, the faithful Fred has been issued in one form or another to be utilised for whatever means it was required," the Captain continued. "From opening tin cans to cleaning fingernails or personal assault weapons to a makeshift screwdriver, the humble Fred has served well. It has never been decorated, mentioned in dispatches or given a Commanding Officers Commendation. It has gone about its business, serving the Australian soldier, sailor and airman in every conceivable country and operation in the world without the recognition it so rightly deserves."



Unfortunately, Captain Tuohy's lament fell on deaf ears. An acerbic reply from the ADF Logistics Manager citing the cost saving in using ring-pull cans drew several responses from other servicemen. "Shock, Fred has gone. On reading the letter I

immediately went to the back yard and buried my current Fred. A few words were said and tears glistened in my eyes, as Fred had been my faithful companion for more than 30 years," wrote one.

American servicemen (mostly men, it seems) are equally passionate about the P38, officially known as the OPENER, CAN, HAND, FOLDING, TYPE I. It has a whole website devoted to it, and merited a story on the official website of the US Army.

It wasn't just the soldiers themselves who appreciated these handy devices. Many collected their P38s or Freds and brought them home, where they were seized on by appreciative spouses. "Of course my wife will never again look at me with that same loving look on return from the field – the crosses we bear for progress," one soldier wrote.

Source = Australian Food History Timeline

"For better digestion - I drink beer.  
In the case of appetite loss- I drink white wine.  
In the cast of low blood pressure- I drink red wine.  
In the case of high blood pressure- I drink scotch.  
And when I have a cold- I drink Schnapps"  
"When do you drink water?"  
"I've never been that sick".



### Last Post Ceremony at the Aust War Memorial

Ian Sayers laying a wreath on behalf of our Association and Don Hook with Rebecca laying a wreath on behalf of PNGAA / Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Group of PNGAA at the Last Post Service 30 June at the AWM.

Arguing with a woman is like reading the software agreement.

In the end, you ignore everything and click "I Agree".

### "Lest We Forget"

An Anniversary Address, on the occasion of the loss of 1053 lives of Australian Prisoners-of-War, and Australian civilians, in the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru* on 1 July 1942.

Major General John Pearn AO RFD, Patron, New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles Ex-members Association

Anzac Square. Brisbane, 1 July 2018

We meet together, each year, to honour those thousand Australians who perished at sea, victims of the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru* who have no headstones, and whose grave is the unending sea.

At the outbreak of the Second World War, a group of men, working in New Guinea, formed themselves into the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles, to act as Coast Watchers, and if necessary to fight both in hot combat, and behind the lines.

To defend the Mandated Territory of New Guinea, a composite military force, LARK FORCE, was raised and deployed to Rabaul, on the Island of New Britain. It consisted of some 1000 men drawn from various Units and Corps:

2/22 Battalion

Gunners of the Anti-Aircraft Battery

17 Anti-Tank Battery

Engineers and Signallers

Canteen operators; a Dental Unit. Medical Orderlies

A Detachment of the 2/10 Field Ambulance.

Twenty-two devout Salvationists, musicians of the Brunswick Citadel Band, a Salvation Army Band in Melbourne, signed up, en bloc, as the Regimental Band of the 2/22 Battalion, to act also as stretcher-bearers. The bandmaster was Mr Arthur Gullidge (1909-1942), a well-known and gifted composer of stirring brass band marches and hymns, whose music endures as another memorial to him and his non-combatant fellow servicemen who were to perish in that terrible event.



After Pearl Harbour, on 7 December 1941, the Imperial Nipponese Army surged south-east through Thailand into Malaya and took the surrender of the Allied garrison of 26,000 troops in Singapore. The Japanese force conquered Indonesia and New Guinea. The Rabaul garrison was captured, together with more than 200 civilians, Australian planters, missionaries and Government officers. Res-

cue attempts were undertaken from North Queensland, and a group of Catholic nuns managed to escape. But some hundreds of soldiers and civilians were killed in the jungles, many the victims of bayonet atrocities.

On June 1942, 1053 prisoners were loaded onto the former Japanese merchant ship, the *Montevideo Maru*, to be taken to the Hainan in China to be used as slave labourers. In contravention to the Laws of War and the Geneva Conventions, the *Montevideo Maru* was not marked as a Prisoner-of-War ship. On 1 July 1942, 76 years ago today, the ship was torpedoed off the island of Luzon. All the prisoners of war were drowned, most trapped in the prison cages below decks. It was, and remains, the greatest maritime disaster in Australian history.

For reasons of morale, and because of wartime censorship, and because there were no Australian survivors, no report of the atrocity was made public. After the war, some fragments of news surfaced; but the fate of every individual soldier, and that of the civilians who had been taken prisoner in Rabaul and in the jungles of New Britain, remained unknown.

In 2003, Mr Yosiaku Yamaji, then 83 years old and, as a former merchant seaman, one of the 17 Japanese survivors, gave some first-hand details of what had happened. Six years ago, in 2012, the Japanese Government gave to the Australian Government, the manifest of the *Montevideo Maru*, with the names of the Australian prisoners who had been embarked at Rabaul. That list of 1053 names, for many families, brought closure.

One may ask, why memorialise this disaster?

And one may answer, there are two special reasons.

The first is that the family and relatives of those who died, some here today, would wish that the service of their grandfathers, uncles and cousins, service unto death, should not be forgotten; and today, as we do each year at this Memorial Service,

We remember them.

Secondly, there has been, from the time of the First Geneva Convention in 1864, a belief held by civilised nations, that when all attempts to preserve peace have failed, and nations become locked in war, there is still a basic code of behaviour beneath which honourable people will not descend. Since 1957, and the passage of the Australian Geneva Convention Act, every Australian, civilian and military, you and me, is enjoined by law to obey the four Conventions; and in times of conflict to offer protection to those rendered out of combat, by capture or by wounding, or from disease. My own experience in the Vietnam War and in post-genocide Rwanda, affirms that these Conventions are followed.

Today, both Japan and Australia are Nations enjoined in friendship, now with mutual respect. Both today are enjoined in this Geneva Code; and combatants, rendered helpless by captivity or from injury, are protected by our self-imposed policies and behaviour.

So this memorialisation today, looks to that sacrifice of 76 years ago; and sees those tragic events as an acknowledgement of history; but sees their aftermath as another step towards the creation of a better world.

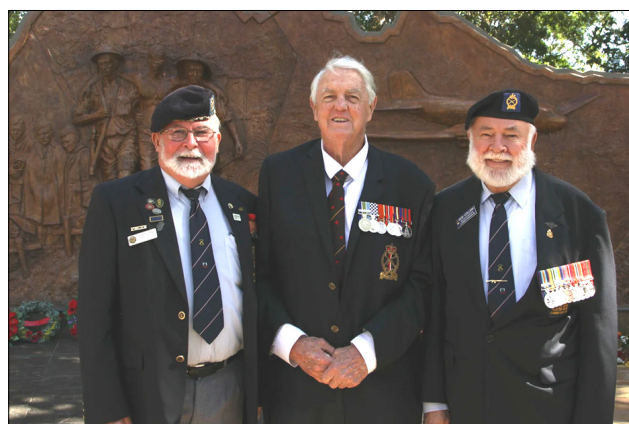
### Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

On Sunday 5th Aug the Association conducted a highly successful sausage sizzle at Bunnings, Oxley, netting \$1,663,40 after expenses. Our thanks to Colin Gould, Jesse Chee, Mike Griffin, Tony Boulter, Douglas Ng, brothers Peter and Andrew Rogers (grandchildren of NGVR member 'Horrie' Harris) and Bob Collins.

A lot of effort goes into these sausage sizzles as Bunnings require cooking to commence at 7am on Sundays and cease cooking at 3.30pm. This means a 6am start at the Museum for preparation and a 4.30pm back at the museum to unload stores.

Special thanks to Colin Gould for his preparation—initial stocks were 40kg sausages, 15 loaves of bread, 15 kg chopped onions as well as cartons of soft drinks, ice, cooking utensils, containers and eskys. The sausages and bread had to be topped up during the day.

This has been the most successful Bunnings Sausage sizzle yet conducted but **future assistance would be much appreciated. If you can assist please contact Colin Gould—details p. 16.**



Gil Harvey-Hall, Bill McGrath and Bob Collins in front of portion of the magnificent Kokoda Memorial at Cascade Gardens.

### Kokoda Day Cascade Gardens, Broadbeach.

A magnificent sunny day on 8th Aug saw Assn members Bill McGrath, Gil Harvey-Hall and Bob Collins attend the 39th and 2/14th Bns Kokoda Memorial Day at the very impressive Kokoda Memorial on the Gold Coast. Members of the PIR also attended to mark the involvement of the Papuan Infantry Battalion in the Kokoda battle.

About 100+ people attended and the Southport School provided the Catafalque Party, the Band for hymns and the Bugler for the Last Post and Rouse. The Keynote speaker was Mr Lahui Ako (Dept Prime Minister and Cabinet, PNG).

In the absence of President Phil Ainsworth who was recuperating from his leg operation Bob Collins laid a wreath on behalf of the Assn



**VALE Rudolph Joseph (Rudy) Buckley****Sgt 860478 2.8.1930 - 1.8.2018**

Born in Rabaul on 2 August 1930, Rudy was the third of seven children born to William Buckley (of Irish and Tolai descent) and Maria Rocca (of Spanish and New Ireland descent). He was schooled pre-war at the Roman Catholic church grounds in Malaguna Road. Post-war he attended St Joseph's school in Malay town for about two years and was then employed by the Commonwealth Department of Works for about twenty five years. During this period as a tradesman he was principally employed in the building and repair of housing supplied to Administration officers. After this he was employed by the Department of Civil Aviation and transferred after PNG Independence in 1975 to Queensland,



When granted Australian citizenship in 1964, he joined "B" Company, Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles at Rabaul, was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and served until 1971.

His elder brother Harold was a ship's supercargo/purser and left Rabaul in December 1941.

Rudy was 11 when the Japanese invaded Rabaul and during the occupation he and a friend were employed by the Japanese to look after the cooking fires along Coal Wharf Road :

fanning the fires minimising the smoke. They worked from 3am till midday for a weekly payment of a sack full of rice. Rudy had to speak Japanese which he mastered by the end of the war.

Near the end of June, 1942, Rudy and a Chinese friend were attracted by Australian soldiers being marched to a nearby wharf at Rabaul. The Japanese were loading the soldiers on the Japanese vessel, Montevideo Maru, for transportation to Hainan in China to be used as slave labour. A particular soldier saw Rudy and his friend, smiled, and threw them a handkerchief which Rudy picked up and kept. The handkerchief contained the name and Regimental number of FX19523, Cpl Barry Richard David O'Neil of the 2/22nd Bn. In 2014 he presented the handkerchief to the Association Museum. 1,053 Australian military and civilian personnel, including 36 members of the NGVR lost their lives when the unmarked prison ship Montevideo Maru was torpedoed by a US submarine.

Rudy also saw executions of Australian, New Zealand and US airmen by the Japanese and after the war showed the Imperial War Graves Commission 32 graves of the executed airmen who had been beheaded, bayoneted or shot.

The continued bombing caused the Buckley family to move to hills south of Ratan-



gor, approx. 36 km from Rabaul. They worked in their gardens and dodges Allied bombs. Rudy, with a Malayan boy, had the daily task of collecting and calling the roll from Ratangor



and returning it to the Japanese police. His father, Willie, a motor mechanic, was violently bashed with a crank handle by Japanese officers impatient for their car to be repaired during an air raid, and Willie died soon after in 1943, aged 44.

Over the years Rudy has donated many pieces of memorabilia to the museum and was involved in Association activities whenever possible.

He was also a talented artist as the accompanying paintings of PNG's famous Birds of Paradise show.

His funeral was attended by about 150 people and the PNGVR contingent present conducted an appropriate poppy parade.

**LEST WE FORGET.**

Assn members at Rudy's funeral. Colin Gould MBE, Bob Collins, Mal Zimmerman, Douglas Ng, Ralph Seeto and one of Rudy's relatives, Albert Seeto who was a Cpl in the Australian Army.

**VALE Maurice (Jock) COLLINS****Pte 134664 1.9.1941 - 2.7.2018**

Jock went to Port Moresby in 1962, he worked initially in the Lands Department then in the Forests Department. He met Rosemary Rock during their school days in Melbourne. Rose went to Port Moresby in June 1964, Rose and Jock married in Melbourne in October 1965 before going back to Port Moresby. Daughters Kylie and Wendy were born in Port Moresby in 1967 and 1973 respectively. They 'went finish' in April 1974 and settled in Melbourne.



Wow . . . and I thought wine in a box was a good value!

He served in PNGVR for only a short time between 1962/63.

Jock played Aussie rules football for the Port Moresby Australian Rules Football Club, he was a committee man, then president of the club in 1971 and 1972.

His name was Maurice Collins but in Melbourne he was known as John Collins, while in Moresby he was only known as Jock, hence the different names.

He passed away in Melbourne. He is survived by wife Rose, daughters Kylie and Wendy, and six grandchildren.

**LEST WE FORGET.**

Thank you Bev Kenna.

DO NOT TOUCH must be one of the scariest things to read in Braille.

## FUNCTION DATES

**Sat 27 Oct.** 10.30 AGM Museum followed by BBQ lunch. Come along, support your Association and catch up with former comrades.

## MUSEUM EVENTS

**Sat 6 Oct** Museum open to the public 10am to 1pm.

**Sat & Sun 13/14 Oct.** Brisbane Open Day. Museum open both days.

**ASSISTANCE REQUIRED BOTH DAYS** contact Colin Gould.

**Sat 3 Nov** Museum open to the public 10am to 1pm.

**Sat 1 Dec.** Museum open to the public 10am to 1pm.

**Sun 9 Dec.** NASHO Xmas party on site. NO Assn functions. Museum closed.



**JR Medals**

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15% Discount for all PNGVR members

## New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles Ex Members Association Inc,

Includes former members of the PIR, PIB and NGIB.

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