

NGVR - PNGVR Assoc. Inc.  
PAPUA and NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES



Queens Colour



Regimental Colour

LAE  
WAU  
RABAUL  
WEWAK  
BANZ/MINJ  
PORT MORESBY  
KAVIENG

PER ANGUSTA AD AUGUSTA

Through Trials to Triumph

BATTLE HONOURS

RABAUL WAU  
SOUTH-WEST PACIFIC 1942-48

MADANG  
SALAMAUA  
SAMARAI  
GOROKA  
MT. HAGEN  
KAINANTU  
KOKOPO

President: Col. H. Green MBE, ED, EM, OAB, RL  
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Treasurer: WO1 N. Mundy  
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NEWSLETTER

1/92

HARIM TOK TOK

Our Annual General Meeting and Re-union was held at Wacol as per advice 29 November 1991.

Forty-two (42) Members attended with 22 apologies received, naturally interstate Members were included in the apologies section.

The night proved to be an excellent one with memories of good and not so good happenings being remembered particularly over the good drop of Port from the Barrel of "Teddy" which stands on the bar (Members who attended previously will know) of the 1 Trg. Gp. Sgts. Mess.

Our thanks for the use of the mess for the occasion has been formally acknowledged to the Mess President.

SUMMARY OF EVENTS AT A.G.M.

In the absence of the President the Meeting was chaired by Lt. Tom Lega MM, an original NGVR Officer.

Outgoing Treasurer reported that after expenses we are still in the blue, but he is concerned about the \$20 medal donations.



He reports that to date, of the 101 medals issued, only 33 Members have returned their donation. (Please disregard if already sent). This donation is important and is required to help cover the costs involved in obtaining the medals. We are all aware that Accommodation Costs and Air Travel in PNG is expensive. Joe would like the receipts for the medal to be returned A.S.A.P.

**PLAQUES:** Our excellent plaque can be ordered direct from Joe Fisk or through the Secretary. The plaque would be great for posterity and would make an exclusive family heirloom. Cost is \$55 plus \$6 postage.

**POCKET BADGES:** Are still available at \$15 each in Black or Navy Blue background.

**UNIT TIES &  
LAPEL BADGES:** The Committee is waiting quote from John Trewin. Members will be advised of progress in future Newsletter.

For those who may not be aware the correct title of our Association is -

NEW GUINEA AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES

EX MEMBERS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

In short - NGVR/PNGVR EX MEMBERS ASSN. INC.

As per our constitution there was an election of Office Bearers, the results are as follows:-

PRESIDENT: Colonel H. Green

VICE PRESIDENT: Mr Tom Lega, 57 Claymeade Street, Wynnum North, 4178.

We are indeed fortunate to have an original Member of NGVR on Committee.

SECRETARY: Mr Bill Kelly, 18 Grounds Street, Yeronga, 4104. Telephone No. 8488813.

TREASURER: Mr Douglas NG, 28 Sandringham Street, Mansfield, 4122. Telephone No. 343 7167.

Joe Fisk and Norm Mundy, our previous Secretary and Treasurer decided that after their sterling effort since inauguration (thanks heaps Joe and Norm) they would have a rest. Rather than sever the ties completely however, they agreed to be the Members Representatives and were duly elected as such.



The Executive Members are:-

President:	Colonel H Green PNGVR
Vice President:	Mr Tom Lega NGVR
Secretary:	Mr Bill Kelly PNGVR
Treasurer:	Mr Douglas NG PNGVR
Members Reps:	Mr Joe Fisk PNGVR
	Mr Norm Mundy PNGVR

GENERAL:

Would all Members please advise the Secretary of any changes of address, rank, decorations and letters etc that may have occurred. It will ensure that a complete and up-to-date register is maintained.

BATTALION FLAG:

The Battalion Flag has at last been returned to us and is now in safe keeping. One of our Officers namely John Frewin who accompanied by his son made a special trip from Victoria to bring the Flag home. After a small formal ceremony at the reunion the Secretary received the Flag on behalf of the Association.

Our Flag was sent to John from an anonymous person in Canberra whose name will remain a mystery. The Association is grateful to John for his efforts.

PHOTOS

Anzac Day photographs (1991) will be available from Joe Fisk this coming Anzac Day and orders will be taken by Joe at his address.

All photograph requirements are available from our official Unit Photographer, Mr Thomas Dowling and any orders should be directed to Tom at his address, 11 Harding Street, Raceview, 4305. Telephone 07 - 288 8140.

MEMBERSHIP

According to our Constitution our Financial Year ends on 30 June each year, so Subscriptions are due to be paid from 1 July onwards. For example, Subs for 1991/92 year were due July 1991 and Subs for 1992/93 year are due July 1992 and so on. The Treasurer is concerned that there could be quite a few members unfinancial this year.

PNG MEDAL

Some confusion may have arisen over expiry time and eligibility for the medal; attachment in Newsletter of 3/91 refers. The problem was caused mainly by the lack of return of the information sheets supplied in one of our first newsletters. This matter has now been addressed and with some exceptions most of those eligible have received the Medal. A reminder to those still outstanding, please forward your details A.S.A.P. as the information is required for the inscription on the Medal and for the parchment.



### MOUNTING OF MEDALS

Address for mounting, purchase of ribbons and miniatures etc is Kevin Gillett, 20 Zeeland Street, Taigum, Qld, 4034. Telephone 07 - 265 7509.

Cost of miniatures	\$7.00
Mounting ribbon	\$2.00
Court mounting for large medals	\$6.50

Regimental Badges & Beret Badges are available from Christies Pty Ltd, 8 Clivedon Street, Botany 2019. Telephone 02 - 316 6077.

### HISTORY

Volume Two (2) of Defence Force Papua New Guinea is now available and orders for the book should be made direct to M.B. & J.L. Pears and Associates, P O Box 5849, Gold Coast Mail Centre, 4217.

Contents contain a comprehensive section on PNGVR with photos and anecdotes. The book is recommended and is worth reading.

### LIFE MEMBERSHIP

We are delighted to advise that our first (1) Life Membership was bestowed on Mr Frank Holland M.B.E., one of our original NGVR Members.

Brief History - During the evacuation of Rabaul, February 1942, Frank was responsible for the successful evacuation of many NGVR Members and Civilians from Rabaul across New Britain to Talasea. His numerous exploits during this period are well documented in books such as Coastwatchers, Patrol into Yesterday and Rabaul 1942. Lt. Holland was appointed 2 I.C. 'B' Company PNGVR Rabaul in 1951 and continued in this posting until 1953. "Congratulations Frank".

### ANZAC DAY

The march will be led by W.W.2 Naval Contingent and is scheduled to commence at 1030 hours. All PNG Members are to report no later than 0945 hours.

Assembly Area - Position of NGVR/PNGVR is approximately the same as last year, that is, in George Street between Charlotte and Mary Streets. We are Number 91 on the order of march behind the 61st Bn. and a small contingent of the Papuan Infantry Battalion. The Parade Marshall requires all Units to march with the widest possible frontage.

On the subject of Bands, the Bank Master was non committal so we will just have to accept the arrangements made.





Reunion after the March - The reunion is to be held as before at the Majestic Hotel, corner of Turbot and George Streets in the room which is known as "NOLLIES ROOM" commencing at 12 Noon. Our President and myself have inspected same and we are assured of being more comfortable this year.

Cost \$10 to cover catering and booking. On arrival at the hotel just ask at Ground Floor Reception for "Nollies Room". Ladies are welcome, admission free.

#### 50TH ANNIVERSARY NGVR

Ms. D. Parr A.B.C. Television Producer/Director advised the Anzac Day Parade Committee that those units celebrating their 50th Anniversaries this year to send her historical material of their units so that she could arrange extra television coverage in the form of a "Montage". Our Secretary has collated and completed the material and has forwarded same to her at the A.B.C. Studios, Toowong.

Notice of Contact Address - Any Members visiting Sydney and wishing to renew acquaintances with our endearing Chaplain/Padre Fr Peter O'Reilly, his address is 199 Epping Road, Epping, 2121. Telephone (02) 868 2666.

#### VALE

It is with sadness that I advise the passing of one of our Company Commanders, Lt. Col. Alf Clarke A.M. R.F.D. E.D. (RET). His obituary written by Lt Don Hook ex PNGVR is published in full and attached. The funeral ceremony WAS HELD IN Canberra, Don Hook and Jim McKinley being our representatives. Don Hook placed the PNGVR wreath on our behalf.

It is also sad that I report the passing of RFN John Adams, one of our earlier Members. John was well known to myself, a good soldier and great footballer. John played hooker for Hawks football team and represented Papua on several occasions. He is survived by his Wife Judy, Son Christopher and Daughter Lee.

BILL KELLY

#### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Papua New Guinea, which played such an important part of our P.N.G.V.R. lives up to Independence 1975 still remembers our Regiment with high regard in all the provinces I have visited during the past six months - so much so that the P.N.G. Prime Minister, who spent Christmas Day with his family at my place outside of RABAUL, spoke at length on the wonderful voluntary service which members gave to P.N.G. as an aid to the civil power and as a much needed area for the young men to contribute not only voluntary military service, but also exhibiting pride in their nation.

The election of the Association's Executive is covered in the Newsletter - suffice to say I was honoured to be elected President in absentia. Your Executive is now a well balanced body and relieves an enormous workload from WO 1. Joe Fisk and WO 1. Norm Mundy, however, these initiators of the Associations establishment are not lost to us FOR AS MEMBER'S REPRESENTATIVES they continue to render advice and assistance.



Lieut. Tom Lega MM as Vice President, has already stood in for me on several occasions for which I sincerely thank him, and it is possible that should the P N G Government ask me to officially participate in the Anzac Day Celebrations in P N G, this being the 50th Anniversary of the Japanese Invasion, as you know, then I have already received Tom Lega's consent to lead our Regiment on Anzac Day in Brisbane if I am unable to attend. I have had a number of meetings with Major Bill Kelly, our Secretary, since my return to Australia on the 8 January 1992, both Bill, Joe and Norm very kindly regularly visited me at Greenslopes and since then we have also held a number of meetings.

Since I, Lieut. Doug Ng, our new Treasurer has also submitted up to date financial records to the Committee and I cannot let this opportunity pass without mentioning what a surprise it is to see that only 33 1/3% of our Association members are presently financial - that is, by paying the \$25 Joining Fee and the \$10.00 Yearly Fee, small enough in these days. Also, the Medal recipients are extremely tardy in their response to the Committee's request for acknowledging receipt of the Award and Certificate parchment plus the \$20.00 also expected. The Nominal Roll of Recipients has already been sent to the Government of P N G and also to the Military Secretary's Office at Canberra, gentlemen I do commend to your attention these very necessary payments - we are an incorporated body, non-profit but must submit to beaurecracy returns of all Members.

On 11 March, 1992 in Port Moresby, Messrs Dennis Samin (now Chief Superintendent R.P.N.G.C.O and John Mudge MBE now not only a successful businessman, but also, Brigadier of St. John's Ambulance Brigade P.N.G. and myself, under auspices of the P.M.'s Department P.N.G. will present 9 plaques from the P.N.G.V.R. Association to outstanding men of P.N.G. in recognition of recent and continuing co-operation to our Association, particularly the Prime Minister Rabble Namaliu C.M.G., Sir Julius Chan K.B.E. and Leith Anderson C.B.E. A.A.I.M., without whose support we would not have been successful in gaining the 1975 Independence Medal.

I must state here my sincere appreciation to Messrs Samin, Mudge and Anderson over four visits and numerous telephone calls to P.N.G. over the past 18 months, also the strong support given to me by Joe Fisk and Norm Mundy, together with their wives Val and Joan and my wife, Margaret Louise, for all their typing, message taking and being hostess at numerous meetings of the rugged individualists from P.N.G.V.R.

I have presented medals at various functions in P.N.G. particularly to ex-members such as Corporal Gerry McGrade and Sergeant Simon Hui, to Lieut. Ric Giddings who has recently retired as Chief Magistrate, Kundiawa/Chimbu and who has now taken up residence in his colonial 1824 building 'The Barracks' at Pontville, Midlands Highway, Tasmania. Ric advises us that in this magnificent setting of The Barracks, they have self-contained accommodation with your cottage decorated to incorporate the charm of the old world. Should any member visiting Tasmania wish to contact Ric, his number is (002) 68 1665. Congratulations to Ric who my grapevise tells me will shortly be awarded the civilian M.B.E. for his long service in P.N.G.'s Magisterial Service.

Sgts. Alan Bell (Dinga), and Tom Dowling have given your executive so much support that I must convey to them my personal appreciation for their efforts.



The subject of Vol. II Defence Force Papua New Guinea by James Sinclair must now be mentioned. The inclusion of 48 foolscap pages in this volume now being printed was only done through the courtest of Lieut. Colonel Maurice Pears MC, the Trustee to the Board of Trustees PNG Defence Force and P.I.R. Through sJames Sinclair's and Maurice's co-operation, the executive was permitted to proof read the suggested portion for P.N.G.V.R. and quite a number of alterations were made. There are included in the 48 pages a number of photographs and stories, not as many as we would have wished but indeed, the finished article is one well worth reading.

Without our P.N.G.V.R.'S Association support in purchasing a considerable number of copies of Vol. II then there will be some losses sustained by the book's originator. I personally commend the purchase to your attention. It is available for \$40.00 per copy plus \$10.00 postage from Lieut. Col. Maurice Pears MC, Concorde Leasing, National Bank Building, Isle of Capri, 4217, Queensland. Telephone (075) 388 788.

Should there be any P.N.G.V.R. member of the Association who had over 15 yerars service in P.N.G.V.R. he could be eligible for the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and possibly the Centenary Medal 50th Anniversary Defence Force Papua New Guinea; the latter has a red and green ribbon, and the former is in the fashion of a star in bronze with the scroll of the Papua New Guinea emblem. Should you be able to justify such service in P.N.G.V.R. please forward your particulars to the Secretary, Major Bill Kelly, MBE.ED. for my inclusion of your name in the submission which I am making to the Prime Minister P.N.G. for the possible granting of such awards. It has been broadly hinted that a distinct possibility exists, that a number of these Medals could be made available to this Association and I have already made initial submissions to the Chairman Honours & Awards Committee P.N.G. and will follow it up when in Port Moresby 9 - 11 March and subsequently before Anzac Day. The Executive is presently in possession from Unit Records of 13 members who may qualify. I do point out it could be one or other of the Medals, but with tremendous good fortune some members could get both, however, let us get to square one first.

Your Executive is presently discussing the furtherance of the aims of the Association, that is the reasons for our existence and continued well being - I speak of comradeship, advice and assistance from our members who are in a position to do so to those less fortunate, regular outings with our families so that we may enjoy each other's company and renew again the feelings which originally inspired our voluntary enlistment in such an outstanding formation, P.N.G.V.R. I do request inpur from all Members to be addressed to the Secretary and perhaps these can be discussed at the reunion after the Anzac Day 1992 March, where I can assure you the venue is much more acceptable, pleasant and far better cuisine than last year.

HARRY N. GREEN - COLONEL



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OBITUARY:      Lt. Colonel A.T.S. Clarke AM, RFD, ED

99) A former PNGVR Company Commander, Lt Col Alf Clarke, died in Canberra on December 15 after a distinguished career as a soldier, public servant and community leader. He was 65.

Alfred Thomas Speakman Clarke was born on June 18, 1928<sup>6</sup>, in the NSW town of Kempsey. At the age of five, during the great depression, he was placed in the care of an orphanage. Between the age of 13 and 17, he worked on a number of farms in NSW before joining the AIF in 1943. He saw action in Borneo after which he served with the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan until 1947.

After his discharge from the Army, Alf Clarke went to Canberra to undertake a resettlement course in horticulture and later was appointed to the ACT Parks and Garden Service. He joined the Commonwealth Public Service in 1952 and served with the Department of Works in Canberra and PNG, then the Department of Supply, Administrative Services, Home Affairs and Environment, Sport, Recreation and Tourism, and finally Veterans' Affairs until his retirement in June 1991.

In 1952 he resumed soldiering with the CMF, joining 3RNSWR (the Werriwa Regiment) as a private. He marched out in 1973 as the Regiment's Commanding Officer. He spent five years (1963-68) in Port Moresby as a Company Commander with the PNGVR and played a major role in the integration of Papua New Guineans into the unit.

Alf Clarke married Valerie Smith in 1951. There were two daughters and one son by the marriage which was dissolved in 1974.

1985 was a vintage year for Alf Clarke. It started with his marriage in January to Kate and was followed by his:-

- Appointment as Pavilion Manager at Expo 85 in Japan
- Appointment as Director of the Office of Australian War Graves
- Graduation from the ANU as a Bachelor of Arts majoring in history
- Membership of the Order of Australia (AM).

Over the years, Alf gave freely of his time and energy. He was a former President of the ACT Branch of the RSL, a delegate to the RSL's National Council, a Trustee of ex-servicemen's homes in Canberra, an AWU Delegate to the ACT Trades and Labour Council, a Member of the Council's Disputes Committee and a Member of the Council of the Administrative and Clerical Officers' Association. In PNG he was Chairman of the combined Parents and Citizens Association.

At a thanksgiving service, the distinguished Australian, Major General Sir William Reshaug, said Alf Clarke had displayed great courage and dedication to his country and referred to, what he termed, "Alf's long list and variety of achievements." National and State leaders of the RSL attended the service along with former colleagues from 3RNSWR, the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and numerous community organisations. PNGVR was represented by two former members of his company, Jim McKinley and Don Hook, both of whom live in Canberra.

