

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Another active Association year is coming to a close. Besides our usual activities, in 2016 we self published a book and added an extension with new and upgraded displays to our memorial military museum. As Christmas approaches, our most urgent undertaking is progressing, the planning of the succession for our museum. To ensure its continuity, the tenure of the surrounding military precinct needs not only to be assured but expanded to engage an active, vibrant community.

Negotiations are continuing between the NSAAQ, BCC and Qld RSL for the RSL to lease the historical military precinct from BCC with the assumed aims that the RSL will sponsor and revitalise the site and sublease parts to NSAAQ and PNGVR. If these negotiations succeed our long experience with the precinct indicates that this style of arrangement will be little better than we have now. NSAAQ and PNGVR are diminishing organisations and will eventually cease operating as age and fragility takes its toll. The memorial military museum is another matter; the museum is an important community facility which cannot be replicated and must be handed on to ensure its continuity for future generations.

The Military Precinct requires to maintain its historic military theme, be used daily, serve ongoing useful community purposes and be full time, professionally managed. The Museum meets these criteria and is a fit for the site, but it is insufficient to justify the utilisation of 1 ha of land with 7 buildings thereon. Further appropriate stakeholders must be found and this is what your executive is working through. However, this will take time.



A concept plan has been prepared and potential stakeholders and champions for the precinct are being approached. Stakeholders which would suit and add amenity to the precinct include a post WW2 ex-servicemen's support and welfare centre with overnight accommodation for about 4 men, a men's shed, occasional accommodation for community organisations which do not have or require permanent premises, and premises on which organisations may arrange functions and events of a community nature. Once an appropriate selection of stakeholders is in place, one or a number of champions or sponsors will be found which will fund the precinct until the precinct is near self sustainable. There are many options/choices available once the stakeholders are selected and in place.



The lessee / manager would be an incorporated body with the lessor/ landlord, stakeholders and sponsors as directors, the directors being appointed by the landlord, the BCC,

This is an exciting exercise. It would be very satisfying for our Association, with others, to leave an enterprise similar to the above as a legacy to the community. It would be particularly pleasing to help our military veterans who have difficulty integrating into the community when their military service is completed.

On 18 November, Peter Rogers DFC, Paul Brown and I attended the Alexandra Surf Club luncheon which commemorated surf life savers who have served in the military and the centenary of the western front. Keith Payne VC AM and Ben Robert-Smith

VC MG were the speakers who gave inspirational insights of their military experiences. We were there to participate and to meet with Keith and Ben to solicit their support for the incorporation of a post WW2 veterans support and welfare centre at Wacol, which were freely given. The first photo is of Keith and Ben on the podium during question time and the second photo is of Keith Payne who knew Paul Brown's father, Alan (Shaky) Brown in PNG, and Paul Brown.

As this is the last newsletter for 2016, I take this opportunity to extend to you and your families my very best wishes for Christmas and New Year.

Phil Ainsworth, November 2016

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**James Arthur BIRRELL (Jim)
NG 2201 NGX 355 (Continued)**

Transfer to Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit (ANGAU)

Jim joined ANGAU when NGVR was formally disbanded and served in a number of campaigns – The Markham Valley, Ramu River, Shaggy Ridge, Cape Gloucester, Aitape and Wewak.



Jim, (2nd right)
at destroyed
Japanese tank.
Sanananda

By August 1945 Jim was with the 17th Brigade, Australian 6th Division which had fought its way from Aitape and was rapidly advancing on Wewak.

Jim was heavily involved in leading ANGAU patrols forward of the advancing troops, sometimes behind Japanese lines. Most of his patrols consisted of himself and a number of native police. Whilst they were reconnaissance patrols they took the opportunity to convince the local natives to resist the Japanese.

The official publication "Australia in the War 1939-1945. Army. The Final Campaigns" by Gavin Long mentions Jim at various times:-

"On 10th January Lt Birrell of ANGAU led six native constables on a deep patrol up Ulagamagin Creek which reaches the sea in the Matapau area."

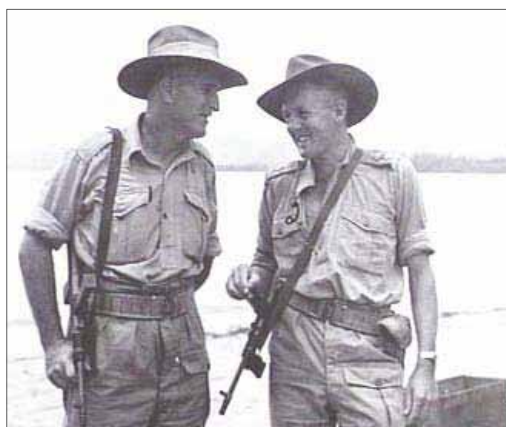
"On 15th March, while numerous clashes were occurring in the area Lt J.A. Birrell of ANGAU and 5 native police returned from a patrol Sowom-Loanim-But, having captured useful papers."

This entry would indicate that the patrol carried out some offensive action on their patrol.

Late March. *"In this phase the 16th Brigade was receiving very valuable help from Lt Birrell of ANGAU, and about 12 native police. Day after day parties of police were sent out with patrols, or with local natives. With the troops they acted as guides; when working by themselves they brought in natives whom Birrell interrogated. One of these announced that the Headquarters of Lt Gen Nakai of the 20th Division was just east of Wonginara Mission."* *"Among the native refugees were two who had been employed, with others, carrying Nakai about in a chair."*

A later comment. *"The intermittent references to the work of ANGAU officers and the natives whom they organised have given only an inconclusive picture of their role. By this time co-operation between ANGAU and the Army formations which it served and which served it was smooth and efficient. One task of the Division was to help ANGAU to gain intelligence, establish bases and protect the local people' for their part the ANGAU officers of the District Services Branch had to give the Divisional Commander the benefit of their knowledge of the district, work with the forward troops on reconnaissance, collect information from the natives, and administer justice and relief."*

"Throughout the campaign a large part of the fighting force



Jim, (right) with
H. Warby during
the advance
Aitape to Wewak

had been wholly or partly dependent on native carriers. Even where supply dropping was possible carriers were needed to take supplies farther forward and take parachutes back to a base. During the operations of the 17th Brigade an ANGAU network was spread deep into enemy territory, under the leadership of the Assistant District Officer, Captain Cole, and, under him, Captain C. M. O'Loughlen, Lieutenants Monk, Graham, Kaad, and Fienberg. On the coast a similar task was done by Captain Searson, Lieutenants Gow and Birrell and Warrant Officer Godwin. These were the men chiefly responsible for the events which led to frequent references in Japanese reports to the "rebellion" of natives behind their lines."

Another comment in the Official War History is interesting.

"At this stage the cheerful familiarity with which the troops were treating the many native labourers was causing concern among ANGAU officers, and the following instructions were issued:

- (a) Natives will, under no circumstances, be picked up or carried in Jeeps. This in no way affects the carrying of natives in the back of larger vehicles on duty.*
- (b) No native will enter camp areas except on duty and then only under the supervision of Angau overseer or boss boy.*
- (c) Troops will not enter native compounds except on duty.*
- (d) Natives will not be allowed to visit picture shows or other forms of entertainment.*
- (e) Troops will have no dealings with natives outside the course of duty.*
- (f) Natives will not be given grenades or explosives for fishing."*

Jim is awarded the Military Cross

For his work during this campaign Jim was awarded the Military Cross.

The Citation states:-

"Lt Birrell has been in charge of all ANGAU activities during the coastal advance from Suain to Wewak. On 10 Jan 45 with six members of the RPC (Royal Papuan Constabulary) he conducted a short patrol from Matapau and up the Utaganagin Creek – an area forward of our troops and patrolled by the enemy. The party returned during the afternoon having disposed of four of the enemy and bringing back valuable information. During Feb 45 he constructed a police post at Asoama, from which post he conducted forward patrols, supplying information to our troops of enemy concentrations and movements. On the 15 Mar 45, accompanied by five members of the RPC, Lt Birrell left Sonom, carried out a recce patrol of Loanim area to Kuminum, and thence to But, to our troops. Documents and enemy equipment were captured and the patrol, after killing five of the enemy, were forced to retire, owing to an enemy patrol, twelve to fifteen strong, moving in behind them to an ambush position. The enemy was observed in strength throughout the area. Lt Birrell conducted other patrols such as these. In all of them he was successful in gaining much valuable information regarding enemy strength and dispositions. As well as conducting these patrols, he organised an efficient sentry system, contacted natives

NAME	BIRRELL, James Arthur		
Award	M.C.	Reg. No.	BOX 355
		Rank	LT
		Service	A.M.F.
Recommended by Governor-General on	21/6/46.		
Presented in London Gazette on	6/3/47.		
Presented in Commonwealth of Australia Gazette on	6/3/47.		
Citation (G. H. File AMF Q/A 40)	Courage & initiative in advance from SUAIN to WSAK.		
Insignia received from London	3/5/48.	PN LONDON.	22/2/49.
		G. H. File	L/137.
Insignia presented by	The Governor-General.		
At	Admiralty House, Sydney,	On	25/1/49.
		G. H. File	SYDNEY/25.
Address of recipient on presentation date	57 Murray Street,		
	MERRYLEIGH, NEW SOUTH WALES.		
Remarks	At the request of the recipient the M.C. was presented to W. BIRRELL, Esq., (Father)		
Other Awards			

ATC/0006093

behind the enemy lines, organised and established refugee camps, interrogated natives, and supplied much valuable information to formation commanders. His work at all times was efficient. He has displayed courage and initiative beyond the call of duty and his devotion to duty merits suitable recognition."

It is interesting to see that the citation was written up by Major General Morris who was the GOC ANGAU. He had originally recommended Jim for the award of the MBE but this was upgraded to a Military Cross by Lt Gen Sturdee who was the GOC First Army and confirmed by Gen Tom Blamey CINC Australian Military Forces. *Doesn't go any higher than that!*

Post War

Jim returned to Australia in 1946 and rejoined the Bank of NSW. But his heart was still in New Guinea and he wanted to go back. He recalled "Then I met up with Jim Leahy. He told me of a job going at Lae with Morobe Transport. I talked it over with my father. I had some seniority at the Bank as I had been back with them for two years and the pay wasn't bad. I was about 27 and my father said "You've always wanted to go back, so make up your mind".

So Jim went to Lae in early 1948. Morobe Transport was trucking to the Goldfields and soon after his arrival the manager left and Jim became Manager. One benefit of trucking in New Guinea at the time was the availability of cheap fuel. There was plenty of fuel left after the war and the cost was about 1/- (10 cents) a gallon, or as Jim had remarked "Nothing if you knew where to go". Morobe Transport at the time had about 200 trucks. In 1952 Jim purchased Morobe Transport and in 1953 built Century Motors in Lae. Morobe Transport ceased to exist as he concentrated on Century Motors, which also had the dealership for Holden.

In 1951 he married Ela Gofton, daughter of Flora Stewart who owned the Cecil Hotel, and they had one son, James Junior. At this time Jim was a co-founder of the Lae Golf Club and played



Jim in 1998

in the Territory Golf Championships. He was president of the Cricket Club and a member of the Lae Town Advisory Council. In addition to his golf and cricket he loved fishing and had his own boat for fishing in the Huon Gulf.

In 1972 Jim sold Century Motors to Repco and stayed on a Manager for a few years until in 1974 he moved to the Plant and Transport Authority until 1979, then to Ela Motors and then Toba Motors until he retired in 1989 and left New Guinea for Queensland's Gold Coast.

Ela died in 2002 and Jim died on 28th November 2015, aged 94 years. Sadly he died on sister Jean's 100th birthday.

DRUMHEAD SERVICE

Outdoor religious services were conducted for fighting men long before armies were co-ordinated under the crown and long before the advent of bands into military units.

The most primitive recorded use of the drum indicates that its prime purpose was to banish evil and undesirable spirits. At a later stage it was realised that the deep, resonant note provided an ideal means of communication between tribal groups over fairly considerable distances.

As civilisations developed the drum was found to be useful for attracting attention and for maintaining a regular rhythmic beat.

Despite its modern usage the drum has never entirely lost its reputation as a pagan instrument. Hence, during the Christian era, drums have never been widely associated with religious music.

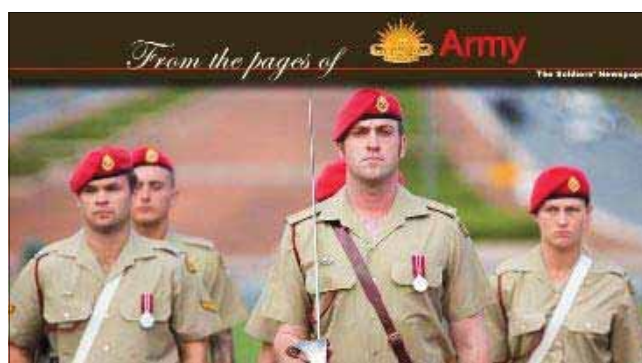
The piling of drums during a religious service dates to the 17th century and was seen as a means of ensuring that the drums could not be beaten during the service.

The drums of 2RAR's Pipes and Drums are black (so too is the battalion's lanyard). This is the mourning colour and is out of respect for the late King George VI. The unit's drums arrived on the day of his death—6 Feb, 1952.

WO1 C.J. Dobson, former RSM Ceremonial and Protocol ADHQ

Military Police mark 100 years of service

Military Police gathered in Canberra in April to celebrate 100 years of military policing in the Australian Army, Cpl Sebastian Beurich reports in army magazine.



Military police from across Australia converged on Canberra from March 31 to April 3 to celebrate the centenary of the Royal Australian Corps of Military Police (RACMP).

The celebrations kicked off on a solemn note when members of the corps and the public gathered at the Australian War Memorial (AWM) to commemorate Cpl Alfred Harston, of the Anzac Provost Corps, who was killed in action during WWI, at a Last Post ceremony.

During the ceremony RACMP RSM WO1 Ken Bullman read about Cpl Harston's life.

"It was an honour to be involved in the Last Post ceremony and to highlight the service and sacrifice of one of our founding members," he said.

"As a result of our method of recruiting, our soldiers are generally much younger now compared to when I joined. Even though some have been in the corps for only a short time, they all understood they were part of a bigger, respected, long serving organisation."

WO1 Bullman said many things had changed over his career with RACMP, but the role had stayed the same.

"Military policing command and reporting chains have changed significantly over the past 25 years. We used to have independent companies under the military district arrangement in each state," he said.

"While we have been built on tradition, we have restructured for the future with improvements in training, equipment and structure to meet operational and domestic challenges."

As part of the centenary celebrations committee, WO1 Bullman had been involved with the planning and preparation of the weekend's events for more than three years.

"While the only activity I had an active part in was the reading at the Last Post ceremony, I had oversight of the numerous activities to ensure they represented the corps in an appropriate way," he said. On the morning of April 2, members of the Corps gathered at the AWM and were joined by the Governor-General Gen Sir Peter Cosgrove, VCDF VAdm Ray Griggs, CA Lt-Gen Angus Campbell and dignitaries from state and territory police forces.

OCD Coy, 1MPBn, Maj Ben Williams was the parade commander for the event.

"The significance and importance of the event wasn't lost on me, however, I only focused on it after the parade was completed," he said. "I deliberately didn't spend much time thinking about who was attending the parade," Maj Williams offered a view on the significance of the weekend's celebrations for the members who attended, both serving and former.

"The centenary activities had an impact on many people – they left a lot of us feeling a renewed sense of pride and respect for those who have served in the RACMP over the last 100 years," he said. "While the focus and training of the corps has evolved over time, our fundamental tasks have been a constant since the corps was raised at Gallipoli. 'I believe as RACMP continues to modernise, we will also maintain these traditions through our links to the past.' The Governor-General said a century ago the soldiers of the AIF at Gallipoli were revered for their bravery and courage, but were not always respectful of authority.

"It was in this environment that more than 100 mounted military police served – albeit without their horses," he said. "They maintained order as best they could. They ultimately played a critical role in facilitating the evacuation of 20,000 troops from that ill-fated peninsula."

He said the work of MPs was difficult and not always popular.

"But it is essential," he said. "You are universally respected. And your value and importance is quickly recognised by those you help and serve."

"Here today we have the largest gathering of current and former military police in living memory."

"This is a day for reflection and camaraderie. For those who have served, and those who currently serve, it is also a day for great pride and honour." The Governor-General said the centenary parade was a tribute to military police and the contribution they had made for 100 years.

"You do your forebears proud," he said, "and I know you will continue to serve our ADF and our great nation with distinction."

FINALLY—A WRITTEN BREATHALYSER TEST.



Tapini Airstrip, Central Province, PNG. 1972. There was a slight dogleg in the airstrip.

A Wonderful Story from WW2

The painting below was by an artist and based on the description of both pilots in this story, many years later. Look carefully at the B-17 and note how shot up it is - one engine dead, tail, horizontal stabilizer and nose shot up. It was ready to fall out of the sky. Then realize that there is a German ME-109 fighter flying next to it.

Charlie Brown was a B-17 Flying Fortress pilot with the 379th Bomber Group at Kimbolton, England. His B-17 was called 'Ye Old Pub' and was in a terrible state, having been hit by flak and fighters. The compass was damaged and they were flying deeper over enemy territory, instead of heading home to Kimbolton.

When the B-17 flew over an enemy airfield, a German pilot named Franz Steigler was ordered to take off and shoot down the B-17, but when he got airborne and closed on the B-17, he could not believe his eyes. In his words, he 'had never seen a plane in such a bad state'. The tail and rear section was severely damaged, and the tail gunner wounded. The top gunner was dead, with his remains spread all over the top of the fuselage. The nose of the plane was smashed and there were holes everywhere.

Despite having ammunition, Franz flew to the side of the B-17 and looked at Charlie Brown, the pilot. Brown was scared, as he was struggling to control his damaged and blood-stained plane.



Aware that Charlie had no idea where he was headed, Franz waved at him to turn 180 degrees. Franz then escorted and guided the stricken plane

to, and slightly over, the North Sea towards England. He then saluted Charlie Brown and turned away, back to his base

When Franz landed, he told the CO that the plane had been shot down over the sea and he never told the truth to anybody. Charlie Brown and the remains of his crew on the other hand, told all at their de-briefing, but were ordered never to talk about it.

More than 40 years later, Charlie Brown wanted to find the Luftwaffe pilot who saved the crew and after years of research, Franz was found. He had never talked about the incident, not even at post-war reunions.

They met in the USA at a 379th Bomber Group reunion, together with 25 people who were alive - all because Franz never fired his guns that day.

When asked why he didn't shoot them down, Stigler later said, "I didn't have the heart to finish those brave men. I flew beside them for a long time. They were trying desperately to get home and I was going to let them do that. I could not have shot at them. It would have been the same as shooting at a man in a parachute."

Both men died in 2008.

This is a true story, from an era when there was honour in being a warrior. They proudly wore uniforms and didn't hide behind women and children, nor plant bombs amidst innocent crowds.... how times have changed!!



More about the incredible DC3 Douglas AC-47 Spooky

The Douglas AC-47 Spooky (also nicknamed "Puff, the Magic Dragon") was the first in a series of gunships developed by the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War. It was designed to provide more firepower than light and medium ground-attack aircraft in certain situations when ground forces called for close air support

The AC-47 was a United States Air Force C-47, (the military version of the DC-3) that had been modified by mounting three 7.62 mm General Electric miniguns to fire through two rear window openings and the side cargo door, all on the left (pilot's) side of the aircraft, and the modified craft's primary function was close air support for ground troops.

Capt. Ron W. Terry returned from temporary duty in Vietnam as part of an Air Force Systems Command team reviewing all aspects of air operations in counter-insurgency warfare, where he had noted the usefulness of C-47s and C-123s orbiting as flare ships during night attacks on fortified hamlets. He received permission to conduct a live-fire test using the C-131 and revived the side-firing gunship program. Captain

Terry had seen DC-3s delivering mail and supplies to remote jungle areas in South America. The aircraft would circle in a steep pylon turn, lowering a bucket on a long rope. The bucket would orbit in a tight circle, suspended from the cargo door, and someone on the ground placed mail in it. Captain Terry suggested adapting this procedure to warfare situations by replacing the rope with a line of machine gun fire.

The newly dubbed "FC-47" often operated under the radio call sign "Puff". Its primary mission involved protecting villages, hamlets, and personnel from mass attacks by VC guerrilla units.

The plane carried 24,000 rounds of minigun ammunition and flares, which it could drop to light up the battleground. The pilot usually fired only two guns at a time in case of a jam and to conserve the 24,000 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition stored in the forward cargo compartment.

Puff's first significant success occurred on the night of 23-24 December 1964. An FC-47 arrived over the Special Forces outpost at Tranh Yend in the Mekong Delta just 37 minutes after an air support request, fired 4,500 rounds of ammunition, and broke the Viet Cong attack. The FC-47 was then called to support a second outpost at Trung Hung, about 20 miles (32 km) away. The aircraft again blunted the



VC attack and forced a retreat. Between 15 and 26 December, all the FC-47's 16 combat sorties were successful. On 8 February 1965, an FC-47 flying over the Bong Son area of Vietnam's Central Highlands demonstrated its capabilities in the process of blunting a Viet Cong offensive. For over four hours, it fired 20,500 rounds into a Viet Cong hilltop position, killing an estimated 300 Viet Cong troops.

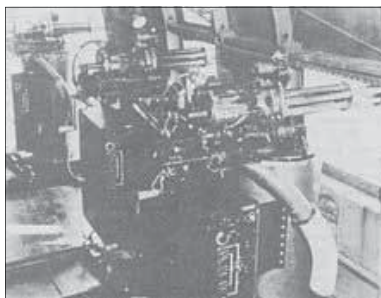
On October 11, a record was established when a single Spooky fired 43,500 rounds and 96 aerial flares defending an outpost in Kien Phong Province. When the plane exhausted its ammunition, it returned to base, reloaded, and returned to the outpost in 30 minutes.

On the last night of 1966, Spookys flew their 500th through 503rd fort-defense missions. During the year, they had flown 5,584 sorties and fired 13.6 million rounds and 81,700 flares—two million rounds and 10,450 flares in December alone.



The superb work of the two American AC-47 squadrons, each with 16 AC-47s flown by aircrews younger than the aircraft they flew, was undoubtedly a key contributor to the award of the Presidential Unit Citation to the 14th Air Commando Wing in June 1968.

One of the most publicized battles of the Vietnam War was the siege of Khe Sanh in early 1968, known as "Operation Niagara". More than 24,000 tactical and 2700 B-52 strikes dropped 110,000 tons of ordnance in attacks that averaged over 300



sorties per day. During the two and a half months of combat in that tiny area, fighters were in the air day and night. At night, AC-47 gunships kept up a constant chatter of fire against enemy troops. During darkness, AC-47 gunships provided illumination against enemy troops.

Of the 53 aircraft converted to AC-47 configuration, 41 served in Vietnam and 19 were lost to all causes, 12 in combat. Combat reports indicate that no village or hamlet under Spooky Squadron protection was ever lost, and a plethora of reports from civilians and military personnel were made about AC-47s coming to the rescue and saving their lives.

A1C John L. Levitow, an AC-47 loadmaster with the 3rd SOS, received the Medal of Honor for saving his aircraft, Spooky 71, from destruction on 24 February 1969 during a fire support mission at Long Binh. The aircraft was struck by an 82-mm mortar round that inflicted 3,500 shrapnel holes, wounding Levitow 40 times, but he used his body to jettison an armed magnesium flare, which ignited shortly after Levitow ejected it from the aircraft, allowing the AC-47 to return to base.

'Spooky' or 'Puff' came to the assistance of Australian forces on a number of occasions, including the Battles of Coral and Balmoral and its firepower was highly effective.

Other countries to use Spooky (or a close version of it using DC3's) include Columbia, Indonesia, El Salvador, Laos, Cambodia, South Africa and Rhodesia (Zimbabwe). Those in Laos and Cambodia were flown out of Vietnam when the South collapsed in 1975 to those countries.

Source Wikipedia

Final Association Formal Mixed Dinner at Jimboomba.

On Saturday 15th Oct 46 Members and friends attended the final Assoc formal Mixed Dinner held at Jimboomba. Over the years 34 dining nights were held at Jimboomba, 25 under canvass and 9 at Ted and Heather McAllan's home.

These dinners originated at a time when a more affordable mixed dining night was sought by some members as the cost of dinners then being held at the Combined Services Club were reaching \$100 p.p. and rising annually. Barry and Pam Wright kindly lent out their back paddock for the event and over the years a fully functional kitchen, hot and cold shower etc were erected.



Percy Neville, Bob Collins, Phil Ainsworth

Assoc Patron Maj Gen John Pearn AO, RFD. And his wife Vena together with Assoc President Phil Ainsworth and



Ian McDougall, Trevor Connell



Bruce Johnson, Ian Thompson



PNGAA President, Andrea Williams have been strong supporters of the dinners as well as a good number of Assn members. However all good things come to an end and with the advancing age of those who were responsible for the erection and dismantling of the site the original venue for the



The presentation of the PNGVR badge by Leigh Eastwood and the unveiling by Patron Maj Gen Pearn AO. RFD. and president Phil Ainsworth



Above L. Assn President Phil Ainsworth, Patron Maj Gen John Pearn AO. RFD. and Dining President Bob Collins with the shield. R. Paul Brown, Leigh Eastwood

dinners, which had tremendous character being under canvass, meant that the venue was relocated to where the effort was not so great. Again Mr Age intervened and even that effort became too great with the workers in their late 70's and 80's.



Kerry Glover, Trevor Connell. Both saw service with Norforce after leaving PNGVR



Leigh Eastwood, Ping and Glen O'Brien. Leigh and Glen were together in PNGVR Mt Hagen



Preparation of the roast portion of the meal by Chef, Karen.



However a great time was had by all with highlights being:-

i) A presentation by Leigh Eastwood of a PNGVR badge which had stood outside the Mt Hagen depot and which he and some friends had restored using Kwila timber, a PNG hardwood as background.

ii) Addresses by the Patron and President of the Assn

iii) A demonstration of didgeridoo playing by a former serviceman, Jason Freimanis, a guest of Leigh Eastwood. Overall a great evening enjoyed by all present and the camaraderie and formality of such functions will be sadly missed.

Brisbane Open Days at Museum



On Sat and Sun 8 & 9 Oct the Assn museum at Wacol was open for visitors as part of the event.

It was a highly successful weekend for the museum as 180 visitors, most of whom did not previously know of the existence of the museum, attended.

As with any visitors to the museum they were impressed at the excellent presentation of the exhibits, thanks to several working bees held prior to the weekend to ensure that everything was up to scratch.

One of the benefits to the museum was the presentation of items and photos from the family of an NGVR member, who was lost on the *Montevideo Mauru*.

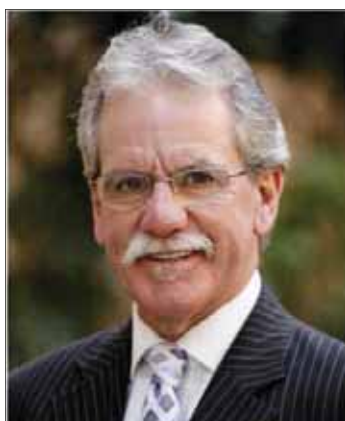
Other benefits were the visits of teachers who are in the process of arranging visits for their school classes next year.

Visits by Probus Clubs, School classes, Historical Societies, Cadet Units, etc are a regular feature of the museum and events such as this, together with the additional workload leading up to them, place a great strain on the gallant few who work so hard at the museum.

Anyone who can lend assistance at any time should contact Museum Curator John Holland whose details are on p16.

What the Bloody Halal is Going on in the Army?

The role of the Australian infantry is 'to close with and kill the enemy'



There are no ambiguities in that mission statement. In order to train for their assigned role infantrymen practice with guns and live bullets to shoot at targets shaped as humans. They lob grenades to practice blowing people apart. They use fixed bayonets on sandbags to hone their killing skills. They practice ambush drills so they can kill as many enemy as possible in one massive shoot - out. They are trained to be tougher, stronger and more

courageous than their foe. And they know they must be prepared to die for each other.

At the end of their training day they come home to help their wives with the housework and their kids with their homework. Next day they resume their training in how to kill people.

They are aware that any enemy they are likely to face has a similar purpose. Some even practice blowing themselves up!

Seven years ago an army team was committed to clearing up a compound which housed a suspected insurgent in Afghanistan. It had to be completed in the dark. As they entered the close confines of the compound all hell broke loose. The troops took cover and called on the insurgent to stop firing and surrender. He answered with another hail of bullets. One of the troops got close enough to hurl a grenade through an opening before his mates stormed the room just as they were trained to do. When the smoke and dust had settled six people, including the insurgent and four children were dead.

Canberra was mortified when they learned that the commandos they sent to Afghanistan to kill people actually killed people. An officer who was trained to write reports and had mountains of files worth of experience was appointed to investigate. He recommended they be charged with manslaughter. A female lawyer dressed up as a Brigadier took up the issue and charged the men.

The army judge who heard the case was a young lawyer who I worked with at the 1st Brigade in the early 1980s. He had worked with troops for decades and had a close working knowledge of what they were trained to do, their values and the pride they had in their uniform. He threw the case out. The Brigadier made a few cat-calls but to no avail. The commandos returned to their duties.

The next challenge was to look at the dietary requirements of the troops, troopettes and undecided in the field which is defined as any space beyond the border of the ACT. It was here that all Halal broke loose.

Combat rations were examined calorie by calorie. My Kitchen Rules staff were enlisted to join the conversation. Ministers, priests, rabbi's, imans, agnostics and organisers of the gay mardi gras congregated to bless and blaspheme menus. Bully - beef and dog biscuits were subject to stringent OH&S checks and promptly banned. It was found that if a supply of bully - beef was ever captured and consumed by the enemy it could cause severe gastronomical upsets and trigger a class action. If our troops and troopettes ran out of bullets and had to throw dog-biscuits as a last resort they could cause significant injuries to their non-friends shooting back at them.

The psychological state of troops and troopettes at the time of consumption had to be considered. How did the past owner of that 20g piece of meat in that packet die? Was it shot? Was its throat cut? Was it a lethal injection or just old age. Was it given last rites? And by whom?

Surveys of troops, troopettes and the undecided to determine their ethnic origins were necessary to determine the proportion of rations required to meet their needs on operations outside the ACT. How many days each year should they spend amongst those on the other side who lived in suburbs like Boganville before returning to the safety of their PC bubble? So much to ponder!

In light of these considerations the recent decision of the Chief of Army to declare that 30 percent of combat ration

packs must carry Halal certification to cater for the 0.35 per cent of Muslims in his army makes a lot of sense. PC scribes are already drawing up his nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize.

'Combat ration balance' could well be their next international cause celebre!

The Hon. Charlie Lynn

For more topics please visit www.charlielynn.com.au/blog

Mysterious German Submarine from WW2 discovered in Great Lakes, USA

Divers from the U.S coast guard took part, in a delicate wreck recovery operation to bring to the surface a Nazi submarine discovered two weeks ago at the bottom of Lake Ontario.

The U-boat was spotted for the first time by amateur scuba divers in late January and they had contacted the authorities. Archaeologists associated with Niagara University and master divers from the U.S Coast Guard were mobilized on site to determine what it was, and they soon realized that they were dealing with a German submarine that sank during World War II.

A wreck recovery vessel of the Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society was mandated to refloat the ship and bring it back to Niagara Falls, where it must be restored before becoming a museum ship. The delicate recovery operation took nearly 30 hours to complete, but the submarine was finally brought down on the bank with relative ease.

The divers of the U.S. Coast guard braved the frigid water temperature to go attach cables to the wreck for the recovery operation.



The submarine was identified as the UX-791, a unique experimental German submarine, based on the U-1200 model, and known to have participated in the "Battle of the St. Lawrence". It was reported missing in 1943 and was believed to have been sunk near the Canadian coast.

Professor Mark Carpenter, who leads the team of archaeologists, believes that the U-boat could have travelled up the St-Lawrence River, all the way to the Great Lakes, where it intended to disturb the American economy.

A report from February 1943 suggests, that the ship could have attacked and destroyed three cargo ships and two fishing vessels, even damaging the USS Sable (IX-81), an aircraft carrier of the U.S. navy that was used for training in the Great Lakes, before finally being sunk by anti-sub grenades launched by a Canadian frigate.

"We have known for a long time that the Nazis had sent some of their U-boats in the St-Lawrence River, but this is

the first proof that they actually reached the Great Lakes," Professor Carpenter told reporters. "This could explain the mysterious ship disappearances that took place in the region in 1943, and the reported "Battle of Niagara Falls" which had always been dismissed as a collective hallucination caused by fear."

The restoration of the submarine could take more than two years, but once completed, the museum ship is expected to become one of the major tourist attractions of the region.

Barbara Johnson, 16th Feb, 2016.

After the photo of the two bullets that collided at Gallipoli during WW1, the following was received from John McHarg, a friend of Committeeman Tony Boulter.

The bullet that's taken all the damage was fired from a British Short Magazine Lee Enfield rifle (or Vickers MMG) – abbreviated SMLE and referred to colloquially by those using it in WW1, as "Smelly".



Those whose lives include a brush with the military will probably just refer to it as a Three-oh-three, which was the calibre - .303 of an inch or slightly bigger in diameter than the standard NATO round of 7.62mm.

The other bullet, with the conspicuous "grooves" is from a German Mauser, more correctly called the Gewehr 98, which fired a projectile of identical bore to the .303 – 7.92mm, even though the photo suggests the Mauser round is bigger. The projectile itself was not as heavy as the .303 bullet but the muzzle velocity was significantly higher.

Before the Hague conventions of 1899 and 1907 intervened, earlier .303 rounds had used hollow tipped bullets – called dum dums – as they were first used in India (around Calcutta perhaps? Calcutta Airport is also referred to as Dum Dum) and the Kyber Tribal areas. These proved a mixed blessing to the person firing the weapon as occasionally the bullet core would separate from the jacket in flight. This separation sometimes also occurred before the bullet had exited the barrel and can't have been much fun for the user who would – not realising - chamber and fire another round into a blocked barrel.

The .303 projectile satisfies the description "full metal jacket" as its cupro-nickel envelope surrounds an interesting core. It was autoclaved before being inserted, apparently to minimise the risk of infection to the poor bastard who got in its way which seems somewhat self-defeating.

The bullet's C of G is now moved to the rear, but the bullet's stability was preserved through the gyroscopic forces acting on it by the rifling. The big pay-off was in the projectile's behaviour once it hit flesh.

In the rapid de-celeration, the internal lead filling continued forward for a split second, compressing the lighter filling, dramatically reshaping the round into something blunt and destructive, and inflicting far more damage than would a bullet that held its shape in contact.

There was little consistency about the way various armouries bored the barrels, and the rifling would turn clockwise or anti-clockwise, depending on the number of "lands" and "grooves" involved in the process.

In all cases though, the rifling made 2.1 turns – left or right - in the 25 inch barrel.

The Mark VII .303 round had a very healthy muzzle velocity of 2440 fps or 740 metres/second. This equates to 1660 mph or 2700kph, comfortably supersonic, Mach 2+ actually.

In turn this confirms some anecdotal reports that soldiers fortunate enough to be standing close enough to a round that was about to “miss” them, reported hearing a sharp “crack” as the bullet passed, being the sound of the local sound barrier being broken.

About 1/600th of a second after the hot gases from the firing cap flashed into the cordite propellant, the bullet left the barrel followed by a localised supersonic expulsion of gases.

The pressure in the chamber in the split second after detonation was around 50,000psi.

The bullet will complete just over 2 rotations during its passage down the barrel, and according to my maths, would have been spinning at around 70,000rpm (modern dentist's drills rotate at 400,000rpm).



Bullets and shell casings hit by other bullets also in the museum

Hydrostatic Shock

High muzzle velocities deliver another benefit to munitions manufacturers that they're happy to pass on to end users.

It's called “hydrostatic shock” (or hydraulic shock) and it describes the damage that a bullet wound can cause, remote from its actual entry and passage.

There's plenty of evidence that a non fatal bullet wound can cause neurological damage as the “wave front” caused by the bullet's impact travels round the body and into the brain, via relatively incompressible blood, and there's also the trauma caused to soft tissue, remote from the wound site.

Kill ratios

We are continually confronted on TV and in movies, with gun-fire and death or injury by hand-guns, rifles and automatic weapons.

According to statistics though, what we're seeing is at odds with reality.

While estimates vary widely, it's estimated that in the Vietnam conflict, it took about 50,000 rounds, yes fifty thousand rounds of small calibre fire to kill or wound one enemy combatant.

I couldn't find estimates for WW1, but there are numbers available for more recent conflicts and in the various Gulf theatres over the last 15 years, it's estimated that it took/still takes up to 150,000 rounds to achieve a similar outcome.

By far the most effective ground to ground battlefield killing agent is high explosive delivered in a fragmentation envelope.

Mad Minute

The 303, fully loaded, had 11 rounds on board. One in the chamber, and 10 in the magazine.

Magazines could be loaded by hand, but it was preferable to charge them using 2 clips of ammo, each holding 5 rounds. Because 303 bullets are “rimmed” it was vital that they be loaded in such a way that the rim of the lower bullet in the magazine be behind that of the bullet above it, otherwise, the action of cycling the bolt would “pick up” the top bullet in the magazine, which in turn would engage the bullet below – rim to rim, and the weapon would jam.

On the Western Front during WW1, there were several reports from German soldiers, advancing across No Mans' Land, that they'd believed they were being engaged by an Allied machine gun platoon or Company.

They were in fact running towards a section of top 303 infantry marksmen who were able to consistently get up to 30 aimed shots per minute away, with their “smellies”. That this rate of fire would involve at least 2 magazine changes per minute makes it even more incredible.

In range practice before WW1, cases are recorded of 36 and 38 hits on 2' and 4' targets over 300 yards in one minute.

Vickers MMG

It's quite possible the round pictured was fired from one of the medium machine guns the British and Empire troops took to Gallipoli.

Those of you who were encouraged to join the school cadets by Napoleon's Maxim*, would also have spent some time sitting behind a Vickers Medium Machine Gun, which used the same rimmed ammo as the .303, but belt fed.

It was a favourite of infantrymen in both wars because of its reliability and stopping power, and to fire one using live ammo was a transcendent experience, (provided no one was shooting back).

I don't recall that ear protection was offered.

An action is described on the Western Front in 1916 where a British machine gun Company fired their 10 Vickers MMGs continuously for 24 hours without a single jam. 100 barrels were used and a million rounds fired.

And there were other cases on the Western Front and Gallipoli where soldiers were so thirsty they were forced to drink the coolant water from their machine guns.

Thank you John and Tony.

** Napoleon's Maxims are quotes from Napoleon Bonaparte on a host of matters including war.*

Gibbes Sepik Airways

Gibbes Sepik Airways was founded by Bobby Gibbs in 1948 using Junkers and Auster aircraft.

Robert Henry Maxwell (Bobby) Gibbs, DSO, DFC and BAR OAM (6 May 1916 – 11 April 2007) was a leading Australian



fighter ace of World War II, and the longest-serving wartime commanding officer of No. 3 Squadron RAAF. He was officially credited with 10½ aerial victories, although his score is often reported as 12, including two shared. Gibbes was also credited with five aircraft probably destroyed, and a further 16 damaged. He commanded No. 3 Squadron in North Africa from February 1942 to April 1943, apart from a brief period when he was injured.

Born in rural New South Wales, Gibbes worked as a jackaroo and salesman before joining the Royal Australian Air Force in February 1940. Posted to the Middle East in April 1941, he flew with No. 3 Squadron in the Syria-Lebanon Campaign, and became commanding officer during the Western Desert Campaign, where his leadership and fighting skills earned him the Distinguished Service Cross and the Distinguished Flying Cross and Bar. Subsequently posted to the South West Pacific, he served with No. 80 Wing of the Australian First Tactical Air Force, and took part in the "Morotai Mutiny" of April 1945. After the war he spent many years in New Guinea developing local industry, for which he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2004. He continued to fly until the age of 85, and died five years later in 2007.



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Lieutenant Colonel Henry William Murray, VC, CMG, DSO (and Bar), DCM (1880–1966)

The most highly decorated soldier in the Australian army, dashing, brave and handsome, Murray rose from the ranks to command a battalion.

He described his occupation as a "bushman" when he joined the 16th Battalion AIF in 1914, but Harry Murray was already a mature and independent leader of men. He worked at Manjimup, Western Australia, employing sleeper cutters and had earlier been an armed escort for a mining company north of Kalgoorlie. It was soon evident that he was also a natural soldier. On Gallipoli he was promoted, awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal, and then commissioned as an officer in the 13th Battalion.

The following year, in France, Murray's reputation grew, and



he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) for his work at Mouquet Farm. Later, in January 1917, near Gueudecourt, in a night attack at Stormy Trench, he won the Victoria Cross. There, in fierce fighting, he fought off enemy counter-attacks and led a "brilliant charge". At Bullecourt in April, leading his troops with the cry, "come on men, the 16th are getting hell", he got a second DSO.

Murray was not a reckless hero,

but rather a quiet and charismatic leader who believed in training and discipline and who possessed sound tactical skills. In May 1918 he was promoted lieutenant colonel to command the 4th Machine Gun Battalion.

Further honours came; he was awarded the French Croix de Guerre and appointed Companion in the Order of St. Michael and St. George. Charles Bean described him as "the most distinguished fighting officer of the AIF".

Following the war Murray became a grazier; eventually, in 1928, he bought a property, "Glenlyon", at Richmond, in Queensland. In the Second World War he commanded first a militia battalion then a Volunteer Defence Corps home-guard unit until he retired in 1944. He died following a car accident on 7 January 1966.

DHC-4 Caribou A4-225

The South Australian Aviation Museum, located at Port Adelaide has been selected as one of five preferred tenderers by the Military Sales Office for the acquisition of a surplus DHC4 Caribou.

Their President, Pieter Van Diek, reports "A4-225 had a 44-year service life with the RAAF, being delivered in June 1965 and retired in 2009. It served with 38 Sqn Detachment A in PNG where it was used to qualify crews for Vietnam service and it was also involved in relief work around the region. An example of that is its part in the relief operation in Townsville after Cyclone Althea in 1971.



A related issue of course is the construction of our new display hangar needed to accommodate the aircraft. The 9.7m tail height of the Caribou necessitated a hasty redesign of the wall height of two bays of the hangar from

the planned 6m to 10m because it was unthinkable to display the aircraft without its tail!

It was particularly gratifying to receive congratulations, best wishes and some very interesting stories from servicemen who had been involved with 225 over its 44-year life with the RAAF. Bill Bickerton was one - Lt William L. Bickerton regimental 860284 - 1963 to 1971. He wrote:

"I was a commissioned Officer with Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles - I was the Assault Pioneer Platoon Commander. Pioneers provide Engineering services within an infantry battalion and are normally attached to Support Company. Duties include clean water supply, mine laying and lifting, bridge and minor road construction and maintenance, demolitions and small infrastructure projects. PNGVR was a very unique Battalion - formed as NGVR during WW2 then reformed after the war as PNGVR. It was disbanded prior to Independence in 1973, the only Australian Army unit formed and disbanded outside of Australia. It never paraded in Australia, was always on full battle order and was a multicultural unit with Australians, other personnel of European origin, Chinese, Papuans and New Guineans. Many of our local soldiers went on to commissioned and non-commissioned ranks with the Pacific Islands Regiment. Our Battle Honours include South West Pacific, Rabaul and Wau and we are one of only 2 or 3 Australian units that wear the US Presidential Award for support to US troops in the battle of Los Negros - both inherited from the NGVR. I served part of my National Service at HMAS Lorengau (Manus Island) with the Royal Australian Navy." He then went on to provide some fascinating insights into how that role brought him into contact with 225 and other Caribous:

"We were doing an exercise on the river flats near the Butibum River out of Lae. The Caribou Squadron Commander came to me and said 'we need a STOL strip out there by tomorrow as I have two aircraft coming in with stores and equipment.' I stuttered and mumbled a few questions, whereupon he gave me a grin and said 'Come with me young man'. He took me up in a helicopter and showed me from some considerable height where he wanted the strip - it was a huge area of 1 -2 metre high kunai grass. We then descended, he spoke to the pilot and then did a fast straight line run just a couple of metres above the kunai. We went back up and, sure enough, there was my centreline of flattened grass. We called every soldier and the local villagers as we could, issued sarifs to cut the grass and by midday on the day of arrival we had a perfect airstrip ready. The planes came in on time without incident. It is absolutely amazing how those fully loaded aircraft could land and stop in just a few metres.

I also flew in these aircraft in East Timor. I was doing aid work with Care Australia in Suai in 2000 when advised that my wife was very sick in Brisbane and was evacuated in a Caribou to Dili and then on to Darwin to connect with a commercial flight to Brisbane. Thanks a million Aussie Army and RAAF."



Bill also sent the photo on previous page, taken in 1968 or 69 at Jackson's field in Port Moresby, of loading PNGVR troops on a Caribou (perhaps

225??) for an infantry exercise at Milne Bay. Bill was platoon commander of the troops and the pilot was P/O Rex Ingram. The photo is a bit fuzzy but certainly worth including here.

Thank you Association Member Bill Bickerton.

Are VCs won or awarded?

In writing stories for public consumption, if you say "Willie Apiata, Ben Roberts-Smith or Mark Donaldson (below) won a VC", you're likely to get lynched.

It's happened to me a couple of times (and it can be painful).

But I stand by my right to say it – and here's why...

I acknowledge that the Royal Patents for the 'awarding' of the Victoria Cross does say that the honour is 'awarded', but I don't think you can infer that the absence of other descriptors therefore prohibits their use.

That aside, if you search for "won the Victoria Cross" or "win the Victoria Cross" on Google, you will get thousands of references, some of them official government sites – Australian, New Zealand, Canadian and British.

For example...

- The Australian War Memorial has published an article specifically clarifying "Why it is not incorrect to speak of winning a Victoria Cross"
- The AWM refers to the Battle of Lone Pine as being "remarkable in that seven Australians won the Victoria Cross"
- Again, the AWM says that Albert Jacka, "became the first Australian to win the Victoria Cross in the First World War".

- The victoriacrosssociety.com has at least one story that refers to "Three Devonians won the Victoria Cross in the First World War"
- Any number of regimental web pages, such as the suffolkregiment.org says "A number of men have won The Victoria Cross while serving with the Regiment"
- rmg.co.uk (Royal Museum Greenwich – a fairly prestigious source) has a story (among many) on "How Jack Cornwell won the Victoria Cross".

A search of the Imperial War Museum (again, right up there for authority) web site for "won the Victoria cross" turns up more than 50 results.

I could go on and on, but I'm confident my point is well supported by credible citations.

And, at the end of the day, no one has ever been able to cite a reference or authority to support the (sometimes heated) argument that VCs are "only 'awarded' and never 'won'".



I do understand and appreciate that some readers get very passionate on this topic, and I admire and encourage healthy and respectful debate – but – I believe the weight of use in everyday language for more than 100 years, supported by common usage in official circles, exonerates little old me and CONTACT magazine.

In the end, I think it comes down to personal preference. And I for one am all for the widest possible vocabulary in common narratives.

But, if anyone has a legitimate argument or can cite a credible source to prove the rest of the world wrong, I have been known to change my mind from time to time.

Brian Hartigan. Managing Editor, Contact, Air Land & Sea, Newsletter

Authorities use the system of awarding to control who and how many people receive medals and similar acknowledgements (Knighthoods, AOs, etc). In order to be awarded a medal, certain criteria must be met, notably that the witnesses or nominating party(ies) are credible and reliable. Other factors no doubt come into play; I doubt that a convicted murderer or rapist would qualify for a major medal in this political day and age no matter how brave they were on the battlefield. The idea behind a medal being "awarded", as opposed to being won, is that the authorities have found enough evidence to reach an agreement to award the medal. While not wishing to cast aspersions on anyone, we have more than enough evidence of civilians giving themselves medals in order to complete their disguise in cases of stolen valour to suggest that some weak willed service members might be tempted to concoct their own story. This also explains why some service members miss out on certain medals or bravery awards altogether; they may have entered legend for their brave deeds but their actions were not properly witnessed by a suitable nominating authority. I am not saying it is fair, just how it is.

Editor.

Did you know?

In some ancient cultures, when a warrior was killed in battle, other warriors would surround the grave and prod the air with spears to deter demons and spirits from entering and taking over the grave. Today we do the same thing but with an armed honour guard who fire a volley into the air.



Pindiu Airstrip, Morobe Province. 3,000 ft. The strip had quite a bump towards this end which pilots used for lift on takeoff and a drop this end, just out of sight in this photo taken in the 1960's.

STUDENT WHO OBTAINED 0% ON AN EXAM

Was the student right or wrong???

- Q1. In which battle did Napoleon die?
* His last battle
- Q2. Where was the Declaration of Independence signed?
* At the bottom of the page
- Q3. River Ravi flows in which state?
* Liquid
- Q4. What is the main reason for divorce?
* Marriage
- Q5. What is the main reason for failure?
* Exams
- Q6. What can you never eat for breakfast?
* Lunch & dinner
- Q7. What looks like half an apple?
* The other half
- Q8. If you throw a red stone into the blue sea what will it be come?
* Wet
- Q9. How can a man go eight days without sleeping?
* He sleeps at night
- Q10. How can you lift an elephant with one hand?
* You will never find an elephant that has one hand
- Q11. If you had three apples and four oranges in one hand and four apples and three oranges in other hand, what would you have?
* Very large hands
- Q12. If it took eight men ten hours to build a wall, how long would it take four men to build it?
* No time at all, the wall is already built
- Q13. How can you drop a raw egg onto a concrete floor without cracking it?
* Any way you want, concrete floors are very hard to crack

I would have given him 100%

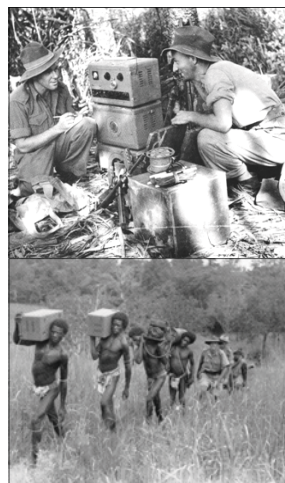
WW2 New Guinea Radio Transmitters

Lunga, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, 1943. The base radio station dugout of the Coastwatchers Ken (Named after its call-sign) network in the Solomon Islands. The equipment operated



by this station is (left in rack) an HRO RAS Army type transmitter/receiver and (right) an AWA 3BZ Teleradio for emergency use.

Radio transmitter and receiver 3BZ used by spotters of the New



A coast watching radio, AWA Teleradio 3A, at work in the jungle, showing how many parts to the machine and how difficult it was to transport. AWM Photos taken near Nassau Bay/ Mubo and Oro Bay.

Guinea Air Warning Wireless Company (NGAWW). The AWA Teleradio 3A (see next column) was designed and introduced into service in 1935 and continued until 1940. It was made specifically for tropical, jungle and island use and was commonly used for civil and domestic communications. It was Papua and New Guinea's counterpart of Aus-

tralia's Pedal Wireless. Some early sets were available with Pedal generators.

The AWA Teleradio 3BZ was the result of a substantial upgrade of the 3A in 1940 to the 3B and in 1942 to the 3BZ, a vastly more sophisticated unit with 13 watt output and crystal controlled transmitter. The receiver had a 5 band capacity.



The photos show the AWA 3A and the 3BZ. Both were used by Stan Burton who was a radio operator with both NGVR and New Guinea Air Warning Wireless.

"The Spotter" by Nobby Clark during WW2

Somewhere in wild New Guinea, in a lousy native hut,
Lives a sad and lonely spotter going slowly off his nut.

His clothes are old and shabby; his hair is wild and long,
He smokes the trade tobacco which is dirty black and strong.

His 'kai' is mostly kau kau, bully beef and Jap sardines,
With stuff in tins that's one of pork, and ninety nine of beans.

He never sees the pictures; he seldom gets his mail,
All round is jungle, which surrounds him like a jail.

His one and only magazine has helped to play it's part,
He reads the thing so often, that he knows it off by heart.

The native bois get on his nerves, the girls are even worse;
All day long they sit around which makes him think and curse.

He's not in line for medals; no spot will bear his name,
Yet if Tojo ever finds him, he'll be 'for it' just the same.

In spite of all his troubles, he'll do the thing that's right,
And keep his lonely vigil, throughout the day and night.

He'll send those warning signals when the Nips fly overhead
If not, you'll know the spotter is off his nut, or dead.

Given by Stan Burton (dec'd) NGVR and New Guinea Air Warning Wireless Coy (AIF) to your museum.



General Hitoshi Imamura

The General was the highest ranking Japanese Imperial Army officer in New Guinea during WW2: two other officers, both Lieutenant Generals, Horii and Adachi, were based on the New Guinea mainland, the former died during the Kokoda Track campaign, whilst the latter surrendered the Japanese 18th Army to Lt General Robbie Robertson. Imamura was based at Rabaul

and responsible for the whole of New Guinea and the Solomon Islands: about 150,000 army and naval troops were on the islands of the Bismarck Archipelago and the Solomon Islands at the time of the surrender.

General Imamura was born in 1886 and died at 82: his military service was 1907-1945. He attended the Army War College and was sent to England as military attaché in 1918, promoted Lt Colonel 1926, military attaché to India, became Colonel 1930, then undertook several staff appointments, promoted Maj General 1935, Lt General 1938 and General 1943. He was tried for war crimes at Rabaul and received ten years being released in 1954 in Tokyo.



Hitochi Imamura surrendered to Lt General VAH Sturdee on board HMS Glory, a British aircraft carrier, in St Georges Channel between New Britain and New Ireland at 1130 hrs on 6 September 1945. At the top of the gangway on HMS Glory, Imamura, accompanied by Vice Admiral Jininchi

Kusaka, was met by Lt Colonel L K Shave a General Staff officer with the Australian 1st Army, acting as master at arms and a British Marine guard: the guard removed all weapons, except the General's sword from the Japanese party: Imamura presented the sword to Lt General Vernon Sturdee before the signing of the surrender documents. The sword ended up with the commander of HMS Glory.

The party involved in the surrender also included Maj General K W Eather, GOC 11 Australian Division and Captain Anthony Buzzard, commander of HMS Glory. General Imamura signed in English for the surrender of the Imperial Japanese Army and Vice Admiral Kusaka signed in Japanese for the Imperial Japanese Navy. Three official copies of the surrender documents were made, one for Australia, one for HMS Glory (Great Britain) and the third for Japan.

Thank you Bob Harvey-Hall
This is one of a series of persons of interest during WW2 in New Guinea.

Defence Force Wins Top Construction Award

Relocating 13 Defence units and facilities from Moorebank to Holdsworthy is no mean feat. However the move paid off for the Australian Defence Force and Laing O'Rourke Australia Construction with the project awarded this year's Australian Construction Achievement Award.



The three year project cost \$870 million to complete and involved 9,000 people working on site. The workforce

reached a peak of 1,200 people per day, all while more than 3,000 military personnel continued to use the base.

The project came in ahead of time and budget.

Centenary of Fromelles and Pozières

Australia honoured the service and sacrifice of our First World War soldiers this week at the centenary commemorations for the battles of Fromelles and Pozières in July this year.

The Battle of Fromelles, which commenced on 19 July, 1916, was the first major engagement by Australian soldiers on the Western Front where the Australian 5th Division suffered 5533 casualties in just 24 hours — Australia's bloodiest single day in military history.

The Battle of Pozières – 23 July to 3 September 1916 – involved three further Australian Divisions capturing and holding the village of Pozières and launching 19 attacks.

Almost 300,000 Australians served on the Western Front, where 45,000 lost their lives and more than one-third of those have no known grave.

A commemorative service on Tuesday 19 July at the Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery marked the start of a series of 100-year anniversaries of battles involving Australians on the Western Front. This included a Headstone Dedication for six soldiers whose remains were identified by the Australian Army's Unrecovered War Casualties Fromelles project team.

On Saturday 23 July, a service was conducted at the site of the 1st Australian Division Memorial, Pozières and the remains of three unknown soldiers were reinterred with full military honours.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Dan Tehan attended the events with Warren Snowdon MP, the Governors of New South Wales, South Australia and Queensland, Chief of Army Lieutenant General Angus Campbell, Australian Ambassador to France Stephen Brady, French Secretary of State for Veterans' and Commemorations Jean-Marc Todechini, Military Governor of Lille General Bernard Maitrier and other dignitaries.

Mr Tehan said that even one hundred years after the fighting took place, Australia would re-bury unknown soldiers with respect and honour, because it is the right thing to do.

"The Australians at Fromelles, Pozières and across the Western Front were volunteers fighting for our values and freedom — their bravery has become legendary, especially in this corner of Europe," Mr Tehan said.

"They are custodians of the Anzac tradition and set a standard that continues to this day in the men and women who serve in our defence forces."

"As a country we must never forget the service of the men and women who fight and die defending our way of life."

"We should reflect on the experiences these Australians endured so far from home, the things they saw and the sacrifices they made and we should be grateful for the liberty we enjoy today because of their selfless actions."

Source Land Sea & Air Magazine

A police officer called the station on his radio.
 "I have an interesting case here. An old lady shot her husband for
 stepping on the floor she just mopped"
 "Have you arrested the woman?"
 "Not yet! The floor's still wet."

Construction of Australian Peacekeeping Memorial started



Construction of an Australian Peacekeeping Memorial has started in Canberra to honour more than 90,000 Australian peacekeepers.

The memorial's construction is the culmination of ten years' work by the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Committee led by Major General Tim Ford (retired).

Minister for Defence Marise Payne and Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel Dan Tehan said the Federal Government had contributed more than \$2 million towards construction of the first stage of the memorial on ANZAC Parade in Canberra.

"This memorial will be a focal point for all Australians to reflect on the service and sacrifice of generations of Australians whom have helped bring peace and stability to troubled parts of the world," Minister Payne said. "Australia has a long and proud history of peace building and peacekeeping. Since 1947, peacekeepers from the Australian Defence Force, the Australian Federal Police, state police forces and civilians have displayed courage and commitment, sometimes in very tragic and stressful situations, such as the ADF members who witnessed the massacre at Kibeho, Rwanda in 1995."

Mr Tehan said Australia's commitment to international peacekeeping continues today.

"Currently there are more than 50 ADF personnel deployed on peacekeeping roles, including Operation Aslan in South Sudan, Operation Paladin in Israel, Jordan Lebanon, Syria and Egypt and Operation Mazurka on the Sinai Peninsula," Mr Tehan said. "The discipline, restraint and compassion they continue to demonstrate is making a real difference and all Australians should be proud of what our peacekeepers are achieving."

The Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Committee is now aiming to finalise fund raising for the second stage of construction – two monoliths that represent warring parties kept at bay by peacekeepers – so the memorial is completed by the 70th anniversary of Australian peacekeeping in September 2017.

Further details about the project are available at: www.peacekeepingmemorial.org.au



Native boys boiling sea water in a copper to obtain salt. When the NGVR observation post overlooking Madang was preparing to evacuate their position on a Japanese landing they produced large quantities of salt and left this in evacuation posts along a route to the Highlands under the control of a Police boi. The need for salt was to pay native carriers and buy food as required This photo was taken during 1942 at Madang and is on display with many more at your museum.

OPERATIONAL SERVICE MEDAL BORDER PROTECTION



The Australian Operational Service Medal – Border Protection recognises the range of border protection operations conducted since 1997. To qualify, Australian Defence Force (ADF) members must have been deployed or force assigned for duty as a member of a declared operation: for a period of not less than an aggregate of 30 days; or completed 30 sorties from a unit assigned to a declared operation, provided that those sorties were conducted over a period of not less than an aggregate of 30 days at a rate of one sortie per day. The Australian Operational Service Medal is cupro-nickel finished in antique silver. The obverse bears an old-world stylised world globe signifying global operations, interlinked with a Federation Star. The globe is surrounded by the words 'AUSTRALIAN OPERATIONAL SERVICE MEDAL'. The reverse bears a central horizontal stylised scroll with the words 'Defending Australia and its national interests', overlaying a wreath of mimosa, above which sits an hour glass motif signifying the ongoing vigilance and timely response of Defence.

Medal Ribbon The ribbon for the Australian Operational Service Medal – Border Protection has three equal stripes of dark blue, ochre and dark green which denote the seas and sky, the deserts and the forests and grasslands.

At my age I have learned to live life only for the present:-
 - I have come to realise that I cannot influence the future
 - I can't remember the past.



Operation Render Safe hits Solomon Islands

The dangers posed by explosive remnants of war in the Solomon Islands will again be tackled with the commencement of Operation Render Safe 16 over the weekend.

The annual ADF-led Operation Render Safe deployment is Australia's enduring commitment to the removal of unexploded and abandoned World War II munitions, commonly referred to as explosive remnants of war (ERW), which continue to pose a danger to communities in the South West Pacific.

Operation Render Safe 16 is operating until 7 October, 2016, in three primary areas: Honiara (Guadalcanal Island), Tulagi (Florida Group) and Yandina (Russell Islands).

Some 120 Australian Defence Force personnel are joined by 40 specialists from New Zealand, Canada and the United Kingdom, with the full cooperation of the Solomon Islands Government and in close partnership with the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF).

Commander Etienne Mulder, Australian Contingent Commander, said the operational deployment held special significance for the personnel involved as they were able to contribute to the safety of people.

"Operation Render Safe is an important real-time undertaking that removes the lethal potential of explosive remnants of war," Commander Mulder said.

"In the Solomon Islands we will achieve this through close co-operation and working side-by-side with RSIPF personnel who possess extensive ERW knowledge and experience.

"We will also be relying heavily on the local communities as they will be the ones with the local knowledge as to the location of ERW.

"Without positive interaction and community support, the mission becomes very difficult."

Commander Joint Forces New Zealand Major General Tim Gall said the Royal New Zealand Navy's diving and mine counter-measures support ship HMNZS Manawanui and an explosive ordnance disposal expert from the New Zealand Army would support the Australian-led operation to clear sites near the capital Honiara and in the nearby Russell and Florida island groups.

"The NZDF is making a significant contribution to the safety of the people in the Solomon Islands through its involvement in this operation," Major General Gall said.

"A similar operation in 2014 cleared 109 sites on the Papua New Guinea island of Bougainville of 2293 ammunition items containing more than 16 tonnes of explosives.

"It involved more than 500 personnel from Australia, the United States, the UK, New Zealand, Canada and the Solomon Islands."

Commander Mulder said ERW disposal went beyond contributing to a safer environment for communities.

"We also provide the opportunity for potential economic prosperity by enabling families and communities access to more land for food cultivation," he said.

"The use of mine-hunting vessels from Australia, a Diving Support Ship from New Zealand and clearance divers will allow us to undertake more underwater clearances, which in turn contributes to a safer maritime environment for activities like tourism and fishing."

This year the ADF is contributing the mine-hunter vessels HMA Ships Huon and Diamantina, and explosive ordnance disposal specialists from Navy, Army and Air Force will be supported by health personnel and logistic troops.

The Royal Australian Air Force will also provide strategic airlift with a C-130J Hercules.



Official commissioning of a gold dredge at Bulolo in the early 1930's. Note the Japanese flag among those on the stand.

Presentation to Jindalee Rotary Club

Museum Curator John Holland, Secretary Colin Gould, and Museum Firearms Licence holder Paul Brown attended a dinner at the Jindalee Rotary Club and presented an Association Plaque to the Club in appreciation of their efforts in painting the Museum after the extensions had been completed and the painting showed the age of the original painting of the existing section of the museum.



Left. A group from the Kenmore Probus Club being given information about exhibits in the Museum by Curator, John Holland.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
A HAPPY AND HEALTHY YEAR IN 2017
FROM PRESIDENT, PHIL AINSWORTH,
AND YOUR ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE**



Guard of Honour
C Coy PNGVR Goroka
On the occasion of the
visit of the Duke and
Dutchess of Kent to PNG
Photo forwarded by Barry
Wright



NATIONAL MEDALS
Pty Ltd



REPLICA MEDALS OR MOUNTING OF MEDALS

A reliable source for medal work is National Medals, natmedals@bigpond.com, Ph 07 3871 0600 Ask for Greg Faux, mobile 0419 196 172. Located at 13/200 Moggill Road, Taringa, Brisbane, 4066

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

Includes former members of the PIR, PIB and NGIB.

For correspondence contact Secretary, Colin Gould, email pngvr@optusnet.com.au, phone 0424 562 030 (The Secretary, P O Box 885, Park Ridge, Qld, 4125)

For Military Museum enquires contact Curator John Holland, email rabaul42@gmail.com, phone 0449 504 058

(NGVR/PNGVR Military Museum, Corner Boundary Road & Fulcrum Street, Wacol, Qld, 4076)

Membership fee payments to Treasurer, Doug Ng, email douglasng@iinet.net.au, phone 0413 014 422

(NGVR & PNGVR Ex-members Association : BSB: 064006 - A/C: 10001126)

Website Master: Trevor Connell email trevor.connell@internode.on.net, phone 0409 690 590

www.pngvr.weebly.com (all back copies of HTT may be obtained from our website)

Facebook Master: Kieran Nelson, email kierannelson@bigpond.com, phone 0412 236 013

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ngvrandonpngvrarmilitarymuseum/>

Harim Tok Tok Editor: Bob Collins, email bob-collins@bigpond.com, phone 0413 831 397

President: Email p.ainsworth@kingco.com.au to get on members electronic distribution including Harim Tok Tok (you will receive it in colour, earlier and can adjust the print size to suit)

Informative and Topical articles on PNG. Keith Jackson's Blog. Keith Jackson & Friends: PNG ATTITUDE

NGVR/PNGVR service recollections are copyright.



Typical of the photos produced by the Allied Geographical Section, SWPA during WW2 for use by forward troops and Air Force. The Bulolo River and Dredging Tailings dump on the right of the photo would indicate that it is an air photo of Bulolo. Given by Stan Burton

FUNCTION DATES

Association Committee Meetings

Saturday 21st Jan
Saturday 18th Mar
Saturday 20th May

Meetings commence 10am at your museum. Come along, see the latest addition to your museum and catch up with old mates.

MUSEUM EVENTS

Tues 29 Nov. Jindalee Rotary Club
Wed 22 Feb Jubilee Community Home
Wed 8 Mar Mt Ommaney Retirement Home

Assistance is always welcome. If you can assist please contact Museum Curator, John Holland - details opposite.

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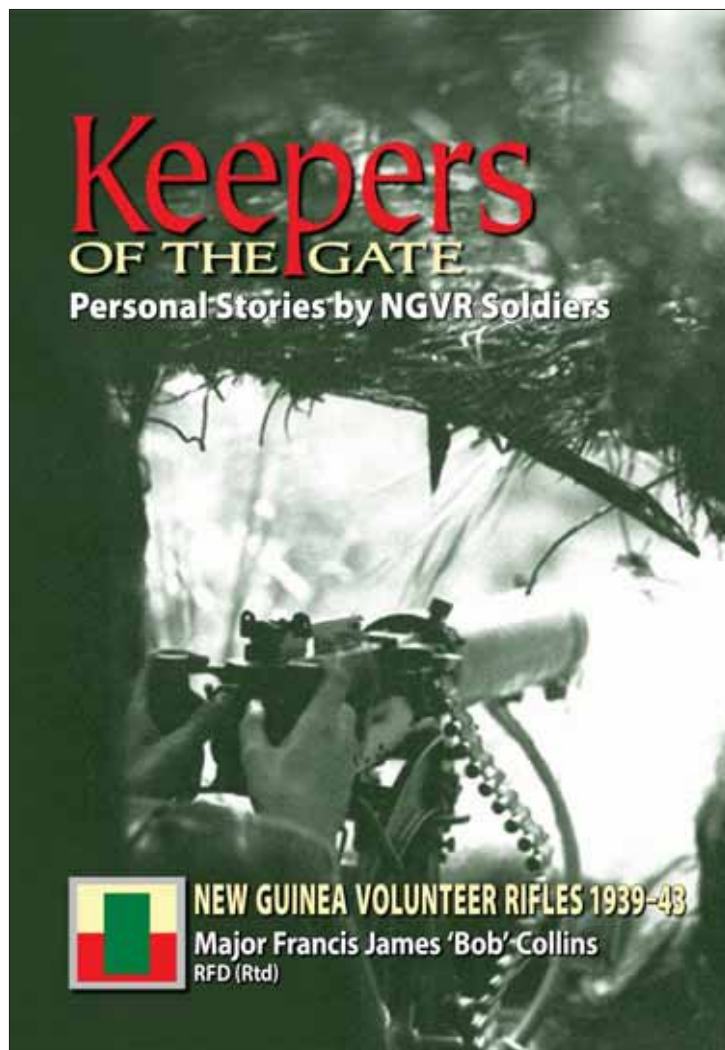
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Who were the Keepers of the Gate?

The New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (NGVR)—one of the few Allied military units engaging the Japanese in New Guinea in early 1942.

With aggressive patrolling and reconnaissance the gate to the New Guinea Goldfields and central range south to Port Moresby and Australia remained closed to the enemy.

Armed with WWI light infantry weapons, no air or artillery support, few rations, minimal ammunition supply, meagre medical services and limited communications, this poorly-trained force was used to exhaustion and disbanded.

Many of the men never served again due to the deprivations suffered; others, after rest returned to New Guinea and served in the Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit (ANGAU) and units which needed their PNG knowledge and experience.

This is not a history of NGVR. These are the stories of thirty-seven NGVR soldiers—stories which reveal why they were in New Guinea as civilians at that fateful time, their wartime and postwar experiences and the effect on them and their families.

The stories were written as told to Bob Collins, who served in PNGVR, the postwar CMF unit in Papua New Guinea. He met many ex-NGVR men and saw many areas where NGVR operated on the frontline. We are grateful to this small band of courageous and adventurous men, the Keepers of the Gate—our front line of the Pacific War—and these stories are a legacy these outstanding men deserve.

To: NGVR & PNGVR Ex-Members Association, PO Box 885, Park Ridge QLD 4125

Purchase for \$50.00 per copy

Please send me copies of **KEEPERS OF THE GATE** at the purchase price of \$50.00 plus \$20.00 for postage for each copy ordered, if required (overseas purchasers will need to allow more)

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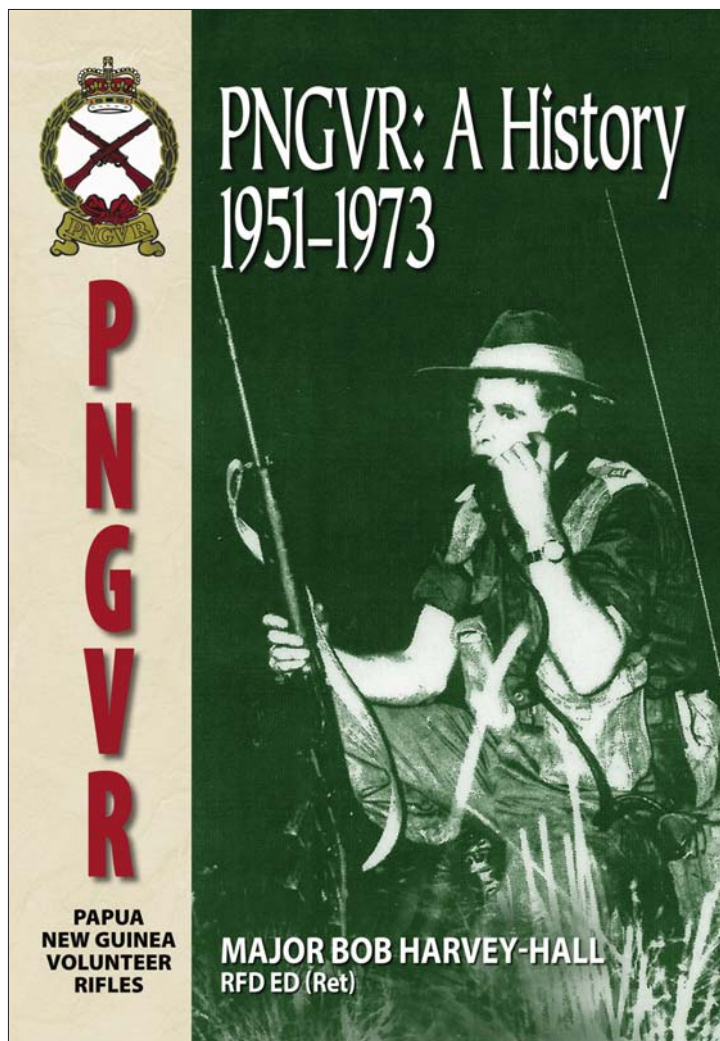
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Kieran Nelson: kierannelson@bigpond.com (em



PAPUA NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES was the successor to the WWII New Guinea Volunteer Rifles Militia Battalion. It was the only Australian post WWII Militia (CMF) Battalion which was:

- formed, served and disbanded overseas
- never served in Australia
- always on the Australia's Order of Battle
- always commanded by a regular army officer
- from 1964 actively enlisting Papua New Guineans (non-Australians)
- from 1964 a fully-integrated unit comprising Australians and non-Australians in all ranks

The colourful story of this unique Australian Militia Battalion unfolds in this detailed telling by Major Bob Harvey-Hall RFD ED (Ret), the second-longest serving PNGVR soldier/officer/ Company Commander and Battalion 2/1C, from the unit's earliest days until near when it was disbanded.

The story reveals how expatriates thought and lived in PNG from the early 1950s just after

the war; how the battalion provided the initial defence of the country and assisted to re-establish the Pacific Island Regiment. As the country's development process increased, the battalion's role was expanded and Papua New Guineans were welcomed enlistments into the PNGVR military community.

The battalion played an important role during the anxious time the governing of West Papua was transferred to Indonesia from the Dutch. As the country rapidly moved towards its own independence there was no need for an Australian CMF unit in PNG and the unit was disbanded. Many of the expatriate Australians remained in PNG after independence and further assisted the country in its development.

Read how the bonding created by the unique shared experiences within PNGVR remains strong today and is exemplified whenever a group of former PNGVR soldiers meet.

PURCHASE ORDER:

To: **NGVR & PNGVR Ex-Members Association, PO Box 885, Park Ridge QLD 4125**

Please send me copies of **PNGVR: A History 1951-1973** at the purchase price of \$50.00 per copy plus \$20.00 for postage & handling for any purchase in Australia

Note: Overseas purchases should include sufficient to cover the postage costs their selected destination. As a guide the book is A4 size 20cm thick and weights 1318 grams

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